



UNITED NATIONS
Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean

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Commonwealth of Dominica • Grenada •
Montserrat • Saint Lucia • Saint Kitts and Nevis •
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • OECS

UN Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Annual Results Report 2020

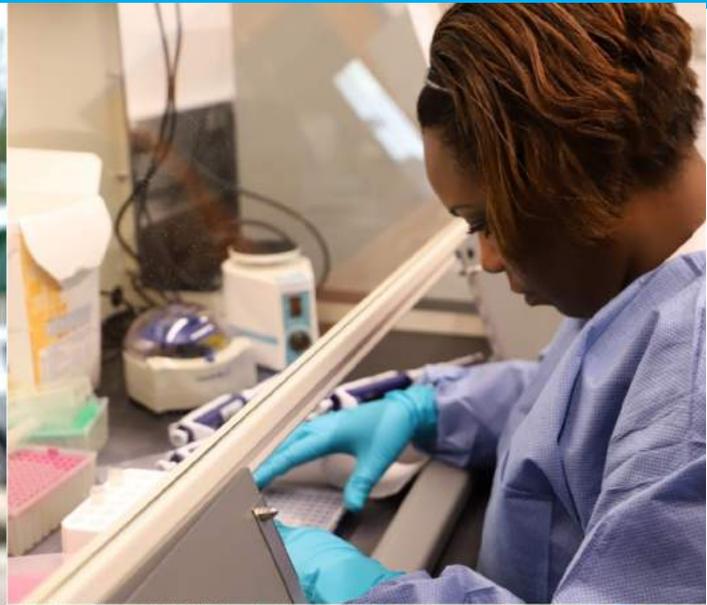


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Foreword

In 2020, the United Nations maximized its long and enduring partnership with the Governments of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to deliver impactful results at a time when the region needed it most. We are living in a very uncertain world, where pandemics, natural disasters, and other crises continue to put at risk decades of hard-earned development gains. These challenges are universal and demand action from all – to ensure that the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals – can be realized everywhere, no matter the size of a country, its level of GDP or its legal status.

Ironically coinciding with the our 75th anniversary , and global debate over the continued relevance of multilateralism, the Agency’s support was critical at this juncture. Countries all over the world, including Caribbean SIDS, battled the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic that disproportionately impacted the islands due to their inherent vulnerabilities. The COVID crisis, has not only severely impacted island economies and social systems, but in a very real way threatens to undermine the region’s capacity to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. With countries and vital sectors left reeling from myriad health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, the UN joined forces with regional Governments, development partners, private sector, NGOs, Civil Society, and other key stakeholders to protect the most vulnerable citizens and promote equitable and sustainable recovery and resilience, that leaves no one behind. Our engagement and cooperation to better partner with countries, now within the context of the Multi Country Office Review, approved by the GA in August 2020, has been that of a more tailored support to SIDS that enable better access to expertise and assets of the UN AFPs.

Whether by helping to expand Government’s social services to the most vulnerable, providing the requisite tools to allow at-risk children to access online learning, facilitating business retooling, ensuring food security or protecting women from GBV through a Decent Work agenda , the United Nations Sub-Regional team in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, collaborated with national and regional partners, including the OECS Commission and CDEMA, to help governments meet their national priorities, respond to the pandemic and other development challenges, and ultimately to build back better and greener. Most of our activities for 2020 were the result of a collective shift in focus as well as concerted efforts to redirect our joint assets, both financial and technical, towards fighting COVID, in alignment with priorities of Member States. This was primarily done through joint work, including a COVID-19 Muti-Sectoral Response Plan (MRP) and Funding Appeal for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, that provided a strategic framework for response that goes beyond primary health impacts to include socio-economic consequences.

MRP programming activities were implemented through eight strategic pillars to address the immediate health and medium-term socio-economic needs of the people of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as three British Overseas Territories: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat. It focused on ensuring that traditionally marginalized and vulnerable groups, or persons made vulnerable due to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, including women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and migrants, are protected and empowered. Our strategic results directly address national and regional development priorities based on emerging needs and direct requests for support, in accordance with Government’s National Sustainable Development Strategy and COVID Socio-economic Recovery plans of Member States.

This penultimate year of reporting on the UN Multi-Country Sustainable development Framework (MSDF), has been particularly challenging as a result of the pandemic and I would personally, and on behalf of the UN Sub-Regional Team , thank all partners who have made the achievements and results reported for 2020 possible in the mist of these significant challenges. The new year offers an opportunity to build urgency towards developing a more resilient, and economically diverse region. Moving forward as a region, we will need to focus on accelerating the pace of sustainable development in a post-COVID-19 world, beginning with supporting vaccine access to all countries. Critical to our continued success is fostering innovation and efficiency in joined up programming, while building and expanding collaborative partnerships with governments, international financial institutions and other local partners with the ability to reach vulnerable communities across the sub-region.

Looking forward to our continued partnerships and dedication towards our achievements in 2021.



**UN Resident Coordinator
Didier Trebucq**

UN Sub-Regional Team

Resident:



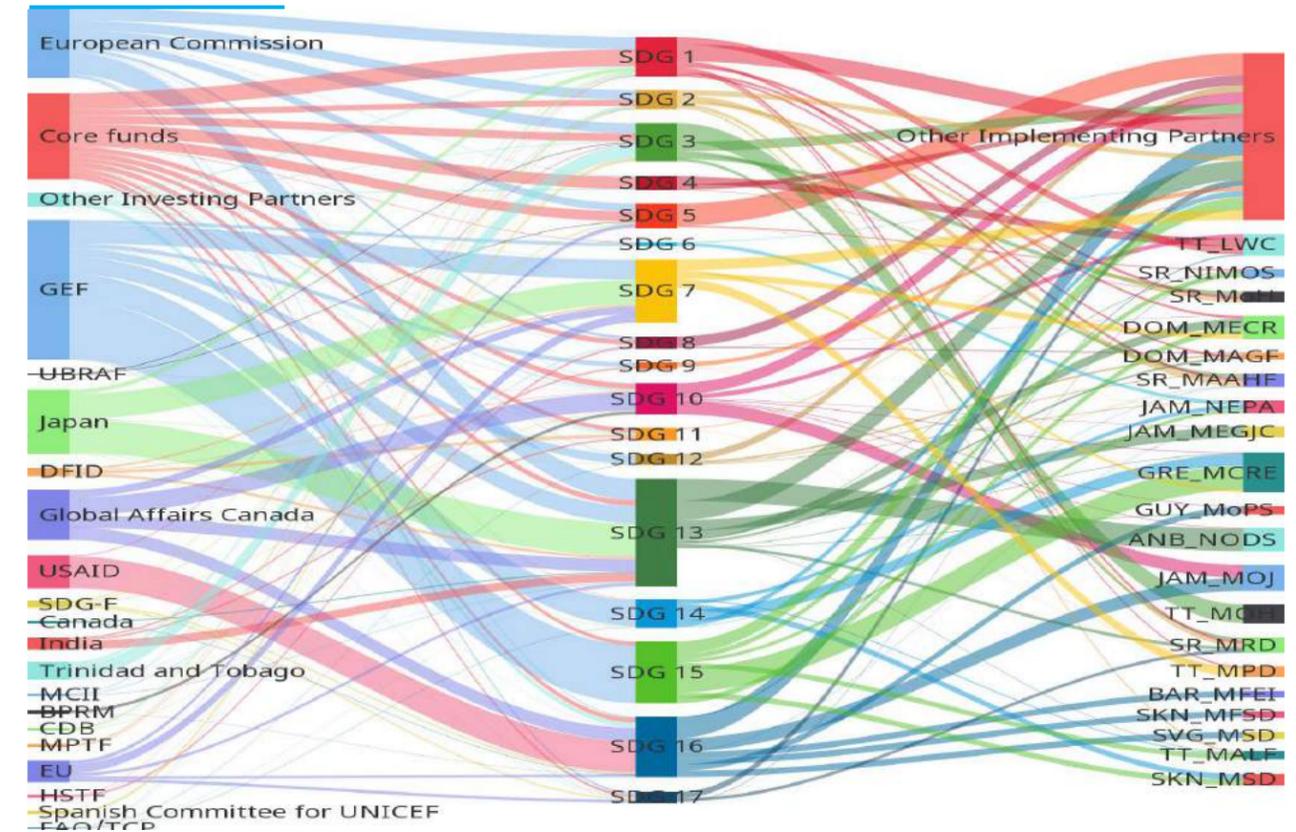
The Barbados-based MCO comprises 20 UN agencies and supports sustainable development in seven independent nations: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and 3 British Overseas territories: Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

In keeping with the Global UN Reform, the UN Sub-regional Team (UNST), functions under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and delivers as ONE to meet regional priorities and address development concerns. In alignment with the 2030 Agenda, the UN partners with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the private sector, civil society groups and development partners to help governments meet their national priorities and respond to development challenges.

Non-Resident:



Key development Partners of the UN development system in the Sub-Region



Development Partners

Bilateral Donor (BDs)

- Canada
- France (AFD)
- Japan
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom (DFID)
- USA (USAID)

International Financial Institution (IFIs)

- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- World Bank (WB)

Multilateral Donor (MDs)

- European Union (EU)

UN Agencies

- FAO, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN WOMEN, WHO/PAHO, WFP

Combination (COM)

- Mostly between MD and BD with IFIs

Implementing Partners

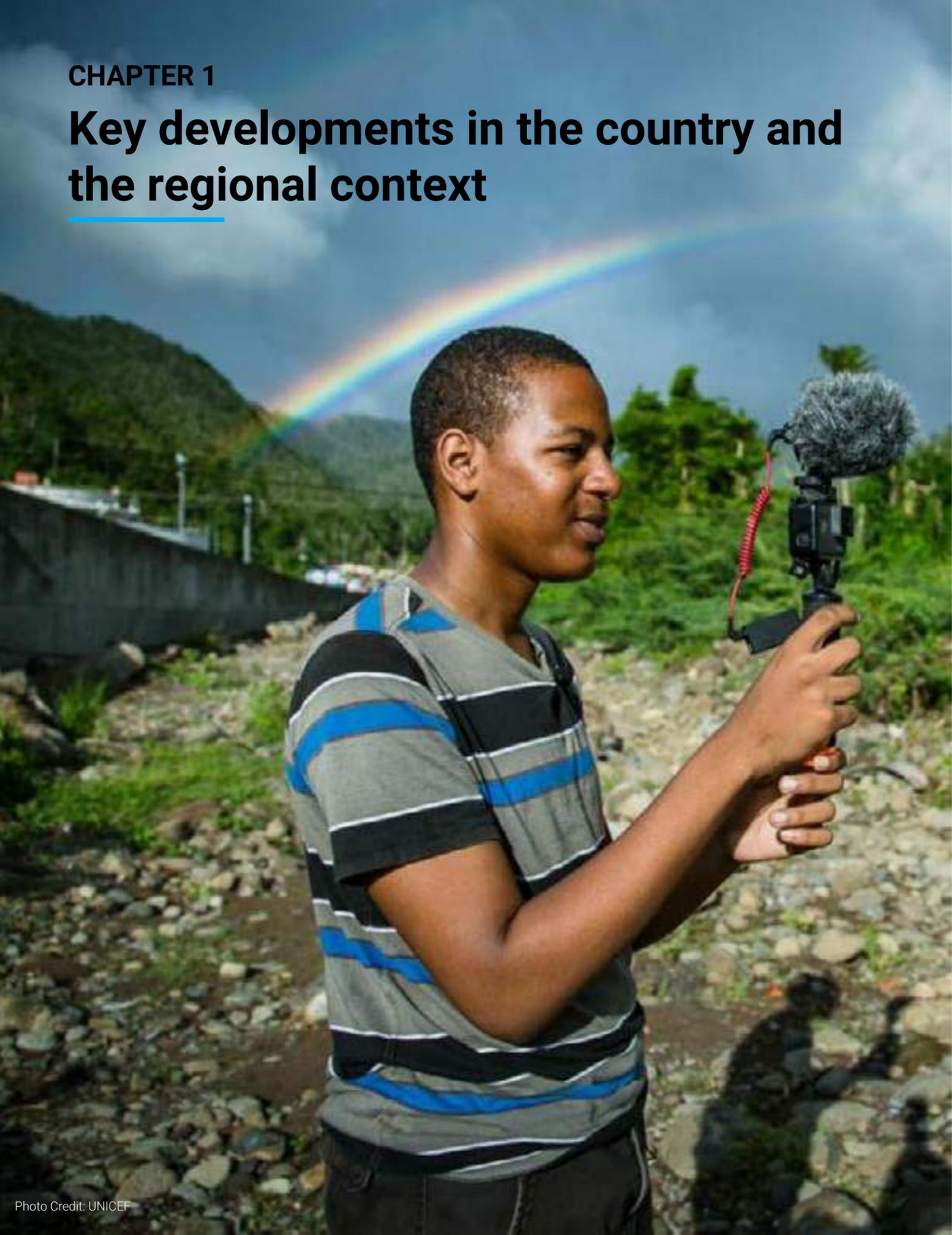
- Relevant Government Ministries
- International Financial Institutions
- Inter-Governmental Organizations / Regional (IGOs/GOs)
- UN Agencies
- Private sector
- Civil Society / Non-Governmental Organizations (CSOs/NGOs)
- Academia
- Combination (COM)

