

2023

Annual Results Report



UNITED NATIONS
BARBADOS & 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



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FOREWORD

MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



It is with a sense of profound gratitude that I present the 2023 Annual Results Report on behalf of the UN Team, our partners, and the Governments and people of this region, whom I have been honored to serve for the past five years.

This report is my last as Head of UN Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. I am pleased to have led such an amazing team of men and women, and to partner with so many others, who all demonstrate daily your commitment to this region, particularly to persons most vulnerable and at-risk of being left behind.

This report showcases our collective vision, results, as well as challenges, experienced in year two of the Caribbean Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022 – 2026). 2023 continued to be a challenging one for Caribbean SIDS, who over the past years have grappled with multiple and compound crises. COVID-19 triggered a severe and unprecedented economic crisis, halting tourism, trade, and services, and bringing to light deep-rooted inequalities and disparities in our societies. There have been several natural disasters and the war in Ukraine resulted in rapidly increasing prices and a triple crisis of food, finance, and fuel.

Notwithstanding, our partnership with regional governments remained strong and this year, we

were able to support our countries to achieve several transformational results. These include advancing the food security agenda, promoting sustainable livelihoods, supporting digitalization across multiple sectors including health and social services, and enhancing disaster risk reduction through integrated policy support, increasing access to climate finance, and scaling up multi-hazard early warning.

While, together with our partners, we have made significant strides, there is still much work left to be done as we seek to raise our ambition even further on the global goals. However, our joint multi-sectoral support to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to the Government and the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the aftermath of the eruption of the La Soufriere volcano, are two of numerous initiatives of which we can all be especially proud. If you recall, our global funding appeal garnered over USD\$58 million that helped to mitigate the staggering socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on Eastern Caribbean SIDS, and to provide immediate life-saving humanitarian aid and support sustainable recovery and rehabilitation in Saint Vincent.

Our successes this year, as in previous years, have been predicated on the commitment of our respective member Governments, international development colleagues, donor partners, civil society allies and the individuals and communities we work with to jointly build stronger and more resilient societies from the community up, with a focus on mainstreaming

national priorities and the sustainable development goals. To all of you I express sincerest thanks.

The year 2023 afforded us quite the mixed bag. While we helped to move the needle on SDG progress, with some countries recording significant progress, including Barbados which is on track to have half of the 95 SDG targets met by or before 2030, the challenges for Caribbean SIDS remain. The continuing debt crisis, coupled with high unemployment, food insecurity, high energy costs, climate change impacts, and rising inequality among several at-risk groups, continue to challenge our work and our ambitions for SDG priorities and progress.

In response the UN Team in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean strived to be more innovative through joint programming, deepen collective advocacy, strengthen rights-based approaches and policy support, and expand social protection streams and finance mechanisms to improve outcomes and create a more sustainable future for all citizens.

In this regard, inclusion, and the participation of persons with disabilities (PWD) and representative organisations was at the forefront of our efforts, which included an inaugural regional consultation entitled: "Breaking barriers: inclusion, participation, and freedom from violence for persons with disabilities" organized in Barbados. Over 60 delegates from across 10 countries participated in this landmark event, and other national and regional fora were also held to ensure meaningful engagement and participation.

This was fitting as this year we observed the 75th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The UN Development System also continued efforts to promote inclusion, equality and non-discrimination for the LGBTIQ community, and for youth, and to support anti-discrimination measures to protect women and girls, including the passage of the Domestic Violence Act 2023 in Saint Lucia and in Dominica, and the Employment (Prevention of Discrimination) Act 2020 in Barbados.

Our advocacy efforts towards the SDGs were also enhanced during the year with a deliberate private sector focus, which saw several regional entities coming on board the #ACTNow campaign. With several partnerships forums successfully staged across the region, including high-level participation at the prime ministerial level, efforts to expand private sector partnership, including through the Caribbean Global Compact, is expected to continue in earnest in 2024, as will our partnership with to amplify youth voices in decision making.

As we look towards the future, we do so with hope committed to ensuring our collective support to ensure that no one is left behind as we advance towards 2030.

Didier Trebuq

Resident Coordinator,
UN Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

UN Sub-Regional Team

Delivering together for Caribbean SIDS

UN AGENCIES	REP. NAME	REP. JOB TITLE	OFFICE
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Dr. Renata Clarke	Sub-regional Coordinator	Barbados
 International Office for Migration	Patrice Quesada	Regional Coordinator	Barbados
 International Telecommunication Union	Cleveland Thomas	Representative	Barbados
 Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization	Dr. Amalia Del Riego Abreu	Representative	Barbados
 United Nations Children's Fund	Pieter Bult	Representative	Barbados
 United Nations Development Programme	Limya Eltayeb	Representative	Barbados
 UN Women	Tonni-Ann Brodber	Representative	Barbados
 United Nations World Food Programme	Regis Chapman	Representative	Barbados
 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Mayra Santaella	Regional Lead	Grenada
 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America	Diane Quarless	Country Director	Trinidad
 International Labour Organisation	Joni Musabayana	Director	Trinidad
 United Nations Information Center for the Caribbean Area	Liliana Garavito	Director	Trinidad
 United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation	Anna Paolini	Representative	Jamaica
 United Nations Environment Programme	Vincent Sweeney	Representative	Jamaica
 United Nations Population Fund	Elisabeth Arnold Talbert	Representative	Jamaica
 The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS	Dr. Richard Amenyah	Multi-Country Director	Jamaica
 United Nations Human Settlement Programme	Elkin Velasquez	Regional Representative	Brazil
 United Nations Office for Project Services	Martín Arévalo de León	Director	Costa Rica
 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Shelly Cheatham	Head of Office	Panama
 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	Nahuel Garcia	Chief Regional Office for the Americas	Panama
 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Sylvie Bertrand	Regional Representative	Panama
 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Alberto Brunori	Regional Representative	Panama
 United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Cecilia Ugaz	Officer-in-Charge	Vienna

23 Agencies, Funds, and Programmes (AFPs) Under the Cooperation Framework

The United Nations Sub-Regional Team (UNST) in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean comprises a total of 23 Agencies, Funds and Programmes, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the Secretary-General's designated representative in the sub-region.

There are 23 UN agencies programmatically active, from which dedicated staff serve the Governments and people of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories. The UN enjoys a positive and enduring relationship with the Governments and people of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, with many countries boasting close to and over 50 years of UN membership.

Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Eastern Caribbean

Strong partnerships are essential to ensuring meaningful development assistance to the 10 Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that we serve.

In this regard, key national and regional partners have walked alongside the UN Team in 2023, supporting national and global priorities aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ranging from Government leaders, civil society organizations, community-based groups, to members of the private sector, media, academia, ordinary citizens, and donor partners - all have contributed to collective efforts to Leave No One Behind.

Despite misinformation and increasing anti-global sentiments, regional Governments have continued to demonstrate trust in the value of multilateralism and in the work that we do on their behalf. This is evidenced by our enduring partnerships with Offices of the Prime Minister and other critical departments and Ministries, including Finance, Foreign Affairs, Health, Agriculture and Environment, Gender Affairs, Sustainable Development, Social Security, Education, Youth, and Statistical Service.

The UN Team welcomes this partnership and remains committed to strengthening and deepening partnerships in fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda.

Countries and Territories Covered by the MCO



International Development Partners



Donor Governments





CHAPTER 1

Key Developments in Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean

Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 cost-of-living crisis has been encouraging, fueled by various factors such as a resurgence of tourism activities, increased revenue from Citizenship-by-Investment programs, construction of climate-resilient infrastructure, and a rise in agricultural output. In 2022, Barbados registered an impressive double-digit growth of 13.8 per cent, and is projected to grow by 4.5 per cent in 2024¹.

The overall growth projections for the region in 2024 is equally optimistic, with Saint Lucia and Grenada expected to achieve economic growth of 2.3 and 3.8 per cent respectively². These upwards trends have driven job creation reducing unemployment levels, with unemployment claims and the unemployment rate reverting to pre-pandemic levels in some cases.

Continuing Challenges for SIDS

Despite these positive trends in employment, labor markets are still marked by a persistence of gender pay gaps, high youth unemployment compared to their adult counterparts, rising informality and inequalities, and an increase in food insecurity and the overall cost of living. Debt levels also remain a concern in the region. In responding to the recent crises, many countries were required to sharply increase public expenditure to fund recovery, protect vulnerable groups through enhanced social protection mechanisms, and mitigate the impact of inflation on households and the wider economy.

High debt levels slow investment towards SDG acceleration projects, so, in the coming years, countries will continue to seek strategic investments to make up for lost gains and propel progress in key areas. These include economic diversification, climate adaptation, energy, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as in tackling the increased crime and violence seen in some countries. Data gaps remain pervasive in the region which makes it difficult to track and address the degree to which vulnerable groups have been negatively impacted by recent trends.

¹ Outlook for Barbados' Economy: <https://www.centralbank.org.bb/news/general-press-release/outlook-for-barbados-economy>

² IMF DataMapper: <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/profile/LCA>; IMF Country Data (Grenada): <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/GRD>

The patchy progress towards universal social protection has also been compounded by demographic shifts, such as ageing and emigration, which have multi-layered and complex implications for women, older persons and social security systems tackling the significant increase in crime and homicides seen in some countries. Climate risks are becoming more commonplace through the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, with knock-on effects to sustainable development.

The Way Forward

Effectively tackling these issues will require the UN to renew its focus on policy frameworks, building pipeline projects for financing in strategic growth sectors and crowd-in additional support from a more diverse partner network, especially with the private sector and civil society.

Several recently concluded and upcoming global processes will shape how and on what issues the sub-region will be supported on in the run-up to 2030, most notably the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, where a new Programme of Action for SIDS will be adopted, and the Summit of the Future – both to be convened in 2024. The outcomes of both meetings will reinvigorate the commitment to support and drive forward interventions in the region and highlight the urgency of coordinated actions and partnerships via pathways that deliver measurable results.

 **The overall growth projections for the region in 2024 is equally optimistic, with Saint Lucia and Grenada expected to achieve economic growth of 2.3 and 3.8 per cent respectively.**



CHAPTER 2

UN Development System support to National Priorities through the MSDCF

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) governs development cooperation between the UN and the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean for the period January 2022 – December 2026.

This strategic guidance document, co-signed by Agencies, Funds and Programmes, seeks to enhance prosperity, peace, and resilience across Barbados and nine Eastern Caribbean countries in keeping with the Leave-No-one-Behind (LNOB) principle, and in alignment with national priorities.

The MSDCF seeks to engender transformation across four main pillars:

- 
1 Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity
- 
2 Equality, Well-being and LNOB
- 
3 Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- 
4 Peace, Safety, Justice, and the Rule Of Law

In 2023 the UN Team in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean strengthened its partnership with key development stakeholders and national Governments to foster transformational change. Specifically, the team collectively amplified efforts to boost fiscal resilience through enhanced diversification of the green, blue, and orange economies, expanding productive capacities and increasing integration of ICT.

In fact, digitalization and data-strengthening was a major thrust of UN focus resulting in significant gains across various national thematic priorities including climate action, disaster risk reduction, health systems strengthening, educational transformation, women’s economic empowerment, agricultural growth and enhanced social protection.

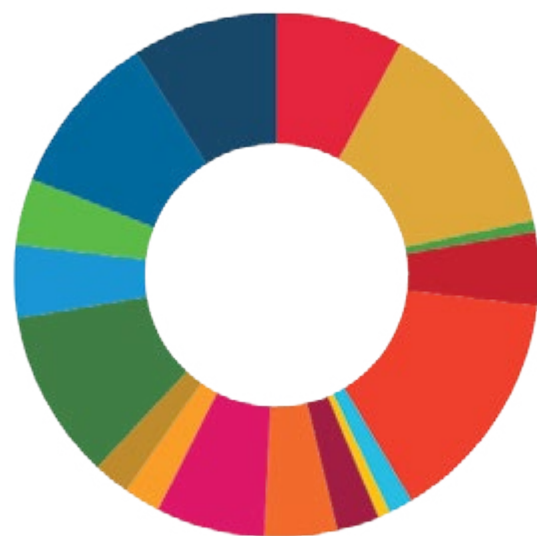


In alignment with the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the goal of LNOB was mainstreamed across the UNs work this year. Notable strides were made in ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized groups including persons with disabilities, elderly persons, members of the LGBTIQ community, migrants, youth and women and girls were not only heard, but included in programming and policy efforts that sought to address their lived experiences and expressed priorities. In this regard a three-pronged strategy was employed that sought to impact change at the individual, community, and national level, by strengthening the capacities of individuals, CSOs as well as national policy makers to foster an enabling environment for sustainable growth and development.

Progress in 2023 was made despite significant and ongoing regional challenges including rising debt, high unemployment, and low investments. In this regard, the UN also continued its efforts to increase countries’ access to development funding through various mechanisms, including resource mobilization. The Joint Programming modality, under the leadership of the RC and participating agencies, also continued in earnest this year, with 9 active programmes employed , as a means of collectively brining to bear Agency’s comparative advantage to response to the most pressing challenges facing Caribbean SIDS. Blue Economy, Food Security and Livelihoods, Youth, Social Protection, Data, Women’s Empowerment, and Migrations were among the areas tackled.

SDG progress continued to inform UN efforts, with advocacy geared towards mainstreaming, localizing and accelerating the global goals, reiterating the value of multilateralism, and demonstrating the value added of the UN Reform and the RC System to Eastern Caribbean SIDS.

UN Activities Per Sustainable Development Goal



- 1 No Poverty
21 activities (8%)
- 2 Zero Hunger
37 activities (14%)
- 3 Good Health and Well-being
2 activities (1%)
- 4 Quality Education
12 activities (4%)
- 5 Gender Equality
39 activities (15%)
- 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
4 activities (1%)
- 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
2 activities (1%)
- 8 Decent Jobs and Economic Growth
7 activities (3%)
- 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
12 activities (4%)
- 10 Reduced Inequalities
18 activities (7%)
- 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
6 activities (2%)
- 12 Responsible Consumption & Production
6 activities (2%)
- 13 Climate Action
28 activities (10%)
- 14 Life Below Water
12 activities (4%)
- 15 Life on Land
11 activities (4%)
- 16 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
27 activities (10%)
- 17 Partnerships for the Goals
24 activities (9%)



Prime Minister, the Hon. Mia Mottley and Minister with responsibility for the SDGs, Senator Dr. the Hon. Shantal Munro Knight, are joined by UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, at the Barbados National SDG Stakeholder Consultation.

Support for Voluntary National Reviews

In 2023, the UN supported the Governments of Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis to prepare for and successfully present their first Voluntary National Review of SDG progress to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF). UN assistance included support towards preparation of the final VNR Report, convening of national stakeholder consultations, participation in pre and post VNR media-sessions and team preparation for presentation at the HLPF. In Barbados, two critical reports were produced - a National SDG Mapping Report and Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) Report.

The latter, based on analysis of 27 key national policy documents, including legislation, provided substantive insights into planned and ongoing programmes and flagship initiatives that were helping Barbados to move closer to achieving the SDGs.

Barbados' Key Results:

National SDG Mapping Report

- **43 of 95** SDG targets expected to be met by 2030
- **52 or 54.7%** of the 95 targets showing fair progress, with need for implementation acceleration in some target areas
- **89 national initiatives** with cross cutting elements were supporting SDG progress

RIA Report

- **92%** of policy documents were fully or partially aligned to the SDGs
- **48%** of policy documents were aligned with gender and disability inclusion targets

UNST Results through Global Initiatives & Key Regional Priorities

In 2023 the UN in the Eastern Caribbean advanced a coherent agenda to address all forms of violence, including youth violence, family violence and Gender-based violence, with links to women's economic empowerment.

Central to this work was strengthening institutional capacities of Governments and civil society organisations to address the root causes of violence, while providing essential services to support victims, survivors, and perpetrators of violence. Efforts were also focused on building cross-sectoral resilience through digital transformation, supporting population development and youth empowerment.



Prime Minister of Grenada, the Hon. Dickon Mitchell, is seen with UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, and other senior UN officials during the 2nd Government of Grenada high level dialogue with the UN Development System.

KEY RESULTS



Spotlight Initiative Programme for Grenada

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) continues to be one of the most widespread regional scourges and human rights violations, with at least one in three Caribbean women having faced some form of sexual or intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

The Grenada Spotlight Initiative was made possible through the generous support and enduring partnership of the European Union, and leveraged the technical expertise of UN Women, UNDP, PAHO/WHO and UNICEF. It was implemented from January 2020 to December 2023 in Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique, with a goal of ending VAWG, achieving gender equality, and empowering women.

Programme results were underpinned by robust evidence, and strict adherence to the principle of Leaving-No-One-behind (LNOB). In this regard, strategies including basic sign language training for

service providers, availability of materials in Braille, and community education activities for vulnerable and hidden populations, ensured that women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination were also reached.

At the macro level, Spotlight contributed to the implementation of Grenada's Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (GEPAP), and Government's Public Service Delivery Agreement to strengthen interventions to combat Family Violence, including Intimate Partner Violence and Child Sexual Abuse. Additionally, the outcomes of this initiative were incorporated into the National Sustainable Development Plan 2035, contributing to ensure sustainability of results.



LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ENHANCED

- ✓ Victims Right's Policy finalized to prevent violence ...social norms ensure increase national awareness and response to GBV.
- ✓ National SOPs on VAWG and related guidelines developed and officially launched to improve national awareness and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- ✓ Legislative gaps identified & recommendations made for policy revision in areas associated with family law, sexual offences, domestic violence, and victim rights.
- ✓ Commitment by Government for review of legislation bills that address the legal age of marriage, child maintenance, sexual harassment, corporal punishment, exclusion of adolescent mothers, and protection of the rights of victims in court.



PREVENTION THROUGH SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

- ✓ Over 300 young people reached through the Foundations Programme, introduced within the educational, legal aid, and youth rehabilitation system.
- ✓ Over 40 facilitators equipped to deliver Social and Behavioural Change training through the Foundations Programme aimed at changing social norms.
- ✓ Increased awareness of general population through television and radio advocacy campaigns, including the "Stop, Take a deep breath, and Relax" (STAR) campaign.
- ✓ Over 2,000 men women and children, and 400 parents and guardians, engaged through creative arts programs and cycles of the National Parenting Programme.
- ✓ 150 teachers, principals and Guidance Counsellors empowered to integrate GBV prevention within their institutions' Health and Family Life Education and Child Friendly School programmes.
- ✓ Network of change agents working to end VAWG expanded with engagement of additional partners and grantees, including Grenada's Ministry of Youth, Girl Guides Association, Writers Association, Women's Parliamentary Caucus and Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- ✓ 500 Government officials and 60 civil society representatives enhanced their capacities to mainstream gender and GBV into their work and the leadership of their teams.
- ✓ 30+ women's rights organisations and other CSOs increased their competencies to comprehensively respond to GBV thus increasing survivors' access to enhanced services.
- ✓ Model for a Gender Equality Commission and Monitoring Plan submitted to Government for consideration.
- ✓ Gender Responsive Budgeting mainstreamed by Government into National Budgets with compliance from all ministries/departments.
- ✓ National Coordinating Mechanisms on GBV and Family Violence approved by the Cabinet.
- ✓ Development and launch of Grenada Information System for Analysing and Facilitating Empowerment against Family Violence (Grenada InfoSAFE), a web-based system for the collection of harmonised, administrative data.



PROVISION OF COORDINATED SERVICES TO RESPOND TO VAWG

- ✓ Hundreds of women and girls experiencing intimate partner violence and sexual abuse receive improved services.
- ✓ Hundreds of service providers from the social, health, policing and justice sectors increased their competencies to deliver rights-based, survivor-centred services.
- ✓ Key facilities retrofitted to provide victims of gender-based violence greater access to improved services under improved conditions. (e.g. Courts, Government departments, laboratories and shelters)
- ✓ Civil Society Organisations scaled up services to victims and survivors (E.g. Legal Aid/ Counselling Clinic, Grenada Planned Parenthood Association, Sweetwater Foundation, Grenada Ladypreneurs, Programme for Adolescent Mothers).
- ✓ 496 service providers capacitated to implement SOPs for providing quality essential services to women and girls, including those with hearing disabilities.

Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme

In 2023 the Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme raised the visibility of the issue of GBV across the region, particularly among inter-governmental institutions and national gender machineries, and improved understanding that ending VAWG needs to be addressed using a multi-sectoral approach.

Overall, approximately 1,631 women and 524 men, primarily decision-makers, duty-bearers and leaders from regional institutions, CARICOM Member States and CSOs, were reached through capacity building and other Spotlight events. Multiplier effects are expected with implementation to impact entire countries and the region.

At least 68,000 women, youth, and men were also reached indirectly through the gender and media advertising report posted on agency websites, mailing lists and social media.



KEY RESULTS

ENHANCED CAPACITY BUILDING FOR KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- ✓ Over 350 government officials and other stakeholders increased their capacities to integrate gender and VAWG/FV into Disaster Risk Reduction
- ✓ Over 80 civil servants improved their expertise in Gender-Responsive Budgeting
- ✓ Over 37 representatives of National Gender Machineries and civil society empowered to utilize a regional KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices) Tool to improve data collection, research, and interventions in response to female violence.
- ✓ 40 CSOs capacitated to use social accountability mechanisms to assess services for survivors, secondary victims & perpetrators of FV/GBV.
- ✓ Over 40 CSOs, serving 12,000+ clients across the region, empowered to enhance service provision.

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION AND WORKPLACE POLICY

- ✓ Caribbean became the first region to integrate the Education Sector within the Essential Services Package for GBV survivors, thus enabling school-aged children to be included in critical services for GBV survivors.
- ✓ 8 CARICOM member states' strengthened their capacities to deliver out-of-school Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- ✓ 8 Caribbean businesses with between 500 to 5,000 employees, committed to the Workplace Policy to Promote Eliminating GBV
- ✓ Over 30 representations of National Gender Machineries and CSO, enhanced their skills set after graduating from the Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Gender Analysis: VAWG prevalence and administrative data.

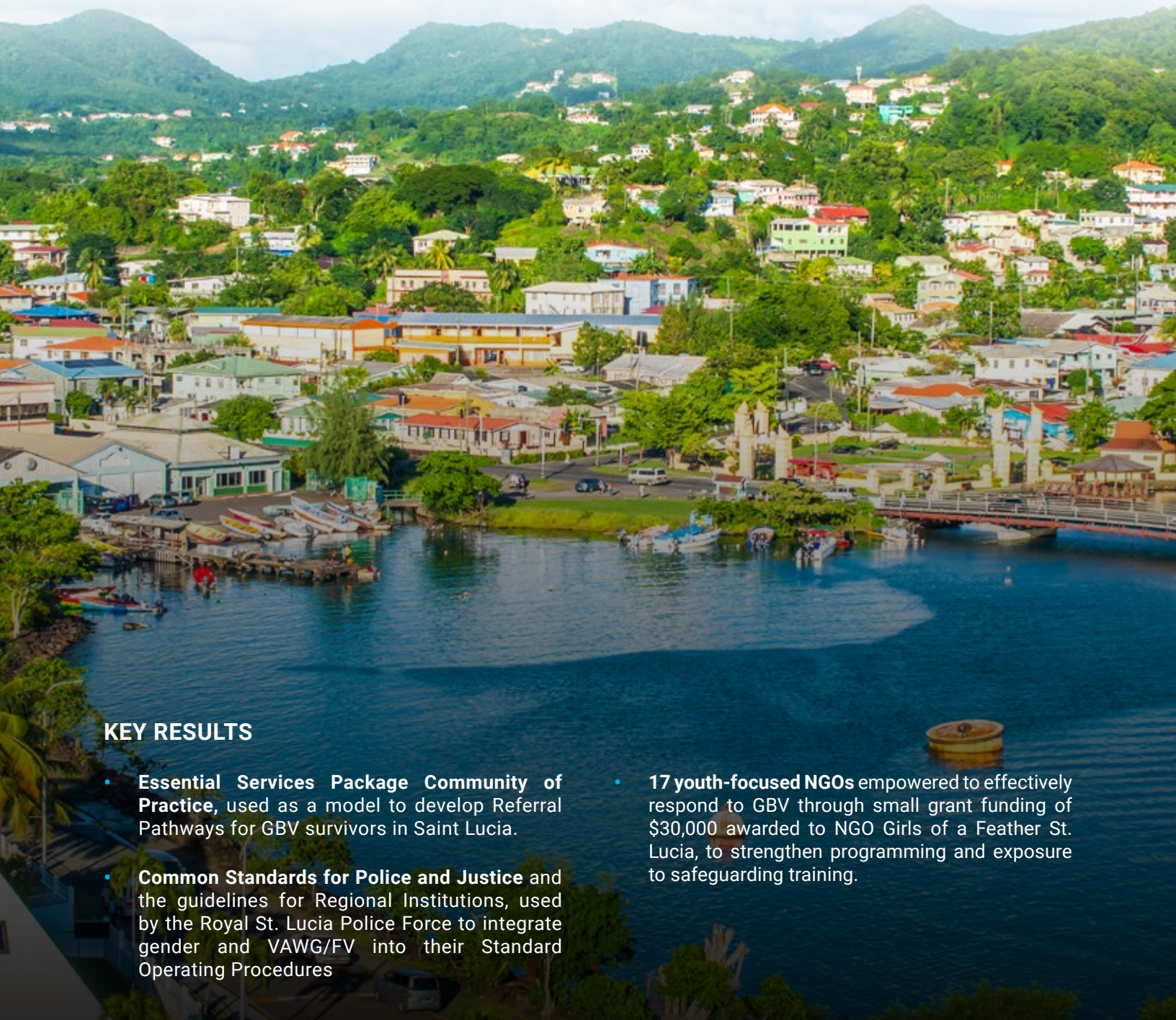
TOOLS, PROTOCOLS AND MECHANISMS GEARED TOWARDS ENDING VAWG

- ✓ Caribbean Essential Services Package Community of Practice established, with 22 Standing Members
- ✓ CARICOM Guidelines and Protocols on the Collection and Use of Administrative Data on VAWG adopted by the CARICOM Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians.
- ✓ Social Accountability Tools and Mechanisms developed, piloted, validated and launched in 5 Caribbean Countries.
- ✓ Amplified advocacy through #PlayYourPart campaign gained 40,000 views, across 6 Caribbean countries.
- ✓ 16 CSOs benefitted from small grants totaling over USD 480,000, enhancing service provision to over 5,000 persons impacted by VAWG in the OECS.



Spotlight on St. Lucia

Among the successes of the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional programme has been its use as a model by Member States. St. Lucia, a CARICOM Member State and a member of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, is a good example of a country that took the initiative to swiftly integrate assets and products produced by the Programme, into its national response to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).



KEY RESULTS

- **Essential Services Package Community of Practice**, used as a model to develop Referral Pathways for GBV survivors in Saint Lucia.
- **Common Standards for Police and Justice** and the guidelines for Regional Institutions, used by the Royal St. Lucia Police Force to integrate gender and VAWG/FV into their Standard Operating Procedures
- **17 youth-focused NGOs** empowered to effectively respond to GBV through small grant funding of \$30,000 awarded to NGO Girls of a Feather St. Lucia, to strengthen programming and exposure to safeguarding training.



Investing to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Build Back Equal

The Global Affairs Canada-funded Build Back Equal (BBE) Project promotes women's economic security in Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines by providing access to financing for women and youth-owned businesses, developing fit for purpose social protection programmes, promoting effective sexual and reproductive health services, and ensuring that survivors of gender-based violence can better access to the services they need.

Since its commencement in 2023, the project has been actively driving positive changes in the participating countries through targeted initiatives that address the diverse challenges faced by women and marginalized communities.

KEY RESULTS

- Dominica Police Force enhanced their capacities to handle GBV and domestic violence cases sensitively and effectively, in the context of the updated Domestic Violence Act.
- Visually impaired individuals utilizing Dominica Planned Parenthood increased their access to sexual health education materials in braille.
- Female small business owners in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines respectively, improved their expertise in business development and expanded their market reach via access to a Night Market, while enhancing their readiness for expos and trade shows.

Barbados: The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative is supporting the Barbados Police Service (BPS) Family Conflict Unit with its **data capture and management of gender-based violence cases**. Through the provision of computer equipment to the specialised unit of the BPS to process, store, and analyse data on gender-based violence, the Family Conflict Unit is improving its capacity to respond to domestic violence in Barbados.



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Hon. Gaston Browne (third from right), and Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA (fourth from right), join senior UN officials and other partners for the Caribbean Forum on Population and Development

Caribbean Forum on Population and Development convened

In 2023, the United Nations and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda partnered to convene the Caribbean Forum on Population and Development, with participation from over 150 stakeholders, including representatives from 12 CARICOM Member States and two Associate Member States, as well as several regional and international organizations.

Among the Forum's key outputs was a sub-regional review of progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013) and identification of concrete actions to accelerate its implementation.

This subregional assessment helped to inform the global 30-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme (ICPD, 1994).

The need to close the data gap to generate evidence-based policies and programmes to address key development challenges facing the sub-region, particularly young people, were among the key conference outcomes. Areas addressed included

high external migration, ageing populations, climate change, high adolescent pregnancy rates, high youth unemployment, GBV, and crime and violence, and the need to tackle mental health, and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Concerns were noted on the fact that while the region was experiencing significant shifts in demographic trends - such as falling population growth, ageing and migration - too little progress was being seen in the reduction of maternal mortality ratios, adolescent pregnancy rates and VAWG.



Building National and Sectoral Resilience through Digital Transformation

In 2023, an overarching focus across the UN Development System's support was on digitalization. Several agencies deployed digital solutions and strategies to help Governments and other stakeholders to address structural deficits in programming, fill institutional capacity gaps and improve service delivery to reach individuals and population groups at risk of being marginalized or left behind.

To ensure that beneficiary assistance reached those most in need, the UN supported digital transformation initiatives to enhance climate action, disaster risk reduction, health systems strengthening, educational transformation, women empowerment, and social protection. For example, a National Digital Transformation Strategy was launched in Dominica, and in Antigua and Barbuda technical guidance was provided to the Government towards development of a National Digital Framework as a precursor to a national strategy. To provide countries with insights into their digital strengths and opportunities 31 Digital Readiness Assessments were conducted in several Caribbean countries including Dominica, Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda. A Caribbean Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy Roadmap is also being developed to help the region in developing a portfolio of policy options and strategies for managing the challenges of AI and leveraging its benefits for sustainable development.

To support disaster risk reduction, a Network Resilience Assessment study conducted in Grenada will help policy makers develop new policies and regulations to make better decisions on disaster risk management and better use of digital services. MSMEs have also been trained in digital tech, financial planning, and marketing, and received financial assistance to upgrade their services through digital processes.

To enhance health outcomes for all citizens, support was provided for SMART Health Centres across Dominica and towards implementation of a Digital Surveillance System (DHIS2) in Antigua and Barbuda, through a pilot at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center and the Jennings Health Center. A planned roll-out of a Laboratory Information System at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center is also in train.

Digitalisation underpinned social protection efforts across the board. Under the framework of the SDG Joint Programme on Resilient Caribbean, vulnerable households in Anguilla benefitted from the development of a Management Information System (MIS) for the country's main social assistance programmes, supported by updating of its grievance redress mechanisms. In the BVI Data digitalization was used for the mapping of 38 social services to identify children and families in need of additional specialized social services. This contributed to the reduction of multidimensional deprivations previously faced.

In Saint Lucia, 61 beneficiaries of Government's Public Assistance Programme (PAP) received expedited support using mobile money for cash transfers. Similarly, children and youth across the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, including those with special needs and disabilities, benefitted from more inclusive learning strategies with the digitization of approved curricula and digital access to lessons in multiple subject areas.

Ministries of agriculture and members of the farming community across the region enhanced their service delivery and business acumen through the UN's support for national digitalization efforts. The provision of computer tablets to extension officers in Saint Lucia enhanced their level of support to farmers in the agri-business sector, while the development of a digital transformation framework in Antigua and Barbuda, equipped government officials and farmers with digital applications to increase resource efficiency and accelerate the transformation of inclusive and sustainable agriculture systems.

Women entrepreneurs also benefited from the establishment of digital help desks to support business development, land registration, incentive schemes etc. In Grenada support was provided towards creation of a National Innovation Hub, and innovators supported in agro-processing and agro-tourism through the Blue-Green Digital Innovation Challenge, that offered up to USD \$30,000 in grant funding for MSMEs to implement digital solutions.



Efforts to bridge data and information gaps in the region's agricultural sector also included support for the enhancement of data and information system inventories in Dominica. Tangible results included an Agricultural Geoinformatics System for the Ministry of Agriculture, completion of a Spatial Data Mapping and Diagnostic, identification of key geo-spatial data sets, in collaboration with CDEMA, and piloting of digital decision-support tools for precision irrigation and pathogen risk forecasting. In the area of fisheries, efforts to advance the fight against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis resulted in the creation of a validated Strategy and Action Plan and support for the updating of the 2015 Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Marine Resources draft regulations as well as establishment of a Caribbean Aqua producers Association to create an enabling environment for development of the industry.

To support disaster risk reduction, Early Warning Systems and training were provided in Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados to equip individuals, communities, governments, businesses, and other vested parties to proactively address and mitigate disaster risks in advance of potential hazardous occurrences. ITU also provided technical Assistance in developing the National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP) for five Caribbean countries to strengthen their capacity to develop and implement NETPs. To counter educational losses stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, digitalization within the region's education sector was significantly enhanced. Students

across the region improved their access to digital learning from grade K to 3 (kindergarten to grade 3). In Barbados a partnership between the Government, the UN, and the private sector, under the Giga Initiative, resulted in 13,271 students benefitting from increasing connectivity and speeds to 23 schools across nursery, primary and secondary levels. (Secondary schools 200Mbps and Primary Schools 100Mbps).

