UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Briefing Package

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1. Programme Office Overview

On October 21, 1974, the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Barbados entered into an agreement (the Standard Basic Framework Agreement – SBBA) to “support and supplement the national efforts of developing countries at solving the most important problems of their economic development and to promote social progress and better standards of life.”

Subsequently, similar agreements were entered with the Governments of the ten countries and territories that the UNDP Multi-Country Office (MCO) for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean serves: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The agreements have established the framework within which UNDP serves and is the foundation on which programme documents such as the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework and the Sub-regional Country Programme Document are built. Our work in the region continues to evolve and is now classified under three main pillars (1) Sustainable Solutions, Energy and Climate Change (SSECC) (2) Prevention, Recovery and Resilience (PRR) and (3) Poverty and Governance (P&G).

The three aforementioned pillars of work follow the "Blue Economy for Green Islands approach" that incorporates the deep interlinkages between blue and green economies while encompassing an entire island system and its maritime waters as one interlinked economic, social and environmental system.

At UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, we follow the Blue Economy for Green Islands approach in order to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience.

Some of the activities that will be described below such as the Blue Economy Scoping Studies and the SDG Fund Component 1 have positioned the MCO as a leader in the blue economy space in the Eastern Caribbean.

Cross-cutting Themes: Gender Inclusion and Digital Transformation

In addition to the three pillars and the Blue Economy for Green Islands approach, at UNDP Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean, we have two cross-cutting themes that we aim at incorporating into every project. These two themes are Gender Inclusion and Digital Transformation.

Gender Inclusion

Historically, the MCO lacked a Gender Equality strategy or action plan that helped to ensure gender is adequately and impactfully integrated throughout the portfolio. In 2020 an initial mapping exercise was elaborated.

In 2021, and while the global UNDP Gender strategy was being produced, the MCO prepared a Gender Equality Action Plan that had three main outcomes:

- Formulation of gender-specific indicators at the project level.
- Definition and implementation of gender-specific activities in each project.
- Allocation of at least 15% of the budget to new projects.
Additionally, a full-time gender specialist was recruited (although the position had to be readvertised several times).

In 2022, the aim is to develop a Gender Strategy in line with the Global Gender Equality and the new UNDP Strategic Plan. Additionally, preparatory for the MCO enrolment in the gender seal has started.

**Digital Transformation**

Digital technology is a fundamental force for change, impacting almost every aspect of development, at an accelerated rate since the global pandemic. Within the Eastern Caribbean, governments are pursuing digital transformation efforts, rolling out new online government services, digitizing records, enhancing data management systems and capacities, and even launching one of the world’s first central bank digital currencies, DCash, now covering 7 of the 8 Eastern Caribbean Central Bank countries. Some governments, such as Dominica, have expressly linked digital as a strategy for building their climate resilience. However, the pace has been slow and fragmented and is often advancing in the absence of a clear national strategy.

Both the UNDP SIDS Offer and the Strategic Plan identify digital transformation as a top enabler for progress on the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS. With the support of the Government of Sweden, the Sida-UNDP Programme has funded a Digital Transformation Specialist for SIDS. Based in the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Multi-country office, the Specialist is supporting global SIDS policy networks and provides direct technical assistance to SIDS countries, with a particular focus on the Eastern Caribbean.

Support is focused on empowering national planning and digital ecosystems through:

- **Mainstreaming Digital** - Incorporating a ‘Digital-by-default approach to programming in the Barbados MCO, by working with project leads to review opportunities to integrate digital upskilling, platforms and innovations into the programmatic planning and activities.
- **Digital Readiness Assessments (DRA)** – A rapid assessment tool to identify digital strengths and weaknesses in government, infrastructure, regulation, business and human capacity, through stakeholder engagement with ministries, the private sector, CSOs and in some cases also the public. The process serves as an entry point for UNDP support. Digital Readiness Assessments were completed in Dominica (2020) and Grenada (2021), with the British Virgin Islands currently in the planning stages.
- **National Digital Strategies** – Building on the DRA, the SIDS offer supports governments to develop national digital strategies. In Dominica, technical support was provided for national stakeholder consultations and the drafting of the National Digital Strategy, which is currently with the cabinet for final review.
- **Capacity Building for digital transformation** - a new UNDP online course offers an introduction to civil servants and other stakeholders in shaping an inclusive, whole-of-government approach to digital transformation, and the course can be customized for public sector capacity building with governments. (currently underway in other SIDS)
- **Leveraging digital finance to increase resilience** - Funded by the European Union, and implemented by a UNCDF Specialist based in Trinidad, this new programme will offer technical assistance on financial inclusion and deploy grants to enhance the availability of digitally inclusive, financial services in the market.
Sustainable Solutions, Energy and Climate Change (SSECC)

Historically, the MCO has strived to be a key player in the Eastern Caribbean providing support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by promoting and implementing projects that increase the adaptability and resilience of both the island and the people to the impacts of climate change. This is achieved by engaging with country partners to develop and employ sustainable and viable solutions to the unique challenges caused by climate change and compounded by small scale economies heavily reliant on a fluctuating tourism industry, a scarcity of natural resources and low food security.

Often overlooked in the Caribbean, climate change will also have a profound impact on natural resource management particularly regarding blue and green resources. The aforementioned highlights the need for climate-sensitive strategies to improve climate risk management (a systematic and coordinated process in which climate information is used to reduce the risks associated with climate variability and climate change), and take advantage of collateral opportunities, in order to improve the resilience of social, economic and environmental systems. In the wake of, already present and undoubtedly future impacts of climate change, UNDP is poised and well equipped to assist SIDS in sustainably developing and adapting symbiotically to environmental challenges.

The SSECC Cluster can achieve its mandate by developing and implementing projects that are not only focused on a country’s national priorities but will directly have an impact on the livelihoods of people given that Climate Change is being felt and will continue to be felt by the most vulnerable in the population.

Regional solidarity and collective commitment to cooperation are critical and through strategic multi-country programmes and initiatives under the SSECC pillar such as EnGenDER and Climate Promise, UNDP distinguishes itself as an invaluable and reliable partner in the region and beyond.

Life on land and below water
UNDP’s support for environmental management and nationally owned sustainable development pathways encompasses the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including Forest Management, Sustainable Land Management and Desertification, Water and Ocean Governance, Climate Change, Energy, Chemicals and Waste Management, Blue and Green Economy and Extractive Industries.

2022 will see the start of the Project for Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean which is funded by the Government of Japan. This regional initiative will boost marine and nearshore coastal conservation efforts, support integrated coastal management actions, and mitigate negative impacts on sectors such as fisheries, public health, and tourism with consideration for including gender dimensions where possible.

Our work
UNDP strongly believes that healthy ecosystems underpin sustainable development – these 2 go hand in hand with each other and are integral components when we are speaking about SIDS. Nature provides $125 trillion in assets to humanity; it underpins half of the world’s GDP. It is the very reason that the UNDP has nature-based solutions as one of our six signature solutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a direct result of the degradation of natural areas, species loss and exploitation. UNDP’s work towards helping governments to address inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted for the conservation, restoration and use of ecosystems and natural resources can contribute to the prevention of future pandemics. It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic has also created an unprecedented and insatiable demand for innovation and collaborative solutions throughout the region. Further, we need to recognize the interconnected and cross-sectoral nature of
building resilience, specifically tailored to an integrated approach within the context of biodiversity conservation.

The SSECC Cluster is currently implementing several projects that address sustainable development challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS including:

- Terrestrial and Marine conservation using a ridge to reef approach
- Gender-responsive climate change policies
- Mitigation and Adaptation strategies to support the islands towards low carbon development pathways
- Developing more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Strengthening national capacity for Sargassum management

Prevention, Recovery and Resilience (PRR)

The geographic size, small populations, dependent economies and fragile and intricate connections between ecosystems and livelihoods, have immense implications for the sustainability of Caribbean nations making these islands particularly vulnerable to hazards.

Tackling the dual threats of climate change and hazards is essential in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eradicate poverty and inequality. UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean has been supporting countries in building resilience and ensuring that all development is risk-informed. In so doing, countries and communities are better able to protect against losses while simultaneously, bolstering economic growth, creating jobs, improving livelihoods, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

UNDP’s support to countries on resilience and recovery is shaped by two important global agreements: the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the regional level, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy is the overarching framework guiding the work of countries. In collaboration with partners our office also supports countries in reducing the risk of disasters and, where needed, supporting resilient disaster recovery. Taken all together, these efforts certify that the path towards sustainable development is risk-informed, zero-carbon and resilient.

UNDP led the response to the devastation of Hurricanes Maria and Irma in 2017 through a wide range of relief and recovery efforts, including post-disaster needs assessments, the successful delivery of livelihood support programmes (cash-for-work projects for debris removal), the restoration of homes and key social infrastructure, support to the implementation of national recovery frameworks, as well as the development of institutional mechanisms to mobilise resources for building long-term climate resilience. In the immediate aftermath of the hazard, UNDP established Project Offices to implement recovery programmes in the BVI, Dominica as well as Antigua and Barbuda.

A significant allocation of social and economic resources is required to rebuild following the impact of powerful high-intensity storms. It is therefore imperative that the UNDP MCO continues to focus efforts on enhancing preparedness measures as well as building resilience in order to capably and swiftly recover from devastation. Additionally, recent extreme weather events have continued to highlight the differential effects of hazard impacts on women and men and have consequently underscored the need to address systemic inequalities and design policies that respond to post-crisis needs. Developing national policies that encourage greater participation and representation of women in all levels of decision-making will be critical in empowering women to be more actively
involved in the creation of measures that will build long-term resilience to hazards. In 2021 following the volcanic eruption of the La Soufriere Volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines the office was the technical coordination lead for the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) which was successfully undertaken. Unfortunately, the government hasn't acted on the completed report and it is believed that the window for opportunity for donor engagement has gone.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), with HQ in Barbados is a natural partner for disaster preparedness and response. However, and despite multiple attempts, additional opportunities for further collaboration still need to be explored. It should also be noted that, in the last few years, CDEMA has announced its intention to lead or set standards for recovery in the region. It will be important to have further discussions with this agency as it is hoped that the Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility (CRRF) will be significantly advanced during this year.

The novel Coronavirus is an unprecedented worldwide crisis affecting all countries in a myriad of ways.

The office has responded in three stages namely:

1. Readiness:
   - Strengthening the first line of defence so health systems can be better prepared to respond to the public health challenges.

2. Response:
   - Flatten the curve, by supporting governments in slowing the rate of virus transmission.
   - Provide a stimulus for business so companies maintain continuity and provide workers with an income.

3. Recovery:
   - Conduct impact assessments that, with solid data, lead to evidence-based decision-making processes.
   - Direct technical assistance to support the design and implementation of reopening strategies.

The focus in 2022 will be on resource mobilisation as many of the projects end this year or early 2023. In addition, the PRR Cluster is currently implementing several projects that address sustainable development challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS including:

- Resilient Construction and support for the implementation of social protection programmes.
- Strengthening of livelihoods for vulnerable groups.
- Support to recovery in countries impacted by hazard impacts.

