



2022

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT



UNITED NATIONS
BARBADOS & EASTERN CARIBBEAN

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



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FOREWORD

MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

 My presentation of the 2022 Annual Report, on behalf of the UN Team, our partners, and the Governments, and people of this region, is a scorecard of UN stewardship and partnership within the Eastern Caribbean and comes at a more hopeful time this year, as we all continue to emerge from the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic while grappling with the impact of the triple crisis of food, fuel and finance.

One year into our new Caribbean Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022 - 2026), which serves as a blueprint for sustainable development in the region, we made considerable progress, notwithstanding significant challenges. This Report not only highlights the key results, challenges and progress made, but also the resilience and indomitable spirit of the Governments and people of the 10 Caribbean countries that we are honored to serve, and support in the rebuilding process.

While Caribbean leaders must be highly commended for their efforts to combat the residual impacts of the global pandemic with limited resources, recovery during the past year has been impeded by ongoing and emerging threats. These include the debt crisis, climate change, rising unemployment, and the triple crisis of food, climate, and finance, which have worsened inequality, and seemingly placed the global goals even further out of reach.

In response, the UN Team in Barbados, and the Eastern Caribbean, has redoubled its efforts to leave no one behind. Through joint action, innovative partnerships and leveraging regional cooperation, we have scaled up social protection, extended our footprint in the region, and expanded finance mechanisms to improve the futures of the men, women, and children who call the Caribbean home.

A round table convened to address the impact of the triple crisis resulted in the creation of a consortium of UN entities, international financial institutions, and other partners to offer concrete solutions and policy responses for strengthening food systems and boosting transition to renewable energy. In partnership with Governments, and other key stakeholders, we have also helped to advance the human rights agenda, including supporting the development of legislation and policies on women, persons with disabilities,

children, and youth, amongst others at risk of being marginalized. For example, in Grenada, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative, the Ministry of Gender Affairs successfully launched Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Gender-based Violence and received public commitment from partner Ministries and the Police for their implementation.

We are especially proud of our efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment. In 2022, to provide the space for youth to play a more meaningful role in the sustainable development of the sub-region, we established the Youth Advisory Group. This group, comprising youth leaders from across the region, serves as a sounding board for the UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Office, working in close partnership with the UN Sub-regional team. Through various mechanisms, thousands of youth also accessed other UN platforms and programmes, that allowed them to contribute to discussions and policies on key issues that will impact their future.

During the period under review, the region has also undergone peaceful political transitions with the staging of elections in three countries under our area of responsibility, resulting in change of administrations in St. Kitts and Nevis and Grenada. In the Commonwealth of Dominica, while the Government retained power, there were subsequent changes to ministerial and other portfolios. Concerted efforts were undertaken by the UN Team to establish new relationships, while maintaining existing ones, to ensure that previous development gains were protected.

As we look towards the future, we continue to be encouraged by the commitment of Caribbean leaders, who align national priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals to create a better future for people and planet. We are equally committed to coming together as ONE UN, to address the root causes of key development challenges through innovation, partnerships, and resource mobilization to foster transformative change.

If this year has taught us anything, it has taught us that we are indeed stronger together than apart.

I wish to take this opportunity once again to thank regional Governments and all our other partners for their dedication, for their trust in us, and for their commitment to multilateralism. I am extremely hopeful that by continuing efforts to work together, the future will be bright.

Didier Trebucq | Resident Coordinator,
UN Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

“ We are especially proud of our efforts to position the UN as a voice for the voiceless, and to amplify youth voices in decision making.

UN SUB-REGIONAL TEAM

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

22 AFPs

Agencies under the Cooperation Framework

The United Nations Sub-Regional Team (UNST) in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean comprises a total of 22 Agencies, Funds and Programmes, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the Secretary-General's designated representative in the sub-region. There are nine (9) resident agencies (FAO, IOM, ITU, PAHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and UNFCCC), six (6) with programatic presence or liaison offices in Barbados (OCHA, OHCR, UNDRR, UNFPA, UNIDO and UNODC), and seven (7) non-resident agencies (ECLAC, ILO, UNCTAD, UNEP, and UNESCO), from which dedicated staff serve the Governments and people of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories.

On March 22, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda became the first OECS territory to open a UN Common Premises. The office houses three Agencies – FAO, UNDP, and UNICEF, as well as the UN Country Coordination Office, an extension of the Resident Coordinator Office. Plans are underway for placement of additional personnel for UNESCO, to better coordinate increasing in-country support to the Government and other stakeholders. On September 9, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became the second OECS territory to open a UN Common Premises. The office houses two Agencies – UNICEF, and UN Women, as well as the UN Country Coordination Office. Plans are underway for placement of additional personnel to support increased coordination among agencies and to offer more tailored support to the government and stakeholders.

The Commonwealth of Dominica boasts the UN's largest footprint in the region, with seven agencies on the ground – UNDP, FAO, IOM, PAHO, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, and the UN Country Coordination Office. The UN enjoys a positive and enduring relationship with the Governments and people of this region, with many countries having close to and over 50 years of UN membership.



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES COVERED BY THE MCO



INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



DONOR GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



The UN works in close collaboration with national partners, across 10 Eastern Caribbean countries and territories, to support national priorities and institutional strengthening in alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Working alongside the UN Team to localize the SDGs in 2022 were key government partners, civil society organizations, faith and community-based groups, private sector, media, academia, the people of the region, and generous donor partners all to whom we express sincerest thanks for the results achieved. Regional Governments have continued to

demonstrate trust in the value of multilateralism, as evidenced through our fruitful partnerships with Offices of the Prime Minister and critical departments and Ministries including Finance, Foreign Affairs, Health, Agriculture and Environment, Gender Affairs, Youth, and Statistical Departments.

CHAPTER 1:

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN BARBADOS & THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN



Like many other regions, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean started 2022 with several residual challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 resulted in a contraction of Caribbean economies of 9.1 per cent in 2020, driving up unemployment, inequality, and poverty. Economic growth continued slow into 2022, characterized by poor performance in key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and other services, as well as fast-growing indebtedness.

Unemployment increased sharply, especially for women, while poverty and widening inequalities necessitated substantial financial assistance packages to support the most vulnerable, especially women, informal workers, and those without access to traditional social safety nets. The onset of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022 added to these existing challenges by driving volatility in commodity markets, disrupting global trade, and increasing the costs of living to exorbitant levels. As a result, the region experienced a triple crisis of rising food and energy prices, and reduced liquidity leaving many governments in the region cash-strapped and vulnerable to increasing debt.

The triple crisis in the region has been dynamic and multi-layered driving both food and energy insecurity, disrupting global supply chains already affected by the pandemic and causing uncertainty in financial markets. An estimated 57 per cent of people in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean faced food insecurity while a growing number were struggling under the weight of rising living costs. Governments were forced to intervene to help reduce the impact of rising prices on vulnerable communities through subsidizing energy and food costs.

For a region averaging 82 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in public debt, such unexpected expenditure only served to increase the debt burden and compromise fiscal stability. Inflation trends driving the current cost of living crisis compounded the negative socioeconomic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic challenging the ability of households to earn a decent living and meet their critical needs. Inflationary pressures are also driving up interest rates globally, increasing the debt burden, which is expected to immediately increase debt repayments.

Despite developmental progress towards the SDGs prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the region faces challenges in the following areas.



Economic Recovery: The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on the economies of Barbados and the OECS. The Caribbean Travel & Tourism sector's contribution to GDP dropped 58 per cent, higher than the global average. Other important industries, which are critical to the region's economy, also suffered. In 2022, the focus was on recovering from the pandemic and restoring the region's economic stability.



Climate Change and Natural Disasters: Barbados and the OECS are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, including hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and sea-level rise. In 2022, the region continued to focus on improving resilience and reducing the risks associated with these events, through various UN Joint Programmes and agency strategic interventions.



Education: Improving education systems and access to quality education remained a key development issue in 2022. Despite some progress in recent years towards SDG4, many students continue to face significant challenges, including a shortage of qualified teachers, leading to increased dropout rates, and declining literacy rates. The loss of learning during COVID-19 school closures in Latin America and the Caribbean have left children, on average, between one and 1.8 years behind – translating into a decrease of about 12 per cent in lifetime earnings for a student at school today. This was prioritized by the UN through the 2022 Education Summit and island level consultations. Despite this challenge, SDG4 remains one area of strength in the region, with governments focused on improving their systems and responding to shocks as they emerge.



Health: Improving access to quality health care remains a key development issue in the region. In 2022, there was a continued focus on strengthening health systems and addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including vaccine rollout and the continued spread of the virus.



Technology: The use of technology to improve economic and social outcomes is a critical issue in the region. In 2022, the focus was on promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, developing digital infrastructure, and increasing access to technology and the internet.

Addressing these issues will require sustained effort, collaboration, and investment from governments, development partners and the private sector. By working together, the region can continue to make progress towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.



UN Response to the Triple Crisis

In September 2022, utilizing the UN's convening power the Resident Coordinator and the President of the Caribbean Development Bank co-hosted a Roundtable on Addressing the Triple Crisis in Food, Energy and Finance for the Eastern Caribbean: International experiences and policy implications for the region, to address the impact of the triple food, climate and energy crisis. This resulted in the creation of a consortium of UN entities, government officials, international financial institutions, civil society, and other partners, to offer concrete solutions and policy responses for strengthening food systems and boosting transition to renewable energy. The forum, the first in a series of steps being taken to tackle this crisis, focused on building synergies and fostering an integrated approach between the UN Response strategy and development partners to jointly support countries in the region. Solutions posited included policy responses, increased bilateral and multilateral partnerships and cooperation, renewed government commitment, strengthening the institutional and regulatory framework, and increased investment and innovation. As an immediate programmatic response to the triple crisis, an emergency Joint Programme was also implemented by FAO-WFP and UNCTAD supporting four Eastern Caribbean countries.

In conclusion, while there have been some gains in recent years, Barbados and the OECS still faced several key development challenges in 2022. Addressing these issues will require sustained effort, collaboration, and investment from governments, development partners and the private sector. By working together, the region can continue to make progress towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.

CHAPTER 2:

UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



2.1

OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

Caribbean countries, though heterogenous, **share common development challenges and priorities**. The United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDCF) encapsulates the coordinated plan of action for AFPs in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean for the period January 2022 to December 2026. The MSCDF brings together the work of five RC system offices, and relevant agencies with programmes in the Caribbean, to achieve a common goal for the region.

The evolution of the MSDCF was undergirded by extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders (government, CSOs, youth, private sector, development partners) across the Caribbean, which established a robust foundation for strong partnerships during the operationalization of the MSDCF. Building on those partnerships, the MSDCF focuses on four priority areas which pivot around the other four pillars of the 2030 Agenda: shared prosperity and economic resilience (prosperity); equality, well-being and leaving no one behind (people); resilience to climate change and sustainable natural resource management (planet); peace, safety justice and rule of law (peace).

National country analyses (CCAs) and a region-wide assessment (CMCA) reveal varying progress towards Agenda 2030 and the SDGs across Caribbean countries, and highlights critical challenges common to many countries, that can be synergistically addressed through the MSDCF. In fact, the MSDCF is a key mechanism for the UN to support the countries address these challenges, whilst simultaneously accelerating SDG progress and the implementation of the SA.M.O.A. Pathway. The MSDCF strategically leverages the comparative advantage of the entire UNDS to support national and regional development priorities.

Reasonable strides were made during the first year of implementation of the MSDCF 2022-2026 which contributed to addressing common challenges and mitigating risks highlighted in the CCA. Stagnant economic growth, high debt, and low productivity levels, which were directly intensified by COVID-19. In pursuit of priority area 1 (shared prosperity and economic resilience), UN AFPs boosted fiscal resilience in the region through enhanced diversification of the green, blue, and orange economies, expanding productive capacities and increased integration of ICT across sectors.

COVID-19 also exacerbated inequalities, that threaten the well-being of the poor and vulnerable. To address this (priority area 2: well-being and leaving no one behind), in 2022 significant investments were made in shock responsive, gender sensitive social protection, notably the piloting of a vulnerability index to better identify, target and deliver social assistance. The UNST also contributed to improved quality health and education services and system.





Climate resilience (priority area 3) is prioritized across the Caribbean, given the region's high vulnerability to natural disasters. It is against this backdrop that several agencies focused on improving disaster risk management and sustainable natural resource management.

Increasing crime and violence is of common concern in the region. Whilst levels differ from country to country, there is agreement among regional leaders that such issues should be tackled not only nationally, but also regionally to restore peace and security. In this regard, national interventions such as the deployment of a Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) across over 50 police stations in beneficiary countries, and regional initiatives to curb GBV and enhance child protection have been implemented under priority area 4: peace, safety justice and rule of law.







UNST RESULTS THROUGH GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND KEY REGIONAL PRIORITIES

In 2022, the **EU-UN Global Spotlight Initiative**, through the Grenada Country Programme, continued to promote change by amplifying the rights of victims and survivors of gender-based violence in national discourse, enhancing service provision, support systems and legal reform. Dialogues with key stakeholders, including women’s groups, LGBTQI+ organisations, and representatives of the national gender machinery were also amplified, and the national umbrella women’s organisation was supported in hosting the country’s largest national consultation to date on law reform for preventing VAWG.