Collaborating Partners

- Community-Based Organizations
- Other Civil Society / Non-Governmental Organizations (CSOs/NGOs)
- Other Government Agencies
- Academia
- Other regional organizations

CHAPTER 1

Key developments in the country and the regional context



Economic Outlook across the Eastern Caribbean

In the two years since Hurricane Irma, the Eastern Caribbean, particularly Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis, has been on a path toward economic recovery, largely driven by post hurricane reconstruction projects. At the end of 2019, while economic growth varied by country – Dominica the highest with 8.4% and Barbados the lowest at -0.1% - the subregion posted real growth substantially higher than for the Latin America and Caribbean region, 0.03%. For many in this sub-region, consumer price inflation was low and contained with inflationary pressures highest in Barbados at 7.2%. Tight fiscal positions, held by many governments, has helped reduce and improve the sustainability of public debt, which, for Barbados, was supported by a successful debt restructuring. It concluded at the end of November 2019 and reduced public debt to GDP from a high of almost 160% in 2017 to 90%.

Key Developmental Trends in the Past Year

With six of the 10 countries in this sub-region having held national elections either in 2018 or 2019, most notably Barbados this year, where the Barbados Labour Party secured a landslide victory taking all 30 parliamentary seats, 2019 has been a period to reflect, reaffirm and in some cases reset priorities. Moreover, progress made by many in the sub-region to enhance their debt sustainability through fiscal tightening and other control measures, e.g., Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan introduced in June 2018, has created space to progress development agenda in a new decade. Key development themes typical center on contextual issues and economic drivers as well as structural impediments that have slowed economic transformation, productivity, jobs, incomes and sustainable livelihoods. With debt levels at high to very high levels across the Eastern Caribbean a strong focus of governments in recent years has been measures to enhance fiscal responsibility and reform. Through tightening measures many have created additional fiscal space to finance development but also recognise the need for tax reform to mobilise additional revenue and incentive new investment. Both in the aftermath of natural disasters as well as responding to rapidly evolving business environment, measures are also being taken to enhance physical as well as digital infrastructure across the Caribbean. Road, housing and hospitality infrastructure

projects have spurred growth, jobs and built resilience, while the roll-out of information technology and new digital platforms are changing the way citizens, enterprise and government engage with one another.

Economic diversification and food security continue to be strong development themes across the Caribbean both recognising the vulnerabilities of their concentrated reliance on markets and products for prosperity but also to enhance their capacity to respond and recover from natural disasters. To complement these are measures to enhance basic services and social safety nets that help redress growing inequality and poverty across the region.

Key Developmental Trends in the Past Year

The unique set of vulnerabilities together with income classifications that understate the Eastern Caribbean's development need and capacity to self-finance development remains binding constraint to meeting the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Frequent and more severe natural disasters brought on by climate change add to this region's challenges and distance this region further from delivering the SDGs. Added to this are gaps in knowledge and data to track, measures and drive effective decision-making for development.

Implications for Short/Medium Outlook

Amidst a slowing global economic context, where US-China trade relations, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the outcome of BREXIT and social and environmental protests bear down on business confidence, the short to medium term growth prospects of this sub-region are expected to be slow and steady. On the upside, tourism and travel performance as a percentage of GDP has been buoyant over the past 3 years providing employment, incomes and growth in this sub-region. However, given this region's dependence on a few external markets for trade as well as its continued exposure to natural disasters the risks are heavily weighted to the downside given the global context.



CHAPTER 2

UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The Caribbean Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF)

UN interventions in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, under the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), entailed strategic partnerships and tailored support aimed at protecting the most vulnerable, and accelerating SDG progress. Collective efforts centered around four main pillars: An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean; A healthy Caribbean; A safe cohesive and just Caribbean and A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean.

The unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic however, necessitated a more innovative way of working and a COVID-19 Multi-Sector Response Plan (MRP) was developed to complement the work programme outlined in the MSDF. The framework was intended to be more agile to the emerging country and regional COVID-19 needs. It also served as strategic advocacy tool for resource mobilization to support the region more effectively. The UN Multi-sectoral Response Plan to COVID-19 in the Eastern Caribbean is well aligned with the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework.

Figure 1.0 below illustrates the MRP's alignment and concordance with both the MSDF and the UN SERP pillars.



Figure 1.0: Alignment of the UN MSDF priority areas with the UN SERP

Delivering Results for the Eastern Caribbean

The overall efforts under Outcome 1 supported SDGs 1,4,5, 8, and 10, and prioritized access to education, equitable social protection systems. Meanwhile, Outcome 2, which became even more critical to COVID-19 response, contributed to positive health outcomes and ensured access to quality healthcare in keeping with SDGs 3 and 10. Strengthening rule of law and enhancing justice and citizen security was the primary focus of Outcome 3 which is aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 16, while Outcome 4, in support of SDGs 7,11,13,14,

addressed climate change adaptation, DRR, and sustainable solutions for conservation, restoration and use of ecosystems and natural resources. Grounded in the 2030 Agenda, and driven by stronger partnerships because of the COVID pandemic these ambitious targets sought to mainstream human rights and reduce inequalities, while enhancing sustainable economic growth and resilience within the sub-region.

OUTCOME 1: A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean



Enhancing Adaptive Social Protection

Amidst widespread job loss stemming from COVID-19 lock-down, and ongoing efforts to expand social protect systems within the region, the UN, through the SDG Joint Fund, has launched an Adaptive Social Protection Project in the Eastern Caribbean. The **USD\$ 4.8M** Project, which advances the shock-responsive social protection model, is effectively responding to the changing needs and priorities of supported populations and partner governments. In collaboration with IFIs (WB, CDB and IDB), it has supported thousands of vulnerable families and individuals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including expanding social protection and social assistance coverage in Barbados, Dominica, and Saint Lucia. Launched in June, the Joint Programme aims to make social protection more adaptive – linking it to disaster risk management and climate change – to ensure people have the means to prepare and can access support during and after crises. It also seeks to expand social protection towards universal access for people in beneficiary countries and across the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). This will support the goal of reducing structural inequality, reducing poverty, and building resilience.

Providing support to countries in refining policies to mainstream SDGs

Efforts in this pillar have been led by UNDP and have focused on improving data systems, with the ultimate objective of improving targeting of social protection systems and improving service delivery. To this end national stakeholders in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were equipped with the analysis and data needed to further integrate the SDGs in their National Developments Plans during the year. Through technical support leveraged by the MCO, countries were able to identify institutional quality and capacity gaps related to the achievement of their SDGs.

Improving Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change

The recent impact of Climate Change has underscored the need to develop responses that simultaneously increase resilience while reducing social and economic inequalities. Climate resilience has inherently intertwined issues of environment, economy, and society. In this regard, conversations on achieving resilience can no longer be fragmented, or occur in isolation, as this can potentially exacerbate challenges faced in other vulnerable sectors.

Financing the implementation of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation projects/programmes in Caribbean SIDS, can positively impact the region. However, this can only be achieved if proposed activities are fair to the people and fair to the planet.

Regional solidarity and ongoing cooperation are needed now more than ever. Ongoing cooperation through strategic programmes and initiatives, such as Climate Promise and EnGenDER, led by UNDP, and covering several islands, promoted key partnerships with Canada, UKFCDO, ILO, IRENA, CDEMA and UNWomen.

Building Effective Resilience for Human Security

As the Eastern Caribbean continues to grapple with the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the looming threat of natural and environmental hazards, the UN and the Government of Japan, have launched a regional USD6.2M programme. The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) Project focuses on reaching the most vulnerable, particularly women and marginalized youth disproportionately affected by economic, social and environmental challenges within Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and Saint Lucia. The Project ensures a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and promotes gender equality in key sectors, including farming, fisheries, and small business, and enhances human security, through support for initiatives that address unique needs, while sustaining progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

OUTCOME 2: A Healthy Caribbean



The total economic impact of COVID-19 on the health sector of Caribbean countries was estimated to be in the region of **US \$260.2** million during the first quarter of 2020, leading to the worst economic, social and production crisis the Caribbean region has experienced in 120 years .

Maintaining the delivery of essential health services amidst the COVID pandemic

With an increasing number of COVID cases being detected within Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries (ECC), human resource capacities within health institutions were stretched and collective UN efforts were largely directed towards supporting regional Governments' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining delivery of other essential health services.

Under the leadership of PAHO, contributions were made to improve country level capacity for addressing the COVID health emergency. Surveillance teams were strengthened to carry out case investigations and contact tracing. Healthcare facilities and healthcare services were also reorganized with a focus on improving triage and isolation.

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services were continued through expansion of remote service delivery and telemedicine with support from UNFPA. Over **106,430** clients in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were reached with SRH and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services through virtual consultations, health education sessions and hotline counselling on family planning, HIV/STIs, psychosocial and GBV support and referrals. In addition, **426** vulnerable clients benefited from home delivery services.

The Barbados Family Planning Association reached **115,482** persons with SRH and GBV communications messages and products via social media platforms and traditional media. UNFPA launched the #CaribbeanYouthAgainstCOVID campaign, where young people from Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia led advocacy efforts on social media around issues including SRH and rights and GBV prevention during the pandemic.

***More specific details on COVID health related interventions supported by the UN are further detailed under the SERP section of the report**

Strengthening interagency partnerships on the COVID-19 health emergency management

Interagency partnerships with UNFPA, UNICEF and PAHO also focused on strengthening health promotion initiatives on COVID to increase awareness, access, and information to a wide range of sectors and among various population groups.

The Barbados Council for the Disabled was capacitated to produce and disseminate COVID-19 communication products and messages surrounding access to sexual and reproductive health and GBV services for persons with disabilities, ensuring that this key demographic was not left behind during the pandemic. The capacity for risk communication was improved to ensure evidence-based information is



regularly shared among country stakeholders.

In 2020, Barbados and OECS countries assessed reproductive health commodity security in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, with potential impact on unplanned pregnancies, abortion, maternal and neonatal deaths, and Couple Year Protection lost. This assessment will inform future interventions in the Eastern Caribbean to achieve strong and resilient reproductive health supply chain systems.

Stronger regional partnership for health collaboration and service delivery

In response to the pandemic more innovative partnerships were strengthened with CARPHA and CDEMA. WFP, PAHO, UNOPS and others actively participated in the regional subcommittee on logistics and procurement under CDEMA's Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) to consolidate countries' PPE needs and streamline procurement for economies of scale.

With school lockdowns having a possible link to unintended pregnancies, UNFPA and PAHO launched the first Caribbean Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Week in October 2020, which resulted in a Roadmap of strategic actions to reduce adolescent pregnancy in the region. Several social media activities and Facebook live group discussions were implemented across the sub-region including in Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Contending with Fake News during the pandemic and enhancing the capacities of journalists in the Eastern Caribbean

In order to combat the scourge of fake news and disinformation in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, journalists from the Eastern Caribbean participated in the training course "Contending with 'Fake News and Disinformation in the Caribbean during the COVID-19 Pandemic'" organized by The University of the West Indies Open Campus St Kitts and Nevis, St Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean. UNESCO's publication "Journalism 'Fake News' & Disinformation" helped journalists better understand how to develop strategies for dealing with disinformation during the pandemic.

OUTCOME 3: A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean



Strengthening evidence-based citizen security policies and programming

In 2020, personnel involved in the collection and production of crimes statistics in eight (8) countries across the region (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the

Grenadines) were empowered with new state of the art tools and skills to capture and analyze crime data. Approximately 50 police stations were empowered with new, state-of-the art tools and skills to capture and analyze crime data.