Poverty and Governance

The Caribbean’s small island economies face formidable challenges in dealing with globalisation, particularly in relation to economic dependency and vulnerabilities. Race, income and gender hierarchies that persist from the era of colonialism, have left a legacy of exclusion of the poor. Despite general improvements in living standards, poverty rates still average 30 percent of the Caribbean population. Social and human development indicators show that though the region is improving, there is still much work to be done.

With the vision of enhancing UNDP’s work in key sectors where other UN agencies are less focused, in 2020, the MCO established a Poverty and Governance cluster headed by a NOB. The Poverty and Governance cluster seeks to build the capacity of islands in the region to integrate a human rights-based approach into national development plans and policies and to strengthen countries’ capacities to achieve the SDGs. The Cluster carries a dual function - the first is focused on developing and
implementing programmes in key strategic areas, namely expanding and enhancing national social protection systems, strengthening citizen security, enhancing universal access to justice and supporting the development of the blue economy, sustainable livelihoods in the agriculture sector for small and women farmers and expanding the MCO offer of support to SDG mainstreaming through policy and planning support. Under this function, the main projects are CariSECURE 1.0, Joint Programmes on social protection, human security, and the Blue Economy SDG fund, as well as the Spotlight Initiative, and all regional or sub-regional activities. The team also leads the work related to the wider SDGs and the 2030 agenda such as RIAS, MAPS and VNRs. The second function is to provide monitoring, evaluation and gender-mainstreaming support across the wider MCO portfolio. This includes responsibility for quarterly/annual project reporting, Quality Assurance, ROAR reporting, coordinating data sharing with the RCO as well as project design, planning and implementation support.

This is the smallest and newest cluster with the potential to grow in areas related to multidimensional poverty, good (digital) governance and access to justice. In 2019, the MCO stirred the elaboration of the report on Caribbean Justice: A Needs Assessment of the Judicial System in Nine Countries.

During the COVID-19 Response, this cluster led the development of the Eastern Caribbean Human and Economic Impact Assessments and SURGE support for policy implementation; as well as supported gender-responsive assessments of government’s COVID-19 social protection responses for vulnerable groups in Saint Lucia and Barbados as part of the joint programme on universal adaptive social protection, developing recommendations and implementation plans for subsequent waves of the pandemic.

2022 will see the start of two new projects focused on continuing the important work started on citizen security and justice sector reform. These are CariSECURE 2.0 which focuses on youth crime and trafficking in persons and is funded by USAID, and Criminal Justice Reform in the Caribbean supported by the European Union.
2. Country Profiles

UNDP works in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to create an enabling environment where national governments have the capacities for inclusive and sustainable human development and to meet their regional commitments and internationally agreed goals including the SDGs.

UNDP’s presence in Barbados is a Multi-Country Office that covers the Eastern Caribbean, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands (BVIs), the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Monserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These tropical islands, in the Caribbean Sea, are characterised by their geographic and socio-economic similarities however, they each have their own distinct cultural identity and unique history.
Anguilla

Overview
The 35-square-mile island of Anguilla is a British Overseas Territory home to 16,187 people. The country has a separate constitution with an elected government, headed by a Chief Minister that is responsible for daily administration. The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor of Anguilla on behalf of the Monarchy of the United Kingdom. The Governor, appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, maintains oversight for external affairs, defence, internal security and international financial services.

Climate change hazards threaten this tourism-dependent territory and as such UNDP’s work has focused primarily on building the capacity to prepare for, and respond to, extreme weather events and other disasters.

UNDP presence in the territory
Number of staff (including contract type): None
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 25,450 (PRR cluster)

Main Initiatives
Recently, UNDP has supported the COVID-19 emergency response in Anguilla partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The report models a series of possible impacts on economic growth, poverty and government finances and identifies and examines a range of relevant interventions that could help mitigate these impacts. The relief package of UNDP also includes assistance to MSMEs in order to advance their transition to digital business models, in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.

This partnership with the Government of Anguilla has also kindled regional cooperation to support the deployment of early warning systems in Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda by leveraging the expertise of Anguilla’s Department of Disaster Management.
Antigua and Barbuda

Overview
Antigua and Barbuda consist of two major islands and several smaller islands, which include Great Bird, Green, Guiana, Long, Maiden and York Islands and further south, Redonda. The country which has a population of 97,929 people, remains a member of the Commonwealth with the Prime Minister as its head of government. Queen Elizabeth II is represented by an appointed Governor-General as the head of state, following the island’s independence on November 1, 1981.

After Hurricane Irma’s landfall and devastation of the island of Barbuda in 2017, UNDP strengthened its presence in Antigua and Barbuda by creating a project office in the capital city of St. Johns, to support the Government in its recovery efforts.

UNDP presence in the country
Number of staff (including contract type): 2 (1SC and 1 IC)
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 1,649,799 (934,335 PRR + 602,836 SSECC + 112,628 P&G)

Main Initiatives
Under the leadership of the Government and in close collaboration with the Barbuda Council and national partners, UNDP’s support has been concentrated on recovery and rebuilding post-Hurricane Irma. In 2017 and previously included a roof restoration initiative, funded by the People's Republic of China, a debris management project, funded by the United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), and a rehabilitation of public infrastructure project, funded by the UN India Development Fund which also saw the reconstruction of the General Post Office and the Hanna Thomas Hospital (the only hospital in Barbuda). Additionally, a Housing Support project funded by the European Union was initiated in February 2019, aimed at rehabilitating up to 104 homes. This is currently ongoing, and likely to reach its original target, within the coming months.

In addition to the many efforts on reconstruction, UNDP also implements its CariSECURE project in Antigua and Barbuda. CariSECURE works to strengthen the integrity and accessibility of citizen security data in eight Eastern and Southern Caribbean countries and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development Mission for Eastern and Southern Caribbean (USAID/ESC) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO).

The Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) has been operational in Antigua and Barbuda since 1994 and works to provide financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods.

Recently, UNDP has supported the COVID-19 emergency response by partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The report analyses the COVID-19-induced socio-economic state of the country in order to support the Government’s relief and recovery efforts. The relief package of UNDP also included assistance to MSMEs in order to advance their transition to digital business models and promote business continuity. UNDP recently implemented a USD 1M initiative aimed at strengthening national health capacities and reducing the negative socio-economic and human development impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

In support of the COVID-19 emergency response provided valuable procurement support to the government assisting in its transition to online learning through the procurement of 154 laptops for primary and secondary school students and teachers to access e-learning opportunities.
Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.

The EnGenDER project will support the development of gender-responsive and targeted action plans and assessments relating to climate change and recovery plans with an aim to improve capacity in these areas.

Antigua and Barbuda is a beneficiary of the joint programme (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO) Trust Fund for Human Security funded activity Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities. A specific activity in relation to this joint programme focussed on climate-smart agriculture and youth and developing advocacy initiatives around empowering the voice of young farmers.

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) has been operating in the OECS and Barbados since 1992/94. GEF SGP, as an independent country programme in Antigua and Barbuda, was introduced in 2013. While focusing on the Three I’s: Impact, Inclusion and Innovation, The GEF SGP empowers grassroots community groups to have a voice, providing much-needed funding and support, allowing them to think locally, while having a global impact. The GEF SGP also provides the vehicle through which synergies were built CSO-CSO and CSO-Government; there is an Increased and sustained CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue. CSOs are now actively engaged in decision-making on a national level, primarily to support national environmental targets.

Since its inception, GEF SGP in Antigua and Barbuda has provided support to 50 projects with $1.9 million USD.

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note.
Barbados

Overview
At just 166 square miles with 287,375 residents, Barbados is the most densely populated country in the Eastern Caribbean. The island is characterised by relatively high human development, a stable political climate, strong governance systems and high levels of transport and technological connectivity.

Thanks to ongoing support from the Government and people of Barbados, the island hosts the UNDP Multi-Country Office which serves seven independent countries and three British Overseas Territories in the Eastern Caribbean.

UNDP presence in the country
Number of staff (including contract type): 36 (18 FTA, 12 NPSA, 3 SC, 1 IC, 2 IPSA)
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 1,525,657 (408,010 PRR + 717,243 SSECC + 400,404 P&G)

Main Initiatives
The UNDP programme portfolio in Barbados spans two of the four outcomes of the UN’s regional Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF). These two outcomes are building climate resilience and improving data-driven decision-making for enhanced citizen security. In this regard, UNDP’s work in Barbados is focused on sustainable energy, disaster recovery, the blue economy and citizen security.

Recently, UNDP has supported the COVID-19 emergency response by partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The assessment concludes that the Government of Barbados has made significant strides in its crisis response and offers a range of fiscal, regulatory and social policy proposals aimed at accelerating post-COVID-19 recovery and mitigating the impacts on the country’s socio-economic fabric. The support package of UNDP also includes assistance to MSMEs under the “eFUTURE” platform, in order to advance their transition to digital business models and incorporates a collaboration with the local private sector to develop an economic recovery strategy.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.

In conjunction with national stakeholders in the energy sector, UNDP is assisting Barbados in its efforts to meet its international commitments to reduce fossil fuel dependence and its national goal to be 100% renewable by 2030. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), champions these efforts by implementing initiatives that strengthen the renewable energy policy framework and develop sector capacities such as the deployment of solar photovoltaic systems at emergency shelters and healthcare facilities. At the community level, the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) aids locally-based projects in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and the reduction of the impact of chemicals and waste.
With the financial support of the Government and the People of Japan, UNDP will be strengthening national coastal management capacities with regard to Sargassum influxes.

UNDP is also working with local partners to improve disaster recovery planning through the strengthening of national recovery frameworks. This involves building the capacity of national stakeholders to undertake PDAs as well as improving community resilience through local training in emergency response. All of these interventions are guided by the [UNDP Gender Equality Strategy](#) and focus on empowering women to take a more proactive role in emergencies.

The Barbados MCO is also home to one of UNDP’s 91 global [Accelerator Labs](#) in 115 countries around the World. The [Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Accelerator Lab](#) focuses on co-creating solutions to challenges in key sectors of the Blue Economy such as fisheries, waste management, tourism and marine conservation.

In addition to this, through the Blue Economists Programme, the University of the West Indies and UNDP collaborated with the former Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy (MMABE), now the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Blue and Green Economy to conduct a [Blue Economy Scoping Study](#). This study provided a preliminary assessment of current blue sectors and identified opportunities for growth and development in the future.

Citizen security is a key focal area. UNDP, with the support of USAID, is working with national stakeholders in the justice sector to execute the [CariSECURE](#) project locally.

In addition, Barbados presently benefits from three UN joint programmes:

1. The SDG-funded Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean: Universal adaptive social protection modelled at the community, national and sub-regional levels (UN Women, UNDP, WFP, ILO, UNICEF). Important actions undertaken include an assessment of the social protection system to create better linkages with the disaster management framework enabling better support to vulnerable persons (adaptive social protection), an assessment of the Government’s social protection response to COVID19 and an examination of the financing framework required to support gender-sensitive adaptive social protection. Key capacity building actions focused on gender-sensitive budgeting for adaptive social protection.

2. The UN Trust Fund for Human Security supported Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO), where UNDP undertook a study of the impact of structural adjustment programmes and policies on the agriculture sector and small and women farmers. Key actions involved working with the Barbados Agricultural Society to develop a management information system for farm records, piloting and undertaking relevant training.

3. The SDG Fund supported Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development (UNDP, UNEP, FAO), where UNDP as the lead is supporting the development of national integrated finance frameworks for financing the blue economy.