 <p>1 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ENHANCED</p>	 <p>2 STRENGTHENING DATA COLLECTION AND USE</p>	 <p>3 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING</p>	 <p>4 ADVOCACY AND TRAINING</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Draft Victims’ Rights Policy created ✓ 19 laws amended ✓ Over 110 service providers, including 95 women, trained to deliver essential services in alignment with new policies ✓ Model for Family Court prepared ✓ First Draft of revised Gender Action Plan developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New Data Collection System developed to support work on intimate partner and sexual violence ✓ Key Government officers trained to pilot new harmonised data collection system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Government approved creation of 5 national and sub-national coordinating mechanisms to strengthen institutional structure for EVAWG ✓ National Gender Equality Commission in train ✓ Personnel from Budgeting and Planning Units of 3 critical ministries equipped to pilot gender-responsive budgeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 19 teachers across seven primary and three secondary schools trained in Comprehensive Sexual Education ✓ Teachers equipped to use digital resources to enhance curriculum delivery to benefit some 360 children ✓ First responders from the police/justice/health and social sector trained to enhance response to VAWG ✓ Tutors at T.A. Marryshow Community College trained to commence delivery of its Foundations Programme ✓ Partnership with key service organisations including the Girl Guides Association, amplified advocacy around gender equality and EVAWG

The Spotlight Initiative Grenada Programme

The **Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme**, in partnership with Governments, regional gender institutions, and the UN, recorded significant gains in 2022 by enhancing regional expertise in prevention and response to GBV, strengthening of regional cooperation, empowering civil society organisations, and enhancing knowledge management. A robust programme governance and coordination mechanism has been established to drive coherence and efficiency in implementation.

 <p>1 REGIONAL EXPERTISE ENHANCED</p>	 <p>2 EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS</p>	 <p>3 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING</p>	 <p>4 KNOWLEDGE GENERATION & ACCESSIBLE TOOLS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Over 300 officials capacitated to prevent and respond to GBV ✓ Over 120 officials and service providers from regional and national institutions integrate VAWG/FV in Disaster Risk Reduction & Management (DRR/M) ✓ Over 140 regional and national data statisticians and practitioners trained to apply Methods and Approaches for the Anonymisation of VAWG Survey Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 30 CSOs came together to form a Caribbean Gender Alliance following training and capacity building. ✓ Transformational business coaching provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Essential Services Package Community of Practice (ESP CoP) established and activated providing new regional interagency/multi-sectoral cooperation mechanisms ✓ Caribbean underway to become the first region to integrate the education sector within the Essential Services Package (ESP) ✓ Caribbean standardised approach to data collection and analysis created for member states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Over eight (8) knowledge products generated on VAW an VAC for the region. ✓ Tools and guidelines on integrating EVAWG in DRR/M, gender-budgeting and social and behavioural change developed for the region

The Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme

The **Global Early Warnings For All Initiative** launched by the UN Secretary-General in November at COP27 was a call-to-action for universal coverage within five years. The launch of a Regional Early Warning System Consortium, a regional stakeholder mechanism, resulted in the completion of 7 EWS Roadmaps for CDEMA Participating States. Gaps remain in dissemination of warnings to ensure the last mile coverage to ensure every person is included.

The **Transforming Education Summit** convened by the UN Secretary General in September 2022, provided a timely opportunity for the Eastern Caribbean region to support global efforts to reimagine education in a post COVID-19 environment. Seven (7) participating countries prepared National Commitments towards foundational learning, ongoing teacher training, mainstreaming digital education, and fostering more meaningful youth engagement in decision-making, and supported 31 critical collective actions to deliver on the collective promise to leave no child behind.

The UN in the subregion supported preparation of the global **Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)** in 2022 with specific support to elaborate the environmental indicators of vulnerability in alignment with the UN Secretary General High-Level Panel. This work builds on the partnership between the Caribbean Development Bank and the UN in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to develop and use an MVI to enable Eastern Caribbean SIDS access to concessionary financing. The results of this work will be presented to ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly in 2023.



Caribbean Youth Champion Global SDG Acceleration

Following extensive work in the region, two members of the The Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change received global recognition. Barbadian Gender Justice Activist, Ronelle King, was named among 17 Young Leaders for the SDGs, by the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, and over the next two years will support efforts to engage young people in the realization of the SDGs.

Pierre Cooke Jr, a health and human rights advocate, also from Barbados, was among 24 Scaling up Nutrition-SUN Lead group members, appointed by the Secretary-General, to work towards ensuring healthy nutrition for all by 2030. UN Advocate and Climate Activist, Maria Marshall, was also featured in a special UN Edition of Mission Magazine.



Ronelle King, Gender Justice Activist



Pierre Cooke Jr., Health and Human Rights Advocate



Maria Marshall, UN Advocate and Climate Activist

Rising Youth Unemployment: the UN Response

With youth employment within the Eastern Caribbean standing at 26 percent, almost double that of the entire working population, according to a recent UN study, the UN partnered with regional Governments and stakeholders to tackle the issue through complimentary initiatives. Young agri-entrepreneurs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines benefitted from capacity development support to enhance their employability, and a targeted policy framework helped 5 youth groups to hone their business development and product marketing skills and pursue alternative livelihood opportunities. Marginalized youth in Saint Lucia were identified, trained, and supported to enhance their employability as part of a USD \$992,724, project entitled: "Upgrading Saint Lucia's Capacity to Provide Impactful Vocational Training for Marginalized Youth". Construction also commenced on a new vocational training centre, to be completed in 2023, aimed at servicing at-risk youth. It followed a sod-turning ceremony attended by the Prime Minister, Minister of Education, and other high level national authorities.

Members of the UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Youth Advisory Group (YAG), which was convened to strengthen meaningful youth engagement in the UNST, also explored Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as an avenue to combat the perennial issue of youth unemployment in the Eastern Caribbean, through an intergenerational "Lunch and Learn" panel discussion, in September.

Youth Advocacy on the home front

In 2022, through strengthened coordination, the UN and national partners galvanized youth support to give greater visibility to the SDGs at the local level.

Over 200 young people were mobilized in SDG advocacy, across five Eastern Caribbean countries (Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Barbados), through direct UN engagement as well as through student-led panel discussions, marches, debates, and other activities.



7,239+ youth

accessed the U-Report platform speaking out on issues including education, climate change, mental health and employment.



1,197+ youth

equipped with soft skills through a joint UN SDG Fund Youth Engagement programme.



120+ youth

supported to dialogue with education officials in Barbados, Dominica and Saint Lucia on education reform as a follow up to the UN Transforming Education Summit (TES)



Senior public officials

Senior public officials from Youth Ministries and departments sensitized on meaningful youth engagement and equipped with tools to design policies, and programmes for and with youth, to accelerate localization of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

2.2

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

SDG TARGETS	1 SHARED PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE	2 EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND	3 RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	4 PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE, AND THE RULE OF LAW
SDG TARGETS	1.2 1.3, 2.1, 2.a, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 9.2, 9.3, 17.1, 17.3, 17.4	1.a, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.a, 4.1, 4.4, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.7, 16.b.1, 17.18	1.5, 2.1, 2.4, 6.5, 7.2, 7.a, 11.5, 11.b, 12.a, 12.2, 12.4, 12.7, 13.1, 13.2 13.b, 14.2, 15.1, 15.3, 15.a, 17.9, 17.16	5.1, 5.2, 5.a, 5.b, 5.c, 5.5, 10.4, 10.7, 11.1, 11.2, 11.7, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b
MSDCF OUTCOMES	OUTCOME 1 More productive and competitive business ecosystems designed to improve people's standards of living and well-being.	OUTCOME 3 National governments and regional institutions use relevant data to design and adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those left furthest behind.	OUTCOME 5 Caribbean people, communities, and institutions have enhanced their adaptive capacity or inclusive, gender responsive Disaster Risk Management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.	OUTCOME 7 Regional and national laws, policies, systems, and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion, and security.
	OUTCOME 2 The Caribbean has fully transitioned to a more diversified and sustainable economy that supports inclusive and resilient economic growth	OUTCOME 4 People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health, and care services.	OUTCOME 6 Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience and enhance the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them.	OUTCOME 8 People in the Caribbean and communities actively contribute to and benefit from building and maintaining safer, fairer, more inclusive, and equitable societies
THEMATIC AREAS	FISCAL AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE Number of farmers, small agri-businesses and productive units with improved productivity, net-income, and working conditions acquired with UN support, by: a) economic sector; b) rural/urban.	UNIVERSAL AND QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES Number of people benefiting from UN supported health services: a) Number of people benefiting from Sexual and reproductive health services.	FOOD AND WATER SECURITY Number of food insecure and crisis-affected populations with access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs, with UN support.	ADEQUATE JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT Number of people on the move and host communities benefiting from integrated and targeted interventions, including on strengthening social cohesion, with UN support.
	DIVERSIFICATION EXPANSION OF GREEN, BLUE & ORANGE ECONOMY Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) having made changes to their business operations for increased competitiveness with UN support.	QUALITY EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Number of people accessing basic services [and/or income generating opportunities], with UN support.	SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Number of people who benefitted from services from clean, affordable, and sustainable energy, through UN support	TACKLE TRANSNATIONAL CRIME AND BORDER ISSUES People and authorities make effective use of inclusive dialogue mechanisms for policy design and delivery, including in the world of work, with UN support.
	INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY	SHOCK RESPONSIVE, GENDER SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION Number of women, adolescents and youth, including women and young people with disabilities, who benefited from high-quality services related to sexual and reproductive health, with UN support.	IMPROVED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT Number of school-age children and adolescents who have access to school-based health and nutrition packages, with UN support.	CHANGE CULTURAL NORMS & VALUES (GBV) Number of institutions with improved capacity to deliver rights-based, gender, diversity, disability and age-responsive social protection acquired with UN support.
	DIGITIZATION ACROSS PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS Number of measures implemented with UN support to: a) eliminate gender-based discrimination and segregation in labour market; b) increase women's access to and use of digital technologies, digital finance, e-commerce and digital value chains; c) ensure women's economic security and empowerment in crisis contexts, including through economic recovery plans.	SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION Number of global, regional or national policy instruments (including plans, strategies, legislation, partnerships) aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production, developed with UN support.	INFRASTRUCTURE Number of national and/or local partners with capacities to apply Gender Responsive Budgeting tools in the planning and budget cycle with UN support. Total population with increased access to a) adequate housing; b) urban basic services, with UN support.	

UN VISION 2030:

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

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SHARED PROSPERITY	EQUALITY AND WELL-BEING	RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW
OUTCOME 1 More productive and competitive business ecosystems designed to improve people's standards of living.	OUTCOME 3 National governments and regional institutions use relevant data to design and adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those at risk of being left furthest behind.	OUTCOME 5 Caribbean people, communities, and institutions have enhanced their adaptive capacity or inclusive, gender responsive Disaster Risk Management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.	OUTCOME 7 Regional and national laws, policies, systems and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion and security.
OUTCOME 2 The Caribbean has fully transitioned to a more diversified and sustainable economy that support inclusive and resilient economic growth.	OUTCOME 4 People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health and are services.	OUTCOME 6 Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems strengthening resilience and enhancing the prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them.	OUTCOME 8 People in the Caribbean and communities are engaged in building and maintaining safer, fairer, more inclusive, and equitable societies.
ENABLERS Innovation • Digital Transformation • Data and Information Systems • Advocacy for development financing • Youth and Civil Society Engagement • Regional Integration • Institutional Capacity Building • Advocacy for people at risk of being left behind			
GROUPS OF PEOPLE AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND Women and girls • Migrants and Refugees • LGBTQI people • People living with disabilities • Young male in marginalized communities • People living in remote, poor, rural areas • People living with HIV -Children -Elderly • Indigenous & tribal people			



Strengthening national capacities to end violence against women

To combat increasing incidence of violence against women in the Caribbean, the UN supported Governments and civil society stakeholders through providing normative support, coordination, and operationalisation. UN programming helped to strengthen capacity for Governments and civil society to better collect sex aggregated data and use gender statistics to inform economic policy to improve childcare opportunities and support GBV response and prevention. During 2022, our support improved national capacity to conduct National Prevalence Surveys on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and supported the development of key knowledge management products on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and probation services.

As part of joint UN support provided by five Agencies under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, an Essential Service package of GBV Services was developed, along with Standard Operating Procedures for improving service delivery. National authorities also benefitted from capacity building support that ensured that marginalized groups had greater access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and GBV services. A regional Community of Practice was also launched to improve knowledge sharing and learning among GBV service providers.



Strengthening Food Systems + Livelihoods

To further strengthen livelihoods security in the region, the UN supported CARICOM to administer a fifth round of the **Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey** (<https://www.wfp.org/publications/caribbean-food-security-livelihoods-impact-survey-august-2022>) in August, with an estimated 57% of households or 4.1 million persons reportedly food insecure, an increase of 1.3 million persons in the first half of 2022.

This is due primarily to the impacts of climate, economics, the pandemic, emerging impacts of flooding in Dominica, as well as the La Soufriere Volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Through the La Soufriere Relief Grant the UN partnered with the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines to **provide cash assistance to 18,400 impacted men, women, girls and boys**. Technical assistance was also provided to the Government to **digitalize registration and payment** reconciliation processes as part of a World Bank-supported programme.

In December 2022, over 12,084 vulnerable individuals (6,632 women) from at-risk communities in Barbados, benefitted from distribution of food hampers aimed at mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SHARED PROSPERITY



OUTCOMES 1 & 2

Key Related SDGs



The UN supported Caribbean countries to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, further compounded by the Triple Crisis of food fuel and finance. Coherent & tailored programming, supported by enhanced coordination and partnerships, created pathways for competitiveness and sustainable recovery.



Contributing Agencies, Funds and Programs



150+
REGIONAL MSMEs
received technical grants to support business expansion.



24,000+
PERSONS BENEFITTED
from cash assistance to mitigate socio-economic shocks



Building a more productive business eco-system with a focus on MSMEs, sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines following the volcanic eruption in 2021 restoration of livelihoods continues through ash removal from access and feeder roads for entrepreneurs, MSMEs and businesses allowing the resumption of economic activity.

Based on an inclusive selection process focusing on women who became unemployed due to the volcanic eruption, 2,010 persons (905 women; 1,105 men), representing 200% of target, received short term livelihoods support tied to ash and debris removal, allowing for the purchase of essential food and households as well as access and safe return to key facilities and structures on island.



Supporting Sustainable Tourism

To ensure sustainable growth, 42 MSME's in the tourism and related sectors benefitted from training and capacity building in digital business solutions, marketing, financial planning, and management enabling the development of adaptable operational systems to effectively mitigate the consequences and withstand future shocks. Additionally, USD\$800,000 in grant support was provided for strategic investment through the Future Tourism Project, for the development of sustainable strategies.

