



**Sub-Regional Implementation Plan Report  
2017  
United Nations in Barbados and the OECS**



**UN Caribbean**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

# UN Country Results Report Team

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# FOREWORD

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2017 was a pivotal year for the partnership between the United Nations Development System (UN) and the countries of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. As seven independent states and three overseas territories of the Eastern Caribbean work to fulfill the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they grapple with the looming existential threat posed by the accelerating impact of climate change. To help the subregion achieve inclusive, sustainable development, where no one is left behind, the UN is repositioning itself to work more cohesively, effectively and efficiently.

The 2017-2021 Regional Multi Country Sustainability Development Framework (MSDF), which began implementation in 2017, captures the spirit of this ambitious transformation. As the first regional UN Development Assistance Framework, it encompasses 18 countries and six UN country teams. This innovative structure allows the UN to function at the country level, while combining resources regionally to tackle overlapping problems.

Last year, when Hurricanes Irma and Maria, swept through the region, battering six Caribbean countries—including four countries from the Eastern Caribbean—the MSDF positioned the UNST to collaborate regionally to provide critical support in each affected territory. In addition to mobilizing more than US\$5 Million through the CERF, the UN partnered with CARICOM to facilitate a high-level donor conference for reconstruction and resilience, that mobilized more than US\$1.3 billion in pledges and \$1 billion in loans and debt relief.

The present report captures these wins and other results secured across Barbados and the OECS through the UN MSDF annual programming tool, Sub-Regional Implementation Plan (SIP) for Barbados and OECS and its Biennial Reporting mechanism. Notwithstanding the robust humanitarian support, we are not yet capturing the full benefit of SIP and the UN MSDF subregional-level governance arrangements.

2018 promises greater gains. Through the work of the Caribbean-wide Virtual Policy Networks of the UN MSDF, the regular meetings of the MSDF Regional Steering Committee, and the annual Regional Consultation with member states (2018 date to be confirmed), the UN Agencies should also, in 2018, start reaching out to each other across the Caribbean more regularly, with a view to identifying areas for joint work that make the best possible use of their individual resources; capitalizing on the UN Development System's presence across the region; contributing to regional integration efforts; and delivering better results for the region's populations.

Following the guidance of the Secretary General, UN Agencies have been tasked to identify and focus on areas for collaboration as they seek to work and deliver as "One UN".

Over the next three years, the UNST is eager to explore the full promise of the MSDF to help the governments of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean build an inclusive, resilient, sustainable and strong Caribbean.



***The MSDF has repositioned the United Nations Development System in the Caribbean to deliver on its promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet.***

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Following extensive consultations with the governments of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, the UN Subregional Team for Barbados and the OECS partnered with five UN Country Teams across the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean to launch the first regional UN sustainable development framework in 2017. In order to operationalize the MSDF in the subregion, the UN developed the first annual Subregional Implementation Plan (SIP). To do so, the UN considered the primary development challenges and goals captured during the national consultations as well as national development strategies. As the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Commission notes, *“The OECS recognizes that ending poverty and creating a brighter future for all must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and which address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.”*

The integration of the Sustainable Development Goals underpinned these broad objectives was. The 2017 SIP reflected these aims, with key initiatives to promote (i) An Inclusive, Prosperous and Equitable Eastern Caribbean (ii) A Safe, Just and Cohesive Eastern Caribbean (iii) A Healthy Eastern Caribbean and (iv) Sustainable and Resilient Eastern Caribbean. However, during the inception year for the 2017-2021 United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean [MSDF] and UN Subregional Team’s (UNST) 2017 Subregional Implementation Plan, two Category-5 hurricanes struck six countries across the region.

Within a three-week span in September 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria had battered the region, leaving a trail of physical devastation and extensive breakdown of essential services in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, and Dominica.

The effect of this multi-island strike divided the development work of the UNST into two periods: (1) The pre-hurricane phase from January to August, where the UNST worked with national and regional partners to promote sustainable development across Barbados and the OECS and (2) The post-hurricane phase from September onward where the UNST worked with development partners to support the regional support systems and provide life-saving relief to the residents of the affected countries.

In the pre- and post-hurricane periods the UNST partnered with the Governments of Barbados and the OECS to promote sustainable development across the four pillars of the UN MSDF:

(I) The UN worked to create an enabling environment for an **‘Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Eastern Caribbean’**

- In the pre-hurricane period FAO through their Farmer Field School (FFS) Methodology built OECS farmers’ capacity to analyze their production systems, identify problems, test possible solutions, and encourage farmers to adopt practices most suitable to their farming systems. ILO hosted a workshop to support skills policy development to help countries meet the annual reporting obligations.



**The OECS recognizes that ending poverty and creating a brighter future for all must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and which address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.**

- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Commission

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNICEF and the OECS Commission culminated in a report on Child Poverty in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, that informed the strengthening of social protection systems. Through the Virtual Policy Network for Youth Employment, the UN established a one-stop-shop online portal capturing the existing policy measures, best practices and pilots addressing youth employment.

- During the Hurricane relief and recovery period the UN promoted inclusive, equitable development and return to livelihoods in various ways. To identify the existing collective centers and monitor displacement across the country, IOM established its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Dominica to track and monitor the movement and living conditions of displaced populations. WFP and UNICEF jointly supported the Government of Dominica to Provide Emergency Cash Transfers to 25,000 people affected by Hurricane Maria. UN Women and FAO partnered to provide women farmers seeds, equipment and farm workers. UNDP helped the British Virgin Islands to create a Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and in partnership with UNICEF, helped create temporary livelihoods through debris management programmes and restoration of community facilities. UNICEF helped over 33,000 people access safe water; 19,000 children and adolescents resume education services and 13,042 children receive psychosocial support.