**Stockholm+50 National Consultations, Barbados**

UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean is partnering with the Government of Barbados to facilitate a series of national consultations to inform the international Stockholm+50 consultations. These
consultations are supported by the Government of Sweden and in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification. The objective of the national consultations is to stimulate an inclusive whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue on the main themes of Stockholm+50 to inform the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, in Stockholm on 2 and 3 June 2022, during the week of World Environment Day. Barbados is one of only two Caribbean islands that will be participating in this global initiative. Therefore, Stockholm +50 is an opportunity for Barbados to highlight the environmental and Climate Change context of Small Island Developing States in the sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and progress towards the SDG 2030 Agenda.

The leadership dialogue that was held during the month of May 2022 stimulated meaningful debate at different levels with a range of stakeholders. The leadership dialogues were focused on the thematic areas below:

LD1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all
LD2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
LD3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.
LD4: In-person dialogue held at the Barbados Hilton on Youth Agenda for an Environmentally Resilient Future

The timeline for Stockholm+50 preparations coincides with a critical period for countries and their global commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change,

For more information on Barbados, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note for this country.
British Virgin Islands (BVI)

Overview
An archipelago consisting of four main islands and over 50 smaller islands and cays, the British Virgin Islands is home to 30,180 people.

In September 2017, two devastating Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, left a trail of devastation across the territory, causing widespread damage to homes and road infrastructure, and disrupting basic services leading to the loss of lives and livelihoods.

UNDP has been on the ground in the BVI since October 2017, supporting both recovery and reconstruction efforts while working closely with the government and communities.

UNDP presence in the territory
Number of staff (including contract type): 1 NPSA
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 92,450 (25,450 PRR + 67,000 P&G)

Main Initiatives
In the British Virgin Islands, UNDP implements a ‘Build Back Better’ approach to recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction – the aim is not only to reconstruct but to increase resilience against future disasters. In this vein, UNDP supported the Government of the BVI with the UN Rapid Assessment Mission to determine immediate response needs post-Hurricane Irma and assisted the Disaster Recovery Coordinating Committee of the Premier’s Office, in designing early recovery interventions and drafting the Recovery to Development Plan. Inputs were also provided for the Recovery to Development Act and draft regulations which culminated in the formation of the Recovery and Development Agency.

UNDP also established a Project Office (April 2018 to July 2019) to assist with the efficient and timely implementation of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)-financed $65.29 million Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Loan (RRL) to rebuild 36 critical social and economic infrastructures in the transport, water and sewerage, education and national security sectors. By providing project management, procurement and strategic sourcing support, financial management and other technical expertise, UNDP, with the support of partners, helped build resilient infrastructure, restore government functionality and facilitate socially and environmentally conscious recovery in the BVI.

UNDP’s support was also critical in certifying that each of the 36-infrastructure works fulfilled social and environmental standards while supporting the government in the design and implementation of a communication strategy and stakeholder engagement process to manage citizens’ expectations with recovery and reconstruction.

Timely warnings and high-quality forecasts delivered to vulnerable communities, which are then translated into preventative actions can help to save many lives and reduce economic losses. However, Hurricane Irma and Maria severely impacted BVI’s disaster management systems and structures, including their early warning system network. Through the RRL, UNDP supported the Government in the purchasing of seismic networks, data collection, weather monitoring, telecommunications and early warning equipment. This now robust, early warning system will increase the country’s capacity to generate and communicate effective, timely and clear warnings of hurricanes and extreme weather events, and to manage disaster risks.
Vital to the success of the recovery process is ensuring that it is gender-responsive and that there is community ownership. Community input was sought during each project phase and mechanisms were put in place to receive, evaluate and address project-related complaints and suggestions. UNDP recognises the particular vulnerability of women and girls to climate-related disaster risk as well as their unique skills and experiences relevant to disaster risk reduction efforts. Therefore, UNDP continues to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of public officials on how to integrate gender issues in disaster risk management, recovery and reconstruction projects.

In order to build resilience following the 2017 hurricanes and diversify its economy, the BVI is seeking to grow the country’s blue economy. To help the BVI accomplish this, assistance was provided on the formation of a Strategic Blue Economy Roadmap 2020-2025, which includes innovative interventions supported by the Accelerator Lab for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. This Roadmap examines key sectors in the blue economy including fisheries, tourism and maritime monitoring and will provide guidance for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development.

UNDP has supported the territory’s COVID-19 emergency response partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The report commends the decisive action from the BVI government in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and outlines a number of interventions aimed at ensuring the country can weather further shocks and rebuild in the wake of the current crisis. The complimentary SURGE support programme provided targeted assistance to the Ministry of Finance delivering the tools and expertise (through a customised Impact Model and capacity building) for continuous monitoring of impacts of the COVID-19 and other potential future economic shocks. Economic support to MSMEs within the hospitality sector was also provided which allowed for employee retention through salary payments and allowing businesses to meet other basic operational expenditures during periods of no or reduced revenue.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.

In November 2020, UNDP and the Government of the BVI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen partnerships towards the achievement of the SDGs in the Caribbean, in times of COVID-19 and beyond. This agreement was initially for a period of 12 months and was extended until November 2023. The establishment of the UNDP Project Office in the BVI in February 2022 with the hiring of a National Coordinator, will be a catalyst for intensifying the level of support that can be provided to the BVI Government for the achievement of their sustainable development agenda. The 2022 work programme will broadly focus on mainstreaming the SDGs in the 2036 National Sustainable Development Plan, incorporating gender into existing and new national policies, plans and programmes, identifying opportunities for sustainable development within the Blue Economy, digital transformation and improvement of data collection methods and analysis.

UNDP has supported the development of a Blue Economy Scoping Study and Roadmap for the BVI and will assist in its implementation following further discussions with the relevant Government
stakeholders. We are initiating talks with the government regarding support for their national digital agenda using the UNDP Digital Readiness Assessment.

There is also a solid interest in integrating aspects of the regional cariSECURE programme into improving the collection and analysis of crime statistics in the BVI with a priority focus on utilizing already developed toolkits and expertise in data collection methods, analysis and reporting. Initial discussions have commenced and there is keen interest in this initiative.
Dominica

Overview
Dominica, officially the Commonwealth of Dominica is a 290-square-mile Eastern Caribbean Island, with a population of 71,941. The country which gained Independence in 1978 is known as the ‘Nature Isle of the Caribbean’ and is lush with rivers and rainforests – home to an expansive array of flora and fauna.

In 2017, after a long history of being ravaged by hurricanes, the full category-five force of Hurricane Maria hit Dominica, decimating its physical and economic infrastructure. However, with the aid of many nations, the people of Dominica embarked on an ambitious reconstruction, build back better and economic recovery process under the umbrella of Dominica’s commitment to becoming the first climate resilience country in the world as stated by Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit’s address to the CARICOM-UNDP Conference in New York on 21st November 2017.

Dominica’s efforts to Climate Resilience are patent in the establishment of an institutional infrastructure for resilience through the implementation of the Climate Resilience Act, the Climate Resilience Execution Agency (CREAD), the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) and the National Resilience and Development Strategy 2030, coupled with renewed efforts to boost food security and the agricultural/fisheries sector, digital transformation, low carbon development, sustainable tourism and resilient housing.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, UNDP established a project office in 2017 to assist the government with immediate response, recovery and reconstruction post-Hurricane Maria. Since the launch of the project office, the UNDP portfolio has scaled up significantly resulting in a myriad of projects supporting reconstruction and social protection, resilience building, agriculture, Indigenous peoples, blue economy and digital transformation.

UNDP presence in the country
Number of staff (including contract type): 9 (1 FTA, 7 NPSA, 1 SC)
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 30,103,637 (29,603,771 PRR + 461,500 SSECC + 38,366 P&G)

Main Initiatives
UNDP’s current work in Dominica includes a focus on recovery, resilience, livelihood strengthening and social protection. Strengthening national recovery frameworks, disaster preparedness and climate and community resilience is a part of that work, as is empowering women to take a more proactive role in emergencies.

Under the projects Improving Recovery Planning & Capacities for Resilience in the Caribbean and Development of Climate Resilience & Recovery Plan, UNDP along with the Dominican Office of Disaster Management advanced the creation of a Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) which bolsters national systems for preparedness and ensures the integration of gender equality. UNDP also provides implementation support to the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD) and in partnership with the UK Government, monitors the progress of CREAD in delivering on the CRRP.

Dominica’s goal of becoming the world’s first climate-resilient nation is an ambitious one, but through projects and programmes, UNDP is providing the support needed to accelerate and
achieve this goal. The **Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Support** project (finalized in March 2020) was created to enhance the capacity of the country to access climate change funding and financing available from the GCF.

Meanwhile, the **EnGenDER** project is being implemented to ensure that climate change and post-disaster recovery actions are better informed by an analysis of gender inequalities and to guarantee that inequalities are alleviated rather than exacerbated. Through the Offer of Complementary Funding (OCF), the project is also supporting Government with developing assessments to apply for climate financing; while developing a comprehensive livelihood assessment for Dominica’s indigenous population to identify possible short- and medium-term interventions that contribute to Kalinago’s livelihood enhancement.

UNDP also supported climate resilience and energy efficiency. The **Low Carbon Development Path (LCDP)** project aimed to remove technical, financial and policy-based, barriers to the use of energy-efficient applications (closed March 2021); and under the **Japan Caribbean Climate Change Partnership**, Dominicans were able to access alternative low-emission and climate-resilient technologies and strengthen their knowledge networks to further develop these technologies.

Restoration efforts in Dominica were conducted using UNDP’s “build back better” approach to ensure resilience against future shocks. Employing this approach UNDP supported the resilient rehabilitation of two buildings at the Salisbury Educational Facility which were severely damaged by Hurricane Maria. Resilient reconstruction of this facility accelerated the return of essential schooling for students, providing a safe haven in the event of future disasters. The **Handover Ceremony** of the Facility took place on 14th October 2020.

Other recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Maria, included the provision of technical expertise in debris/waste management, the implementation of a short-term emergency employment programme that benefited 400 persons (in 18 communities), the re-roofing of 480 buildings (472 homes, 3 schools and 5 medical centres), and the successful implementation of a **Building Damage Assessment (BDA)** to evaluate the state of 29,431 structures throughout Dominica.

The need to improve post-disaster communication infrastructure was also critical given the physical isolation and communications disruption experienced by villages and communities after Hurricane Maria. In collaboration with national and international partners and input from three communities, UNDP piloted an innovative community wi-fi network to provide three communities with reliable access to emergency communications systems.

Sustainable sectoral development is necessary to build resilience against shocks. The agriculture sector is Dominica’s primary industry; however, it is constantly threatened by reoccurring disasters. The **Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity of Women in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and Commonwealth of Dominica** aims to scale up the resilience of small farmers and female farmer groups by enhancing risk-informed decision making and community support. Similarly, the Supporting Sustainable Ecosystems initiative (to close in December 2022) provides effective integrated landscape management of the Morne Trois Pitons National Park, establishing a buffer zone to reduce threats to biodiversity and ecological functioning.

