



UNITED NATIONS
Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean

Anguilla • Antigua and Barbuda • British Virgin Islands
Commonwealth of Dominica • Grenada •
Montserrat • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Lucia •
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • OECS

2021 ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT



May 2022



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FOREWORD



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MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

- Two years into the pandemic COVID-19 continues to devastate the economies, health, and social systems of Caribbean SIDS, increase debt, and sadly deepen existing inequalities among the most at-risk populations. Consequently, Caribbean SIDS continued to struggle under the socio-economic burden of multiple crises, in an existing environment of inequality, increasing debt, and limited fiscal space – vulnerabilities that are not captured by the classification of GDP per capita. As a result, national social systems and economies were stretched beyond capacity. Within this context, Governments were forced to make tough decisions between servicing their people and servicing their debt.
- Against the backdrop of the decade of action to realize 2030 Agenda, the UNDS worked alongside regional Governments and regional and international stakeholders to save lives and livelihoods and help the most vulnerable to recover better in face of myriad challenges. The aim was to raise ambition towards SDG acceleration, and to reclaim progress of a lost decade. UN Reform in action has enhanced the way we do business, enabled greater

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Improvements in the way we do business, which tangibly demonstrates UN Reform in action, have also enabled greater coherence, expanded financing, strengthened partnerships and a greater UN presence and footprint in the region.

coherence, and expanded UN presence in the region. Notable results were evidenced through innovative strategies that targeted economic empowerment, human security and blue economy development. One of the key tools used to combat poverty and increasing inequality was shock responsive social protection aimed at accelerating progress towards the SDGs and scaling up universal social protection.

This report exemplifies the true value of delivering As One UN amid an ambitious UN Reform, now in its fourth year. The UN Team continued to strengthen partnerships to support the sub-region’s development and humanitarian goals, with a focus on maximizing the comparative advantage of individual Agencies, Funds and Programmes. Governments therefore benefitted from integrated programmatic support through more tailored assistance and were able to respond to crises in a more agile manner.

To enhance local ownership, we also partnered with community leaders, media, the private sector, Indigenous peoples, migrants, women, development allies, teachers, parents, youth, and other stakeholders. This ensured that programming was well-aligned with the needs and priorities of these groups. Progress, however, was severely hampered by the pervasive impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging crises. This was further exacerbated by the presence of deep-seated inequalities and limited access to financial and other key resources.

As we transition to the new five-year MSDCF, we look forward to together building greater urgency towards supporting a more resilient, and economically diverse region. Critical to our success will be the need for greater innovation and efficiency, co-creation, and more diverse partnerships focus on SDG accelerators.

As we pursue the new five-year MSDCF, we look forward to together building greater urgency towards supporting a more resilient, and economically diverse region. Critical to our success will be the need for greater innovation and efficiency, co-creation, and more diverse partnerships focus on SDG accelerators.

On behalf of the UN Team, our partners, the Governments, and the people that we serve we are honored to present the 2021 Annual Report which outlines the key results, challenges and progress achieved in the final year of the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) for 2017 – 2021.

I wish to also commend regional Governments, first responders, development partners, and brave citizens across this region who worked assiduously during the past year to save lives and livelihoods and to progress against insurmountable odds. The UN’s commitment and mission to this region, through leveraging regional cooperation remains unchanged; to see Caribbean SIDS achieve all the SDGs, fully recovered from the impact of COVID-19, in a sustainable and transformative manner.

Together, we can achieve this vision of a resilient Caribbean where people choose to live and can reach their full potential.



Didier Trebucaq
Resident Coordinator,
UN Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

UN COUNTRY TEAM

19 AFPs

Agencies under the Cooperation Framework

The United Nations Sub-Regional Team (UNST) in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean comprises a total of 19 Agencies, Funds and Programmes, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the Secretary-General's designated representative in the sub-region. There are seven resident agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, PAHO, UN Women, WFP and ITU), five (5) with programmatic presence or liaison offices in Barbados (UNFPA, UNODC, IOM, OCHA and UNIDO) and seven (7) non-resident agencies, from which dedicated staff serve the Governments and people of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories (UN HABITAT, UNOPS, UNCTAD, UN ECLAC, ILO, UNESCO, and UNEP).

On March 21, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda became the first OECS territory to open a UN Common Premises. The office houses four Agencies – FAO, UNDP, PAHO and UNICEF – and the Resident Coordinator Office; with plans underway for placement of additional personnel for UNOPS and UN Habitat to better coordinate increasing in-country support to the Government and other stakeholders.

While the UN footprint in some countries is generally small, the Commonwealth of Dominica, also known as the Nature Isle, boasts the Agency's largest footprint. The UN enjoys a positive and enduring relationship with the Governments and people of this region, with many countries boasting close to and over 50 years of UN membership.



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



Members of the UN Sub-regional Team, joined by representatives of the Government of Barbados, CDEMA and other stakeholders, participate in the UN House Lighting Ceremony to observe the 16 Days of Activism against GBV.

The UN in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean works with several partners to advance progress on the SDGs and to support Governments in ensuring peace and prosperity for all.

This relationship is predicated on strong national ownership and institutions, based on sound democracy and rule of law.

The European Union (EU), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO), Japan, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the Caribbean Development Bank remain the key development partners for the UNST for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

The **European Union** is working in partnership with four UN Agencies on the flagship Spotlight Initiative (Grenada and Regional) which seeks to end all forms of violence against women and to strengthen regional cooperation to prevent and respond to family violence.

USAID's increased coordination and collaboration with the UN is evidenced through the implementation of policies and programmes to deliver critical support to SIDS in our region. Funding from USAID has enabled the UN's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the eruption of the La Soufriere volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. USAID has also facilitated the Education for Early Learning Programme and has been instrumental in Juvenile Justice Reform, CARISECURE 1.0 and regional capacity strengthening in emergency preparedness.

The **Government of Japan**, through the UN, extended Emergency Grant Aid to Saint Vincent and the

Grenadines to support those most severely affected by La Soufriere's eruption. This grant financed humanitarian assistance in the areas of shelter renovation and food assistance.

Global Affairs Canada continues to engage with the UN on development projects such as EnGender which supports climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental management interventions in the region and the Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF) which works to achieve more effective and coordinated gender-informed climate-resilient preparedness, recovery and public financial management. GAC also demonstrated support through donations to the UN Logistics sector of the Global Funding Appeal for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the UN Multi-sectoral Response Plan for the Covid-19 pandemic and Health Sector Resilience to Disasters.

Together, the UN and **UK FCDO** facilitated Dominica's goal of becoming the first climate resilient nation in the world through the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD). UK FCDO also provided funding to the EnGender project and contributed to the Saint Vincent and the

Grenadines funding appeal in the sectors of health, shelter, housing, cash and livelihoods and agriculture.

The **Caribbean Development Bank** (CDB) is a key collaborator on the development of a Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) to better position the region for access to development financing; this was a key priority of the UNDS in 2021.

Additionally, global development finance was also sourced to accelerate progress on the SDGs and to leverage financing for development at scale. The UNST spearheaded thirteen (13) Joint Programme interventions in social protection, women economic empowerment, Human Security, the Blue Economy, Food security and Innovative Financing.

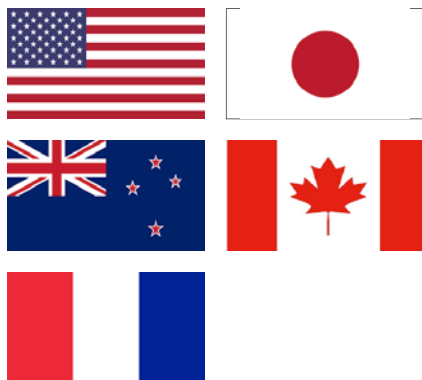
With these 13 Joint Programmes, as well as other joint resource mobilization efforts including the COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Response Plan (MRP) and the Global Funding Appeal in response to the La Soufriere volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the UNST has collectively raised US\$97M between 2020-2021. This is in addition to funds mobilized by individual UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



INTERNATIONAL BI LATERAL PARTNERS (5)



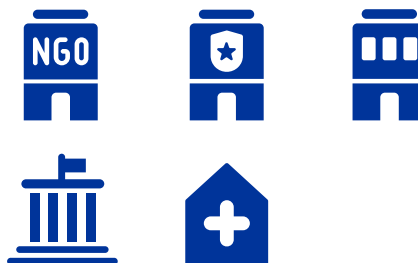
INTERNATIONAL / MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (IFIS)



REGIONAL AGENCIES



IMPLEMENTING AND COLLABORATING PARTNERS (IPS) (OVER 350)





CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES WITHIN THE REGION

Economic Outlook for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

After what has been for many in the Caribbean the worst economic performance in living memory, countries across the sub-region have begun the process of recovery to rebuild their economies.

Social distancing and other safeguarding measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 together with the rollout of substantial financial assistance packages led to sharp declines in economic growth (as much as 20% for some countries in the region) and strong deteriorations in fiscal space.

This was particularly acute for the countries dependent on tourism and tourism-related sectors. At the end of 2020, the average debt reported across the Eastern Caribbean stood at 94% of GDP. Taken together, these led to increases in

public debt as a percentage of GDP reversing the gains many had made in previous years to return their countries to the path for debt sustainability.

Socially, the health impacts from COVID-19 were compounded by the ramifications of economic losses. Unemployment, particularly in the tourism sector, in many countries increased sharply, driving increased poverty and widening inequalities particularly for women, many of whose livelihoods were dependent on informal sectors and who were beyond the reach of traditional social safety nets. Education has also been a casualty of COVID-19, with social distancing measures leading to the closure or partial closure of schools with children and students having to resort to less effective on-line solutions to learning that lack the benefits that ensue from face-to-face classroom learning and wider social interaction, particularly required for holistic childhood development.

Compounding the challenges posed by COVID-19, several countries across the subregion were affected by the eruption and ashfall caused by the eruption of La Soufriere in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in April 2021 and/or by Hurricane Elsa which made landfall in many countries in this sub-region early June 2021.

Some countries affected by both disasters experienced severe disruption to economic activity due to required clean-up and restoration interventions.



La Soufriere eruption aftermath

Trends in the Past Year

Despite initial disruptions in supply, the introduction of vaccines in 2021 has enabled many countries across the Eastern Caribbean to loosen their social-distancing controls and revive economic activity.

