



UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Support to the National Response and Recovery to Contain the Impact of COVID-19



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

1- Government Response

Governments of the Caribbean have been actively deploying national responses to the threat of this deadly virus in the context of already challenged fiscal realities, physical infrastructure and service delivery systems. As these countries' economies are not sufficiently diversified and rely on tourism, foreign direct investment and trade for their growth, the massive slow-down in output and imports will amplify the first order effects of the disease in the region. The pandemic's combined impact is therefore likely to not only be widespread, affecting virtually all aspects of the economies, but to continue well after the population has recovered from the physical health symptoms of the disease. In the case of most countries in the Eastern Caribbean, the impact of the virus will reinforce existing social and economic vulnerabilities, inequalities and risks.

HEALTH SYSTEMS: Initially, the efforts and priorities of governments across the Eastern Caribbean region are focused on the strengthening of their health systems including the acquisition of PPE and testing kits as well as the rapid development of isolation and quarantine centers. Countries have no adequately prepared health systems with necessary improvements to manage potential cases.

| Country / Region ¹ | Confirmed cases | Number of deaths |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Anguilla | 3 | 0 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 26 | 3 |
| Barbados | 97 | 7 |
| British Virgin Islands | 8 | 1 |
| Dominica | 18 | 0 |
| Grenada | 23 | 0 |
| Montserrat | 11 | 1 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 15 | 0 |
| Saint Lucia | 19 | 0 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 29 | 0 |

POST COVID-19: Now that the number of COVID-19 active cases has stabilized/been reduced; the priorities have shifted towards the economic recovery post-COVID-19 and preparations of the impending hurricane season.

Varying economic stimulus packages have been rolled out across the region with common focus on social welfare expansion, boosting agriculture, job creation and enhancement of support systems for Micro, Small and Medium enterprises. As governments resort to fiscal stimulus measures to keep their economies afloat, COVID-19 will only add to this region's debt burden.

EDUCATION: There has been significant effort to rapidly enhance technology access within the education system. Gaps in digital access and knowledge significantly limited the regions ability to take advantage of the opportunities that the online world offers. There are ongoing national efforts for procurement of computers for students and enhancing access to the internet for communities. However, there still exists a significant gap to onboard teachers and students to adequately utilize online education.

TOURISM: The severe impact of the halt in tourism has countries in the region projecting almost 50% unemployment. Within the region international travel has begun to resume with enhanced safety protocols at border entry.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: Exacerbated by already high unemployment and dependence on welfare systems, the poor and vulnerable are particularly at risk. There have been significant efforts across the region to boost capacities to protect the most vulnerable. However, governments are in need of further support to continue this work as the pandemic and impending hurricane season will fuel a host of other socially adverse consequences.

¹ [PAHO, Cumulative COVID-19 cases reported by countries and territories in the Americas](#)

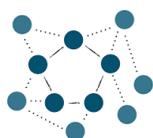
2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

Strengthening Health Systems



- Procurement of public health equipment in coordination with CDEMA PAHO, UNICEF and UNOPS under the guidance of the Resident Coordination Office.
- The **Dominican** Development and Reconstruction Facility project will support short-term immediate response and medium-term recovery interventions to mitigate health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Technical assistance and cash advances will prioritize early response interventions. Short- and medium-term interventions will target vulnerable groups, single mothers, women and at-risk youth, indigenous populations and the elderly.
- Strengthening national health capacities in **Antigua and Barbuda** by procuring medical equipment and material including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and ventilators. India-UN Development Partnership Fund Health Emergency Procurement with Antigua and Barbuda (under discussion with the World Bank).
- Health emergency procurement of medical equipment for **Saint Lucia**. India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



- The Accelerator Lab for **Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean's** COVID-19 support the economic transformation pillar. This included our acknowledgement of [open source medical design](#), categorical [mapping tools](#) and initiatives such as the [#PayInAdvance](#) campaign advocated by the Argentina Accelerator Lab, volunteerism promoting [elderly care](#) in India and the [#Tekkiheroes](#) Hackathon in Azerbaijan.
- Support the transition of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises into pivoting to digital technology for service delivery with a special focus on farmers and fisherfolk. . Rapid Response Facility.
- In collaboration with WFP and FAO (for the agriculture and fisheries sectors), UNDP is supporting the reconversion efforts of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Priority will be given to women-owned businesses. Rapid Response Facility.
- The Dominican Development and Reconstruction Facility project has been approved and will support critical government social programmes in **Dominica**. The programmes will benefit over 10% of the Dominica population and target vulnerable groups, single parents, women and at-risk youth, indigenous populations and the elderly. Dominica Development and Reconstruction Facility.
- Support **Antigua and Barbuda** to assess the socio-economic and human development impacts of the crisis, provision of policy recommendations and support for the implementation of agreed recommendations. These include support food security through economic transformation and economic recovery interventions in main industries. India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
- Technical Assistance to the Government of **Antigua and Barbuda** for the transition of garment and chemicals industries on-island to produce personal protective equipment and sanitizer gels of high standard in the fight of COVID-19 and beyond. Similar initiative is under discussion to support the Government of Grenada.
- In **Grenada**, UNDP will support the Police Forces in their protection, the intensification of preventive patrolling in hotspot neighborhoods with a history of family violence, child abuse and gender-based violence. Key partners: UN Women and UNICEF. Citizen Security and Spotlight.
- **In Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia**, UNDP will support women organizations for community sensitization and economic reactivation. Engender.
- Coordination with the main newspaper of **Barbados** of a series of micro-articles by the most reputed economists and development practitioners in the region, on the main impact of COVID-19 on the economy and solutions to adapt. The series will be called "The Day After".

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- UNDP is developing an Economic and Human Development Impact Assessments focused on income losses for the private sector, MSMEs, the informal economy actors and the most vulnerable population groups (with UNICEF, UN Women and ISGlobal) for **Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**. Also, the UN Economic Team (UNDP-UNICEF-UN Women) will support a temporary surge (3-4 months) of a senior economist in the Finance Ministry of the participating Member States, to support the implementation of agreed recommendations, which will be targeted, short-term measures designed to mitigate the immediate impact of the crisis and strengthen the capacity for medium and long-term recovery. Rapid Response Facility.

3- UNDP’s support to the UN Country Team

UNDP respond to COVID 19 is under the UNST Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP). UNDP in collaboration with other UN sister agencies, is providing equipment, technical assistance and financial support to the Governments in region to work along with key actors in the private sector wishing to inject recovery innovation into the local economy, retool small businesses, support transitions to digital servicing, generate jobs along the way and safely deliver food and basic services to homes.

4- Resources – COVID19 Response

| Areas of Response | Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD | New Resources (USD) |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Strengthening Health Systems | | 4,752,320 |
| Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response | 993,141 | 10,781,696 |
| Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery | | 254,290 |
| Sub Total | 993,141 | 15,788,306 |
| Total | 16,781,447 | |

UNDP support to health system has been mainly funded by new resources from Government Contribution (Dominica USD 3,539,320), India-UN Development Partnership Fund (USD 1,213,000).

Support to Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response interventions is funded with UNDP Rapid Response Facility (USD 500,000), Government Contribution (Dominica USD 9,571,696), India-UN Development Partnership Fund (USD 710,000) and reprogramming of USAID/EU Citizen Security and Spotlight (USD 93,141) and Engender project (USD900,000).

Socio-economic impact and recovery are funded by UNDP Rapid Response Facility (USD 254,290).