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Being LGBTI in the Caribbean (BLIC) is a regional programme that aims to enhance knowledge, partnerships, and capacities of LGBTI communities, civil society and States to reduce human rights violations and negative attitudes towards LGBTI people in the Caribbean, with country level focus in Barbados, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. It seeks to increase LGBTI representation in national and regional fora, as well as to ensure access to justice for LGBTI persons through the implementation of inclusive public policies while addressing stigma and discrimination. BLIC is supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in collaboration with governments, civil society, regional institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- > **Consultative forums** have been organized in all project countries to engage with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and to bring them on as partners in the BLIC project. To date, the BLIC project has established relationships with more than 85 CSOs in the four participating countries, including National Associations, NGOs and Independent activists;
- > At the **regional level**, two consultants have been recruited to manage an Intersex Research Study and to carry out the communication activities;
- > All project countries are working on **LGBTI capacity building**, access to existing tools, transfer of knowledge and concrete actions to address stigma and discrimination;
- > All project countries have developed **strategies for data collection** in preparation for the drafting of the Being LGBTI Report;
- > Countries have **actively engaged with government actors** to ensure buy-in and partnership in the upcoming National Policy Dialogues.

FORESEEN DATES FOR NATIONAL DIALOGUES

COUNTRY	DATE
Jamaica	December 2018
Dominican Republic	March 2019
Haiti	March 2019
Barbados	Spring 2019



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<p> BARBADOS, ST LUCIA & GRENADA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support to the launch of Barbados Pride 2018, organized by the UN Resident Coordinator Office and inclusive of civil society partners and international organizations at UN House and support to the IDAHOT event also at UN House, to introduce LGBTI projects and give CSO partners the opportunity to collaborate; > Preliminary discussions held with CSO and other partners about the project, their work and opportunities for collaboration; > Capacity assessments of national CSOs (including Grenada & St. Lucia) completed and additional training suggestions compiled; > Community coordinator hired July 2018 and work plan for implementation drafted and submitted for approval. <p>What's next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > First BLIC CSO consultation (Sept 5, 2018) to more accurately chart the way forward for the project in Barbados, St. Lucia & Grenada including planning for focus groups, community and national dialogues, capacity development, ally identification and BLIC report. 	<p> DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The institutional capacities of 12 LGBTI CSOs were assessed and evaluated, allowing the project to know how to provide tailored capacity building activities; > A diploma course exclusively designed with the purpose of strengthening the capacities of LGBTI people engaged in CSOs activities has started, with the participation of 23 LGBTI Institutions from 8 different provinces; > In observance of IDAHOT, a mural against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia was inaugurated at the Dominican Resistance Memorial Museum, and the whole UN System in Dominican Republic took part of the LGBTI Pride Caravan, an unprecedented action in partnership with the USAID and the European Union. <p>What's next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Public information national campaign on LGBTI rights to be launched in October 2018 in partnership with the OHCHR; National dialogue to be held at the end of 2018; preparing the first survey to collect sociodemographic data of LGBTI perceptions and experiences in 2019.
<p> HAITI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Strong working relationship built with government counterpart, the Office of Citizen Protection (OPC), around LGBTI human rights. BLIC-Haiti is now supporting the OPC to strengthen capacities and dialogue on inclusion and non-discrimination of LGBTI communities among other government institutions; > Participatory Learning and Action tools have been developed and facilitated in focus group discussions with a total of 17 Haitian LGBTI civil society organizations, culminating in the completion of a first draft of the BLIC country report; > Organizational capacity assessments for 12 Haitian LGBTI civil society organizations have been completed and analyzed. <p>What's next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Facilitation of capacity building activities; training sessions for senior management of government ministries on human rights, inclusion and non-discrimination (in collaboration with the OPC); preparation and strategy development for upcoming national dialogue. 	<p> JAMAICA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Two consultations with the LGBTI community were recently conducted; the first one on Economically Disadvantaged and Homeless LGBTI persons and the second one on Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Women. In June, the BLIC Project organized a three-day Training Course on Human Rights Standards and Practices for 8 CSOs, in response to the institutional deficits revealed by the BLIC Civil Society Capacity Self-Assessment; > Consultations with the Office of the Public Defender revealed that the objectives of the project are aligned to the Public Defender's intention to improve and increase partnership with the LGBTI community. The Public Defender intends to use this project to increase dialogue and raise awareness on LGBTI matters. <p>What's next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support will be provided to the organization of an entrepreneurship workshop and other trainings; National dialogue in October 2018; Beyond Homophobia Conference to be held in January 2019 with State institutions and LGBTI population.