The road to recovery, however, has for some been bumpy with the development of new variants creating surges in new cases and hospitalizations that have led to pauses or even roll-backs in the relaxation of social distancing measures.

Vaccine hesitancy has been a key factor, which has limited the country's ability to reopen their economies fully, prolonging social and business assistance packages and dampening productivity from absenteeism and for some industries working from home.

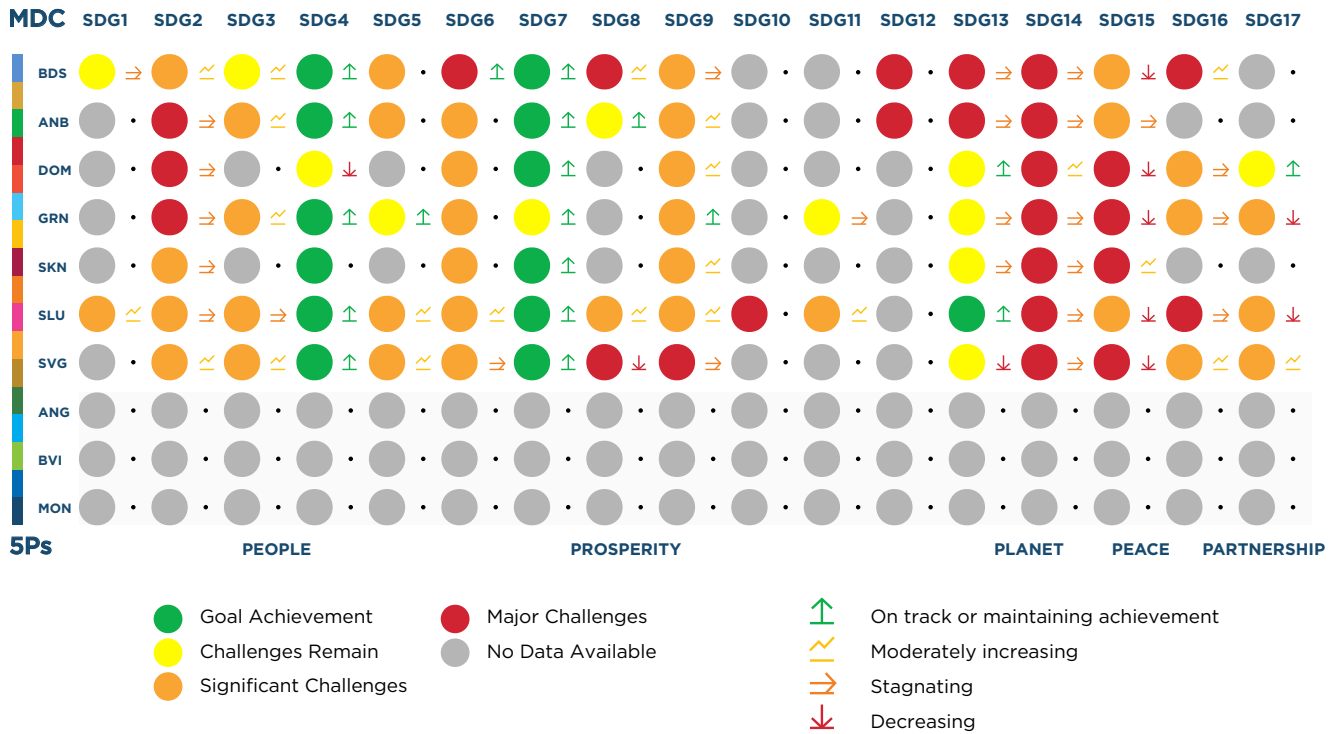
Except for a few countries – St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Grenada, and Montserrat – others were able to meet or almost meet the vaccination target of 40% of the population fully vaccinated by end of 2021.

The target set for the end of June 2022, at 70% of the population being fully vaccinated is likely to be more challenging for many countries in the region, particular for those further behind.

Vaccination rates measured in mid-February 2022 indicate that only Anguilla is on track to meeting the WHO target, with Antigua and Barbuda, having taken the decision to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations closely behind.

An overview of SDG progress in the region over the past year revealed that 'Significant' or 'major challenges' remain for more than half the SDGs. 'Challenges' remain for about 20 percent more. About 10 percent of the SDGs are 'on track' to be achieved, while around 25 percent are 'off track' but improving. Several countries have shown underperformance on SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 2 (No hunger) and SDG 1 (No poverty).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Implications for Short/Medium Outlook

The degree to which countries both in the region and globally can control the spread of COVID-19 as well as whether new virulent and more potent variants of the virus emerge will to a significant extent govern how quickly socio-economic condition can return to pre-COVID-19 normality. The prolonged nature of this pandemic is likely to leave legacy effects both in and outside of the workplace.

Also, the increasing reliance on digitalization as an effective social distancing measure, will in the future change the way in which we interact and do business as well as spawn a range of new innovations that could provide transformational benefits to the region. An example of this has been the uptake of the Welcome Stamp in Barbados, where people are invited to work remotely from the region, bringing new income streams and opportunities.

With many countries and territories in this sub-region both being net importers of food and fuels, the war between Russia and Ukraine is expected to affect this region directly through rising import prices but also indirectly because of the potential impact on tourism through the effects it is projected to have on global income growth and the cost of transportation and travel through higher fuel costs. Downstream impacts are also likely to materialize in urea-based fertilizers and forward global commodity produc-

tion. Also, sanctions imposed on Russia and countries sympathetic to Russia are likely to affect the global production of selected agricultural commodities like wheat and sunflower seeds and oil. Countries and territories in this sub-region are unlikely to remain immune from these developments, especially given their reliance on fuel. This in turn may put further stress on the already depleted fiscal space across the region as public policy efforts turn to stabilizing prices of strategic imports for domestic producers as well as citizens.

Finally, a recurrent risk facing this region is of course the incidence of natural disasters. In 2021, both the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Hurricane Elsa led to severe disruption in economic activity. Given the locality of the region and its susceptibility to natural disasters, the medium-term outlook cannot ignore the potential for further disruptions caused by these events.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN PROFILE

Youth Population

137K

% of Total Population

15%

Unemployment Rates

26%

In Education

37%

NEET Rate

22%

Regionally the youth population is among those who suffer most intensely from the social and economic consequence of the pandemic, and they will face the effects of it in their working lives in the coming years

Real GDP Growth

6.0

Trend



2020

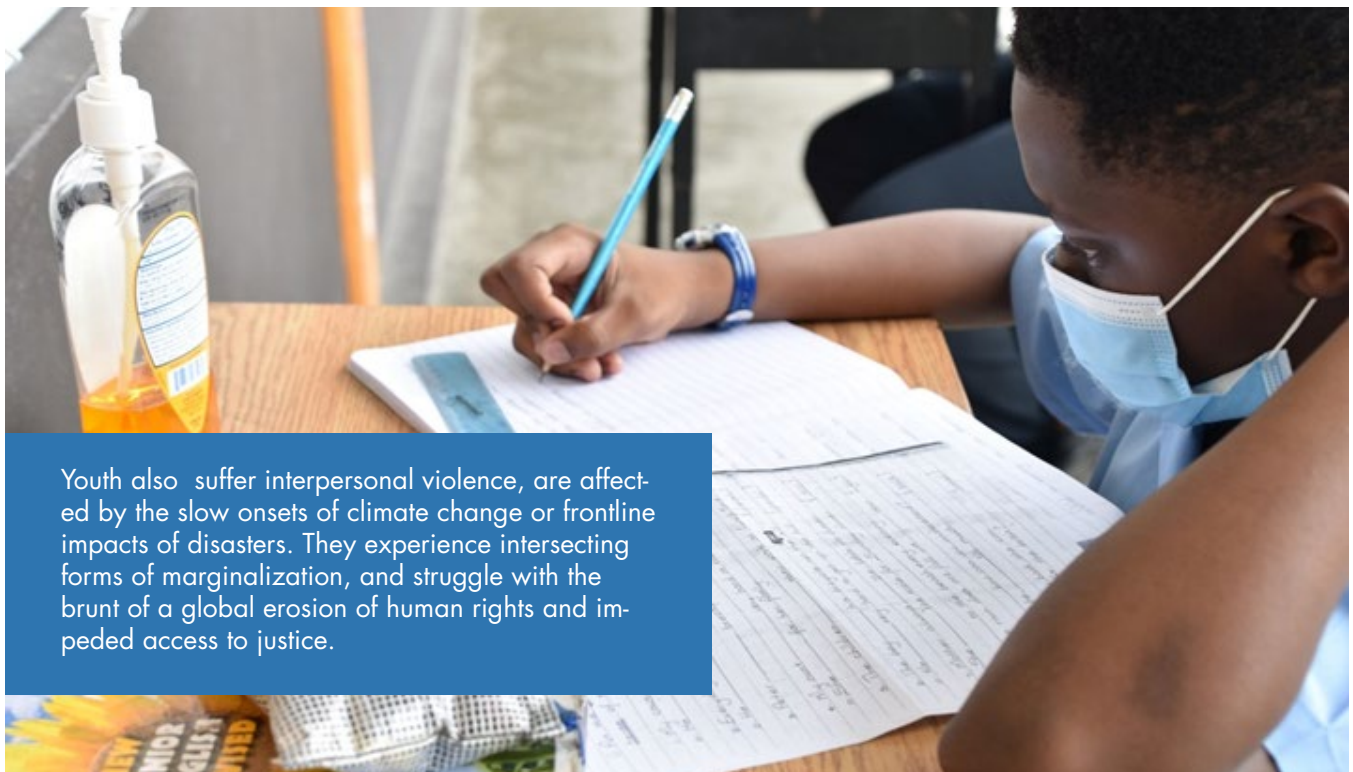
-16%

2021


6%

2022

9%



Youth also suffer interpersonal violence, are affected by the slow onsets of climate change or frontline impacts of disasters. They experience intersecting forms of marginalization, and struggle with the brunt of a global erosion of human rights and impeded access to justice.



CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The year 2021 proved to be a challenging one for Caribbean SIDS with the region facing multi-faceted shocks that served to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, particularly among those most at-risk.