There is an ongoing initiative benefiting the indigenous community in Dominica. The **Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience in the Kalinago Territory** (to close June 2022 but no-cost extension request until December 2022 being prepared) initiative seeks to strengthen the livelihoods and resilience of the Kalinago Territory, by working with Government in delivering an integrated package to strengthen capacities to boost agricultural production and sustainable
agricultural practices; design and implement community reforestation programmes to augment livelihoods and protect critical water catchment areas; develop a comprehensive Kalinago tourism strategy and brand that generates new income opportunities for the territory, and; boost institutional capacities of the Kalinago Council for improved participative and inclusive decision making and planning.

The development of the blue tourism sector is essential to Dominica’s sustainable economic growth. Through the donation of vital equipment, UNDP supported the livelihoods and economic recovery of the Portsmouth Association of Yachting Services (PAYS). This initiative launched in 2019 benefitted over 100 people by connecting farmers, fishers, laundry services, restaurants, retailers, tour guides, tour operators, taxi operators and others within the yachting and tourism sector.

One of the most significant interventions supporting recovery and reconstruction is the Dominica Development and Reconstruction Facility, DDRF (signed in April 2020); which assists the government with direct cash transfers and technical assistance to implement social protection, COVID-19 response and reconstruction programmes that are estimated to directly benefit over 15% of the Dominica population.

Digital transformation has been a growing area for close collaboration in Dominica. Through a successful pilot initiative by the Government of Dominica’s Ministry of Public Works and the Digital Economy, UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean collaborated with IsraAID to deliver a 12-week training programme, Work Online Dominica, to provide an alternative pathway of employment and to leverage and build skills to find freelance opportunities online (the gig economy). Given the success of the programme, cohort 3 is currently underway.

In the broader picture of digital transformation, Dominica is implementing a digital economy development project, the Caribbean Digital Transformation Project, financed by the World Bank. The project aims to boost access to digital services, technologies and skills. The project is opening new areas of work for UNDP in Dominica. To support this process, the UNDP Chief Digital Office piloted its first digital readiness assessment in Dominica in November 2020, to assist with the framing of the digital opportunities across core pillars of digital transformation. In 2021, UNDP mobilized technical assistance to support Dominica develop a national digital transformation strategy which was recently finalized (2022) and is currently waiting on Cabinet approval, while discussions are taking place to further collaborate with the Government around Digital Identity and tailored support for the implementation of Dominica’s digital transformation strategy.

Currently, UNDP continues to advance recovery by partnering with the Government to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. Towards this end, UNDP has supported the development of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women, provided assistance to MSMEs to go digital and provided technical assistance to support Government efforts in designing a successful Reopening Strategy.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.
Dominica is also a beneficiary of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNHSTF) joint programme (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO) ‘Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector’ which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities. Under this programme, UNDP worked with rural farming women groups to identify issues impacting their livelihoods through the use of the community scorecard tool, while identifying solutions and the partnerships needed to do this.

The Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) has been operational in Dominica since 2005 and has since provided 140 grants for a value of USD3,737,883. Now in its 7th Operational Phase (OP7), it manages 9 ongoing projects under the strategic initiatives of Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species; Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security and Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management. Projects also address the cross-cutting initiatives of CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms, Enhancing social inclusion, knowledge management and results management.

Finally, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, UNDP has assisted with the improvement of Dominica’s fiscal outlook, through a public expenditure review. This includes a review and validation of the recommendations for expenditure reduction made by International Financial Institutions and the provision of additional feedback to assist with decision-making to inform the three-year budget process.

In addition to Barbados, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, UNDP has supported the development of a Blue Economy Scoping Study for Dominica.

For more information on Dominica, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note for this country.
Grenada

Overview
Grenada known as the ‘Spice Isle, is a parliamentary representative democracy, with the Prime Minister as head of Government. The country, home to 112,523 people, is a sovereign state located in the Caribbean Sea, consisting of Grenada, Carriacou, Petite Martinique and several smaller, uninhabited islands.

UNDP presence in the country
Number of staff (including contract type): 5 (2 NPSA, 2 SC, 1 IC)
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 2,762,718 (55,050 PRR + 2,270,573 SSECC + 437,095 P&G)

Main Initiatives
UNDP has a dedicated space in St George’s, the capital city, provided by the Government of Grenada with two members of staff.

The Climate-Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management project works to operationalise integrated agroecosystem management through mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the production landscape and increasing the resilience of the agricultural system to emerge stronger from the pandemic. Launched in late 2020 the activities under this project will contribute to the attainment of national development priorities and SDGs. Implementing technologies that support climate-resilient agriculture will be a key aspect of the initiative, with participation from public and private sectors, academia and civil society. In 2021, UNDP supported the Implementing partner to launch a digital agriculture challenge to provide small grants towards the digital transformation of the sector to facilitate developmental leapfrogging and resilience building. Up to 10 small agro-processors will be supported for projects such as IoT monitored smart farms, digital traceability of the supply chain, digital marketing, etc, covering nutmeg, cocoa, poultry, and apiary production.

In the context of the Climate Promise, UNDP has offered support to revise Grenada’s Nationally Determined Contributions and assist with the implementation of one select intervention such as the replacement of public lighting with LED bulbs.

As part of a phased approach towards sustainable waste management, environmental protection and health, UNDP is supporting national efforts for the implementation of the Non-biodegradable Waste Control Act through education and awareness initiatives, including the creation of informational posters, flyers and videos as well as the provision of reusable canvas bags as an alternative to plastic. Discussions with relevant ministries on the establishment of a Technical Assistance and Investment Facility to boost public and private investment flows into blue economy key sectors are also currently ongoing.

Grenada is also an important flagship country of the CariSECURE and the digitizing of data collection and analysis by the police.

Grenada also presently benefits from two UN joint programmes:
1. Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related
2. The SDG Fund supported Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development (UNDP, UNEP, FAO), where UNDP as the lead is supporting the development of national integrated finance frameworks for financing the blue economy.

UNDP also supported the COVID-19 response in Grenada, partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The relief package of UNDP includes MSME support through “eFUTURE” and assistance to the government in its transition to online learning through the procurement of 3,600 laptops and 112 changing stations to facilitate the administering of the CPEA and CSEC online exams.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.

UNDP is leading two pillars of the Grenada Spotlight Initiative, which supports a comprehensive national programme to contribute to the end of family violence and all forms of violence against women and girls in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The programme is comprised of six outcome areas of which UNDP leads the implementation of Outcomes 2 (strengthening institutions) and 5 (Data), with UN Women, UNICEF and PAHO leading the implementation of others. UNDP supported mainstreaming gender and violence against women considerations within the Ministry of Social Development and across sectors providing support to violence against women victims/survivors. This is through training and capacity building workshops as well as communications and advocacy work. UNDP has been supporting the Central Statistical Office by improving its data collection capacity. This was done through procuring software and hardware equipment as well as capacity building training. Currently, the design of a Data System to capture data on violence against women has been finalized and is expected to be launched in Phase II of the programme (to start in June 2022). Also, under the Spotlight Initiative, UNDP supported the Government of Grenada with obtaining PPEs by providing masks, face shields and gowns to be used by GBV practitioners.

In late 2020 UNDP supported the Government of Grenada to conduct a rapid assessment of the country’s readiness to become a Small Smart State (SSS), drawing upon UNDP’s Digital Readiness Assessment tool and stakeholder consultations. Among the primary recommendations of this report was to build capacity for the Innovation ecosystem and tap into the Diaspora community. As a follow up we have leveraged support from the Fut-Tourism project to fund a consultancy to advise the government and develop partnerships for a Grenada Innovation Hub, with the final report expected by end of May 2022.

Grenada is also a beneficiary of the regional EnGenDER project and benefits from training in gender mainstreaming in climate action plans and the development of these sector-level action plans. The major objective of the project in-country is to improve national capacity for gender-responsive climate change planning to also improve integrated recovery planning and frameworks.
The Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) has been operational in Grenada since 1994 and works to strengthen national capacities, by providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment, while enhancing people’s wellbeing and livelihoods. The programme has assisted the women of Petite Martinique with the implementation of an aquaponics system in a solar-powered greenhouse, to help reduce the reliance on imports and provide a healthy source of fresh available food on the arid island, year-round.

For more information on Grenada, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note for this country.
Overview
With a population of around 5,000 people on a land area of just 39 square miles, Montserrat is the smallest state in the OECS. Like all small island developing states, Montserrat is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – vulnerabilities that are exacerbated by the social and economic legacy of the devastating eruptions of the Soufriere Hills volcano in the late 1990s.

UNDP presence in the territory
Number of staff (including contract type): None
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 25,450 (PRR)

Main Initiatives

Montserrat, like most countries in the region, is dependent on external partners to define and conduct comprehensive impact assessments. Therefore, using a “Training of Trainers” approach, UNDP has created a sustainable framework for further and continuous capacity development in PDNA, ultimately ensuring that there is sufficient capacity to independently conduct a PDNA as a basis for post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation. The partnership between UNDP, the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the EU Commission has already trained several government personnel.

UNDP is supporting the Government of Montserrat through technical assistance and capital investment to further advance the country’s plastic awareness campaign in contributing to the sustainable development of the blue economy. This includes activities such as the provision of reusable bags and the development of communications materials such as newspaper articles and animated videos.

Like many other countries in the region, the blue economy is becoming both a national and regional priority and an opportunity to achieve sustainable development therefore UNDP is developing a Blue Economy Scoping Study for Montserrat.

UNDP also assisted Montserrat’s COVID-19 emergency response through the provision of grant support to farmers and fisherfolk to contribute to their food security and assistance to MSMEs through eFUTURE.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.

In addition to Barbados, the British Virgin Islands and Dominica, UNDP has supported the development of a Blue Economy Scoping Study for Montserrat.
Saint Kitts and Nevis

Overview
Saint Kitts and Nevis (also known as the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis) is 101 square miles with a population of 53,104 persons. Basseterre is the capital located on the larger island of St. Kitts, and Charlestown is the capital of the smaller island of Nevis, which is located 2 miles away, across a shallow channel called The Narrows. Booby Island, a bird nesting site lies between the two islands.

The country gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1983 but still recognises Queen Elizabeth II as its Head of State. The Queen is represented in the country by the Governor-General, who acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

UNDP presence in the country
Number of staff (including contract type): 1 SC
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 550,105 (35,050 PRR, 490,055 SSECC, 25,000 P&G)

Main Initiatives
UNDP’s work in St. Kitts and Nevis is primarily related to climate change adaptation and citizen security. To advance climate change adaptation, UNDP works with the Ministry of Agriculture through the Department of Environment, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Economic Affairs, the Department of Physical Planning and Environment, the St. Christopher National Trust and the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society to implement the Conserving Biodiversity project. This project contributes to the expansion of the existing Protected Area (PA) system through the establishment of two new terrestrial PAs and three new marine PAs and also implements measures to reduce habitat degradation, which is adversely impacting the ecological integrity of PA buffer sites.

UNDP will also be providing pivotal support in Sargassum management, with the financial assistance of the Government of Japan.

With a similar focus on climate change adaptation, the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) which has been operational in St. Kitts and Nevis since 2013, is also working to protect the environment through various activities that support global environmental benefits. The key areas are coastal preservation, sustainable use of natural resources, renewable energy, environmental sustainability and sustainable livelihoods.