These efforts, which are led by UNDP in partnership with USAID and UKFCDO, will assist personnel in collecting higher quality data and transitioning to improved modes of crime prevention and law enforcement, informed by real time information and robust analytics. Additionally, two (2) regional organizations Regional Security System (RSS) and CARICOM IMPACS benefited from trainer of trainer in Crime Analysis. New skills were developed for crime data collection and baseline data was collected in Saint Lucia.

Promoting Evidence based Interventions (EBIs) eliminating violence against women and girls (VAWGs)

The Ending Violence against Women and Girls Data Hub (The Caribbean Women Count) was launched regionally in 2020 and will increase regional and sub-regional access to critical data on the prevalence of different forms of sexual violence and barriers to services from five countries across the region (Grenada, Guyana Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago). This information platform increases the availability of critical data to allow stakeholders to inform, adopt and implement the requisite laws, policies and programmes to prevent and protect against VAWGs. These outputs further builds on efforts aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for reductions in the incidence of violent crimes, particularly those perpetrated against Women. For maximum impact across subregion the UNST further enhanced its strategic collaboration with OECS, USAID, EU and CARICOM to foster more innovative and responsive GBV programming in the post-COVID-19 environment.

Shining the Spotlight on GBV across the Eastern Caribbean

The Spotlight Grenada Joint Programme (JP) was launched in March 2020 to assist survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). It is being jointly implemented by four Agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, PAHO/ WHO. Other implementing agencies include UNFPA, ILO, governments, NGOs and CSOs. Building on the Spotlight Grenada JP, the Regional Spotlight Initiative entitled: 'Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Prevent and Respond to Family Violence in the Caribbean' was also launched in September 2020. The flagship partnership between the EU and the UN, aims to empower and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), and compliments existing Spotlight country programmes in Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana. The regional initiative will address specific barriers, challenges or bottlenecks that inhibit progress on the prevention of a response to violence against women and girls regionally. These combined efforts support the UN's commitment of building robust national and regional capacity

to prevent and respond to family violence, through legal and institutional strengthening, prevention, services, data, and support for civil society.

OUTCOME 4: A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean



The UN, in partnership with national and regional stakeholders, supported innovative and gender-focused solutions to bolster climate change adaptation, DRR, and environmental sustainability, while strengthening institutional and community resilience at national and regional levels. In Dominica, national access to clean energy was expanded to support the operation of critical health and first-response facilities in the event of a natural hazard. These interventions represented a continuation of the MCO's multi-pronged strategy to build climate resilience through traditional adaptation measures, combined with climate change mitigation efforts that simultaneously reduce risks during disasters. In addition, community-level climate resilience in three communities in Dominica were also bolstered through an Early Warning System approach.

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Photo Credit: UNDP

Building gender responsive capacity within climate adaptation programming

Gender-focused climate change adaptation measures were pursued to strengthen the capacity of national disaster organizations and national gender machineries in Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and St. Kitts and Nevis. Countries were supported in development of GBV service mappings and referral pathways updated to the COVID - 19 context to ensure access to multi-sectoral services for GBV survivors. This strengthened Governments' capacity to better respond to GBV in both development and emergency settings. FAO, in collaboration with CARICOM and the Government of Canada, through a "Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean" initiative, is supporting Caribbean countries in utilizing gender-sensitive climate -smart technologies to revolutionize and increase resilience of agri-food systems. Assessments to identify and prioritize technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation are also being explored and knowledge and regulatory products on management, biodiversity, and sustainable production both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are among the overall outputs to be achieved. These are being developed in partnership with a wide range of national stakeholders and researchers , including CDEMA, DEM, CERMES and the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification.



Photo Credit: UNESCO

Building resilient infrastructure within education and health sectors regionally

Under the Caribbean School Safety Initiative (CSSI), students benefitted from equal, inclusive, and safer access to education and a more resilient education sector. Capacities of over **400** principals were strengthened in mapping schools' hazards and establishing corresponding standard operating procedures and humanitarian education sector responses. This path fully aligned with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Resilient education is increasingly being understood as a holistic framework that includes disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and physical and mental health education. As of these efforts **10,172** direct and indirect beneficiaries (including policy makers, teachers, and school principals) benefitted from increased knowledge and skills on DRR, DRM and RE. UNESCO, in collaboration with UNDRR, CDEMA and other regional partners, coordinated the Permanent Secretaries in Education Session for the Caribbean Safe School Pre-Ministerial Forum scheduled for March 2021. Education leaders and policymakers are expected to benefit from the dialogue for streamlining and advancing programme implementation of the CSSI.

Access to safe healthcare and education in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica were improved through long-awaited restoration and enhancement of key infrastructure damaged during hurricanes in 2017. In Dominica, more than **100** primary school-aged children and community members benefitted from restoration of the Salisbury Educational Facility, the largest education facility and hurricane shelter restored post Hurricane Maria, using UNDP's "build back better" approach. This innovative approach informed Government policy to ensure that all new or renovated national infrastructure is resilient to future shocks, including seismic and hurricane events, and equipped with green and renewable technology and energy.

Strengthening institutional, mechanisms for improving resilience

In 2020, the UNST supported institutional and community resilience at both regional and national levels, through the Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility (CRRF). This initiative strengthens recovery, supports building back better, and integrates resilience planning in the region. The Facility is understood as a tool to provide strategic guidance for recovery efforts across the whole Caribbean region, in respect to both economic and development drivers as well as affected populations at the regional, national and community level. The CRRF would guide, advocate for, and provide solutions to recovery challenges of the Caribbean region under the overall leadership of CARICOM, with implementation by CDEMA. The Facility embodies the principles of local ownership, local leadership, and it is fully driven by the region.

OCHA Regional Office for LAC (ROLAC) increased activities in the Caribbean alongside a growing UN presence and scaled-up

support for disaster preparedness and response efforts in the highly vulnerable Eastern Caribbean. The placement of a Humanitarian Advisory Team (HAT) in the sub-region brings ROLAC closer to key development and humanitarian actors in the Caribbean, acting as a fulcrum for coordination and information management support to the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) and the UN Sub-Regional Team (UNST). Embedded in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), the HAT plays a key role in strengthening localized readiness and response capacity in the **10** EC countries and territories under the coverage of the RCO for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

UNESCO, in partnership with CARICOM and CDEMA, builds awareness and fosters synergy between policies and practices for the protection of culture from the effects of disasters through capacity building, awareness-raising and advocacy. Guidelines elaborated to identify ways in which workflows for risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response for the culture sector can be incorporated within the national/local disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

Improving access to citizens data through strategic usage of ICT

A key thrust of the emerging support provided to Eastern Caribbean Governments is in data strengthening and ICT. ITU supported capacity building in developing and promoting ICT and big data use in pandemic response.

FAO strengthened national institutional capacities to collect, analyse and report agricultural and fisheries data. Fisherfolk ,and the respective government units, were equipped with knowledge and tools to strengthen capacities and institutional mechanisms for policy, governance and action to ensure sustainable food and nutrition security and economic stability. Improved access to communication and emergency equipment was also supported to enhance operations of fisherfolk in St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda and Tobago.

Inclusive and sustainable solutions for conservation, restoration and use of ecosystems and natural resources

In St. Kitts and Nevis and Dominica, protection for unique biodiversity species was enhanced during the year, with national capacity to manage the Protected Area (PA) network doubled in St. Kitts, while Dominica saw a **30%** expansion of the area under conservation protections. In both countries, interventions built on previous work and, in St. Kitts and Nevis, contributed to an increase of priority endemic species in the terrestrial PAs. Through its Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), UNESCO, in cooperation with local authorities, supported the clean-up of waterways in the territory of Saint Mary's

Biosphere Reserve, in St Kitts and Nevis, actively engaging youth and local communities. In Antigua and Barbados, national authorities received capacity building support to monitor progress towards international environmental agreements, while farmers in Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis were better equipped to adapt to water shortages with the implementation of rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation and shade house pilots.

Through the UNDP Accelerator Lab, over 200 solutions to challenges in Blue Economy sectors such as fisheries, waste management, renewable energy, marine conservation and responsible tourism have been identified. These solutions also include the use of underwater robots for coral reef mapping and post - disaster assessment in Barbados.

Development Policy and Other Strategic Products

- New National Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) completed and endorsed in Grenada and in progress in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to improve food quality of school feeding programmes. [Food-based Guidelines-Grenada](#)
- FAO assessment of legal frameworks in five Caribbean countries vis-à-vis entry points for fishing vessel insurance [Compulsory fishing vessel insurance in the Caribbean](#)
- Individual food consumption and composition survey undertaken in St. Kitts and Nevis . This provided the evidential basis for effective in-country nutritional policies and programmes in the country to reduce occurrence of obesity, overweight and related non-communicable diseases. [Individual Food Consumption and Composition Survey](#)
- A national policy for the fisheries sector 2020-30 was finalized and presented to the government of Saint Lucia. [Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Fisheries Sector](#)
- Saint Lucia's National School Feeding Policy 2020-2024 was developed and presented to government for endorsement to improve the program by ensuring healthy diets with produce procured from local farmers.
- The Government of Barbados finalized its National Population Policy in 2020, and Dominica was also supported in population planning, analysis and mainstreaming to support the development of a population policy and action plan.
- UNDP developed blue economy scoping studies for Dominica, the British Virgin Islands, Barbados and Montserrat , to act as preliminary assessments of key active blue sectors and opportunities for blue growth.
- Barbados hosted the Caribbean sub-regional Consultation on the draft Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI), organized as part of the UNESCO process of developing an international normative instrument that outlines the role, impact and ethics of AI.

*Summary of MSDF Achievements are available in Annex.

2.2. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results



Photo Credit: PAHO

UN Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Support to COVID-19

The UN, under the overall leadership of PAHO, played a significant role in supporting Caribbean Governments in their immediate to longer-term response to the COVID-19 crisis, while maintaining essential service delivery and addressing other health priorities including hurricane preparedness and Dengue prevention. Support was repurposed, technical resources reprioritized and funding leveraged from traditional donors, including the EU, USAID, UN-DIFID, India-UN Joint Fund and the SDG Joint Fund, to protect lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable. In contributing to a more resilient health sector, efforts were directed to strengthening disaster risk management, and the capacity of regional Governments to respond to health emergencies. PAHO's Incident Management and Support Team (ISMT) and emergency operation mechanism was activated in February 2020 with a regional mandate to save lives, protect health workers and curb the spread of COVID-19.

It supported country coordination, risk communication and community engagement, mental and psychosocial support, surveillance and rapid response, points of entry protocols; as well as laboratory strengthening, logistics and operational support. A COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Response Plan for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean was also launched on May 6. ¹The MRP and funding appeal (**US\$29.7M**) provided an 11-pillar strategic framework beyond primary health impacts, and successfully brought special attention to the unique vulnerabilities of Caribbean SIDS, and yielded new commitments from international partners in prioritizing their needs. The initiative garnered **US \$ 23.8 M or 80%** of resources requested to address countries' immediate health and socio-economic needs. Some of the key achievements are featured below. Support for accessing COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility, and for communications campaigns to address vaccine hesitancy also ensued in 2021.

“ In 2021, we will build on the many advances we have made, driven by the goals of keeping people safe, serving the vulnerable and promoting healthier lives.”