In 2022, the BlueSEAL initiative was expanded with five partners in Barbados and five partners in Dominica receiving varying degrees of certification according to The Blue Standard, which, in association with non-profit organization Oceanic Global, seeks to support and verify tourism sector-based MSMEs in the reduction of single-use plastic, application of responsible waste management practices, and sourcing of sustainable seafood.



Enhancing productivity in Fisheries and Agriculture

In Saint Lucia, livelihoods of fishers and agriculture sector workers improved in support of Government's National Fisheries Sectoral Adaptation Plan. Capacities of over 200 fisherfolk from different value chains were strengthened, climate vulnerability assessments initiated for the development of hazard maps, and a web-based data management information platform developed for the Fisheries Department to enhance service provision. With UN support, new data collection schemes were piloted for both fisheries and agriculture.

To ensure inclusion, over 60 at-risk youth, women and persons with disabilities were trained to expand aquaculture and sea moss value chains for local and USA markets, in collaboration with Export St. Lucia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The UN also supported census capacities in Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica, equipping Governments over the next year to conduct what would be their first Agricultural Census in 16 years, 24 years and 27 years respectively.

Production efficiency and effectiveness for small hold farmers, fisherfolk and women entrepreneurs in five countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) was also increased through the Caribbean Resilient inclusive, Safe and Smart (RISS) Cities Model. Over 140 farmers were trained in integrated crop management, and consolidation of regional value chains in critical sectors, including cocoa, coconut,

sea moss, cassava, honey, and mushroom contributed to climate-resilient agribusiness development.

Agricultural Transformational Growth policies were initiated in Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia to establish a new framework for coherency and harmony across related sectors.

Economic growth through expansion of green, blue and the orange economy

Steps to transition the region to sustainable blue economic growth and enhance national capacities for sustainable financing advanced through staging of Blue Economy seminars and creation of a Blue Invest Facility.

A draft Public and Private Sector Blue Economy Finance Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture was elaborated, along with three Development Finance Assessments to appraise national funding streams in Barbados, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Project pipelines and a project development and monitoring toolkit were also developed in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and St. Kitts and Nevis, to support the expansion of the Blue Economy. Strategic partnerships also contributed to development of an E-agriculture Strategy for Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis, and a Digital Hub for the latter two islands

Digital Transformation

As part of a more inclusive digitization strategy, post-COVID-19, the UNDS is supporting Caribbean Governments to enhance digital transformation in key sectors. Digital Readiness Assessments conducted in Dominica, Grenada, and BVI, and National Digital Transformation and Digital Agriculture Strategies developed in Dominica, Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis promise to ensure that countries maximize the benefits of digitalization. Digital education capacity was strengthened across the sub-region through digital content and teacher training in collaboration with the OECS Commission and USAID. In Dominica, WiFi access was improved across marginalized communities with 12 access points created in the Kalinago Territory.

In Antigua and Barbuda, a Digital Transformation Unit was installed in the Education Planning Unit, and 20 Early Childhood Development Centres equipped with developmentally appropriate materials and equipment. In Grenada a Digital Agriculture challenge was launched to incentivize innovation in the private sector. The Police Records Management Information System has transformed policing capacity from paper-based record-keeping to evidence-driven policy making with real time dashboards, now live in police stations in Grenada, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The UN worked with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and other national disaster agencies to protect communities through optimal use of multi-hazard early warning information systems.

Capacity was also strengthened on the use of open data as a means of digital transformation. Over 32,000 persons in Barbados and Montserrat are poised to benefit from a new SDG Fund Joint Programme on Integrated Population Data and Policy solutions, to address a data deficit in the region that is impacting sustainable development programming and response for the population, particularly in relation to SDGs 3 and 5.

Energy Sector Support

Local manufacturers and service providers in Barbados were supported to increase their participation in the supply of goods and services to the energy sector value chain.

The USD\$550,000 project aims to capacitate supply to the offshore oil and gas, and other energy industries, enhancing decent work opportunities. In September 2022, at a 'Share Fair' participants discussed and provided inputs to the draft

amendments of the Offshore Petroleum Act and the draft Offshore Petroleum (Local Content) Regulations.

Also, the Energy Local Content Policy, prepared with the project support, was submitted to the Government of Barbados for approval.

Developing the Caribbean creative industry to drive economic growth

The UN System in the Eastern Caribbean supports the cultural and creative industries as a major driving force for economic growth. In Antigua and Barbuda, the economic contribution of the cultural and creative industries to national development was assessed to inform future cultural policymaking.

This has also contributed to enhanced capacities of government and civil society representatives implementing, monitoring, and evaluating cultural policies. In Grenada, in partnership with the Grenada National Trust, key stakeholders were trained in recognizing and protecting intangible cultural heritage. It also provides local people with reliable information about their living heritage and raises awareness among the public.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



OUTCOMES 3 & 4

Key Related SDGs



During 2022, the UN assisted Governments and key stakeholders to promote the well-being of Caribbean people, with priority given to those left furthest behind of development, while removing obstacles that hinder their equality, inclusion, and participation.

These contributions supported the adoption of evidence-based policies and laws, as well as shock and gender-responsive educational, social, and health services with consideration for the most marginalized segments of society.



Contributing Agencies, Funds and Programs



145,000+
CHILDREN RECEIVED

improved learning due to digital content development



93,600+
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

benefitted from rights-based, child sensitive social protection initiatives



69,240+
PERSONS REACHED

through Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) advocacy



Building resilient children and institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated deficiencies in children's well-being, giving rise to greater concerns regarding on-line safety, corporal punishment, gender-based violence (GBV), mental health, and child abuse.

The UN contributed to the preparation of high-level advocacy briefs on the legal status of corporal punishment in 12 Eastern Caribbean countries, to generate evidence and legal arguments for its prohibition and to guide new draft child protection and child justice laws for its abolishment, in line with international child rights instruments. In partnership with national authorities, children in St. Kitts and Nevis benefitted from a national review of the child protection and child justice systems. The first Family Division of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court opened in Antigua and Barbuda facilitating in-person and on-line hearings and a more people-centred approach to reduce stigma associated with GBV and child abuse. The issue of children's online safety was also addressed through sensitization of over 120 frontline workers. To support mental health, a child

friendly MyChild Helpline mobile application rolled out in four Eastern Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

This provided over 498 users immediate access to mental wellbeing tips and national protection services. An additional 7 countries have committed to supporting scale-up of this App in 2023.



Educational Transformation

As countries sought to restore COVID-19 related education losses, support continued towards building capacity in the education sector for universal quality education and educational transformation. Nine Caribbean member states delivered commitment statements towards the Transforming Education Summit, and agreed to support 31 action outcomes. In partnership with the World Bank, four Eastern Caribbean countries were assisted in the development of gender-responsive Education Sector Plans.

Open distance and flexible learning leveraged through partnership with the Commonwealth of Learning (Canada), enhanced policy development and capacity building in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), targeting women, girls, and persons with disabilities. In Saint Lucia marginalized youth were supported through construction of a new vocational training facility. Information technology solutions ensured that children were not left behind during return to face-to-face classes or blended education,

and families and communities benefitted from improved access to education systems. Barbados was supported to ensure that schools are safe, climate-smart, inclusive and deliver quality learning and foundational skills, and two UN agencies supported IT expansion across the school system. Across the region, over 1,260 children benefitted from targeted programme activities. The education sector benefitted from the development of 4,638 digital learning resources and 900 curriculum aligned contents with an expected impact for 13,000 children and 1400 teachers.



Universal and quality health services


The UN helped authorities to strengthen health systems and delivery of quality health care across the subregion with protracted COVID-19 response. Interventions included: addressing misinformation using MSM and other technological tools to build resilience to public health outbreaks, support COVID prevention and foster safe return to face-to-face classes. To increase vaccine uptake, a COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy survey was undertaken, and a joint UN initiative aimed to enhance risk communication and engagement to improve countries' access to and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines. Access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) increased due to international e-counselling services, capacity development courses for key stakeholders and a regional mapping of service availability or gaps, including for children.

To combat rising incidences of NCDs across the region, particularly to support prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases, and to enhance capacity building

for mental health services, the UN invested USD\$165,000 in the region. The HEARTS in the Americas initiative was implemented across six Caribbean countries, with support for establishment of a Hypertension Registry in Saint Lucia. The development and monitoring of capacity building strategies for mental health services was also supported and revisions made to mental health legislation in line with international human rights standards.

Other areas supported include health financing; substance, cancer and diabetes control and prevention; Information Systems for Health (IS4H) reviews; implementation and monitoring of tobacco use framework; GBV activities; incorporation of HIV services within the primary health care systems; safe food and healthy eating, sodium reduction, safe water and strengthening national policies, plans, and regulatory systems.

 **900,000** duty bearers, including caregivers of children in conflict with the law, reached with child abuse prevention information.

 **450+** children from vulnerable families increased access to education through provision of digital devices.

 **USD\$1.7 + million** invested in COVID-19 response and control.


 **Over 100,000** adults received messages that promote wellness, including preventable actions against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.


 **11, 400+** teachers across the region benefitted from increased teaching support.

 **15** child protection administrators and social workers in the region capacitated in digital case management.

 **USD\$700,000+** invested in strengthening resilience and responsiveness to public health events, emergencies, and disasters.

 **Approximately 280,580** persons reached with messages about COVID-19 including importance of being vaccinated.


 **160** early childhood educators and **30** teachers acquired new skills to develop digital curriculum content.


 **Curriculum based digital content** developed for all grades, with **50% completion**.

 **280,500+** persons reached with pertinent messages about COVID-19 prevention, including becoming vaccinated.

 **Regional Reproductive Health Commodity Security Strategy Model** developed to strengthen supply chain management capacity and improve access and availability of sexual and reproductive health commodities.

 **Over 26,600** pieces of educational content developed and the capacity of **628** teachers strengthened in digital content development.

 **Youth engagement** and participation in Safe School Initiative enhanced.

 **Vaccination cold chain system** strengthened in four countries (Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) to build resilience of health care systems to future health emergencies.

 **900** curriculum aligned digital learning content developed for K-6 grades in **five** countries.

 **Technical support provided** towards participation in Transformation of Education Summit.



Shock responsive, gender sensitive social protection

In 2022, the UN continued to support Governments of Barbados and the OECS to assist vulnerable individuals affected by the severe socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and other shock-related events. In parallel with the provision of cash, vouchers, and food assistance support in Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Virgin Islands (UK), the UN worked on strengthening national capacities for registration, vulnerability analysis, delivery mechanisms, monitoring and reconciliation of food, vouchers and cash assistance and facilitated trainings in shock responsive social protection to improve the capacity of countries to respond to shocks.

The capacity of national stakeholders in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, BVI, Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis was strengthened to design and implement effective social protection programmes and a comprehensive Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy for the OECS was developed. In BVI, draft Cabinet papers to Reform Social Assistance were elaborated following the release of the 2022 Commission of Inquiry Report. Dominica was supported in development of its first national social protection policy and the UN's

work contributed to new social protection policies in three Caribbean countries, and digitalization of social protection data systems in Anguilla and Antigua and Barbuda.

In Saint Lucia, a vulnerability index was developed with the Government and piloted in 2022 to bring the Government closer to planning for a disaster by identifying and pre-selecting vulnerable people that will need support depending on the shock. Data collection, analysis and visualization was also strengthened to support targeting and designing of shock-responsive social protection initiatives and climate resilience interventions.

To address the issue of the gender disparity of unpaid childcare work, two UN agencies worked collectively towards solutions to recognize, reduce, redistribute, and reward care work in the Caribbean. Authorities in Barbados were assisted to estimate the fiscal space necessary for providing universal access to childcare services and Grenada was supported to pilot the measurement of unpaid care work in its Labour Force Survey with technical support for possible extension to five more countries.

Regional learning, knowledge exchanges and trainings were used as a tool to further build social protection capacity

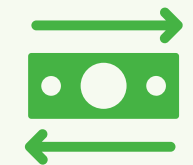
and countries such as Jamaica and Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines benefited from the training packages developed and access to the first of its kind operational handbook on shock-responsive social protection.

Through technical assistance countries expanded digitization of social protection, crime, and health data to ensure that the most vulnerable were targeted as beneficiaries for assistance and new modalities for distribution of social assistance payments, including digital payments, were utilized, and tested to promote financial inclusion and economic empowerment. Householders in Saint Lucia were also registered on a temporary Management Information System, to ensure accountable and efficient financial support.

Shock-responsive Social Protection (SRSP) policy guidelines and guidance for activating Contingent Rights for Social Protection Support during emergencies were articulated in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission. A Child Protection in Emergencies toolkit was created for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



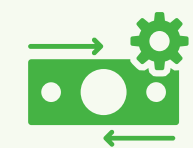
12,084 people received food assistance in Barbados.



25,000+ people across 5 countries received cash benefits through cash transfer support programs.



14,500 more beneficiaries reached in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines through scale-up of Cash Plus system.



1,200 COVID affected persons in Antigua and Barbuda assisted with humanitarian cash transfers.



1,000 dignity kits provided for women and girls impacted by November trough in Saint Lucia.



700+ households in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia successfully registered on a Management Information System to ensure efficient cash transfer payments.



Over 80 government staff across Dominica, Barbados, and Saint Lucia trained in shock responsive social protection, digital payment reconciliation, digital data collection and post distribution monitoring.



50 Permanent Secretaries and Directors of key ministries in Antigua and Barbuda increased their knowledge in social protection.



Grievance Redress Tool developed in the BVI to improve accountability to affected populations.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



OUTCOMES 5 & 6

Key Related SDGs



Caribbean Small Island Development States (SIDS) remain highly vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards, including floods and hurricanes, which adversely impact socio-economic progress, erode hard-won development gains, and push various population groups into poverty or further behind in terms of human development and wellbeing.

During 2022, steps were taken to develop national capacities to enhance the management of natural resources and biodiversity and to “disaster-proof” the education, agriculture, fisheries, and health sectors in line with national, regional, and international frameworks. SDG 15 received more attention through climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk management, reforestation and ecosystem rehabilitation, and pollution and waste management initiatives.