Citizen security is of utmost importance to the government of St. Kitts and Nevis and as such the country is one of the beneficiaries of the CariSECURE project. UNDP also assisted St. Kitts and Nevis COVID-19 emergency response through the provision of PPE and the country benefits from the eFUTURE Programme.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.
UNDP also provided support to the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis for the digitalisation of their National Heroes Monument. This monument commemorates the country’s independence as a sovereign state and represents the identity of Saint Kitts and Nevis through the recognition of their five national heroes. Thanks to the contribution of UNDP, the National Heroes Monument has a digital wing fully equipped to provide an interactive experience where visitors can learn about Saint Kitts and Nevis’s recent history through the life and work of their national heroes.

For more information on St. Kitts and Nevis, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note for this country.
Saint Lucia

Overview
The volcanic island of Saint Lucia is 238 square miles and is home to 183,627 people. The country gained independence in 1979 and is known for its iconic Piton Mountains which have been designated a World Heritage Site, and for its lush rainforests, covering approximately 77% of the island. Saint Lucia is a founding member of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the country’s capital, Castries, hosts the Organisation’s headquarters as well as that of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC).

UNDP presence in the country
Number of staff (including contract type): 2 (2 NPSA, 2 SC)
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 1,102,808 (35,050 PRR + 890,055 SSECC + 177,703)

Main Initiatives
UNDP’s work in Saint Lucia is primarily related to climate change, citizen security and the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the first, UNDP implemented a series of mitigation and adaptation actions focused on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. In line with work being conducted to improve climate change adaptation, UNDP is also working with local partners to improve disaster recovery planning through strengthening national recovery frameworks. This involves building national capacity to undertake Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) with a focus on empowering women to take a more proactive role in emergencies, aligned with the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy. The EnGenDER project also supports climate change and recovery planning in St Lucia through the development of budgeted gender-responsive and inclusive sectoral level action plans and M&E for NAPs and NAMAs as well as undertaking recovery capacity assessments.

At the community level, the Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) supports local projects in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and reduction of the impact of chemicals and waste. Coastal management will be strengthened through the “Improving Sargassum Management capacities in the Caribbean” project, funded by Japan, supporting the national agencies in dealing with the negative impacts of sargassum.

To advance citizen security in the country, UNDP is implementing the CariSECURE project. The Project’s Deputy Team Leader is based in Saint Lucia and supports country-level implementation and engagement with key national stakeholders including the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Central Statistical Office, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and other GOSL agencies represented on the project’s national task force. Notably, under CariSECURE and with support from UNODC, the Saint Lucia National Crime Victimisation Survey (SLNCVS) was completed in July 2020, making Saint Lucia the first country in the English-speaking Eastern Caribbean to complete a comprehensive crime victimisation survey using UN international standards.
CariSECURE also commissioned a Citizen Security Strategies Consultancy in Saint Lucia. Two webinars were delivered geared towards building capacity for developing strategies and programming based on available administrative and survey data in Saint Lucia. The sessions engaged policy analysts and social development practitioners from government and civil society around the following specific objectives:

- Sensitize attendees on the types of citizen security available in Saint Lucia;
- Understand the use, interpretation and correct presentation of citizen security data;
- Provide examples and conduct exercises that allow participants to practically explore ways to use data to inform their program or intervention for improved citizen security;
- Highlight recommendations for Saint Lucia’s citizen security strategy.

The consultancy in Saint Lucia was also able to generate a number of citizen security recommendations which were presented to the National Task Force during their meeting in November 2021. Through the engagement with the NTF these recommendations were subsequently shared with the Ministry of Youth Development and the consultant responsible for the Saint Lucia National Youth Policy Action Plan. Some recommendations are expected to be included in the plan, with CariSECURE being included as a supporting partner.

Additionally, through funding from the United Kingdom Criminal Records Office, UNDP is supporting the development of a Crime Information Management System (CIMS) for the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF). This application is broadly based on the framework of the Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) being implemented through CariSECURE. While the RSLPF was unable to benefit from the deployment of PRMIS due to the imposition of the Leahy Law by the United States Government, UNDP’s support in the development CIMS is ensuring that they will not be left behind in the area of data-driven policing.

UNDP and the Government of the Netherlands signed an agreement on 3 December 2019 to allocate funds to CariSECURE through the Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development. In efforts to facilitate access to Justice during the pandemic, CariSECURE engaged courts in Saint Lucia and procured court recording and web conferencing equipment to facilitate the holding of virtual court hearings as well as the recording of court proceedings.

UNDP also supported the COVID 19 emergency response in-country and has assisted with the improvement of local health systems through the procurement of PPE for front line workers and ventilators to improve access to care. UNDP has supported the development of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.

Saint Lucia presently benefits from two UN joint programmes:

1. The SDG Funded Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean: Universal adaptive social protection modelled at the community, national and sub-regional levels (UN Women, UNDP, WFP, ILO, UNICEF), which assessed the impact of COVID19 on
vulnerable groups, undertook a multidimensional and climate-based vulnerability assessment of the Survey of Living Conditions, analysed the financing requirements for gender-responsive adaptive social protection, and provided critical capacity-building trainings in gender-sensitive budgeting and collecting and integrating climate change data in vulnerability studies.

2. The UN Human Security Trust Fund supported Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO), where UNDP worked with the rural network of women farmers to increase the voice of small and women farmers in policy discussions which impact them.

UNDP also continued its partnership with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) of St. Lucia and supported the fabrication of prostheses for 10 Saint Lucians. This built on earlier support where training in fabricating prosthetics was provided to persons with disabilities and 23 prosthetics were provided to men, women and children in need.

As part of its mandate to help countries towards the achievement of the SDGs, UNDP has supported SDG mainstreaming by providing key support to the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for the 2030 Agenda (MAPS) process including the undertaking of a Rapid Integrated Assessment and a MAPS Scoping Study. UNDP also provided key leadership to a MAPS mission in 2019, which produced a draft roadmap, currently being finalized in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator Office.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Overview
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a sovereign state in the Lesser Antilles consisting of many islands and cays – of which nine are inhabited, including the mainland Saint Vincent and the Grenadine islands: Young Island, Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Union Island, Mayreau, Petit Saint Vincent and Palm Island. The country with a population of 110,940 people, gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1969 with Queen Elizabeth II remaining as Head of State and the Governor-General acting as her representative on the island. The Prime Minister is the Head of Government.

UNDP presence in the country
Number of staff (including contract type): 2 SC
2022 portfolio value (estimation in USD): 3,476,265 (367,767 PRR + 2,749,405 SSECC + 359,093 P&G)

Main Initiatives
UNDP’s current portfolio in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines includes several projects that aim to build resilience, strengthen national capacities for disaster mitigation and preparedness, enhance citizen security and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while ensuring gender equality and community empowerment are recognised and supported.

Under the Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using a Ridge-to-Reef Approach and the IWEco Addressing Land Degradation projects, UNDP works in partnership with the government to enhance biodiversity and ecosystems conservation through an expanded and strengthened Protected Area (PA) system and with sustainable land management (SLM) practices. At the community level, the UNDP Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) sets out to achieve environmental sustainability, alleviate poverty and build the capacity of local NGOs and community-based organisations through projects and programmes. Coastal management will also be enhanced through the “Improving Sargassum Management capacities in the Caribbean” project, funded by Japan, supporting the national agencies in dealing with the negative impacts of sargassum. UNDP also provides climate action support, disaster risk reduction and environmental management interventions through the EnGenDER project.

The UNDP Regional Hub provides support to the SVG Electoral Office— the first electoral support requested and provided by the UN to the country. The UNDP Regional Hub offers support in the design of a Voter Education (VE) Programme. UNDP strengthened the Electoral Office (EO) capacity by financially supporting the Office with equipment to improve boundary delimitation, encouragement of voter registration, the extension of voter education in remote locations, and administrative management of electoral operations before the elections. Recently, UNDP provided funding and procurement services to purchase one four-wheel-drive vehicle to be used by the EO team.

In support of SDG mainstreaming and to advance the commencement of a MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for the 2030 Agenda) process, UNDP supported the undertaking of a Rapid Integrated Assessment per the request of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at the end of 2019. A follow up with the government, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator Office, will take place in 2020.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines presently benefits from the SDG Fund supported joint programme Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development (UNDP, UNEP, FAO), where UNDP as the lead in supporting the development of national integrated finance frameworks for financing the blue economy. The country also benefits from the CariSECURE project.

In light of the current crisis, UNDP supported the COVID-19 response by partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women.

Additionally, UNDP is technically and financially supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within ten countries and territories that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector or have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Future Tourism project. With gender equality and empowerment of women at its core, the project seeks to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience with the “Blue Economy for Green Islands” approach in the tourism sector thereby boosting recovery and supporting the digitally enabled transformation of the business processes and value chains of MSMEs.

Following the explosive eruption of the La Soufriere volcano in April 2022 UNDP supported the response in-country through bolstering short term community employment opportunities, tied to ash removal, thereby allowing for safe return and access to key facilities and structures. The approval of a comprehensive post-disaster assessment subsequent to the volcanic eruption paved the way for the development of an actionable and sustainable Recovery Strategy for mobilizing financial and technical resources to support the recovery on the island, with UNDP playing a key lead convenor role.

For more information on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, please view the Human Development Report Note for this country.
3. Multi-County Projects

UNDP Accelerator Lab for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

UNDP’s MCO for Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean is home to the Accelerator Lab for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. The Accelerator Lab is a part of the global UNDP Accelerator Labs initiative, which consists of Labs in 91 locations supporting 115 countries around the world to re-imagine development. As the Accelerator Labs enter their 3rd year of a recently extended 4-year project, the value of this global learning network and its’ contribution to UNDP’s strategic innovation priorities continue to evolve. Now growing into a potential Research & Development (R & D) function within UNDP, the Labs continue to provide a platform for the early stages of an innovation cycle, from the discovery of research questions to the development and testing of prototypes and the eventual diffusion of learnings.

Under the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Lab’s co-designed Blue Economy for Green Islands Approach, the Lab focuses on co-creating solutions to challenges in key sectors of the Blue Economy such as fisheries, waste management, tourism and marine conservation while sparking an innovative learning culture and ecosystem through behavioural change.

The Lab In leading/supporting other Blue Economy related activities such as the Blue Economy scoping studies in Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Dominica and Montserrat.

Currently, the Accelerator Lab is enhancing access to digital and data tools and solutions to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) In the Blue Economy through BlueDIGITAL.

CariSECURE

“Strengthening Evidence Based Decision Making for Citizen Security in the Caribbean” (CariSECURE) is a regional project being implemented by UNDP since 2016 and is one of three components of the broader United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Project. CariSECURE works to strengthen the integrity and accessibility of citizen security data in 8 Eastern and Southern Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname). CariSECURE also benefits from complementary funding from the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO) and the ACRO Criminal Records Office. The project supports the development of systems and capacities of public officers to generate, analyse and use data to develop targeted policies and strategies to effectively manage crime and violence and by extension to reduce and prevent youth involvement.

The Project’s rationale is based on the premise that the increased use of both quantitative and qualitative information by public servants at state institutions leads to more evidence-based decision making. It also allows for the identification of successful strategies, programming interventions and policies which can be replicated and scaled up for widespread impact at the national level.