- Dr. Yitades Gebres, PAHO Representative

MSDF Outcome Areas	MRP 1.0 Pillars
An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Economic Recovery and Livelihood Restoration ◦ Education ◦ Social Protection
Healthy Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Health & Wellness ◦ Food and Nutrition Security and Standards ◦ Logistics and Supply Chain Management
A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Gender Based Violence and Violence against Children ◦ Human Rights
A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Economic Recovery and Livelihood Restoration

Figure 2 .0: Alignment of the UN MSDF priority areas with the MRP

PILLAR 1 Health & Wellness



With UN support, testing, treatment, isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing capacities were enhanced across countries. Several agencies supported the health response including through procurement of PPEs¹ and other vital laboratory equipment and supplies.² To enhance country response and coordination and strengthen Health Promotion Units, a **Joint Procurement Task Force** was established for medical equipment (PAHO/UNDP/UNICEF/UNOPS) and an **Integrated Caribbean Logistics Hub** established in Barbados to service the wider region (WFP/PAHO/CDEMA/BDF/CARICOM/RSS). Health workers were protected through training, capacity building and provision of essential supplies. To name a few, PAHO provided over **869,325** medical masks including **284,108** N95s, and **265,150** swabs. UNOPs also supported the Barbados Government with the acquisition of ventilators and an ICU bed. Laboratory capacity for PCR testing in Barbados and the ECC, increased from two in February to seven by August and capacity for COVID-19 molecular testing was enhanced through distribution of emergency supplies of **1,320** GenX-pert cartridges to overseas territories and Eastern Caribbean

countries. Countries were assisted to fight the pandemic through provision of PPEs on an ongoing basis, including oxygen concentrators (**28**), ventilators(**41**), defibrillators(**4**), and vital signs monitors (**30**) to enhance clinical management. Community surveillance at Ports of Entry was strengthened and countries supported through donations of vehicles and IT equipment including computers, tablets, and printers. PAHO also prepared Health Systems for introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Education and Training

UN agencies collectively strengthened health promotion increasing awareness and enhancing capabilities of citizens, frontline workers and Governments to protect themselves and others. UNICEF and PAHO supported RCCE activities in all countries reaching **272, 853** persons with COVID-19 awareness, anti-stigma and hygiene messaging. Some **840,000** persons were supported through radio outreach. Regular updates via social media and other forums, including through SMS or voice messages across the OECS, also helped to mitigate risks. (UNICEF/PAHO/ITU/UNICEF/OECS). PAHO, through thematic webinars, also provided support for scale up of COVID-19 testing, re-opening of borders, and response to NCDs, maternal and child health , GBV, men's health and Dengue amid COVID. High-level briefings also

¹ <https://easterncaribbean.un.org/en/113505-sub-regional-multisectoral-response-plan-covid-19-pandemic>

¹PPEs – PCR kits, masks, gloves(26,226), goggles (26,226), gowns (203,642), shoe covers, face shields(73,056)

²Laboratory equipment and supplies – PCR machines, extraction kits, thermal and contact digital thermometers(1,266) infusion pumps(20), testing kits, surveillance computers, IT equipment, vehicles.

improved response capacity for Governments, the diplomatic community and other special interest groups. UNESCO produced and disseminated a learner-centered video on safe re-opening of schools through ministries of education in over **20** English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries, with subtitles also produced in Spanish and French. UNESCO further supported teacher capacity strengthening in distance education through a suite of COVID-19 rapid response initiatives, inclusive of the UNESCO CARICOM Caribbean webinar series, reaching some **7,600** teachers, teacher educators and MoE officials, as well as the upskilling of regional teacher-trainers through training by the Global Education Coalition Partner – Blackboard Academy in **20** Caribbean states.

Over **400** faith-based leaders in six countries were better equipped in child protection and close to **200** persons in clinical management of COVID-19 (PAHO/UNICEF). Thousands of parents, children, caregivers, and frontline workers strengthened their coping abilities through free tele-mental health and psychosocial support services (UNICEF/PAHO/OECS). To support national health systems in expanding coverage of key quality services and interventions, PAHO, UN Women and UNFPA supported development of a COVID-19 specific “Basic Shelter Guide” in preparation for the 2020 Hurricane season and PAHO/WHO developed a COVID-19 Risk Communication Healthcare Facilities Toolkit for regional Health Ministries.⁴

Serving high-risk populations

Working in concert with national councils for the disabled, family planning associations and gender machineries across eight countries, UN Women and UNFPA led on support for policy enhancement and universal access to quality health care services for vulnerable women and other high-risk individuals. An assessment of reproductive and health commodity security in Eastern Caribbean countries was conducted to support clients in Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Some **102,488** pieces of PPEs were donated to family planning and GBV CSOs across four countries and **3,000** face masks, **100** protection kits, and food and medication vouchers supplied to GBV shelters and **200** vulnerable women and families across five OECS countries. Under the EnGenDER Project, COVID-19 sector-response grants of over USD\$24,500, supported close to **200** tourism affected households, women in farming/fisheries, and provided referral pathway training for hotline personnel in four OECS countries. Communication and risk mitigation products were developed/adapted for the disabled community and GBV service mappings and referral pathways updated to the COVID context to strengthen Government’s response in development and emergency settings.

⁴ [Risk-communication-package-for-healthcare-facilities.pdf \(who.int\)](#)



Photo Credit: WFP

PILLAR 2 Food & Nutrition Security



Food security and sustainability of livelihoods were among the major secondary impacts of the COVID crisis, that had more pervasive impacts on the region. The capacity of **13** Caribbean countries to improve analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods, was strengthened via two-rounds of a [Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey](#) (3rd round completed in 2021).

This supported Governments in timely decision making and helped to support immediate and medium-term response. (WFP/FAO/CARICOM/CDEMA). FAO also provided tailored policy support for promoting and expanding economic competitiveness and strengthening regional agricultural sectors to make greater contributions to GDP, including market driven approaches for food systems development and livelihood diversification opportunities. Transformation of the agri-food sector and forward-looking recovery was also advanced through Development of National Agricultural Plans (FAO/CARICOM/OECS), as well as establishment of virtual communication and information platforms and release of weekly bulletins.⁵

* Nearly one year after the first recorded case of COVID-19 in the Caribbean, CARICOM launched the third round of the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Survey. This followed the July 2020 survey and aimed to analyze how impacts shifted since the onset of the crisis. (WFP/CARICOM/CDEMA/FAO/ECHO/USAID).

PILLAR 3 Economic Recovery & Livelihoods



To mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Caribbean countries, support was provided to Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) on economic transformation, digitalization, and e-commerce. This was critical for economic recovery and livelihood restoration as well as to ensure income security, decent work, and economic autonomy for women. At the macro-level, Government’s capacity to access to alternative and sustainable financing strategies for development was also enhanced. Among other mechanisms, steps were taken to better position regional Governments to undertake effective fiscal, debt and macro-economic management for sustainable development through multi-agency support. In supporting prospects for future economic development, the UN also enhanced individual and institutional planning capacities for inclusive Blue/ Green/ Orange Economy, as sustainable cultural tourism (UNDP/FAO/UNEP/UNESCO/ECLAC).

Women’s Economic Empowerment and Financial Inclusion

A comprehensive COVID-19 response, with emphasis on deepening economic resilience, supported the region’s agriculture and fisheries sector and boosted adaptive capacity for livelihoods and food security. It also enhanced Governments’ response to the “shadow pandemic” of GBV, while fostering gender equality and women empowerment. Under the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) Joint Programme, over **2,500** farmers and agripreneurs (50% women) across five participating countries will benefit from enhanced business skills and linkages to markets (UN Women/FAO/ILO/UNDP). Over **250** women agricultural/fisheries entrepreneurs, in three countries, are engaging in legal advisory clinics to increase legal literacy and support land/asset ownership, while another **125** are improving livelihoods through business support clinics.

In Dominica, with UN Women support vulnerable women farmers continued to ply their trade and support their households during COVID-19 border closures, through the creation of a safe online market platform. Under the EnGenDER Project (UN Women/WFP/CDEMA) women farmers in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were equipped to better cope with the

⁵ [Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey](#)

pandemic through gender-responsive support, including provision of equipment, GBV training and psycho-social support. In Grenada, through grants provided under the Spotlight Initiative, CSOs were supported in scaling up existing successful response to GBV and COVID-19, through service delivery, creating safe spaces for GBV survivors and engaging men and boys.

Labour Support

UN support to Governments and labour organizations in the areas of market recovery, occupational safety, enterprise recovery and employment protection helped to mitigate labour impacts and job losses, while strengthening prospects for future job opportunities. Over **900** unemployed Barbadians enhanced their employability through national entrepreneurial-focused employment programmes, and job prospects in Antigua and Barbuda, were enhanced through operationalization of a UN Multi-partner Trust Fund Project (ILO). Studies on the impact of COVID on youth employment and on the transitioning of youth from education to work informed policy implementation in the region (ILO/UNDP/UWI). These efforts were enhanced by ILO’s “Resilient and Decent Work” agenda and the launch of a 10 -step tool for safe return to work for those fortunate enough to retain employment.

Revitalisation of Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

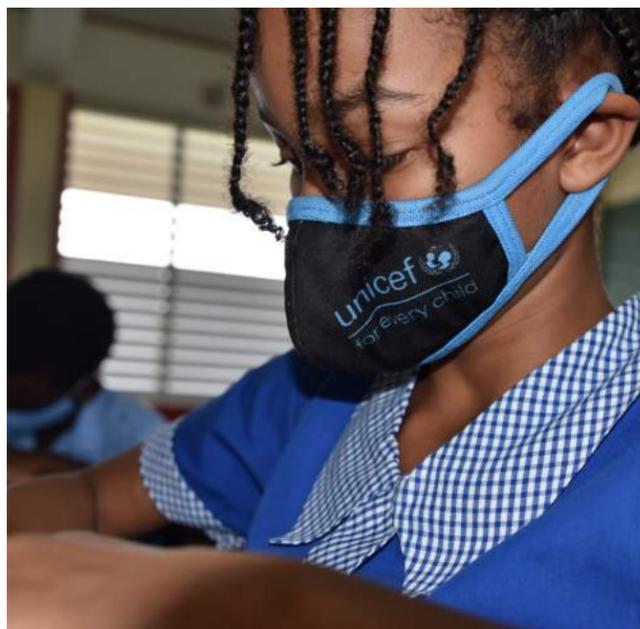
UNDP led on provision of strategic support for MSMEs in the areas of economic diversification, digitalization, and e-commerce to ensure resilient recovery. This included provision of cash grants to over **30** MSMEs in Barbados, Grenada and BVI, and development of digital e-commerce platforms for Government and private sector entities to support economic transformation. Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Reports were developed across eight countries and modelled COVID-19 impacts on economic growth and government finances. This was supported by relevant interventions to promote resilience.



Photo Credit: UN Women/ Ryan Brown

“ Every time we reached out to UNICEF and PAHO they responded positively and have gone beyond the call of duty to assist the students of Barbados. Their support has been evident from day one.”

-Santia Bradshaw, Minister of Education, Barbados



programmes during periods of school closures and support provided to Ministries of Education and Health to ensure referrals for psychosocial support to children, parents, and the education workforce.

PILLAR 5 Social Protection



Governments were assisted to expand socio-economic emergency measures to reach the most vulnerable, social protection systems. As part of the SDG Joint Fund for Adaptive Social Protection Project, WFP signed MOUs with the Governments of Saint Lucia and Dominica, and over **3,500** families in Saint Lucia, Dominica and Barbados benefitted from strengthening of National Social Assistance Programmes through cash transfers, top-ups and temporary expansion. Gender-responsive social protection support was also provided to women to enhance job skills and childcare among other areas. (UNICEF/WFP/ ILO/UNDP/UN Women).

In Saint Lucia, with UN support, Government's Public Assistance Programme (PAP) was expanded to **1,000** more needy families. Over 300 children with disabilities and **180** in foster care benefitted from US\$50,000 in cash top ups, and over **500** vulnerable families received psychosocial and other support through a new "Cash Plus" approach. In Dominica, **1,255** additional vulnerable families were supported through the expanded PAP and **1,976** from cash top ups. To support DRR, over **50** essential workers from 10 Caribbean countries were equipped in Shock-responsive Social Protection (UNICEF/CDEMA). Countries were also supported in drafting social protection National Action Plans to address the secondary impacts of COVID-19 (UNICEF/OECS) and UN Women informed Government social protection policy through a policy paper on inclusive economic empowerment.⁶

*Story on the benefit of Cash Top-Ups to a family in Saint Lucia is available in the Annex

PILLAR 6 GBV & Violence Against Children



Regional Governments' efforts to protect women's rights and empower women and children, including working to end all forms of VAWG was enhanced through joint support provided under the EU-UN joint Spotlight Initiative, Governments were supported to better provide an integrated GBV and SRH response, given the nexus and critical relation between

reproductive health and rights and family violence. Support was mainstreamed for vulnerable individuals and groups, including children, and persons with disabilities to leave no one behind. This pillar was led by UN WOMEN/ UNFPA/UNICEF/UNDP.

One noteworthy success story is the retrofitting work done to protect and improve the quality of lives of the residents at the Cedars Home for Abused Women, their Children and support staff, in the context of COVID-19. To meet required public health measures, the Spotlight Project supported installation of sink basins to provide adequate means for washing hands and improved ventilation throughout the facility. Issues of storage and privacy were also addressed, to ensure the dignity of residents, and the home provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure safety of staff and residents.

