

Adia Daniel of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines showcased a mermaid-inspired dress painted with ocean species and embellished with jewels and food wrappers, symbolizing marine pollution. The look was featured during the cultural fashion show at the SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit opening ceremony in Antigua and Barbuda.

Photo by UNICEFECA/2024/Nelson

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2024

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Table of Contents

FOREWORD BY THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR 3

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS 4

CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT 5

- Development challenges within the Region 6
- Our Response to Hurricane Beryl 7

CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 10

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results in 2024 10

- Response to Global Challenges – Focus on SIDS 4 11

2.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs 13

- Strategic Priority 1 13
- Strategic Priority 2 16
- Strategic Priority 3 21
- Strategic Priority 4 26
- Progress on Leaving No One Behind 30
- Youth 32
- Women 33
- Saluting our UN Volunteers 34

2.3 Support to Partnerships & Financing the 2030 Agenda 35

2.4 Results of the UN Working More and Better Together: Improved Efficiency through Delivering as One 39

2.5 Lessons Learned and Evaluations 44

2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation 45

CHAPTER 3: UN FOCUS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2025 48

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS 50

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Foreword

Message from the UN Resident Coordinator

The United Nations remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing sustainable development and prosperity across the Eastern Caribbean for all. As we present this Annual Results Report for 2024, we reflect on a year of collective action, resilience, and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, as we grapple with the climate crisis and complex and evolving global challenges.



The past year has tested our global community in unprecedented ways—ranging from economic uncertainty and humanitarian crises to the intensifying impacts of climate change. Yet, through collaboration, innovation, and determination, we have collectively worked towards addressing these challenges, reinforcing the principles of multilateralism and regional and global solidarity.

This report highlights key achievements, partnerships, and initiatives in support of sustainable development and shared prosperity. From advancing inclusive economic recovery efforts to strengthening healthcare systems and climate resilience, the United Nations and its partners have worked tirelessly with governments to leave no one behind.

As we move forward, we must continue to harness collective will, innovation, and partnerships to bridge gaps in financing for development, education, healthcare, gender equality, and social protection.

As we look ahead to 2025, the United Nations reaffirms its dedication to working with governments, civil society, the private sector, and communities to advance sustainable development across the region.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all stakeholders whose contributions and efforts have made this year's progress possible.

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Simon Springett
Resident Coordinator,
UN Eastern Caribbean



Key Development Partners

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UN Sub-Regional Team

Delivering together for Caribbean SIDS

The United Nations Sub-Regional Team (UNST) in the Eastern Caribbean comprises a total of 23 Agencies, Funds and Programmes, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC).

Strong partnerships are critical to our shared objectives to foster sustainable and meaningful change across the Eastern Caribbean. The UN Team acknowledges and appreciates the strong support from our member states, Government and international development partners, as well as CSOs, who together have made our collective results for 2024 possible.

23

Agencies, Funds, and Programmes (AFPs)

Under the Cooperation Framework

Countries & Territories Covered by the MCO

Financing Partners

Donor Governments

Chapter One:

Key Developments in the Regional Context



The region's resilience was tested in July 2024 as Hurricane Beryl caused devastation across several nations. Fortunately, the strong growth in 2023 provided a small buffer to these challenges and both Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (the most affected islands) expect growth rates in 2024 between 3-4 percent, a slight downward revision given the impact of the hurricane.

The Hurricane also caused significant damage to the fishing sector and coastal infrastructure in Barbados. In this case, as the hurricane passed during the off-peak season for tourism, the macroeconomic impact was moderate, estimated at approx. 0.15 percent.[1] In total, initial estimates placed the total cost of Hurricane Beryl up to 1.4 percent of GDP in Barbados.[2] The impacts of Hurricane Beryl underscore the cyclical trap of extreme weather events on the region, as economic costs and losses arising from response, infrastructure damage and rebuilding inflate borrowing needs and fiscal pressures.

1 Damage and Loss Assessment report for Barbados, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (internal)

2 Barbados: Fourth Reviews Under the Extended Arrangement Under the Extended Fund Facility and the Arrangement Under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility, December 2024, https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2024/12/23/Barbados-Fourth-Reviews-Under-the-Extended-Arrangement-Under-the-Extended-Fund-Facility-and-559968

Dominica, one of the strongest performing economies in the region, was forecasted to grow by 4.6 percent in 2024.

Like other countries in the region, this has been buoyed by high tourist numbers, and investment across infrastructure, such as the international airport and geothermal production plant, and agriculture. Despite these growth trends, overall, most countries in the region continue to be vulnerable to adverse weather events, global price shocks and geopolitical shifts, all of which can lower productivity and economic output. Internally, these vulnerabilities are compounded by persistent high levels of public debt and unexpected expenditures, which can reduce the ability to plan and execute important investments towards national development priorities and the SDGs.

As the countdown to the close of the 2030 Agenda intensifies, the region must still address issues such as unemployment, especially for the youth. For every four young people in the Caribbean one is unemployed, compared to two in every 25 adults[3]. Women are acutely disadvantaged in the labour market, suffering from higher unemployment levels as well as lower wages. Investing in economic diversification, whilst providing adequate protection for vulnerable groups through robust social protection mechanisms, is becoming more challenging in the face of rising debt levels necessary to recover from crises and facilitate national reforms.

Building resilience through strategic investments to mitigate climate vulnerability and increase job creation will be essential for creating a more sustainable growth path. Such investments should include exploiting the potential of the blue economy, adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions and embracing technological advancement to drive efficiency and innovation. This focus will be particularly necessary to tackle the impact of ageing populations and the 'brain-drain' within the labour force.

As the UN and its Member States prepare for the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in June 2025, there will be renewed focus on how to manage rising debt levels, draw in private finance, improve access to concessional and grant finance, and mobilize large-scale investments for economic transformation and resilience in an ever-shifting geopolitical landscape. It will be imperative that countries in the region re-prioritize domestic resource mobilization whilst continuing to advocate for a reform of the global financial architecture. This includes ensuring climate vulnerability is adequately captured when assessing eligibility for concessional finance and other forms of Official Development Assistance.

It is expected that the outcome of this meeting will better support the flow of resources to address the myriads of development issues the region is facing, as well as provide new avenues for partnerships, catalytic finance and visionary leadership to steer the region towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.



> ***"As the countdown to the close of the 2030 Agenda intensifies, the region must still address issues such as unemployment, especially for the youth. For every four young people in the Caribbean one is unemployed, compared to two in every 25 adults.***





3 https://oecs.int/en/component/content/article/the-dark-cloud-of-youth-unemployment?catid=2&Itemid=286#:~:text=Nearly%201%20in%20every%204%20young%20people,high%2C%20gendered%20and%20dangerous%20to%20social%20stability

Our Response to Hurricane Beryl

When Hurricane Beryl tore through the Caribbean in July 2024, it left behind a trail of devastation, particularly in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada. In response, the UNST, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), swiftly mobilized, working alongside national governments, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and regional partners to deliver immediate relief and support long-term recovery efforts.

CDEMA, in collaboration with the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) for the Eastern Caribbean, activated the Regional Response Mechanism, bringing together technical thematic working groups to coordinate and strengthen the response.

This collective effort, along with immediate access to essential non-food items pre-positioned at the Caribbean Logistics Hub in Barbados (CDEMA/IOM/WFP), ensured that live-saving supplies, equipment and assistance reached those who needed it most, while supporting national governments in recovery and resilience.

COORDINATED RESPONSE EFFORTS

Sector	Lead Agencies
Coordination	CDEMA CU/OCHA/RCO
Education	UNICEF
Health	CARPHA/WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA
Logistics	CDEMA/WFP
WASH	CWWA/UNICEF/CAWASA
Protection	UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA (including Child Protection & Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies sub-groups)
Shelter	CDEMA/IOM/IFRC
Early Recovery	CDEMA/UNDP

Mobilizing Resources for Response & Recovery

To support response efforts, the UN Team joined the governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada to launch the Regional Overview and Response Plan. With a goal of raising $15.9 million, it sought to address the immediate humanitarian needs of 56,600 people, while laying the groundwork for recovery across key sectors. With $1.5 million being released from the UN Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), by December 2024, available data from reporting UN agencies and partners indicate that approximately 41,100 people across both countries benefited from humanitarian support. The support provided falls into two categories: direct support, which includes immediate food distribution, shelter, and medical care delivered directly to the affected people, and indirect support, which entails strengthening local institutions and partners so they can more effectively deliver services to communities.

Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) - Empowering Women and Girls

To mitigate increased risks for women and girls during crises, UN efforts sought to preserve their dignity, hygiene, safety, and economic well-being. Through the Canadian-funded Build Back Equal initiative, UN response went beyond providing aid to empowering communities. Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) training provided for government officials, civil society representatives, and frontline workers on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), equipped them to recognize and prevent abuse. This proactive approach is helping to enhance preparedness for future emergencies, ensuring safer and more resilient communities.

Women-owned businesses also supplied essential goods to restore local economies and provide immediate relief to those in need. Dignity kits were distributed across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, and in the latter, Share the Care Packs distributed to affected families and vulnerable groups including residents of the Cedar's Home for Abused Women and their children, in partnership with the Ministry of Carriacou & Petite Martinique Affairs. Recognizing the need for safe spaces, the Home was also provided with a solar generator to keep essential appliances running and solar lights to enhance security on the premises.

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN GRENADA

706 children received MHPSS services through the Return to Happiness Programme.

79 frontline workers benefited from direct MHPSS support .

980 MHPSS resources (workbooks, toolkits, service directories) were distributed to aid children's mental well-being

Supporting Children's Well-being

With schools disrupted and safe spaces needed for children's well-being, the UN helped to establish two Child-Friendly Spaces on Union Island and Canouan, providing a sense of normalcy, emotional support, and continued access to learning opportunities, a crucial step in recovery. The response to Hurricane Beryl was not just about providing immediate relief , but about building resilience by empowering women, protecting the most vulnerable, and ensuring children's education was not forgotten.



Sustaining Communities through Emergency Assistance Following Hurricane Beryl

SUPPORTING ICTS

In Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Ministry with responsibility for ICT, was supported with **BGAN phones** to continue critical communication during the disaster.

SUPPORTING LIVELIHOODS AND RESTORING COMMUNITIES

In Grenada, fishing and farming equipment and materials were provided to **1,200 individuals**, strengthening food security and economic resilience.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 700 households received Home Garden Starter Kits and Chicken Startup Kits, enabling families to grow their own food while broader agricultural systems recover and to rebuild food sources and generate income.

Over 200 direct actors along the seafood and fisheries value chain in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were supported with essential fishing supplies, including ice coolers, lines, hooks, floats, rope, and boat repair materials.

WASH SUPPORT AT A GLANCE

Total Beneficiaries: 4,524 people gained access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation in partnership with Water Mission International.

Grenada: 400 WASH hygiene kits and collapsible water containers distributed.

Saint Vincent & the Grenadines: 886 WASH hygiene kits and collapsible water containers distributed.

CASH ASSISTANCE FOR ESSENTIAL NEEDS IN GRENADA & SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES.

220 households (800 people) in Grenada – including 288 men, 296 women, 112 boys, and 104 girls - received multipurpose cash assistance for WASH and basic needs through the SEED Public Assistance Programme.

3,474 people in Grenada – 1,725 females and 1,749 males – received cash transfers via SEED to support food and essential needs.

909 individuals – 418 men and 491 women – have applied for the **Beryl Relief Income Support Programme (BRISP),** a long-term cash assistance initiative developed from a **Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF)** payout.

4,500 disaster-affected persons in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received cash assistance to cover food and essential needs.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Carriacou, Grenada – 2,960 people (1,472 females, 1,488 males) received food assistance in partnership with the Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS).

Saint Vincent & the Grenadines – 3,066 food kits delivered, supporting **8,909 people (4,887 females, 4,022 males)** across Union Island, Canouan, Mayreau, and Mainland Saint Vincent.

Each kit was designed to sustain a family of three for approximately 10 days.

HEALTHCARE FACILITY RESTORATION & SUPPORT

Supported the **restoration of healthcare facilities** in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, focusing on repairs and safe building standards.

Key actions included the procurement of materials like **windows, doors, and medical equipment**, and the provision of cleaning supplies and power washers for health center retrofits.

Insulin coolers were purchased for patient care, and data entry clerks were hired to strengthen disease surveillance in collaboration with the Ministries of Health.

Building A Resilient Future

Recovery from Hurricane Beryl is not just about rebuilding, it's an opportunity to build a more resilient Caribbean. UN - EU-led Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) undertaken in support of respective Governments, after the storm caused significant losses pinpointed key recovery needs.

Prioritizing them is essential for both nations to recover stronger and build a more resilient future, especially for vulnerable populations which are disproportionately impacted. Recovery efforts must prioritize future preparedness, empowering local economies, and centering vulnerable populations.

Lessons learned underscore the urgent need for strengthening climate resilience by investing in disaster-resistant infrastructure and integrating climate-smart solutions.





Recovery efforts will focus on strengthening sector-level planning and building local capacity in recovery frameworks, data management, and critical systems.

Communities will be supported to effectively use PDNA data, while targeted disaster risk reduction measures and specialized programs will address the unique recovery needs of Carriacou, Petit Martinique, and the Grenadines. Sustainable resilience demands long-term commitment, partnerships, and a vision of thriving Caribbean communities in a changing climate.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SAFER HOUSING

Training in the CARICOM Code of Practice for Residential Construction equipped 14 Building Officers in Grenada (Physical Development Corporation) and 17 Housing Staff in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Physical Planning Department, Housing Authority) to promote quality and resilience in housing development.