In July 2020, CariSECURE was awarded a contract extension to September 30, 2021, with an additional USAID allocation of USD 1.45 million in funding, resulting in a total investment for CariSECURE over the 5-year project of US$9.165 million. Year 5 (Oct. 01 2020 – Sept. 30 2021) saw CariSECURE reduce
the number of primary agency beneficiaries across the beneficiary countries from four (Police, Prisons, Judicial Institutions and Healthcare agencies) to one (Police Force) and support necessary institutionalisation with the development of a Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) Platform, operationalise a Sub-Regional Crime Observatory at the Regional Security System (RSS) and, add technical support to Barbados for Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

A further extension was requested to deliver the key elements of the Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) as it was delayed due to the impacts of COVID19. The impact assessed necessitated a 7-month extension and a request for US$200,000 additional funds to deliver PRMIS in January and February 2022 and allow for post-deployment Monitoring & Evaluation whilst continuing to work with national counterparts to expand data use in advocacy and decision-making to the period ending April 29, 2022. A more recent assessment of the impact has suggested that a further 6-month extension beyond April 2022, coupled with a request of US$600,000 would provide adequate time to mitigate the risk associated with delays to the PRMIS centralised solution at CARICOM IMPACS while also presenting an opportunity to bolster national crime analysis capacity and standardize crime analysis reporting in beneficiary countries where crime analysis units were established. It would also permit a more realistic timeframe for post-deployment monitoring and evaluation around data collection through PRMIS and data use in the development of strategies and policies for crime and violence prevention. The project is currently slated to be closed in October 2022.

The Project Outputs are:

- Output 1: Standardised and disaggregated crime data reporting within and among national authorities to foster the reliance on valid, reliable and comparable data on citizen security
- Output 2: Utilisation of evidence-based analysis of crime data to inform citizen security strategies, programs and policies
- Output 3: Improved decision-making on youth crime and violence based on the available evidence at the national levels

CariSECURE 2.0

The CariSECURE 2.0 programme responds to the citizen security issues of youth crime and violence, and Trafficking in Persons (TIP) by employing a multi-pronged, human rights-based approach designed to improve national capacities for crime reduction, building upon the data gathering and analytical capacities provided to national police forces under the previous CariSECURE project. The programme will take a targeted approach, working with key countries in the region according to the specific needs and capacities identified during the implementation of the first CariSECURE project. Specifically, the programme will work at the regional, national, and community levels in Barbados; St Vincent and Grenadines; and Grenada to reduce and respond to youth involvement in crime and violence by continuing to build national capacities for evidence-based decision-making among stakeholders in the youth sector.

The programme will also develop and implement Trafficking in Person reduction initiatives while bolstering state capacity to facilitate timely and effective prosecution, with an initial focus on Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

This programme is designed to address the twin issues of youth crime and TIP by improving the capabilities of national and community-level institutions to use robust data to inform youth crime
prevention and reduction strategies and to respond to and reduce human trafficking. The programme will focus on addressing the underlying issues which are primarily related to the lack of capacities within the relevant ministries, agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) to collect, analyse, report and utilise crime data. Specifically, the programme will design, procure and operationalise industry-standard hardware and software necessary to warehouse and analyse data, capacitate national officers and CSOs to undertake robust data collection, in-depth, multivariate analysis and present findings to varying audiences, at varying points along the citizen security continuum, and to design and develop inclusive youth crime reduction policies. The programme will also work to tackle the issue of TIP by improving national capacities for collecting, analysing and utilising TIP data, building national and CSO capabilities to respond to the needs of TIP victims. The Agreement for CariSECURE 2.0 was finalized in April 2022.

Criminal Justice Reform in the Caribbean

The Caribbean region has a strong tradition of democracy and the application of the rule of law and the protection of human rights is enshrined by all Caribbean National Constitutions. In addition, most countries in the region are party to major international instruments governing access to justice, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). These legal provisions offer a framework for the promotion and protection of human rights and the consistent application of justice to all citizens.

Moreover, Caribbean countries have endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which include Goal 16 on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. SDG16 provides the guidelines for the equitable administration of justice with a specific target of ‘promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensuring access to justice for all.’

Caribbean governments have identified justice sector improvement as a core priority, and it is a key element of the CARICOM Strategic Plan. Also, the CARICOM Crime & Security Strategy (CCSS) 2013 stresses the paramount importance of a strengthened criminal justice sector. Over the past two decades, countries in the Caribbean have made notable progress toward enhancing citizen security and access to justice. Nonetheless, several critical challenges to ensuring that national and regional justice systems are accessible, equal, and consistently deliver efficient justice, remain.

A Judicial Needs Assessment of 9 Caribbean Countries released by UNDP in 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the NAR) revealed that efficient access to justice is being undermined across the region by delays within several key stages of the criminal justice process, resulting in major backlogs of cases. The identified backlogs have been occasioned by pervasive human and technological resource and capacity constraints which, in turn, have contributed to massive bottlenecks in the work of the investigators, public prosecutors and courts. As a result, these backlogs directly contribute to the worryingly high levels of prisoners on remand for extended periods and serve to increase overall incarceration rates in the region which are already among the highest globally.

More broadly, the resource constraints have also resulted in gaps in the provision of support to survivors of violent crimes and for offenders re-entering society. The COVID19 pandemic has also underscored the need to respond to these challenges. Preliminary analyses have pointed to an increase in certain crimes which put further pressure on the already strained justice systems of the Caribbean.
The precise proposals include the detailed requests per country and institution, for example:
Output 1: Digital solutions to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to deliver digitized people-centred services
Output 2: Increased knowledge, tools, and skills of judicial institution members through innovative training courses implemented.
Output 3: Solutions enabled the strengthening of national institutional transformation for enhanced people-centred justice services through legislation/rules/procedures (including the specific amendments per country).

UNDP is presently in consultation with the donor for the finalization of project documents and the start of the project in 2022.

This project will also support backlog reduction efforts by providing technical assistance to courts, police, directors of public prosecution, prisons, NGOs in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize and Guyana to rationalise and prioritise the needs identified in the NAR, to develop costed national action plans for backlog reduction and to strengthen the national and regional community of practice around alternative dispute resolution. Specifically, the programme, funded through the UNDP Funding Window, will aim to achieve the following outputs:

1. Costed, whole-system institutional assessments that expand on the NAR and provide actionable data on ICT capacity requirements, human resource needs and business process insights.
2. Policy, regulatory and operational recommendations for enhanced coordination across all agencies and institutions involved in the criminal justice sector.
3. Lessons learned and best practices from regional and international backlog reduction programmes.
4. Prioritised recommendations for step-wise implementation of backlog reduction programmes and associated monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
5. Recommendations for ensuring that recommended institutional enhancements are gender-responsive and embed a human rights-based approach to access to justice.

**EnGenDER**
The EnGenDER Project supports the further integration of gender equality and human-rights based approaches into disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and environmental management frameworks and interventions for nine (9) Caribbean countries. The ultimate aim of the project is to improve climate and disaster resilience for women, girls and key vulnerable populations (including people living with disabilities, the elderly and the youth) for present and future generations to come. The current support being provided under the EnGenDER project, therefore aims to identify and address gaps to ensure equal access to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change solutions for both men, women, boys and girls across the nine (9) participating EnGenDER countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname) is achieved.

The official start date for the project was March 2019, and part-funding was transferred for the implementation of activities by the two donors, the Government of Canada and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO) (formerly DFID). The Project
Management Unit (PMU) was set up in January 2020 when the first three (3) team members came on board. Since then, the PMU has successfully recruited and filled the positions of its remaining technical staff with the most recent addition of a Communications Support Officer to strengthen the project’s communication and visibility efforts.

The project also facilitates implementing agreements with three partners, namely, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Women for the implementation of specific activities related to their core functions. As such CDEMA, implements all DRR activities relating to gender-responsive resilient recovery approaches and UN Women manages the gender equality policy mainstreaming aspects of the project. Whereas the World Food Programme had responsibility for implementing the social protection and social capital responsive activities within the project.

The management arrangements of the project follows that the PMU (which sits in the Barbados Office) and has ultimate responsibility for implementation and reporting to the donors, however, the three (3) implementing partners, as well as the four (4) Country Offices (Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname) are responsible for specific project outputs and the implementation of national activities respectively. As a DIM project implemented from this MCO, the PMU is directly responsible for all implementation in its five (5) Eastern Caribbean Countries and therefore handles procurement and payment for these countries through this office (unless otherwise stated through a Letter of Agreement).

The project is classified with a Gender Marker 3 and it aims to ensure that climate change and disaster risk reduction actions for each of the nine (9) participating Caribbean countries are better informed and steps are taken to ensure that inequalities experienced by persons as a result of system biases due to gender, disability, or age are alleviated rather than made worse.

To date the project has made considerable success in the implementation of several of its activities and these include namely: i) the completion of the Gender-Based Climate Resilience Analysis (GBCRA) by UNDP, ii) the Gender Inequality and Cost of In-action Studies along with iii) the Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Perceptions (KABP) Study both led by UN Women, iv) and the launch of the Offer of Complementary Funding (OCF) by UNDP, which leverages approximately USD700,000 in project funding for the application and access to over USD70 million in funding for the further development and implementation of targeted climate and resilient actions while promoting the inclusion of the most vulnerable sectors of the population. Additionally, UNDP is also leading the effort in supporting countries in developing Gender Responsive Budgeted (GRB) Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans (SASAPs) GRB SASAPs and the implementation of pilot project actions from the project concepts proposed which address key vulnerabilities in each country.

As one of its implementing Partners, CDEMA also made progress towards updating and integrating recovery planning frameworks by commencing national capacity assessments in three countries, and by advancing work around the Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility (CRRF), WFP completed 5 national shock responsiveness analyses under the EnGenDER work plan.

In addition to the above, the project also supported the reprogramming of existing project funds for USD 1,149,000 to support COVID-19 Response Activities. $500,000 of which was allocated to the five (5) Eastern Caribbean countries for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and provide direct assistance to women victims of violence; facilitate the delivery of essential goods and services; and provide income
support for the most vulnerable, including women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and individuals who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19. These interventions reached some 1,500 direct beneficiaries and over 30,000 indirect beneficiaries in the Eastern Caribbean (Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent).

The Project for Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean

Caribbean countries have battled abnormally large influxes of sargassum seaweed since 2011. These mats of sargassum have resulted in economic loss across various sectors while also creating social and health issues for many coastal communities. In addition, several coastal ecosystems and their biodiversity have been negatively impacted by both the fresh and decaying seaweed. This phenomenon when paired with the adverse effects of climate change – such as sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and harmful coastal events, increases the vulnerability of the already fragile natural coastal resources of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The project aims to support the enhancement of the national capacity for the management of sargassum seaweed by providing five (5) countries in the Caribbean with equipment, expertise, and technical knowledge to collect, remove, transport, and dispose of this reoccurring threat. This will be done through the purchase of sargassum removal and collection machinery which will be complemented and supported further, by relevant gender-responsive training and capacity development programmes. The project will also explore scientific monitoring technologies such as UAV (drones), Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and other spatial mapping tools to evaluate the quantum of sargassum influx. In addition, site-specific sargassum collection and management plans to minimize beach erosion and sea turtle nesting beaches will be developed in each of the countries of focus under this initiative.