## **(II) A Safe, Just and Cohesive Eastern Caribbean**

Five UN agencies worked to promote a 'Safe, Just and Cohesive Barbados' by addressing citizen security,

protecting children, women and other vulnerable groups and promoting human rights.

- UNDP created the Caribbean Citizen Security Toolkit to help the subregion standardize the collection and disaggregation of data on crime. The agency supported Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia to undertake institutional assessments.
- In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, IOM, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA partnered to protect the most vulnerable segments of the population through trainings, resilience-building activities and support for shelter management.

## **(III) A Healthy Eastern Caribbean**

In 2017, six UN agencies engaged in research, capacity building, outreach and policy support to advance 'A Healthy Eastern Caribbean.'

- During the pre-hurricane period PAHO selected 16 hospitals and health centers in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to transform into safer, greener facilities that are more resilient to natural disasters. UNAIDS supported Barbados to assess the state of the AIDS epidemic and to track progress made toward achieving the 90-90-90 treatment targets that would enable the country to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- During the Hurricane relief and recovery period PAHO/WHO supported Ministries of Health in affected territories to provide critical medical services through provision of essential medical supplies and personnel. UNICEF ensured that over 40,000 affected persons had access to drinking water and purification tablets, preventing

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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the outbreak of waterborne diseases and 27,000 children were reached with information on hygiene, safety and protection. UNFPA and UN Women supported the provision of comprehensive survivor-centred care for gender-based violence survivors. FAO and WFP partnered to ensure food and nutrition security for affected populations; FAO supported the restoration of livelihoods in farming by providing seeds, hand tools and farming equipment to farmers, large cooperatives and women's organizations.

## **(IV) Sustainable and Resilient Eastern Caribbean**

To promote a 'Sustainable and Resilient Eastern Caribbean', the UN Subregional Team partnered with civil society, regional entities and the Governments of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

- In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the UN collaborated to provide life-saving support to Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, and Dominica in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The UNST worked to support the reestablishment of basic services such as health care, telecommunications and electricity, water, sewage and waste systems, and education across the territories. In Dominica for example, efforts included the establishment of a Crisis Management Unit to support the Government of Dominica, assistance to the Ministry of Housing to produce a comprehensive Building Damage Assessment and train over 350 construction professionals, as well as 13 Iridium SAT Phones and 3 Broadband Global Area Networks. UNDP and UN Women partnered to restore livelihoods through debris and waste management projects and related programmes. OCHA, WFP and UNDP provided support to regional emergency response mechanisms, in particular

CDEMA, to overcome the most urgent transport and communication challenges for assessments and delivery of humanitarian assistance. The UN mobilized \$4 million through two Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) requests to support regional relief efforts and partnered with CARICOM to host a high-level pledging conference in New York in November 2017 to garner support for the reconstruction efforts.

The UN undertook joint communication and operational work to promote sustainable development. To support the coordination of disaster relief UN Resident Coordinator Stephen O'Malley and CDEMA Executive Director Ronald Jackson co-chaired the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG) Disaster Management group. This served as the main inter-island response coordination forum in the eastern Caribbean for governments, development partners and donors.

## **Normative and Operational Advances**

Over the course of 2017 the Operations Management Team (OMT) worked with a local consultant to gather data and received the support of a member of the Panama-based regional OMT to formulate the 2018-2022 Business Operations Strategy (BOS). The BOS, approved on 27 March 2018, provides an operational framework to advance the programmatic priorities of the MSDF. If fully implemented the projected financial gains will be US\$742,338.44. The normative work of the UNST was also advanced by UN Human Rights Officer and high-level visits to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, most notably the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in October, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for Operations, Fatoumata Ndiaye, and UN Special Rapporteur on Road Safety in July, Mr. Jean Todt in August.

# OVERVIEW OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EVENTS

The year 2017 can be divided into two parts: pre-Hurricane (January to August), and post-Hurricane (September to December). During the first part of the year, normal programming occurred across Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries. In the second part of the year, the UN Subregional Team focused on response and recovery activities in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands and Dominica, while maintaining normal programming elsewhere in the sub-region. The extensive degree of devastation in the affected states will require a much deeper involvement from development partners to accelerate the recovery process.

While Barbados' growth was just above 1%, prices rose by 5% due to an additional consumption tax burden. Despite the economic growth and political stability across the Sub-region, the SIDS continued to battle with ingrained development challenges such as persistent multi-dimensional poverty and severe vulnerability to economic and ecological shocks, while still carrying high debt loads. It is crucial to note that research by the CDB and other institutions shows that the impact of repeated hurricanes and other hydro-meteorological events reduces long-term growth prospects.

## Political and Economic Impact

During the initial half of 2017, the economic and political conditions within Barbados and the OECS remained generally positive. The states unaffected by the hurricanes maintained this positive trajectory, with most of the OECS territories averaging 2-3% growth and inflation remaining subdued. Only St. Vincent recorded 0% growth. According to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Grenada recorded the highest GDP growth at 4.5% in 2017, while the effects of Hurricane Maria reduced Dominica's GDP by 6.9% in 2017.

In 2018, growth is expected to be stronger in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Dominica as they rebound from the effects of the hurricanes. For Barbados, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Regional Outlook (Fall 2017) notes that the slowed growth reflected necessary fiscal consolidation efforts.

Country/Territory	Total Losses, Damages and Costs (USD)	GDP** (USD)
Anguilla	327 million	-
Antigua & Barbuda	155 million	1.46 billion
BVI	2,292 million	-
Dominica	1,311 million	0.58 billion
Sint Maarten	2,089 million*	-

\*Damage and Loss Assessment for the Eastern Caribbean, ECLAC, 2018; Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Hurricane Maria, Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2017; Hurricane Irma Recovery Needs Assessment, Government of Antigua and Barbuda, 2017.