Contributing Agencies, Funds and Programs



66,761+
WOMEN, GIRLS, & VULNERABLE GROUPS

in the region benefitted from gender responsive climate actions



5
WORLD HERITAGE SITES

in Barbados and Saint Lucia strengthened to adapt to climate-related threats.



3
COUNTRIES
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA, DOMINICA AND SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

adopted a Model National Recovery Framework to support gender-responsive, inclusive resilient recovery



Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

Investments in hazard assessments, emergency response, resilience building, and recovery planning helped to reinforce the region's disaster management machinery in line with national, regional, and international frameworks. In 2022, a Recovery Capacity Assessment Audit was completed to gauge recovery experiences and capacity building needs of Caribbean countries impacted by disasters, including Grenada, Dominica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Through technical assistance to CDEMA, a Model National Recovery Framework (MNRF) was adapted to Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to scale up gender responsive and inclusive resilient recovery approaches.

Sustainable reconstruction and recovery solutions in Antigua and Barbuda, in collaboration with the Government and Barbuda Council saw an additional 42 householders impacted by hurricane Irma accessing fully rehabilitated homes through the Build back Better Module, meeting the overall 2022 target of 104 homes.

Preparedness in Dominica's early childhood sector was strengthened through creation and dissemination of 376 multi-hazard activity books and 54 teacher manuals across 17 educational centres, providing schools with age-appropriate content on preparing for hazards. Capacities of Emergency Shelter managers were strengthened with the creation of Standard operating procedures and multilingual rules and regulations.

Gender-responsive disaster recovery improved through the UK and Canada-funded EnGenDER Project, with support provided for the commissioning of studies on the gendered Impacts of Climate Change and Disaster Risk and Cost of Inaction in nine Caribbean countries. Assessments were also conducted in eight beneficiary countries towards leveraging USD\$7 million in global climate financing. The Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Saint Lucia highlighted the work done by the EnGenDER Project in their most recent submissions (Adaptation Communication) to UNFCCC in October 2022.

The region's emergency logistics response capacity for both air and sea operations, was bolstered in 2022 as work commenced on establishment of a Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub & Centre of Excellence at the Grantley Adams International Airport in Barbados, in partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and through the support of the European Union, the Government of Canada and USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance. The facility will support the prepositioning and trans-shipment of relief items, and rapid deployment of personnel to mitigate and minimize the impact of disasters.

Regional institutions, disaster management professionals, and military personnel were trained in the socio-economic risks of disaster, impacts of climate change, and potential humanitarian needs in emergencies. Civil-Military Coordination (CMCoord) training conducted in Barbados, laid the foundation for regional military coordination in an

emergency. Hurricane preparedness training in preparation for the 2022 hurricane season, benefitted over 470 participants and equipped critical partners with humanitarian insights, including prevention of gender-based violence.

Disaster Management professionals in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Dominica benefitted from a four-day Emergency Response Equipment Workshops on the use and deployment of the emergency response equipment pre-positioned in the region.

To address migration during disasters, the UN assisted CDEMA in integrating human mobility and migration into its regional Shelter Management Policy, and contributed to the publication of a report on Planned Relocation Policies and Processes in the Caribbean.



Enhancing Food and Water Security

To enhance climate adaptation in the regional tourism, agriculture, and fisheries sectors, capacity building, gender-sensitive needs assessments, and sectoral adaptation plans and policies were elaborated.

Together with government counterparts, WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) coordination platforms were established in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Lucia, and capacity building programmes on WASH in emergencies provided to improve disaster resilience.

In Antigua and Barbuda interventions helped to promote climate smart agriculture among youth and single mothers between 19 – 36 years and in Grenada needs assessments were conducted to build capacity in aquaculture. Saint Lucia's fisheries sector was significantly strengthened with the drafting of 10 Emergency Response Plans per

fishing community, and the design of new methodologies and schemes for the collection of socio economic and small-scale fisheries data to transition to climate change adaptation solutions. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines formulated a draft Tilapia Value Chain Strategy, and in Barbados established and operationalized the Agricultural Health and Food Control Agency with assistance from the UN.

In response to rising food insecurity and to the linkages between climate change, nutrition, health and educational outcomes, the UN supported the expansion and consolidation of school feeding programs across the Eastern Caribbean, with a focus on incorporation of local produce from small farmers, revision of menus, and support for school garden initiatives.



38,000+ individuals in **Dominica** benefitted from coverage under a UN-supported top up of an insurance policy for tropical cyclones.



USD\$200,000 top up contributed to Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance for a sum insured of **USD\$ 5.2 million**.



100,000 members of the Caribbean Network of Chamber of Commerce benefitted from Family Friendly Checklist to support business continuity.



900+ vulnerable individuals in Dominica, **over 75 % women**, increased their capacity in hazard response and recovery.



336 Dominican farmers trained to use climatic information to improve farm practices for disaster resilience.



50 community representatives and local authorities in Saint Lucia trained in the use of Multi-Hazards Early Warning Systems.



22 Emergency response and coordination officials in Saint Lucia enhanced their skills in information management.



Tsunami-ready communities in Caribbean SIDS increased in partnership with the International Oceanographic Commission.



Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed and ratified in Dominica.



National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) supported in the upgrading of **two emergency shelters**, and rehabilitation of washrooms of **21 schools** in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that double as hurricane shelters.



Over **3.1 M** across the region reached with messages about healthy school environments for adolescents.



Skills of **3,000** adolescents across four countries enhanced to prepare healthy meals using locally grown food. (Anguilla, Antigua, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).



National Climate Resilient Coral Reef, Seagrass and Mangroves Enhancement Policy supported in Saint Lucia.



Caribbean Governments received capacity building support for reporting to the Paris Agreement.



90 hectares of degraded forests and riverbanks rehabilitated in Saint Lucia and **7,000** food plants and trees reforested in the Kalinago Territory in Dominica to support food and job security.



Over **15,000** primary school students in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines directly benefitted from UN-supported school feeding activities.



Use of local foods, including fish, used in school menus in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines **rose from 40% to 80%** and **30% to 50%** respectively, between 2021 and 2022.



Youth and Climate Action

To move the needle on climate action, youth leaders were supported by the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy (PAGE) in developing innovative approaches to climate action. Through a partnership with the Ashley Lashley Foundation, a youth-led NGO, and the Barbados Ministry of Environment, National Beautification, Blue and Green Economy, over 3,000 children and youth participated in Barbados' first Youth Climate Action Summit which included a youth march.

In 2022, a total of 13,912 children and youth were engaged in climate change discussions. Nature Heroes - a joint UN innovation project on gamification was finalized to encourage Barbadian youth ages 13 - 21, to take real-life action against climate change. In Antigua and Barbuda, a key partnership with the Department of Environment resulted in the creation of a Youth Engagement Strategy on Climate Action (YES-CA) with Government also advancing steps to include resilience in educational curriculum content.



Sustainable natural resource management

Access and management of water resources in the agricultural sector in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and St. Kitts and Nevis, improved thanks to capacity strengthening of decision makers, resource mobilization and optimization technologies. Coordination of 50 key sector actors, including the ministries of environment and

agriculture and St. Kitts Water Services Department, benefitted from development of a water-energy-food-nexus E-learning course initiated with the University of Amsterdam.



Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Caribbean Governments gleaned significant support for climate change adaptation at the programmatic and policy levels, including capacity building for reporting to the Paris Agreement and significant biodiversity actions for conservation and restoration of mangroves across Barbados and Eastern Caribbean SIDS. These efforts also support the work of 15 Convention Secretariats – such as the Montreal Protocol and the Cartagena Convention.

In Saint Lucia, a National Climate Resilient Coral Reef, Seagrass and Mangroves Enhancement Policy and Action Plan was supported, and rapid assessments of five communities conducted, along with training of 20 technical officers from Government's Forestry Division, to support Forest Management. This resulted in rehabilitation of 90 hectares of degraded forests and riverbanks through the planting of 4,000 cocoa plants and 800 fruit trees. Our Ridge to Reef and Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) Project, in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, helped to improve national capacity to monitor and collect key data in Water Quality, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, which is critical to climate adaptation. Through capacity building support, national



agencies improved monitoring of climate change impacts on endangered species to support conservation. A Population Census was conducted for the St. Vincent Parrot, the national bird, and an updated Conservation and Action Plan created for the vulnerable Union Island Gecko, an endemic species found only on Union Island, among other conservation efforts.

Watershed and Forest Management interventions were also supported in vulnerable areas with a direct impact on livelihoods. These included riverbank stabilization on 1800 square metres, utilizing fruit trees and glory cedar in areas prone to landslides, plantation liberation thinning, and reforestation to prevent erosion. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was also supported in the reviewing and updating of its legislative framework surrounding Natural Resources Management, to include specific measures targeting Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. This includes the updating of the Protected Areas Systems Plan and the National Forestry Policy.

The 'Addressing Problems of Land Degradation and Ecosystem Degradation in the Upper Reaches of the Soufriere Watershed in Saint Lucia' Project, made significant progress with increasing focus on sustainable livelihoods initiatives in the upper Soufriere Watershed and received recognition and support from central Government including

for development of an Agro-Tourism Park. In addition to helping the community to develop and submit an initial proposal for funding, the UN also supported procurement of additional funds from regional and international agencies including the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) and the Inter-American Foundation. In April, during a high-level formal launch of the Agro-Tourism Park, full endorsement was received from the Ministers of Tourism and Commerce, who were both in attendance.

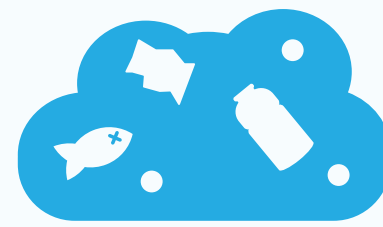
In Dominica, our work contributed to strengthening nature-based climate and disaster resilient systems, as well as job and food security, with the reforestation of 7,000 food plants and trees within the Kalinago Territory. Dominica's goal of being the first climate resilient country was also strongly supported via the UN's Climate Promise Initiative, and the revision of Dominica's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Through ongoing technical assistance to CDEMA, gender responsive and inclusive resilient recovery approaches were enhanced, and a Model National Recovery Framework finalized, approved, and adapted to Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



Saint Lucia supported with procurement of equipment to manage growing issue of **Sargassum Seaweed**



Antigua and Barbuda was supported to eliminate **23,236 metric tons of toxic chemicals** from the environment.



Development of National Action Plans in Antigua and Barbuda prevented the release of **over 185,000 metric tonnes of marine waste.**

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW



OUTCOMES 7 & 8

Key Related SDGs



Contributing Agencies, Funds and Programmes



1,000+
POLICE OFFICERS
CAPACITATED

to undertake data collection and crime analysis



80%
OF POLICE STATIONS

across the region fully onboarded the Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) platform for management of crime data.



2
COUNTRIES,
SAINT LUCIA & BARBADOS

benefitted from development of Standard Operating Procedures to improve services for GBV survivors and the identification and investigation of trafficking in persons.



To enhance crime response and tackle transnational organized crime and border issues in Eastern Caribbean countries, the UN partnered with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), USAID and other stakeholders, to support law enforcement agencies and institutions.

Capacity to address counter smuggling and cross-border movements in times of crisis was strengthened through Migration Management Training, Migration Governance Indicator Assessments, and development of a Migration Strategy for the Region. Regional Immigration officers also honed their skills in climate change and human mobility and over 90 persons from government and diaspora organizations received capacity building in diaspora engagement.

Through a 5-year partnership with USAID, the Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) was launched and deployed across 51 police stations in five countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia), supporting the transition from paper-based case management to fully digital platforms, allowing real-time, data-driven crime management.

Over 50 police officers were trained as trainers to support sustainability of data collection. Challenges in some jurisdictions, lack of ICT infrastructure within some police stations prevented the full deployment of the PRMIS system by year-end. Phase two of this project commenced in 2022, to support the reduction of youth involvement in crime and strengthening of counter Trafficking in Persons (TIP) efforts in the Caribbean.

In line with Youth 2030, meaningful engagement of youth is critical for social cohesion and sustaining peace in the Eastern Caribbean. Youth Directors from CARICOM Member States engaged in various sessions on meaningful youth engagement to localize the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda, with public officials from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines benefitting from the training sessions.

Working in close cooperation with the CARICOM IMPACS Joint Regional Communication Centre, which leads the region's efforts for cross-border communication, high-risk passengers, including victims of trafficking, were identified and intercepted, and illicit commodities including drugs and firearms interdicted at the Barbados Grantley Adams International Airport.

As a region with more maritime space than land territory, the capacities of Caribbean Member States were also strengthened against emerging threats on maritime security. In collaboration with CARICOM IMPACS, the UN supported the development of a Caribbean Maritime Strategy, to be finalized in 2023, and production of a Report on Caribbean Legislation and Best Practices on Maritime Crime. Assessment missions were conducted to seven Caribbean Member States, including Barbados, to define the goals of the strategy, and secure buy-in. Barbados and other Caribbean Members States also benefitted from legal support for the ratification of the San Jose Treaty, and Standard Operating Procedures for evidence handling for operators at sea.

As the impact of the trafficking in firearms, their parts and ammunition continue to have palpable consequences across the region, legislative reviews of national firearms legislation were conducted in several Caribbean Member States, including Saint Lucia. This process continues in 2023 with validation workshops and potential support, if requested, for legislative drafting. Over 70 regional practitioners, including participants from Saint Lucia and Barbados, increased their awareness on National Firearms Integrated Centres. Consequently, several requests for technical assistance to develop these centres in 2023 and beyond were made by participating countries.

The Caribbean is not immune to challenges posed by the connections between drug trafficking and different forms of organized crime, money laundering, and corruption. In 2022, the UN conducted workshops in the Eastern Caribbean sub-region to increase capacities to identify and investigate cases of money laundering, including trade-based money laundering. Ninety-six (96) officers from customs administrations, financial investigation units, police services/forces, intelligence agencies and offices of public prosecutions, from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia benefitted from these capacity building efforts.



Over 70% of police stations fully onboarded the PRMIS platform relying on it to support management of crime data.



100% of stations in Antigua and Barbuda operationalized the PRMIS by year-end.