During this period, a Guide for COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Shelters for Women and Children Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence in the Caribbean was developed (UN WOMEN, UNFPA and PAHO). Consequently, a space was identified and is being retrofitted at the Cedars Home to serve as a temporary isolation room for any residents who require it.

Support for National Assessments and Capacity Building

The UN supported capacity building and national studies and assessments, to equip Governments to address gaps in service provision relative to COVID-19 control in GBV shelters,⁷ gender-transformative hurricane preparedness response,⁸ harassment and violence in the workplace⁹ all supported through policy-based studies.¹⁰ The UN partnered with the Barbados Ministry of Labour and Social Partnership to enhance knowledge of GBV in the workplace, through the launch of its inaugural "Addressing Gender-based Violence in the Workplace Project".

Three Eastern Caribbean countries credited UN Women's support with informing their COVID-19 response and recovery relative to development of Cabinet papers, participation in national response and recovery relative to development of Cabinet papers, participation in national response committees, and establishment of hotlines for COVID-19/GBV thus

ensuring a gender inclusive response. (Grenada/Saint Lucia/Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

Communications

Over **30,000** persons in three EC countries are expected to be made more aware of GBV and available support services in country due to campaigns launched. To avoid gaps relative to persons living with disabilities, UNFPA supported tailored communications and advocacy, and a webinar series on violence against children and mental health was launched by UNICEF/PAHO/Inter- American Children's Institute/CARICOM.

Child Protection

With UNICEF support, **2,164** children and staff in state care facilities across six EC islands and Overseas Territories, were equipped to adhere to national safety protocols. UNICEF-supported child protection Ministries in eight countries, are at varying stages of procurement and use of critical hygiene and prevention supplies for children in state care. To support policy, a COVID-19 Child Protection Response Plan developed. (UNICEF/PAHO)

Access to Essential Services

UNFPA led Government support on essential services delivery across the region. An "Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence" launched in Saint Lucia strengthened capacity in the Ministry of Gender, and South-South cooperation between Caribbean countries was facilitated to strengthen delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in the education curriculum. Continuation of SRH and GBV services during COVID-19 was maintained through support to service providers, including through telemedicine. Meanwhile, UNDP supported infrastructural development for creation of GBV hotlines, provision of counselling and psychosocial support for response workers and protection for frontline personnel working with GBV survivors. (Antigua and Barbuda/Saint Vincent and the Grenadines/ Saint Lucia).

“ We consider this issue to be so crucial because of its impact on all aspects of our lives, and we pay a heavy price socially and economically. Grenada recognises that gender equality is required if we are to experience a state where there is harmony and progress for everyone ”

- Hon. Dr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada

⁶COVID-19 AND IMPLICATIONS FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN CARICOM: POLICY AND PROGRAMME CONSIDERATIONS

⁷ COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Shelters for Women and Children Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence in the Caribbean (PAHO, UNFPA, and UN Women)

⁸Gender-Transformative Hurricane Resilience during the COVID-19 Crisis

⁹ILO Adopts Convention on Violence and Harassment at Work

¹⁰Caribbean Women Count: VAWG Data Hub (unwomen.org)

PILLAR 4 Education Intervention



COVID-19 school closures have had a deleterious impact on the region's education sector, particularly on underprivileged children. The UN, led by UNICEF, partnered with regional Ministries of Education to increase educational access for vulnerable children and improve learning for all students, through the provision of tablets and community-level connectivity, supporting safe reopening of schools and delivery of blended education during school closures. Over **20,000** students received remote learning through television, radio, and online platforms and approximately **3,900** teachers were better able to deliver online instruction on various platforms. IT played a critical role in continuing education as such, the "GIGA" Eastern Caribbean Project was launched to connect every school to the internet and every young person to information, opportunity, and choice. (UNICEF/ITU/OECS)

Guidance was provided and hygiene items distributed to Education Ministries, to facilitate safe reopening of schools, and Ministries were supported in the development of Education in Emergency Contingency Plans. With UN support Governments were also assisted to adapt existing school feeding

“Human rights are our bloodline; they connect us to one another, as equals .”

- António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General



“With the extra money I received through the Child Disability Grant (part of top-up to Government’s PAP supported by the SDG Joint Fund), I was able to buy stuff like milk, biscuits, flour, rice, cleaning items and diapers for my son because he still wears diapers .”

- Michelle, unemployed single mother and caregiver in Saint Lucia.

PILLAR 7 Human Rights



Human rights mainstreaming to protect the rights of the most vulnerable persons was critical during the COVID-19 global emergency. Under the technical leadership of the Human Rights Adviser, the UN engaged civil society representatives, human rights defenders and key stakeholders to assess the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and other marginalized individuals, and provided policy guidance and advice for their protection and to facilitate referrals to governments and CSOs. Governments and at-risk groups were also supported through advocacy and public messaging regarding the human rights implications of the COVID-19 crisis in the Caribbean region. A highlight of this engagement was the participation of disability advocates from across the Caribbean in an online dialogue on COVID-19 and persons with disabilities to recognize International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The dialogue allowed policy makers to hear directly from the rights holders regarding what issues urgently needed attention, what was working and what was not. Efforts were made to ensure that the voices of persons with disabilities were also included in outreach campaigns and dialogues planned for UN75, and sign language interpretation services provided whenever possible.

PILLAR 8 Logistics & Supply Management



The WFP supported Governments in end-to-end supply chain management, particularly the delivery of medical equipment as part of its global support mechanism in partnership with PAHO/WHO and the private sector. The Programme is also building response capacity through registration of regional vendors able to provide air and sea transport support as needed. With logistical support from WFP, international donations of over **52** metric tonnes of medical equipment—including testing kits, ventilators, and PPEs, that arrived at the seaport and airport in Barbados —were delivered throughout CARICOM in support of CDEMA. An Integrated COVID-19 Regional Logistics Hub (Caribbean COVID-19 Logistics Cell - do you think these are one and the same) was established in Barbados to service the region supply chain training and provided to the Department of Emergency Management in Barbados. (WFP/CDEMA)



**LEAVE
NO ONE
BEHIND**

Ensuring Inclusive and Resilient Access

While health was a key priority for 2020, COVID-19 and the new normal of teleworking, telecommuting, virtual meetings/workshops and virtual implementation modalities, underscored the importance of sound telecommunications and ICT. ICT also facilitates continued access to healthcare, education, and essential goods and services. The ITU, in keeping with SDG 9, partnered with regional Governments and stakeholders to develop and promote ICT and big data use in pandemic response. This entailed ensuring internet availability to hospitals, schools, and Governments, and provision of telecommunication infrastructure, including text messaging, directly on mobile phones with vital COVID-19 health messaging. The UN procured equipment and conducted training for beneficiary countries under the “Use of ICTs in Emergency and Disaster situations in the Caribbean” Project. (Antigua and Barbuda/ Dominica/ Barbados/ Guyana/ St. Kitts and Nevis/Jamaica), supported finalisation of a National Emergency Telecommunications Plan for Saint Lucia. National cyber-security was also enhanced through operationalisation of National Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRT) (Barbados /Bahamas). Governments were also supported through establishment of new ICT policies, legislation, and regulations to help unleash the power of communication technology to save lives from COVID-19. In this regard the capacity of Government officials to appropriately utilize ICTs was strengthened through re-sensitization support. To ensure further inclusion of members of the disabled community, ICT Assistive Equipment for visually impaired persons worth **USD\$47,368/ EC\$128,000** was donated to the islands of Dominica and Grenada in the first instance.

* Summary Results of MFP Collobrated and system-wide Efforts and Programmactic results available in Annex

2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda



Photo Credit: Spotlight Initiative

Ending Gender Based Violence

The EU-UN flagship Spotlight Grenada Joint Programme (JP) was launched in March 2020 to end family violence and all forms of VAWG. The **USD\$3.3M** Project is expected to benefit **33,457** direct and **78,502** indirect beneficiaries in Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique. Spotlight is being jointly implemented by four UN Agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, PAHO/ WHO. Other partners include UNFPA, ILO, governments, NGOs and CSOs.

Building on the Spotlight Grenada JP, the Regional Spotlight Initiative entitled: 'Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Prevent and Respond to Family Violence in the Caribbean' was launched in September 2020.

This **USD \$12.7M** Spotlight Regional Caribbean Joint Programme is a scaled-up effort between the United Nations and the European Union to foster gender equality and respond to family violence. It is being jointly implemented by four UN agencies - UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, and UNFPA. Regional Partners include CARICOM, OECS Commission, Caribbean Development Bank, CVC, CDEMA and CAJO.

Launch of Business Advisory Group to establish Sub-Regional Global Compact Chapter

The Business Advisory Group (BAG) was launched in November 2020 as a transitional coordinating mechanism that will advise on the establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Sub-Regional Global Compact Network (EC SRGCN) in 2021. Specifically, the BAG was established to garner membership and to advise on the value proposition for the network. The BAG comprises 4 companies with regional presence as well as 3 Chambers of Commerce from Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica and Saint Lucia.

ECDPG and Donor's Mapping Report and Strategy

The Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG) was reorganised in 2020 with the rotation of the UN co-chairs as well as the Development Partners co-chairs.

The ECPDG Donors' Mapping exercise was also completed to provide the sub-groups of the ECDPG with a basis for analysis to develop their own workplan for 2020-21. The information from the mapping exercise includes the UN's programmes captured from UN Info.

Improving the availability of data for planning and monitoring

In 2020, National Statistical Offices (NSOs), through UNFPA, received continued support to conduct the national population and housing census. In collaboration with the OECS, a Census Toolkit was developed as a compendium of tools and resources to guide Member States on all stages of the census process. National Statistical Offices from Indonesia and Philippines shared experiences with Caribbean NSOs on conducting a census in the 'new normal' of the COVID-19 pandemic through a south-south brokered initiative. ECLAC was instrumental in providing technical assistance for capacity building of National Statistical System to enhance evidence-based policy planning and IOM promoted fact-based and data-driven migration discourse and policy.

Financing for Small Businesses

Targeted Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Barbados, the British Virgin Islands and Grenada received direct cash support totaling **USD 134,000** through a staged grant distribution programme. This was aimed at mitigating the economic shocks experienced by MSMEs due to lower demand for goods and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, **44** (61% Female owned and operated; 39% male owned and operated) MSMEs received direct income support to supplement lost revenue, assist in the retention of employees and stimulate economic recovery.

Agricultural livelihoods and food security were prioritized in Montserrat, through a partnership between UNDP and the Department of Agriculture, to provide support to build fish aggregating devices (FADS), as well as to procure and distribute animal feed to small ruminants, pigs and poultry producers. UNDP supported the government in the identification of criteria for the selection of beneficiary recipients with 25% (15) of the total of **60** beneficiaries being women.

Youth Engagement

The UNST accelerated the 2030 Agenda by partnering with governments and regional stakeholders to achieve meaningful youth investment. Over **600** youth advocates were engaged via youth engagement platforms, targeted youth support and youth-led initiatives. In its role as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO gave space for over 60 youth to voice their ideas and reflect about the World to come in Caribbean Small Island Developing States, focusing on the Caribbean tourism sector and the role of youth in the COVID-19 response.

Youth Engagement platforms

Three UN75 dialogues were held with over **25** youth advocates resulting in innovative solutions for issues facing the Caribbean. Additionally, through UNICEF's "Youth Talks", youth advocates

were given the opportunity to address education and employment in the context of COVID-19 and youth's challenges with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's).

In 2020, **114** youth Ambassadors partnered with UNICEF to launch U-Report Barbados which provided an empowering tool for youth to engage with and speak out on issues that matter to them.

Targeted Youth Support

Youth advocates, policy makers and technical experts informed the design of a "Caribbean Roadmap for Adolescent and Youth Health", which will result in the reduction of adolescent pregnancy. This was a joint initiative by PAHO and UNFPA.

Additionally, youth representatives were assessed on the comprehensive SRH/HIV/GBV needs of young women, men, girls and boys to determine the needs and gaps that have emerged or have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean. This information will assist in effectively addressing the needs and gaps identified, and improving the health and wellbeing of young people across the region.

Youth-led Initiatives

Menstrual Hygiene Discussions



Photo Credit: PAHO

Senior Development Officer, High Commission of Canada to Barbados and OECS, Ms. Natalie Hutchinson, (left) and PAHO Representative to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Dr. Yitades Gebre (Right) presenting COVID-19 essential products to Barbados Minister of Health and Wellness, Lt. Col. Hon. Jeffery Bostic.