The rapid transition to digital and remote learning modalities due to the COVID-19 pandemic caused Ministries of Education across the OECS to become even more aware of not only the threats to which students are exposed online but also the fact that they were ill-equipped to address them. As a priority, ministries requested guidance and support in matters relating to child online protection. Accordingly, UN agencies developed an Education Sector Policy and Strategic Framework for Child Online Protection for OECS Member States, with protective measures and recommendations for policy makers, regulators, educators, parents, and operators.

Given that internet connectivity to community centres and schools in rural areas generally do not benefit from high bandwidth and resilience as do urban areas, UN Agencies provided ICT technical solutions including connectivity and digital skills training to select community centres in Barbados, benefitting over 300 persons who accessed those centres, with 60 people trained and IT equipment provided.



Amplifying Youth Voices at National, Regional and Global levels

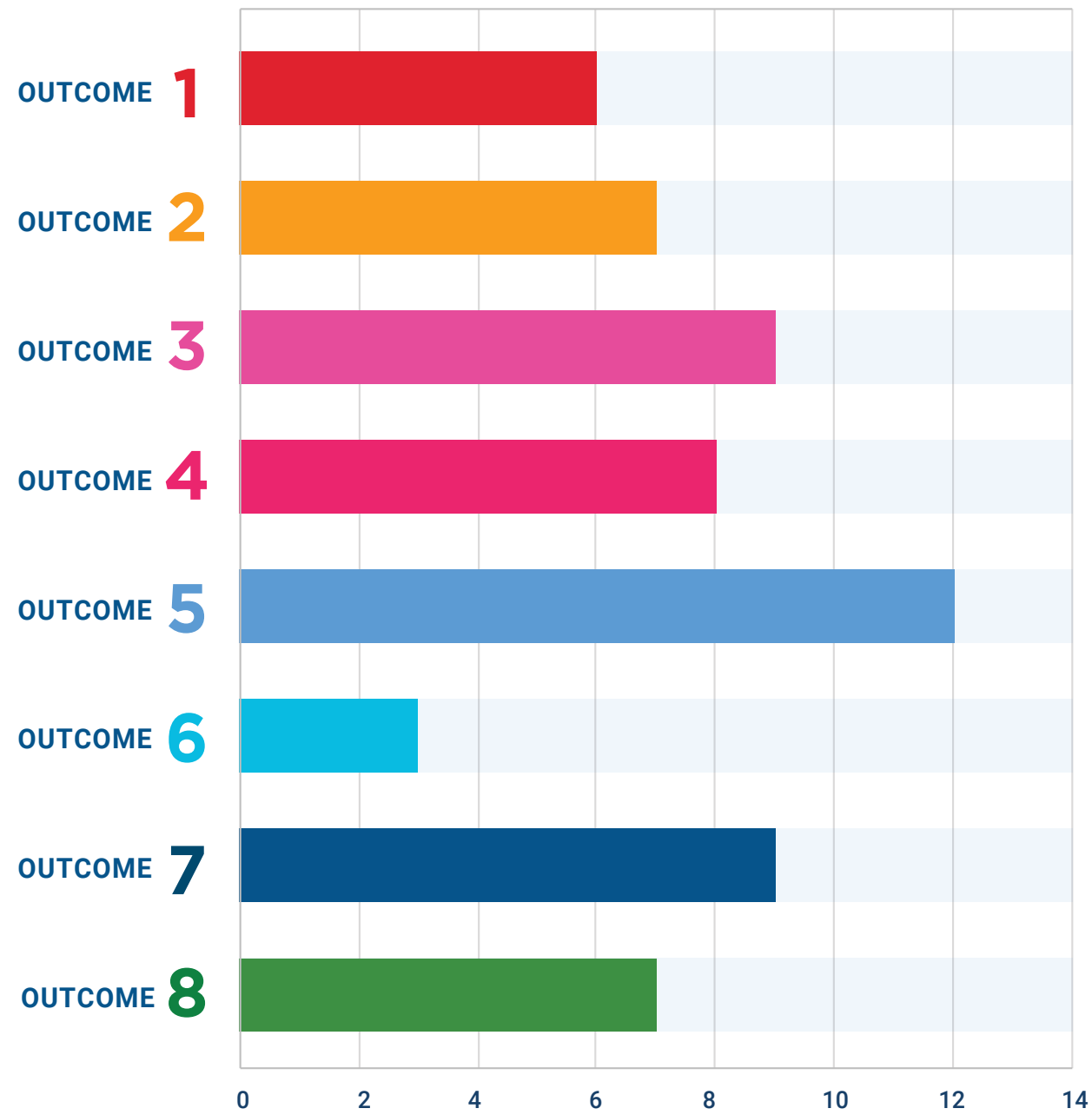
In 2023, a second cohort of the UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Youth Advisory Group (YAG) was established, with 12 passionate youth advocates from across the sub-region again supporting the UN System, to ensure fit for purpose policies and programmes to empower youth to realize their full potential and rights in keeping with the Youth 2030 agenda.

YAG members enhanced their capacity for meaningful youth engagement, through an orientation and training workshop led by the UN Office of the Secretary General Envoy on Youth and UNESCO. Members also supported key agency initiatives including UNDP's Crime Symposium, UNESCO's Caribbean Sheroes and Meaningful Youth Engagement Knowledge Product initiative; UNICEF's Youth Led Action Initiative; UNFPA's Caribbean Forum on Population and Development; and the ITU's Generation Connect initiative.

In addition to supporting national youth-focused activities, the YAG also participated at the global level including at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the High-Level Political Forum, the SDG Summit, the UNESCO Global Youth Forum and the Global Indigenous Youth Forum. The YAG also helped to amplify youth voices through innovative modalities to commemorate International Women's Day, World Health Day, World Environment Day, International Youth Day and World Mental Health Day.

2.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

AGENCY CONTRIBUTION TO MSDCF OUTCOMES



MSDCF PILLARS



1

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SHARED PROSPERITY

2

EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

3

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

4

PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SHARED PROSPERITY

Key related SDGs

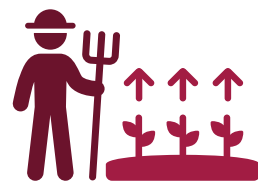


OUTCOMES 1 & 2

Contributing Agencies, Funds and Programs



By 2030, productive and competitive business ecosystems improve standards of living for Caribbean people and the region is fully transitioned to a more diversified and sustainable economy that supports inclusive and resilient economic growth in keeping with the leaving no one behind principle.



200+

FARMERS INCREASED THEIR CAPACITIES

in sound agro-forestry practices, safe pesticide usage, and agri-business to boost production and enhance access to new markets



\$30,000

IN GRANT FUNDING PROVIDED

to agro-tourism MSMEs to implement digital business solutions



BLUE / GREEN ECONOMY

GROWTH & RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPORTED

through improved access to technologies, financing, increasing institutional capacity and policy development

Ongoing challenges with food insecurity and rising costs across the Caribbean, as evidenced by the WFP, FAO and CARICOM's 2023 Food and Livelihood Survey, and the residual impacts of the 2022 TripleCrisis, the UN ramped up its support to Ministries of Agriculture, farmers, and other agricultural entrepreneurs to increase their capacities to promote inclusive nutrition-sensitive, climate-resilient and gender-responsive agribusinesses.

Support entailed improved access to innovative technologies, financing, increased institutional capacity, and policy development. To ensure resilience in this vital sector, the UN facilitated efforts towards Blue/Green Economy growth, action and for the enhancement of renewable energy infrastructure.

Enhancing Productivity in the Agricultural and Fisheries sectors

With economic diversification being essential to realizing the region's vision for resilient economies, the UN supported national stakeholders in prioritizing market-driven approaches for value chain development across islands and territories. Farming and producer organizations, and national technical experts regionwide were strengthened through capacity building and enhanced capacities in new tools, methodologies, and sustainable approaches. In Barbados, national capacity to collect, analyse and report agricultural and fisheries data were strengthened, support given to the strategic allocation of more resources to scale agricultural activities, and enhance the use of technology and innovation to drive sustainable food production.

The creation of a new Agricultural Transformational Strategy in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Lucia, and St. Kitts and Nevis, helped to ensure policy support for inclusive and gender-sensitive agri-food systems, and contributed to national goals for greater self-sufficiency and less reliance on imports. A final draft Technical Study helped to assess poultry incentives and disincentives in Barbados, Saint Lucia and Suriname and recommendations presented to unlock the potential of poultry production in the Caribbean Community. In Grenada, technical support was provided towards the updating of the country's Food and Nutrition Security Policy, and the development of 5-year Upgrading Strategies for priority value chains such as poultry, seamoss, guava, soursop, and small ruminants.

Agricultural workers in Antigua and Barbuda also benefitted from optimized protection cultivation systems and enhanced livestock identification and traceability systems, linked to national legislation, that positively impacted security, disease



surveillance, food safety and disaster recovery response. Through national resource mobilization efforts, the UN also helped to improve Government's capacity to manage water and energy security which are critical tenets of sustainable farming.

In keeping with the Leave-No-One-Behind principle, technical assistance and training was provided to Antigua and Barbudan farmers with disabilities, and in Dominica, the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Protection were supported in providing safety nets through the establishment of national registries on farmers, fishers, and vulnerable households. Farmers in the Kalinago Territory also benefitted from specialized technical assistance to enhance cassava production with a focus on modern methodologies to preserve livelihoods and strengthening resilience post-disasters.

Meanwhile, farmers in Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada, benefitted from extensive support to promote self-sufficiency, strengthen agricultural markets and reduce imports. In its ongoing support for entrepreneurship and development of the small business sector, extensive training was provided to farmers, fisherfolk, and small businesses in the region to enhance skills and access to markets. Over 200+ farmers in Saint Lucia enhanced their capacities in sound agro-forestry practices, safe pesticide usage, climate change, agribusiness, processing, and accessing new markets. Drought-stricken Saint Lucian farmers were supported with 1,000-gallon water tanks to assist with water storage, and water tanks donated to schools for rainwater harvesting.

Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture enhanced their capacity in sustainable practices including soil health and fertility, and sustainable feeds and feeding strategies for livestock. These efforts aimed to equip farmers with skills In Saint Lucia assistance



was provided to the Government towards of a "Fishing Industry Baseline and Sustainable Development Indicator Design" and resources to adapt to changing environmental challenges and ensure food security. Similarly, in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 57 farmers and fisherfolk were trained to supply local food programs.

To promote climate-resilient agriculture, under the Resilient Caribbean joint programme, 35 farmers in Antigua and Barbuda received training in soil and water conservation, aquaponics, solar powered irrigation systems and other agri-techniques.

Support was also provided to women smallholder farmers and small businesses. For example, in Antigua and Barbuda, women entrepreneurs benefitted from tailored **agricultural insurance products** and in Dominica, a **micro-finance mechanism** was developed to promote interest in agriculture among undeserved female groups, as a means of fostering sustainable livelihoods. Under the Future Tourism Project, MSME's received cash grants to enhance resilience to external shocks including post-COVID-19 impacts. Through technical support, the capacities of **St. Kitts and Nevis' National Trade Facilitation Committee** and other national trade stakeholders were also strengthened, and **CARICOM's Regional Services Policy** supported.

Expanding Soursop and Cocoa exports in Grenada and Saint Lucia markets

In 2023, thanks to UN partnership, the Governments of Grenada and Saint Lucia were supported in efforts to expand soursop and cocoa value chains to further maximize growth and boost export potential.

Despite being the only Caribbean country with approval to export fresh soursop to the United States market, low production is among the issues hampering Grenada’s ability to consistently export this resource in the volume needed to meet buyer demands. In 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) took steps to address this challenge by increasing and improving the production capacity and export of this and other high potential agriculture products. In one instance, 120 public and private sector stakeholders enhanced their capacities to further develop this vital sector, through a week-long UN Mission.

Furthermore, through a UN Technical Cooperation Programme, over the next two years FAO will be directing its attention toward promoting competitive, sustainable, and resilient national value chain development with a focus on the soursop and sea moss sectors. Meanwhile, similar efforts are ongoing in Saint Lucia, where the International Cocoa Organization has classified 100% of the country’s cocoa beans exports as fine or flavour cocoa, which is among the highest quality. This makes Saint Lucia one of only nine countries worldwide with this classification, and one of only 23 countries globally currently exporting this quality product.

In 2023, FAO amplified efforts and partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development to grow and expand this sector. To this end, diverse stakeholders, including women and youth from micro, small and medium enterprises, farmers, agro-processors and extension officers, received targeted training, while gaining knowledge in best practices for the agronomy, harvesting, fermentation, drying and storage of cocoa. The training was conducted by Sarah Bharath, Trinidadian cocoa consultant and agro-ecologist, with the support of Cuthbert Monroq, a local cocoa expert and farmer.

These efforts are expected to boost Saint Lucia’s export potential including to the United Kingdom, its main export market.



EnGenDERing Hope and Resilience

“After I got disabled, I gave up a little bit... I did.”

This was the sentiment of Mr. Junior Augustus, who, after facing a life-changing situation, lost his ability to work as a chef. Without his livelihood, and the other challenges that stemmed from living with a disability, hope seemed like a luxury that he did not have. But, thanks to the support of the [EnGenDER Project](#), Junior’s story is now one of hope. He has found new determination and has become an enthusiastic advocate of taking advantage of the opportunities that are available to the community.

The Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) Project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean in nine countries – Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada,



Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname. It aims to improve climate and disaster resilience for key vulnerable populations. With support from the Governments of Canada and the UK, EnGenDER worked with the Government of Grenada to [build the capacity of Persons with Disabilities and other vulnerable groups](#) to be empowered, independent and resilient with the provision of sustainable, livelihood skills.

Junior was one of the participants of the [Apiculture Training](#) which focused on building the capacity of persons with disabilities to generate income and lead rewarding and productive lives. In addition to persons with disabilities, the project also provided support for other vulnerable and traditionally at-risk groups including women and youth.



WATCH: [Building Resilience in Apiculture in Grenada](#)

But training is not all the participants received. Twenty-two beneficiaries including PWDs, women (single-parent and unemployed) and unemployed men were also provided with start-up kits to help them continue the pathway to sustainable livelihoods. In addition to the individual packages, the Grand Bacolet Juvenile Rehabilitation and Treatment Centre, which houses juveniles in conflict with the law and at-risk juveniles, received beehives and equipment to continue their work in apiculture. Another project beneficiary, The Cedars Home for Abused Women and their Children, a protective shelter for women who are victims of gender-based violence, was provided with a hydroponic kit and solar drying equipment to further explore climate-smart agriculture techniques and the possibility of solar dehydration to be used in food preservation as a source of income generation. Using technology and accessible tools and equipment, the project provided a new way for persons with disabilities to earn a living and renew their hope for the future, like Junior.

“You can’t let that [disability] stop you, as long as you have life,” he asserted, adding, “I would like to thank the EnGenDER Project for giving me this opportunity. Especially someone with a disability – to move forward, to start off his own business without hesitation or discrimination. I am very grateful.”

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Key related SDGs



OUTCOMES 3 & 4

Contributing Agencies, Funds and Programs >>



20

ENGLISH AND DUTCH-SPEAKING ISLANDS SUPPORTED

in the review and updating of Sexual and Reproductive Health legislation



6,900+

DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES CREATED

in multiple Caribbean countries, and educators sensitized to support learning and developmental needs of children with special needs



68,000

PERSONS REACHED

with information on GBV and VAWG through social media and digital outreach.

Strengthening access to universal and quality health services

In 2023, the UN Team supported members states in improving overall healthcare accessibility, quality, and preparedness. In Barbados, Health Financing Reforms were implemented towards universal access and a National Health Adaptation Plan formalized towards universal health coverage. Support was also provided around institutional strengthening. The Ministry of Health received support towards improving cancer prevention and control and the Barbados Family Planning Association empowered to integrate disability awareness into their sexual and reproductive health programming.

Other health system initiatives included supporting chronic disease surveys and implementing digital surveillance systems, inclusive of the revision of Saint Lucia's Health Surveillance Manual which dates back 15 years. Healthcare professionals

The UN Team redoubled collective efforts to support Caribbean Governments to Leave No One Behind. Through a multi-faceted approach, countries were supported in designing, adopting, or updating laws and policies to eliminate discrimination and reduce inequalities in alignment with international practice and human rights commitments. This aimed to ensure equal access for all citizens to universal quality and shock-responsive social protection, education, health, care and other services.

region-wide received capacity building through training and vaccination campaigns and mental health services were also promoted, reaching thousands of citizens while contributing to healthier communities and a more resilient region.

Significant gains were made in women's economic empowerment and sexual and reproductive health through implementation of the four-year Build back Equal joint programme .

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, key health information products were translated into braille and sign language, resulting in the launch of the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Curriculum for children with special needs and disabilities. Meanwhile, capacity building support was provided for the review and revision of Sexual and Reproductive Health legislation for 20 English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries.

In Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the UN also supported progress towards development and implementation of Standards for Quality Health Care Services for Adolescents.