Capacity of 85 police officers in Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis increased to implement the Domestic Violence Act and use of PRMIS.



National Action Plan for Children's Protection and Strategic Framework for Child Online Protection developed in Dominica.



Launch of a regional community of practice to improve provision of services to GBV survivors.



Development of probation service and training manuals.



96 officers from law enforcement agencies in from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia have enhanced capacity to identify and investigate trade-based money laundering.



Barbados provided with support for the ratification of the San Jose Treaty, to counter maritime crime.



In Barbados, Standard operating procedures completed for evidence handling for operators at sea in Barbados.



Report on Caribbean Legislation and Best Practices on Maritime Crime developed.

2.3

OVERALL PROGRESS ON THE PROMISE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Leaving no one behind, equality and well being

The 2030 Agenda's core commitment is to eradicate extreme poverty, foster inclusion, and to LNOB from the benefits of development. It is the underlying principle of all SDGs, anchored in human rights. Amid multiple crises, the UN has partnered with regional Governments to enhance national capacities to respond to critical issues, such as GBV, or to expand social protection, improve quality education and skills training, and ultimately to ensure empowerment and participation of **women, children, youth, persons living in remote, areas**. Targeted initiatives to enhance inclusion, and address living conditions of persons **with disabilities, indigenous people and LGBTQI+ people** have also been the particular focus of some agencies.

Under the Being LGBTI in the Caribbean (BLIC) Project, a **National LGBTI Survey** was launched in Barbados in collaboration with the University of the West Indies to improve the capacity of government, civil society and LGBTQI+ organizations to address and reduce inequalities and stigma. In addition, 100 regional practitioners working with the LGBTI community improved their communication skills and programme delivery through a Human Rights Defenders Capacity-Building initiative.

In Dominica, through a USD\$1 million Project, the **livelihoods and resilience of the Kalinago people were strengthened**, to reduce inequalities. In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernization and Kalinago Upliftment, an integrated package of support was delivered to boost agricultural production and sustainable agricultural practices. Over 80 farmers benefited from capacity building to improve cassava production; approximately 7,000 plants and trees were planted for reforestation, a comprehensive gender sensitive Kalinago Tourism Strategy was initiated and the institutional capacities of the Kalinago Council strengthened through education and training.

Support for **indigenous communities in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** included design and construction of a new Arrowroot Factory building to boost livelihoods and stimulate job creation for women. Implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, and Information Technology, construction is expected to be completed by May 2023.

In the Caribbean new HIV infections have decreased by twenty-eight per cent since 2010. However, over the same period, AIDS deaths have increased by thirty-three per cent (29% rise amongst males and 42% rise amongst females). There is need to do more to sustain further

declines in HIV transmission, to shed light about the situation of persons living with HIV, and to halt and reverse AIDS deaths especially among women.

In the area of **Gender Equality and Dignity** the UN applied intersectoral approaches to address GBV, universal childcare, and the status of women and men in the context of Innovative Financing in close coordination with Government ministers across several countries, to advance policy progress to scale up social protection and human security. **ParlGender Tools** (toolkits for parliamentarians) **were created** and shared with regional leaders to support the integration of gender equality and human security into national structural adjustment programmes and agricultural policy. More work is also needed to **address the ageing of the population**, and the specific situation of the elderly in the subregion. While the progressive increase of life expectancy is to be celebrated, it is combined with a decline in fertility pointing to a demographic transition and need for focus on care, services, and facilities for older persons. According to ECLAC, some countries in the subregion are already grouped in advanced ageing (over 60 are more than 20% of the population) e.g. Barbados, and moderately ageing (between 10 and 20% of the population is over 60) including Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada, St Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In terms of engagement with **international human rights mechanisms**, the UN system provided support and contributed to the combined fifth to ninth periodic reports submitted by **Saint Kitts and Nevis** under article 18 of the Convention on the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW). **Antigua & Barbuda, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** were also supported in the implementation of recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (3rd cycle, reports adopted in January 2022), and the UNST also supported preparatory work for the **Universal Periodic Review** of Barbados (4th cycle, review will take place in May 2023).

In relation to **special procedures of the Human Rights Council**, regional meetings and consultations were held in Barbados and Saint Lucia, with joint participation of the Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons of Inter American Human Rights Commission, and the UN Independent Expert on protection from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in September 2022. These independent experts took part in a regional event entitled "Driving Analytical, Transformative Action (D.A.T.A.), a Caribbean regional Dialogue on LGBTI DATA" organized by ECADE, UniBAM, Eolas Consulting and Colours Caribbean, in partnership with the UN's "Being LGBTI in the Caribbean" Project, with support by USAID.



Human Rights Day 2022



Illustration:
Alisha Smith, Artist

75 UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS
DIGNITY, FREEDOM & JUSTICE FOR ALL

#MoreThan

Join the campaign to focus on inclusion in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.



I wear many hats. I am a Mother-a Nurse.

I'm also an Entrepreneur. My business caters to persons with disabilities and cares for persons across the age spectrum. My mobility van enables continuity in activities of daily living and the healthcare service provided helps to make lives better by meeting the ever evolving needs of my community."

I am #MoreThan one hat.

Roxanne Brookes, Nevis



I am a queer person as I identify as being a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

However, I am also a Vincentian with Black and Indian Heritage, I am a lawyer, I am a human rights advocate, I love to cook, read, travel, go to the beach, and take pictures and videos of nature. I am multidimensional.

I am #MoreThan queer.

Jeshua Bardoo, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines



As a mental health professional, with over a decade of experience, the well-being of individuals and communities is very important to me.

Being a native of the tri-island state of Grenada sometimes means not having access to opportunities or resources, for example for students with whom I work as a school counsellor. It means working twice as hard to ensure #inclusion, and using our creativity to solve our small island problems.

I'm #MoreThan my location.

Nadina Williams, Carriacou



I'm a disability rights activist.

With other members of the St. Kitts Nevis Association of Persons with Disabilities (SKNAPD), we demand change and we look for other people to help us facilitate that change. I'm also a graphic designer and a backyard farmer. I love football, basketball, fishing and working with my hands.

I am #MoreThan a person in a wheelchair. My contribution to my community and my cause is crucial."

Anthony Mills, St. Kitts

SUCCESS STORIES



A Step Up – A Giant Step for Inclusivity

“Dancing, gardening, and living our best lives!” These are just some of the experiences beneficiaries of a UN-supported initiative in Saint Lucia say they are looking forward to, after receiving brand new prosthetic legs. This year, the UN partnered with communities and organizations of persons with disabilities in, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and Saint Lucia to ensure that the Caribbean continues to take steps towards a fully inclusive society.

In Saint Lucia, through a partnership with the National Council for and of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) and the Ministry of Equity and Department of Economic Development (DoED), men and women from across the country are regaining mobility and stepping into new independence.

Our Prosthetic and Rehabilitation and Repair Centre “literally puts people back on their feet,” declares NCPD President, Merphilus James. In fact, he notes that three of their four US-trained technicians are themselves prosthetic users.

Felix, Head Technician at the Centre, created his own prosthetic leg from surgical fiber glass to regain mobility following an accident, and has been working with NCPD ever since to create the same “miracle”



Mr. Leonard Edward a right, below knee amputee was fitted with his UN-supported prosthesis on February 21st. The vendor who has been out of work out of work since losing his leg, is eager to return to his mode of income generation.

for others. For the past few years Felix has been helping people to gain a new lease on life as he not only makes the prosthetics but helps to fit them and also assists clients in taking their first steps. Proud to be able to use his personal experience as well as his skills to help others to get back on their feet, he welcomed the UN’s support and partnership that has positioned the Centre to be a model of how members of the disabled community are treated in Saint Lucia.

“I am there with you all, as we ensure persons with disabilities can lead normal lives and we can keep going on and be strong!” he stated.

Prosthetic legs are custom made for individuals in need, and unable to afford this vital mobility aid, at no cost to them. UN support is directed towards funding materials and equipment for restocking and upgrading of the Prosthetic rehabilitation and Repair Centre.

From Survivors to Future Business Owners



Graduates of the Spotlight Entrepreneurship Initiative at their graduation from the Programme

Ten Grenadian women, who are survivors of violence, are now equipped with business and entrepreneurial skills to boost independence and self-esteem!

Over the course of six months, participants and graduates of the Spotlight Initiative’s Entrepreneurial Programme benefitted from self-development initiatives aimed at placing them on an upward path towards economic independence and autonomy.

“This this class was one of the best things that ever happened to me,” one participant remarked, “This class has taught me how and what to do in terms of managing a business from start to end. It lifted our self-esteem and gave us heightened confidence in ourselves,” she added.

Participants were exposed to the basics of entrepreneurship, personal financial management, costing and markups, and choice theory, along with training in communication and self-esteem. The programme also supported participants in the development of a personal action plan based on their interest and needs, along with the introduction of additional services for further support through the Grenada Investment Development Corporation and Grenada Development Bank.

Facilitator, and representative of NGO G.L.O.W.S. (Grenada Ladypreneurs – Our Women Succeed), Ms. Aine Brathwaite told participants, “I wish you all success in your lives, step by step. It is not going to happen overnight, but it is important to believe it can



Aine Brathwaite, Management Consultant of G.L.O.W.S stressed the need to empower women

happen.” She continued “the future is open to you, how you think will guide you to choose the right path towards independence and sustainability.”

With the Spotlight Initiative’s strong focus on the leadership and engagement of civil society, the UN was pleased to partner with G.L.O.W.S. to implement the initiative.

A Step-up in Livelihoods Support for At-risk Groups



Jean Mathurine, a Seamoss Farmer in Saint Lucia Farmers

Jean Mathurine, a Sea Moss Farmer in Saint Lucia, and farmers with disabilities in Antigua and Barbuda Improved their circumstances thanks to UN partnerships with Government.

UN support to Caribbean Governments has been bearing fruit in terms of livelihoods gains for close to 50 at-risk individuals in the islands of Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda.

Following a request by the Government of Saint Lucia for an expansion of beneficiaries under the Project 'Empowering Women in Food Systems and Strengthening the Local Capacities and Resilience of SIDS in the Agri-Food Sector', to include two vulnerable groups - at risk boys (juvenile offenders/ juveniles in need of care and protection) and persons with disabilities - the UN has provided support in keeping with national priorities.

With the sea moss value chain prioritized by the Government for development, the UN in collaboration with Export Saint Lucia and the Ministry of Agriculture, supported at-risk juveniles in developing a new life skill and generating revenues, through the building of sea moss drying racks. Members of the national disability association, and women from the Micloud community, an area identified as having ideal conditions for sea moss production, were also supported to transform their production techniques and enhance their livelihoods, as part of the value chain expansion.



with disabilities in Antigua and Barbuda Improved their circumstances and benefitted from new life skills and livelihoods support thanks to the UN

In Antigua and Barbuda, 15 farmers with disabilities, also members of Antigua's Disability Association, were selected from across 21 farms, to benefit from technical support to expand production of their lettuce crop, utilizing a hydroponic system, and increase linkages to local markets. The opportunity came under phase two of an Innovative Protected Cultivation Systems Project, also being implemented in Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Grenada.

In addition to receiving support to optimize their lettuce production, including through the supply of anti-thermal plastic and shade netting for proper ventilation, structural adjustments were also made to accommodate persons on wheelchairs and on crutches. For instance, it was noted that both the spacing between the benches and their height required adjustment, to make them suitable for persons with disabilities using hydroponic systems.

The Project also aims to maximize the local production of vegetables, and cost benefits for farmers, utilizing both hydroponics and soil-based mediums. For soil-based mediums, the focus will be on sweet peppers and tomatoes while for hydroponics, it will be different types of lettuces. Phase 1 entailed a Barbados-based training workshop on Protected Cultivation Systems that raised awareness on the importance of integrated crop management as an approach to increase efficiency and obtain high yields. Fifty participants including farmers, extension officers, and agriculture students benefitted from the capacity building training.

Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries Stepping up Health Surveillance



UN-facilitated training of laboratory technicians at the Best dos Santos laboratory in Barbados

Surveillance is a key cornerstone to prevent and control diseases and its importance has been highlighted even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In November, a four-day in-person meeting on Health Surveillance for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries was convened in Barbados to identify synergies, promote common agendas, and prevent duplication of efforts, which is especially vital for small island developing nations (SIDS). Over 50 participants, from 7 countries and 3 United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTS), including Ministry of Health officials, surveillance officers, laboratory heads, vector control staff, and Non-Communicable Disease and mental health focal points, attended the forum.

An important learning point from the pandemic was the need to establish and strengthen surveillance of non-communicable diseases along with other risk factors. However, given the structure of Ministries of Health of SIDS and paucity of resources, an integrated approach to surveillance of communicable and non-communicable diseases and risk factors, and environmental determinants, is required.

The meeting pursued at its core the need for this integration and methods of implementation that would bring this to happen. A new model to approach comprehensive surveillance guidelines that would focus on roles and responsibilities at various levels

was one of the methods identified and a model was proposed – something that the countries welcomed.

The forum also elicited discussions on Information systems, a long-standing need for SIDS, in many areas including public health surveillance, laboratory information systems, monitoring of environmental determinants, among others. Examples of adoption of technology to simplify work during the COVID-19 pandemic in countries were highlighted. This included the setting up of a makeshift, but well-functioning, public health surveillance system based on Google Sheets, in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which was appreciated by all.