\*\*Source: World Bank Development Indicators database, 2016

# OVERVIEW OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EVENTS

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## Impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria

During the inception year for the 2017-2021 UN MDSF in the Caribbean and the UNST 2017 SIP, two Category-5 hurricanes struck six countries across the region. Within a three-week span in September 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria battered the region, leaving a trail of physical devastation and extensive breakdown of essential services in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, and Dominica.

Hurricane Irma occurred from September 6th to 8th as the most powerful storm ever recorded over the Atlantic. During its four-day run, Irma exposed over 129,000 people across five territories to sustained winds that reached 296 km/h, heavy rains, storm surges, flash flooding and injury from debris. Those winds lasted for 37 hours, making Irma the longest-lived storm of that intensity anywhere around the globe for at least the past 50 years, as per the United Kingdom Met Office.

Irma damaged or destroyed more than 90% of the housing stock in Barbuda, severing communication with its sister isle Antigua and rendering the island uninhabitable for its 1,780 residents. Across Anguilla and British Virgin islands, a significant portion of the housing stock was damaged, and almost all residents were directly affected by the breakdown in essential services. With another Category-5 hurricane quickly following the first, the losses amounted to US\$18.9 million and total damage of US\$136.1 million in Antigua and Barbuda alone. While regional response systems struggled to

support the affected territories in the region's first multi-island strike, Hurricane Maria landed in Dominica on September 18th, causing widespread damage and destruction in one of the region's poorest countries. With winds ranging up to 260 km/h and torrential rains, Maria caused widespread flooding, landslides and extensive damage to housing stock, hospitals, airports, affecting the entire population of 71,293 people. Extensive damage to the electrical grid left the entire country without electricity, while destruction of the communication towers caused an island-wide communication blackout. With the majority of bridges damaged and roads blocked with debris, several communities in the western, southern and interior of the country were cut off from aid. Further, the annual and perennial crops on the island were destroyed, threatening food security in Dominica and its neighboring islands (as it was an exporter of key crops within the Sub-region). Hurricane Maria resulted in total damages of US\$931 million and losses of US\$382 million for Dominica (or 226% of the country's 2016 gross domestic product).

The effect of this multi-island strike divided the development work of the UNST into two periods: (1) The pre-hurricane phase from January to August, where the UNST worked with national and regional partners to promote sustainable development in Barbados and the OECS and (2) The post-hurricane phase from September onward where the UNST worked with development partners to support the strained regional support systems and provide life-saving relief to the residents of the affected countries.



# Results

**PILLAR 1 AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE  
AND PROSPEROUS  
CARIBBEAN**

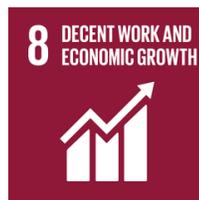
# RESULTS - PILLAR 1: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN

## Programming Results

The FAO supported capacity building for farmers through the Farmer Field School (FFS) Methodology which is an innovative, participatory and interactive learning approach that emphasizes problem solving and discovery based learning. FFS were effectively used in many projects delivered by the FAOSLC in 2017 to build OECS farmers' capacity to analyze their production systems, identify problems, test possible solutions, and encourage farmers to adopt practices most suitable to their farming systems. FFS also allowed farmers to practice and test technologies and compare them to conventional technologies they use traditionally.

On 13-17 September, ILO hosted a 3 day workshop to train seven countries from the Subregion—Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines—to plan, prepare and write reports on International Labour Standards for submission to supervisory bodies of the ILO. The workshop was designed to strengthen the capacity of countries to meet their annual reporting obligations to the ILO.

As the UNST moved forward with the operationalization of the MSDF, the four Virtual Policy Networks (VPN) were launched to enhance the alignment of the UN agencies in the region. All four VPNs met during the year. The VPN for an Inclusive, and Prosperous Caribbean carried out a research project on youth employment, to support the creation of a one-stop-shop online portal that captures the existing policy measures, best practices and pilots addressing youth employment.



- **FAO's Farmer Field School (FFS) Methodology**



- **ILO's support to skills policy development**



- **UNST support to VPN for Youth Employment**



- **UNICEF ECA and OECS Commission report on Child Poverty**

# RESULTS - PILLAR 1: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN

In 2017, the collaborative effort between UNICEF ECA and OECS Commission culminated in a report on Child Poverty in the Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA), including Barbados, providing for the first time disaggregated poverty data on children. The data analysis component was guided by the global Technical Note developed by UNICEF in 2016 providing recommendations on how to identify and request national poverty data to develop relevant child estimates. The main data source for this effort has been the datasets from the Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs) which by 2012 have been completed for 11 ECA countries and territories. The findings from the analysis not only contributed to SDG1 monitoring but also facilitated engagement in evidence informed discussions for strengthening social protection systems. A highlight of this initiative, was the UNICEF's technical assistance mission in Anguilla where the country's social protection programmes were presented and assessed against child poverty results for understanding the areas which need further review and focus on vulnerability. As a result, the Anguillan government committed to include the analysis in their plan of statistical activities to be conducted regularly including in the next Survey of Living Conditions in response to the SDG indicator "proportion of population living below the national poverty line, disaggregated by sex and age group".



*Students in Grenada responding to presentation by UNDP. UN Photo/ Penny Bowen*

# RESULTS - PILLAR 1: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN

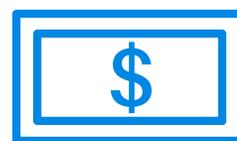
## Humanitarian Response

The UNST partnered with Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to provide emergency support. These partnerships expanded, with International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducting Displacement Tracking Matrix site assessments by boat and road. The DTM tracked population movement in Dominica through a set of tools including observation, cartography, key informant interviews, and physical counting. Preliminary site verifications of collective centers were completed on 6 October, compiling data gathered by the government as well as assessments by IOM teams, starting with the 143 official centres and expanding to new, unofficial collective centres. Rapid site assessments began on 11 October 2017. A preliminary report on schools who serve as collective centers and set to reopen on 16 October was produced and shared with all stakeholders.