The countries benefitting from this project are Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative will boost marine and nearshore coastal conservation efforts, support integrated coastal management actions, and mitigate negative impacts on sectors such as fisheries, public health, and tourism with consideration for including gender dimensions where possible. The project is expected to run for a period of three years commencing from the date of project launch and will be executed with an envelope of US$12,339,473.00.

FUT-Tourism: Rethinking Tourism and MSMEs in times of COVID-19 funded by the UNDP Rapid Financing Facility

See below within section 5 COVID 19.

Spotlight Initiative

The Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme entitled: “Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Prevent and Respond to Family Violence in the Caribbean” is funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by four UN Agencies – UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA and the heads of these funds and programmes, along with the UN Resident Coordinator. Phase 1 of implementation is July 24th, 2020 – Dec 31st, 2022, with a budgeted amount of US$2,194,611 (for UNDP).
Complementing the Spotlight country programmes in Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, the Regional Spotlight Initiative focuses on 4 out of the 6 pillars (pillars 2, 3, 5 and 6). Pillar 2: Regional and sub-regional systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG), including family violence, including in other sectors. Pillar 3: Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at the community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including family violence. Pillar 5: Quality disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of VAWG, including family violence, is collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes. Pillar 6: Women’s rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG.

The programme will complement the investments of regional institutions and platforms and contribute to the scale, sustainability, visibility, lessons learnt and replication of programming throughout the region. It will address specific regional institutional bottlenecks that impede or limit the reach of technical support to respond to and prevent family violence in CARICOM member countries. In particular, the regional programme will support CARICOM and the OECS as the two intergovernmental frameworks leading to functional cooperation in the region. It is a timely injection of technical expertise and resources to ensure that the COVID-19 response is shaped by women’s involvement in the community and national decision making to ensure the accessibility of services and approaches to prevent and protect against family violence.

UN Women is the Lead Agency to coordinate the implementation of the Regional Joint Programme. UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA are recipient UN organisations (RUNOs) that will jointly implement resources and provide technical assistance and guidance to the implementation of the regional joint programme as well as to the Joint Programme Team. Associate Agencies will be working closely with RUNOs providing their technical assistance and working in partnership. Intergovernmental organisations, regional networks of CSOs and other regional partners will be engaged as well.

The regional programme will add value in a number of ways, including:
1. Supporting the integration of protection and prevention programming within the COVID-19 national and regional action plans, during the crisis response and in the recovery phase
2. Ensuring that countries without a country level Spotlight programme benefit from the regional public goods developed through the regional programme
3. Supporting regional integration and functional cooperation both within and between regional institutions as approaches to ending family violence are mainstreamed into approaches to crime and security, health, justice and data and research
4. Building capacities of regional-level organisations to provide technical support to national institutions will contribute to sustainability
5. Support the demands of civil society for inter-governmental and state action and accountability to end family violence.
6. Provide models for Caribbean specific community approaches to support behavioural and cultural change.

At the regional level, because of the Spotlight interventions, key regional institutions will have increased capabilities, that is, capacity and political commitment, to drive functional cooperation with
member states to improve the implementation of a comprehensive approach to ending family violence. More information can be found [here](#) in the newsletter and on the website [here](#).

**GEF-Small Grant Programme**

The [Small Grants Programme](#) is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It provides financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the natural environment while enhancing livelihoods and well-being. Through grants, the Programme provides up to USD 50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous people, community-based organisations and other non-governmental groups for projects in biodiversity, climate change mitigation & adaptation, land degradation and sustainable forest management, protection of international waters and management of chemicals and waste.

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the Small Grants Programme operates in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. The number of projects currently under execution is listed by country and thematic areas. In addition to this, the Small Grants Programme has worked closely with its grantees to assist in the delivery of necessary interventions at the community level in response to COVID-19. This and much more of the work in the Sub-Region is detailed [here](#) in the quarterly newsletter.
4. Joint Programmes/Special Initiatives

SDG Funding Components 1 and 2

Component 1: Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development

Joint Programme participating UN agencies are UNDP, UNEP and FAO. UNDP is the convening agency

Participating countries: Barbados, Grenada and Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

Timeframe: August 2020 – January 2023 (30 months)

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The global health crisis has impacted the socio-economic pillars of very dependent societies. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) losses in the Eastern Caribbean will surpass two digits in almost all countries. The rise of extreme poverty and unemployment and the damage to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be significant, especially in the tourism and ancillary sectors: empty piers with no cruise ships, flights cancellations, hotels closures and empty restaurants leave fishermen, farmers, cleaning personnel, cooks and taxi drivers and many other traders without income other than government cash transfers, where they exist and while they last. The Blue Economy Strategies are amongst the most promising approaches to support SIDS economic structuring transformation to build resiliency to exogenous shocks, including natural disasters, manmade or financial crises and global viral pandemics while preserving their natural heritage.

Using the Blue Economy as an integral driver for resilient economic recovery and growth in the Eastern Caribbean, the Joint Programme’s emphasis will be on the development of an enabling and supportive environment for financing the Blue Economy, through different measures: the identification of policy and regulation gaps, a methodology to identify key Blue Economy opportunities, and the definition of specific financing mechanisms for Blue Economy initiatives to achieve resilient growth. The three participating countries are at the vanguard of the Blue Economy “wave” and offer therefore a conducive environment to the success of the Blue Finance proposal. Integral SDG support from the United Nations (UN) provides the policy and planning background to this initiative.

The JP will address the current financial challenges of the beneficiary countries including the additional financial burden arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the three countries will benefit from upscaling the UN’s existing initiatives with the private sector, through the establishment of a public-private consortium for blue investment. This partnership aims to leverage substantial resources from the private sector, in addition to the development finance provided by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) (CDB, IDB, World Bank and EIB), who have significant and structured investments in the region in the Blue Economy sector, and beyond.

The JP builds on the existing initiatives that Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) have in the Eastern Caribbean on Blue Economy and other SDGs related areas. The JP model and best practices may be the basis for the future upscaling of this intervention to the rest of the Eastern Caribbean.

Total budget: USD 1,000,000 (SDG Fund) + USD 120,000 (UN Agency In-Kind) = USD 1,120,000.

The joint programme is presently in an advanced acceleration phase in order to meet delayed targets. The joint programme also received an official extension of its end date from July 2022 to January 2023.

Component 2: Blue Invest: A Facility for Caribbean SIDS’ Financial Expansion

While Component 2 was not approved as submitted, an additional $100,000 was made available to the MCO to enhance the proposal.
SDG Social Protection
Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean: Universal adaptive social protection modelled at the community, national and sub-regional levels
Timeframe: January 2020 – May 2022
Target countries: Barbados, Saint Lucia and the Eastern Caribbean (through the OECS)
Participating UN Agencies: UNICEF, WFP (Co-leading agencies), UNDP, UN Women, ILO

This Joint Programme contributes to the development of an adaptive and universal social protection system in Saint Lucia and Barbados through integrated policy development, programme design and service implementation. It takes an innovative approach to modelling and piloting at the community, national and sub-regional levels, which will complement national plans and leverage resources from existing policy loans from international financial institutions. The programme will utilise research, analysis, monitoring and evaluation to support the evidence-based development of an adaptive system towards progressive universal coverage of social protection while facilitating replication and expansion to Eastern Caribbean Countries (ECC) through South-South exchange under the OECS framework. This will also include strengthening the OECS Commission to support the scaling-up and sustainability of interventions and implementation across the ECC.

UNDP will deliver on the following components of the joint programme:

Output 1:

- Gender-responsive assessment of Barbados’ COVID-19 social protection response, and its impact on the existing social protection systems/programmes, and support estimations of longer-term needs as a result. Support the adaptation of the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) to include attention to the linkages between the current social protection system and the disaster risk management infrastructure and undertake a gap analysis of the same. The gap analysis will include attention to sector-specific linkages and needs; paying attention to the most vulnerable sectors related to both climate and economic shocks (Barbados)
- Undertake an assessment of Barbados’ social protection system to examine opportunities for linkages between social protection and disaster risk management and climate change, and develop a module that links the two for adaptive social protection.
- Gender-responsive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups in communities most affected (loss of jobs, health burden etc.) – based on information on closures, lay-offs etc., and information from health facilities and other public services use, and on the social protection system in Saint Lucia, with a specific focus on the response to COVID-19, and development of an implementation plan to strengthen the gender-responsiveness and adaptiveness of Saint Lucia’s social protection system.
- Gender-responsive, and multi-dimensional socio-economic and climate-based vulnerability analysis of the SLC-HB 2016 to inform recommendations for policy and legislative reform, as well as relevant protocols and guidelines for integrated systems development for adaptive social protection (Saint Lucia)
Output 2:

Conduct and implement the recommendations of an assessment of gender-responsive sustainable financing options for adaptive social protection with a focus on linking the current system to relevant disaster risk management infrastructure; and implementation of agreed recommendations for prioritized interventions of the government (Barbados and Saint Lucia).

United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)

Joint Programme: Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector

Participating UN Agencies: UN Women, FAO (Co-leading), ILO, UNDP

Participating countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and Saint Lucia

This project is built on the premise that there can be no improvement in human security in the Caribbean without addressing the issue of ‘lost opportunities’ and ‘foregone achievement’ that result from deep gender inequality and insufficient progress in the economic empowerment of women and marginalised youth. The objective is to inform and further strengthen the recently formulated Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) for the Caribbean. The project will focus specifically on the agricultural sector (including fisheries) because of the significant role agriculture plays in Caribbean GDPs and food security. In addition, the agricultural sector is extremely vulnerable to disaster and climate change risk impacts and is a sector where gender inequality is possibly most entrenched.

The project aims, through a combination of policy reform advocacy, technical support, and services to contribute to human security for farmers and small agro-and fisheries business entrepreneurs, many of whom are women. Three categories of beneficiaries will benefit from the project’s activities through direct households and community support in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and Saint Lucia for a duration of 3-years. Small grant support will be offered for livelihood development and will target approximately 25,000 farmers, fisherfolks and small-business entrepreneurs with at least 50% women and 25% under 40 years, reaching 12,500 people. Pilot and demonstration activities in areas of disaster preparedness and mitigation, climate change adaptation and value chain development will be implemented in 50 community groups, reaching 30,000 people. Through the policy reform and institutional strengthening contribution of the project, farming, fishing and agriculture fisheries sectors related to small-business activities throughout the 14 CARICOM countries, will be positively impacted. Associated ministries and the national gender machineries and focal points will also become beneficiaries.

Successes from the project will provide major impetuses for a broader recognition of the priorities of gender equality and women empowerment for enhanced resilience, stronger economic growth, a more inclusive society and strengthened human security.

This joint programme will also promote the principles of the UN through the application of the human security approach, by engaging in both gender-sensitive policy reform and community-based initiatives to strengthen women’s participation in core economic sectors towards positive multiplier impacts on sustainable development in disaster and climate-vulnerable communities.

UNDP has responsibility for Output 3.7 of the joint programme, which is contained under Outcome 3: Increased market access readiness and resilience for smallholder farmers and agriculture-related small businesses:
Review of Structural Adjustment Programmes and proposals and national policies impacting farming and fisheries; recommendations developed for integration, development of Advisory Notes to mitigate negative impacts and Advocacy Initiatives developed concerning recommendations related to recommended reviewed and adjustments required and integrated.