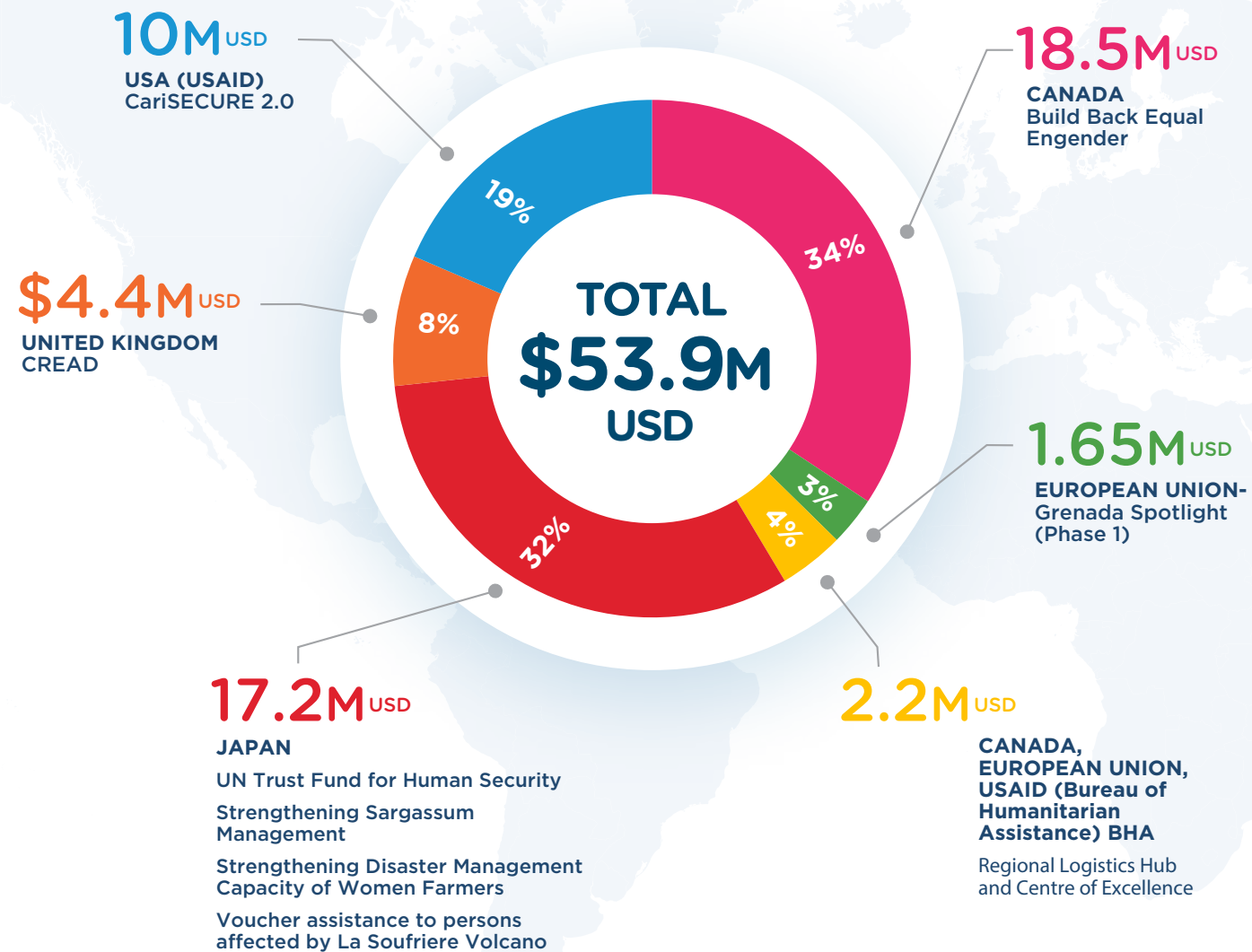
While the pandemic wrought havoc on the health systems and the society in general; it also resulted in increased investments, especially in public health laboratories and information systems, incorporation of technology in daily work, and attracted increased attention to the health sector from the public and a plethora of donors and partners resulting in added benefits to Caribbean people.

Key partners participating in the forum included the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Caribbean Med Labs Foundation (CMLF), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

2.3

SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS & FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Snapshot of Key Development Partner Contributions



Key Development Partners

International Development partners are integral to the success of UN support in the Eastern Caribbean. In 2022, the UN Team deepened partnerships with the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, USA, Japan and Canada, our largest sources of donor funding – to advance SDG progress across flagship programmes. Additional funding for programmatic delivery also came from the SDG joint Fund, GEF, and other sources. We also explored more strategic partnerships with International Financial Institutions, including the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and formalized this through the signing of an MOU, focused on moving the needle on data generation and use, promoting economic diversification and access to development finance as well as enhancing resilience across the Eastern Caribbean.

A new partnership with Global Affairs Canada and the launch of the USD \$7.9M ‘Build Back Equal’ initiative in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines strengthened ongoing efforts to advance economic and social equality for women and girls. Our longstanding partnership with the European Union, through the flagship Spotlight Initiative (Grenada and Regional) programme, with total development assistance of USD\$11.7 M, also continued to reap significant gains in the fight against gender-based violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG), particularly on the legislative front.

Through the USD\$1.3 M EnGender Programme, Canada is also supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in nine Caribbean countries, and the EU has also committed support to strengthening climate resilient health systems, solid waste management, and post-hurricane rebuilding efforts in Barbuda. Discussions are underway to replicate and scale-up EU-UN cooperation in the region.

Support for SDG 3 was enhanced in 2022 through our partnership with the United Kingdom under a Strengthening Health Facilities in the Caribbean project that promotes safer, greener, health facilities equipped to reduce disaster losses and build climate resilience. Support for the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD), as well as the EnGender project are additional areas of partnership. The government of Japan also continues to be a strong ally.

The government of Japan also continues to be a strong ally. Japan’s funding of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security facilitated the grant of USD 1.9M to UN Women, FAO, ILO and UNDP for the programme Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture Sector. Through a USD\$12 million ‘Strengthening Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean’ Project, Japan is also supporting five Caribbean countries to enhance national capacity for the collection, removal and disposal of sargassum. Finally the government of Japan supported Dominica and Guyana through the USD 5 million ‘Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity of Women in Dominica and Guyana aiming to narrow gaps in gender analysis, hazard and risk data, limited integration of climate change and disaster risk planning and practices in the agriculture sector.

In 2022, the UN’s increased cooperation with USAID reaped notable benefits in the areas of citizen security, increasing support for the LGBTI community, health systems strengthening, accelerating access to and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, and strengthening digital education capacity. Phase two of the CariSECURE Project (2.0) was launched with a USD \$10M investment. The success of the UN-USAID partnership and enhanced coordination wrought by the UN Reform, were highlighted as a best practice to boost resilience for Caribbean SIDS, on the margins of the UN Social and Economic Council (ECOSOC) Operational Activities for Development Segment (OAS) at UN Headquarters in New York in May. Some of the ongoing initiatives in place to support the region in areas including youth development, education, citizen security, disaster risk reduction and food security were also highlighted.

In 2022, the UN continued cooperation with key partners including, the European Union’s Global Illicit Flows Programme, the United States Bureau for Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), the Government of Canada’s Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme (ACCBP), the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of Germany, to enhance the region’s capacity to combat the illicit flows and the threats associated with transnational organized crime.

International Financial Institutions

Expanding Partnerships especially with International Financial Institutions for SDG acceleration has been another top priority of the UN team. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN intensified its efforts to leverage within and outside of the UN system to deliver stronger partnership to achieve the SDGs. For example, the UN Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UN Development System continued to be engaged with the Caribbean Development Bank, as ONE-UN, which resulted in a signed Letter of Intent in September 2022, aiming to strengthen cooperation in four key areas: i) Economic diversification, ii) Innovative finance – developing a center of excellence on innovative finance, iii) Resilience, vulnerability, and climate finance and iv) data and knowledge generation. Further, with the World Bank, and the UN has started to join efforts to further catalyze countries in the Eastern Caribbean in their green energy transition with a focus on the development of integrated resource plans, initially focused on Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda.

Additional Resource Mobilization Efforts to Finance the 2030 Agenda

South – South cooperation:

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund supports Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a focus on least developed countries and small island developing states. The UN is supporting five active south-south programmes in Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with a total investment of USD\$3.9 M. Programmatic areas include support for provision of domestic goods and services to the energy sector; waste management in the health sector; vocational training for marginalized youth; and livelihoods sustainability in indigenous communities through modernization techniques. They are being implemented in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, various Government ministries, as well as UNDP, PAHO, ILO, UNIDO and UNOPS.

Internal and External Resource Mobilization

The UN spearheaded efforts to increase resource mobilization on behalf of Caribbean SIDS through the creation of a system-wide Resource Mobilization Strategy, a Donor Roundtable convened by the Resident Coordinator between the UNST and key development partners, as well as gleaned through the UN SDG Fund with counterpart funding support from AFPs.

2022 Development Partners Landscape Assessment

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office, in its capacity as chair of the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG), spearheaded the drafting of the 2022 Development Partners Landscape Assessment for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Developed in collaboration with ECDPG members, it sought to highlight ongoing support to the region, provide programmatic information to enhance collaboration and implementation, and identify opportunities for innovative sustainable development strategies for the region.

Funding and thematic trends were noted across over 400 projects and programmes being implemented by development partners, which will assist partners in future planning to meet the needs of the countries. For instance, the assessment highlights that the countries in the region which are most eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) are Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Technical assistance was the most common type of development assistance being offered, as opposed to financial assistance, of which Grant funding was the most common, with loan financing also being significant. The largest national and regional programmes were also identified, and it was found that the thematic areas receiving the most funding were Resilient Infrastructure, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Sustainable Energy. Gender Equality was also a cross-cutting theme which was mainstreamed across many programmes.

Coordination Mechanisms

The UN in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean has employed various strategic coordination mechanisms to meet the needs of governments, development partners and the UNST, and participated in several strategic engagements designed to improve partnerships in the region.

Saint Lucia – Development Partners Coordination Meeting

A hybrid Coordination Meeting held under the theme “Leveraging Partnerships to Collectively Respond to Challenges”, was convened in Saint Lucia with participation from Prime Minister, the Hon. Philip Pierre, and over 50 high-level officials, including key development partners, permanent secretaries, and other senior Government personnel. The meeting sought to strengthen the tripartite relationship between UN, development partners and the government, while helping the Government to advance progress on the SDGs. This meeting provided donor Governments, including the United Kingdom, United States of America, European Union and Canada, and development organisations including

the World Bank, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), an opportunity to discuss first-hand Saint Lucia's newly developed 2021-2026 Medium-Term Development Strategy, and promote a common understanding of the Government's development priorities. This was a first step towards donors understanding the government's resource mobilization needs over the same period.

The forum also allowed the Saint Lucia Government to gain more insight into planned and ongoing development interventions in-country, including initiatives outlined in the UN Country Implementation Plan for Saint Lucia, which could be leveraged to address national priorities with support from all development partners and International Financing Institutions. Furthermore, the government was presented with the opportunity to encourage development partners to streamline interventions to maximise impact and reduce implementation capacity challenges. Based on the success of the event, this practice will be replicated in other countries in the Eastern Caribbean in 2023.

Private Sector

The UN in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean has heeded the call of the UN Secretary General to mobilise the global business community to collectively achieve the SDGs. Several UN Agencies joined up to meet with the Chambers of Commerce in Grenada and Saint Lucia, in August 2022 and November 2022, respectively, to inform the private sector about relevant UN initiatives, as well as to hear from the private sector the goals it wishes to achieve through engagement with the UN.

Initiatives discussed included:

- UN Global Compact: Caribbean Local Network
- UNDRR: Arise
- UNEP FI: Principles for Responsible Banking
- UNICEF: Business & Community Resilience (BCR) initiative
- OCHA/UNDP: The Connecting Business Initiative (CBi)

As a follow-up to initial talks, UN Agencies have continued to collaborate with the private sector to recruit companies to join the various initiatives, thereby facilitating a joint approach to the achievement of the SDGs in the countries served by this multi-country office.

The Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group

The UN chairs and coordinates the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECPDG) which is a group of development partners, including bilateral and multilateral donors, regional development organisations, and international financial institutions, in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Under this umbrella group, there are also four sub-groups organized around thematic areas. The sub-groups which were revised in 2022 to meet the current priorities of the region are: Blue and Green Economy (co-chaired by UNEP and Japan); Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (co-chaired by WFP and the European Union); Digital Innovation and Innovative Financing (co-chaired by UNDP and Canada) and Sustainable Livelihoods and Employment (co-chaired by UN Women and the Caribbean Development Bank). During 2022 the ECDPG members discussed opportunities to act together on these thematic areas via mechanisms such as joint advocacy, joint programming and streamlined policy advice to governments. These planning efforts have thus laid the foundation for joint activities which will be executed in 2023.

UNST bi-lateral meetings with development partners

The UN hosted a bi-lateral meeting with the High Commission of Canada/ Global Affairs Canada on March 17, 2022 and another one with USAID on July 27, 2022. These were part of a continuous series of bi-lateral meetings facilitated by the RCO with the aim to deepen and strengthen partnerships with key development partners in the sub-region. These partnerships allow the UN system to review the principles and benefits of the UN Reform, discuss opportunities with development partners to execute joint work and to sensitize partners on the UN's resource mobilization needs to achieve the goals of the four (4) priority areas of the UN MSDCF 2022-26, while at the same time gaining more in-depth knowledge of how development partners' strategies align to the UN MSDCF.

Global Compact Regional Chapter

The United Nations Global Compact Caribbean Network is expected to soon become a reality. The MCO has been spearheading the efforts to bring this important regional network to fruition. At the end of 2022, the number of Caribbean participants grew substantially, due largely to advocacy and recruitment efforts. It is expected that the Network and Advisory Board of private sector leaders will be launched formally in the near future.

2.4

RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

In a context of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) vulnerability, and with a repositioned UNDS, the results achieved are demonstrating that the WHOLE is greater than the sum of its parts. As a UN sub-regional team with thirteen Joint Programmes (JPs), significant contributions were made to scale-up support to member states to address several emerging priorities. These include:

Social Protection - UNST has worked together to expand social protection across the Eastern Caribbean through joint action and with enabling resources from the SDG Fund and other sources.

Blue Economy - Creation of an enabling environment to help the sub-region build economic resilience by diversifying its economy. The Blue Invest Facility has been conceptualized to help design financing models and attract private investors.

In keeping with the “Leave No One Behind” principle, the UN system maximized its commitment to climate action by implementing a Joint Programme to promote the human security approach, as a framework to address challenges related to environmental migration and disaster displacement. Eleven Eastern Caribbean states are beneficiaries of the Joint Programme, which has achieved in 2022 a stronger integration of mobility in climate strategies, mainstreamed climate inclusion in migration and displacement plans, and enhanced outreach on the integration of the human security approach in environmental migration tools and mechanisms.