UNICEF and WFP jointly supported an Emergency Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) in Dominica which targeted 25,000 people including 6,000 children. The Emergency CTP helped vulnerable families meet their basic needs. In addition to providing immediate emergency cash transfer for vulnerable people, UNICEF and WFP will support overall strengthening of the social protection system in Dominica by providing technical assistance and capacity to the Ministry for an effective implementation of the transfer, which will almost quadruple beneficiaries from the existing social protection programme.



Conducted more than **143**  
Displacement Tracking  
Matrix site assessments  
through partnership with  
CDEMA and IOM



**25,000** people  
including **6000**  
children from vulnerable  
families were assisted  
through UNICEF and  
WFP's Emergency Cash  
Transfer Programme

# RESULTS - PILLAR 1: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN

In Dominica, the Bureau of Gender Affairs and UN Women conducted interviews with five groups of women farmers who reported they were significantly impacted by Hurricane Maria and lost tools and crops. Based on the identified needs, UN Women is collaborating with the Government and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to ensure the women farmers receive seeds. In 2018, UN Women will procure equipment and tools for the farmers and is supporting the hiring of farm workers for the women farmers to expedite the return of their plots to production. UN Women also provided much needed assistance to the Bureau of Gender Affairs to replace office equipment lost in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria so that they could resume their services to support women to get back to work.

In Antigua and Barbuda, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNWOMEN have jointly provided protection support to vulnerable women and children who have been evacuated from Barbuda following Hurricane Irma, and who have been living in shelters and with host families in Antigua. Over 700 women and their families in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Turks and Caicos received emergency personal care from UN Women in collaboration with UNFPA.

UNDP, with financial support from UNICEF, is creating emergency employment in debris and waste management for the most vulnerable affected families through cash for work (CFW) programmes in Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands and Saint Maarten. Debris management is a key part of the recovery process, enabling access to relief supplies, emergency and social services; reducing potential health hazards of vector-borne diseases (e.g. leptospirosis, dengue); respiratory ailments from high volumes of dust; and separation of valuable material for recycling or reconstruction.



*UNDP supports temporary employment staff who are clearing debris in the community of Calibishie, Dominica. UNDP Photo*

# RESULTS - PILLAR 1: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN

## Humanitarian Response

Through UNICEF's support, over 33,000 people had access to safe water and information on good hygiene; across the five impacted countries more than 19,000 children and adolescents of school-age and 1,092 of preschool age benefited from resumed early childhood and education services; 13,042 children received psychosocial support through the Return to Happiness Programme, 12,869 children and adolescents had access to safe community spaces. Approximately 66 per cent of affected children received messages on how to protect themselves from harm during and after an emergency and 79,849 people across affected countries were reached with lifesaving text messages.



**19,000**  
children and adolescents of  
school-age and **1,092**  
of preschool age benefited  
from resumed early childhood  
and education services



***“Even before the hurricanes hit, UNICEF was on the ground, working with Governments and local partners to prepare communities and preposition humanitarian supplies for the areas at highest risk. These included life-saving supplies that were most needed during the immediate response when access to clean water, shelter and basic social services were scarce [...] three months on, UNICEF is still on the ground in these countries and territories, working on programmes to support children and families in rebuilding their lives and returning to a sense of normalcy.”***

-Maria Cristina Perceval, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.



# Results

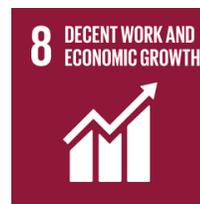
## PILLAR 2 A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN

# RESULTS - PILLAR 2: A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN

## Programming Results

PAHO has so far selected 16 hospitals and health centers in in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines to make them safer, greener and more resilient to natural disasters, under the framework of the Smart Health Care Facilities Project. Health facilities in four Eastern Caribbean countries were initially selected by PAHO after analyzing the safety and "green" conditions of nearly 170 hospitals and health centers, and their likelihood of continuing to function in disasters. They include the La Plaine Clinic in Dominica; The Princess Alicia Hospital in Grenada; the Comfort Bay nursing home in Saint Lucia; and the Chateaubelair Hospital in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition, interventions will be carried out at 12 health centers in Saint Lucia to improve disaster resilience, and to save energy and water.

UNAIDS supported Barbados with its development of strategic information and analysis to increase understanding of the state of the AIDS epidemic and, in particular, to track progress made toward achieving the 90-90-90 treatment targets that will set the country on-track to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goal agenda. Through direct technical support, UNAIDS helped Barbados to produce and finalize HIV estimates of high quality for 2017. UNAIDS conducted a technical workshop on HIV estimates, sourcing and using high-level technical experts to strengthen capacity of all estimate-producing countries in the region, including Barbados. Following vetting and approval by Government, UNAIDS analyzed and published regional data on a global platform.



- **PAHO's Smart Health Care Facilities Project**



- **UNAIDS capacity strengthening related to HIV and AIDS**

# RESULTS - PILLAR 2: A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN

## Humanitarian Response

Working with the Ministry of Health in Dominica, PAHO supported medical coverage and access to clean water. By facilitating the Ministry's coordination efforts, PAHO ensured the delivery and distribution of essential medical supplies and personnel. In addition to procuring generators, water containers, chlorine tablets and supplies for the water system, PAHO delivered 35,000 liters of water to meet the daily water needs of 4,700 people.