Post Disaster Needs Assessments

LOSSES

(Primarily Housing and Agriculture)

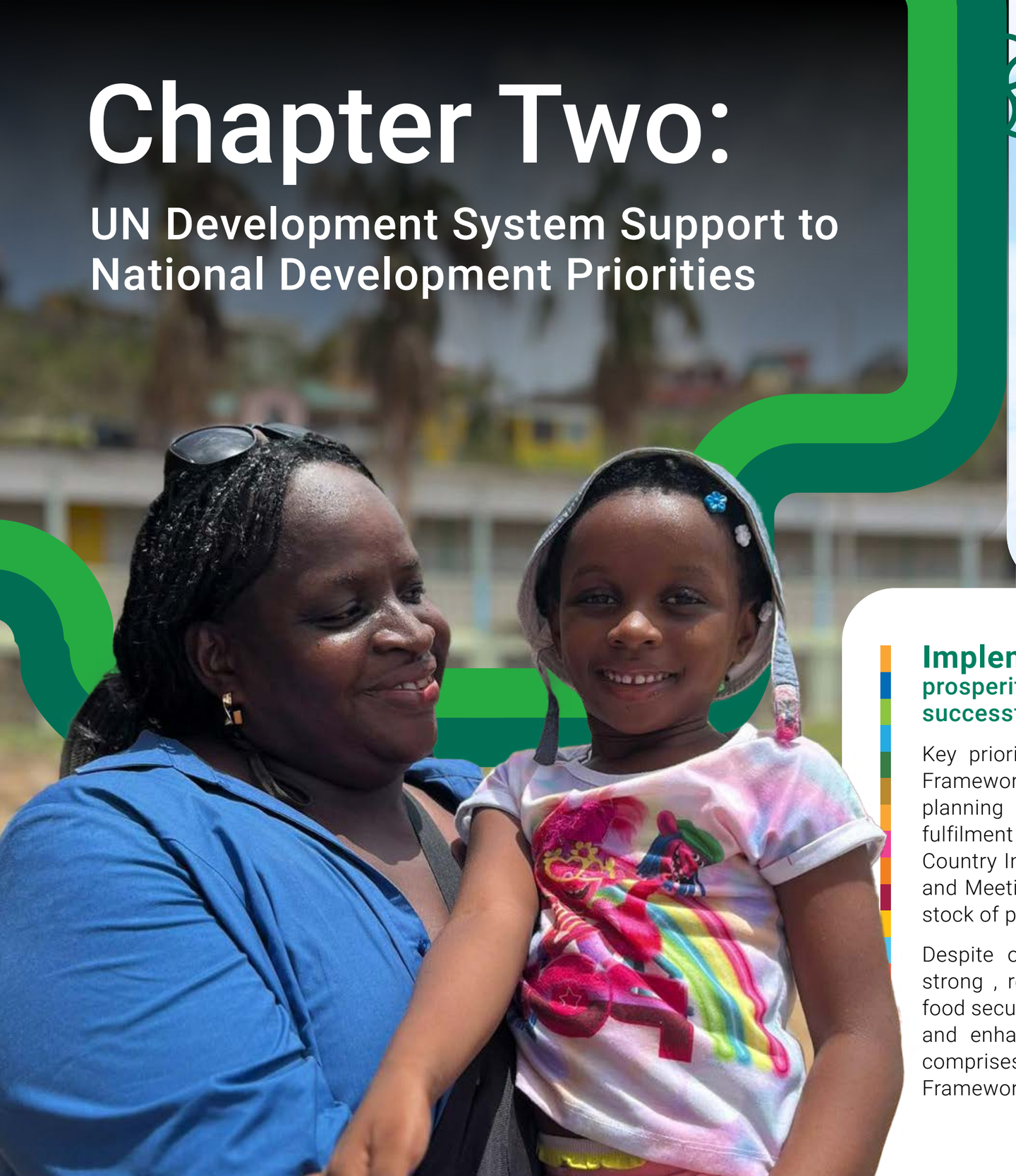
SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	$220M
GRENADA	$32M

KEY RECOVERY NEEDS



Chapter Two:

UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities



2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results in 2024

MSDCF PRIORITIES

1. ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SHARED PROSPERITY
2. EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND
3. RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
4. PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE, AND THE RULE OF LAW

Implementation of the SDGs, a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and planet, continues to be the barometer for successful UN partnership in the region.

Key priorities under the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) for the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, a five-year planning instrument for implementation of UN development activities towards fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, are merged with national priorities through targeted Country Implementation Plans (CIPs). In March, a joint Annual Coordination Meeting and Meeting of the MSDCF Joint Steering Committee was held in Barbados, to take stock of progress achieved in year two of the MSDCF.

Despite ongoing challenges, partnership with Caribbean governments remained strong , resulting in support for several transformational results in advancing the food security agenda, fostering sustainable livelihoods, scaling digital transformation, and enhancing disaster risk reduction, among others. The Joint Steering Committee comprises ministerial representatives of the 22 country signatories to the Cooperation Framework, and representatives from 23 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

Common County Analysis (CCA)

The 2023 Common Country Analysis (CCA) update for the Eastern Caribbean highlighted a range of development challenges and structural vulnerabilities, many of which were directly addressed by UN Development System (UNDS) results in 2024.

Alignment with 2023 CCA Challenges

The 2023 CCA identified five key challenges, which the UN's 2024 actions addressed:

CHALLENGES	UN RESPONSE
RISING INEQUALITY & VULNERABLE LIVELIHOODS	**Economic resilience** through agriculture, MSME support, job programmes and social protection expansion.
CRIME AND CITIZEN INSECURITY	**Data-driven** crime prevention, justice reform, strengthening law enforcement and child-sensitive protection strategies
CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND DISASTER RISK	**Regional logistics hubs,** early warning systems, climate smart agriculture, ecosystem protection, climate finance, climate policy support.
GAPS IN SOCIAL PROTECTION	**Expanded adaptive coverage** integrated with disaster response, shock responsiveness, and informal sector inclusion through pilot programmes and policy reforms
WEAK DATA AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS	**Strengthened surveys**, observatories, and evidence-based governance

Cross-Cutting Accelerators for SDGs

UN entities embraced several transversal approaches across their programme portfolios to accelerate SDG implementation and ensure that the most vulnerable are not left behind.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION:

Integrated into education, MSME development, fisheries, public services, security, identity, justice, and social protection.

GENDER EQUALITY:

Mainstreamed across all sectors, from economic empowerment to disaster response.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

Youth were actively involved in climate policy, digital learning, peace advocacy, and SDG promotion.

SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION:

Strengthened through anticipatory planning and post-disaster cash assistance.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Integrated into agriculture, disaster response, and national policy frameworks

DATA ANALYSIS

7th round of data collection and analysis conducted since 2020 on Food Security and Livelihoods

VIEW RESULTS ONLINE

Response to Global Challenges - UN Support to the Fourth Global SIDS Conference

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Small Island Developing States 2024

In 2024, the UN Development System in the Eastern Caribbean, as a top priority, coalesced around the important task of supporting member states in preparing a new global framework for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.

The UNST supported the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in the successful hosting and staging of the Fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), namely the Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian and South China Sea (AIS) ,resulting in the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity. The international forum attracted more than 3000 participants – including 22 Heads of State or Government – and over 200 side events, some of which were UN-led.

Two panel discussions hosted by IOM and the Government of Dominica, among the calendar of side-events, underscored that well-managed migration must be a key part of implementing the new ABAS, as SIDS journey towards prosperity. The UNDP Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean served as a focal point in coordination with the Regional Bureau of Latin America and the Caribbean.

UN-supported SIDS4 Side-Events

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Small Island Developing States 2024

EVENT	CO-HOSTS / LEAD UN AGENCY	SUPPORTING UN AGENCIES	PARTNERS	KEY OUTCOMES	
GENDER EQUALITY	UN WOMEN	WFP World Food Programme; UNDRR; PAHO; unesco; World Health Organization	Australian Aid; PRIVATE SECTOR	• United over **200 stakeholders from 40+ countries across SIDS regions** fostering collaboration.	• Development of a **Shared Communique Inaugural Equality marketplace boosted 30 women-led businesses** from 12 Caribbean and Pacific nations.
CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTION SUMMIT	unicef	UNDP; ITU; unesco	The Commonwealth; gef; Australian Aid	• **Empowered 90 young people** from the SIDS, to advocate for change • **Integration of child- and youth-led solutions** into the official SIDS4 Outcome Document • Establishment of the **Alliance of Small Island States Youth Council.**	• **A SIDS Youth Commitment & Call to Action** a collective statement outlining priorities for ensuring sustainable futures, and environmental integrity over the next decade.
PARTNER 2 CONNECT (P2C) DIGITAL COALITION HIGH -LEVEL SEGMENT	ITU	UN-OHRLLS		• **Advanced advocacy for universal and meaningful connectivity**, the EW4ALL system and urgent action to bridge digital skills and innovation gaps • Showcased impactful tools and services relevant to	SIDS, including the **Smart Island initiative**, the **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development** , and its network of acceleration centres, **GovStack**, the **ITU Academy** and the **ICT Development Index.**
ACCELERATION OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESILIENCE IN THE SUB-REGION	UNITED NATIONS BARBADOS & EASTERN CARIBBEAN	UNDP; FAO; ITU; unesco; UN Resident Coordinator's Office	Digicel	• Lessons and best practices shared and opportunities discussed for accelerating **digital transformation in areas of governance, climate change, disaster risk management, gender and human rights.**	• Resulted in additional support from development partners and other stakeholders including **upcoming projects, funding resources, technical assistance and cooperation.**
ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE BLUE & GREEN TRANSITION IN SIDS	gef; UNDP; WFP World Food Programme	FAO; UN environment programme	WWF; IUCN; THE WORLD BANK	• Launch of UNDP's flagship initiative the **Blue and Green Island Integrated Platform (BGI-IP)**. • Showcased future programmatic footprint to provide integrated support that addresses the	multi-dimensional nature of the challenges faced by SIDS and **t**he **need for accelerated action through digitalization and sustainable finance.**
BY THE SIDS, FOR THE SIDS: NEXT DECADE OF ACTION ON NCDS & MENTAL HEALTH	PAHO; World Health Organization		HCC Healthy Caribbean Coalition	• Encourage countries to submit their commitments to the WHO commitment portal which was established for the NCD and Mental Health conference which was held in Barbados in 2023.	• Utilizing persons with lived experience to advocate for health systems strengthening
SMART HOSPITAL INITIATIVE ADDRESSING EMERGENCIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE: A BLUEPRINT FOR SIDS	PAHO		UKaid from the British people; USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE	• Continue advocacy on implementation of smart standards in health facilities. • Collaborate with other agencies in planning and implementing initiatives related to climate change	and health, particularly on health infrastructure improvements and integrating of smart hospitals in plans of Ministries of Health and other government agencies.

Note: *This list is not exhaustive. It highlights select events from SIDS4 in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024. Several agencies and partners contributed through various forums, side events, and bilateral engagements that may not be fully captured in this report*



2.2 Achieving Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

Strategic Priority 1

Economic resilience and shared prosperity

$6.09M
2024 EXPENDITURE

In 2024, the UN contributed to economic resilience and prosperity in the region, by improving access to safe food, promoting resilient agriculture and blue economy, and advancing digital transformation and decent work. Building capacity for key stakeholders, alongside innovative finance for small enterprises, yielded sustainable food production, stronger value chains, and supportive policies across the region.

$10M
ON TRACK TO BE MOBILIZED
for Caribbean SMEs through investment products leveraged towards sustainable agriculture.

$1.4M
MOBILIZED FOR MSME FINANCING
to enhance shock-responsive digital transformation and blue economy development in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia

200+
GRENADIAN YOUTH UPSKILLED
in digital marketing and cyber security training to equip them for the digital job market.

30+
OFFICIALS IN GRENADA EQUIPPED
to tackle Fusarium outbreaks through TR4 preparedness training thus safeguarding the region's banana and plantain industries

CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS AND REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION OFFICERS
supported in coordinating phytosanitary capacity development.

KEY RELATED SDGS

Our collective work in Strengthening Food Systems & Fostering Shared Prosperity

Caribbean food systems were strengthened through strategic partnerships and targeted interventions.

With UN support, key regional achievements included revitalization of the Caribbean Food Safety Task Force, establishment of a CARICOM Investment Roadmap, launching of a 4Degrees Investment Database, and strengthened private sector engagement. In Barbados and Grenada, agricultural sector reviews and targeted census support, paved the way for effective census implementation.

Food insecurity tracking improved in Saint Lucia, Grenada, and Antigua and Barbuda with training on FIES data collection and analysis. Completion of the UN-CARICOM 7th Caribbean Food Security Survey delivered crucial insights for building more resilient food systems and country-specific survey published for Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, provided actionable data for development of context-specific strategies. Despite a 17% decrease in food insecurity, hundreds of people in the region remain food insecure, with vulnerable groups being disproportionately affected.

Enhancing Value Chain Productivity, Agriculture and Fisheries and Exports

Through training and technology, farmers in Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines increased sea moss, dasheen, ginger, and other value-chain production, boosting yields and economic opportunities. Grenada enhanced resilience and export potential with updated risk insurance for nutmeg and cocoa, as well as a Soursop Traceability System. Pilots for Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are being developed, and the UN mobilized Global Environment Facility (GEF) resources to improve nutmeg agro-forest resilience and restoration. Barbados advanced its circular blue economy with support for business models that enhance fish silage utilisation and feed production.In Barbados, value chain development and economic resilience were further strengthened through UNIDO-led projects, including the Bloom initiative, the modernization of the arrowroot industry, and a sustainable pineapple value chain programme. St. Kitts and Nevis, with UN support for sector governance, drafted Fisheries and Marine Resources Regulations toward implementation of its Fisheries Act, while Dominica finalized its Agriculture Food Systems Transformation Roadmap. The ITU-supported Smart Seas programme helped Barbados, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines improve small-scale fisher safety at sea through better emergency communications and a comprehensive safety toolkit.

Energy Sector Support

Caribbean countries were supported towards energy resilience through introduction of Smart Irrigation Technologies. In collaboration with CARICOM, investment proposals were presented to potential donors and investors at the Hand in Hand Investment Conference. In Antigua and Barbuda an innovative Solar Reverse Osmosis pilot system is being established to increase water access, and support for a new rainwater reservoir is also underway.

In Barbados, the UN led submission of two major proposals, $3M Green Climate Fund (GCF) Climate Adaptation in agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture, and USD $4M GEF to boost climate resilience and food security. Additionally, a $ 5.6M investment note for the Spring Hall Rainwater Harvesting Project was developed. The UN is also supporting Barbados with efforts to utilise sustainable biomass resources for generating energy, and developing a pipeline of bioenergy projects, with a US$1.6 million GEF grant. Technical and financial feasibility of the mobile offshore water treatment asset has been assessed in select Caribbean Countries, including St. Kitts and Nevis, to inform government decision on water treatment and distribution infrastructure investment

Promoting Digital Transformation and Blue Economy Growth

Private sector capacity to respond to shocks and fully leverage the digital transition was significantly strengthened with UN assistance during the year, through innovation, digitalization and financing. In supporting inclusive and resilient growth of MSMEs, businesses owned by women, youth, and persons with disabilities were enhanced through technical assistance, pilot programming and effective resource mobilization. Under a Climate Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management (CRA) project over $150,000 in grants were disbursed to 12 agriculture and fisheries MSMEs in Grenada to improve operations through strengthening of digital and other innovative tools. To promote inclusive digitization, Caribbean governments were supported in shock-responsive digital transformation and blue economy growth. Through an SDG Fund Joint Programme (UNDP, UN Women, ITU), $1.4 million was mobilized to advance digital innovation and adoption among MSMEs in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia, particularly women and youth-led, to foster job creation, market diversification and sustainable financing and policy frameworks. In terms of training, Marine Spatial Planning workshops were conducted across the Eastern Caribbean, to enhance Blue Economy initiatives, and the University of the West Indies (UWI) was established as virtual ITU Academy Training Centers to enhance programming quality by improving facilitation, virtual delivery skills and fostering exchanges of best practices among ITU participating institutions.

Decent Work and Social Protection

The UN is helping to build a more secure future for Caribbean workers by strengthening decent work and expanding social protection, particularly within the informal sector. In Barbados, the UN supported the Govement in laying the groundwork for a new Decent Work Country Programme and reactivation of the National Child Labour Committee . Through a Joint SDG Fund "Resilient Caribbean" initiative, a groundbreaking study with the UWI, advanced social protection for the informal economy, creating a safety net and paving the way for a more equitable future for Grenada's workforce. With the support of UNDP and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Barbados hosted the XVI edition of the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin American and the Caribbean in November. The forum fostered high-level discussions and collective reflections around inequalities, financing for development, effective governance, digitalization, innovation, social protection, and inclusive growth. The forum's main output, the "Bridgetown Declaration" was approved, promoting inclusive and sustainable development across the region.

Gender-responsive Innovative Financing

To address historical challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in accessing finance, the UN, through UN Women, has undertaken significant steps to close these gaps. Feasibility studies on Innovative Financing Mechanisms were conducted across Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, under the 'Building Back Equal' programs. These studies will directly inform UN Women's programming, with a view to promoting a more productive and competitive business ecosystem, specifically designed to empower women entrepreneurs in the region.