Disaster Preparedness (COVID 19 and Hurricane Season)

A COVID-19 committee, chaired by PAHO and co-chaired by the RCO, was established in 2020. This Committee developed the UN's Contingency plan and Safe Return to Work Protocol. A major output of the Committee was the development of the COVID-19 MRP (MRP 1.0.), and the commissioning of an extension of the MRP for 2021 (MRP 2.0).

The UN's collaboration with CDEMA was evident at regular ECDPG-DM meetings co-chaired by the UN RC. Additionally, WFP, PAHO, UNOPS and others, actively participated in the regional subcommittee on logistics and procurement under CDEMA's Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) and worked on consolidation of countries' PPE needs to streamline procurement for economies of scale. As the 2020 Hurricane season began the ECDPG-DM meetings also incorporated seasonal preparation into the agenda.

The newly established UNETT undertook an after-action review (AAR) to document lessons learned from the Hurricane Dorian response in Bahamas. Further to the AAR, the UNETT updated the Barbados and OECS Hurricane Contingency Plan.

Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index

The UNST has been working to develop, refine and operationalise the Caribbean Development Bank's (CBD) Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI). This MVI is one of few which has been constructed around the three central themes of Sustainable Development – drivers of vulnerability associated with economic development; drivers of vulnerability associated with Social Development; and drivers of vulnerability associated with environmental development and climate change.

Addressing Human Rights during the pandemic

In the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, the UNST assessed the health response and socio-economic impact on populations in vulnerable situations as well as women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and other vulnerable groups. This included engagement with civil society representatives, human rights' defenders and key stakeholders: Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD), Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO), Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), Barbados Association for Retired Persons (BARP). These engagements informed the responses to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis for the vulnerable in society.

Support toward the Voluntary National Review

National efforts have been made on self-reporting through Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) at the United Nations High-level Political Forum. During 2020 St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados presented their VNR. Both countries have demonstrated strong institutional commitments to sustainable development, and their participation in the HLPF denotes the high level of engagement of their respective governments to sustainable development and the attainment of Agenda 2030.

Overall, countries within the sub-region have utilized the VNR process as a platform to take stock and re-engage more critically with the UNDS as they develop comprehensive country roadmap to for SDG acceleration. Follow-up support from UNDS continues to focus on strengthening national SDG coordination within both countries.

2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency



Joint-up support through the SERP Implementation

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shook our societies to their core. It was a test for the UNDS, and the reforms that became operational only a year earlier. Ultimately, to effectively respond to these dynamic changes, the UNDS was better prepared to support to countries to deal with unprecedented, major health, social and economic shocks brought by the pandemic, supporting countries to save lives and livelihoods. This necessitated a new way of working and helped to accelerate bringing together the system at global and economic levels. The Socio-Economic Response Plans were central to provide a coherent and coordinated UN response and resource mobilization efforts in support of Governments to recover better. UN plans were designed and implemented in close coordination with national Governments, and in tandem with national response plans where they existed.

Accelerating and deepening delivery via Joint Initiatives

A major strategy earmarked within the UNST for the year was delivered through more effective inter and extra agency collaboration and partnerships, through Joint Programming (JP) / initiatives. It brings together two or more UN agen-

cies, under a single programmatic framework, with a shared results framework and mutual responsibility for achievement of planned results. JPs utilizes innovation in combining approaches and addressing SIDS' challenges, mobilizing / outreaching to non-traditional partners (IFIs, private sector, investors, etc) and alternative financing for development opportunities (blended financing). It is anticipated that in the long term this modality will improve development effectiveness.

Resource mobilization and AFPs participation in JPs

At the end of 2020, five (5) JPs were approved and were under implementation and two (2) were pre-approved. To effectively balance country level impact and scalability, strategic partnership were forged with the OECS for maximizing efforts under these new initiatives. The JP portfolio seen in the graphic above includes funding from four (4) Funding Management mechanisms: UNTFHS, Spotlight, Joint SDG Fund, and COVID-19 response Fund. A total of eleven (11) UN Agencies are participating in the JPs, including three (3) NRAs. Out of the \$ 16.1 M. approved \$ 8.3 M. are funded. Blue Invest aims to bring investments from the private sector and concessional funding in the tune of \$ 45 M. in 1:4 ratio of the initial capital funding.

The UN Communications Group (UNCG) strengthened partnerships with key sectors, and elevated UNST efforts to **leave no one behind** while delivering **AS ONE**. During the year, the UNCG workplan included the launch of several key joint programmes, global International Days, the UN75 global campaign and the UN75th anniversary celebration. The Group's outreach was enhanced by the launch of the new DCO-supported website, the onboarding of additional communications support across Agencies, including the RCO, and continued partnership with UNIC, regional RCOs and DCO colleagues to innovatively tell the UN story. Photo Credit: United Nations/RCO



UN Women Representative MCO-Caribbean, Tonni-Ann Brodber, UN Resident Coordinator Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Didier Trebucq, and Head of Development Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM, Luis Maia, display the signed agreement signalling the launch of Spotlight Regional Programme.



UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean partnered with Government Officials and Civil Society Organizations in Barbados, for a Sunset Lighting Ceremony to launch the 2020 16 Days of Activism against GBV. The launch culminated with the flicking of a switch to light up UN House, and its environs, for the duration of the 16 day observance.



Representative of UNICEF Eastern Caribbean, Aloys Kamuragiye, and Leader of Government Business, Barbados National Youth Parliament, Pierre Cooke Jr greet each other at our Virtual Regional Youth dialogue to celebrate International Youth Day 2020.



Members of the UN Sub-Regional team, Government partners and former EU Ambassador, H.E. Daniela Tramacere, celebrated the Launch of the Grenada Spotlight Country Programme just ahead of International Women's Day in the lovely Spice Isle. Our beloved colleague, the late Alison McLean, former UN Women Caribbean MCO Representative, is pictured second from left in the top photo.



Debaters from the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) pause for a photo op, with newly-arrived Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM, Malgorzata Wasilewska and Strategic Team Leader, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Kenroy Roach, following a successful Human Rights Day Debate. The aspiring legal luminaries joined the conversation on the role of multilateral organization within the Caribbean region.



Barbadian Soca Artist and Philanthropist, Michael "Mikey" Mercer joined the global UN75 conversation and served as a UN75 Ambassador for our regional campaign.



To commemorate our 75th Anniversary the UN partnered with the Government of Barbados to host a high-level Virtual Advocacy Concert featuring over 20 of the region's top artists. Deputy UN Secretary General, Ms. Amina Mohammed and Barbados' Cultural Ambassador Rihanna made special appearances on the night.

Photo Credit: National Cultural Foundation Barbados

2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

“*There is definitely a need for better communications and stronger cooperation at the technical level, involving people to people contacts*”

-Regional Agency Representative

Background

The MSDF evaluation is the main accountability instrument for gauging the UN Development System's collective contribution within the Caribbean. As the UN System in the Caribbean starts preparing for a new cycle, a MSDF evaluation was commissioned at the end of 2019. The evaluation will also identify synergies, gaps, overlaps and missed opportunities. Key findings will inform the MSDF 2.0 approach moving forward and ensure it is evidence-based.

The main objective of the evaluation was the following:

1. To gather key findings and lessons learned to inform the next UN MSDF planning cycle;
2. To improve UN coordination in the Caribbean; and
3. To support greater accountability towards agreed national objectives and priorities in the countries.

Preliminary Findings

The evaluation findings have reaffirmed the relevance of the MSDF in supporting strategic programming across various jurisdictions. Regional stakeholders and partners expressed overall satisfaction with the work of the UN in addressing their national level development priorities. UN programming and initiatives to date spans all 17 SDGs, with most clustered around the first five SDGs, as well as SDG 17. Programming is extensively focused on parts of society being left behind including youths (representing a significant percentage of the national population) women, children, the elderly and other disadvantaged groups.

Programming Priorities

Overall, there is a shared perception among UN staff and national counterparts that the UN is working on the right issues/challenges within the subregion. Specific programming related to economic stability, citizens security, climate change and resilience, health and disaster management continue to be relevant priorities for supporting and advancing strategic partnerships with governments and stakeholders across the subregion.

Approaches

The COVID-19 response has been swift and decisive in certain areas. The responsiveness and flexibility especially in the MRP has been valued by regional counterparts. Certain UN agencies have cooperated well in response to the crisis. COVID has been a catalyst on several levels and has reinvigorated enthusiasm and dialogue on improving regional public goods as critical mechanisms for deepening cooperation, and for addressing transboundary issues where country level capacities are not efficient or sufficient to effectively respond. This effectively includes issues such as disaster response and preparedness, climate change adaptation and health emergencies.

Successes

There are many good examples of inter-agency cooperation and joint programming and initiatives which have garnered high praise these include the SDG fund and UN HSTF regional initiatives. These have been effective in leveraging resources across the system and has fostered the injection of critical investments in priority areas. Despite the positive feedback on many aspects of the programming approaches there still remains challenges in relation to the following critical issues:

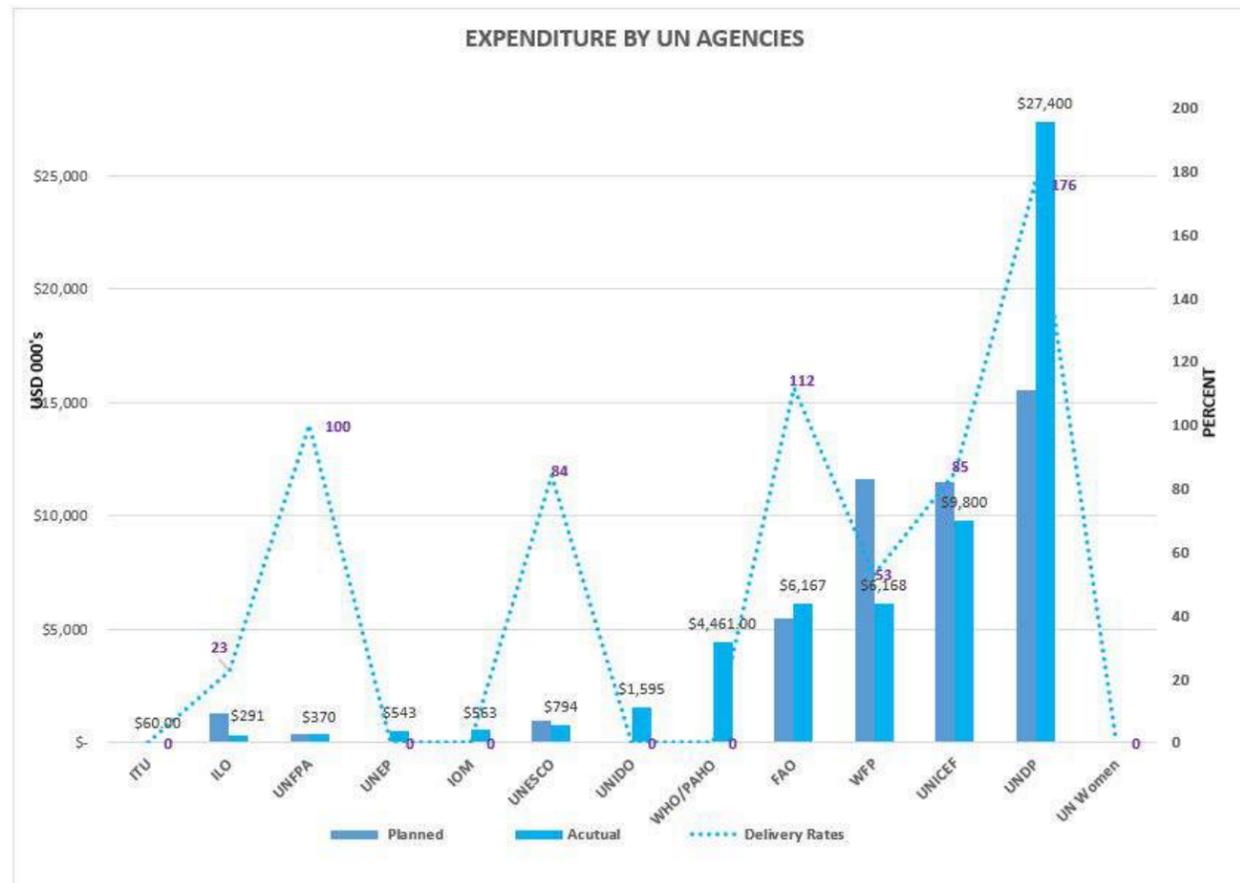
1. Frequent changes of staff in government departments perceived as a challenge by UN agencies.
2. Weak coordination around the Sustainable Development has retarded progress for more effective mainstreaming of SDGs into national policy, planning and budgeting processes.
3. Increasing need for more joint integrated programming among the agencies, especially around the SDGs.