UNICEF prioritized safe water and hygiene, giving more than 40,000 affected people, including 17,000 children, access to drinking water and purification tablets – fundamental actions that save lives and prevent the outbreak and transmission of waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea.

UNFPA and UN Women addressed critical health care needs including comprehensive survivor-centered care for gender-based violence survivors. UNDP and UN Women partnered to restore livelihoods through debris and waste management projects and related programmes. UNFPA scaled up its efforts in the Caribbean to provide aid for pregnant women and dignity kits to meet the health and hygiene needs of girls and women. These kits include supplies such as soap, underwear, and sanitary napkins.

PAHO delivered  
**35,000**  
litres of water to meet the daily  
water needs of **4700** people



UNICEF gave more than  
**40,000**  
people access to safe drinking  
water



UNFPA and UN Women  
provided comprehensive  
survivor-centered care for  
gender-based violence  
survivors

# RESULTS - PILLAR 2: A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WFP and UNDP provided support to regional emergency response mechanisms, in particular CDEMA, to overcome the most urgent transport and communication challenges for assessments and delivery of humanitarian assistance. Further, the efforts of other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations were supported by the enhanced logistical and telecommunication support provided by OCHA and WFP.

FAO continues to work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the Government of Dominica as well as other partners, especially WFP, in order to restore the agricultural sector and ensure food and nutrition security in those countries affected by the hurricanes.

Through FAO's efforts, thousands of farmers, large cooperatives and women's organizations involved in agriculture received seeds, hand tools and farming equipment. Livelihoods in farming and fishing will be improved through FAO's provision of livestock and fishery material. FAO, in partnership with the CARICOM Secretariat, is developing a regional Agriculture Emergency Response Strategy & Action Plan that will help Dominica and other member states mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

WFP delivered at least 100 metric tons (MT) of food, to meet the needs of about half the people in 80 locations/villages (out of 100) in Dominica. This included the distribution of High Energy Biscuits and other food distribution activities.



**100%**  
of population targeted for one-month  
food assistance by Government and  
WFP

**100**  
metric tons of food assistance  
delivered

# Results

## PILLAR 3 A COHESIVE, SAFE AND JUST CARIBBEAN



# RESULTS - PILLAR 3: A COHESIVE, SAFE AND JUST CARIBBEAN

## Programming Results

In 2017 UNDP launched the Caribbean Citizen Security Toolkit within the framework of the CariSECURE project. This instrument supports the regional standardisation and disaggregation of data on crime, enabling countries to identify and measure youth risk and resilience factors, inter alia. This evidence-based analysis of crime and violence data will lead to better policy making, programming and decision-making on youth crime and violence prevention, and ultimately to a reduction in youth crime and violence. It has been presented for endorsement by cabinet; governments across the subregion are in the process of reviewing the toolkit. UNDP completed institutional assessments in Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia,. Based on these assessments, UNDP will bolster the capacity of offices addressing crime and violence by procuring critical hardware and software to facilitate automation. UNDP also assessed existing crime victimization surveys and national policies related to crime data, to identify pertinent technical recommendations.



- **Improved citizen security through UNDP's Caribbean Citizen Security Toolkit**

*Attendees at launch of toolkit. UNDP Photo*



# RESULTS - PILLAR 3: A COHESIVE, SAFE AND JUST CARIBBEAN

The National Human Rights Officer (NHRO) provided human rights support to four countries in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean— Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

## **Antigua and Barbuda**

The NRHO hosted two human rights training workshops for Government officials on (a) implementation of UPR recommendations and (b) reporting on the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## **Barbados**

The NHRO hosted multiple trainings for Government officials of Barbados National Mechanism for Reporting and follow-up on drafting UPR National Report. She increased the capacity of other stakeholders report on human rights progress through various workshops including

- a CSO workshop on CEDAW shadow reporting;
  - a CSO workshop for on drafting stakeholder submissions for upcoming Barbados UPR;
  - a two-day workshop for LGBTI CSOs on Access to Justice (in collaboration with Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality) and
  - Workshop on international human rights system for law students at the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus).
- She also strengthened the human rights reporting mechanisms by facilitating



- **Enhanced Capacity to Government and Civil Society Organisations To Implement Human Rights and Other Universal UN Norms and Standards**

consultation between the Barbados National Mechanism for Report and Follow-up and CSOs to support drafting of Barbados UPR National Report. Finally, as a UPR follow-up activity, she hosted a two-day public opinion survey and sensitization seminar on the death penalty.

## **Grenada**

The NRHO hosted a two-day training workshop on reporting and implementation on the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for government officials and CSOs. She also led a training workshop for the Grenada National Mechanism for Reporting to support drafting of CEDAW report.

## **St. Vincent and the Grenada**

The NHRO led a three-day training workshop for Government officials and CSOs on reporting to Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

# RESULTS - PILLAR 3: A COHESIVE, SAFE AND JUST CARIBBEAN

## Humanitarian Response

Compromised access to shelter, telecommunications and basic services have increased vulnerability to crime and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA and IOM worked to protect the most vulnerable segments of the population.

To prevent protection risks in temporary shelters in Antigua, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA supported national authorities to conduct gender-based violence (GBV) trainings. The UNFPA in partnership with the Gender Affairs Departments in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica facilitated multi-sectoral Gender-Based Violence (GBV) trainings for a total of 83 front line workers, shelter managers and health care personnel between December 2017 and January 2018.

Participants were trained on Advanced GBV Case Management; Survivor-Centred Approaches, Integration in Shelters among other critical topics. UNICEF ensured that both boys and girls residing in shelters were sensitized including providing information on how to report violations and improved child protection services in Barbuda, by developing age-appropriate psychosocial and resilience-building activities for displaced children returning from Antigua.