POLICY FRAMEWORK ACHIEVEMENTS

- **The National Food and Nutrition Policy and Action Plan** was updated to address Grenada's climate impacts, including gender considerations.
- **Draft Proposal for Caribbean Extension Learning Platform** developed in collaboration with UWI to advance climate-resilient agriculture in the Eastern Caribbean.
- **Strategic Land Policy and Roadmap** created in Grenada, following comprehensive legal and institutional reviews.
- **National Digital Financial Services Security Task Force** developed for Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda to strengthen telecommunication infrastructure, mobile applications for digital financial services, cybersecurity, and consumer protection
- **Digital Financial Services (DFS) policy and legislative framework** being developed for Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia.
- **Regional ICT Regulatory Authority** being drafted to strengthen capacity of Member States to enhance telecommunication/ICT policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks, in support of sustainable development and digital transformation.

Success Story

Empowering Caribbean Agriculture through Digital Transformation

Across Barbados and OECS countries, FAO's digital agriculture initiatives are revolutionizing farming practices and enhancing disaster resilience, ensuring improved productivity and a resilient, technology-driven future

Among notable successes are the establishment of drone teams and the introduction of digital sensors and soil scanners, empowering small-scale farmers with cutting-edge technology. Regionally, drone teams have been trained and are operational across five countries - Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - proving invaluable in agricultural monitoring, and disaster risk management and response.

During Hurricane Beryl, in the absence of sound satellite imagery, pre-disaster drone basemaps provided critical high-resolution imagery of vulnerable areas, enabling rapid post-disaster assessments and identification of priority intervention zones, reinforcing the value of participatory planning and anticipatory action. Drone Teams, supported by community data and GIS, are now essential for informed decision-making and disaster preparedness, with over 128 technicians trained in seven Caribbean nations, securing a future of data-driven agriculture.

Complementing drone technology, hands on digital sensor training is equipping Caribbean farmers with tools for precision agriculture to improve crop management and boost yields. In Saint Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, and Barbados, farmers, extension officers, and government staff have been equipped to utilize water, soil, and environmental sensors to provide real-time data for optimized irrigation and fertilization. In Barbados, portable soil scanners also offer instant soil health assessments, enabling tailored recommendations reducing costs and environmental impact. These integrated digital strategies foster efficient, sustainable farming and build climate resilience through data-driven decisions and participatory planning.

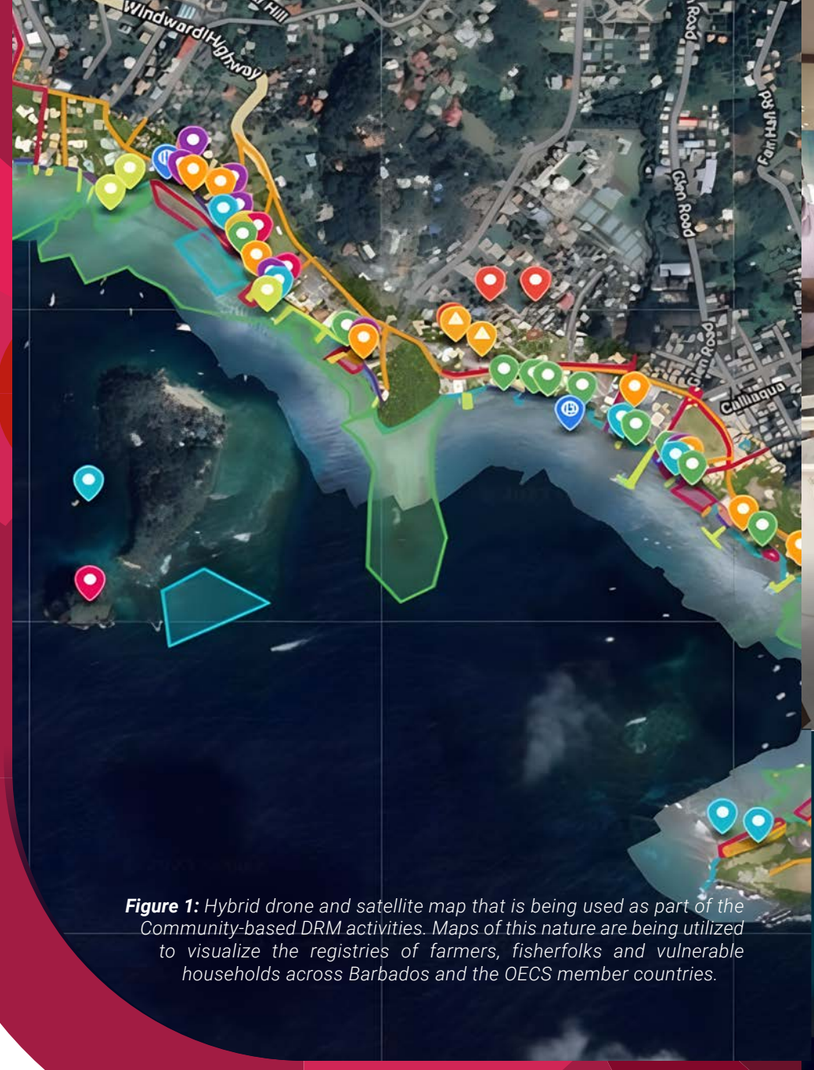


Figure 1: *Hybrid drone and satellite map that is being used as part of the Community-based DRM activities. Maps of this nature are being utilized to visualize the registries of farmers, fisherfolks and vulnerable households across Barbados and the OECS member countries.*



Figure 2: *Participants during a field visit to a greenhouse facility in Nevis, learning about protected plant production practices.'n.*



Figure 3: *Overlay of pre-disaster drone base-maps and all representative vulnerable areas in Saintt Vincent and the Grenadines across the 3 main hazard groups.*

FAO's innovative combination of drones, satellite imagery, and sensors is driving transformation in Caribbean agriculture, ensuring optimized food production and enhanced food security, with compelling visual evidence of its commitment to supporting Caribbean farmers and safeguarding their livelihoods.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMS

IOM UN MIGRATION · UNAIDS · International Labour Organization · UNDP · UNFPA · World Food Programme · PAHO · unicef · unesco · UN WOMEN



Strategic Priority 2

Equality, Well-being and Leaving No One Behind

$84.81M
2024 EXPENDITURE

The well-being of Caribbean people, particularly those most vulnerable and at risk of being left behind, was high on the UN agenda. Collaborative efforts, aligned with national priorities, sought to strengthen education and health systems, shape new policies and advance shock and gender-responsive social protection.

92,645
PERSONS ACCESSED
and used MHPSS resources or referral information across 12 countries.

13,000
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
positively impacted by shift towards more rights-based, child-sensitive social protection policy frameworks

80
VOLUNTEERS
built capacity in emergency social protection post-Beryl

1
POPULATION SITUATION ANALYSIS AND POLICY
developed for Montserrat, linked demographic resilience to economic growth

1
NATIONAL INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE POLICY FRAMEWORK
created in St. Kitts and Nevis

KEY RELATED SDGS



Building Educational Resilience through Partnerships

Forging strategic partnerships with Governments and regional bodies, the UN helped to advance education across the Caribbean, supporting **over 125,000 students through digital inclusion and enhanced data use.** The UNICEF-ITU GIGA Project expanded online access and government capacity, **migrating 9,000 digital resources** to Ministry of Education platforms in Barbados, Dominica, and Grenada. Collaboration with the OECS **strengthened regional statisticians' data skills** for evidence-based policymaking and ,through ongoing advocacy ,following the Transforming Education Summit, Anguilla, BVI, and Montserrat committed to educational transformation.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiatives across the region benefited over 13,375 children (0-8 years) laying the foundation for their future well-being. Grenada, through a partnership between the UN, Government and Caribbean Center for Child Neurodevelopment, developed an integrated ECD strategy, while in Barbados, 6,000 children enjoyed enhanced learning environments, and 350 stakeholders were engaged via a symposium held in collaboration with the National Child Care Board.

Public Finance for Children (PF4C) advocacy led to the training of 20+ government stakeholders, influencing budgets in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda, and boosting ECD funding in Dominica. Positive parenting programmes also improved across Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Grenada due to increased parental involvement in their design.

Protecting Children

UN child protection initiatives leveraged digital tools like the MyChild Helpline App allowing over 5,000 children and families across 12 countries to easily report and seek help for protection issues. A five-country roadmap addressed Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, informed by a 5,000-participant survey to guide regional prevention strategies. Co-designed positive parenting programs expanded in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Grenada, reaching over 441,000 persons, with 1,380 caregivers trained. Barbados moved to institutionalise child protection training for ministry staff, while Grenada trained 40+ officials in shock-responsive social protection. Diverse efforts also empowered children, caregivers, and frontline workers around safety and abuse prevention.

Advancing Multi-dimensional Social Protection

The UN partnered with Caribbean governments and civil society to strengthen social protection systems, focusing on disaster readiness for vulnerable groups. Saint Lucia developed an Anticipatory Action Framework integrating social protection with disaster risk management. Following Hurricane Beryl, the UN supported emergency social protection training and cash assistance in Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique and the southern Grenadines islands respectively. Efforts included exploring digital payments and digitalised assistance programs in Barbados, Dominica and the BVI. Integrated Management Information Systems launched in Anguilla, BVI, and St. Kitts and Nevis improved service delivery. Additionally, St. Kitts and Nevis enhanced its LIFT Programme, combining financial aid with services to tackle multi-dimensional poverty.



Promoting Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) through Partnerships

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in the Caribbean received a significant boost through strategic partnerships, innovative approaches and expansion of community services. The UN/USAID/ UWI/'Let's Unpack It' partnership, which launched youngcaribbeanminds.com, the region's first online youth mental health hub, resulted in over 92,000 users across 12 countries having access to vital resources. Capacity building for emergency response was also prioritised, with over 60 volunteers and 2,600 first responders trained in MHPSS and psychological first aid. An inter-agency MHPSS Emergency Response Consortium was also established to enhance coordinated mental health support during crises.

Further capacity building included the British Red Cross training of 16 MHPSS Master Trainers across four UK Overseas Territories(WHERE???). In Barbados, PAHO provided School Mental Health Literacy training to over 173 persons, launched the Lifeline Barbados hotline, and provided technical expertise for a multi-sectoral review and update of the national mental health framework encompassing strategies, policies, legislation, and services.

Strengthening Health Systems, Disease Elimination and NCD Prevention and Care

Working in close collaboration with Caribbean governments and regional mechanisms, the UN strengthened health systems, aiming to eliminate diseases and enhance preparedness for health threats. A PAHO/WHO south-south cooperation project targets the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis, alongside leprosy, schistosomiasis, and cervical cancer, bolstering local health services. Addressing high Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) death rates (over 75%), PAHO/WHO is improving healthcare quality, human resources, and access to essential medicines and technologies region-wide. Furthermore, to counter emerging threats, PAHO/ WHO and FAO secured Pandemic Fund support (via the World Bank) for a project strengthening regional capacity against zoonotic diseases using a One Health approach. Due to launch in 2025, it will enhance surveillance, laboratory systems, and workforce capacity in Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.





Addressing Immediate and long-term Health needs in the wake of Hurricane Beryl

Following Hurricane Beryl, PAHO/WHO led the UN's coordinated health response in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, addressing immediate and long-term needs, despite major infrastructural damage. Collaborating with health ministries, UN agencies, and NGOs, they rapidly restored critical health services, including four key facilities in Carriacou, Union Island, Mayreau, and Canouan, reducing risks.

The response prioritized local collaboration, using local contractors to support economic recovery and build sustainable resilience.

HIV/AIDS

To improve healthcare for key populations, the UN supported a Global Fund proposal for six Caribbean nations (Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines). Building on HIV/AIDS initiatives, the proposal aims to provide integrated, supportive healthcare under Universal Health Coverage.

Key goals include combining HIV/STI services, managing Tuberculosis (TB) co-infection and NCDs, addressing human rights and gender barriers, and strengthening community support systems for a seamless care experience. Recommendations also emphasized sensitivity training for healthcare workers, particularly focusing on care for women living with HIV.



Gender Equality, Violence Against Women and Sexual and Reproductive Health

Through the Build Back Equal Joint Programme, UNFPA and UN Women assisted Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in bolstering legislative and policy frameworks for GBV prevention, gender equality, and adolescent SRHR. UNFPA improved SRH commodity security and access to long-acting contraceptives via capacity building, thus strengthening health systems, providing more choices for women, and improving regional outcomes. UN Women advanced violence prevention by helping to finalize updates to the Partnership for Peace court-based accountability program for firs time batterers, with further training set for 2025. As part of ongoing GBV advocacy during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV observance, the UN supported the EU-led Red Shoes Project launch in Barbados, involving private sector and development partners.

Population Support

Through the Population Data and Policy Solutions Joint Programme (UNFPA and UN Women), policy makers in Barbados and Montserrat were empowered for evidenced-based policies, benefitting vulnerable populations, through improved access to real-time demographic data and targeted training in National Transfer Accounts and Population Mainstreaming. The Government of Barbados was empowered to address demographic challenges (low fertility, ageing, migration) through knowledge exchange at the Caribbean Forum on Population & Development, and counterparts in Montserrat supported in development of gender-responsive Population Policy. In Grenada, the UN also supported improvements in population policy and adolescent healthcare. Regionally, advancements were made in digitising GBV referral pathways, promoting rights-based family planning, building healthcare capacity, and supporting comprehensive sexuality education for youth. The successful initiative concluded in November, demonstrating wide-ranging positive impact.



Placing the Spotlight on Unpaid Care Work

Under UN Women's leadership, Caribbean governments improved their ability to measure and value unpaid domestic and care work to inform policy. Through the Population Data and Policy Solutions Joint Programme (UNFPA and UN Women), Montserrat added this measurement to its National Census, while Barbados published national data for the first time, with commitments to launch a new Statistics and Data Analytics Authority by 2025.

Informed by prior Gender Awareness Beneficiary Assessments of Public Assistance Programmes conducted in four countries (Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), a pilot Public Assistance Programme integrating childcare, education, job skills, and health services was designedand scheduled to be launched in 2025. It is expected to initially benefit 100 mothers currently receiving public assistance, who have young children.



Bridging the Digital Divide

Measures to bridge the digital divide in the region saw a UNESCO-led initiative in Grenada equipping TVET educators and youth with digital and entrepreneurial skills to boost productivity. Under the "Grenadian Youth Empowered for the Digital World of Work" project, over 200 youth were trained in digital marketing and cybersecurity.

This component, part of the broader Joint SDG Fund Programme: Resilient Caribbean: Engaging and Training Youth, Strengthening Integrated SP Sector Delivery (Anguilla, BVI, St. Kitts and Nevis), also trained educators in digital teaching methods, online learning, integrating sustainability into curricula, and mentoring young entrepreneurs to leverage digital tools or social media for business.

Laying the Groundwork for AI Governance

To pioneer AI governance in the Caribbean, UNESCO partnered with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to implement its Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), evaluating preparedness for ethical and responsible AI adoption, aligned with human rights. Over 100 diverse stakeholders participated in 12 national consultations (government/civil society/ private sector), ensuring ethical AI design and deployment.

A validation workshop with the UWI Five Islands Campus assessed the national AI ecosystem. Antigua and Barbuda is building institutional capacity and policies to govern AI effectively, setting a regional precedent for its responsible integration.

"This is an opportunity to reflect on the future of the country's digital transformation journey recognizing the increased use of AI."

Hon. Melford Nicholas,
Minister of Information, Communication Technologies, Utilities and Energy, Antigua and Barbuda

"A lot of really good civilizations are not remembered simply for the fact that their culture has not been documented."

Hon. Samal Duggins,
Minister for Sports and the Creative Economy, St. Kitts and Nevis.