“*Civil society representatives involved in focus group discussions for this evaluation referred to the UN programme across the region as too 'state-centric'.*”

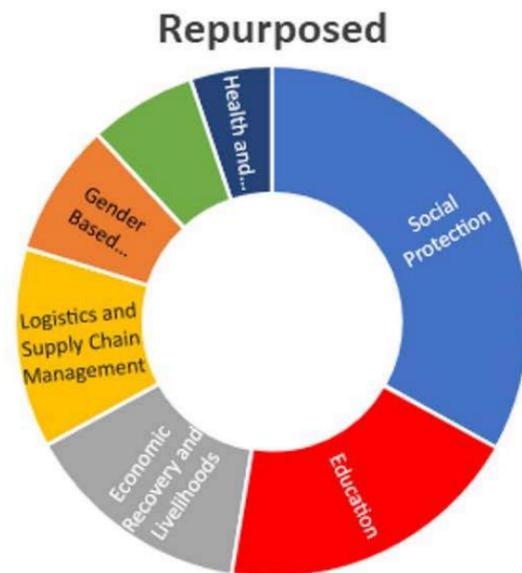
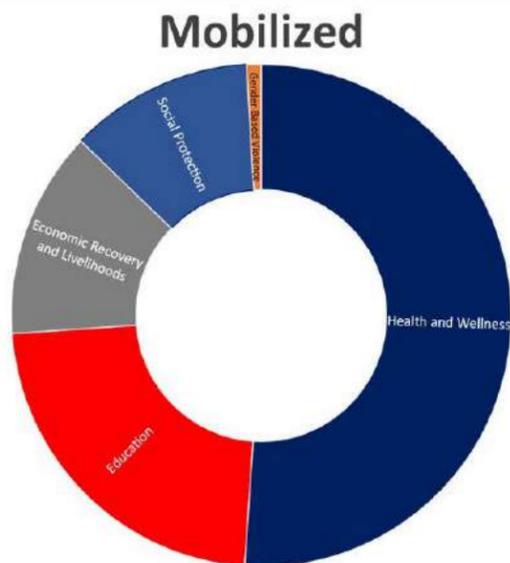
-CSO Representative

2.6. Financial Overviews and Resource Mobilization

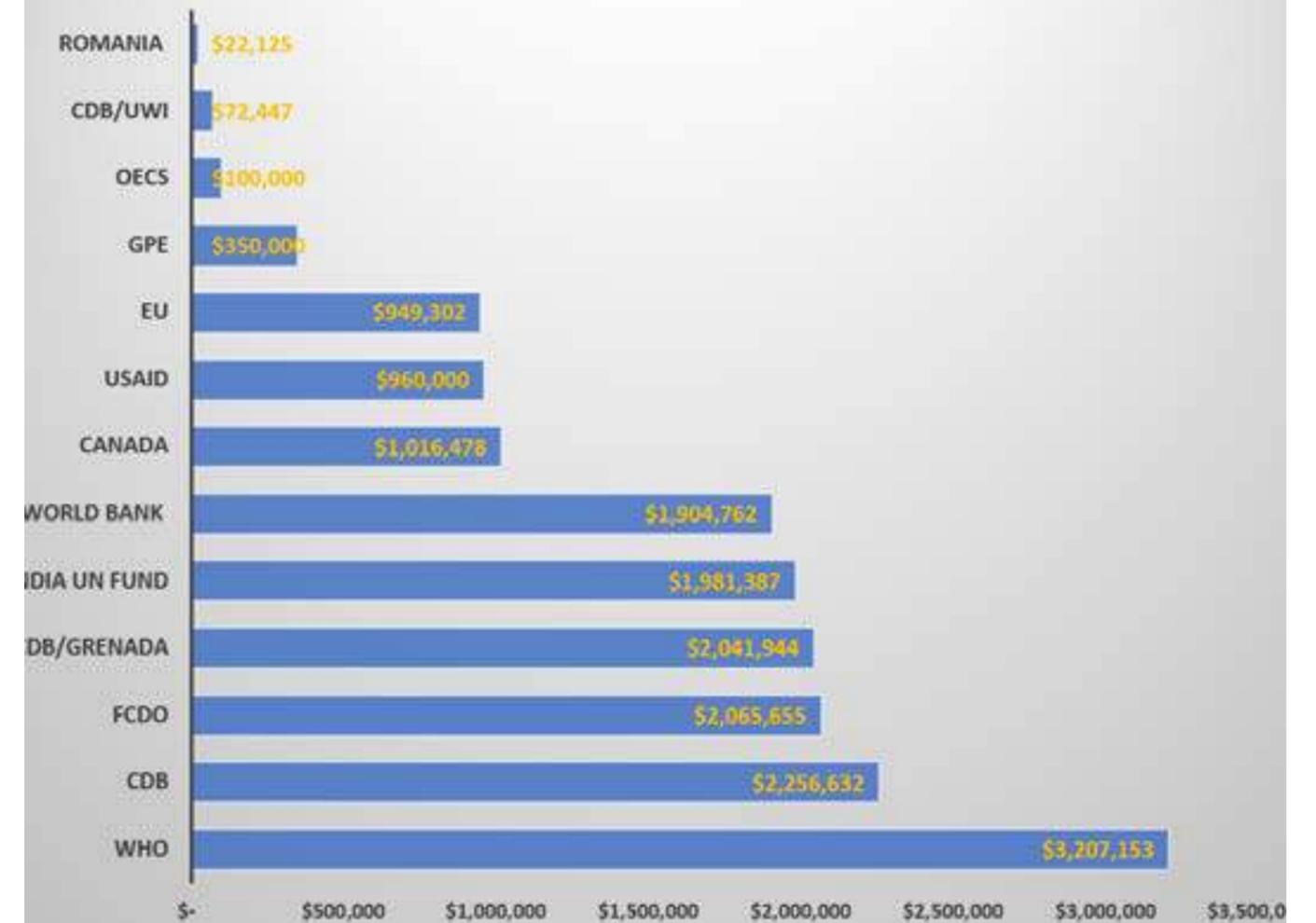
UNST Delivery Analysis (Among agencies reporting 2020 financial data)



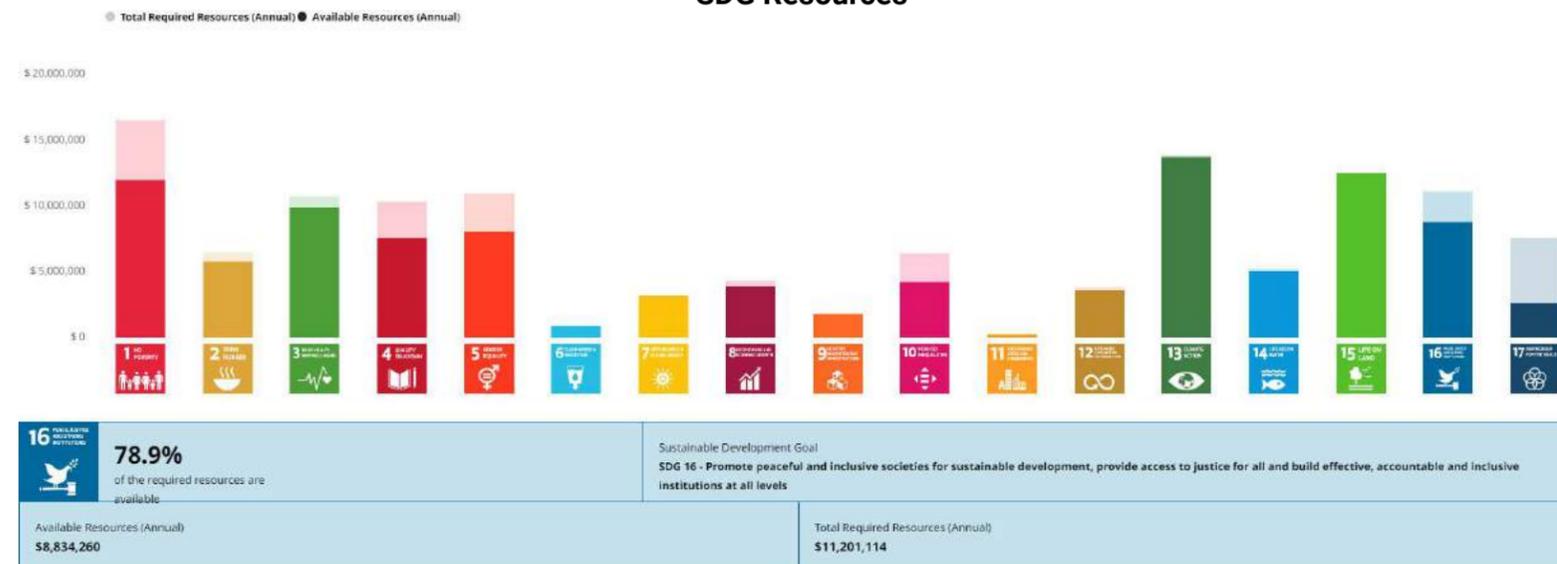
Resource Mobilization



PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS- COVID MRP



SDG Resources



Chapter 3

UNCT key focus for next year



Overview of Priorities

In 2021, the Eastern Caribbean region will continue its efforts to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus and begin the transition to socio-economic recovery. It is projected that by the summer of 2021, countries will be better positioned to refocus their efforts on building resilience to future shocks and reenergize efforts to deliver on the SDGs. Against this backdrop, and a successful effort from the UN Sub-regional Team for the Eastern Caribbean in 2020 to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, further efforts will be made to consolidate gains and help countries to develop evidence-informed recovery programmes.

This year the UN system will transition from the current Multi-Country Sustainable Development to a new Cooperation Framework for the period 2022 – 2026. In this context, the UNST will also work jointly to position the UNDS to support countries in accelerating the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals mindful of the need to further strengthen partnership with other development partners including the regional private sector and international financial institutions.

This will be critical to increasing the depth and scale of the UN system response to the new emerging challenges in areas such as – development of better statistical systems, economic diversification, adaptation to climate change, strengthening preparedness systems for future natural events and strengthening national institutions – both government and civil society organisations. At the same time, in the context of the UNDS reform, the sub-regional team will take steps to implement the recommendations of the UN Multi-country office review. This includes developing a more tailored development offer to SIDS and strengthening UN system's coordination capacities in countries.



Supporting COVID-19 Recovery

In 2021, the UNST will focus on the following results in the context of COVID-19 recovery:

1. MRP 2.0 implemented to foster a joined-up support to recovery from COVID, including on system-wide partnership building.
2. Enable and support countries access to and roll out of vaccines
3. Facilitate access to technical resources from AFPs to support COVID-19 recovery planning



Accelerating SDG Implementation

Support will be provided in the following areas:

- Antigua and Barbuda – support in the preparation of the VNR and possible MAPS mission
- Saint Lucia - partnership with government and World Economic Forum to advance the implementation of the Country Financing Roadmap
- British Virgin Islands – integrating the SDGs into National Sustainable Development Plan
- Country Implementation Plans implemented across all 10 countries and territories served
- Expand Joint Programming and pooled funding on UN system-wide priorities such as COVID response, resilience and DRR, Youth, GBV, economic recovery and digitization.