# 83

**front line workers, shelter managers and health care personnel trained to prevent Gender-Based Violence in shelters**



# Results

## PILLAR 3 A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN



# RESULTS - PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

## Programming Results

UNDP, with support from the Disaster Programme of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (DIPECHO), finalised the implementation of the “Strengthening Resilience and Coping Capacities in the Caribbean through Integrated Early Warning Systems (EWS)” project during 2017 in partnership with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). During the year, the country enhanced its hazard monitoring network through installation, testing and operationalization of rain gauges in Martin’s Bay.

The data provided by these as well as those installed during 2016 proved to be very useful to disaster management officials during the rainfall events of the year providing near-real time precipitation data, facilitating the understanding of the magnitude and persistence of the episode in support of disaster management decision making.



- **Improved Early Warning Systems**



# RESULTS - PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

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- **Support to climate action through National Adaptation Plans and climate change communication campaigns**

Since its launch in 2016, the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership has been supporting climate action in 8 Caribbean countries via National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action processes, where 300 persons have been trained in developing these policies. Thirty-eight pilot projects have been approved and implementation is underway in the areas of water resources management, sustainable agriculture, climate resilient infrastructure and renewable energy and energy efficiency, with 110,000 persons across 270 communities currently benefiting from these interventions. The Partnership has also implemented climate change communication campaigns across beneficiary countries with a reach of more than 20,000 persons and is supporting South-South and North-South knowledge transfer and sharing. The 2017 Youth Climate Change Conference (YCCC) is one such example of knowledge sharing and transfer. During this conference, more than 600 youth from the Caribbean and Japan put forward their recommendations for climate-smart actions for the region. Two youth representatives from Jamaica and Dominica further contributed to the outcome of the 13th Conference of Youth (COY13) which was held prior to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties in Bonn, Germany.

# RESULTS - PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

UNDP continued supporting the implementation of the “Implementing a ‘Ridge to Reef’ Approach to Protecting Biodiversity and Ecosystem functions within and around Protected Areas in Grenada.” The year 2017 saw enthusiastic participation in the project’s education and awareness activities including the Reef Guardians, Junior Rangers and Summer Camp programs, raising awareness among the participants – mostly children – about the importance of preserving the unique biodiversity and ecosystems of the country. The project also enhanced government capacities to monitor and maintain its marine protected areas through the provision of a research vessel, which has been extensively used for patrolling, monitoring and transplanting corals in the coral nursery. UNDP also supported initiatives to enhance sustainable land management practices in key watersheds, including installation of a drip irrigation system.

Since 2014, The Programme on Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies (ICCAS) has been supporting climate resilience efforts in Grenada to target vulnerable communities through an integrated approach which focuses on policy amendments and creation (National Adaptation Plans) and direct community interventions. In an effort to broaden awareness of the impacts of climate change in 2017 ICCAS erected informative billboards at strategic locations, commissioned multiple television and radio programs targeting youth and the general public, sponsored key events such as the Lion Fish Derby and provided support for events within the Environment Division in Grenada.



- **UNDP's Ridge to Reef approach to Protecting Biodiversity and Ecosystems**



- **Support to community based adaptation initiatives**

The most notable achievement of 2017 was the invitation by the Government of Antigua to have formal discussions on how to replicate the structure of the CCCAF in order to facilitate Antigua’s approach to addressing community based adaptation initiatives.

That same year, the CCCAF was identified by the Government of Grenada as a possible mechanism to allow for efficient resource allocation at the community level from much larger entities such as the Green Climate Fund could be facilitated.

# RESULTS - PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

## Humanitarian Response

CARICOM and the UN partnered to host a high-level pledging conference at UN Headquarters in New York in November 2017 to mobilize a broad partnership to support reconstruction efforts in the affected territories. Support for the region included over US\$1.3 billion in pledges and over US\$1 billion in loans and debt relief.

At the request of the Prime Minister of Dominica, the Honourable, Roosevelt Skerrit, UNDP and OCHA established a Crisis Management Unit, which supported the Government of Dominica to drive relief efforts and implement recovery initiatives that 'build back better' and promote resilience. This unit coordinated the efforts of the international community from October to the end of December 2017. As of 14 January 2018, seven UN agencies, funds and programmes (FAO, IOM, PAHO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP) had provided humanitarian and early recovery assistance in Dominica.



More than

**US \$1.3 billion**  
in pledges and more than  
**US \$1 billion**  
in loans and debt relief



**OCHA and UNDP established a  
Crisis Management Unit**



**Let us make the Caribbean the first climate-resilient region in the world and the United Nations is fully committed to this goal**



- António Guterres,  
United Nations Secretary General

# RESULTS - PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

The UNST developed two Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) requests, the first for \$2 million first covering the countries affected by Hurricane Irma (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, St. Maarten and Turks and Caicos) and the second also for \$3 million covering Dominica. Both CERF requests were developed to support Flash Appeals. The Dominican Flash Appeal requested \$31 million and was 63% funded, while the Irma Flash Appeal requested \$27 million but was only 17% funded.

UNDP worked closely with the Ministry of Housing in Dominica to produce a comprehensive Building Damage Assessment. The assessment provided critical data on major damage to homes and infrastructures, school attendance, access to electricity and loss of livelihoods primarily in the fields of agriculture and tourism. In Antigua and Barbuda, UNDP in collaboration with private and public-sector partners completed the Building Damage Assessments and procured US\$2 million worth of roofing material to support reconstruction.

Additionally, UNDP has partnered with Engineers without Borders (EwB) to support the recovery initiatives in Dominica with a focus on updating building standards based on the current building codes. Jointly with EwB, UNDP assisted the Ministry of Planning in the revision of the Housing Standards to increase earthquake or hurricane resistance. This material has now been used for training and certification of builders and contractors throughout the island with training of over 350 construction professionals in the revised building Guidelines by UNDP and Engineers without Borders under the leadership of the Ministry of Housing having resulted in a certified cadre of builders across the island.