Despite speedy response and pivoting by most Governments, this situation served to hinder progress on SDGs with several Governments forced to face the untenable choice of servicing debt as opposed to serving the needs of vulnerable populations.

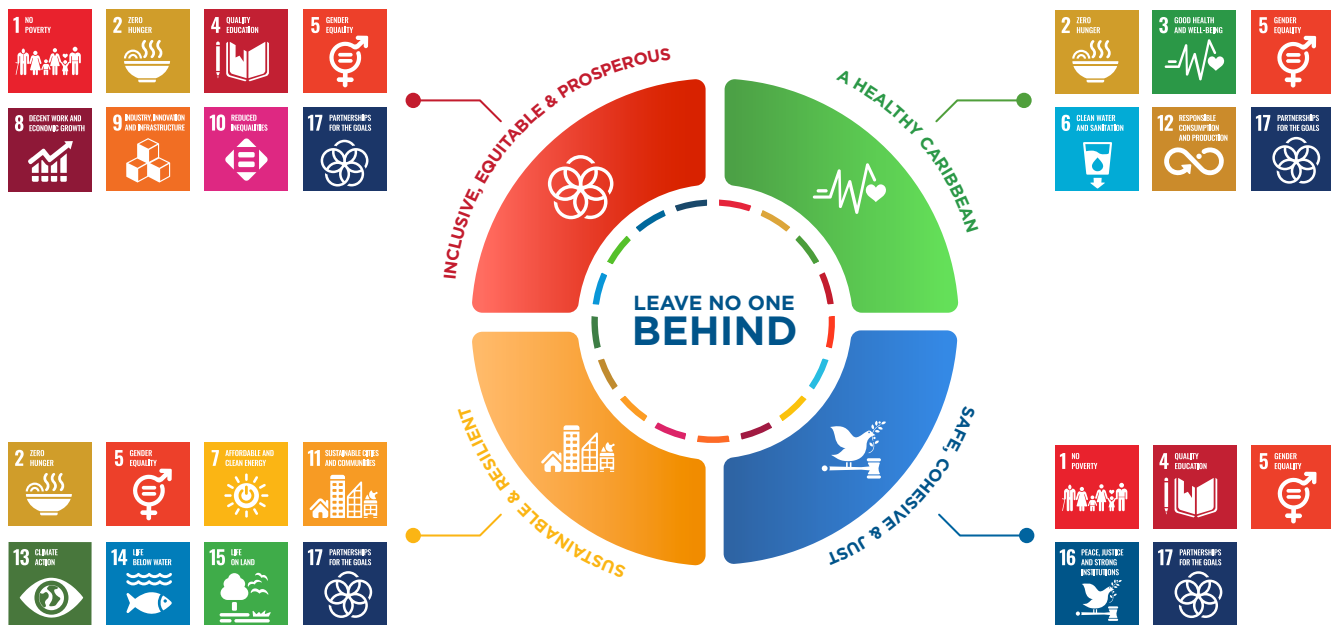
The private sector and small businesses also faced severe hardship with many forced to reduce shifts, lay-off staff or even close their doors. This situation had a direct impact on homes and families, particularly female-headed households, already facing the inequitable burden of unpaid care work. In many instances when the will was present the necessary resources and capacities simply were not.

The UNST provided wide-ranging support to regional Governments that helped to protect the most vulnerable and promote recovery across vital sectors with emphasis on building resilience against future shocks and ensuring sustainability.

The past year has been a critical period that provides evidence of the region's vulnerability and risk to natural disaster and the devastating impact on the vulnerable or marginalized. It has exposed the fragility of social protection systems and food systems and its impact on nutrition security. As a region prone to natural disasters and severe weather events, there is an elevated risk for natural hazards, and environmental degradation that necessitates enhanced policy frameworks for climate change adaptation and mitigation. In his visit to the island of Barbados to participate in the UNCTAD-15 Forum, the UN Secretary-General amplified the call for increased financial support for climate adaptation for Caribbean SIDS.

The COVID-19 pandemic has elevated yet again the criticality of data and statistics for evidence-based policy approaches at the national and regional level. In the absence of "high quality" data, collaborative policy support by UN, agencies with regional and national government were quite challenging within the past year.

Issues of human security, trafficking of narcotics, arms and people, especially women for prostitution, high rates of crime and violence against women and girls, continue to be key issues, with the latter also exacerbated by COVID-19 lockdowns and stay-at-home measures



Infographic Description

resulting in what has been referred to as the Shadow Pandemic.

Concomitantly, contractions in the economy, limited fiscal space and limited economic diversification had a direct bearing on unemployment and low social protection, worsening the plight of the most vulnerable.

Food systems strengthening and regional food security continued to be challenging, as the region seeks to improve the competitiveness and resilience of national and regional agricultural value chains. Building well-functioning, competitive and resilient agricultural industries that can manage and respond to a growing set of uncertainties is fundamental to the region's future food security, and job and income creation.

Additionally, Caribbean nationals face issues of equality and social inclusion, with individual economic and social prospects associated with their sex, sexuality, age, disability status, country of origin, and ethnicity, which has impacted migration thus causing additional burdens on stretched national social services.

There is an urgent need to balance-up investments, further protect human rights, accelerate responses to eliminating poverty and hunger, and reversing climate change and building more resilient and inclusive Caribbean societies.

The UN continued to work to address the core development challenges as premised in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, under the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), which entered the final year of its five-year implementation cycle. The strategic focus of the development framework is centred around four main pillars:

- **An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean;**
- **A Healthy Caribbean;**
- **A Safe, Cohesive and a Just Caribbean and**
- **A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean.**

There was a deliberate emphasis on improving and fortifying collaboration with governments and regional stakeholders on strategic partnerships and tailored support, aimed at expanding shock responsive social protection and strengthening national capacities to promote inclusive and equitable economic growth, protecting the most vulnerable, and minimizing the impact.

In the area of health emphasis was placed on countering vaccine hesitancy and promoting uptake while strengthening and maintaining vital health systems.

Since the pandemic, digital technology is slowly being promoted, adopted, and incorporated into the developmental work in countries across the region, and further enhances governments' needs for accurate, frequent, and timely data, to 'build back better'.

This aligns and complements overarching efforts to build climate resilience and promote economic empowerment and human security.

UN MSDF STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

Inclusive, Equitable & Prosperous



SDG Key:



“

A new era for social protection systems would be a foundation for peaceful societies and other measures to leave no one behind and eradicate extreme poverty.

I urge States to accelerate steps to achieve universal social protection coverage, including for the remaining 4 billion people currently unprotected, in line with target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.



António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General

Summary Highlights

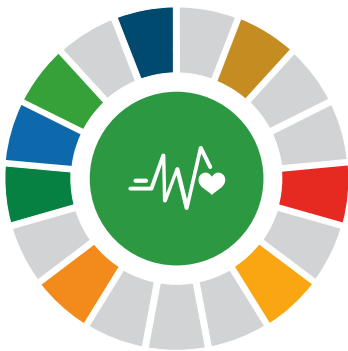


- CSO representatives across the region capacitated to apply human rights-based approaches to GBV prevention
- Eastern Caribbean countries supported to adopt gender-sensitive fiscal policy and more rights-based, child-sensitive legal and policy frameworks.
- 165 MSMEs supported under the CDB/UWI/private sector-led Blue Economy program.
- Established coordination platforms for managing Integrated National Financial Frameworks (INFs) in Barbados, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Supported youth empowerment and development across the region through increased advocacy for sectoral budget allocations.
- Revised Grenada's Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan in partnership with the Ministry of National Development.
- Facilitated consultations on St. Lucia's new Social Protection Bill.
- Supported CDEMA and priority governments with capacity building in shock responsive social protection with emphasis on disaster management crisis response.
- Supported key studies on the Blue Economy, Migration and Shock Responsive Social Protection in the region and implemented "Blue Seal" initiatives for promoting sustainable tourism standards. Global Institute for Climate Smart and Resilient Development with a focus on Oceanography & Blue Economy launched in partnership with the UWI.



UN MSDF STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

A Healthy Caribbean



SDG Key:



“

As the Caribbean embarks on response and recovery efforts, the principles of leaving no one behind, non-discrimination, and commitment to universal access to essential services would be a useful basis for effective health-related, social and economic stimulus recovery policies.



Didier Trebuq,
United Nations Resident Coordinator

Summary Highlights



- Over 6,805,271 vaccinees administered
- 5 Countries met WHO 40% vaccination target for 2021.
- Over 150,000 persons reached with targeted Behavioral Change Communications and over 10,000 persons reached educational videos on social media
- Supported regional health systems strengthening and COVID-19 resilience through provision of technical assistance to healthcare workers and in procurement of medications and supplies.
- Completed Vaccine Hesitancy Surveys in five countries across the sub-region to scale up vaccine uptake.
- Expanded violence prevention outreach to adolescents through revised anti-domestic violence school curriculum in St Kitts and Nevis
- Expanded SRHS through an expanded network which now includes Grenada Planned Parenthood Association and GrenCHAP.
- Developed new guidelines for COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Shelters for survivors of Domestic and Family Violence across the Caribbean.
- Developed SOP (standard operating procedures) on the Health System Response to GBV in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- GBV First Responders capacitated to offer more interactive case management services.
- Revised the Gender Sensitization Curriculum, and trained stakeholders from government and civil society to deliver on the revised Curriculum.
- Equipped GVB survivors in Grenada with entrepreneurship skills and supported access to psychosocial and legal services.



UN MSDCF STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean



SDG Key:



“

Without effective cooperation from the UN and our regional partners our life and living will be wholly unbearable. The United Nations and its agencies have come splendidly to the assistance of St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the midnight hour of our need.