Safeguarding Cultural Heritage and Boosting Cultural Industries

The UN is supporting Eastern Caribbean nations in protecting their diverse cultural heritage. In St. Kitts and Nevis, UNESCO is helping to develop a National Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Policy Framework, involving over 100 stakeholders to safeguard traditions and promote cultural tourism.

Barbados benefits from two projects: one digitizes and conserves vital slavery records, crucial after an archive fire, to preserve history, inform policy, and benefit tourism and education; the second focuses on developing an inclusive national cultural policy and mapping cultural industries.





POLICY FRAMEWORK ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy** developed with OECS Commission.
- **Social Protection Policy** approved, and **Social Protection Bill** drafted for the BVI.
- **Gender-responsive Population Policy** developed for Montserrat.
- **Draft Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy** for Montserrat, is awaiting Cabinet submission.
- **Population Situation Analysis and National Population Policy** is currently under public review in Montserrat.
- **National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System Study and Action Plan** is poised for review by the Cabinet of Montserrat.

Success Story

Recognising and Rewarding Care Work as a Driver for Social and Economic growth

The UN is tackling the gender gap in unpaid care work by making it visible and valued – measuring its time and financial costs - while working to dispel the notion of it being solely a female burden.

Through the UN Joint SDG Fund Project 'Integrated Population Data and Policy Solutions to Accelerate SDGs Achievement in Barbados and Montserrat' (UNFPA, UN Women), UN Women's work closed data gaps on the time, financial costs, and employment opportunities lost to unpaid care work, including raising children, physically caring for aging parents and for household members with disabilities.

To further this work, a high-level policy dialogue on 'Gender Equality and the Care Economy ' was convened in Barbados, bringing together diverse stakeholders to tackle this key issue. Former Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment in Barbados, Senator Chad Blackman, said the dialogue was critical since it contributed to the needed intervention of all stakeholders to address this issue comprehensively.

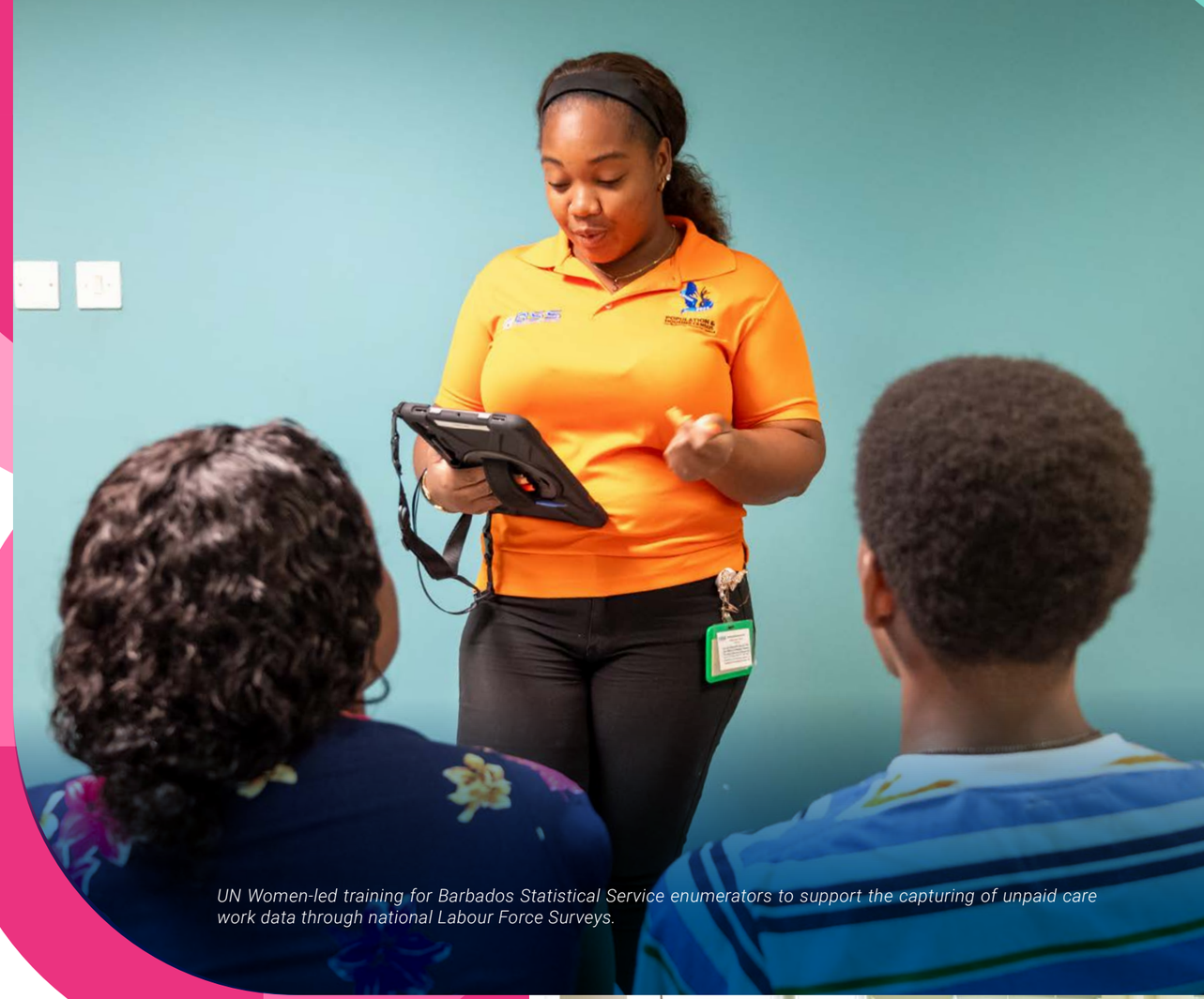
"…We have to ensure everyone who is in that sector is appreciated, valued, and has the necessary resources to be able to take it forward, and therefore we must address every wrong frontally to ensure there is no discrimination".

UN Women also facilitated the training of Barbados Statistical Services enumerators to capture unpaid care work data through national Labour Force Surveys and provided tablets for field work.

With Barbadian women spending nearly 2.5 times more time on childcare than men, and close to three times more time performing domestic work, childcare ,and adult care combined, capturing this country-specific data will help Government to determine the contribution unpaid domestic care work makes to the economy.

It will also help to inform policies to improve access to vital services needed to foster gender equitable distribution of care work both within the home and society.

To this end, UN Women Acting Representative, Isiuwa Iyahen, led efforts to produce research products and a featured video, generating evidence on paid and unpaid care work, that went beyond the anecdotes, to present the lived realities of parents, caregivers, people living with disabilities, retirees, youth and members of the faith-based community.



UN Women-led training for Barbados Statistical Service enumerators to support the capturing of unpaid care work data through national Labour Force Surveys.

Former UN Women Representative ,Tonni Brodber ,concluded: "While we recognise care work as important, it is often invisible, and we are relying on that invisible engine to get our countries through. Barbados is showing how we can begin to make this work visible and valued."



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMS

IOM UN MIGRATION · ITU · UNIDO · OCHA · PAHO · unicef · UN WOMEN · UNDRR · FAO · UN environment programme · unesco · UNOPS · WFP World Food Programme

OUTCOMES 5 & 6



Strategic Priority 3

Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

$22.31M
2024 EXPENDITURE

Through strategic partnerships with involving the UN, governments, regional bodies, and NGOs, Caribbean nations enhanced their resilience to climate shocks and strengthened disaster management. Key initiatives focused on reinforcing sustainable natural resource management, building capacity within climate-vulnerable agriculture and fisheries sectors, and advancing climate education and advocacy to empower communities toward a more climate-resilient future.

$1.5M
INVESTED TO HELP 30K PEOPLE
prepare for and recover from Hurricane Beryl

4,524
PERSONS IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES
received essential WASH supplies/ hygiene kits and collapsible water containers post Hurricane Beryl

800+
SAINT LUCIAN YOUTH
engaged in development and implementation of Saint Lucia's National Determined Contribution (NDC)

300+
YOUTH
increased climate literacy skills through the Climate FunDoo platform

300+
BARBADIAN EDUCATORS
trained in Disaster Risk management , impacting over 5,000 students and 3,950 parents

KEY RELATED SDGS





Disaster Preparedness and Response

Collaborative initiatives significantly enhanced disaster preparedness and response capabilities across several Caribbean nations. To ensure vital communication availability during all phases of disaster risk management, the ITU conducted national consultations to develop National Emergency Telecommunications Plans (NETPs) for St. Kitts & Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Complementing this, the ITU, alongside other Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) partner agencies, also provided tailored support including gap analyses and implementation plans for Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados, with Barbados also implementing a Disaster Risk Information Management System (DRIMS) for improved impact tracking. Simultaneously, sustainable supply chain management was strengthened through a UN-CDEMA Regional Logistics Hub in Barbados, which proved crucial during the Hurricane Beryl response by reducing response times and costs.

A Supply Chain Maturity Model helped to guide states in enhancing logistics, while WFP established a Supply Chain Control Tower and national staging hub in Barbados, streamlining humanitarian aid coordination and dispatching essential relief and transportation services for over 64 partners (governments, UN, NGOs) during the Beryl response. These integrated efforts bolster both communication infrastructure and logistical efficiency for more effective regional disaster management.



Gender & Youth-sensitive Disaster Response

Significant steps were taken to foster integrated, gender-responsive at the national and regional levels to ensure that no one was left behind. UN partnership with CDEMA resulted in the launch of the Caribbean Regional Recovery Facility (CRRF), regional partnership mechanism designed to strengthen recovery and resilience planning. The EnGenDER programme, supported critical civil works to outfit a hurricane shelter in Dominica and delivered 20 disaster packages to Antigua and Barbuda's National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), specifically for vulnerable women, girls, and persons with disabilities. Post-Hurricane Beryl, UN-led efforts also ensured integration of gender equality, social inclusion, and GBV considerations into national disaster assessments, contributing to more inclusive and equitable recovery processes. To further support inclusive recovery, an online Child Protection in Emergency Course was also developed with CDEMA.





Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution

Sustainable progress in soil, land, and ecosystem management was achieved across several Caribbean nations (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and Saint Lucia) through UN partnerships with national and regional bodies. Key regional advancements included establishing the Caribbean Soil Support Group and a Sustainable Land & Soil Management Framework, endorsed by Environment Ministers. Country-specific UN support yielded tangible results: Dominica saw improvements to its 'DOMINODE' data system, received a land management framework, and undertook watershed restoration.

Saint Lucia finalized erosion, forest, and marine replenishment guidelines, rehabilitating 620 hectares of degraded land and coastal areas, while exploring sustainable financing through activities like eco-tourism in Laborie Bay and community-led mangrove rehabilitation. Draft management guidelines for marine replenishment zones are currently under review by Constituency Councils and Fishermen's Co-operatives. In Grenada and Carriacou, the UN Climate Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management (CRA) project upgraded facilities and trained 300 beneficiaries in sustainable practices.

Demonstrating a comprehensive approach, the UN also provided technical assistance for region-wide child-responsive climate policies, completed Antigua and Barbuda's Shekerley Mountain Management Area (SMMA) Plan and a Payment for Ecosystem Services framework, and supported three nations (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis) in submitting National Invasive Species Strategies, bolstering biodiversity protection.



Youth Empowered for Climate Action

In alignment with the Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action, UNICEF mobilized and trained Caribbean youth and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for climate action. Youth engagement in climate policy was facilitated in Grenada via U-Report and in Saint Lucia over 800 youth were engaged in the development of Saint Lucia's NDC. Thanks to a 6-month Youth in Climate Change Project, students accessed 11 internships, participated in 3 international conferences, and committed to a National Energy Efficiency Pledge.

Youth leaders were also trained as in-school advocates in Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis, alongside practical capacity building in policy and eco-system management through practical UN internships. A regional forum in Suriname fostered collaboration among 21 youth and CSO representatives from nine countries. Eastern Caribbean CSOs conducted research on gendered climate impacts and migration, while IOM supported youth leadership in migration discussions and COP 29. To enhance practical application, St. Kitts and Nevis developed a sub-national Climate Risk Model with 13 trained users (government officials and youth), and strategic frameworks including a child-centered project pipeline (with OECS), and aYouth Engagement Strategy in Antigua and Barbuda, were established to further integrate youth voices and action in climate solutions.

Boosting Disaster Response through Insurance - linked Social Protection

The WFP expanded its model of linking sovereign parametric insurance under the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) to national social protection systems. Through this approach, WFP supported the delivery of up to USD $5.6 million in cash transfers in Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines following Hurricane Beryl. These transfers helped address immediate basic needs and contributed to early recovery.

WFP also supported the Government of Saint Lucia in launching an anticipatory action mechanism for hurricanes. This marked the first time such a government-led mechanism was operationalized in the Eastern Caribbean and one of the first globally.

POLICY FRAMEWORK ACHIEVEMENTS

- **National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plans (NISSAPS)** finalized for Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and St. Kitts and Nevis to support biodiversity & ecosystem protection
- **Social Inclusion & Social Protection Strategy** developed with OECS Commission
- **Social Protection Policy** approved and related Bill drafted by BVI
- **Probation of Offenders Act** passed in Grenada
- **Child Justice Bill** enacted by Grenada for child-friendly, restorative juvenile justice approaches.
- **Child-friendly Violence Prevention Policies** operationalised by the Barbados Tourism Sector

Promoting Climate Resilience for Food Security

To enhance food security and build climate-resilient food systems, the UN collaborated with agricultural and fisheries stakeholders across the region.

The Smart Seas Toolkit for Disaster Resilience Project in Barbados, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, a partnership between the ITU, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and other partners, is working to increase resilience and ultimately preserve the lives of small-scale fishers via Smarts Seas Toolkit and finalization of an Agenda for Accessible Communications at Sea. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, UN-led training equipped 933 individuals, mainly women, with disaster mitigation skills for resilient livelihoods. The establishment of Drone/GIS mapping teams in Barbados and Dominica provided farmers with data for informed decision-making.

Additionally, the UN supported Saint Lucia in developing three Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals focused on national climate adaptation planning and sustainable fisheries, currently under GCF review.

Promoting Human Security and Human Mobility Approach to Disaster Management

Recognising the importance of human security to effective disaster management , IOM engaged with CDEMA to ensure inclusion of human mobility considerations into the regional agency's Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and country work programmes, defining priority areas for 2025 including sensitization on the Global Compact for Migration. A Migration Governance Indicator (MGI) was completed for Barbados and commenced for St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda. A significant achievement was the IOM-led UN Joint Human Security Programme's success in elevating the human security approach, culminating in the OECS Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change. This declaration signifies regional commitment and unlocks crucial resources for managing human mobility during disasters. The Joint Programme also successfully raised awareness among youth populations regarding human security and proactive disaster preparedness. Progress was also made in the Caribbean Safe School Initiative (CSSI) across several participating states, with Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines approving the CSSI policy. A monitoring tool was developed, alongside a cross-cutting proposal to ensure its sustainability.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

3,500 students from 47 schools in Dominica increased their environmental awareness

90 farmers, extension officers & forestry officers from across the region received anti-erosion training

70+ healthcare workers, first responders, and other health, security and disaster management personnel in Dominica, trained in Mass Casualty Management, Emergency Care and Treatment and Incident Command Systems.

Teachers from 19 of 25 secondary schools in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines trained to integrate climate change into their curricula.

15 government and civil society stakeholders from Grenada trained to develop child-sensitive policies and including social protection in NDCs.

8 national youth leaders from Saint Lucia visited 26 schools to engage and sensitize adolescents about climate change, following training.