UNST's CERF requests amounted to **2 and 3 million** dollars



UNDP procured **US \$2 million** worth of roofing material



Trained more than **350** construction professionals



*Receiving supplies of roofing material in Dominica.  
UNDP Photo*

# RESULTS - PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN



**ITU provided emergency telecommunications equipment**



**FAO provided 10,000 vegetable seedlings and 150,000 citrus seedlings**



**Supporting farmers to resume agricultural production**

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) provided emergency telecommunications equipment and assistance used for coordination of recovery and reconstruction activities. ITU provided 13 Iridium SAT Phones and accessories and 5 Broadband Global Area Networks (BGANs) and accessories and one technical staff to assist in the deployment of the equipment.

The food production in Dominica required immediate restoration because of Hurricane Maria devastation. FAO provided vegetable seeds, 10 000 vegetable seedlings, 150 000 citrus seedlings, fertilizers, small irrigation equipment and water tanks and hand tools to help residents grow crops in the interim. Refrigerator and ice making machines were also supplied to support the fishing industry and fencing and animal feed for rehabilitation of livestock production water tanks.

These efforts are in conjunction with IICA and CARDI. Tuber crops such as yam, dasheen and sweet potatoes were resilient following the hurricane and are being harvested by some farmers in Dominica. Road and farm land clearance of heavy tree trunks and branches is on-going to enable many farmers in the country to resume their agricultural production. Following these initial post-hurricane recovery efforts, the FAO SLC is continuing to assist Dominica's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to mobilize resources and provide technical assistance to support efforts to rehabilitate its food production and achieve adequate levels of food and nutritional security through the creation of a longer term agricultural risk reduction and resilience recovery plan.

## RESULTS - PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

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“ One year on, the call for **urgent action** is even **greater** if we are to curtail the impact of **climate change** on us and future generations ”

- Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister, Commonwealth of Dominica

# RESULTS - PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

From 9 September 2017, the UNST worked to reestablish basic services such as health care, telecommunications and electricity, water, sewage and waste systems, and education across the territories. With compromised access to shelter, telecommunications and basic services have increased vulnerability to crime and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA and IOM worked to protect the most vulnerable segments of the population.

The second significant achievement was the joint resource collaboration for three UN Country Teams (Barbados and the OECS, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago) to enable the UN's life-saving support to the affected territories across the region following Hurricane Irma. To facilitate this critical support, the UNST in Barbados took the lead in resource mobilization through the CERF. Working with the UNCT for Trinidad and Tobago (which has responsibility for Sint Maarten) and UNCT for Jamaica (which has responsibility for the Turks and Caicos) the UN teams secured funds for the relief effort. The MSDF Regional Steering Committee proved a useful forum for the UNCTs to convene and remain up-to-date on the hurricane recovery efforts taking place in different territories. This was paralleled by the joint relief effort to Dominica in the wake of Hurricane Maria.



**OCHA, WFP and UNDP provided support to regional emergency response mechanisms, in particular CDEMA, to overcome the most urgent transport and communication challenges for assessments and delivery of humanitarian assistance.**

**PAHO/ WHO, UNFPA and UN Women addressed critical health care needs including comprehensive survivor centred care for gender-based violence survivors**

**UNDP and UN Women partnered to restore livelihoods through debris management projects and related programmes**

*UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres assesses damage of Hurricanes Irma in Barbuda with the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas*



# RESULTS OF COMMON BUSINESS OPERATIONS

## Delivering as One to Advance Development Priorities

Over the course of 2017 the Operations Management Team (OMT) worked with a local consultant to gather data and received the support of a member of the Panama-based regional OMT to formulate the 2018-2022 Business Operations Strategy (BOS). The BOS was completed and approved by the Heads of Agencies on 27 March 2018.

In line with the vision articulated by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the BOS will enable the UN to deliver better results for the governments and people that we serve. With projected financial gains of US\$742,338.44, the BOS will save US\$13 for each US\$1 invested. This strategy, and the savings it generates, will better position the UN to support the ten SIDS of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean in fulfilling the 2030 Sustainable Agenda.

By working collectively to ensure efficiency in banking, travel, hotel, conference services, catering, ICT hardware, tax reclaims, mobile phone service and office supplies, the UN can continue delivering critical services in its areas of strategic advantage, while reducing operational costs. The strategy reduces the costs of convening partners, building capacity and procuring critical infrastructure and services and equips the UN to effectively utilize the funds invested by member states and donors. Under the guidance of the BOS, the UN will continue to deliver high-quality services, while redirecting operational savings into programmes critical to sustainable development within the subregion.



**We are reforming our development system to become much more field-focused, well-coordinated and accountable to better assist countries through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – our contribution to a fair globalization.**



- António Guterres, United Nations Secretary General

### **BOS Key Priorities**

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Logistics
- Procurement
- ICT
- Common Catering Arrangements

# RESULTS OF COMMON BUSINESS OPERATIONS

## Delivering as One in Disaster Response

The most significant joint work done by the UNST was in the context of the response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria. All the members of the UNST, plus some non-resident agencies (notably WFP and IOM) were involved in the immediate response and in recovery programming. UN agencies worked closely together to align their programming, from the initial Flash Appeals through to the recovery efforts highlighted at the CARICOM-UN Conference in New York in November 2017.

The UN agencies worked closely together, both through the UNST and the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group in Barbados, and through coordination mechanisms on the ground in Antigua and Dominica. In Dominica, WFP and UNICEF are combining on a cash transfer programme that is supporting 25,000 people over a three-month period. Also in Dominica, IOM and UNDP are providing shelter support through the Government. In Antigua and Barbuda, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNWOMEN have jointly provided protection support to vulnerable women and children who have been evacuated from Barbuda following Hurricane Irma, and who have been living in shelters and with host families in Antigua. Over 700 women and their families in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and the region received emergency personal care from UN Women in collaboration with UNFPA.