Dr. Ralph Gonsalves,
Prime Minister of Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines

Summary Highlights



- Over 70,000 people reached through targeted capacity-building activities under Foundations and Batterer Intervention Programmes.
- Over 300 new workstations and mobile devices installed across police forces in eight countries to support crime data management
- Emergency school meals provided to over 270 displaced secondary students to enable continued participation in education.
- Disbursed small grants to CSO for interventions to reduce gender-based and family violence among rural communities, migrants and LGBTIQ+ persons.
- Development planning professionals trained in Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming to strengthen public sector planning.
- Enhanced the capacity of health, gender, emergency, and civil society practitioners in Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and Grenadines trained in SRH (Sexual and Reproductive Health) and GBV in emergencies. (In partnership with the OECS Commission and World Bank).
- Supported Training of Trainers initiative across National Gender Departments in Anguilla, BVI, Dominica, Grenada, and Montserrat
- Countries supported in expanding access to quality services for GBV survivors including SRH and increased security.
- Established video conferencing capacity to support victim testimony during court sessions.
- Developed Essential GBV Services Package for Women and Girls Survivors in St. Lucia, providing access to improved high quality SRH services.
- Established and launched official GBV referral protocols in Anguilla, Grenada, St. Lucia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands and St. Kitts and Nevis, strengthening access to appropriate health and social services
- A rapid appraisal of the impact of COVID_19 on frontline workers, small entrepreneurs, pre-school teachers and hospitality workers were initiated through the UN Joint Fund for Adaptive Social Protection in collaboration with the Government of Saint Lucia.



UN MSDCF STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean



SDG Key:



“

How many more surges must there be, before the world takes action? None are safe until all are safe.



Mia Amor Mottley
Prime Minister of Barbados

Summary Highlights



- Mobilized \$14 M for climate change adaptation with over \$57 M in pipeline for financing climate action to support SDG 13 and 14.
- Over 1,250 personnel from Saint Lucia, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago trained in the use of ICT devices to improve Safety at Sea (SAS)
- 1,680 fisherfolk trained in SAS and over 1,200 VHF radios distributed throughout the region to enhance awareness to prevent accidents.
- Regional Fisherfolk organisations equipped with essential leadership skills via a Virtual 'Leadership training under a GEF-funded Caribbean StewardFish Project.
- Supported the housing rehabilitation programme in Barbuda as part of post Hurricane Irma support and 'Building Back Barbuda Better' Initiative
- Strengthened national climate adaptation in Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, and Saint Lucia, through completion of gender-responsive, Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Supported the governments of Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda in the submission of updated NDCs.
- Supported gender transformative policy in conservation and sustainable management, and climate change and disaster risk reduction across five countries.
- Enhanced capacity for managing and conserving local biodiversity in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines under the GEF (Global Environment Facility) Project on "Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation".
- Piloted Black Sigatoka Disease Risk and Precision Irrigation Models in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Developed disaster preparedness and mitigation, climate change adaptation and value chain for community groups.
- Strengthened integration of multi-risk and resilience thinking into transformative agriculture processes, including the development of Dominica Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Roadmap.
- Supported effective national planning and management of fisheries resources through development of the Dominica Digital Strategy and Blue DIGITAL, an information portal to promote traceability of fish from sea to table.
- Supported preparation of CARICOM Emergency Response and Action Plan for Agriculture to include integration of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.
- Developed multi-sector platform for land use planning made accessible to national stakeholders.
- Strengthened risk management systems for early detection, control, and management of invasive alien species (IAS).
- Revised existing policy measures across six countries to achieve low emission and climate resilient objectives.
- Supported the installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies across various educational and healthcare institutions and indigenous communities improving energy systems.
- Provided technical leadership in supply chain management in supporting emergency preparedness and response in collaboration with Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).



Prime Minister Mia Mottley joins the UN and other development partners for the COVAX vaccine delivery in Barbados

UN SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

In the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Team continued its multi-faceted support to Caribbean Governments to save lives and livelihoods and protect the most vulnerable.

However, the sluggish pace of Covid-19 vaccine uptake, continues to increase the sub-region’s vulnerability to current and future threats including new variants. Against this backdrop the UN successfully launched a joint UN programme to counter vaccine hesitancy and boost vaccine uptake, amidst ongoing resilience and recovery programming across the Eastern Caribbean.

Social protection strategies were expanded to several national stakeholders, to help families feed themselves, allow businesses recovery, and to further protect and maintain human rights particularly among women, girls, and other vulnerable populations.

The UN co-created a suite of new Joint Programmes aimed at addressing the ongoing multi-dimensional development issues plaguing the region including expanding blue economy programming and financing, through a \$10 million Blue Economy Investment Facility, social protection and youth, data solutions, livelihoods, and food security; women economic empowerment; migration and climate change.

The following section summarizes the key achievement under the sub-regional response and aligned to the Global Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) pillars:

Summary Highlights



PILLAR 1: HEALTH SYSTEMS AND STANDARDS

- 5 Countries met WHO 40% vaccination target for 2021.
- An estimated 2.5 million people reached via messages on COVID prevention, countering vaccine hesitancy and promoting uptake through targeted regional behavioral change and advocacy campaigns.
- Over 62,000 people were reached with critical health hygiene, protection messages and other information education communication material.



PILLAR 2: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND BASIC SERVICES

- Over 157,000 children from primary and secondary schools, and the Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers Lifelong Learning Programme remained engaged in school due to UN support.
- Over 627 schools benefited from implementing safe school protocols (IPC) while IPC support was provided to 263 early childhood development centres across the region.
- 6,900 teachers were trained in online teaching-learning, another 1,086 were trained in other areas for the safe reopening of schools and psychosocial support.
- Approximately 30,000 children, adolescents and women received Gender-Based Violence response services, including risk mitigation interventions and prevention services.
- Expanded protection services through MyChild Helpline application: The UN provided support in expanding access to social protection services (including helpline, emergency, and counselling services to vulnerable groups across Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Supported Governments with tailored policy support for expanding existing safeguards to mitigate the socio-economic fallout from the pandemic.
- Supported the development of shelter management guidelines in the context of COVID-19, which will inform the Government of Antigua on safe spaces and emergency housing for victims and survivors in 2022.



PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

- 585 Micro Small Medium Enterprises completed a Business Adaptation Programme and received technical assistance for digitizing their businesses.
- 3,146 persons benefited from food supply protection regimes designed to protect livelihoods by addressing food supply bottlenecks.
- 930 beneficiary female-headed households and 360 males received cash transfers as part of social protection schemes across Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- UN collaborated with the Ministry of Equity and Social Justice through the Joint SDG Fund project on Adaptive Social Protection to support the expansion of livelihoods of women in the frontline targeted small entrepreneurs in early childhood education, hospitality, and agriculture businesses to re-establish their operations despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



Preschoolers in Barbados settle in for a nutritious lunch



PILLAR 4: DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING

- Toolkit developed on “Need for and impact of generating gender equality and human security into Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs)” to support Government’s interventions aimed at reducing the impacts of SAPs policies on women and other vulnerable groups.
- UN agencies cooperated on new round of the CARICOM Regional COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Survey which provided critical data on the ongoing impact of Covid 19 since the onset of the pandemic.
- Findings highlight the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on rural households this data was used to support guide provision of direct cash transfers to thousands of vulnerable households in greatest need across the region.
- Enhanced National capacities among government stakeholders in Barbados, Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda in the use of adaptive social protection planning and administration tools enabling national authorities to effectively plan to utilize a broader range of data for addressing issues related to crises management.



PILLAR 5: SOCIAL COHESION & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- Collaborated with the Ministry of Labour, and the National Training Institute, in Barbados to deliver online employability programme. A total of 912 persons completed the training which was part of the government’s build back better strategy.
- Conducted a qualitative assessment of impacts of COVID-19 on people in 12 Caribbean countries, including eastern Caribbean countries.



MRP 2.0 COLLABORATIVE AND SYSTEM-WIDE EFFORT



UN REGIONAL MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE PLAN

4 strategic pillars linked to SERP
10 Countries (7 Independent + 3 BOTs)



UNSDG-WIDE EFFORT MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE

Collaboration effort of 10 AFPs
10 governments and national agencies
2 regional agencies



TARGETED BCC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

10 National campaigns launched
Over 2.5 M persons reached across the sub-region



EVIDENCE BASED POLICY SUPPORT

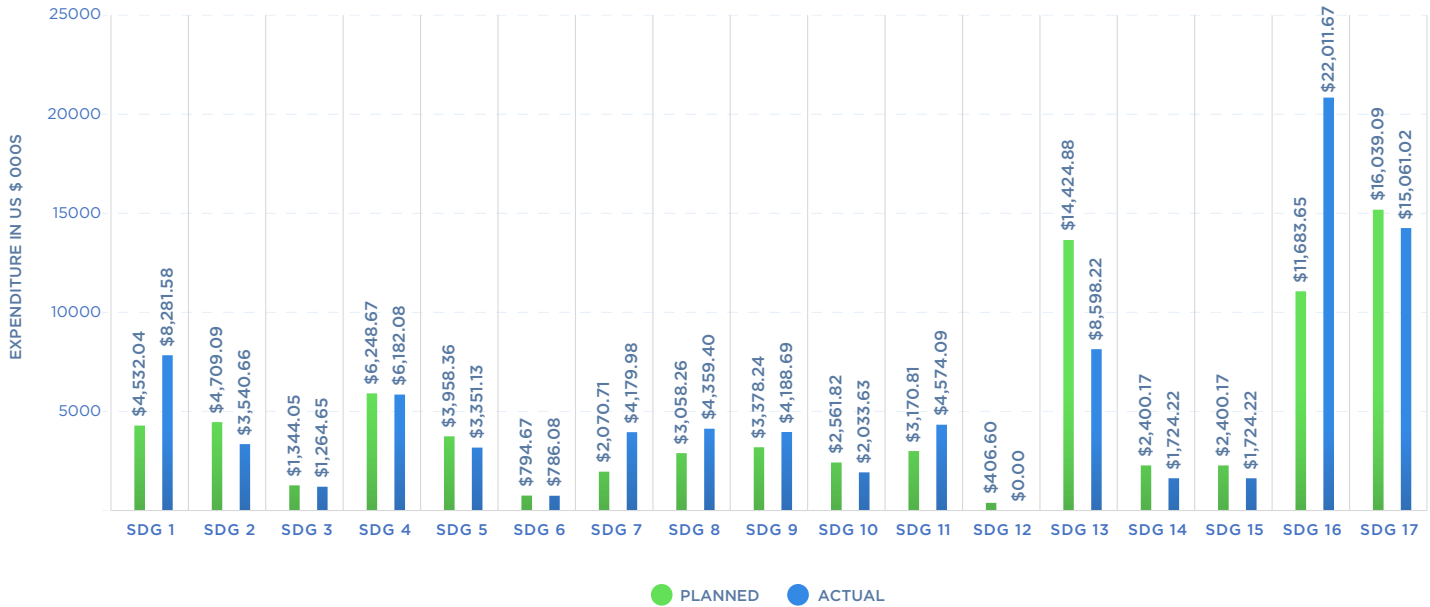
5 Countries provide with integrated policy support based on assessment findings
Regional surveillance of Food Security and Livelihood Impact (four round of surveys)



FUNDS MOBILIZED UNDER THE MRP 2.0 FOR 2021

A total of USD 6.5 million was mobilized under the MRP 2.0.