Mental health received particular attention, with the UN contributing to the establishment of national Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) systems for children in the Eastern Caribbean countries including Anguilla and the BVI. Training for mental health professionals and awareness campaigns were also conducted, leading to increased access to support services. Men, women, and children across the region also benefitted from counselling and self-coping tools through the MyChild Helpline App mobile application. Direct support and referrals were offered to 6,985 children and youth in 12 countries and Mental Health Education Messages reached 120,000 in 13 countries.

Beyond direct service delivery, governance and financing mechanisms were also advanced. In Antigua and Barbuda a SMART Hospital Aftercare Plan was developed, and Dominica, Health officials benefitted from full-time in-country support in the form of a Health Systems and Services Advisor. Technical assistance was also provided for the development of a National Health Strategic Plan and an inaugural Strategic Plan for the Dominica Hospitals Authority is near completion.

Support for the strengthening of Dominica's entry points, namely its air and seaports, was also facilitated to satisfy obligations under the International Health Regulations (2005). Recognizing the region's unique vulnerability to pandemics and other emergencies, the UN contributed to enhancement of response capacities including improving points of entry screening, bolstering disease surveillance systems, and providing technical assistance for managing pandemics. These measures aim to better equip the region to face future health challenges.

Quality Education, Skills, and Human Development

The UN continued to invest in human development, in the aim of Leaving No One Behind, promoting quality education, skills development, and human well-being. This holistic approach empowered individuals and communities to address both immediate needs and long-term development goals, contributing to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

In response to learning losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a collaborative effort between the UN and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) boosted digital learning across six eastern Caribbean islands.

Under the Digital Education Capacity-strengthening Initiative (DECI) Over 1,000 primary teachers and 140 principals honed their skills, through professional development programmes. In Barbados, 6,680 digital learning resources, covering all grades and subjects were created, empowering the Ministry of Education to deliver online education to every child on the island. By enhancing the digital capabilities of educators and providing a wealth of digital learning materials, this initiative paved the way for a more resilient and effective education system in the post-pandemic era.

In Antigua and Barbuda 600 teachers improved their Positive Behaviour Management skills (PBM) thus supporting child protection, while 150 teachers from the early childhood, primary and secondary school sectors in Anguilla and Montserrat enhanced their knowledge and skills to support students to manage their behavior and understand positive approaches to discipline. Meanwhile, 80 practitioners from the health, child protection, and education sectors improve their social and behavioural change skills.

A significant investment in early childhood education in Grenada impacted over 4,000 children, providing a solid foundation for the country's youngest learners. A total of 282 pre-primary and kindergarten teachers received professional development, while 240 educators enhanced their skills in curriculum implementation, leadership, and student engagement. This resulted in improved learning environments for over 2,000 preschoolers, and 2,185 older children, with 56 primary schools receiving developmentally appropriate learning materials as part of the Ministry of Education's Transition Policy. Additionally, 31 educators were sensitized to support the learning and development needs of children with a focus on ADHD, Deafness and Speech and Language delays.

Strengthened Vocational Training and Upskilling

Across the region, the UN supported vocational training initiatives aimed at empowering individuals with practical skills for employment, rehabilitation, and livelihood diversification. In Antigua and Barbuda, construction commenced on a new Vocational Training Facility to support marginalized youth, and in Saint Lucia at-risk wards of the Boys Training Centre were equipped with skills in seamoss farming and other youth with culinary skills.

Support for climate resilience and risk education were prioritized, with Training-of-Trainer's training conducted for 45 key stakeholders in Dominica, an island with a long history of hurricanes and other weather-related shocks.



Mental Health and Social Protection

To enhance mental health and social protection, the UN supported several cross-regional initiatives in 2023. National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) systems were established for children. In Antigua and Barbuda key national responders were upskilled in Psychological First Aid for children, equipping them to train others and to respond to the challenges related to the impact of COVID-19 on children.

The SIDS Ministerial Conference on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health brought together 25 Ministers of Health and over 100 other high-level delegates from SIDS countries across the world to share experiences and conceptualize plans to improve the health of our nations. Out of this conference came the 2023 Bridgetown Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health which highlighted 15 commitments made by all the SIDs countries. For example, it includes the commitment to "continued global leadership and speaking with a unified voice across all relevant high-level platforms to ensure priority is given to the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health conditions across the interconnecting agendas, such as health and climate change, emergency

resiliency, pandemic preparedness, development financing, biodiversity conservation, sustainable food systems and their commercial drivers".

In Saint Lucia, climate resilience in the health sector was bolstered through capacity building and the training of laboratory personnel to detect mosquito-borne diseases. Additionally, senior health officials were capacitated to manage emergency centers, and nurses received immunization training, further strengthening the healthcare system's preparedness.

Vulnerable populations across the region also benefitted from increased support and safety nets included through targeted food security and family assistance programmes. In response to increasing migration in the region, the UN equipped Governments to safeguard the needs of vulnerable populations on the move and to promote regional collaboration on migration issues. For example, in Dominica, support was given towards the establishment of an Inter-agency Committee to support Migration and in Antigua and Barbuda, the UN provided immediate support including an Assessment of African Migrants, to gauge the plight of the hundreds who landed there in 2023, with a report provided to the Government for follow-up action.

Support for Gender Equality

To address systemic inequalities and to create a more equitable future for all genders, the UN supported various initiatives across the region including the costing of unpaid care work. In Dominica, women were equipped for self-advocacy through targeted training on gender mainstreaming and community engagement, and over 25 Law Enforcement Officers, Attorneys, Social Activists and Social Workers empowered as key agents for the Domestic Violence Act through sensitization under the Build Back Equal's 'Beyond the Bench: Strengthening the Response to Domestic Violence' initiative.

In Saint Lucia, women's economic empowerment was enhanced through skills training in negotiation for entrepreneurs, culinary arts for 30 unemployed women, and the provision of building materials to support women farmers in expanding their operations. Additionally, healthcare professionals enhanced their response to sexual and gender-based violence, including rape and intimate partner violence, and received training on Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives.

Natural Hazards, Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

The UN supported a whole-of-society approach to enhancing Caribbean countries' resilience to natural hazards and climate change. Across territories, national authorities, NGOs, key sector agencies CSOs and communities were empowered to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural hazards and climate impacts. In Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, technical assistance, and training for the Roll-out of the CDEMA Logistics System (CLS) improved warehouse management. Authorities in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Kitts and Nevis, also improved their capacity in areas such as emergency response, logistics, and data management/ digitalization. Water resource management remains a critical component of disaster preparedness and response, the UN supported water-related disaster reduction and management in Saint Lucia and enhanced communities' preparedness for tsunamis.

Cultural Preservation and Resilience

In 2023, the UN supported Caribbean countries and indigenous Caribbean to safeguard their cultural heritage, in the face of challenges, through capacity building and training across various projects. For example, Dominica is benefitting from a project to enhance capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at the national and local levels, and an Indigenous Tourism Brand is being

developed in partnership with the Kalinago community. In celebration of the Territory's 120th anniversary, the UN also supported the launch of children's comic and colouring books to highlight indigenous innovation, knowledge, and practices that have positively impacted communities, and WIFI equipment was donated separately to support digital access and expression. Efforts to revitalize Dominica's Traditional Masquerade were also advanced through a 9-day workshop held in collaboration with CARICOM, UWI and backed by the ACP-EU.

In Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada the UN supported capacity strengthening towards implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, through heritage-based Projects focused on inventorying, promotion and safeguarding of living heritage in country. Additionally, through the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), support was provided to measure the economic contribution of Antigua and Barbuda's cultural industries to national development. In Barbados similar support was provided leading to the revision of the country's existing 2010 Cultural Policy and protection of cultural property through the digitization and conservation of slavery records. Two projects were granted in Barbados under the Creative Caribbean project financially supported by ACP-EU to stimulate inclusive, diversified, and sustainable growth of the cultural economy.

To aid post-disaster recovery, emergency assistance was also targeted towards cultural heritage restoration. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica, following the volcanic eruption, the Garifuna and Kalinago communities were empowered to safeguard cultural heritage in crisis via initiatives under the Heritage Emergency Fund and in St. Vincent cultural exchange was fostered through scholarships provided under the "Transcultural Programme". The UN also supported a multi-stakeholder consultation comprising 50 participants to draft Saint Lucia's "Quadrennial Periodic report on Implementation of 2005 Convention on the Promotion & Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expression".

Shock-responsive Gender-sensitive Social Protection

To increase the protection of women and girls, and men and boys, progress towards responsive and gender sensitive social protection systems was enhanced through support for national policy frameworks, direct assistance to vulnerable populations and increased advocacy, including through SDG-focused mounted billboard campaigns in Dominica and research on digital financial inclusion to explore the potential of digital payments for social protection in Saint Lucia. Women-owned MSMEs also strengthened their capacities in climate-resilience and disaster risk reduction better business practices.



In Saint Lucia, rights-based social protection mechanisms were strengthened through technical assistance to mainstream gender into the island's National Development Strategies and to enhance legal frameworks. Social programmes were made more inclusive and impactful, through research to understand how stakeholders have used digital payments for social assistance to serve men, women and youth at all stages of life better. Gender-sensitive assessments of the Agricultural, Fisheries and Small Business Extension services also enhanced policy formulation. Our support in BVI included expert assistance towards the Reform of Social Assistance Plan and its adoption by Cabinet in March 2023.

To bridge existing gaps in data collection and analysis, including gender-disaggregated data, the UN supported policy makers through capacity building, thus fortifying national social protection systems to withstand and respond to future shocks. To strengthen the nexus between social protection and disaster management, over 60 professionals in the BVI and St. Kitts and Nevis were capacitated to foster shock-responsive systems and enhance inter-agency coordinated response.

The formalization of a Shock Responsive Social Protection Policy was another successful UN-supported outcome. To improve targeted delivery to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, a draft National Social Protection Policy was also completed in Dominica, via youth consultations and U-Report polls. Additionally, the island's capacity in Public Finance for Children (PF4C) was strengthened and a Regional PF4C Community of Practice launched to foster knowledge sharing and sustainability.

Meanwhile, in Barbados, Government and other social protection entities were better equipped to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable, including children, through the development of Child Justice and Child Protection Bills and data-strengthening within the national statistical service including in garnering sex-age disaggregated sub-national population projections. In St. Kitts and Nevis, gender equality, knowledge creation, and capacity development were fostered through the **Sheroes Academy**.

Three years on:

From Response to Recovery to Resilience in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



“This has been very useful. We were taught how to manage our money, like ‘buy what you need and not what you want’. It has helped me a lot since, to put something aside and spend it wisely on what we really need, like food.”

Three years have passed since the La Soufrière volcano erupted on the island of Saint Vincent, spewing ash, and forcing more than 20,000 to flee their homes in search of shelter. For many persons, the once-crippling 10-kilometre ash plumes that ground the country to a halt are now a distant memory, but for residents of this Small Island Developing State, the devastation remains vividly etched in their memories, activating a strong sense of resilience with each passing day.

“There was ash all around, on the porch, inside the house, on our plants. We had to clean every minute”, recalls Viola Samuel who still shares the same two-bedroom house, with seven other family members, on top of a steep hill in Lowmans Leeward. Viola’s family was one of many to benefit from timely UN humanitarian assistance provided to the Government in the immediate aftermath of the eruption, to address the hardships that stemmed from supply chain disruptions and the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners supported humanitarian response, assisting with the registration of affected people, which facilitated the distribution of food, cash, and relief items from the WFP-supported Logistics Hub. Through the La Soufrière Relief Grant, Viola received food and cash assistance over six months, during a period of great uncertainty. “It really helped a lot. Every time I had cash, I paid the bills and could send the children to school,” she recalls with gratitude.

Today, building on that initial support, the UN continues efforts to support the government to further improve social protection, disaster response, school meals services, agriculture, and livelihoods among other areas.

In 2023, Viola, and 700 other participants were equipped with vital skills to manage their limited incomes and small-scale farming through training hosted by the Government with the support of WFP and FAO through the UN Joint SDG Fund.

“This has been very useful. We were taught how to manage our money, like ‘buy what you need and not what you want’. It has helped me a lot since, to put something aside and spend it wisely on what we really need, like food,” Viola explains as she cares for her 5-month-old grandson Aiden while his mother teaches at a local school. Outside their modest home, it is a gusty and rainy morning. Viola proudly displays a series of vegetable garden boxes she built above ground, at hip-height, with recycled wood panels and concrete blocks.

“I used to grow a little food before, but the farming training really encouraged me to do more”. Here, I have lettuce, tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, ginger. Some I sell, some I keep for the family. This little crop is also helping with the quality of our food. My family is eating well, eating better,” she notes with a smile.



Food kits distributed to **10,128** people in Barbados



72 farmer organisations the region strengthened their skills through peer-to-peer initiatives



Over **35** young climate advocates trained to enhance their advocacy skills



Thousands of persons across the Caribbean reached through National Mental Health and Psychological Support (MHPSS) outreach and online efforts



Over **1,770** people received livelihoods training in SVG



13,000 students in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received healthier meals through enhanced National School Feeding programme



68,000+ women, men and youth in the region reached with information on GBV and VAWG through social media and digital outreach



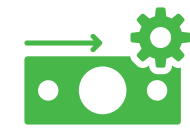
3000+ national immunization schedules distributed in schools and healthcare centres as part of a Vaccinated, Informed and Protected (VIP) campaign to boost childhood vaccines in the region



800+ persons across the region received counselling and support through **MyChild Helpline** mobile the application



Over **627** U-Reporters in Saint Lucia engaged to enhance advocacy and leadership skills.



1,300+ impacted persons in Dominica received Cash Based Transfer (CBT) assistance in response to the November 2022 East Coast Trough



3,200 persons impacted by the 2021 La Soufriere eruption benefitted from UN assistance



8,800+ lesson plans developed and **5,300 + digital resources** created for grade K to 3 students across 6 Caribbean countries



2,000 children in the EC benefitted from improved learning **290** teachers environments and trained to facilitate such



13,271 students benefitted from improved internet connectivity



637 households in 5 communities in Dominica identified to receive cash assistance depending on family size

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Food and Water Security

In 2023, the UN supported interventions aimed at creating a more resilient Caribbean, capable of withstanding future shocks and ensuring long-term food and water security for its population.

Key related SDGs



OUTCOMES 5 & 6

Contributing Agencies, Funds and Programs >>



5

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES SUPPORTED

in the development of National Emergency Telecommunications Plans



468

HECTARES OF DEGRADED FORESTS

and protected areas rehabilitated to prevent land degradation



CHILDREN'S CLIMATE RISK

INDEX-DISASTER RISK MODEL

implemented across multiple Caribbean countries to assess climate and disaster risks, focusing on children's vulnerabilities and exposure

A Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF) of USD\$135, 650 enhanced the capacities of Dominica's national meteorological services to strengthen weather forecasting, early warning systems and climate information services.

Food security and livelihoods resilience interventions in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were also enhanced through policy recommendations made by the UN and in St. Kitts and Nevis the capacity of stakeholders to improve water management and usage was enhanced through UN technical assistance.

Region-wide efforts to foster resilient livelihoods and food security were also boosted through the implementation of the Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security Joint Programme, with a focus on data, digitalization, and sectoral linkages.

Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Caribbean countries were supported in managing their natural resources effectively to ensure environmental sustainability and build resilience to climate change and future challenges. The UN supported efforts to build resilience in rural communities, expand protected areas, and promote sustainable natural resource management by equipping farmers and institutions to adopt innovative technologies to geospatial tools to mainstream biodiversity, improve soil, land, and agro-chemical management.

In Saint Lucia, agro-forestry initiatives were piloted on 87 hectares of land, and 468 hectares of degraded forests and protected areas rehabilitated to prevent land degradation. The restoration of existing mangroves was also prioritized, with 18 hectares targeted in various locations.

Baseline assessments of Marine Ecosystems led to the identification of two Marine Managed Areas with Marine Replenishment Zones with draft Management Plans prepared to ensure conservation of these protected areas.

To promote biodiversity conservation and Sustainable practices 10 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and community-based organizations in Dominica improved their capacities through various grants in key areas in biodiversity, waste management, and land degradation. Reforestation efforts were also supported in the Kalinago Territory and participation in the Climate Change Conference. (COP 28).

In St. Kitts and Nevis, a framework was established to promote sustainable agricultural practices that utilize and preserve biodiversity in the St. Mary's Biosphere Reserve. The disaster resilience of the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was also enhanced through the updating of its Management Plan. Capacity building support to develop national strategies for disaster risk reduction in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was accompanied by targeted workshops and the development of local action plans for specific regions.

Improved Disaster Risk Management

The UN actively contributed to disaster risk management, preparedness, and resilience initiatives all aimed at strengthening Government and Disaster Risk Reduction institutions; building institutional capacity for WASH coordination; enhancing school safety and boosting regional Emergency Response through strategic partnerships and building national capacities.

The UN supported Barbados, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in developing National Health Adaptation Plans (HNAP), inclusive of an Action Plan, Budget, and a communication plan; relevant persons were trained in Mass Casualty Management (MCM), Emergency Care and Treatment (ECAT) and Incident Command System (ICS) in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; the Barbados Defence Force was supported with the continuous strengthening of its field hospital.