The UN's resource mobilization through the CERF and Flash Appeal provided critical funding support to the emergency relief effort. The regional MSDF structure served as a useful forum for discussing and advancing the humanitarian and programmatic priorities



*Arrival of Secretary General's delegation in Antigua. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas*

## Human Rights Day Outreach

The UNST commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a human rights public education activity in December 2017, in Heroes Square, Bridgetown, Barbados. Under the theme, “When Disaster Strikes, what are your Rights?”, this public education initiative involved the installation of an interactive human rights board, an information booth, and an MC who conducted live interviews with key persons and the public. The event focused on raising awareness of the link between natural disasters, human rights and sustainable development in Barbados and other small island developing states. It placed a spotlight on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and its connection to the region’s key development threats (notably the effect of climate change and disasters on the lives of citizens in small island developing states) and development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.



## Initiating SDG Mobile Gallery

To initiate the curation of the SDG Mobile Gallery, the UNRCO recruited a Communications Analyst to facilitate this process. The interactive, mobile gallery will showcase the 17 Sustainable Development Goals within the Caribbean MSDF will meet two strategic objectives of the 2017 – 2018 SDGs/MSDF Communications and Advocacy Strategy: (1) Raise awareness and advocacy towards the localization and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and (2) Promote national, regional and international awareness and engagement of the UN Caribbean MSDF priority areas.



# RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE

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## Model UN

For the fifth year, the UNRCO successfully partnered with the three Rotary Clubs of Barbados to host the Model United Nations Assembly (MUN). Each year, on average thirty (30) students in Barbados undergo an intense six-week period of training and exposure to the world of International Relations including international negotiations, consensus building and the United Nations system.

## Leading and supporting the ECDPG-DM Group

The CDEMA Executive Director and the UN RC co-chaired the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG) Disaster Management group, which was the main response coordination forum in the eastern Caribbean. OCHA and WFP staff were embedded in CDEMA's Coordination Unit in Barbados to provide coordination, logistics, and information management support, and to better link regional and UN efforts. Also, United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team members deployed into the field with CDEMA-led teams.



***The United Nations is working closely with the CDEMA-led Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) and the affected countries to bring assistance to those most in need.***



- Stephen O'Malley, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS

# CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

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Upon reviewing its implementation of the development portfolio and humanitarian support, the UNST agree to seven key shifts in 2018

a) **Leverage pre-existing data:** During hurricane relief and recovery period, it became clear that there was a lack of timely data for decision-making. There is a need to leverage pre-existing data or strategically undertake preparatory analyses of sector resources, capacity, etc. Such action, in addition to geo-mapping, would support rapid response after an emergency.

b) **Train local expertise to support analysis and rapid response:** It is essential to build capacity within region by training local support, who could support analysis and provide rapid response. This training must be continuous and intersectional.

c) **Review operational structures:** The UNST must revisit the regional response architecture and strengthen national coordination mechanisms.

d) **Need for dialogue with external actors:** The emerging issues of migrant populations and political structures of the Overseas Territories in the Caribbean mean that there is a need for dialogue with external actors before emergencies occur. Dialogue between the UN, authorities and other actors will foster a clear understanding of roles and contributions, allowing for smoother delivery of relief. Further, the UN will clarify its working relationships with other key partners and where necessary, strengthen the capacity of regional actors to deliver.

e) **Share information:** Build stronger national knowledge of improved assessment modalities, information management, cash programming

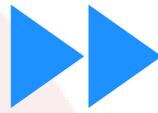
f) **Better coordination:** The UN agreed to strengthen its internal coordination, clarifying the management of teams on the ground and the flow of information.

g) **Improved contingency planning:** Through the development of contingency plans and relevant training, the UN will enhance the capacity of staff to respond quickly and effectively.



## Seven Key Shifts in 2018

- Leverage pre-existing data
- Train local expertise to support analysis and rapid response
- Review operational structures
- Need for dialogue with external actors
- Share information
- Better coordination
- Improved contingency planning



UNST provided support to national Government in advancing the achievement of the SDGs, and activities related on the 2030 agenda. The UNST remained in close dialogue with the countries of the sub-region on the integration of the SDGs into longer-term development planning. The UN supported the participation of ministers and civil servants for the Eastern Caribbean in the Government of Jamaica-UN-University of the West Indies meeting on the SDGs which was held in June 2017. The UNST is supporting the Government of Saint Lucia to align their national development plans to the 2030 Agenda. In early 2018, the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) was undertaken in Saint Lucia; the consequent Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission is anticipated for 3rd quarter in 2018. In 2018, the UNST will intensify its efforts to work with the countries of the Eastern Caribbean to embed the SDGs within national development planning frameworks.



## *For the way forward*

Over 2018-2019 the UN will support the subregion to bolster its data capacity for evidence-based decision making, increase resilience to climate change and natural disasters and counter health challenges such as non-communicable diseases. To accomplish this, the agencies will focus on four overarching priorities:

- supporting governments and civil societies to collecting data and reporting on crime, violence and SDGs;
- strengthening national and subregional capacities strengthened to provide comprehensive, inclusive, child centered and gender responsive legislative and policy frameworks for DRR;
- increasing national capacity to strengthen enabling environments for integrated sexual and reproductive health services targeting underserved populations including in emergencies and
- promote healthy eating habits for children and youth by improving the governance framework for food and nutrition security.

**UNITED NATIONS IN BARBADOS AND THE OECS**  
**Sub-regional Implementation Plan Report**



**2017**