2.3. SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA



The UN family made substantial progress to build stronger partnerships for the SDGs in the sub-region in 2021, with new and innovative partnerships bringing in regional partners and the private sector as advocates for change.

Enhanced Regional Cooperation: In 2021, the UN in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, together with the UN system in the Caribbean Region, finalized the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the Caribbean, uniting 5 UNCTs (UN country teams) to deliver transformative programming for the Caribbean region over the next five years. Strong partnerships were built with regional institutions, including CARICOM, CDEMA, CDB and OECS, ensuring more effective programming across the sub-region.

Proposed Global Compact Local Network: The UN system together with the UN Global Compact announced the intention to launch the first local network, focused on aligning private sector strategies to advance societal goals. The Global Compact Network represents almost every industry sector and size, in over 160 countries and provides access to partnerships with a range of stakeholders. Presenting in a side event at the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

15 Conference in Barbados, the forum served as a platform to reaffirm commitment to the SDGs and the active role of the private sector in the region.

Partnered with Stakeholders on Resource Mobilization for Climate Action: UN partnered with regional and national stakeholders across seven countries towards improving their capacity to access climate finance. Areas of support include improving data gathering and use through digitization and building resilience in for green resilient recovery. Overall, these efforts are expected to mobilize USD 14 million towards climate change adaptation, with an estimated USD 57 million in the pipeline for financing climate action.

Revitalized Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group: The Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECPDG) which comprises bilateral and multilateral donors, regional development organisations, and international financial institutions was revitalized to ensure more coordinated and effective programming for the SDGs in the region. Under the leadership of the UN, the group had four focus areas in 2021 aligned to the UN MSDP pillars: Healthy Caribbean; Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean; Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean; Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean.

2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGs



NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

SYSTEMIC SUPPORT

Tailored Policy Support & Technical Assistance

Enhanced in-country Coordination

THEMATIC SUPPORT

Recovery

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Digitization

Supported preparation and submission of Voluntary National Report (VNR) and Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR): The UN provided technical support to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in presenting and submitting its first Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) at the United Nations High-level Political Forum in 2021. To date, VNRs have been completed by Saint Lucia (2019), St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados (2020).

Delivering on the normative priorities

Amplified Youth Voices in the Eastern Caribbean: A Youth Advisory Group was formed by the UN to forge more innovative and creative partnerships with this critical stakeholder group. This mechanism will provide a formalized institutional arrangement to ensure critical priorities relative to Youth Entrepreneurship and Employability, Health, Climate Change, and Gender Equality an Issue-Based Coalition on Youth is better mainstreamed in UN policy and programming.

Advanced dialogue on meaningful inclusion of persons living with disabilities at the national and regional levels: The UN partnered with the University of the West Indies Center for Disability Studies

(UWICDS), to host a Special Ministerial Conference on Specific Legislation for Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean under the leadership of the CARICOM Special Rapporteur on Disability. Recommendations from the session focused on the need for developing and strengthening specific legislation to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and resources for building capacity for meaningful inclusion of youth-led organizations and media professionals.

Convened Expert Group Meeting on Inclusive and Equitable Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic: The session discussions focused on improving social inclusion and psychosocial support for children from vulnerable and marginalized groups, including children with disabilities. The finding of the study will be used to support targeted integrated policy support stakeholders in the education sector for improving access to quality education across the region.

2.4. UN REFORM IN ACTION: COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS & EFFICIENCY



UN Resident Coordinator and members of the UNST met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during his recent visit to Barbados

Four years ago, Member States agreed on a comprehensive reform to unite the UN development system behind our collective commitment to advance the 2030 Agenda. Despite a complex sub-regional context, the returns on investments in coordination in the Eastern Caribbean are tangible.

Under stronger and impartial leadership, the UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes in the Eastern Caribbean continued in 2021 to respond to COVID-19, advocate for SIDS and secure development finance in support of multi-dimensional issues by working as One UN and with the achievement of the SDGs.

Enhancing national ownership and strengthening alignment with national priorities, the UN system implemented the first Country Implementation Plans (CIP)

in 2021, ensuring that UN interventions in each of the ten countries covered by the MCO responds directly to national priorities, leveraging the full capacity of the UN system to solve complex and multi-dimensional issues and providing national governments with a transparent overview of UN interventions in the country.

Accompanied by expanded physical presence of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes in the Eastern Caribbean Countries and Territories and the establishment of a network of six Country Coordination Officers to ensure tailored programming, the relationship with member states in the sub-region is stronger, nimbler, and more effective.

By coming together as One UN with a focus on SDG acceleration and responding to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, the UN family mobilized \$97 million together through joint programmes, the Multi-Sectoral Response Plan for COVID-19 and La Soufriere Volcano response, ensuring an integrated UN response to immediate needs and enabling the UN system to further leverage resources for transformative programming in the region.

Joint Programming remains the cornerstone of UN's approach, enabling truly transformative programmes that address the root causes of systemic challenges. In 2021, four new joint programmes with a total budget of \$6 million were approved, bringing the number of active joint programmes to thirteen.

The joint programming approach has allowed the UN to collectively move the needle on SDG acceleration, securing the \$10 million Blue Economy Investment Facility, ensuring wide adaptation of social protection as a tool to respond to shocks across the sub-region, elevating the issue of youth participation, and putting gender-based violence, migration, and climate change to the forefront.

MCO Highlights

- 10 Country Implementation Plans tailored to each country development priorities
- 13 Joint Programmes accelerating the SDGs and leveraging financing for development at scale
- Expanded physical presence in the Eastern Caribbean, including the positioning of six country coordination officers
- \$97 million jointly mobilized in 2020-2021, including \$45 million for the Joint COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Response Plan and \$11.5M raised through Joint Global funding Appeal for the La Soufriere Volcano
- Business Operation Strategy 2.0 developed to optimize cost efficiency and cost savings



Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley welcomes UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres to her official residence



Resident Coordinator Didier Trebuçq heard first-hand of the devastation caused by La Soufriere from Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves

Communicating as ONE

In 2021, the UN, through the UN Communications Group (UNCG), scaled up its communications and advocacy to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, by amplifying regional and global communications outreach, supporting efforts to promote enhanced inclusion of youth, women and girls, persons with disabilities and indigenous communities. Our work also entailed close collaboration with UNIC and DCO to reach regional and global audiences, for example through global funding appeals for humanitarian response.

The UN supported joint messaging to prevent the pandemic, reaching 2.5 million people with targeted communications on COVID-19 prevention, countering vaccine hesitancy and promoting vaccinate uptake. Dissemination of data on household vulnerabilities and the impact of COVID-19 moreover ensured a more focused approach in the region, targeting those furthest behind.

Advocacy in support of SIDS

The UN development system continued its advocacy for new metrics to measure SIDS vulnerabilities and to support the region to better access development finance working closely with member states, UN offices and the Caribbean Development Bank to develop and promote a forward-looking Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index that better reflects the economic, social, and environmental realities of small island developing states.

This will enable policymakers to make decisions based on probable scenarios and facilitate real-time analysis of the evolving state of vulnerability and resilience to provide

perspective on current or prospective shocks.

The UN RC, and the UNST partnered with several Prime Ministers in the Eastern Caribbean to intensify advocacy efforts for increased access to climate finance and equitable access to vaccines, while supporting the region to have its voice heard internationally.

High-level Visits/ UNST Missions/Events

2021 was also marked by several high-level missions to Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, which necessitated well-coordinated UNST communications outreach.

These included the Food Systems Summit in collaboration with CARICOM, as well as visits to Barbados by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UNCTAD Secretary General Rebecca Grynspan, for the launch of the UNCTAD-15 Conference, and visits to Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines by former President of the General Assembly Volkan Bozki.

Extensive coverage was also given to UNST missions to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the immediate aftermath of La Soufriere, to monitor UN support and launch a Global Funding Appeal, as well as to a follow-up visit six months later.

The UNST's extensive coverage of the La Soufriere eruption included striking stills and drone photography and videography gleaned through a contracted photographer, which attracted significant attention from several global networks, including the BBC, both in terms of requests for use of footage as well as follow-up requests for interviews with the RC.

UN JOINT PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

WHERE WE ARE



WHERE WE WANT TO BE



UN House was transformed into a sea of blue following a UN Day 2021 Lighting Ceremony

UN SUPPORT FOR LA SOUFRIÈRE VOLCANIC ERUPTION



The eruption of the La Soufrière volcano occurred on 8 April 2021 after a prolonged increase in volcanic activity. Within less than 24 hours, the UN deployed staff, disaster management experts and other emergency teams to support the initial humanitarian response.

Further, the United Nations immediately released US\$1 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support emergency operations. In the immediate aftermath of the eruption, the UN partnered with the CDEMA, building on its solid capacity and regional convening power to undertake the initial assessment of needs. UN agencies participated in the Detail Damage Sector Analysis (DDSA) led by CDEMA and compiled by the Government.

The UN-coordinated Global Funding Appeal 2021 was launched on 20 April to collectively raise US\$29.2

million to cover the primary needs of an estimated 110,940 people within the sectoral areas of Recovery, Ashes Clean-up, Equipment and Environmental Health, Food Security, Education, Health, Logistics, Protection, Shelter, and WASH. The UN Global Funding Appeal enabled the humanitarian response and focused on the most immediate protection and lifesaving needs and time-critical early recovery needs arising from the eruption from the onset of the emergency. Persons received support across the sectoral areas. UN agencies with a presence in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines partnered with line Ministries and CSOs in adapting and expanding services based on the assessed needs.

The foregoing sections provide a summary infographic on key results achieved under the specific sections of response.










US Ambassador to Barbados and the OECS, Linda Tagliatela, and USAID Regional Representative, Clinton White, with UN officials during the SVG volcano response.