To ensure that vulnerable persons accessed immediate cash transfers in the wake of disasters, the UN signed a Technical Assistance Agreement with the Government of Saint Lucia to provide premium support

for the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) to cover the 2023 – 2024 hurricane season, and the existing CCRIF agreement in Dominica was also extended to cover 2023 - 2024.

Building Regional Emergency Response through Strategic Partnerships

In 2023 the UN helped to strengthen regional emergency response capacity by deepening its collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Through the newly established Information Management Working Group (IMWG), spearheaded by CDEMA alongside UN agencies and various partners including OCHA, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Disasters Program a collaborative forum to share expertise and resources was solidified. This resulted in more informed decision making and maximum impact among countries.

To further build resilience given the region's vulnerability to natural disasters, the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) and CDEMA strengthened their partnership through coordinated emergency preparedness activities including joint workshops and initiatives bolstered their collaborative efforts, ensuring better support for Eastern Caribbean countries in facing multi-hazard risks.

Building National Capacities for Effective Response

In 2023, the UN supported CDEMA's mandate to strengthen the capacities of national disaster officers and National Emergency Operating Centres (NEOC). Through a partnership with HOT and International NGO MapAction, counterparts in Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, enhanced their capacity to effectively use information management and Geospatial Caribbean Risk Information Systems (GeoCRIS) in national emergency situations to promote risk management and adaptability to climate change.

This enabled countries to better collect and analyze data for clear visualization of disaster impact and resource needs; coordinate response information efficiently to ensure smooth communication and collaboration between responders; and enhance their skills to prepare for future emergencies leading to more effective response and recovery. Efforts by the Government of Dominica to "disaster-proof" the



country's education, agriculture, and health sectors through integrated climate adaptation and resilience measures were also supported through development of a GCF concept note.

Building Institutional capacity for WASH Coordination

Through continued technical support to WASH Committees, the UN assisted the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to enhance its capacities and in St. Kitts and Nevis WASH training sessions helped to equip government officials and stakeholders with preparedness and response skills, paving the way for the establishment of a WASH committee in that island.

Building Resilience through Gender Equality:

In Antigua and Barbuda, a Gender-sensitive Toolkit for communities was developed to support community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change actions with recommendations for integration of gender-responsive transformative actions. Additionally, Gender-responsive Budget aligned Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and bankable Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) proposals developed through the EnGenDER project, helped to address countries' unique contexts, and support access to climate finance opportunities to enhance their resilience to climate change and promote gender equality. Overall, the EnGenDER Project is expected to benefit approximately 69,974 individuals, including vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities, the elderly, and indigenous communities across nine target countries.

Supporting Children and Youth

A Children's Climate Risk Index-Disaster Risk Model (CCRI-DRM) was implemented across Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis to assess climate and disaster risks, focusing on children's vulnerabilities and exposure, with technical assistance provided for validating data collected and acquiring additional data for sub-national indicators to help build the model. While overall stakeholders gained an appreciation of the sub-national data needed on climate, demographics, and social services for the creation of climate and disaster risk indexes, underlying, systematic challenges in creating the CCRI-DRM for Caribbean SIDS were uncovered.

Before scaling the initiative, gaps in countries' national data capacity and capacity for data gathering, storage, and processing capacities will be addressed. As a result of this initiative, St. Kitts and Nevis featured in an international child friendly DRR animation video. To generate additional vulnerability data, a School and Shelter Assessment was designed to assess the vulnerabilities of schools and shelters during emergency times and their existing capacities, with data gathering to date completed for Antigua and Barbuda.

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines where children were among the hardest impacted during the 2021 volcanic eruption, the UN continues to support the Ministry of Education in creating a culture of safety within schools to allow children to learn and thrive in resilient environments, focusing on their education with peace of minds. Over 78 students and educators participated in the newly introduced Safe School Recognition Programme which encourages schools to prioritize safety measures thus creating a more secure environment for all. To further enhance school safety preparedness, a School Safety Training Package was developed, with over 20 educators trained and equipped to effectively address potential hazards and emergencies, thus increasing the pool of safety-trained professionals in schools.

On a wider-scale, the UN also partnered with the Ministry of Education to integrate safety plans and the Climate Change Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CC-DRR) Curriculum into school practices. Over 45 teacher/administrators, 20 students, and 9 parents were reached via three two-day workshops held in the Grenadines, that entailed safety planning and simulation exercises to foster seamless incorporation of the CC-DRR Curriculum into the existing lower secondary school program. In 2024 the UN will continue to support school safety endeavors through expansion of the Safe School recognition program, training, and curriculum expansion.

Empowering Communities and Strengthening Systems:

UN cooperation in Barbados helped to strengthen integrated policy support for climate change and disaster risk reduction, with enhanced links to climate financing options. Through multi-stakeholder partnerships, logistics networks and processes for managing emergencies were fortified, and support provided toward the expansion of cross-sector policies to manage disaster risks, climate change impacts, and environmental degradation. In keeping with efforts to provide more inclusive social safety nets, national stakeholders received support to expand access to shock-responsive social protection and integrate gender equality and rights-based approaches into disaster risk reduction.

National agencies and community organisations also enhanced their capacities for the management of sargassum and coastal ecosystems and support provided to promote innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes. Through a series of webinars, the UN empowered civil society actors in Antigua and Barbuda to manage human mobility in disaster and climate change scenarios, while also enhancing emergency humanitarian logistics expertise to prepare citizens for potential crises.



Leading the Way: Early Warnings for All Initiative Launched in the Caribbean



Prime Minister of Barbados, the Hon. Mia Mottley, addressing the first Regional Launch of the EW4ALL Initiative

“Disasters remind us that we are all world citizens whether we like it or not”

2023 marked a pivotal year for disaster preparedness in the Caribbean, as the region became the first in the world to Launch the UN’s Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) initiative. By transforming early warnings into risk-informed early action, this initiative empowers communities to mitigate the impact of hazards, safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and development progress.

The Caribbean’s leadership sets a precedent for global disaster preparedness, and Prime Minister of Barbados, the Hon. Mia Mottley and Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, the Hon. Phillip J. Pierre, are leading regional efforts to ensure the success of this critical initiative.

“Disasters remind us that we are all world citizens whether we like it or not,” Ms. Mottley told the regional launch in Barbados, where she called for stronger global partnerships and civil society cooperation to ensure the success of the UN-led initiative. “Life is not seen from speeches on a

platform, but life is experienced on a daily basis...we are global citizens and everything is interconnected. We need to work together at all levels, having more strategic leadership. Disasters speak one language – destruction,” she added.

The event held at UN House, brought together regional leaders and key global officials in support of multi-hazard early warning systems, which encapsulates UN Secretary-General, António Guterres’ vision to see every person on Earth protected by the year 2027.

Recognizing the diverse vulnerabilities and threats faced by Caribbean SIDS, the EW4ALL initiative prioritized strengthening existing public warning systems. Following the launch, two national consultative workshops were held in Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados, with a focus on translating early warnings into concrete actions. This resulted in the review of existing national plans, with gaps identified and addressed to pave the way for a comprehensive and action-oriented implementation strategy.

Participating in the launch, which also included a panel discussion chaired by UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebuçq, were Youth Ambassador, St. Kitts and Nevis, Shajunee Gumbs; Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); Liz Riley, Executive Director of Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohammed; Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori; Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), QU Dongyu; Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Prof. Petteri Taalas; Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Inger Andersen; and Chair of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Gerard Howe.



90+ stakeholders

engaged across Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis to co-design Children’s Climate Risk Index-Disaster Risk Models focusing on children’s vulnerabilities and exposure to hazards, shocks and stresses.



20,000 people

in Dominica insured for two years under \$400,000 Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF).



17,000 people

in Saint Lucia covered for a period of 2 years under the CCRIF



2 Disbursement Plans

developed outlining the process for disbursement of funds under the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC) for Dominica & St. Lucia.



3 National Strategies

developed for Barbados, Saint Lucia and Dominica providing country specific options for linking disaster risk finance instruments with social protection systems



10,000 fruit trees and plants

3,000 fruit trees for agroforestry

6,000 plants for rehabilitation purposes.



870+ adolescents and youth

actively engaged in climate change initiatives through the Ashley Lashley Foundation fostering leadership & innovative approaches to climate action.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

Key related SDGs



OUTCOMES 7 & 8

Contributing Agencies, Funds and Programs >>



In 2023, amidst myriad challenges, the UN made significant strides in enhancing peace, safety, justice, and the rule of law in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Initiatives successfully undertaken ranged from data-driven policing, to tackling local and transnational crime, to strengthening justice systems, laying the groundwork for a safer and more secure Caribbean. UN Cooperation also improved policy coherence at the national level in the Eastern Caribbean.



30

NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS TRAINED

in "Interdicting Small Arms, Ammunition, parts, and Components (ISAAPC)



MODEL

LEGISLATION ON PREVENTION

Model legislation on Prevention and Countering of Smuggling of Migrants



190+

STAKEHOLDERS EMPOWERED

to contribute solutions towards peace and security and focused approaches to crime prevention

Supporting Justice and Law Enforcement

With 100% of police stations in Antigua and Barbuda now using the fully digital, cloud-based, Crime Information Management System and Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS), the CariSECURE 2.0 Project, was officially launched to equip law enforcement to move beyond collecting and analyzing crime data, to using it to design programmes to reduce youth involvement in crime and human trafficking.

Support for data -strengthening also continued with the development of a Report on Free Movement Data Mechanisms in the OECS to provide the OECS commission guidelines on how to improve free movement data collection and management in the sub-region.

In Barbados, the competencies of lawmakers to advance legislation on countering illicit smuggling of migrants were enhanced and technical support provided for a gap analysis of youth crime and violence policy making capacities. Similarly, young people were empowered as leaders in a National Youth for Peace initiative and the UN contributed to wide-ranging judicial reform through a Project aimed at reducing case backlog and improving access to justice.

Meanwhile, frontline officers in Saint Lucia enhanced their capacities to counter migrant smuggling through the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) complementary to the Model Legislation on the Prevention and Countering of Smuggling of Migrants and finalization of a Migration Governance Indicators Assessment and Report.

National security stakeholders in Saint Lucia were also supported in their efforts to tackle transnational crime and border-issues, with Technical Working Group Sessions convened to gather stakeholder perspectives on non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

The address the link between migration and disaster risk reduction, authorities in Dominica benefitted from development of an 'Environmental Migration, Disaster, Displacement and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool' that identified best practices for the protection of persons crossing borders due to disasters, environmental degradation and climate change, and a Cross-border Evacuation Protocol was developed for Eastern Caribbean countries in the context of disasters. The UN also facilitated a Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change – the first for the OECS region, presented at the OECS Immigration Council of Ministers Meeting held in Dominica in April.

As the impact of trafficking in firearms, their parts, and ammunition, continues to have palpable consequences across the region, the UN supported national security officials in the Eastern Caribbean through capacity building. For instance, 30 National Security Officials received "Interdicting Small Arms, Ammunition, parts, and Components (ISAAPC) training". To ensure continued national commitments to address illicit firearms and ammunition trafficking, in keeping with the adoption of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap in 2020, more than 80 regional stakeholders, including police officials, Ministers of Government and international development partners, participated in the 3rd Annual Meeting of States of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap convened in Saint Lucia. The meeting was organized through a partnership between the Saint Lucia Government and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America, and the Caribbean (UNLIREC).

Cognizant of the impetus that youth investment has on ensuring a more just and secure future for the region, the UN and the University of the West Indies hosted a National Crime Symposium: From Research to Action: Focused Approaches to Crime Prevention in Antigua and Barbuda, that engaged and empowered more than 190 persons, including many youth, to contribute solutions that promote peace and security. Further, the UN helped to localize the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda, aligned with Security Council Resolution 2250, through facilitating meaningful youth engagement and knowledge acquisition in St. Kitts and Nevis, to support youth-focused policy design. To strengthen the Justice System in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the UN supported the development of Probation Service

and Training manuals and the implementation of the Primero Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) to enhance rehabilitation and strengthen child protection systems in emergency and non-emergency settings. Through the PACE-Justice Project for effective case management, and its focus of improving data management, St. Kitts and Nevis was ensured of a more streamlined and effective justice system to better crime reduction, efficiency of justice administration and citizens security.

Supporting Constitutional Reform in Barbados

During 2023, the UN Development System held meetings with the Barbados Constitutional Reform Commission (CRC) in various occasions. At the Commission's request, the UN coordinated a joint submission of written documents, including literature, comparative analysis, best practices, and examples of provisions that had been incorporated in Constitutional texts in various countries, on specific issues considering developments in international human rights law. The Barbados Government announced an extension for the CRC to continue its work until end of April 2024. The Commissions is expected to present a report of its deliberations to the Government, together with a draft text of a Constitution.



Changing Cultural Norms and Values to Reduce GBV

The UN tackled increasing threats to women's rights in the Caribbean by advocating for increased investment in women and girls by development partners and other stakeholders, to improve their safety. Initiatives included making public spaces safer, streamlining referral pathways for victims of GBV and empowering authorities to manage such cases, while promoting women's empowerment.

Additionally, the UN strengthened the capacity of women's rights groups to provide greater access to essential services for victims of violence and shift social norms at the community level. Support for an enabling policy framework was also prioritized and national systems bolstered to plan and deliver effective programs, including through availability of sex-disaggregated data. The UN also supported media and civil society to advocate for positive change. In Antigua and Barbuda, an Essential Services Package for women and girls subject to violence was piloted and a Readiness Assessment conducted to identify existing capacities and gaps in different sectors, and at the level of coordination and governance, across public institutions and civil society organisations providing services to address VAWG. As a follow-up, recommendations were

developed to address these critical issues and gaps, to guarantee a continuum of care in the provision of quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls who are survivors of violence. To support advocacy, a "Play Your part" Campaign was launched in Saint Lucia to stop GBV garnering over 400,000 views in six Caribbean countries.

Through policy support, the UN contributed to the enhancement of Child Protection and Child Justice in St. Kitts and Nevis and the drafting of a National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women and Girls in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Under the Grenada Spotlight Initiative, 75 service providers were equipped to apply the Draft Victims'/Survivors' Rights Policy and Standard Operating Procedures to their work with affected populations.

CSOs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were also supported to reduce family violence against women and girls and empower women to develop sustainable livelihoods. Under the EU-UN Joint Spotlight Initiative the UN equipped 75 service providers to apply the Draft Victims'/Survivors' Rights Policy and Standard Operating Procedures to their work with affected populations and supported the near finalization of bills to improve the legislative framework for preventing and responding to GBV.

Youth Breakthrough: The Gateway to Enhancing Peace and Security in Saint Lucia



*Ms. I will be honest.
I never wanted to attend
this. I came because they
begged me to.*

*Now I am so happy
I came as I have a
different mindset
and attitude towards
violence.*

*I will now try my best to
avoid fights and conflict
and to be more peaceful”*

As Caribbean countries continue to grapple with increased crime and violence, alarming homicide rates are causing concern in Saint Lucia, with one town declared an “escalated crime area” by the Government.

Usually renowned for its majestic piton mountains, in 2023, the Caribbean nation recorded a concerning homicide rate of 75 (41 per 100,000 inhabitants), with seven reported localized homicides occurring in the Vieux Fort area in one weekend, and 22 in total for the year. Allegedly related to reprisals from reported increases in gang related activities, retaliation escalated to a point where immediate families of gang members (mother, father, children) were targeted, crippling everyday life including the temporary closure of business and schools. Youth (mainly males) have been singled out as both the primary victims and perpetrators of crime.

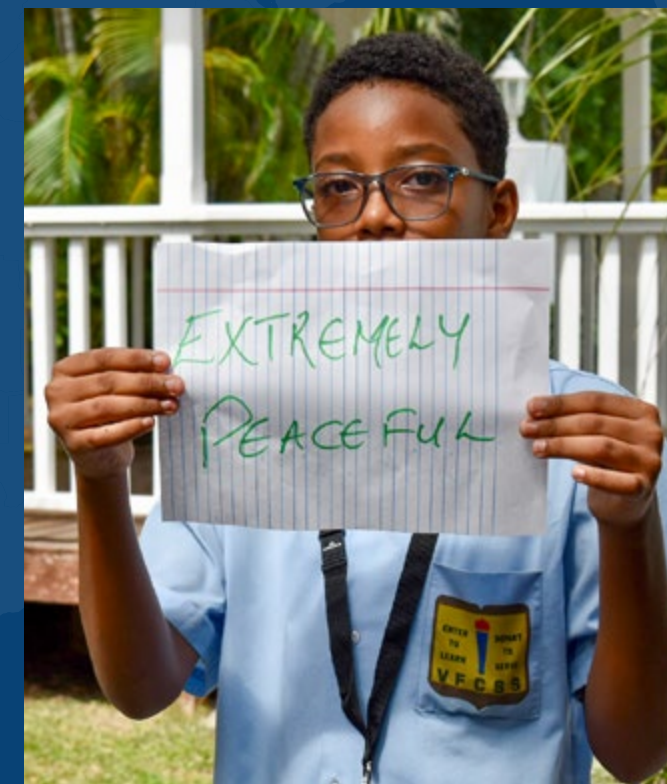
Thanks to a UNESCO Youth for Peace life skills training intervention, 20 students from two Secondary schools in Vieux Fort namely- Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School and Beanfield Comprehensive Secondary School are now equipped to become agents of change. The students were engaged in interactive sessions that provided them with salient tools to integrate and promote more productive, peaceful, and inclusive communities. A key output of

the programme is the anticipated establishment of peace clubs in the respective schools.