Zero Waste School Initiative launched in Dominica through corporate support.

1 e-learning course launched in Barbados to equip decision-makers to support climate adaptation in agriculture.

1 comprehensive eLearning course in Emergency Logistics for Disaster Management launched for regional disaster management professionals .

Success Story

Swift Relief: How Prepositioned Emergency Stocks Transformed UN Hurricane Response

Glenroy Lavia, a mother of six, was seven months pregnant when Hurricane Beryl devastated her home on Canouan Island in the idyllic Grenadines, leaving in its wake widespread destruction and displacement, loss of critical infrastructure, and severely impacting lives and livelihoods.

"Everything was gone, washed away. We didn't recover anything," Glenroy said, vividly recalling the nightmare wrought by the Category 4 hurricane.

Just days following the disaster, the UN-CDEMA-supported Caribbean Logistics Hub in Barbados proved its value. Thanks to the Hub's pre-positioned emergency relief items, including tents, solar lamps and tarpaulins provided by IOM, and logistics support provided by WFP, displaced individuals across the affected islands of Grenada, Carriacou, Petit Martinique and Saint Vincent and the Grenadine islands, particularly Union Island, Canouan, Mustique and Bequia, received immediate relief and a sense of security, crucial for initiating their recovery.

For Glenroy 's family, the modular tent provided by the UN offered a semblance of privacy in their temporary home - a shelter that housed over 50 individuals. In total, over 200 tents were evenly distributed across the affected islands of Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, provided much-needed privacy in crowded temporary shelters.

The Logistics Hub is a direct result of lessons learned from the devastating 2017 hurricane season when two hurricanes decimated several Caribbean countries within one week. That year, the lack of a regional hub, combined with high demand and disrupted supply chains, due to rough seas and damaged airports, hindered timely aid. The Hub now stands as a positive legacy, ensuring a faster, more effective response to future crises across the region.

This successful collaboration also underscores the power of preparedness and partnership in disaster management. By having emergency relief stocks readily available in Barbados, the Caribbean is better positioned to respond to future crises, ensuring that help reaches those in need without delay.

Read more about IOM's support to displaced persons in the wake of Hurricane Beryl.



Family in SVG Shelter using Indoor Tent (IOM 2024 Gema Cortes)

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMS

OUTCOMES 7 & 8



Strategic Priority 4

Peace , Safety, Justice and Rule of Law

$2.90M
2024 EXPENDITURE

In 2024, the UN supported strategic efforts to enhance justice, peace, security, and human rights across the region by strengthening legal frameworks, policies, and institutions, facilitating greater access to justice. Partnering with national and regional crime prevention agencies, the UN delivered targeted capacity building in data analysis and facilitated digital transformation within the judicial sector. These collaborative efforts, amplified by high-level advocacy with regional partners, aimed to reduce crime and advance criminal justice reform, fostering safer and more just societies.

210

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STAKEHOLDERS

across 6 countries trained in criminal mediation, restorative justice, and children in conflict with the law

60+

MEDIA PROFESSIONALS IN CARIBBEAN

capacitated to improve reporting on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Youth Crime.

65

POLICY MAKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS EQUIPPED

to use data for decision making and design of justice initiatives in Barbados, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

63

OFFICIALS IN GRENADA EQUIPPED

to tackle Fusarium outbreaks through TR4 preparedness training thus safeguarding the region's banana and plantain industries

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORMALIZED

with the American Bar Association , Caribbean Media Institute, Caribbean Broadcasting Union and University of Pennsylvania strengthened regional crime prevention strategies

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTED

in fulfilling national obligations under various human rights obligations.

KEY RELATED SDGS

Governance, Crime Data, Crime Response and Coordination

Through strategic partnerships and capacity building initiatives, the UN Team supported improved governance and crime response across the Eastern Caribbean. UNDP's CariSECURE Project 2.0 partnered with regional and US entities to bolster crime observatories and assess training needs in Barbados, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Media reporting on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and youth crime improved through journalist training and the establishment of Regional Media Awards for TIP reporting in collaboration with the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU).

ICT-led assessments informed crime data systems in four countries, supported by a Regional Crime Observatory Forum promoting region-wide data-driven crime prevention collaboration. Partnerships with the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) and the Regional Security System (RSS) advanced data-driven youth crime prevention, while collaborations with high-level regional judicial bodies strengthened justice processes. Additionally, the Caribbean Association for Probation and Parole fostered culturally relevant probation practices, and a new regional collective was formed to promote criminal diversion and rehabilitation.

Strengthening Airport Security to Combat Transnational Crime

The UNODC-led AIRCOP project, in partnership with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO), strengthens global airport security to combat transnational organized crime, targeting high-risk passengers, cargo, and mail. In Barbados, the EU-supported AIRCOP Task Force at Grantley Adams International Airport played a crucial role in border control during 2024.

With a focused $45,000 expenditure and collaboration with the Joint Regional Communication Centre, the task force successfully intercepted drugs and apprehended wanted individuals, demonstrating AIRCOP's effectiveness in combating transnational crime at a national level.







Police Modernization, Anti-Corruption, Maritime and Firearms-related Crime

In 2024, UNODC enhanced citizen security and justice sector capacity across the Eastern Caribbean. In response to Saint Lucia's request for improved citizen safety, UNODC coordinated with development partners and, following a strategic plan presentation by the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, provided technical expertise in crime prevention and criminal justice. A collaborative workshop in August 2024 helped identify specific needs and laid the groundwork for new programming in police modernization. This initiative will be rolled out in partnership with CARICOM IMPACS across the region between 2025 and 2027, supported by the Government of Canada through the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme (ACCBP) with a contribution of CAD 3,000,000.

In Barbados, UNODC partnered with the Government on the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Through the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), training was provided to Barbados Coast Guard officers (CAD 26,694.14). GMCP further supported Barbados Defence Force personnel with skills in tactical boarding and intelligence gathering, boosting readiness for maritime threats such as smuggling and piracy. The programme also promotes South-South cooperation, information sharing, a common operational picture in the Caribbean, and Unmanned Systems training focused on drone operations. This work is conducted in close collaboration with the Regional Security System (RSS).

Similarly, the Global Firearms Programme (GFP) conducted training on the detection of firearms trafficking and donated drones for aerial surveillance to the Government of Saint Lucia, strengthening national capacity to combat firearms-related crime (CAD 17,770).



Justice, Peace and Human Rights

The UN Team collaboratively enhanced citizen access to justice, peace, social cohesion, and human rights across the Caribbean. Through the UNDP PACE Project, high-level engagement with key stakeholders in the Eastern Caribbean criminal justice sector was significantly strengthened, and governance improved with the establishment of PACE Justice Working Committees in 8 participating countries.

Promotion of alternative justice mechanisms like mediation and restorative justice, aims to reduce court backlogs and improve outcomes, especially for child offenders. To support these efforts UN Women convened a Regional Academy on Women, Peace, and Security, including officials from the Barbados Defence Force (military). Led by the Human Rights Advisor and supported by RCO/OHCHR, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and St. Kitts and Nevis were assisted in meeting human rights obligations, including through the development of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Implementation Plans and National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs).

Significant support was also directed toward national and regional advocacy for rights of Persons with Disabilities, People of African descent and the LGBTI+ population, demonstrating a broad commitment to human rights and inclusion..

Developing a Regional Approach to Migration Policy

IOM, as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, led UN efforts to support CARICOM in the development of a draft CARICOM Migration Policy Framework. Through a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and whole-of-UN approach, IOM supported over 50 consultations and a consultation of all CARICOM Member States and stakeholder advisory group. Progress on the draft will continue in 2025. The steering committee includes CARICOM, IMPACS, the OECS Commission, IOM and ILO.





Enhancing Border Management and Bolstering Border Security

To strengthen Dominica's border security, IOM Dominica facilitated the nation's first Document Examination and Forgery Detection training. This initiative-built capacity to combat document fraud and human trafficking, covering forgery techniques and in-depth document analysis. Part of IOM's broader efforts to counter transnational crime, this training, designed for trainers, also equipped Dominica's immigration and law enforcement officers, and representatives of the Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authorities (DASPA).

To combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling across the region, IOM, UNODC, and CARICOM IMPACS enhanced coordination through a Joint Workplan on Border Management and Counter Smuggling of Migrants for Barbados and the OECS. Officials were sensitised on the Model Act on the Prevention and Countering of Smuggling of Migrants and complementary Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for frontline officers.

POLICY FRAMEWORK ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Migration Governance Indicator completed for Barbados**
- **Draft CARICOM Migration Policy Framework completed**
- **New Child Protection and Child Justice Acts enacted in Barbados based on international best practice.**

Success Story - UNESCO

(Antigua and Barbuda & Saint Lucia)

Empowering Youth To Be Peacebuilders In Their Communities

UNESCO's Youth for Peace program is helping to create a safer and more harmonious Caribbean society, one student at a time.

In 2024, over 65 students from the Jennings Secondary and Ottos Comprehensive Secondary schools in Antigua and Barbuda, and the Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School in Saint Lucia, benefitted from training initiatives, aimed at enhancing their conflict resolution skills and promoting peace.

In Antigua and Barbuda, a transformative session held at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus in September, sought to empower Antiguan students as agents of peace through developing life skills in conflict resolution, mediation, critical thinking, empathy, and problem-solving. Ministry of Education spokesperson, Andrea Airall told participants: "We are seeing the consistent increase of violence in Antigua, which we need to urgently address. This training will give you skills for conflict resolution and preventing the escalation of violence in our country."

Armed with ideas including creating a Peace Club, students committed to sharing their newfound knowledge with peers within their respective communities and at school assemblies. In parallel, a "Building A Peaceful Community Project" launched by the Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School in Saint Lucia, aimed to cultivate a culture of peace, enhance conflict resolution skills, and promote emotional well-being. Led by School Counsellor, Mrs. Gillian Khodra, the initiative integrates peace education into daily school life.

A key project highlight was a vibrant Peace Assembly and Walk held in November which saw approximately 941 students, 97 teaching staff, 6 ancillary staff and community members joining forces in the powerful demonstration, walking side-by-side as a symbol of unity and shared purpose.

The Peace Walk through the streets of La Ressource, Vieux Fort, a community that has been severely impacted by the challenges of crime and violence, was a moving display of collective commitment to peace.



Students of the Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School participating in the Peace Walk in Saint Lucia.

Through these multifaceted efforts, the UN is nurturing the next generation of leaders and peacebuilders, to create lasting change that extends far beyond the school gates.

Progress on Leaving No One Behind

In 2024, the UN Development System prioritized inclusive initiatives, programs, and activities that benefited persons with disabilities, youth, women, and LGBTI+ populations, while also engaging and cooperating with international human rights mechanisms.

Cross-cutting Human Rights Support and Outreach

To promote equality and human rights, the UN supported the Global UN Free and Equal Campaign by hosting a dialogue with the LGBTI+ community and journalists from the region to encourage equitable media representation. Additionally, the UN Team co-organized various rights-based meetings with CSOs, including events at SIDS4. Other initiatives included youth leader meetings, observance of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), a webinar on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for Caribbean CSOs with Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL), and continuous engagement with Persons with Disabilities (PwD) including at the Caribbean Disability Conference, with sponsorship support provided to facilitate participation of delegates of the Office of Persons with Disabilities (OPD).The UN also systematically disseminated human rights information across the Caribbean region.

Supporting Crime Reduction

In May 2024, the UN Human Rights Advisor and DPPA/UNDP Score Project staff conducted a mission to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that sought to analyze root causes of crime and violence, human rights issues, and social cohesion through consultations with diverse stakeholders. The mission's findings, along with insights from a prior one to Saint Lucia, informed the RCO's development of a concept note for a Joint Programme on citizen security and rule of law .

Engagement with UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (UNPFPAD)

Through collaboration between the UN Sub-Regional Team (UNST) and the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (UNPFPAD), the UN supported the first UNPFPAD Consultation for the Caribbean held in Barbados. This partnership also amplified the voices of nearly 200 people of African descent from the Caribbean, through a hybrid webinar on "Recognition, Justice, and Development," to observe International Day for People of African Descent, and a regional Civil Society Dialogue commemorating Human Rights Day that engaged over 100 participants from 15 countries.

Cooperation on international human rights mechanisms

To bolster human rights implementation and reporting in the Caribbean, the UN delivered targeted training to government officials and CSOs in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. The UN actively supported governments in engaging with key human rights bodies: CEDAW for Saint Lucia and Dominica, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Human Rights Council for Dominica and Grenada's UPR, and the Human Rights Committee for Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda. Furthermore, UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area staff received capacity building on the CRC review process, and the UN welcomed the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Technical Mission to Barbados.





Youth

"We are losing our young boys and there needs to be more interventions to ensure that they take their proper place…and not at the jail where many of them are heading today."

Paul Hilaire, Permanent Secretary,
Department of Economic Development, Saint Lucia

Under the RCO's leadership, over 7,500 Caribbean youth were engaged in national and sub- regional initiatives to increase SDG awareness and advance the global agenda, aligning with national development plans. Youth engagement is crucial as the region faces rising homicide rates, gun violence, and social marginalization, particularly among young males, often linked to 'real or perceived' citizen insecurity, and emphasizing the need to ensure males are not left behind in development efforts.

5000+ youth reached via SDG advocacy during Dominica's Creole Village

1,145 youth contributed to citizen security and peace advocacy during Saint Lucia's Peace Walk.

600+ school children reached through targeted SDG outreach across the sub-region

575+ youth across the Sub-region, enhanced their knowledge and awareness of the SDGs

85+ youth participated in inaugural UN Youth Summit in Nevis

95+ youth contributed to Sub-regional Disability Youth Inclusion initiatives





Advancing Child Rights

Leveraging the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and World Children's Day, UNICEF intensified efforts to advance children's rights in the Caribbean. Through collaborative interventions, the UN System built capacity, reignited dialogue, and secured commitments from regional leaders to address critical gaps.

A strong digital media strategy, prioritizing youth content creators and two-way communication, significantly amplified children's voices, resulting in substantial growth across social media platforms and reaching over 850,000 people through print and broadcast media.

The "Season of Children's Rights" facilitated direct engagement between children and policymakers, including 65 children who advocated through one-minute videos and 80 youth who engaged with the Barbados Cabinet.

Youth also lobbied policymakers at regional and international conferences, including 200 children (aged 6-17) at the Caribbean Child Research Conference. Strategic partnerships with the UWI and faith-based organizations further strengthened advocacy against violence towards children.

	INDICATORS	2023 RESULTS	2024 RESULTS	DI TRENDS
1	THE LEADERSHIP CHAMPIONS DI	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	
2	CCA IS DISABILITY INCLUSIVE	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	
3	DI MAINSTREAMED IN CF/UNDAF	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	
4	DI PROMOTED THRU UNCT MECHANISMS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	
5	UNST CONSULTS OPDS	EXCEEDS REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	↓
6	BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF UN PREMISES/ ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY	MISSING	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	↑
7	ACCESSIBILITY OF EXTERNAL VENUES/ PROCUREMENT	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	↑
8	JOINT PROGRAMMES	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	
9	DATA	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	MISSING	↓
10	M&E PROCESS ADDRESSES DI	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	
11	DI MAINSTREAMED IN HUMANITARIAN PLANNING & RESPONSE	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	↑
12	HUMAN RESOURCES ARE DISABILITY INCLUSIVE	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	
13	UNST INVESTS IN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ON DI	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	APPROACHES REQUIREMENTS	
14	COMMS & ADVOCACY	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	MEETS REQUIREMENTS	

MISSING DATA

BELOW AVERAGE PROGRESS

MEETS REQUIREMENTS & ABOVE



Advocacy for Disability Inclusion

The UN championed disability inclusion through several impactful initiatives, including participation in the Caribbean Disability Conference in Grenada, and sponsorship of attendance for a member of the disabled community.

In observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the RCO supported a 'March for Inclusion' in Grenda, mobilizing 80 students, including those from special education schools. Similarly, in Saint Lucia, the UN Team partnered in support of a recreational and educational day focused on marine conservation (SDG 14), benefitting 50 children and youth with disabilities.

In both countries, the UN joined with civil society activists, government officials, associations of persons with disabilities, and youth, including those with disabilities.

Progress on Disability Inclusion

The UN is demonstrably advancing disability inclusion in the Caribbean, achieving 64% of its targets and prioritizing advocacy and inclusive Human Resources policies. Key to this progress is improved accessibility, with over 12 UN agencies providing accessible accommodations and increasingly incorporating sign language and closed captioning at events.

The UNST successfully integrated disability inclusion into the Hurricane Beryl Response Plan and delivered related training to personnel. Championing participation, the UNST routinely collaborates with governments and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and a new Joint Programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is being launched to further accelerate regional disability inclusion.



Women

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The UN multi-Country Office assessed its progress on gender equality and women's empowerment using the APR tool against UNCT-SWAP minimum requirements. The assessment, across seven dimensions, highlighted strengths in Communication & Advocacy, Joint Programmes, and Leadership for Gender Equality.

However, it also identified Organizational Culture, GEWE Results, and the Gender Coordination Mechanism as areas needing further development to meet foundational criteria. The assessment serves to guide improvements and course correction.



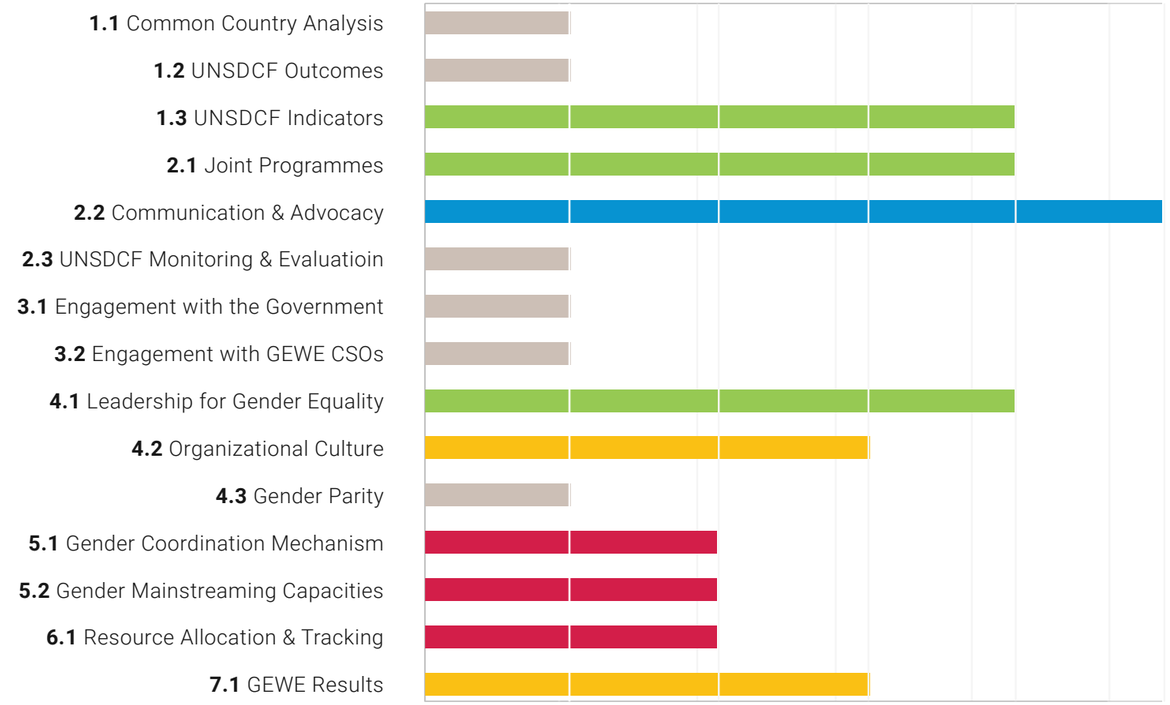


'We the Women' Fireside Chat and Inter-generational Dialogue

To support the Global We the Women Campaign, the RCO in Barbados hosted a vibrant Fireside Chat and Intergenerational Dialogue. This forum convened over 20 diverse women to discuss shared challenges and aspirations in a pivotal moment for Caribbean women's rights.

Discussions centered on the increasing fragility of these rights amidst regressive forces, inequality, and the climate crisis, as well as the challenges posed by the digital revolution, including social media and AI-driven crimes against women.

Participants explored solutions to amplify women's voices and expand their decision-making roles. A documentary showcasing insights from this Barbados dialogue was presented at the Summit of the Future at UNHQ.



Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

In 2024, the UNST advanced its commitment to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) through a joint workplan focused on coordination, capacity building, prevention, and victim support. During the Hurricane Beryl response, partnerships with gender and rights organizations enhanced GBV awareness and equipped frontline responders to effectively address and prevent GBV in humanitarian emergencies.

A Barbados workshop convened over 20 UN officers, including PSEA and emergency specialists, to examine PSEA's relevance to the Caribbean, especially in emergencies. Participants emphasized the crucial need for resources to support community-level PSEA engagement across the region.



Saluting our UN Volunteers

The UN Volunteer (UNV) Programme seeks to promote peace and development, with local as well as international volunteers, currently serving and supporting the work of UN Eastern Caribbean. Volunteers support Communications, Community Development and development programming including Humanitarian Assistance, Gender and Reproductive Rights, Food Security, Sustainable Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Data Management . In 2024, there were 40 volunteers serving in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, with 28 serving in Barbados (15 international volunteers and 13 nationals).

"Listening to youth as young as 13 put forward their innovative ideas on how they intend to strengthen their advocacy with data was a rare but welcomed reminder of the potential impact my work can have on improving the lives of the people we serve."



Mr. Ebenezer Fiifi Abassah–Konadu, a Ghanaian national, is a Data Management and Results Reporting Officer in the RCO in Barbados. Fiifi as he is affectionally called, supported regional Data Management Officers to strengthen the monitoring of the Caribbean-wide joint MSDCF.

-"Listening to youth as young as 13 put forward their innovative ideas on how they intend to strengthen their advocacy with data was a rare but welcomed reminder of the potential impact my work can have on improving the lives of the people we serve."



Ms. Grainne Ahern, an Irish UNV, serves as Programme Assistant for Gender Responsive Climate Change, Disaster Risk Resilience and Humanitarian Action for UN Women Multi-Country Office, Caribbean, based in Barbados.

She supports various programmatic initiatives, including the SDG Fund Joint Programme 'iRis' - 'Putting Youth and Women in the Center of Climate Resilience and Safety' in Speightstown, Barbados. Grainne was also part of the UN Response Team deployed to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines following Hurricane Beryl.

-"This work highlights the crucial role of UN Volunteers in advancing gender-responsive climate action and disaster resilience in the Caribbean."



Ms. Arita Phillip, UNESCO Associate Programme Specialist for Youth and Digital Transformation, spearheads digital transformation in Antigua and Barbuda, leading implementation of a joint government-UN Digitalization Strategy.

In 2024, Arita and the UNESCO Caribbean team collaborated with the Ministry of Education to deliver digital, media, and information literacy initiatives for youth and people with disabilities.

-"It is an honor to serve alongside my UNV and UNESCO colleagues on the journey to building peace in the minds of men and women in the digital age."



Ms. Sharyse Gift, is the Emergency Response Preparedness and Partnerships Officer with the RCO in Barbados. **Following the devastating multi-island impact of Hurricane Beryl in 2024, she worked alongside the RC, UNETT, OCHA, and CDEMA, to coordinate relief efforts in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, reaching over 80,000 affected individuals.**

Her people-centered approach and dedication underscore the invaluable contribution of UN Volunteers in humanitarian crises.

-"I believe that a life best lived is one dedicated to others—this is my true gift to the world."

2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Strategic partnerships are crucial to the UN's work in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. In 2024, the UN prioritized strengthening collaboration across agencies and with diverse stakeholders, including the private sector, to accelerate SDG progress.

These partnerships were leveraged to boost SDG financing, with significant contributions from key development partners, driving critical projects across the region.

> *"We are intensifying our efforts to support Saint Lucia in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and improving the quality of life for Saint Lucians. We believe in the power of collaboration, because no one organisation has the sole responsibility for achieving the SDGs…"*
>
> **Gezella Claxton,**
> **Senior Country Lead, Republic Bank**



Partnerships and Development Finance

Key Partnerships leveraged to increase financing for SDG achievements

In 2024, Global Affairs Canada provided a $7.4M grant to UN Women and UNFPA further fueling the two-year old 'Build Back Equal' programme's mission to advance economic and social equality for women and girls across Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Further demonstrating its commitment, Canada also channeled funds through UNDP (in partnership with WFP and UN Women) for the EnGenDER program, strengthening national climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. FAO also benefited from Canadian support, enabling enhancements to Caribbean agricultural value chains.

Financial partnerships played a crucial role in advancing UN initiatives. This year, the Government of Japan directed a $7.8M grant to UNDP. This funding empowered UNDP's 'Strengthening Sargassum Management Capacities' project, building crucial skills in four Eastern Caribbean nations for effective sargassum seaweed removal and disposal.

Further bolstering regional security, USAID contributed $10.9M to UNDP's CariSECURE 2.0 project. This investment strengthened evidence-based approaches to youth crime reduction in Barbados, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, while also enhancing capacity for investigations and prosecutions relating to Trafficking in Persons in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Saint Lucia. Sustained commitment from international partners fuelled critical UN programs.

UK FCDO made a significant investment in regional health, providing approximately $32.5M to PAHO. This support is instrumental in developing safer and more environmentally sustainable health facilities across the Eastern Caribbean.

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS & FOCUS AREAS

GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA:
Gender equality, climate change adaptation, agricultural development.

JAPAN:
Environmental and disaster resilience.

USAID:
Youth crime prevention, trafficking in persons.

EU:
Eliminating gender-based violence, reducing criminal case backlog

UKFCDO:
Health infrastructure.

Resource Mobilisation through Joint Programmes

Joint programmes remained a key driver for SDG acceleration. Building upon the momentum of two initiatives approved in 2023 and underway, the Joint SDG Fund further endorsed regional impact by approving two new projects in 2024. These collaborative endeavors hold substantial promise for transformative change across the Caribbean.

The 'iRis' – 'Putting Youth and Women in the center of Climate Resilience and Safety', implemented by UN Women and UNICEF in Barbados, is empowering vulnerable communities to build climate resilience with a $223k budget.

Looking ahead, the 'Green and Renewable Energy Transition for Youth and Education' project, a $492k collaboration between UNDP and UNICEF, is slated to launch in 2025 for Antigua, Barbados, Dominica and Saint Lucia. Furthermore, 2024 marked the launch of two programmes approved the prior year: the $1.6M 'Innovative Finance for Underserved Populations' programme, a partnership between UNDP, UN Women, and ITU, and Phase 2 of the $387k 'Human Security approach to Disaster Displacement' project, led by IOM and UNDRR. Collectively, these initiatives and others brought the total to seven active joint programmes driving SDG advancement throughout 2024.



South – South Partnerships advance the 2030 Agenda



In 2024, three South-South cooperation projects, supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, were active in the Eastern Caribbean. These demand-driven and transformative sustainable development projects, with a combined multi-year budget of $3.1M, targeted critical sectors: Health, Education and Vocational Training, and Agriculture, demonstrating a broad impact across the region.

Barbados

Procurement of medical equipment to support post-COVID-19 recovery - a refrigerated truck, designed to ensure that pharmaceuticals are transported in a temperature-sensitive environment, was the final deliverable of a $675,000 project conceptualized to help Barbados maintain an effective health system in the spirit of SDG 3.

The acquisition, resulting from the partnership between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and UNOPS, will immediately enhance pharmaceutical transport to 15 Barbados Drug Service pharmacies. For the long-term, it will enable a free medicine delivery service, a mobile pharmacy education program, medical services at events, and delivery of essential medicine during disasters.

Active Projects:

Saint Lucia

Upgrading vocational training for marginalized youth - to enhance vocational training for at-risk youth in Saint Lucia, a state-of-the-art hospitality and catering facility was inaugurated at the Centre for Adolescent Renewal and Education (CARE). This collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Education, Government, Department of Physical Planning, and ILO, provides training aligned with the tourism sector and local economic needs. The center will equip youth with in-demand skills, improving their job prospects.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Construction of an arrowroot processing factory - to enhance livelihoods for indigenous communities, particularly women, a $1.3M arrowroot processing factory is now complete. This achievement was a result of strong partnership between the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture and UNIDO.

In-country Development Assistance

Barbados

SDGs on the Road

In 2024, over 53,000 commuters, including regular and concessionary riders (students, pensioners, police officers, and persons with special needs), learned about the SDGs while travelling on Barbados' and the region's first Electric SDG-branded bus. The joint initiative by the UN, Private Secor (CG United Insurance) and the Government of Barbados (Barbados Transport Board), was among efforts to support the global #ActNow Campaign. Averaging over 700,000 monthly passenger trips across central and eastern parishes, the SDG bus recorded over 9 million total passenger boardings. This successful collaboration between the UN Communications Group and RCO Partnerships colleagues is expected to be a model to accelerate future private sector investment to promote SDG advocacy and implementation region-wide.

Implementation of EW4ALL

Together with other UN EW4ALL Pillar Leads, ITU collaborated on EW4ALL National Consultative Workshops and in developing the Gap Analyses and implementation Plans for Barbados.

Updating Fixed Broadband Service

The UN collaborated on the Quality-of-Service project to assist the Government of Barbados in reviewing and evaluating current levels of quality of service (QoS) for Fixed Broadband Services throughout the country. The aim was to establish the baseline of QoS parameters, implementing QoS standards as well as updating its regulatory framework related to Fixed Broadband Services.







WINNER!

DEANDRE
"MIGHTY DRE" LOUIS

RUNNER UP

QUAKE NESTOR

SCAN TO LISTEN TO
WINNING SDG JINGLES

Saint Lucia

Leveraging Private Sector Engagement to Catalyze SDG Acceleration

The private sector in Saint Lucia has strongly embraced the UN's call to action to accelerate SDG progress. During 2024 UN Day celebrations, Republic Bank, Sandals Resorts, Massy Stores, and Flow generously sponsored USD $5,000 in prizes for students participating in an SDG jingle competition, boosting SDG awareness.

In a keen contest, Deandre "Mighty Dre" Louis (centre) placed first in the competition, while Quake Nestor(right) placed second and Chezidek Clarke(left) placed third. Private sector leaders further showcased their commitment by sharing valuable practices and ongoing initiatives in technology, sustainable operations, corporate responsibility, job creation, and economic growth, demonstrating their crucial role in SDG acceleration.