Summary of Key Achievements:



- Established a coordination structure to facilitate collective response strategies, enabling the delivery of emergency assistance.
- \$11.5 million raised through UN Joint Funding Appeal for the La Soufriere Volcano
- Nearly 20,000 people benefited from cash based transfer programmes provided through government social protection systems.
- Over 79,200 people reached with communication messages on how to keep children safe and protected at shelters
- 101 teachers and 34 principals benefitted from Curious Learning Orientation training.
- Over 13,000 caregivers and children benefitted from child protection in emergency interventions
- Educational services restored to an estimated 33,000 children through a Recovery of Learning and Emotional and Psychosocial Support (ROLES) Programme
- Close to 11,800 people engaged in community-based child protection activities
- Over 2,116 livestock farming households benefitted from interventions before and after the volcanic eruption
- Support provided in Volcano Eruption Planning, Anticipatory Action, Livestock Emergency Response and Damage Assessment Activities.
- Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) completed to support Government's recovery plans
- Close to 7,500 people reached through GBV services
- 15,000 cubic yards of ash removed
- Short term cash for work clean up targeted female beneficiaries
- 20 emergency shelter facilities rehabilitated and equipped to host an estimated 280 families or 1,120 individuals
- Water supply reached over 20,400 beneficiaries

The Sectoral Response





EDUCATION

-  Education supported with teaching and learning supplies (K-Grade 6) -Science Kits (112), Literacy and Numeracy materials.
-  Art and Craft Supplies-Expression of Self and Representation of the world through Art , Craft and Music.
-  Recovery of Learning and Emotional and Psychosocial Support (ROLES) Programme - Learning recovery and exam preparation programmes.
-  32,560 Lunches served to 814 children in the Learning Hubs.
-  2,543 Lunches served to 252 Educators.
-  Stipend for 252 Education who facilitated the ROLES and Exam preparation programmes.
-  101 teachers and 34 principals benefitted from Curious Learning Orientation training.




FOOD SECURITY, CASH AND LIVELIHOODS, AGRICULTURE

-  3,450 households (19,616 individuals) received payments under the Soufriere Relief Grant cash-assistance programme).
-  135 tablets, 10 laptops and 17 phones donated to the Government to support registration and needs assessments of impacted persons.

HEALTH

-  5 health facilities supported with air quality monitoring sensors.
-  20 health care facilities supported with WASH interventions.
-  Health care facilities provided with dialysis machines, non-communicable diseases kits, and vehicles to support health care maintenance.
-  Over 227,000 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment provided to support frontline workers, health facilities and shelters.

LOGISTICS

-  8 mobile storage units set up at the Arnos Vale Logistics Hub enhanced storage capacity of both food and non-food items.
-  5 trucks, 10 generators, 2 forklifts provided to support national capacity.
-  Over 1.29 million kg of relief items received and recorded in the CDEMA Logistics System.

PROTECTION



Nearly 21,500 people benefitted from protection services.



Close to 11,800 people engaged in community-based child protection activities.



Close to 7,500 people reached through gender-based violence (GBV) services.



567 males and 544 female adolescents participated in shelter child protection needs assessment.

RECOVERY, ASHES CLEAN-UP, EQUIPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



9 educational institutions in the orange zone, two churches and a number of homes occupied by elderly persons were cleaned.



Over 1,600 students return to school due to cleaning.



15,000 cubic yards of ash removed.



185 persons (40% female) provided with short term employment through the ash clean-up programme.

SHELTER



20 emergency shelter facilities rehabilitated and equipped to host an estimated 280 families or 1,120 individuals.



Over 5,632 hygiene and dignity kits distributed to support families in private and public shelters. Kits

for families of 5, including menstrual hygiene and COVID-19 products.



30 recreational kits provided to cover 2,700 children.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Water supply provide and reaching over 20,400 beneficiaries.



Nearly 1,500 collapsible water containers and 62 water tanks for water storage and water trucking operationalised.



Nearly 1,000 households reached with hygiene promotion linked to cash assistance through a temporary expansion of the national social protection system.

2.5. EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED



An end of cycle evaluation of the MSDF was conducted in 2021, documenting the successes and shortcomings of the UN systems and serving as an accountability instrument to assess the UNDS collective contribution to development priorities across countries in the region.

Relevance

The MSDF priorities were defined in quite broad terms; and as such are overall aligned with regional sub-regional and national level priorities. The development process for the 2017-2021 framework was inclusive and participatory, enabling a broad range of government and non-governmental stakeholders to become involved. Despite this, the switch from UNDAFs (United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks) to a regional cooperation framework promoted regional challenges, at the expense of critical national priorities which stakeholders felt were neglected and/or diluted.

The evaluation found that this led to a diminished impact on national-level programming. Responding to national priorities through tailored CIPs has hence been a major priority for the UN system in 2021 and beyond.

“MCDCF needs to capitalize on synergies between national priorities, and regional challenges.”

Effectiveness

Overall, the evaluation indicated that the coordination infrastructure that underpins the MSDF can be improved, with stronger results groups, clear division of labor and tracking of progress. Strengthening internal coordination and results monitoring, while remaining agile and nimble is hence a key element of the next programming cycle.

“Across the region, data gaps precluded setting appropriate baselines, and measuring incremental progress”

Efficiency

Given the scope of technical expertise across UN agencies greater synergies would be realized from more integrated approaches for better coherence in addressing the multifaceted development challenges faced by the sub-region. The process will improve the quality and impact of interventions significant across the various agency-level interventions. There is a greater need to put more emphasis on more integrated policy



Feedback on MSDCF 2022-2026 Priorities.

approaches and support at the national and regional levels for improving impact.

“UN must further strengthen incentives for agencies to address development challenges collectively”

Sustainability

The limited availability and sustainability of development finance in the region emerged as one of the main challenges identified by UN agencies. Many programmes and initiatives have been institutionalized and are now form part of on-going government responsibilities, while others experience delays and lack of funding to continue to scale or enable expansion.

“Declining donor resources can result in the skewing of development programmes towards reliable funding streams, and away from critical development priorities”

Action steps for the next Cooperation Framework:

- Adopting: more robust results-based management linked to “theories of change” and a common set of SDG-based indicators in the new Cooperation Framework.
- Exploring: new financing models/partner with the private sector through Resource Mobilization & Partnerships Strategies (RMPS).
- Implementing and expanding; UN Reform, Delivering as One, and joint advocacy and reporting collective results at the regional level.
- Strengthening SDG Data capacity to enable comprehensive region-wide assessment of the achievement of Agenda 2030.

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4. **Strengthening SDG Data Capacity** to enable comprehensive region-wide assessment of the achievement of Agenda 2030.



2.6. SUCCESS STORIES

Antigua MSMEs Blooming Despite Adversity

Nestled in the crystal waters of the Caribbean, Antigua and Barbuda was not out of reach of the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Curfews and mandatory restrictions meant that for many small businesses and persons operating in the informal sector, there was no alternative to closing their doors.

Widlande Pierre, Owner and Manager of Crepe It Antigua, the twin-island state's first and only Creperia, had found a new way to satisfy her customers' palate pleasures, however COVID-19 threatened to devastate her plans. "During COVID-19 we had a tough time," she admits. "We had to close our business for a couple of months. We were out of work and had no capital to run the business. We were put in a position where we had to start over and work to get our customers back which required us to do more marketing which needed more money than we didn't have at the time." She explained voicing the plight also faced by many of her counterparts. However, thanks to an India-UN partnership Fund initiative that sought to strengthen health capacities and reduce the socio-economic impacts of COVID, MSMEs were given a lifeline, in terms of financial support and tools needed to "bloom" in adversity. The MSME Digital Transition Grant offered under the UN initiative helped Wilande to pivot and expand her business despite the far-reaching impacts of the pandemic. "We were so happy to be selected for the grant. We wanted to get the opportunity to see through the vision that we had for our

business - like getting online, launching our website, and acquiring a bigger spot for our customers to enjoy our offerings," she noted.

As COVID-19 restrictions relax, this popular eatery is serving up crepes for all occasions in a new location, offering patrons a variety of novel options for breakfast, lunch and dinner ranging from pizza crepes to the more traditional dessert crepes. The brand's online presence has also expanded and by all reports business is good! The UN continues to support the region to respond to threats like COVID-19 which threaten livelihoods and gains made towards the achievement of the SDGs. Under this project, grants were used to transition MSMEs' businesses online, create and update websites, and purchase equipment to assist in business transitioning. In keeping with the UN's commitment to gender parity, 87% of the grantees were female-owned and operated. Widlande's story is just one of many that demonstrate the resilience of Caribbean people.

Barbados Employability Project prepares workers affected by pandemic to reenter job market.

Over 900 Barbadians made jobless because of the COVID-19 pandemic have been equipped to re-enter the job market. A three-month Barbados Employability Project pilot initiative, supported by the ILO Caribbean



Photo description goes here

Office, has afforded participants the opportunity to learn new skills or retool in order to return to the work environment or, even to start their own small businesses.

Implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Partnership Relations and the National Training Initiative, the project focuses on Core / Social Skills, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), and Entrepreneurship. In welcoming the UN 's technical support, Marva Howell, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Partnership Relations noted:

“Given the negative economic, financial and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on countries, workers and their families, it was imperative that the Government of Barbados sought a viable intervention to assist the thousands of unemployed, laid off workers, particularly single mothers, the youth and the disabled.”

Ariel Pino, ILO Caribbean Specialist for Social Protection and Occupational Safety and Health, said the ILO was pleased to support the “Government of Barbados’ COVID-19 response to build a stronger and more adaptable work force now and in the future.”

In this regard, one 56-year-old female participant explained: “The course has opened my eyes more to the risk and hazards to be found in the workplace. I have also learned how to approach and deal with anything that may

arise. During the Core / Social Skills course, participants gained new insights on the threats and opportunities of change, along with personal and professional adaptation strategies. A 21-year-old counterpart said of the Core/ Social skills training that provides insights on adapting to change:

“The best thing about the course is that it offers information that aids in equipping you with information that is relevant and necessary upon entry into the workforce.” A 31-year-old female course participant described the Entrepreneurship module as “helpful and interesting”. She added: “I learned new information that can benefit me in the future.”

Upon completion of the courses, participants received employment certificates to facilitate their return to the labour force. The training was also extended to educational institutions that offer e-learning.