During the reflections session all participants echoed their satisfaction with the intervention which they deemed to be “invaluable” and “game-changing”. One participant boldly declared: “Ms. I will be honest. I never wanted to attend this. I came because they begged me to. Now I am so happy I came as I have a different mindset and attitude towards violence. I will now try my best to avoid fights and conflict and to be more peaceful”.

The Youth For Peace initiative is aligned with Goal 4 of Saint Lucia’s National Youth Policy 2021-2026 Action Plan – Safety Security and Peaceful Coexistence: Empower young people as agents of peaceful and safe national coexistence.

In October the UN and the Government of Saint Lucia also co-hosted a development partners’ meeting under the theme ‘Leveraging Partnerships towards: Improving Peace, Security, Justice, and Rule of Law’, to strategically map and coordinate support to enhance citizen security given that this situation has contributed to escalating security concerns which have permeated across the wider Saint Lucian society.



Progress on Leaving No One Behind

In 2023, the UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean expanded its partnership efforts to ensure that all persons, especially those at risk of being left behind, were supported in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Youth

The UN Team amplified efforts towards meaningful youth engagement to ensure sustainable support. To enhance employment opportunities, youth were supported through vocational training, as well as to capacitated to develop effective businesses, and farming initiatives. Support was also geared towards increasing rights-based policies and programming, responding to youth crime and violence, and enhancing youth advocacy through training.

Some 5,261 young people received soft skills training (Through FunDoo) as part of the SDG Joint Programme, and 8,966 young people were engaged on the Barbados and OECS U Report platform. Support for youth advocacy also continued through the work and partnership of Agency-led UN Youth Ambassadors as well as through the UN Youth Advisory Group, under the aegis of the RCO.



Women

In 2023 the UN supported Eastern Caribbean Government's efforts to create a more equitable future by enhancing economic resilience, strengthening social protection systems, improving data collection and enhancing response to violence against women and girls. In this regard, initiatives that fostered women empowerment, including self-advocacy, skills training and capacity-building, costing of unpaid care work and supporting women's organisations were prioritised.

For example, a series of capacity-building learning cafes were developed to equip CSOs, with the knowledge and skills to prepare quality project proposals for women aligned to the Small Grant policies and procedures. Over 150 persons across over 40 CSOs participated in the sessions, resulting in increased capacity in project management, monitoring and evaluation, procurement, financial planning, communications and advocacy, resource mobilization, and succession planning. Women MSMEs also benefitted from wide-ranging capacity building support, UN Women supported six women entrepreneurs to attend the Madya Pradesh Women Entrepreneurs (MAWE) Business Beyond Borders International Conference and Exhibition in India, which exposed them to business and trade policies, avenues for networking, trade, and finance.

Migrants

Migration continues to be a pertinent issue for Caribbean SIDS. Therefore, efforts to improve free movement in the Eastern Caribbean, while upholding migrants' rights, continued in earnest in 2023. An IOM/OECS Working Group was established and functioned efficiently to ensure information-sharing and support.

Migrant-related human rights and social cohesion initiatives were also employed in line with IOM's Strategy for the Caribbean. To support advocacy, International Migrants Day was also recognized at the highest level in some countries including Antigua and Barbuda, where a panel discussion series "Conversations on Migration in the Caribbean" was moderated by the UN. The series allowed migrants to share their stories first-hand, while highlighting their resourcefulness and contribution to national development.

A Family Fun Fair also showcased rich culinary, artistic, and musical cultures of diverse migrant groups in-country, and through media engagement information was shared on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights within the context of migrants, migrants' rights, and the Global Compact for Migration.





LGBTIQ Persons

During 2023, the UN system, in collaboration with partners, continued efforts to promote equality and non-discrimination, while supporting initiatives of the LGBTIQ community. International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), was observed by the UN in Barbados on May 17, with a panel discussion on 'Testimonies of Senior Members of the LGBTIQ Community about Experiences before the HIV pandemic'. The dialogue, organized by the NGO Equals, and sponsored by Canada, UNDP and the RCO, brought together various generations of the LGBTIQ community in Barbados to address issues around acceptance and tolerance, while raising awareness of the importance of community organization and advocacy.

In June, the UN also supported the launch of Pride celebrations in Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, and in July, the results of a national survey on the situation of LGBTIQ people in Barbados was launched by UNDP, USAID, UWI and the NGO Equals. IOM also conducted research and published two studies that identified migration trends in the Caribbean and focused on the invisible movement of persons with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics,

inclusive of a Case Study on Barbados. Other advances in legislative processes, which have broadened protections for LGBTIQ people, include references in domestic violence legislation, through the passage of the Domestic Violence Act 2023 in Saint Lucia and through the Employment (Prevention of Discrimination) Act 2020 tackling discrimination within the workplace, in Barbados.

Persons with Disabilities

Ensuring the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities (PWD), as well as ensuring their access to information and services, has been at the forefront of the UN Development System's work in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean throughout 2023. In Barbados and Eastern Caribbean countries, Family Planning associations and similar service organisations were supported to integrate disability awareness into their sexual and reproductive health programming.

Targeted support was also provided to expand sexual health education to persons with disabilities, including translating materials into braille and sign language. To support economic resilience, technical assistance and training was provided to farmers with disabilities,



including those in Antigua and Barbuda, amongst other social protection mechanisms employed in the subregion.

For the first time, a Regional Consultation on Disability Inclusion was held in Barbados. The hybrid event brought together over 60 participants, including Government officials, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPD) and disability advocates and experts, from across 10 Caribbean countries.

Held under the theme: "Breaking barriers: Inclusion, Participation, and Freedom from Violence for Persons with Disabilities" the consultation explored key challenges relative to education, employment, social protection, access to justice, stigma and discrimination, public information, and combatting violence, particularly against women and girls with disabilities, and identified concrete actions/initiatives that could be taken to address them.

The foster greater inclusion, other events and substantive discussions that rendered visibility and enhanced participation of persons with disabilities were also supported during the year.

These included two discussions that explored "Transformative Solutions for Inclusive Development", and "Youth and Disability" in Grenada. In Antigua and Barbuda, two regional events were also supported in collaboration with the Government – a Caribbean Forum on Population and Development, held in September within the context of ICPD 30; and the Regional Spotlight Conference and Civil Society meeting held in November.

Human Rights Mechanisms

Barbados underwent its 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in 2023. The State supported 57% of recommendations received, the highest rate of acceptance in the four cycles. For example, Barbados supported the recommendation to create a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), and to ratify several human rights instruments. On 18 March 2023, Grenada became the 15th country to ratify the Escazú Agreement (Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean). Grenada is the 5th country in the Eastern Caribbean region to ratify this unique regional agreement.

In October, in Bridgetown - the first Caribbean regional capacity-building workshop on treaty body reporting and on the strengthening of the National Mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRFs), took place. This seminar was organized jointly by OHCHR, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Human Rights Advisors in the English-speaking Caribbean, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados. A total of 27 government participants from 13 countries joined the workshop that focused on the process of implementation of ratified treaties which includes addressing backlog of reports and the creation or strengthening of national Human Rights institutions and national mechanisms. For the first time, this workshop also explored the importance of linking SDG reports with human rights treaty reporting, by creating a "multipurpose committee for reporting" which would be critical for SIDS.

75th Anniversary

of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Candlelight vigil in Bridgetown, to commemorate human rights defenders. 12 December 2023

75th Anniversary

of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights brought visibility to a comprehensive view of human rights for all, with several events and discussions organized by the UN system, targeting different audiences and issues.

Eleven webinars, discussions or events were hosted and supported by the UN in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean during the year under the umbrella of Human Rights initiative 75. Topics varied from political participation of young women and girls; the importance of anti-discrimination legislation and policies for persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ persons and other marginalized populations; intersectional dialogue on human rights mechanisms; presentation of business and

human rights framework; the centrality of promoting and protecting civic space with journalists; and the role of human rights defenders. Several of these discussions included participation of Government officials and civil servants.

Public information and dissemination of materials and messages was also central, including frequent posts on human rights issues through social media. Also, over 2500 human rights materials were shared across seven (7) countries, via meetings, events, presentations, public gatherings, and CSOs, notably 1200 - UDHR booklets and 1000 UDHR75 posters.



"The SDGs are a right-based agenda. Acceleration of the SDGs is intertwined with progress in the implementation of human rights standards. This may be in relation to water and sanitation, education, gender equality or stronger institutions for peace and security and is always linked with leaving no one behind."

- UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

- Article 1

"

2.3 Support to Partnerships & Financing the 2030 Agenda

Key Development Partners

Strategic partnerships are essential to the success of UN cooperation in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

In 2023, the UN enhanced collaboration across agencies, and further amplified its efforts to bring together diverse stakeholders, including the private sector, to advance SDG progress. Key Development Partners continuing their support to flagship initiatives include the European Union (EU), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO), Japan and Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

Global Affairs Canada's \$7.4M grant funding to UN Women and UNFPA for the 'Build Back Equal' programme strengthened ongoing efforts to advance economic and social equality for women and girls in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Funding was also provided through UNDP, in collaboration with WFP and UN Women, for the EnGenDER programme which supports climate change adaptation and mitigation across nine Caribbean countries.

Through \$12M in grant funding towards UNDP's 'Strengthening Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean' Project, the Government of Japan is enhancing the capacities of five Caribbean countries in the removal and disposal of Sargassum to build resilience. To ensure continued advancement in SDG 3, UK FCDO continued its funding support to PAHO for its 'Strengthening Health Facilities in the Caribbean' Project. This initiative promotes safer, greener health facilities, equipped to deliver care in disasters, reduce disaster losses and build climate resilience. The UK also contributes to the EnGender project.

To further enhance citizen security in the Caribbean, USAID supported UNDP in the launch of the CariSECURE 2.0 Project. Building on the foundational work of CariSECURE, which equipped countries with the technology, equipment, and training to better collect and analyse crime data, phase 2 ventures further in

terms of helping recipient countries to use the robust data gleaned through the first Project, to design effective programme and policies geared towards reduction of youth involvement in crime, and to build their capacities to investigate and prosecute Trafficking in Persons crimes in Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

UN-EU Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme to Eliminate Violence against women and girls, officially ended in December with a total budget of \$11.3M for phases 1 and 2. The EU-sponsored Grenada Spotlight Initiative also continued into 2023 with a total budget of \$3.3M, supporting institutional strengthening, legislative policy, prevention, and delivery of coordinated services to respond to VAWG in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

2023 Development Partners Landscape Assessment

The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean recently conducted a survey of development partners across Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to gauge partner programming and related funding flows in the Sub-region.

The key outputs were a Programme Matrix and Landscape Assessment Report which summarises and analyses the findings. The Landscape Assessment tool is a means to strengthen implementation and revitalize global partnership for sustainable development, in the spirit of SDG 17. Here in the Eastern Caribbean, the aim is to use the analysis to improve cooperation and coordination on the ground. Partners are also using it to identify gaps in programming and in turn, redirecting resources to address these funding and implementation gaps in key thematic areas.



Additional Resource Mobilization Efforts to Finance the 2030 Agenda

South-South Cooperation

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund supports Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a focus on least developed countries and small island developing states. In 2023, the India-UN partnership supported six active south-south programmes with a total investment of USD\$4.33M.

Programme areas include support for Energy Local Content development, and provision of equipment to support COVID-19 response in Barbados, strengthening livelihoods and resilience in Dominica's Kalinago community, ensuring safe management of waste in Grenada's General Hospital, enhancing vocational training for marginalized youth in Saint Lucia and modernizing the Arrowroot Industry to increase livelihoods of indigenous communities in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Coordination Mechanisms

Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG)

The ECDPG and related sub-groups continued to function robustly in 2023 to facilitate strategic information sharing and decision-making among development partners in the Eastern Caribbean. Four technical sub-groups were active - Blue and Green Economy (co-chaired by UNEP and Japan); Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (co-chaired by WFP and the European Union); Digital Innovation and Innovative Financing (co-chaired by UNDP and Canada) and Sustainable Livelihoods and Employment (co-chaired by UN Women and the Caribbean Development Bank). A new sub-group 'Peace, Justice and Security' will be formalized in 2024 to support crime reduction and improved citizen security in the region. The RCO continues to serve as the Secretariat of the ECDPG for its tri-annual meetings. The ECDPG comprises bilateral and multilateral donors, regional development organisations and international financial institutions.



Development Plan.

Country Coordination Meetings

The UN Team, under the leadership of the RCO, co-hosted four country coordination meetings alongside governments in the region. The first meeting, held in Dominica in March under the theme: 'Leveraging Partnerships to Collectively Respond through a National Reset', was timely, as Dominica and other Caribbean SIDS, continue to battle significant development challenges ranging from limited fiscal space to high transportation, food, and energy costs, rising unemployment, and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. At its conclusion, key focus areas for cooperation amongst development partners were identified including: 1) the Energy Transition, 2) Food systems strengthening and 3) Building capacity for implementation in public service.

In July, the UN and the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines co-hosted the second development partner's coordination meeting under the theme 'From Recovery to Resilience', aimed at strengthening resilience following the La Soufrière eruption and cost-of-living crisis. At the end of the meeting, the UN and other development partners confirmed their support for the different areas highlighted for interventions, including the new National Economic and Social

In October, the UN, and the Government of Saint Lucia co-hosted development partners for a meeting under the theme 'Leveraging Partnerships towards: Improving Peace, Security, Justice, and Rule of Law', in response to reported increases in the number of gang-related activities, including reprisal killings, occurring mainly in one area, and involving mostly young people. This situation has contributed to escalating security concerns which have permeated across the wider Saint Lucian society, and the meeting was convened to strategically map and coordinate support to enhance citizen security.

Later in October, a follow-up meeting was held in October 2023 in Dominica under the theme 'Enabling Dominica's Transition to 100% Renewable Energy before 2030'. The meeting targeted philanthropy organisations, government entities and development financial institutions to help meet two main objectives of the government: 1) to seek financial assistance in the form of grants and concessional loans to enable Dominica's transition to 100% renewable energy and 2) to match Dominica's capacity-building needs for this transition with partner resources.

UN Global Compact in the Caribbean

During 2023, the number of regional companies joining the UN Global Compact rose to approximately 30. These companies have joined over 17,000 global counterparts in signing on to the initiative spearheaded by the Office of the UN Secretary General. The UN Global Compact supports companies to align their operations with sustainable business practices, in particular the principles of human rights, labour rights, environmental responsibility, and anti-corruption.

Regional companies benefitted from the offerings of the UN Global Compact in 2023 through online learning activities such as the Academy and Accelerator, but also through in-person events such as the 'Operationalising ESG & Building More Resilient Businesses' seminar hosted in June in conjunction with early joiner, the Barbados Stock Exchange. This event allowed participants to learn more about the subject of ESG while facilitating networking with local and regional peers in the private sector. The recruitment drive to onboard private sector companies and associations continues across the region, with the expectation that the Caribbean network will be formally launched in 2024.

UN Convenes Engagement to Support Caribbean Region's Energy Transition

As a follow-up to a Triple Crisis Roundtable co-hosted with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in September 2022, to elicit solutions and policy responses for strengthening food systems and boosting transition to renewable energy, the UN MCO convened another multi-stakeholder engagement in March 2023, aimed at scaling up efforts towards renewable, clean and green energy solutions.

The UNST, lead by the Resident Coordinator, convened another multi-stakeholder engagement in March 2023, aimed at scaling up efforts towards renewable, clean, and green energy solutions. During the session, representatives from the EU, Canada, USAID, CDB, WB, EIB and IDB and UN colleagues identified best practices to support the energy transition agenda, including provision of capacity support for countries, and helping to shape the region's sustainable finance agenda. In terms of next steps, follow-up actions will seek to build coherence in development assistance, strengthen the regulatory framework for renewables in the region, support member states in building a pipeline of investable projects, increase access to renewable energy data, and enhance private sector engagement to support energy transitions.

Joint Programmes

During 2023, there were 9 active joint programmes in the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean MCO. The main sources of funding for these programmes were the Joint SDG Fund, the European Union, Global Affairs Canada and the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. However, UN Agencies have also contributed funds to the joint programmes. The themes of the joint programmes varied including, for instance, the Blue Economy, Food Security and Livelihoods, Youth, Social Protection, Data, Women's Empowerment, and Migrations. There were 13 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes implementing these joint programmes: UNDP, UNEP, FAO, WFP, UNCTAD, UNICEF, ILP, UNESCO, UN Women, PAHO/ WHO, UNFPA, IOM and UNFCCC.