St. Kitts and Nevis

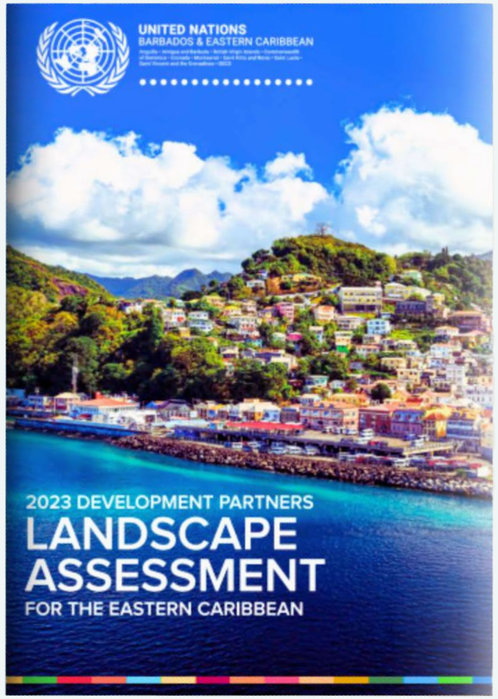
The UN has been instrumental in supporting St. Kitts and Nevis to advance the SDGs and mobilize financing for the 2030 Agenda. A key example is the GEF-UNDP project, co-financed with the government, which conserves biodiversity and reduces habitat degradation in protected areas and buffer zones. St. Kitts and Nevis' ambitious vision to become a sustainable island state, shared at COP28, has garnered strong UN support. Agencies like UNDP and UNEP are actively collaborating with national leaders to align resources and efforts towards this goal. Similarly, the ITU is assisting the country with its electronic identification (e-ID) development efforts helping to leverage digital identification as a powerful tool to strengthen their efforts in this area.

Through strategic partnerships and targeted financial support, the UN is playing a pivotal role in helping St. Kitts and Nevis achieve its sustainable development aspirations towards the 2030 Agenda.

Grenada

Building on a 2023 sub-regional dialogue with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and governments, the UN system advanced disability inclusion in 2024 by developing a Joint Programme Concept Note.

This initiative, a collaboration between OHCHR, UNICEF, ECLAC, UNESCO, and UNFPA, targets key areas identified in the dialogue: legislation and policy reform, accessibility, data collection, advocacy, and combating discrimination. The Joint Programme aims to strengthen OPD capacities and advocacy skills, aligning with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



Dominica

Driving SDG progress through diverse strategies, the UN implemented impactful initiatives across various sectors. For innovative financing (SDGs 8 & 9), a UNCDF digital payment solution enhanced financial inclusion for over 1,000 underserved users via credit unions, while a WFP-CCRIF $ 400,000 insurance scheme (SDG 9), guarantees rapid disaster relief for 20,000 people.

South-South cooperation (SDGs 17 & 13) saw FAO strengthen Caribbean food safety standards and market access. In the area of climate resilience (SDGs 13 & 15), UNDRR, CDEMA, and USAID/ PROSE supported agro-processing businesses led by indigenous women.

Antigua and Barbuda - Building Resilience

To bolster Antigua and Barbuda's resilience, the UN Development System is assisting in creating the Building Resilience Roadmap 2025-2030. This roadmap targets the 'triple threat' by prioritizing critical sectors: food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, and jobs with social protection. It aims to build a robust and resilient economy through focused action in these areas.

The roadmap's development began with a thorough review of Antigua and Barbuda's policy landscape, including key national strategies and frameworks including Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Voluntary National Report (VNR), Digital Readiness Assessment (DRA), the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) and Country Programming Frameworks. Ultimately, this roadmap will catalyze an action plan to implement its strategic recommendations.

Launch of UN Global Compact Caribbean Network

On May 22, 2024, the United Nations Global Compact launched its Caribbean Network, in partnership with the RCO and local business communities. The Caribbean Network continued to gain momentum throughout the year, with membership rising to forty companies by December 2024, including 12 from Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. The network equips companies and business associations with tools and knowledge to integrate universal principles on human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption into their strategies and operations. Its Caribbean focus prioritizes SDG integration, climate action (including renewable energy), sustainable SME supply chains and financing for development.

Development Partners Landscape Assessment

Completed in 2024, the 2023 Development Partners Landscape Assessment comprehensively mapped and analyzed development partner contributions across the Eastern Caribbean. This report, produced by the RCO, provides valuable insights into funding trends, emerging priorities, and strategic alignment within the region's evolving development finance landscape. Development partners have reported tangible benefits, using the assessment's financing trend analysis to optimize Official Development Assistance allocation in future programs. Furthermore, the report fosters enhanced strategic cooperation and coordination between governments and partners by facilitating transparent information sharing on project portfolios and future needs.

The Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG)

The RCO sustained its role in convening development partners through the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG), fostering strategic coordination to achieve the SDGs. In response to rising crime rates in the region, the ECDPG established a technical working group on 'Peace, Justice and Security'. Throughout 2024, this group addressed key areas like crime prevention, transnational crime, crime impacting vulnerable populations, and criminal justice reform. Presentations, including a 'Gap Analysis on Crime Prevention' and the 'SCORE Conceptual Framework', provided valuable insights, informing development partner strategies to combat crime in the region.



2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together:

Improved Efficiency through Delivering as One

Building Operational and Programmatic efficiencies

In 2024, ensuring operational and programmatic efficiency continued to be a high priority for the UN sub-regional team. Several collaborative initiatives among UN agencies were undertaken to deliver cost savings and cost avoidance with the objective of reinvesting these resources to support development priorities of countries. Under the Business Operation Strategy, the UN continued joint procurement for common services including travel management services, ICT and security services. A Long-Term Agreement (LTA) with a travel agency was renewed that supports travel needs of nine UN entities.

Consolidating ONE UN Presence

The UNST continued to consolidate its physical presence across the chain of islands, with cost saving of about US$150K from the operation of two common premises in the Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Two additional common premises are to be inaugurated in Grenada and Dominica by December 2026.

Protecting Lives and Livelihoods through Joint Emergency Response

When Hurricane Beryl tore through the Caribbean in July, it left behind a trail of devastation, particularly in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada. A coordinated UN response mobilized $1.5M from the CERF, **assisting approximately 41,1000 people across both countries with immediate humanitarian support** including food distribution, shelter, water and medical care . Indirect support was also provided to strengthen local institutions and partners for more effective service to communities.

Strengthening Impact through Partnerships

The UNST continued to strengthen partnerships to advance its work in 2024. Joint Programmes and joint programming modalities were used to enhance results in areas including gender equality, climate resilience, population support, human security and innovative finance. Our work on Disability Inclusion is also poised for an added boost with the framework in train for a new Joint Programme on Disability.

In partnership with the Government of Grenada , the UN is also making continued strides on the UN's Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) , with the RCO satellite office in Grenada leading the way through the recruitment and hiring of a Grenadian national with a disability, as part of its support staff. The Global Compact and Development Partners initiatives also serve to strengthen partnerships with the private sector to further support the UN's mandate.





- **5 active Joint Programmes** implemented with a multi-year budget of US$10.2 M
- **15 Agencies, Funds and Programmes** improved service delivery through Joint Programmes
- **US$500,000** in cost-avoidance through BOS
- **45 companies joined** Global Compact Caribbean Network since its establishment



- **Four active development partner technical groups** continue to coordinate in support of key thematic areas including climate action

Amplifying Advocacy and Thought Leadership through Strategic Communications

During the year under review, strategic communications were vital in boosting both joint UN and RC-led advocacy, with an increase in high-level Op-Eds co-authored by the Resident Coordinator and the UNST, including impactful pieces with the head of UNAIDS on Taking the Rights Path to End AIDS in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean; the former Head of UN Women on #PushForward: Invest to End Violence Against Women and Girls and the Head of PAHO on Building Resilient Health Systems to Achieve Universal health in the Eastern Caribbean .

The UN also received strong advocacy support during key events like SIDS4, a UN Women-led High-Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and the Care Economy, a High-level breakfast with media on "Power of the Media in Promoting Fairer Societies".

On the global front, the RCO also successfully championed the "We the Women" campaign, quickly coordinating an inter-generational Fireside Chat and Regional Dialogue. This event brought together women from all walks of life to share their hopes and propose solutions for a more equitable future. Across member states SDG advocacy also increased strengthening awareness and implementation at the national level.



Strengthening Public Outreach

Enhanced public outreach was one of the key outputs of UN efforts to better deliver together. To this end, **61 press releases** were produced and disseminated to regional media receiving significant traction, and **134 web stories**, and **183 content items** developed and uploaded to the UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean website creating a comprehensive resource hub.

During the year, the UN was also pleased to join with key international development partners to advance advocacy on issues that matter most. Partnership with the EU on the Red Shoes Project shed light on the scourge of GBV, allowing survivors to know that we stand with them.

Enhancing Digital Presence

UN digital presence increased awareness on the work of the UN at the individual level reaching populations that are not always fully engaged in the work of the UN. This was substantively supported through three official UNST social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook) as well as the Resident Coordinator's Instagram.

With approximately **750 posts**, average reach **increased by 156**%, and all platforms recorded notable growth in followers, Instagram in particular, with a **net increase of 901** followers, representing a significant **29**% **rise**.



Influential Voices from Member States

Anguilla



Reaffirming Anguilla's commitment to climate resilience, Mr. Karim Hodge, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Development, Industry, Commerce, Lands, Planning, Water and Natural Resources, has stressed the importance of partnership with the United Nations in advancing SDG 13.

"The Government of Anguilla remains committed to advancing SDG 13 and addressing the existential threat of climate change. Through strategic collaboration with the United Nations Development System, we aim to build climate-resilient infrastructure, enhance disaster preparedness, and secure a sustainable future for our people. This partnership is essential to safeguarding our natural environment and sustaining our development gains."

Antigua and Barbuda



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda , the Hon. Gaston Browne has underscored the importance of multilateralism and UN support to Antigua and Barbuda's prosperity and protection.

"We are pleased that such a small country in the world is considered as a beacon for multilateralism. We have taken the position that multilateralism works for us, and as you look at all these treaties, that is how we get our protection. So, we must make sure that we support multilateralism to ensure cooperation among nations, and that the principles of non-interference and non-intervention are the principles upon which we stand as we seek to have a more peaceful world,"

Barbados



A two-year UN Joint SDG Fund Programme on "Integrated Population Data and Policy Solutions to Accelerate SDG Achievement in Barbados and Montserrat" has come in for high praise from national partners . Addressing the project Close-Out Ceremony on December 2, 2024 , Patrick McCaskie, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment in Barbados, stressed the need to celebrate the project's successes and access challenges and lessons learned, while reaffirming his government's commitment to inclusive development.

"The Government of Barbados is fully committed to the continued pursuance of programmes and policies that are fully inclusive, people-centered, and resilient—economically, socially, and environmentally—in a way that leaves no one behind."

BVI



On October 3, 2024, newly appointed UN Resident Coordinator , Simon Springett completed a two-day inaugural Mission to BVI expected to lay the foundation for strengthening UN cooperation and efficiency to help to advance the country's sustainable development efforts, including the ongoing issue of development finance. Premier, Dr. the Hon. Natalio Wheatley, underscored the importance of the visit.

"The importance of the incoming Resident Coordinator's visit to the Virgin Islands cannot be understated. His visit aims to deepen the relationship with the United Nations network of institutions to deliver tangible results that will beneficially impact the lives of everyone in the Virgin Islands."

Influential Voices from Member States (cont'd)

Dominica



On September 25, 2024, Dominica's first female and Kalinago President, Her Excellency Sylvanie Burton, in her address to the 79th Session of the UNGA, made an urgent appeal for greater support from the international community around climate change.

"Climate change, as we know, is not just an environmental challenge; it is a threat to every aspect of life as we know it. For Dominica, as for many Small Island Developing States, this is not a distant or abstract issue; it is a daily reality. We have said it time and time again. We see it so vividly, year after year, that our communities are on the frontlines, facing intensified hurricanes, devastating floods, and prolonged droughts."

Grenada



Speaking 10 months before Hurricane Beryl made landfall wreaking havoc on Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique, Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell in his address to the 78th Session of the UNGA in September made an urgent appeal for greater support from the international community around climate adaptation..

"While nations like Grenada are doing our part, we need the international community to step up and support our efforts. We are asking for more than just financial aid. We are looking for partnerships where we can work together on climate adaptation. Because we believe the resilience we are building today—through technology, through innovation, through partnerships—can serve as a model for others."

Saint Lucia



Minister with responsibility for Gender Affairs, the Hon. Dr. Virginia Albert-Poyotte, welcomed the country's first ever National Inter-Agency Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response (GBV) Task Force, officially launched in December 2024, following a Cabinet conclusion which reiterated the urgency of addressing GBV as a matter of national concern.

"We must put gender on the agenda, and the United Nations with agencies such as UN Women and UNFPA have been providing much valued support to Saint Luca to ensure that gender remains a priority. When you speak of gender, you often find that efforts must focus on uplifting women to create a level playing field. However, this is not solely about women. Equity must come before equality, those who are more disadvantaged require greater support and resources to reach the same level. Opportunities must be created for both men and women to develop to their full potential, contributing equally to national development."

St. Kitts & Nevis



During St. Kitts and Nevis' accession to the UN Convention Against Corruption on August 6, 2024, St. Kitts and Nevis' Permanent Representative to the UN, H.E. Dr. Mutryce Williams lauded the collaboration between the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and the UN.

"These efforts are necessary in promoting national, regional and international partnerships to erase and minimize the impacts of corruption on Small Island States, particularly as the Federation works to transform into a Sustainable Island State by 2040."

Influential Voices from Member States (cont'd)

Montserrat



A two-year UN Joint SDG Fund Programme on "Integrated Population Data and Policy Solutions to Accelerate SDG Achievement in Barbados and Montserrat" has come in for high praise from national partners . Addressing the project Close-Out Ceremony on December 2, 2024 , Teresena Fergus, Director of Social Services in Montserrat, underscored the programme's role in advancing rights-based population policies and enhancing national capacities for data-driven decision-making, while encouraging continued progress.

"Let us celebrate our progress, examine the challenges, and set a robust course for sustaining the strides we have made together," she encouraged.



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



On March 1, 2024, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attended the 8th Summit of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as the country ended it Pro Tempore Presidency, calling for solidarity in key areas such as peace and security, sustainable development, social cohesion and tackling the climate crisis. While addressing the Opening Ceremony , Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves reiterated his commitment to multilateralism.

"In the reclamation of independence and sovereignty, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines embraces internationalist solidarity and takes seriously its obligations, and responsibilities in the multilateralism of the United Nations."

2.5. Lessons Learned and Evaluations

In 2025, the UN development system held Annual Reviews of its Country Implementation Plans for the year 2024 with eight countries across Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. These Annual Reviews provided an important touch point for feedback from member states and development partners on the relevance, and effectiveness of the UNDS support over the last year under the current Cooperation Framework.

Among the key lessons learned were: (i) the sub-region remains highly relevant to addressing the current social-economic realities of the countries. (ii) The United Nations continue to be a viable platform for the issues of Small Island Developing States to be highlighted at a global level and (iii) the UN has made an impact contribution to building capacity of the region to respond and recover from recent shocks including Hurricane Beryl which significantly impacted the Islands of Grenada and Saint Vincent and caused some destruction mainly to the fisheries sector in Barbados.

Government stakeholders and development partners also highlighted that 2024 continued to reveal persistent challenges with low project and programme implementation capacity of countries across all sectors.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Enhance scheduling and sustainability

To ensure that projects and programmes serve the maximum benefit of member states, steps should be taken to undertake systematic project scheduling to ensure that the number of projects do not exceed countries' implementation capacities, both in terms of resources and technical capacity.

Attention must also be paid to incorporating greater sustainability measures into projects for the measurement of results.