How the UN is helping MSMEs Prepare for the Future of Tourism

As the world continues to be impacted by COVID-19 with countries going through a third wave of infection, resulting in greater reliance on digital transactions, business owners in every major industry, including the vital tourism sector, have been forced to adapt to keep their doors open. Thanks to a 12-week Business Adaptation

Programme, which forms part of the UNDP Future Tourism Project, MSME's within the Caribbean region's tourism sector have been learning just how to pivot and transform their business operations within the current climate.

Frances Edwards, Operator of Sapphire Apartments, a vacation rental property in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, noted that prior to the adaptation programme social media and marketing strategies were minimal and sometimes unreachable for her small business. She welcomed the support that has allowed her to embrace this new approach. "I have learned many things over the last 3 weeks.... I have been challenged, but in a good way. I will be for- ever thankful for this opportunity to pivot my business," she emphasized.

Sapphire Apartments is one of the 350 businesses enrolled in phase one of the programme, which focuses on educating entrepreneurs on digital strategies for real time growth. Women-owned businesses were specifically targeted for this programme, which has gender equality and gender empowerment as its two main cross-cutting principles. Through gender-responsive training, technical assistance, and mentoring, the project will strengthen women's capacities as well as improve their access to financing to ensure speedier recovery of livelihoods and enhanced living conditions.

Jackie Risler, Co-owner of La Baguette, a French-inspired bakery in Barbados, said the advanced segment of the programme has been informative enjoyable so far, thanks to professional instructors equipped to teach online.

Component one of the programme is open training that focuses on digital technologies, financial planning, and marketing, being facilitated over a period of four weeks each, while the more select phase two provides access to one-on-one mentoring sessions to support implementation of Business Improvement Plans and phase three provides

access to funding to further support digital transformation. In commenting on the Project, UNDP Representative Valarie Cliff stated: "UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean is pleased, along with our partners, to spear-head this important initiative that is well poised to have transformative impacts as the region's MSMEs prepare for the future of tourism."

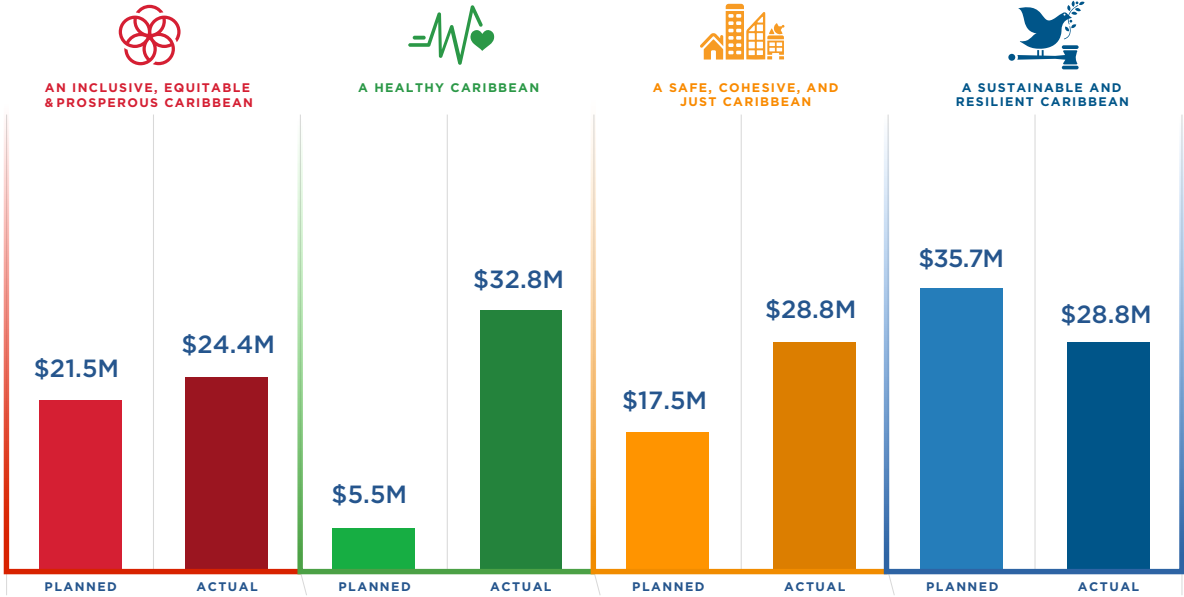
The Future of Tourism, Business Development Programme demonstrates the UN's commitment to promoting economic diversification, job creation and resilience under a "Blue Economy for Green Islands" approach. From all reports, the initiative programme offered in launch in June 2021, in partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus and the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, is already seeing positive results!

2.7. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

AFP MOBILIZATION & DELIVERY

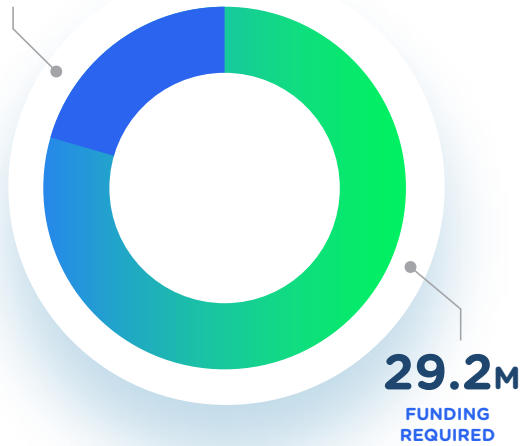


DELIVERY BY MSDF PILLARS



BARBADOS AND THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN LA SOUFRIERE VOLCANO ERUPTION FUNDING APPEAL REQUIREMENT AND FUNDING

11.5M
TOTAL FUNDS



\$1.4M

\$10.1M



REPURPOSED



MOBILIZED

PARTNERS



SECTOR	TOTAL FUNDS	REQUIRED	% COVERAGE
Protection	\$462,279.28	\$750,000	61.64
Health	\$892,000.00	\$2,500,000	35.68
Education	\$280,000.00	\$975,000	28.72
WASH	\$1,550,001.56	\$4,000,000	38.75
Shelter and Housing	\$946,000.00	\$6,000,000	15.77
Recovery, Ashes Cleanup, Equipment and Environmental Health	\$825,990.00	\$4,500,000	18.36
Food Security, Cash and Livelihoods, Agriculture	\$4,905,167.54	\$9,000,000	54.50
Logistics	\$1,703,087.00	\$1,500,000	113.54
TOTAL	\$11,564,525.38	\$29,225,000	39.57

UN AGENCIES

DONORS

United States	Spain	Turks & Caicos
Japan	Germany	Australia
CERF	Canada	Malta
United Kingdom	Belgium	
European Union	Italy	

JOINT PROGRAMMING RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

PIPELINED

\$8.1M
Build Back Equal



\$2.2M
Youth Training/
Social Protection



\$1.4M
Advancing
Innovative
Financing
Solutions



\$1.4M
Resilient
Livelihoods and
Food Security



\$750k
Sustainable
Demographic
transition



ONGOING

\$10.3M
Blue Invest - TAIF



\$6.2M
Agriculture &
Women
Empowerment



\$4.6M
Adaptive Social
Protection



\$3.3M
Spotlight Grenada
Country
Programme



\$1M
Blue Economy -
INFF



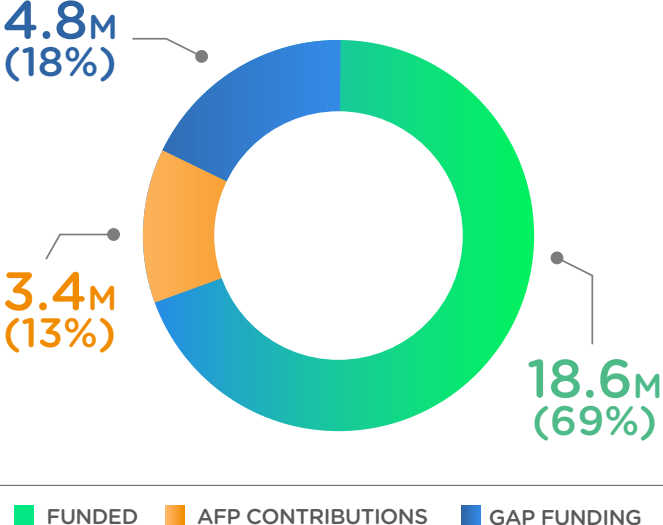
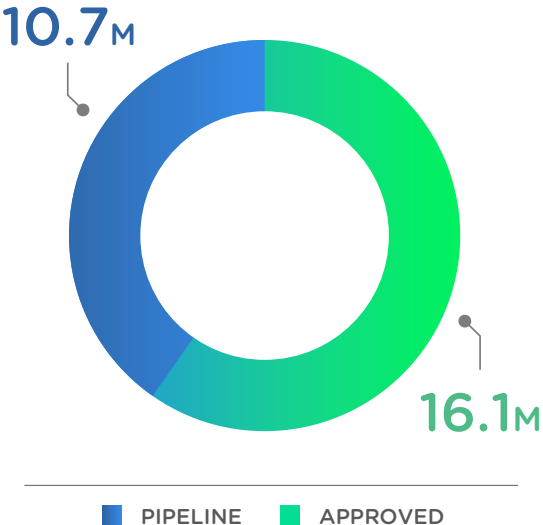
\$727k
Social Protection
and Employability



\$365k
Disaster
Displacement/
mobility and
environment
COVID-19



JOINT PROGRAMMING RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



CHAPTER 3: UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR



2022 Priorities

The UN Sub-Regional Team for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean has started the process of implementing the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, covering the period 2022-2026. This is the

most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

This framework has been developed as the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and recent developments such as the war in Ukraine. In the Eastern Caribbean, as elsewhere, the impact of the pandemic aggravated and revealed existing structural vulnerabilities and provides the opportunity to 'build back better'.