2.4 Results of the UN Working More and Better Together

Improved Efficiency through Delivering as One

Delivering on the UN Secretary General Efficiency Agenda has been a top priority for the UN sub-regional team in 2023. Several initiatives were undertaken to deliver cost savings and cost avoidance with the objective of reinvesting these resources into development programming.

Under the Business Operation Strategy, the UN launched joint procurement for common services including travel management services, ICT and security services. For example, the UN finalized a Long-Term Agreement (LTA) with a travel agency that supports travel needs of nine UN entities saving USD375K in 2023.

The UNST continued to consolidate its physical presence across the chain of islands, with cost saving of about USD75K from the operation of two common premises in the Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In 2024, a UN Common Premises will be inaugurated in Dominica, further consolidating the UN presence there and delivering vital saving on rent which will be reinvested into providing technical support to the country.

Strengthened Advocacy through Communicating Together

In 2023, the UN amplified its public outreach, through enhanced coordination and joint advocacy, aligned with the UNST Communications and Advocacy Strategy and the Caribbean MSDCF within the framework of the global human rights agenda. An inaugural UNCG Communications Retreat held with participation from DCO, helped to strengthen team synergies and enhance joint advocacy approaches. Several joint initiatives were successfully executed under the aegis of the UNCG, and in collaboration with national Governments, including UN in the City a public exhibition held to raise national awareness and ambition on the SDGs. Some 12 UN agencies and Government Departments participated in the outdoor expo under the theme: 'Together for the SDGs'. UNCG members also supported the annual Christmas in the Square Project, organized by the Barbados Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society which included decorating an SDG Christmas Tree in the heart of Bridgetown, the capital city, and providing information on the SDGs for schools and youth groups participating in decorating the trees. 255 trees in total were erected, and for the first time in its 10-year history, trees were dedicated all UN member countries and observer states, and to the UN and other global organizations thus amplifying advocacy on the value of multilateralism.



- **Improved Joint Advocacy** from the RCS resulted in the production and placement of several high-level products including two RC Blogs (SVG Recovery | SDG Progress Barbados) and one from the Secretary General; two Op-Eds in national media (Int'l Day for DRR - Oct. 13 : LAC Climate Week Oct 23 – 27); an SDG-Fund Feature on Blue Finance in the Caribbean and one Case Study on the RC System supporting SVG. The Resident Coordinator was also supported in advocacy at several high-level national and regional events, including those with participation of senior Government officials including at the Prime Ministerial level, and several events were staged to observe key UN days. These included World Children's Day, Human Rights Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- **This year, in collaboration** with Government partners, UN Day was observed in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines with myriad activities including a Resident Coordinator's UN Day Message, that was published in regional print and broadcast media, as well as flag-raising and tree planting ceremonies, beach clean ups, panel discussions, debates and other school competitions. In Barbados, a partnership with the Government resulted in the Lighting up the Parliament

Buildings symbolizing mutual commitment to UN values of peace, justice, and equality for all. Staff at the UN House also enjoyed a day of camaraderie, team building and fun competitions during the annual UN Staff Day.

- **Strengthened public outreach** was one of the key outputs of UN efforts to better deliver together. To this end, 64 press releases were produced and disseminated to regional media receiving significant traction, and 140 web stories, and 287 content items developed and uploaded to the UNST website creating a comprehensive resource hub. Additionally, 6 #GoalPost newsletters were published and disseminated to 700+ recipients.
- **Enhanced digital presence** was supported through efficient administration of three official UNST social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram & Facebook) and the Resident Coordinator's two official platforms (Twitter & Instagram). With an average of 500 posts across the three UNST platforms, average reach increased by between 300 – 500 % and all platforms recorded a notable increase in following with Facebook recording a net increase of 694 followers, which represented a significant growth of 303.5%.

9 Active Joint Programmes implemented with a multi-year budget of \$25 M

\$500,000 in cost-avoidance through BOS

4 Active Development partner technical groups supported the sub-region in key thematic areas

13 Agencies, Funds and Programmes improved service delivery through Joint Programmes

32 new companies joined Global Compact

2.5 Country Results-Reports in a Multi-country Office

Joint Programmes

Resilient Caribbean: Engaging and Training Youth, Strengthening Integrated Social Protection Sector Delivery

Duration: January 2022 – June 2024

Countries/Territories:



Implementing Partners: Ministry of Social Development (Anguilla) ; Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs , Sports, Agriculture and Fisheries (BVI) ; Ministry of National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development , Home Affairs, ICT and Disaster management (Grenada); Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs (St. Kitts and Nevis); Head of Human and Social Division (OECS Commission) .

UN Agencies: | | |
 LEAD

1

KEY RESULTS:

- Data-driven disaster preparedness enhanced through knowledge exchange, advanced data collection tools, and simulation exercises in both countries.
- 20 personnel (Dom.) trained in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and key geo-spatial datasets processed for disaster preparedness on the CDEMA GeoCRIS Platform.
- Digital data systems for agriculture and social protection upgraded through implementation of advanced systems and national registries for farmers, fishers, and vulnerable households.
- Dominica pioneered transition to digital processes for social assistance.
- Social Protection and Risk Management linkages strengthened through comprehensive training on shock-responsive social protection in collaboration with government entities.
- Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Systems Analysis completed in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and a Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture in Response to Emergency (FARE) Training program delivered to 48 participants.
- Enhanced integration of Agricultural and Social Protection sectors have improved emergency response, and strengthened food security and livelihoods strategies post-disaster.

Promoting a human security approach to disaster displacement and environmental migration policies integrating the Covid-19 pandemic response in the Eastern Caribbean

Duration: December 2022 – June 2023

Countries/Territories:



Implementing Partners: OECS Commission, Platform on Disaster Displacement.

UN Agencies: |
 LEAD

2

KEY RESULTS:

- Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool developed and used to assess legal instruments in nine (9) OECS countries.
- Nine (9) Assessment Reports made available in those nine countries and British Overseas Territories.(Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines).
- Guidance document developed for cross-border evacuation best practices and protocols to protect persons crossing as a result of disasters, environmental degradation, and climate change.
- Endorsement of the Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change facilitated, a first for the OECS region, with declaration officially launched during LAC Climate Week 2023.
- Community mural developed, in collaboration with the Dominica National Council of Women (DNCW), to promote the human security approach and build awareness on GBV.
- Supported revision of the CDEMA CDM Strategy for the inclusion of human mobility and human security considerations, as well as follow-up actions to further collaboration.

Resilient livelihoods and food security through data, digitalization, and sectoral linkages

Duration: January 2022 – June 2024

Countries/Territories:



Implementing Partners: Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security (Dominica) Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

UN Agencies:



LEAD

3

KEY RESULTS:

- Data-driven disaster preparedness enhanced through knowledge exchange, advanced data collection tools, and simulation exercises in both countries.
- 20 personnel (Dom.) trained in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and key geo-spatial datasets processed for disaster preparedness on the CDEMA GeoCRIS Platform.
- Digital data systems for agriculture and social protection upgraded through implementation of advanced systems and national registries for farmers, fishers, and vulnerable households.
- Dominica pioneered transition to digital processes for social assistance.
- Social Protection and Risk Management linkages strengthened through comprehensive training on shock-responsive social protection in collaboration with government entities.
- DRM Systems Analysis completed in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and a Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture in Response to Emergency (FARE) Training program delivered to 48 participants.
- Enhanced integration of Agricultural and Social Protection sectors have improved emergency response, and strengthened food security and livelihoods strategies post-disaster.

Integrated Population Data and Policy Solutions to Accelerate SDGs Achievement in Barbados and Montserrat

Duration: June 2022 – June 2024

Countries/Territories:



Implementing Partners: Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Health and Wellness; Bureau of Gender Affairs, Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs; Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment; Barbados Statistical Service (Barbados); Ministry of Finance and Economic Management; Ministry of Health and Social Services; Montserrat Statistics Department; Office of the Premier (Montserrat) Civil Society Organisations: Barbados Family Planning Association; Barbados Council for the Disabled; Barbados Youth Development Council; IFIs/Donors: IADB; CDB; Statistics Canada/Global Affairs Canada; Other Partners: CARICOM, OECS Commission; University of the West Indies; Caribbean Policy Research Institute; Caribbean Policy Development Centre

UN Agencies:



LEAD

4

KEY RESULTS:

- Population Situation Analysis (PSA) completed and National Population Policy and Plan of Action developed.
- E-learning Course on Population Dynamics and Policy offered and translated from Spanish to English, building capacity in topics such as fertility, mortality, human mobility, demographic dynamics, ageing, climate change, population data, and the Montevideo Consensus.
- Capacity of government agency representatives strengthened in both countries to mainstream population data into humanitarian response programs and policy development initiatives.
- Barbados' capacity to produce data on the SDGs strengthened through the commencement of a pilot measuring women's disproportionate care responsibility.
- Barbados Statistical Service's enumeration field capacity enhanced through the acquisition of 6 computer tablets and hiring of three field workers.
- Four representatives from Barbados' National Statistical Office participated virtually in a UN-supported training session on National Transfer of Accounts in Jamaica in December 2023.
- A civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) assessment completed for Montserrat in 2023.
- A civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) assessment completed for Montserrat in 2023.

Building Effective Resilience for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in the Caribbean

Duration: October 2019 – December 2023

Countries/Territories:



Implementing Partners: IICA, Gender Machinery

UN Agencies:



5

KEY RESULTS:

- ParlGender Toolkits initially developed for politicians, also shared with general leadership in Grenada.
- Structural Adjustment Programmes: Integrating Gender Equality and Human Security and (2) Agricultural Policy: Integrating Gender Equality and Human Security.
- 5 Grenadians were among the first cohort of Training of Trainers for Business Coaching for Rural Enterprises and Farmers, with 11 persons trained in total.
- Agricultural land management system introduced in Grenada to manage the issuance of leases for Government-managed agricultural lands.

Barbados & OECS - Food Security and Livelihoods Resilience Through Analytical, Capacity Building and Policy Support in Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy and Finance.

Duration: October 2022 – *March 2023 (Revised)

Countries/Territories:



Implementing partners: CARICOM, OECS, CDB, UWI, National Statistics Offices, Ministries of Trade and Economics, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and any other relevant ministries/national bodies such as Customs and Excise Departments.

UN Agencies:



6

KEY RESULTS:

- Over 100 stakeholders from Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines enhanced skills in sustainable agricultural practices.
- Robust price monitoring framework developed for agri-food commodities across Barbados and the OECS
- Public and private sector officials in Barbados, Grenada Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines supported in policy formulation to improve trade, consumer protection, and economic growth.
- Government officials in Barbados capacitated to link social protection to disaster risk management and improve competencies in data analysis and visualization.

Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development

Duration: August 2020 – January 2023

Countries/Territories:



Implementing Partners: Ministries of Finance, Environment and National Beautification (Barbados) Ministry for Finance, Planning, Economy and Physical Development (Grenada); Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information technology (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

UN Agencies:



7

KEY RESULTS:

- Completed Development Finance Assessments for each participating country.
- Blue Economy project screening and pipeline development tool developed along with user manual.
- A set of Blue Economy capacity building activities conducted.
- Financial sector and regulatory environment gap report prepared.
- Fisheries and aquaculture sector diagnostics conducted along with a results report.
- Completion of baseline research, stakeholder identification and the establishment of stakeholder groups were significant achievements that laid the groundwork for further action.
- Development of tools including those for project design, prioritization, implementation, monitoring, and capacity-building activities, are expected to contribute to the long-term success of Blue Economy initiatives.

2.6 Evaluations and Lessons Learned

In January 2023, the UN development system in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean organized meetings with member states to review and approve key 2022 results in alignment with the Country Implementation Plans (CIPs). The individual review meetings were complemented by the MSDCF Annual Coordination Meeting, held in March 2024 in Barbados, bringing together sixteen signatory countries and territories as well as OECS and CARICOM to review results achieved in the second year of MSDCF implementation and review strategies for SDG acceleration in the region.

The UN development system presented key results under the four pillars of the MSDCF, focusing on multi-agency and multi-country results in the areas of livelihoods, food systems, health, education, social protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change, governance and rule of law.

Special consideration was given to data for sustainable development and financing for development with a session on gaps and challenges on data facilitated by CARICOM, OECS and UN Agencies, and a presentation of the draft UN offer on financing for development.

Member states welcomed the progress achieved in 2023 and stressed that the UN is an important partner for small island developing states, and has supported the region to leverage partnerships, piloting new solutions and promote regional agendas.



Key Recommendations from Governments at the UN Annual Coordination Meeting included:

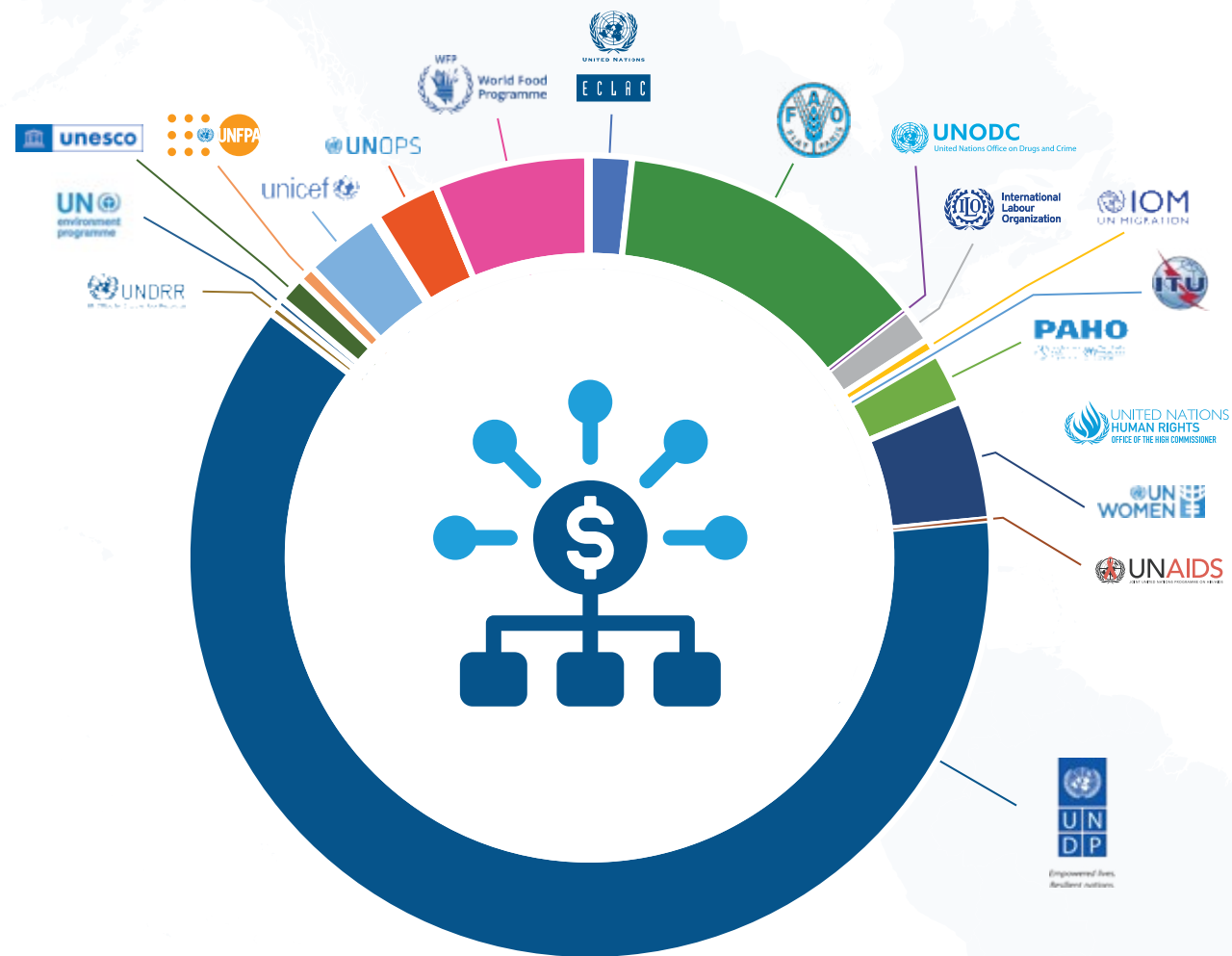
- **Moving from pilots to scale** – ensuring that there are sufficient resources available and infrastructure to take successful projects to scale and make projects into mainstream service offers.
- **Mainstreaming governance and human rights** in all programmes to protect development gains and sustainability, keeping in the global challenges of governance and misinformation.
- **Strengthen implementation capacity** – considering the capacity of governments to implement multiple activities in parallel, ensuring coherence with national fiscal cycles and developing measures to coordinate and monitor interventions
- **Strengthen coordination between** UN agencies and with development partners to ensure effective use of resources and reduce duplication of efforts.
- to respond to the increase in violence and crime across the Caribbean.

