

The Partnership of the Caribbean and the European Union on Justice (PACE Justice)



EUROPEAN UNION



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Programme Overview

The 11th European Development Fund is financing this multi-country programme.


Beneficiaries

Antigua and Barbuda · Barbados · Belize · Dominica · Guyana · Saint Lucia · Saint Kitts and Nevis · Trinidad and Tobago

Implementing Agency

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Funding

	EUROPEAN UNION: EUR 9,750,000	EUR 10.31 MILLION
	CO-FINANCING: 560,000	

Duration

Start Date	March 2023	48
End Date	March 2027	MONTHS

Policy Alignment

The programme aligns to the following policy documents:

- *New Agenda for Relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean*
- *CARICOM Secretariat Strategic Plan 2022-2030*
- *EU Strategy & Action Plan on Citizen Security in Central America and the Caribbean*

Contribution to SDGs

The programme contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



Development Challenge

A 2020 UNDP Judicial Needs Assessment of 9 Caribbean Countries 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 are occasioned by pervasive human and technological resource and capacity constraints, which contributes to **massive bottlenecks** in the work of the justice sector.

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.

PACE Justice Project

The project's **ultimate objective** is to enhance the institutional capacities of prosecutors, courts, police, and prisons in the Caribbean to manage criminal cases effectively and efficiently.

To achieve this objective, UNDP and partners will develop interventions along three well-defined, but strongly connected dimensions, including:

- The deployment of enabling **technology and systems training** to improve efficiency of criminal justice administration;
- The empowerment of stakeholders through **gender-aware capacity building across all elements of the administration of justice**, with a focus on service design and delivery;
- Strengthening **national and regional processes and procedures** for improved efficiency and accountability within the justice sector.

Cross Sectoral Approach

Justice system reform requires **coordination and collaboration** among the various agencies and institutions in order to mitigate the effect of the potentially conflicting approaches to the causes of the backlog.

Aligning or federating information management systems across each stage of the process—police to prosecutors, defence counsel to courts, prisons—through **data exchange and integration** allows for a **systematic approach**.

With the adoption of a **system-wide approach**, the line between institution-specific outcomes and a system-wide performance is blurred with a greater appreciation for the **existing interdependencies**.

Key Outputs & Activities

Project Outcome: Improved Universal Access to Justice in the Caribbean						
Output 1: Technology and Infrastructure Systems Enhanced		Output 2: Empowered Stakeholders and Enhanced Capacities			Output 3: Processes, Procedures and Coordination Improved	
Activity 1.1 Technology and equipment procured, deployed, and operationalised to facilitate case /court /inmate management, and infrastructure resilience	Activity 1.2 Purpose developed software for police, courts, and prisons designed, tested, and scaled across the region with interoperability as a primary functionality	Activity 2.1 Training and upskilling at all levels of the justice system	Activity 2.2 Specialised support for victims, witnesses, and the rehabilitation of offenders	Activity 2.3 Public awareness raising on access to justice and legal rights	Activity 3.1 Technical assistance for development and deployment of rules and standards across the continuum of justice administration	Activity 3.2 National/ Regional coordination frameworks developed and strengthened around strategic planning, case management and monitoring and evaluation

Partnerships

The project will work closely with the various key stakeholders in the criminal justice system, including the [DPP Offices](#), [Police](#), [Legal Aid](#), [Prisons and Courts](#) in each country.

The [project implementation](#) will facilitate [knowledge exchange and capacity building](#) with civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, National Gender Machineries, Bar Associations, the Eastern Supreme Court, and the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Youth and women’s organisations will be consulted in the implementation and monitoring of the output strategies. This will ensure a [gender lens](#) to training and implementation decisions, particularly for procedures like investigations of intimate partner violence or treatment of vulnerable witnesses.

The project will align with existing and ongoing initiatives focused on [criminal law and justice system administration](#) to avoid duplication or conflicting processes and to promote the efficient use of resources.

Geographical Scope

The programme provides support to 8 Member States of CARIFORUM:



For further information:



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