Although this joint programme continues to September 2022, UNDP has now wrapped up its activities in beneficiary countries.

**Blue Economists**

Responding to the challenges Caribbean islands are facing related to the sustainable use of marine resources, including impacts on ocean-related sectors, such as fisheries, research, tourism, and maritime transport infrastructure, The University of the West Indies (The UWI) and UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Friday 21 September 2019 to **support governments in the creation of public policies to diversify their economies while ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable development.**

Most recently, in March 2022, the UWI formally requested USD 70,000 for Blue Economists activities for 2022. At present, the office is conducting a micro-assessment on UWI to check their financial stability as an IP.

**Product 1: Study on Public Finance Management in Dominica**

During Q1 of 2020, a rapid assessment of public expenditure was completed to support the preparation of national estimates. The assessment was undertaken by a two-person economic team and relied on government staff interviews, fiscal account data and analysis from other development agencies to identify specific opportunities for reducing public expenditure, in the context of minimising the impact on the most vulnerable.

**Product 2: Blue Economy Scoping Study in Barbados**

The increasing potential of the Blue Economy in Barbados as a sustainable approach to diversify the economy and create jobs is one of the key messages highlighted by the recent rapid Blue Economy Scoping Study elaborated by UNDP under the leadership of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy and in consultation with key stakeholders. The document will serve to stir discussions around relevant policies and long-term strategies. The report is accessible [here](#).

**Product 3: Transition from Education to Employment (TE2T) in Grenada**

Independent technical review to assess and make recommendations on the main bottlenecks and possible solutions to a successful transition from current vocational training systems and curricula, as well as other education levels, to the current and future labour market needs in Grenada. The review focuses on youth, understood as the cohort from 15 to 24 years of age. Special attention is being paid to the particular transition difficulties and employment strategies for youth at risk. The review will equally consider and take into account both the negative effects on youth unemployment but also the possibilities aroused by the COVID-19 crisis. The report is accessible [here](#).

**Product 4: UWI Global Institute for Climate Smart and Resilient Development (GICSRD)**

The [GICSRD](#), powered by UNDP, is a UWI facility that provides thought and academic leadership and services that build a Caribbean culture of resilience and advance the region’s proposition to become a climate-resilient zone.

**Product 5: UWI Climate Action portal powered by UNDP**
Product 6: Mapping of construction companies in the Caribbean for disaster response (currently being finalised).

**Nature Heroes (Gamification project)**

In February 2020, UNDP and UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Offices were among the top 5 finalists, and winners, of a global call for innovation launched by UNDP and UNICEF administrators in September 2019. The innovation project, entitled Nature Heroes, was selected from among 196 submissions.

UNDP and UNICEF Country Offices globally share the ambition to unlock the potential of gaming as a transformational approach to educating and empowering children and young people, particularly in tackling the climate crisis. The Nature Heroes project, to be piloted in Barbados, is being designed to be scalable to the Caribbean and other parts of the world where challenges such as climate disasters, deforestation and slow transition to renewable and clean energies need to be urgently addressed.

The Nature Heroes project goes far beyond including a ‘green’ educational component to gaming. It will be the first gamification project that will fully integrate existing forms of gaming technology into real-world, impact-driven climate actions. In other words, the project proposes to do more than just using gaming to raise awareness for an environmental cause or about climate change but to drive positive behavioural change. The aim is to spark and support real-world actions, with gaming as the trigger.

The demo of the Nature Heroes game was presented in 2021 and the full version will be ready by the end of Q2 2022. The USD 100,000 funds for this project come from UNICEF.
5. COVID-19 Programme

Rapid Resource Facility (RRF)
Resources through RRF were instrumental in providing immediate support to countries in the Eastern Caribbean to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Activities led by the MCO and in support of the countries are categorized as follows:

Pillar 1 – Addressing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19
In partnership with the governments, UNDP developed Human and Economic Impact Assessments in 8 countries in collaboration with UNICEF and UN Women. In addition, SURGE support has been launched in BVI based on the findings of the report. The assessments can be accessed here.

Pillar 2 – Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response
Support for economic transformation, retooling, reskilling and recovery for MSMEs, and vulnerable populations. Technical coaching for the reconversion of MSMEs which need expertise and financial assistance to refocus their business model on a domestic and regional consumer base, implementing an import substitution strategy, repurposing production facilities to manufacture high-demand goods and services (PPEs, ancillary and basic medical equipment) and/or transition from an in-person, physical interaction business model to a virtual, online, take-away or e-commerce one (Access to some of the resources under pillar 2: #eFUTURE, The KEY, partnerships with the private sector).

Pillar 3 – Resilient health systems to respond to COVID-19, including health procurement support
To overcome the severe disruptions in the global supply chain for key healthcare and ancillary supplies and equipment crucial to the crisis response, including difficulties in trade routes, price hikes and speculation, a specific service line, based on UNDP’s extensive logistics experience in the health sector procurement provides quality assurance, products from reputable suppliers and manufacturers and efficient, timely and cost-effective procurement. UNDP is part of the UN Caribbean Sub-regional Team Procurement Taskforce (PAHO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNOPS) and of the CDEMA logistics cell (Access to information on the support to Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

Project Status: Completed
Overall Budget: USD 755,000
Country Beneficiaries: Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
Project Duration: March 2020 to September 2020

FUT-Tourism: Rethinking Tourism and MSMEs in times of COVID-19 funded by the UNDP Rapid Financing Facility (RFF)
The FUT-Tourism project is directly benefiting the ten countries and territories covered by the UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Office, who have acknowledged the need to respond and recover from the challenges of COVID-19 beyond enhancing emergency health and the needed capital expenditure to manage and mitigate the spread of infection as well as to avoid a significant derailment of progress towards achievement of the SDGs. Countries have responded by developing policy statements or COVID-19 Stimulus packages identifying key priority interventions within their key strategic sectors, tourism being the most prominent one. Consistent with country priorities as identified in the policy statements as well as the recommendations from the Human and Economic

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Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Reports, this project, therefore, aims to support the efforts of 10 governments within the Eastern Caribbean region by targeting some of the indicated country priorities with a specific focus on supporting MSMEs, young entrepreneurship and workforce within the tourism sector.

Three outputs are envisioned for this project as follows:
Policy solutions for the tourism sector enhanced through sub-regional and national diagnostics using consultable and participatory approaches

The Regional Policy Dialogues to rethink the future of tourism were a success. More than 30 participants from all levels of the tourism value chain, including Prime Ministers in Grenada and Dominica to small businesses representatives and digital nomads, discussed in 5 virtual dialogues what future we want for the tourism sector in the region. The discussions were all captured in a Summary Report that provided clear recommendations for the future of the sector including policies. In addition to that, and building on the recommendations of the report, 6 tourism diagnostics reports are being prepared, one subregional and 5 country-specific. The reports will provide data and compile information on the current situation, existing policies, ongoing efforts, needs, trends, scenarios and opportunities that could have a catalytic impact on the sector. With the support of the governments and feedback from a multitude of organisations, these reports will soon be finalised and will be prepared for print-ready versions.

Technical support for MSME retooling and access to markets within tourism value chains

Among other things, and in direct partnership with UWI and the Frankfurt School, the Business Adaptation Programme (BAP) for MSMEs had tremendous success within the region, supporting almost 400 MSMEs in 10 countries and territories in the Eastern Caribbean. Additionally, a second cohort of training to support 80+ MSMEs and a Training of Trainers on the BAP methodology for more than 40 local experts and government officials is also currently ongoing.

Financial assistance for the economic recovery of MSMEs affected by the impact of COVID-19

Another important milestone of the programme has been the delivery of grants spanning from USD 4,000 to USD 6,500 to 150 MSMEs that participated in the programme, noting that initial estimations allowed just to grant 80 MSMEs. Equally, the project has been very successful in creating and strengthening official partnerships with a multitude of key partners to both UNDP and the tourism industry, including as mentioned above the CDB but also the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), the University of the West Indies (UWI), Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, IsraAID or the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC), as well as strengthening and creating new ties with Ministries of Tourism in 10 countries and territories.

Project Status: Ongoing
Overall Budget: USD 1,883,000 (USD 1,500,000 - UNDP; USD 383,000 - CDB)
Country Beneficiaries: 10 countries and territories of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
Project Duration: December 2020 to June 2022 (no-cost extension however requested until September 2022)
Partnerships: UWI Open Campus, Frankfurt School, CDB, CTO.
COVID-19 Projects Through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund

Building on the valued partnership developed after the impacts of Hurricanes Maria and Irma within the region, the Government of India, through the India-UN Partnership Fund has continued to support
the region in an effort to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. USD 1,500,000, covering three countries, has been provided to UNDP to support health system strengthening and reduce the negative impacts of COVID-19 within the countries.

**Antigua and Barbuda**
The project aims to strengthen national health capacities and reduce the negative socio-economic impacts of the crises in Antigua and Barbuda through procurement of PPE; support to assess the socio-economic and human development impacts of the crises and e-commerce services developed for MSMEs and other businesses.

The project was successfully completed late last year.

Status: Completed  
Budget: USD 1,000,000  
Duration: 1 May 2020 to 30 October 2021.

**Saint Lucia**
UNDP contributed to the Government of Saint Lucia’s human security and sustainable development COVID-19 response through procuring ventilators and personal protective equipment.

Status: Completed  
Budget: USD 496,053  
Duration: 6 months (July to February 2021)

**Procurement Support Services through the Caribbean Development Bank**
An MoU with the Caribbean Development Bank signed in 2017 continues to support collaboration relating to the transition to online learning and procurement service support to countries and institutions. Through this partnership, UNDP was selected to be the partner of choice for Grenada, UWI and Antigua and Barbuda relating to the procurement of tablets and laptops to support resilient education. This partnership currently is to the tune of USD 2,221,165 and is being facilitated through the MPS agreement.

**EnGenDER**
Support from the EnGenDER project to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 is aligned with the project’s overall goal of addressing vulnerabilities and gender inequalities within the Caribbean region. Mainly as disasters and natural hazard events like the COVID-19 pandemic serve as poverty multipliers exacerbating gender inequalities and vulnerability gaps further within at-risk communities. The project’s COVID response interventions focused on the following service lines:

- Support to initiatives that tackle Gender-Based Violence and provide direct assistance to women victims of violence, with special emphasis in rural and small communities. The project provided training in psycho-social support to victims of GBV (as to social response workers) and supported this with the establishment of hotline services in Antigua and Dominica that allowed for a referral pathway to safe housing and further counselling support. There were also national ad campaigns in these countries as well as Grenada with a reach of over 30,000
Income support for the most vulnerable, including women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and individuals who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19. Over 950 vulnerable persons benefitted from this income support in countries such as Antigua, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Female-headed households, the disabled and the elderly were direct beneficiaries of this initiative.

Support initiatives that facilitate the delivery of essential goods and services, such as food, medicines and care services to those who have lost their ability to access them. As of December 2020, the project has provided support to more than 7,000 persons through programmes which provided food/care hamper distribution as well as food voucher support in Grenada, Dominica and Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Status: In-country activities completed. Verification ongoing
Overall Budget: USD 1,149,000 (USD 500,000 for the 5 Eastern Caribbean countries)

Country Beneficiaries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Duration of interventions: June – December 2020
Other UN Implementing Partners: UNWOMEN