To address such vulnerabilities the UN and the governments in the region are committing to contribute to significant structural changes in the economies and governance systems of the countries, towards:

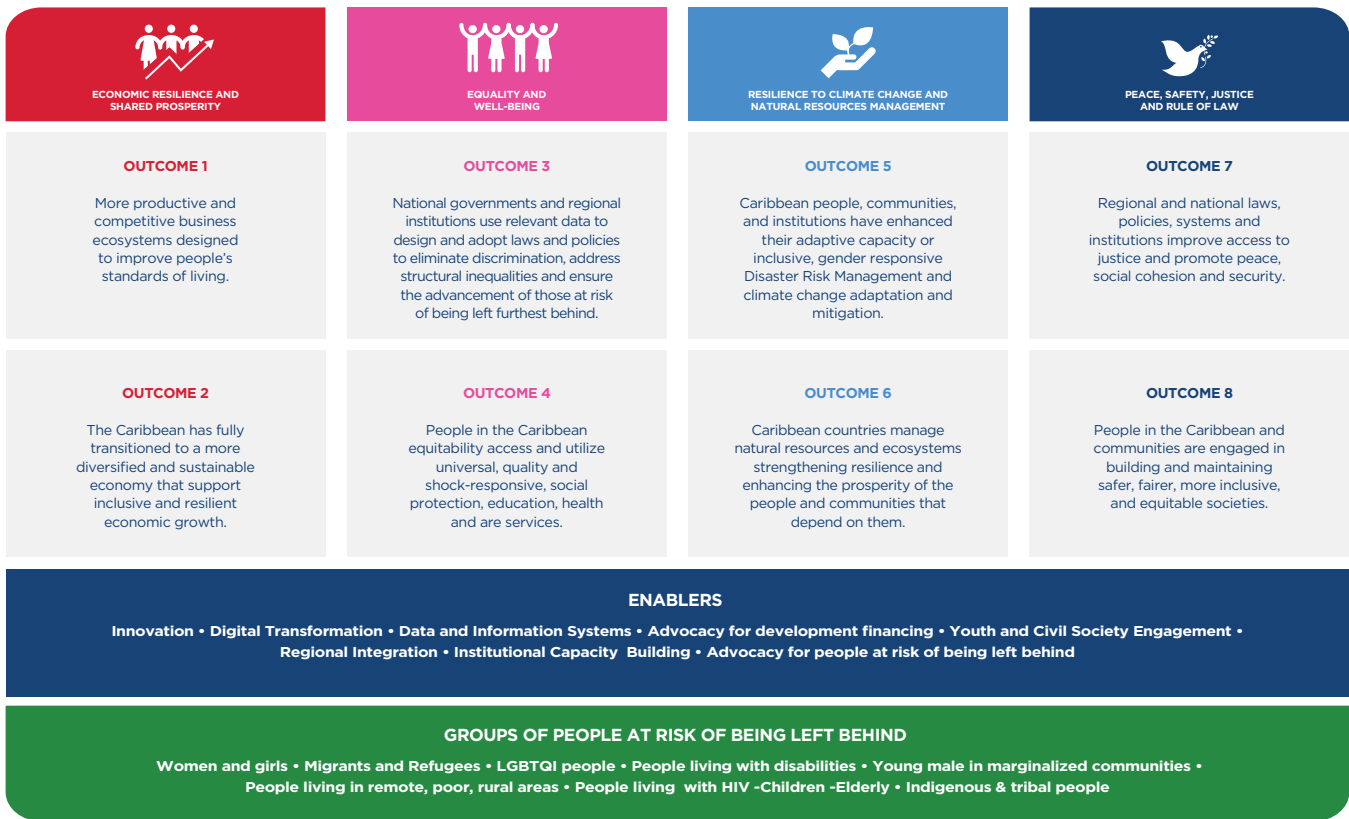
1. Economic resilience and shared prosperity
2. Equality and well-being
3. Resilience to climate change and shocks, and sustainable natural resource management
4. Peace, safety, justice, and the rule of law

Under each of these four priority areas, specific desired changes were defined for UN contribution, as shown in the below diagram.

The Vision is for the region to become more resilient, possess greater capacity to achieve all the SDGs, and become a place where people choose to live and can reach their full potential. UN contributions will be operationalised at the country level, while adopting regional solutions where relevant, fostering regional cooperation and integration, and being guided by the principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

UN VISION 2030:

- ✓ Achieved all SDGs, recovered from the impact of COVID-19 in a sustainable and transformative manner, leveraging regional cooperation.
- ✓ A resilient region where people choose to live and can reach their full potential.



In this framework and aligned to each agency specific country commitments, Country Implementation Plans (CIPs) have been developed for all 10 Islands serve under the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Office for the next two-years. These CIPs focus on the specific development needs of each country in areas where the UN system is well placed to support. CIPs will apply both single agency and joint approaches to deliver on national development priorities.

Notwithstanding, for the years 2022 and 2023 the UNST Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean has developed a Compact which prioritized the following programmatic areas as strategic entry points for multi-dimensional approaches where agencies capacities can be pooled to help countries leapfrog their development aspirations and achieve durable socio-economic recovery.

Business Competitiveness and Economic Diversification

Building a strong and competitive economy at both the national and regional levels are important pre-requisites for rapid recovery from the economic impact of COVID-19. This will require addressing issues such as improving regulatory environment for businesses to form develop and sustain, especially micro-small and

medium enterprises.

Given the vulnerability of the tourism sector which many Eastern Caribbean economies depend on for a large share of their revenues, efforts will be made to support both recovery and diversification in Tourism, but also development of value chains in new sectors such as agriculture, blue economy, and cultural industries with specific focus on women economic empowerment and youth unemployment.

Social Protection

With the help of the UNDS in the Eastern Caribbean there are many positive examples of how shock adaptive social protection systems helped countries to mitigate the short term social and economic consequences of shocks such as COVID-19.

The UNDS will build on the good successes of previous work and political commitment of member states to strengthen the policy, legislative and administrative infrastructure to ensure resilient social protection systems, while integrating approaches for graduating beneficiaries to more sustainable livelihoods, as required.

Improved Access to Quality Social Services

Significant efforts will continue to help improve both access and quality social services especially as it relates to transforming education system to deal with the learning loss experienced during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and build the resilience of health care infrastructure to future pandemics while guaranteeing access to and delivery of quality care services including mental health, and sexual and reproductive health services.

Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

As one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impact of climate change, the UN system will intensify efforts to deal with the triple planetary crisis – climate change, bio-diversity loss and pollution.

Strong focus would be placed on supporting countries to access climate financing necessary to deliver the adaptation measures necessary to be better prepared for and withstand both anthropogenic and natural events and its effects across all sectors. More focus will also be given to helping countries improve risk-informed development planning.

Gender Based Violence – addressing structural and institutional challenges

Addressing harmful social norms and transforming the way national and regional institutions address gender-based violence is a high-priority of the UN. The efforts in 2022, will build on the good results of the Caribbean and Grenada Spotlight Programmes by intensify a multi-agency programmatic approach to help institutions address cultural practices that facilitates and perpetuates violence against women and family violence.

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) with a network of 7 offices across Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will continue to facilitate inter-agency planning, partnership building, resources mobilization, advocacy and communications efforts using internal and external collaborative mechanism such as - the SDG-Programme Team, Operations management Team and the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group to ensure the advancement of these priorities. In this regard, in 2022, RCO workplan focuses on strengthening the analytical functions needed to better understand the complexities of the development challenges in the post-pandemic context and identify the programmatic and operational opportunities for more effective and efficient UN development system in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.



EU Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean , Malgorzata Wasilewska, addresses a Spotlight Initiative event in Grenada to observe the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV

APPENDICES

UN WHO IS WHO

UN AGENCY	REP. NAME	REP. JOB TITLE	OFFICE
 UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services	Alejandro Rossi	Country Director	Costa Rica
 UNDP United Nations Development Programme	Valerie Cliff	Representative	Barbados
 International Monetary Fund	Christopher Faircloth	Representative	Barbados
 UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlement Programme	Elkin Velasquez	Regional Representative	Panama
 UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Diego Masera	Deputy Regional Director	Panama
 PAHO Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization	Dr. Yitades Gebre	Representative	Barbados
 WFP World Food Programme United Nations World Food Programme	Regis Chapman	Representative	Barbados
 UNFPA United Nations Population Fund	Alison Drayton	Representative	Barbados
 UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Jose Vila de Castillo	Representative	Panama
 UN environment United Nations Environment Programme	Vincent Sweeney	Head Of Caribbean Sub-regional Office	Jamaica
 UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation	Saadia Sanchez	Representative	Jamaica
 ECLAC United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America	Diane Quarless	Country director	Trinidad
 UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund	Dr. Aloys Kamuragiye	Representative	Barbados
 UN WOMEN UN Women	Tonni Ann Brodber	Representative	Barbados
 ITU International Telecommunication Union	Cleveland Thomas	Representative	Barbados
 ILO International Labour Organization	Dennis Zulu	Country director	Trinidad
 FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Dr. Renata Clarke	Sub-regional Coordinator	Barbados
 UNIC United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area	Juan Miguel Diez	Director	Trinidad
 IOM International Office for Migration	Robert Natiello	Regional Coordinator	Guyana

UN PRESENCE AND WHERE WE WORK



ANGUILLA 1 Agency / 1 personnel PAHO (1)	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS 1 Agency / 2 personnel PAHO (1)	GRENADA (5 Agencies / 14 personnel) PAHO (3) UNDP (3) UNFCCC (2) FAO (3) UN Women (2) UN Country Coordinator (1)	ST. KITTS & NEVIS (3 Agencies / 6 personnel) PAHO (1) UNDP (2) FAO (2) UN Country Coordinator (1)	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES (5 Agencies / 27 personnel) PAHO (4) UNDP (2) FAO (4) UNICEF (1) WFP (10) UN Country Coordinator (1)	BARBADOS 11 UN Agencies/235 personnel FAO (42) ITU (4) PAHO (38) UNDP (49) UNESCO (1) UNFPA (2) UNICEF (30) UN Women (22) UNODC (1) WFP (32) UNIDO (1) UN Resident Coordinator Office (13)
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (4 Agencies / 8 personnel) PAHO (1) UNDP (3) UNOPS (2) FAO (1) UN Country Coordinator (1)	DOMINICA 5 Agencies / 32 personnel IOM (8) PAHO (3) UNDP (14) WFP (5) FAO (1) UN Country Coordinator (1)	MONTSERRAT 0 Agencies	ST. LUCIA (5 Agencies / 6 personnel) PAHO (2) UNDP (4) FAO (6) UNICEF (2) UPU (1) UN Country Coordinator (1)		

JUSTICE
ONG
TIONS

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