Increase visibility

Awareness of the UN CIP and MSDCF needs to be increased as a means of combatting overarching SDG awareness, which is relatively low, across some Eastern Caribbean countries. Greater awareness of the frameworks under which the UN partners, SDGs and their impact on the livelihood of the average citizen, as well as underlying rights-based focus for all, would contribute to a more collaborative push by everyone for their achievement.

Strengthen collaboration

Intersectoral collaboration is very important. As key project personnel can potentially change, it is critical to have various parties appraised of and participating in project governance. Close collaboration with the RCO was crucial for helping to unclog bottlenecks that the agencies faced with regards to project implementation. The silos in how the UN works, also need to be broken. These silos frustrate collaboration and without collaboration, we don't move forward.

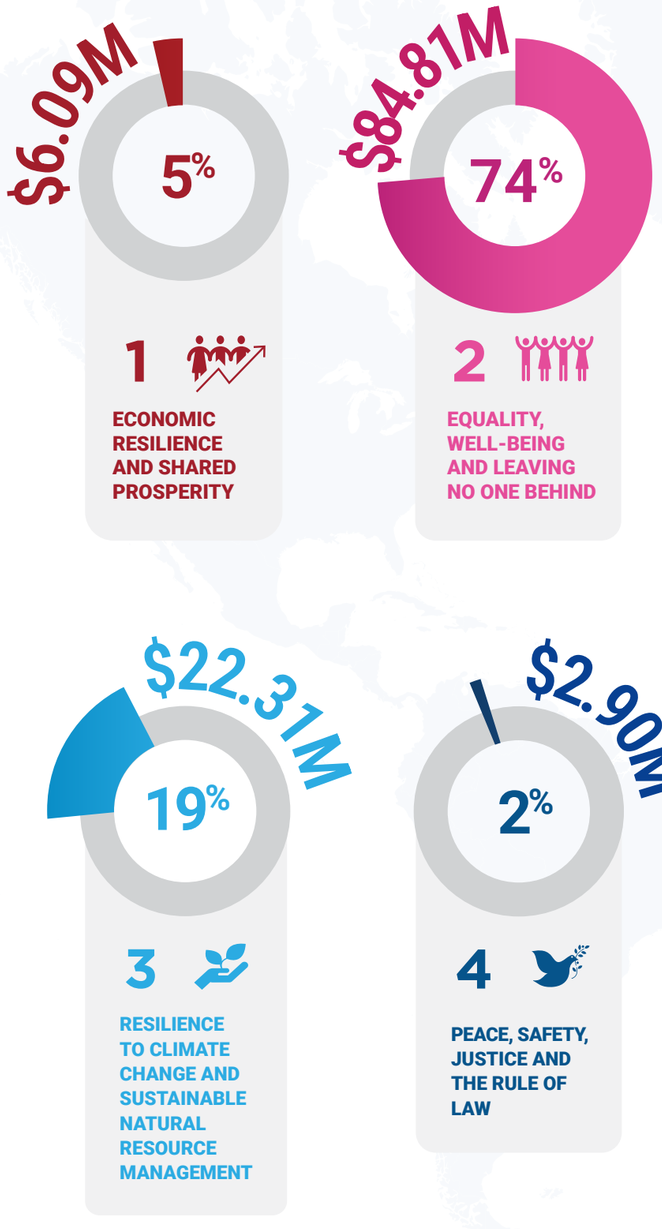
Accountability for the resources and reporting need continuous demonstration of value for the investment.

Data gaps

The data gaps in Barbados and the Caribbean in this case were hindrances to the tracking and monitoring of the work being done and the results being achieved.

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

EXPENDITURE ACROSS THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

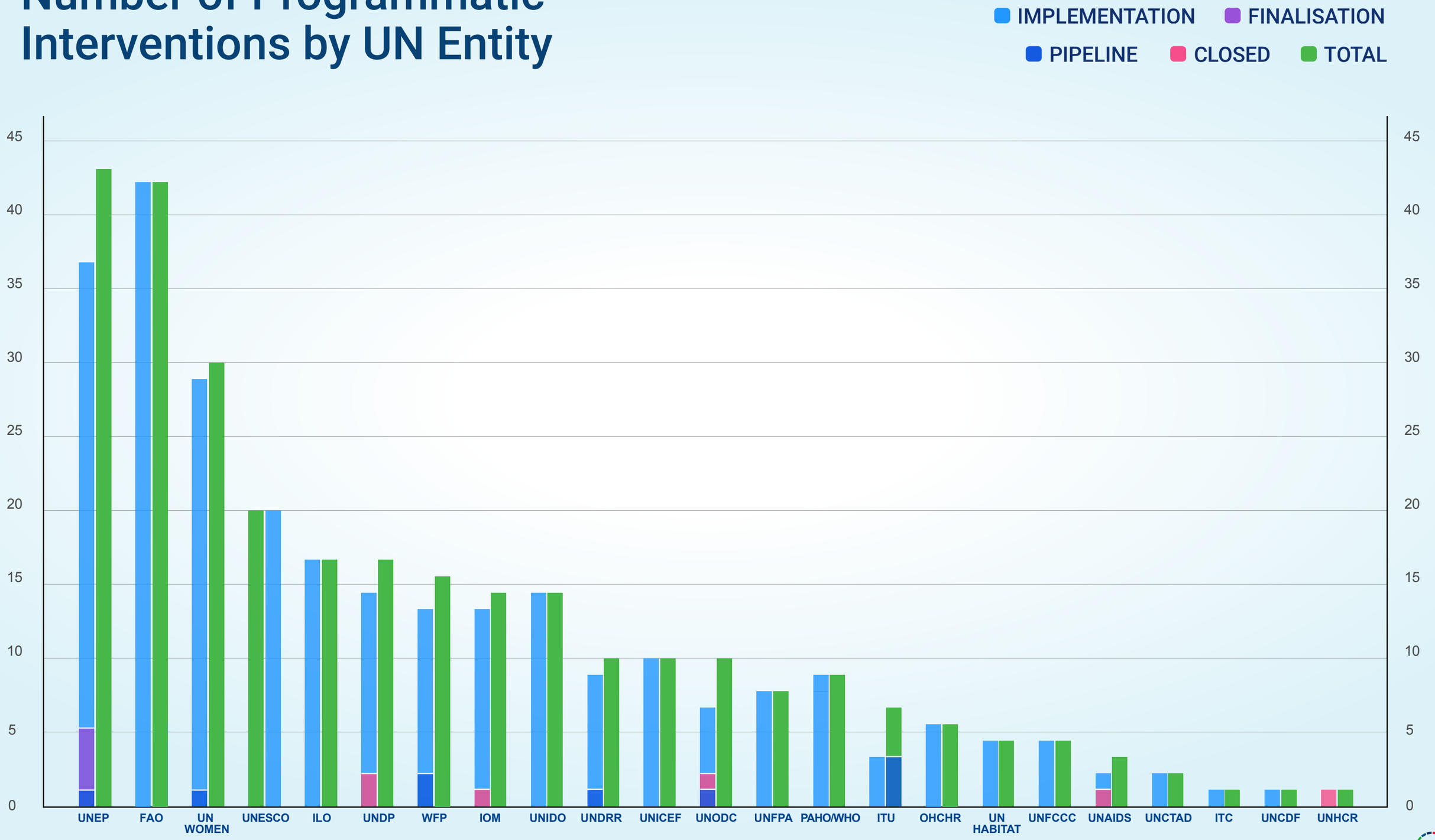


EXPENDITURE ACROSS MSDCF OUTCOMES

TOTAL EXPENDITURE:
$116,108,519

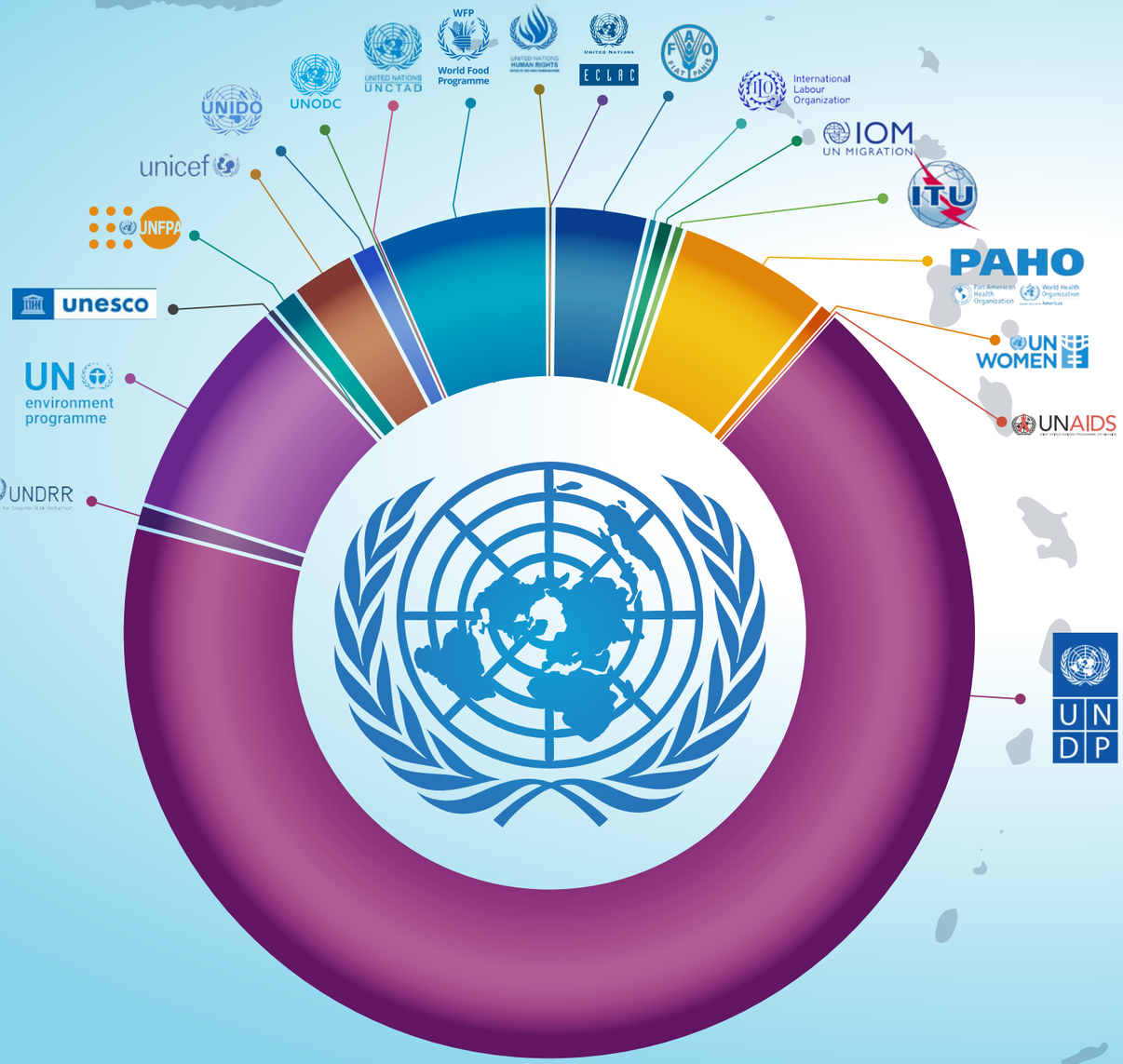


Number of Programmatic Interventions by UN Entity



TOTAL EXPENDITURE:

$116,108,519



AGENCY EXPENDITURE

ECLAC	$191,248
FAO	$4,160,189
ILO	$429,945
IOM	$716,400
ITU	$505,000
PAHO/WHO	$6,756,000
UN Women	$713,079
UNAIDS	$30,000
UNDP	$78,243,143
UNDRR	$1,000,000
UNEP	$9,945,832
UNESCO	$416,283
UNFPA	$1,164,814
UNICEF	$2,892,025
UNIDO	$1,167,476
UNODC	$140,964
UNCTAD	$10,921
WFP	$7,544,200
OHCHR	$81,000

Chapter Three:

UN Focus and Priorities for 2025



With five years remaining for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and rising geopolitical uncertainties ushered in by reductions in international development assistance, the UN Development System in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will further strengthen its efforts to mitigate potential economic and social impacts on the most vulnerable populations.



At the UNST retreat for 2025, the UN agencies prioritized scaling up its work to advance normative commitments to advancing gender equality, delivering on the economic, social and cultural rights of people living with disabilities, and increasing investments in youth.

To achieve these priorities, the UN system will focus on developing system wide joint programming working with governments and key development partners. This will entail mobilizing technical and financial partnerships to deliver both internal improvements in the way we work with these populations and scale up development support to governments, civil society, media and other stakeholders. Partnering with civil society organisations that represent women, youth and people living with disabilities would be central to the UN's efforts in 2025 at leaving no one behind and delivering on the SDGs.

The Eastern Caribbean continues to experience a rise in crime and violence and deteriorating citizen security. In this regard, the UN is scaling up its focus on prevention of crime and violence in 2025. This will entail developing a holistic approach to address the root causes of citizens insecurity, including strengthening community level social cohesion and youth empowerment.

In a region prone to external shocks, the UN will continue to invest in disaster risk reduction with a focus on preparedness and response capacity. In this context implementation of the Early Warning for All Initiative and increased technical support for risk informed development planning at all levels will be prioritized especially as the Caribbean moves into the Atlantic Hurricane season.

Against the backdrop of recent funding cuts to international development assistance which will affect many UN agencies, funds and programmes, efforts will be further intensified to identify and address internal efficiencies. The Business Operations Strategy for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will be revamped to identify costs savings and cost avoidance opportunities across operational services lines, including procurement, common premises management, and transportation, among others.

In the age of misinformation and disinformation, the UN Development System (UNDS) will also strengthen its efforts to ensure that individuals and communities are actively engaged with access to scientific and evidence information to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. Through the UN Communications Group, the UNDS will work with both traditional media and social media to scale up the dissemination of fact-based information, while at the same time highlighting the difference made through its partnerships with governments, civil society and development partners.



List of Acronyms & Initialisms

APR	Annual Progress Review
ABAS	Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS
BOG	Bureau of Public Health
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
BRISP	Beryl Relief Income Support Programme
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBO/CBOs	Community-Based Organization(s)
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CED	Convention on Enforced Disappearances
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CIWiL	Caribbean Women in Leadership
CIP	Country Implementation Plan
CLAC	Climate Landscape Analysis for Children
COP29	29th UN Climate Change Conference
CRA	Climate Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO/CSOs	Civil Society Organization(s)
CTU	Caribbean Telecommunications Union
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management
DASPA	Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authorities
DRA	Digital Readiness Assessment
DPG	Development Partners Group
DPPA	UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBO/FBOs	Faith-Based Organization(s)
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GFP	Global Firearms Programme
GMC	Global Maritime Crime Programme
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDAHOBIT	International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMPACS	CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JPO	Junior Professional Officer
LGBTI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and others
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
MGI	Migration Governance Indicator
MIDAS	Migration Information and Data Analysis System
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MSME / MSMS	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MSDCF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHSSP	National Health Sector Strategic Plan
NISSAPS	National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plans
NMIRFs	National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up
NODS	National Office of Disaster Services
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	United Nations Operations and Management Team
OPD	Organisations of Persons with Disabilities
PAHO / WHO	Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PSEAH	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS / SIDS4	Small Island Developing States / 4th SIDS Conference
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UN	United Nations
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNETT	UN Emergency Technical Team
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNPFPAD	UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNS /UNST	UN Sub-Regional Team
UNSWAP	UN System-Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UWI	University of the West Indies
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WB	World Bank
WCO	World Customs Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	WHO: World Health Organization

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

2024 UNST ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT FOR THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

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