Strategic Financing and Partnerships

Developing lasting and durable partnerships will be crucial for achieving scale and impact over the coming months, especially as the region digs out of the calamitous impact of COVID-19. In this regard, the UNST will pursue the following priorities:

- UNST Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Strategy drafted with a focus on the following priorities:
 1. Mapping of AFPs offer for Private Sector Engagement and Partnership Development
 2. Launch the global compact local chapter for the Eastern Caribbean
 3. Develop a joint access to climate finance strategy – GCF
 4. Finalize Blue Economy Investment Facility
 5. Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index methodology designed in partnership with CDB and advocacy inter-governmental forum to adopt paradigm to access resources for SIDS



Leaving No one Behind, Human Rights and Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda

The UNST will seek to intensify its support countries in the Eastern Caribbean to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 recovery through a focus on these initiatives:

- Spotlight Initiative – implemented in Grenada aimed at reducing the incidence of GBV especially among women and girls
- Disability Inclusion mainstreamed across AFPs – inter-agency Task Force established, and joint UNST action-plan developed, monitored and implemented
- UNST Universal Periodic Review Reports finalized and submitted



Supporting Business Innovations

UNST will advance the Secretary General efficiency agenda through the pursuit of the following initiatives:

- BOS 2.0 – identification of high impact common services for incorporation into BOS .
- Common Premises mapping completed and analysis of opportunities for consolidating UN presence.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Promoting Secretary General's Prevention Agenda

The Eastern Caribbean will be focused on advancing preparedness for future natural hazards including the 2021 Hurricane Season and ensuring that DRR considerations are well mainstreamed in the new Cooperation Framework for the Caribbean. In this regard, the following are indicative of key actions areas:

- CCA/CF – DRR well integrated into new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, including a strong programmatic offer on humanitarian-development nexus
- Disaster Risk Reduction – Preparedness measures in place for 2021 Hurricane season
- Further the proposal of a Caribbean Resilience Facility as an interagency endeavour to support the region



Linking Communications and Advocacy with policy and programming

As we approach 2030, the UNST will seek to amplify regional Communications and Advocacy , supported by sound data and enhanced use of social media and ICT, to support acceleration of the SDG Agenda among other priorities, including the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccination process. With Caribbean countries already benefitting from the UN-supported COVAX facility, focus will include these priorities:

- Regional Communications and Advocacy Strategy around SDG Implementation
- Advocacy on COVAX - to include focus on vaccine hesitancy and international solidarity around equal access
- Progress on MCO Review
- Resource mobilization and partnerships
- UN Joint programming delivery



MSDF ACHIEVEMENTS 2020

MSDF Pillars	SDG Indicator	ANB		BDS		DOM		GRN		SKN		SLU		SVG	
		2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020
1. An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean	sdg4_primary	N/A	N/A	90.8	N/A	95.6	N/A	95.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	93.9	N/A
	sdg4_second	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	89.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	88.8	N/A	104.1	N/A
	sdg8_yneet	N/A	N/A	9.7	N/A	21.3	N/A	18.2	N/A						
	sdg1_wpc	N/A	N/A	2.4	2.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.1	4.7	N/A	N/A
	sdg1_320pov	N/A	N/A	6.1	6.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.0	10.3	N/A	N/A
2. A healthy Caribbean	sdg3_births	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	96.0	N/A	99.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	sdg3_uhc	71.3	N/A	74.5	N/A	64.0	N/A	67.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	68.6	N/A	64.0	N/A
	sdg3_neonat	4.0	N/A	8.3	N/A	26.4	N/A	10.8	N/A	8.9	N/A	12.7	N/A	9.9	N/A
	sdg3_u5mort	7.7	N/A	12.8	N/A	32.9	N/A	16.6	N/A	13.8	N/A	17.0	N/A	16.8	N/A
	sdg3_tb	3.4	N/A	1.2	N/A	7.8	N/A	6.4	N/A	0.0	N/A	1.9	N/A	6.3	N/A
	sdg3_hiv	N/A	N/A	0.6	N/A	NA	N/A								
3. A Safe, Cohesive, and Just Caribbean	sdg16_homicides	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36.5	N/A
	sdg16_detain	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	0.3	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
4. A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean	sdg7_ren	N/A	N/A												
	sdg14_cpma	53.2	N/A	0.0	N/A	0.0	N/A	78.1	N/A	0.0	N/A	15.4	N/A	26.3	N/A
	sdg15_cpta	18.4	N/A	2.1	N/A	44.3	N/A	42.7	N/A	29.2	N/A	46.0	N/A	42.7	N/A

Code	SDG Indicator
• sdg4_primary	Net primary enrolment rate (%)
• sdg4_second	Lower secondary completion rate (%)
• sdg8_yneet	Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (%)
• sdg1_wpc	Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day (% population)
• sdg1_320pov	Poverty headcount ratio at \$3.20/day (% population)
• sdg8_yneet	Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (%)
• sdg3_births	Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)
• sdg3_uhc	Universal Health Coverage Tracer Index (0-100)
• sdg3_neonat	Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
• sdg3_u5mort	Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)
• sdg3_tb	Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)
• sdg3_hiv	New HIV infections (per 1,000)

Code	SDG Indicator
• sdg16_homicides	Homicides (per 100,000 population)
• sdg16_detain	Unsentenced detainees (%)
• sdg7_ren	Share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption (%)
• sdg14_cpma	Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)
• sdg15_cpta	Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)

SUMMARY MRP COLLABORATIVE AND SYSTEM-WIDE EFFORT

UN Regional Multi-Sectoral Response Plan
8 strategic pillars covering 10 countries

Cost of the MRP
The cost of the plans is US \$ 29.6 Mn

UNSDG-wide effort
Multi-sectoral response is a collaboration of 10 AFPs and 10 governments and 2 regional organizations

Funding gaps
The funding gap is US \$ 1.4 Mn

Risk Communication
10 countries with Covid-19 risk and community engagement strategies

Resources repurposed
Almost US \$7 Mn in agency funding

UN Socio-economic Impact Assessments
8 country specific socioeconomic assessments
1 Regional Food Security and Livelihood Impact study (three rounds)

Additional resources mobilized
UNSTs have mobilized almost \$21.3 Mn in additional funding

SUMMARY MRP PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS

Direct Beneficiaries

- Personal Protective Equipment**
102,488 provided to family planning associations and GBV CSOs
- Social Protection Schemes**
2455 individuals reach through visiting social protection schemes
- Cash Transfer Programmes**
434 Women reached
- Access to Online Education**
Over 3500 primary school children provided with direct access to distance learning

UN Support

- Technical Assistance on improving systems**
• 5 countries supported to address GBV
• 7 countries supported to expand shock responsive social protection
- Community Based Organizations**
2 regional CBOs capacitated
- Social Dialogue Spaces**
10 social dialogue, advocacy and political engagement spaces facilitated
- Formal / Informal sector workers**
44 workers and 44 MSMEs supported

Annex



Photo Credit: SDG Fund

Cash Top-Ups – A Lifeline for Families During the COVID-19 Crisis

For as long as Michelle can remember, her life has been a struggle. The unemployed, single mother, lives in a small house she managed to salvage, while six months pregnant, after it was almost gutted by fire. Michelle greets each day early, preparing for the needs of her 6-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son who has been diagnosed with Down Syndrome and requires constant support. She also cares for her ailing 80-year-old uncle.

Michelle is one of approximately 45,000 Saint Lucians living in monetary poverty, or whose disposable, household income is below the poverty line (Survey of Living Conditions, 2016). Located in the Eastern Caribbean, the island is vulnerable to the impacts of multiple hazards, traditionally meteorological in nature. However, the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic has hit like a hurricane, bringing with it a flood of negative social and economic impacts. Since the country confirmed its first COVID-19 case in March, the pandemic has disrupted education, threatened food security,

increased unemployment and spiked poverty rates, which are expected to double post pandemic.

“**I used to work in a factory but it closed and they didn't give me anything. That was very hard for me and my family.**

Before the Coronavirus came, I would clean people's houses whenever I could, but all of that is done now. Now there is no work,”

says Michelle, who is currently recovering from two recent surgeries and totally dependent on government assistance.

In response to the pressures of the pandemic, the government of Saint Lucia has extended a number of social protection programmes, intended to ease the burden for the country's most vulnerable. Michelle is a beneficiary of two such programmes, the Public Assistance Programme which

has been expanded from 2,600 to 3,600 households and the Child Disability Grant which benefits approximately 312 children with disabilities and their families. The assistance from government helps, even though it is not enough to meet the needs of her family. “It is only a little but I try to manage as best as I can,” she says.

In August, Michelle stated that she received an additional sum of EC\$300 through the Child Disability Grant. She believes that this assistance was a blessing, especially given the scarcity of jobs and her inability to work.

“**With the extra money I was able to buy food stuff like milk, biscuits, flour, rice; cleaning items and diapers for my son because he still wears diapers.**”

This additional top-up was provided through the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Local Government and Empowerment with support from the SDG Fund Joint Programme in Social Protection in the Eastern Caribbean. Via the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a co-leading UN agency under the Programme, transfers to all children under the Child Disability Grant and in foster care were topped up by 50% for a period of 3 months.

According to Ms. Velda Joseph, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Local Government and Empowerment, “The Government of Saint Lucia recognizes that the stipend we provide to vulnerable persons is insufficient. The pandemic has made the situation worse as persons now have to purchase additional sanitation products, masks and other such items. The decision was taken to repurpose some of the funds under the SDG Fund Joint Programme to provide additional resources to beneficiaries of our various social assistance programmes to help them cope with the additional challenges of COVID-19, and to also help them to prepare for potential hazard impact, particularly during the hurricane season.”

The SDG Fund Joint Programme in Social Protection in the Eastern Caribbean is part of wider reform efforts by the UN Sub-regional Team for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, it aims to increase inter-agency collaboration for a more efficient joint response to the emerging needs of vulnerable persons, like Michelle. The programme has allocated **US\$4.75 million** to assist governments of Saint Lucia, Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in strengthening their social protection systems and ensuring access to people in need during times of crisis. This Initiative draws on the experience of 5 UN Agencies: the **United Nations Children's Fund**, the **World Food Programme**, the **United Nations Development Programme**, the **International Labour Organisation** and the **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**.

According to Aloys Kamuragiye, Representative of the UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area Office,

“**COVID-19's impact on children, their families and communities has the potential to be devastating. In times of such great need, expanded social protection measures can protect those particularly vulnerable to shocks and prevent deeper poverty. To date, the Joint Programme has repurposed US\$162,000 to assist the government of Saint Lucia with its COVID-19 response. Through this Joint Programme as well as other interventions, UNICEF and partner UN agencies will continue to work with governments in the Eastern Caribbean to address the impact of COVID-19 and other shocks.**”

Michelle is hopeful that things will improve for her family. “I tell my children that learning is important. My daughter wants to become a Doctor one day and I want to be able to help her reach her goal. I don't want her to be like me. I don't want her to have to struggle every day like I do.” Until then, she remains grateful for the financial assistance that ensures her family a level of security and peace of mind.

Click the [here](#) for more stories:



List of Acronyms

AFP	Agencies, Funds, Programmes	EU	European Union	NCDs	Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
AI	Artificial intelligence	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	NGO	Non-governmental organisation	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
BDF	Barbados Defence Force	FBDG	Food Based Dietary Guidelines	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency	GA	General Assembly	OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	UNIC	United Nations Information Centres
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	GBV	Gender-Based Violence	PAHO/WHO	Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
CCA	Common Country Assessment	GDP	Gross domestic product	PAP	Public Assistance Programme	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank	HAT	Humanitarian Advisory Team	PCR	Polymerase chain reaction	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies	HEAT	Human and Economic Assessment of Impact	PPE	Personal protective equipment	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency	IADB/IDB	Inter-American Development Bank	RSS	Regional Security System	UN RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019	ICT	Information and Communications Technology	SERP	Socio-Economic Response Plan	UNTFH	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
CIRT	Computer Incidence Response Teams	IGO	Inter-Governmental Organization	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	UNST	United Nations Sub-Regional Team
CRRF	Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility	ILO	International Labour Organization	SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization	IOM	International Organization for Migration	SIDS	Small Island Developing States	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy	ITU	International Telecommunications Union	SRH/SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health/and rights	UWI	University of the West Indies
CSSI	Caribbean School Safety Initiative	JP	Joint Programme	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	VNR	Voluntary National Reviews
DEM	Department Of Emergency Management	LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean	UNCG	UN Communications Group	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
DRM/DRR	Disaster Risk Management/Reduction	LNOB	Leave no one behind	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	WFP	World Food Programme
EBI	Evidence based Interventions	MCO	Multi-Country Office	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	WB	World Bank
ECC	Eastern Caribbean Countries	MRP	Muti-Sectoral Response Plan	UNETT	UN Emergency Technical Team		
ECDPG	Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group	MSDF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework	UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean		
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations	MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	UNEP	United Nations Environment		
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	MVI	Multi-Dimensional				



UNITED NATIONS
Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean

•
Anguilla • Antigua and Barbuda • British Virgin Islands •
Commonwealth of Dominica • Grenada •
Monsterrat • Saint Lucia • Saint Kitts and Nevis •
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