2.7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023



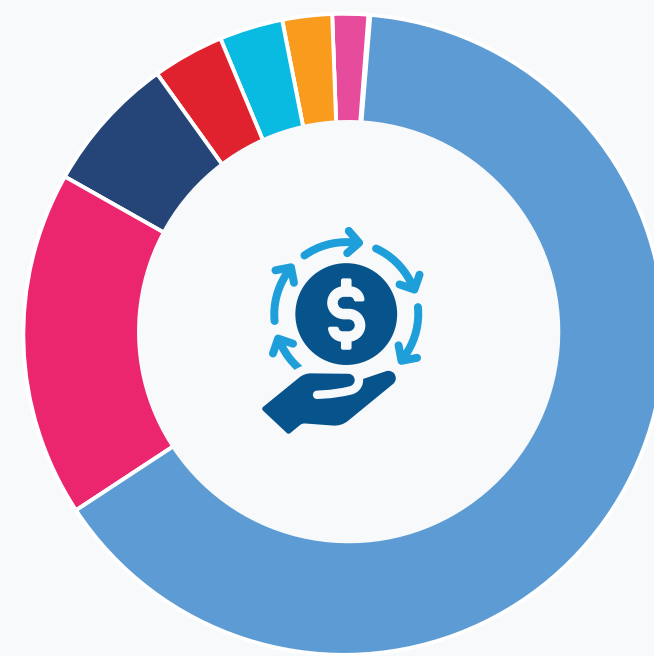
2023 TOTAL EXPENDITURE
\$89,288,200 USD

EXPENDITURE BY AGENCY



KEY

ECLAC	\$1,517,722	PAHO/WHO	\$1,870,799	UNESCO	\$942,554
FAO	\$11,375,634	UN Women	\$4,289,714	UNFPA	\$586,545
ILO	\$1,271,162	UNAIDS	\$25,000	UNICEF	\$2,763,795
IOM	\$451,761	UNDP	\$55,279,729	UNODC	\$185,453
ITU	\$175,000	UNDRR	\$345,650	UNOPS	\$2,317,241
OHCHR	\$80,000	UNEP	\$302,279	WFP	\$5,508,162



EXPENDITURE BY OUTCOME AREA

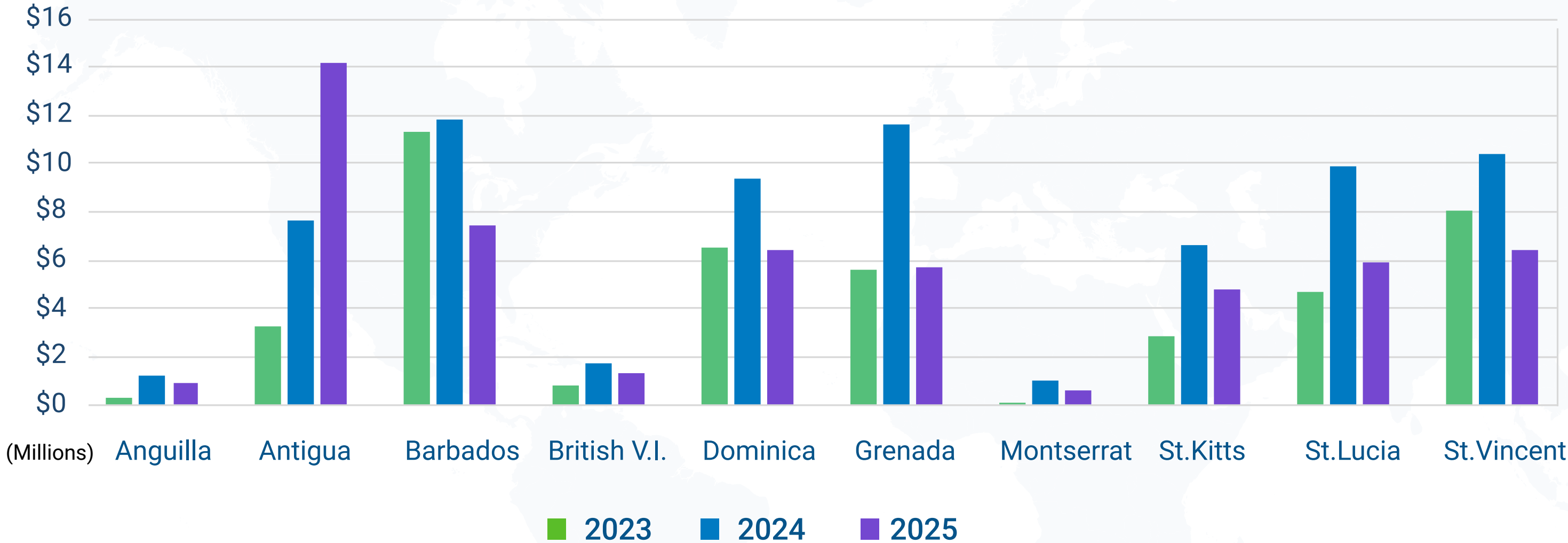
Outcome 1	\$3.19M
Outcome 2	\$2.22M
Outcome 3	\$1.58M
Outcome 4	\$15.54M
Outcome 5	\$57.44M
Outcome 6	\$3.07M
Outcome 7	\$6.16M
Outcome 8	\$0.09M

KEY

- OUTCOME 1:** Productive and competitive ecosystems
- OUTCOME 2:** Diversified and sustainable economies
- OUTCOME 3:** Data use to eliminate discrimination
- OUTCOME 4:** Equitable access to universal social protection
- OUTCOME 5:** Adaptive capacity for inclusive DRR and climate change mitigation
- OUTCOME 6:** Natural resource management to strengthen resilience
- OUTCOME 7:** Improve access to justice, peace, and security
- OUTCOME 8:** Safer, more inclusive, and equitable societies

2.7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023

2023 - 2025 BUDGETS





Key Events



UNITED NATIONS
BARBADOS & 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



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES





Nikisha Toppin (FAO), first place winner in the UN Staff Day Creative SDG Costume Competition as her winning piece depicts SDG 14 - Life Below Water



Stakeholders and disability rights advocates from across the Caribbean meet in Barbados to demand inclusion, access, and equal opportunity



UN Iron Chef winners Dr. Andy Partapsingh (PAHO) & Vermaran Extavour (FAO) are pictured with Judge Chef Ann-Marie Leach and young guest judge Ausar-Maat Nosakhere. Missing is Judge Everton "Heru" Holligan



Activists Maria Marshall (climate), Ranako Bailey (gender), & Kerry Ann Ifill (disability) were the three Barbadian Human Rights Defenders honored for Human Rights Day 2023



Codrington School students (ages 10-11) visit UN House to learn about the SDGs and research environmental challenges like Sargassum and water scarcity



Canada's High Commissioner to Barbados H.E. Lilian Chatterjee (seated centre), flanked by UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebuçq and FAO Sub-regional Coordinator, Dr. Renata Clarke, joins Co-founder of Pink Parliament, Ronelle King (seated first from right), Pink Parliamentarians and other officials, for a photo-op, following the group's visit to UN House to learn more about the UN's work on gender equality and the benefits of multilateralism



UN Women Representative Tonni Brodber, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebuçq, and UNFPA Deputy Director, Jenny Karlsen addressing the Spotlight Transition 4 Action event



St. Kitts and Nevis Youth Action Summit



President of Barbados, the most Honourable Dame Sandra Mason (fifth from left) and UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebuçq (6th from left) join other senior Government Ministers and UN officials for a photo following the flicking of the switch to Light Up Parliament Buildings to observe UN Day 2023.



UN Week clean-up crew in Antigua tackles Johnson's Point, collecting trash & repurposing tires for bins



Waynelle Collymore-Taylor (FAO), interacting with a patron at the UN in the City Exhibition in Golden Square, Bridgetown



The UN Country Team in Dominica, representatives of the Ministry of Environment, volunteers, students, and members of local organisations, stand with collected bags of plastic waste from the CleanAMile initiative



Barbados-based UN Volunteers plant the first breadfruit tree at A DaCosta Edwards Primary School on International Volunteer Day



UN Volunteer Grainne Ahern engaging with children for International Volunteer Day



UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, and UNICEF Representative, Pieter Bult, participating in World Children's Day Climate Walk and Rally



New cohort of UN Youth Advisory Group (YAG) takes a selfie with UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, following an Orientation and Training Exercise



Remembering so as not to Repeat: Officials and participants in the inaugural lecture commemorating the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition



First Prize winner in Grenada's SDG Art and Essay Competition for Students, Shyla Parke, 14 years, reminds us that we are all on this journey together no matter our colour, sexuality, status, or culture. Her artwork depicts togetherness and leaving no one behind



Antigua & Barbuda takes a stand for human rights: (R-L) UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister The Hon. Gaston Browne, Foreign Affairs Minister, The Hon. E.P. Chet Greene, and President of the Antigua & Barbuda Sickie Cell Association, Dr. Edda Hadeed, unveil the Human Rights Mural at the V.C. Bird International Airport



UN communications practitioners Carol Gaskin (RCO), Marquita Sugrim (FAO), and Kareem Smith (UNICEF) participating in the UN Communications Group (UNCG) Retreat.



Looking Ahead

With just about six years remaining for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030, the UN Development System in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will focus its efforts primarily on SDG acceleration. Under the framework of the UN MSDCF, the UN team will seek to advance its joint efforts to deliver on the following priorities:

1. Six Transitions for SDG Acceleration:

- a. Food Systems
- b. Energy Access And Affordability
- c. Digital Connectivity
- d. Education
- e. Jobs and Social Protection; and
- f. Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution.

2. Strengthening National Statistical Systems

3. Advancing Disability Inclusion

4. Consolidating business efficiency gains

The UN Sub-regional team will support governments to advance integrated policy and programme approaches to deliver on the six transitions. Building on the 11 policy briefs prepared at the global level, the UN Resident Coordinator Office will facilitate inter-agency reviews with a view to adapting and integrating into programming as necessary. Efforts will also be made to ensure that relevant government and non-governmental stakeholders are oriented to the recommendations for action. A central piece of this work will be to deliver on the financing for development offer which has been prepared in 2023 to help countries broker financing and technical support through UN facilitated “deal rooms” or initiatives that bring bankable project together with partners that can finance and complement implementation.



In partnership for the goals: UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebuca, greets Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves

In keeping with UN's thrust to prepare a new PACT for the future, the UN team will also promote the Summit of Future. At the same time, we will advocate for inclusive national preparatory dialogues that generate practical recommendations that can be put forward at the Summit of the Future in New York, during the UN General Assembly in September.

Already, the UN system is very engaged with member states in the Eastern Caribbean to support local efforts at generating data for

SDG tracking, and more broadly evidence-based policy making. Notwithstanding these efforts, and in response to the great paucity and inaccessibility of data, the UNDS will formulate a Joint Programme to scale-up and deliver more integrated support in this area.

The team will also focus on building out a joint UN response to elevate the focus on disability inclusion at all levels of society, including through the generation of more data on the situation and needs of people living with disabilities.



CHAPTER 3

UN Focus and Priorities for 2024



UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, in discussion with UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, during the UN chief's recent visit to the region.

Building on the inputs from 2023 consultations with people living with disabilities and their organisations, the UN will identify ways to support policies and programme at the national level and within the UN system to deliver on the economic and social needs of this group of persons who are at risk of being left behind.

Improving access to Innovative Financing remains a critical priority for a sub-region of middle income and high-income countries. In 2024, through SDG Fund Joint Programme on Innovative Financing approved in 2023, the UNST will roll-out an initiative to help countries to mobilise financing to support women and youth, including their economic enfranchisement.

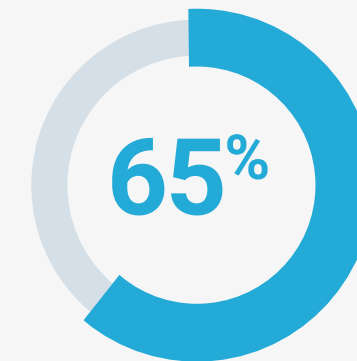
Through interventions at the policy and programme levels, a team of UN entities will come together to start a catalytic

programme that will test innovative financing instruments, help strengthen the regional experience and know-how on mobilising innovative financing. A special focus will also be placed on helping Overseas Territories to explore better ways of accessing development financing.

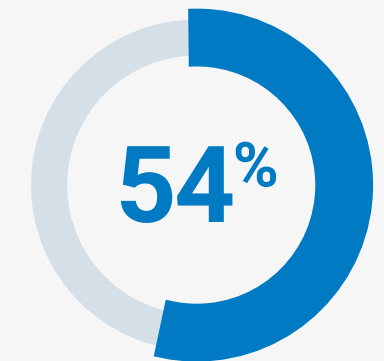
Finally, UNST will continue efforts to increase the number of common premises in the sub-region. In 2024, a UN Common Premises will be inaugurated in Dominica, consolidating the UN presence there and delivering vital saving on rent which will be reinvested into providing technical support to the country.

Resource Mobilization

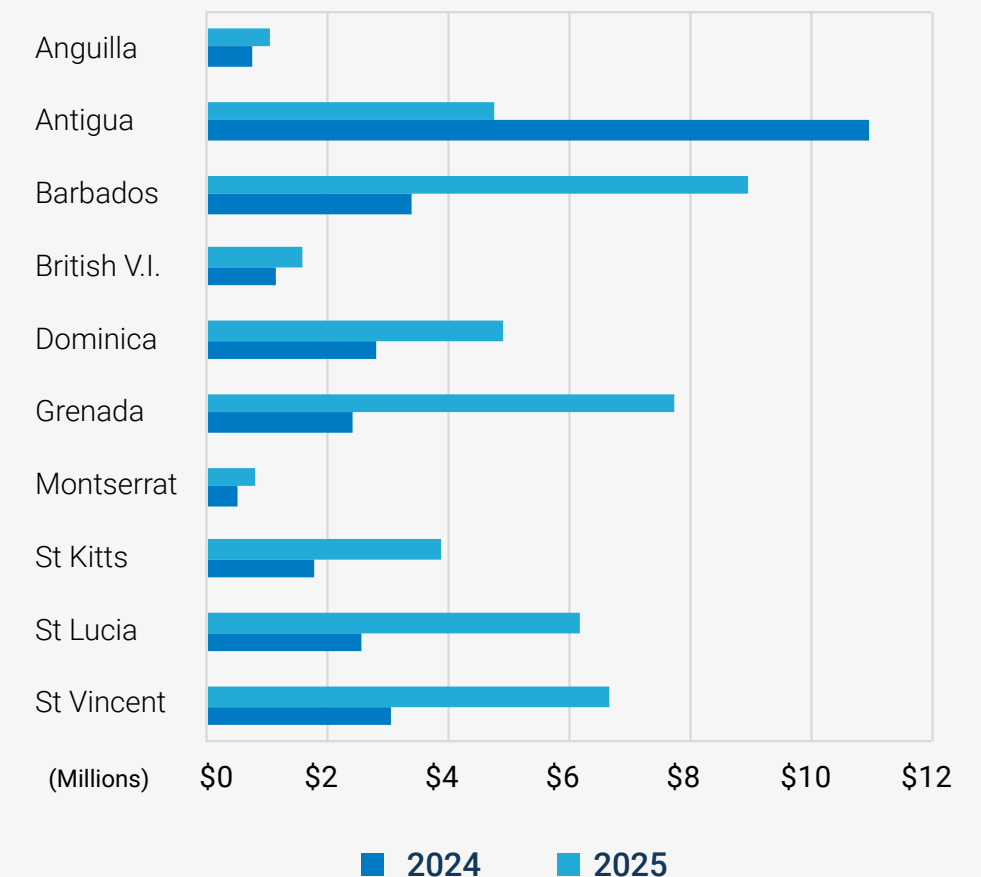
Available Funding 2024-2025



2024
\$46,485,052
 Available Funding of
\$71,282,127
 REQUIRED



2025
\$29,230,850
 Available Funding of
\$53,671,276
 REQUIRED



List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACP-EU	African, Caribbean, and Pacific - European Union	MSMEs	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market	NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
CCA	United Nations Common Country Analysis	NGO	Non-governmental Organisation	UNST	United Nations Sub-Regional Team
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	UNV	United Nations Volunteers
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency	OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
COP28	The 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	OMT	UN Operations Management Team	UNYAG	United Nations Youth Advisory Group
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019	OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe	UWI	University of the West Indies
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations	PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
DGC	Department for Global Communication	PAP	Public Assistance Programme	VNR	Voluntary National Review
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
EU	European Union	PwDs	Persons with Disabilities		
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) Report		
GBV	Gender-based Violence	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals		
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence		
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	SIDS	Small Island Development States		
HDI	Human Development Index	SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises		
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	SOP	Standard Operating Procedures		
HLPF	High Level Political Forum	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health		
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics		
IFIs	International Financial Institutions	UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS		
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNCG	United Nations Communications Group		
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development		
IPC	Infection Prevention Control	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		
IT	Information Technology	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction		
ITU	The International Telecommunication Union	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme		
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, or Questioning	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization		
LNOB	Leave No One Behind	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund		
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme		
MPTF	Multi-partner Trust Fund	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees		
MSDCF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund		
		UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization		



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CARIBBEAN MCO**



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2023

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