Consolidation of Gains In 2022, the UN sub-regional team, under the leadership of the UN Resident consolidated the gains achieved in 2021. Emphasis was placed on providing more tailored, relevant support to Eastern Caribbean SIDS. This was the first year in the roll-out of the biennial Government-UN Country Implementation Plans (CIPs), aligned to the MSDCF (2022-2026), as the main instrument to build coherence through programmatic integration. The CIPs were framed around six development priorities where the UN system agreed that the comparative advantages of agencies, funds and programme could be pooled. This constituted a UN sub-regional offer which ensured that the UNDS is jointly responding to both common and differentiated development needs and priorities of countries. Today, each country has a comprehensive and clear view of the UN contribution that is aligned to its national development needs, the SAMOA Pathway, and the SDGs. As holistic instruments, CIPs have been useful in convening and building coalitions between government, UNDS, and development partners, for increased access to financial and technical resources, and delivering on the financing for development and aid effectiveness agendas. For example, in November 2022, the government of Saint Lucia and the UN system convened a development partners forum to take stock of financing flows for UN, identify underfunded areas, and close financing gaps.

UN Joint Programming has been a useful instrument for moving beyond programmatic silos and leveraging comparative advantages of the entire UN system to deliver support to SIDS in 2022. Four new joint programmes were formulated.

The UN sub-regional team intensified its joint work to respond to some of the reverberations of the cost-of-living crises and the residual socio-economic effects of COVID-19. In this context, a new Joint Programme on Food Security and Livelihoods Resilience was implemented by FAO, WFP and UNCTAD, in response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy and Finance. It sought to assist countries in the analysis of impacts and identification of risk management options to guide short-term response and inform medium-term food security and livelihoods resilience measures and policies. These measures included developing capacity for collection of a robust set of price monitoring data, analysis of country-level impacts including on crop production, and identification of risk management options and policy interventions.

In addition, the UN team designed and commenced implementation of three joint programmes:

In keeping with the UN MCO review, the RC System continued in the sub-region its strong focus on transforming the delivery/operational model of the MCO in a way that all the countries in the sub-region have acknowledged. The UNDS has delivered more for every development dollar – by reducing operational costs. Two new common premises have been established in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and Grenadines, with significant financial investments from governments in both islands.



In line with the recommendations made by the Multi-Country Office Review in 2019, the UNST continues to scale up its presence in the countries we serve. Building on the six sub-offices of the RCO across the Eastern Caribbean, UN Women, UN Global Compact, and IOM have expanded their presence in the Eastern Caribbean delivering on a major expectation from SIDS. Data from the 2022 Configuration exercise indicated that presence in the region has grown by 29% over the past three years, increasing from 294 staff members from 13 AFPs in 2019 to 395 staff members representing 16 UN AFPs in 2022.

Efforts to Communicate and Advocate Together - The year 2022 brought a relaxation in COVID-19 protocols and a re-opening of UN House to members of the public, which allowed the UNCG the opportunity to stage more in-person joint events with Governments and partners.

Additionally, a series of communications products were launched to intensify efforts at communicating as one. Among these was the inauguration of the quarterly newsletter - #GoalPost- produced by the Resident Coordinator Office, that raises awareness to the extensive range of joint and single agency development results in Barbados and across the Eastern Caribbean. More joint communication efforts are being undertaken under joint programmes, including the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Initiative, with the regional programme issuing three editions of its quarterly newsletter - “In the Spotlight – Caribbean” this year, as well as a special 16-page feature on 16 Days of Activism. In terms of public outreach and advocacy, the UNCG jointly observed several UN days in collaboration with Governments, civil society, and international development partners, including 16 days of Activism against GBV, Human Rights Day and UN Day, and supported advocacy through Op-eds authored in the name of the Resident Coordinator and other agency heads.

Human Rights Day was celebrated with a Panel Discussion on “Inclusion to Ensure Fairer Societies for Present and Future Generations” held in collaboration with our Human Right’s Advisor and the Barbados Ministry of Labour, Social Security, and the Third Sector. Representatives of the LGBTI+, elderly and disabled communities participated in the event, that proposed solutions to ensure inclusion and respect for ALL human rights. A highlight of the celebration was the unveiling of a specially commissioned piece of artwork depicting the theme of inclusion, by a young artist, to be displayed in UN House. The launch of a regional social media campaign themed #MoreThan demonstrated the complexity of humanity to prevent discrimination of any form.

UN Day 2022, a highlight on the UNCG calendar, was again observed across Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Several high-level events were staged in collaboration with respective Governments and partners and supported by RCO Country Coordination Offices in six countries. A UN Day Video Message from the Resident Coordinator received high viewership in the region, including on prime-time television, and was reproduced for the print media and other channels, contributing to the UN’s advocacy efforts towards the 2030 Agenda. Here in Barbados, UN Day was celebrated with the annual Lighting Ceremony at UN House, with participation from the Government of Barbados and several key development and civil society partners. The first Staff Day in over three years was also successfully staged, with activities and friendly competitions aimed at building camaraderie and welcoming staff back to UN House post-COVID. A Creative SDG Costume Competition was held in partnership with children from a neighbouring primary school.

The UNCG also contributed to advocacy around World Health Day, World Environment Day, International Women’s Day, and International Youth Day, with a panel discussion that addressed Youth Mental Health, while supporting amplification of at least seven global campaigns, including the Transforming Education Summit.

2.5

COUNTRY RESULTS REPORTS IN MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE

In 2022, six countries of the 10 in the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean MCO signed the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework 2022 – 2026 (MSDCF), which will serve as the blueprint for UN collaboration in the region for the next five years. The MSDCF will be operationalized by specific Country Implementation Plans aligned to national needs and priorities.

This followed three previous signings in 2022, with one overseas territory still to sign the agreement. The MSDCF identifies four key priorities for achieving resilient sustainable development in the region: increased support to the economic resilience agenda; intensified efforts to ensure realization of human rights for all; strong commitment to enhancing inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; and scaled up support to ensure that Caribbean societies remain peaceful and just societies.

2022 signatories



Saint Lucia

On January 14, 2022, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Prime Minister of Saint Lucia The Hon. Philip J. Pierre signed the MSDCF during a virtual ceremony, on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of St. Lucia.

Noting the UN's long history of working with the governments in the region to address critical issues, Prime Minister Pierre contended that "the signing of the MSDCF provides an opportunity to strengthen our partnership with the United Nations and to reaffirm our commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda".



Grenada

On January 27, 2022, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. The Rt. Hon. Dr. Keith Mitchell signed the MSDCF during a virtual ceremony, on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of St. Lucia.

Prime Minister Mitchell, while acknowledging the support of the UN agencies over the years, singled out their reassuring presence and contributions in response to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic. He pledged his support "to work collaboratively with the UN in the implementation of the MSDCF and other ensuing implementation plans."



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

On January 31, 2022, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Prime Minister, Dr. The Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, signed the MSDCF on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



St. Kitts and Nevis

On February 17th, 2022, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Prime Minister, Dr. The Hon. Timothy Harris, signed MSDCF during a virtual ceremony, on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis.

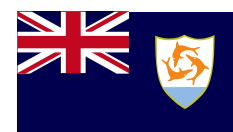
While able to respond to the COVID-29 pandemic, in part due to fiscal prudent management, Prime Minister Harris noted that measures taken to address poverty and to save jobs had come at a high cost. Given the difficulty of overcoming climate change consequences, while not yet out of the shadow of COVID-19, he emphasized the importance of partnerships.



Commonwealth of Dominica

On March 16, 2022, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica The Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit St. Kitts and Nevis, signed the MSDCF during an in-person ceremony, on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of Dominica.

Prime Minister Skerrit committed to advancing the interest of Dominica and the SDGs while signing the 5-year agreement. "I believe that the agreement we signed, the plans we formulate and the interventions we make will always be about the well-being of our people. I look forward to the outcome of this framework that we signed today and to its practical implementation for the benefit of every Dominican citizen."



Anguilla

On March 4, 2022, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Premier of Anguilla, Dr. The Hon. Ellis Webster signed the MSDCF, on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of Anguilla.

2021 signatories



BVI

On December 10, 2021, the British Virgin Islands (BVI) became the first signatory to the MSDCF. UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Premier of the British Virgin Islands, The Hon. Andrew Fahie Prime signed the MSDCF during a virtual ceremony, on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of the BVI.

Premier Fahie welcome the accord, noting that within the framework of the MSDCF, his country would be seeking UN support to implement its National Sustainable Development Plan, which was in advanced draft form after months of public consultation and UN technical assistance.



Barbados

On December 17, 2021, as Barbados celebrated its 55th anniversary of UN membership, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Prime Minister of Barbados The Hon. Mia Mottley, signed the MSDCF during an in-person ceremony, on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of Barbados.

Prime Minister Mottley welcomed the new cooperation framework, while reiterating her support for the UN Secretary-General's new Common Agenda. "So, my friends, we are here... in truth and in fact, to go to the heart of what we are facing as developing nations, as small island developing states, and being able to put in place the mechanisms and recognizing that one of the deficiencies of small island developing states is the absence of capacity."



Antigua and Barbuda

On December 20, 2021, UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, The Hon. Gaston Browne signed the MSDCF during a virtual ceremony on behalf of the UN Development System and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister Browne said the UN plays a very important role in supporting ongoing national efforts. "There is a need to build further on the gains, made especially on the issue of Governance. Governance is an important issue to ensure resilience."



UN Joint Programming

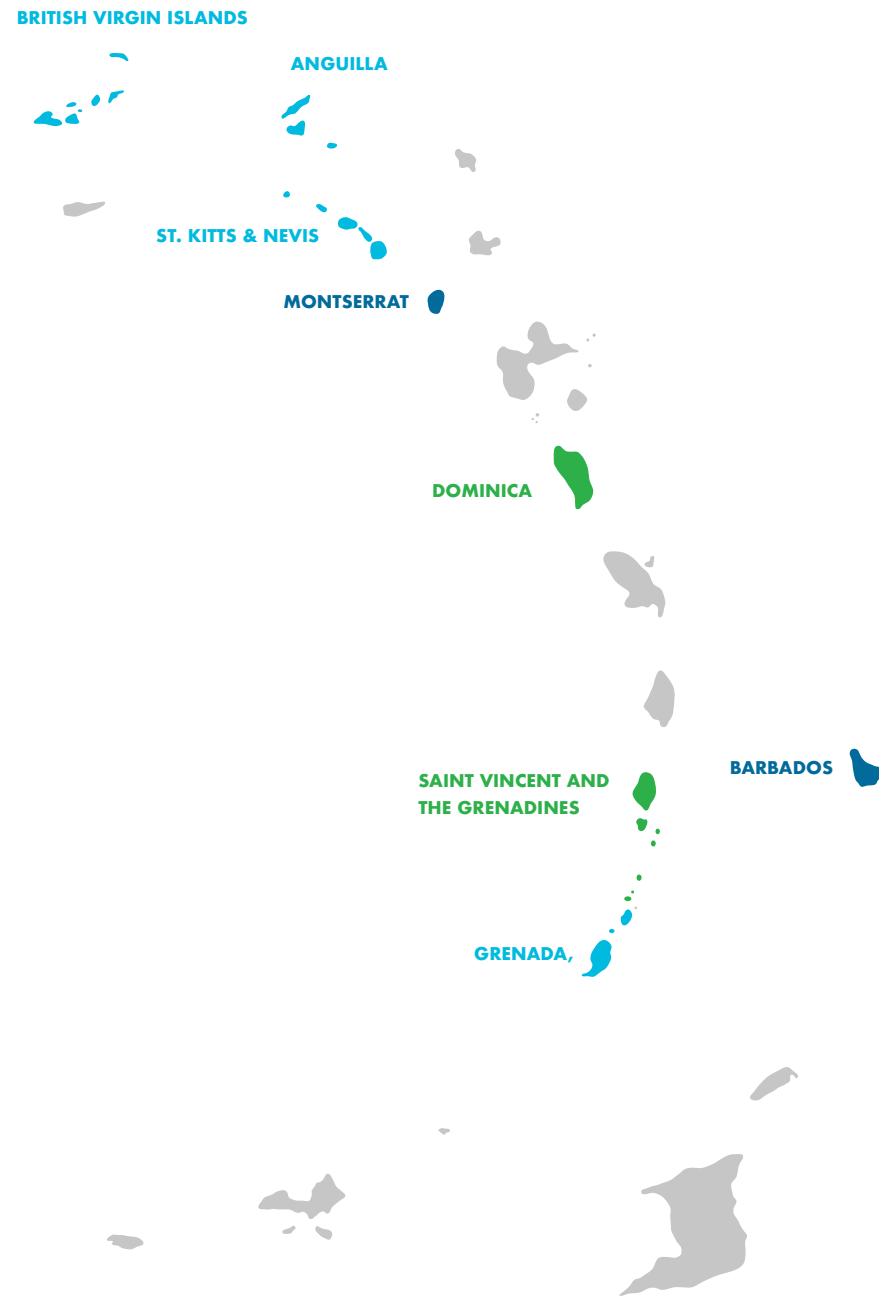


Resilient Caribbean: Engaging & Training Youth, Strengthening Integrated Social Protection Sector Delivery

BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, Anguilla,
and British Virgin Islands

PARTICIPATING UN AGENCIES



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

BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

Dominica, and Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines

PARTICIPATING UN AGENCIES



Integrated Population Data and Policy Solutions to Accelerate SDGs Achievement

BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

Barbados and Montserrat

PARTICIPATING UN AGENCIES



PRIORITY AREAS of the Sub-Regional Offer:



COVID RESPONSE &
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY



DATA SYSTEMS



DIGITIZATION



CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER
RISK REDUCTION



INSTITUTIONAL
STRENGTHENING AND
CAPACITY BUILDING



SUSTAINABLE
FINANCING

2.6 EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

In January 2023, the UN Team and the Sub-Regional Joint Steering Committee organized high-level meetings with member states to review and approve key 2022 results in alignment with the joint UNST Work Plan and following year-one of the MSDCF. The meeting, co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the Government of Barbados represented by Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, sought to explore gaps, challenges, best practices, and lessons learned, to pave the way forward for year two of the five-year regional Cooperation Framework. UN Results Groups presented their intervention highlights under respective pillars, and national Government representatives presented analyses of implementation of their respective Country Implementation Plans (CIPs).

UN collaboration and partnership, integrated policy support with social protection at its core, tailored CIPs with flexible implementation plans aligned to national policies and circumstances, and immediate response to national humanitarian crises, were among the good practices highlighted by member states. Governments, while welcoming the efforts made towards the ONE UN approach, felt that there was still more needed to be done on this front.

UN support to address the protracted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the more recent Triple Crisis of food, fuel, and finance were especially appreciated by member Governments. The immediate humanitarian response in all instances was singled out by member Governments.



Prime Minister The Hon. Mia Mottley engages students during the unveiling of the 'Wall of Inclusion' Youth Mural for World Children's Day.

Key Recommendations:

- **Strengthen mutual partnerships** to enhance coordination and support the most vulnerable. Steps should be taken to strengthen the ONE UN / Government partnership in each country to mobilize climate finance at scale. There should also be an improved national coordination mechanism among ministries, agencies, and departments, and between the UN, Government, the Business Sector and civil society.
- **Enhance systems approach** to institutional capacity building to support implementation in key thematic areas, including economic resilience, social resilience, and environmental resilience.
- **Enhance CSO engagement** and targeted interventions towards the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- **Increase visibility** of the CIP and UN's broader programmatic work to increase awareness and ensure a stronger SDG focus at the national level.
- **Facilitate models for sharing best practices** across sub-region. The UN should facilitate more knowledge exchange on best practices across countries and facilitate more South-South collaboration in the Eastern Caribbean.



KEY EVENTS



First place winners in UN Staff Day Creative SDG Costume Competition



Turning of the sod for the Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub & Centre of Excellence



UN House Lighting Ceremony to observe 16 Days of Activism Against GBV



UN School's Visit



CDB Letter of Intent Signing



UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq and Prime Minister, Dr. The Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, following the signing of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Country Implementation Plan



UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, Luis Felipe Lopez Calva, UNDP Regional Director LAC, and Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, The Hon. Gaston Browne inaugurate the UN Common Premises in Antigua and Barbuda



Unveiling of 'Wall of Inclusion' Youth Mural for World Children's Day



The Barbados Country Implementation Plan Signing



Unveiling of commissioned Artwork for Human Rights Day



Student winner in UN Staff Day Creative SDG Costume Competition



Inauguration of UN Common Premises in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Tuk-band entertainment at Barbados CIP signing

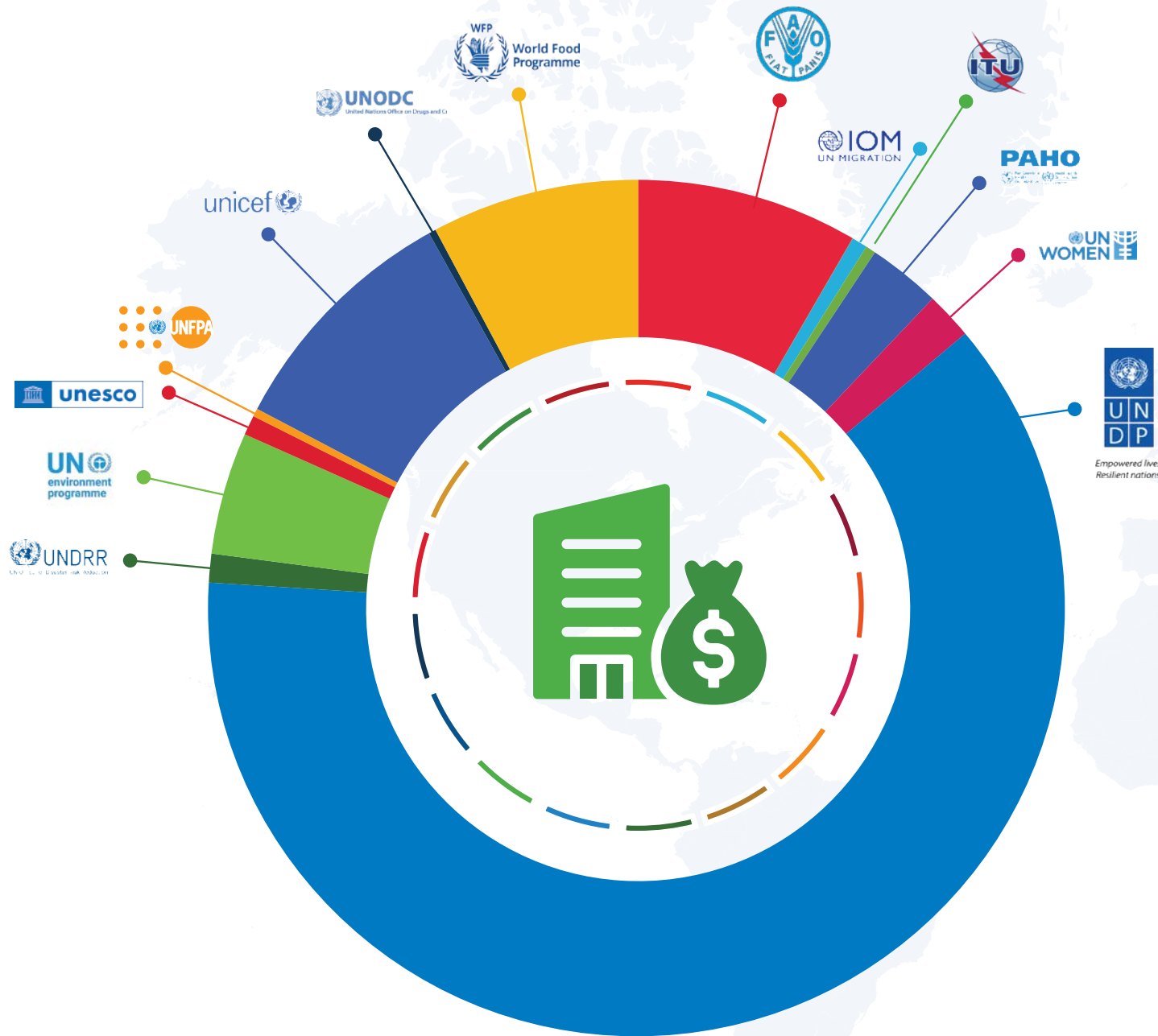


UN Iron Chef Competition Winner

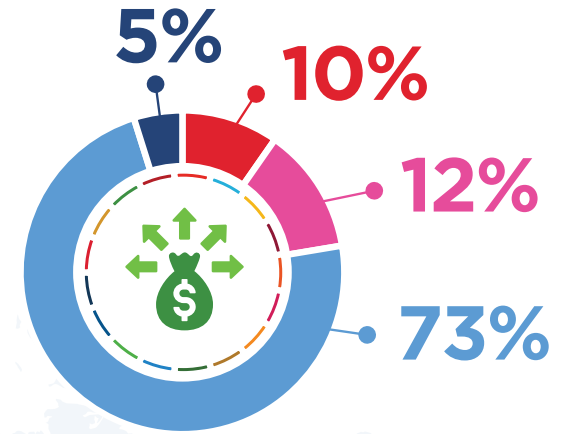
2.7

Financial Overview 2022

UN AGENCY SPENDING



MSDCF PILLAR CONTRIBUTIONS



\$101,814,914

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MSDCF OUTCOMES

- Outcome 1 → ● \$4.8M
- Outcome 2 → ● \$5M
- Outcome 3 → ● \$4.97M
- Outcome 4 → ● \$7.94M
- Outcome 5 → ● \$14.6M
- Outcome 6 → ● \$59.5M
- Outcome 7 → ● \$1.87M
- Outcome 8 → ● \$3.08M



- KEY**
- OUTCOME 1: Productive and competitive ecosystems
 - OUTCOME 2: Diversified and sustainable economies
 - OUTCOME 3: Data use to eliminate discrimination
 - OUTCOME 4: Equitable access to universal social protection

- OUTCOME 5: Adaptive capacity for inclusive DRR and climate change mitigation
- OUTCOME 6: Natural resource management to strengthen resilience
- OUTCOME 7: Improve access to justice, peace, and security
- OUTCOME 8: Safer, more inclusive, and equitable societies

A woman in a pink shirt and hairnet is sifting white powder through a woven basket. In the background, a group of people, including a woman in a blue UNCT uniform, are observing. The scene is set in a room with wooden pillars and a tiled floor.

CHAPTER 3:

**UNCT KEY FOCUS
FOR 2023**



For 2023, the UN sub-regional team is committed to fostering joint responses to help Caribbean countries scale-up climate adaptation efforts, accelerate the digital transition, close data gaps, and accelerate progress toward achieving the SDGs with a focus on the most vulnerable.



Given the limited fiscal space of SIDS which has been exacerbated by recent crises, an even stronger focus will be deployed to build partnerships with international financial institutions and the private sector. This should result in stronger UNHFI partnership on energy transition and the launch of the UN Global Compact Caribbean Network. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic subsiding, and cost of living crises easing, the UNST will focus on the cross-cutting priority of building capacity of countries to risk inform their development plans and policies. An updated multi-country analysis of the development situation will be done, to better account for the socio-economic realities in countries.

Through joint work plans, intensified attention will be given to protecting the most vulnerable in Caribbean societies, with a focus on scaling up programme support to meet the needs of people living with disabilities, address demographic transitions including the needs of the elderly, and better integrate the needs of migrants across all priorities.

Delivering more predictable financing for climate action and scaled-up access to risk financing are areas that have been agreed between the UNDS and regional institutions as priorities for collaboration in 2023 and beyond. The RCO core capacities will continue to be deployed to assist the UN sub-regional team in advancing partnerships with regional stakeholders and IFIs, in these areas.

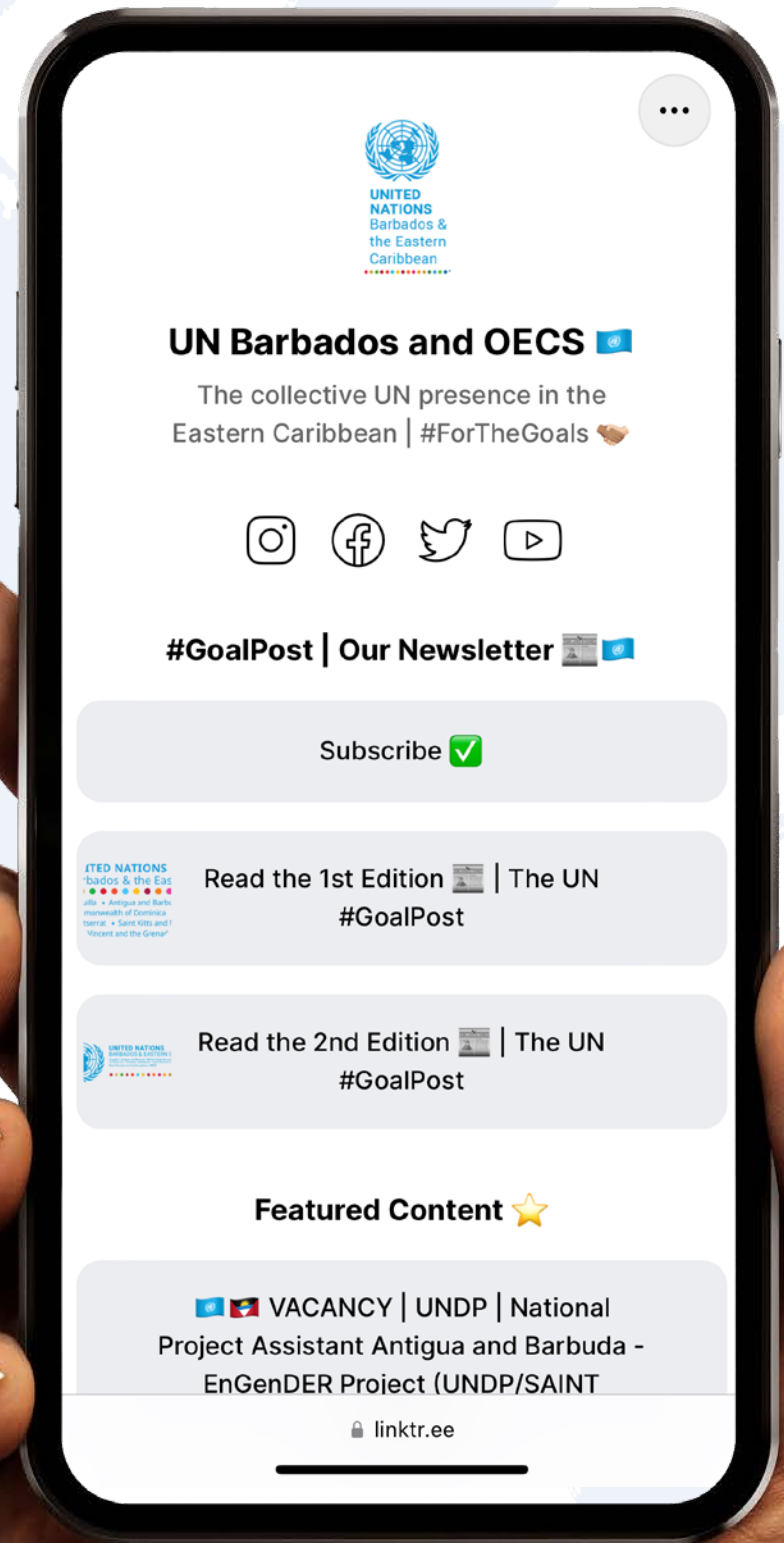
Finally, 2023 marks the 75th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human rights. National level dialogue on human rights, with special regards to the needs of vulnerable groups will be supported and joint advocacy on rights issued will be intensified through media engagements. ■



#GoalPost



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UNITED NATIONS
BARBADOS & EASTERN CARIBBEAN

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



2022 UNST ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

BARBADOS & THE EASTERN
CARIBBEAN MCO



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