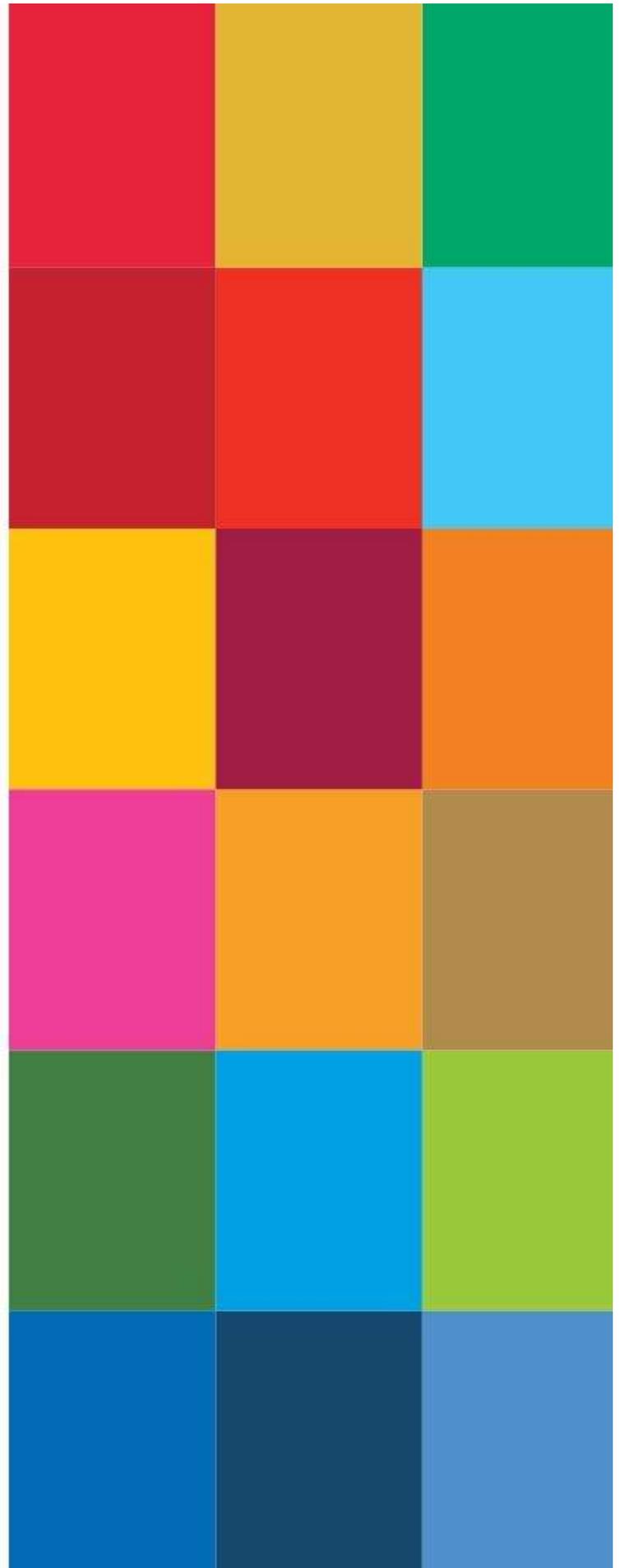




UNITED NATIONS
CARIBBEAN

UN MSDF Regional Results Report

A Collective Report by the UN
System in the Caribbean



"The Caribbean is not an idyll, not to its natives. They draw their working strength from it organically, like trees, like the sea almond or the spice laurel of the heights."

Sir Derek Alton Walcott

St. Lucian 1992 Nobel Laureate in Literature

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIMS	Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea
BOS	Business Operations Strategies
CABA	Continental Automated Buildings Association
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural and Research Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CAT	Committee Against Torture
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCS	Children Court System
CDC	Civil Defence Commission
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CED	Committee on Enforced Disappearances
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
CIPs/SIP	The Country/Sub-regional Implementation Plans
CLIC	Caribbean Law Institute Centre
CMCA	Common Multi-country Assessment
CMW	Committee on Migrant Workers
COE	Centers of Excellence
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSA	Cost-Sharing Agreement
CSO	Caribbean Students' Organization
CWM	Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and their families
DBS	Dried Blood Spot

DSG	Deputy Secretary-General
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EMTCT	Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (of HIV/AIDS)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO SLC	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Subregional Office for the Caribbean
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBViE	Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFSL	Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory
GHG	Green House Gas
GNI	Gross National Income
GPF	Guyana Police Force
GROTT	Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
GSDS	Green State Development Strategy
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HCC	Healthy Caribbean Coalition
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
HEBs	High Energy Biscuits
HFLE	Health and Family Life Education
HIV/STI	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
HIV/TB	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses and Tuberculosis
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

ILO	International Labour Organization
IMaRS/USF	Institute for Marine Remote Sensing, University of South Florida
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ISF	Integrated Strategic Framework
ITF	Integrated Strategic Framework
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JNSC	Joint National Steering Committee
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex
LTA	Long-Term Agreement
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MIA	Mercury Ion Analyzer
MIS	Management Information System
MOEYI	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
MSM	Methylsulfonylmethane
MSSFGA	Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs
MZ De	Medische Zending
NB National	Biosafety Frameworks
NCCO	National Climate Change Office
NCDs	Non-Communicable diseases
NDP	National Development Plan
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism
OCA	Office of the Children's Advocate
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OER	Open Education Resources
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture

PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PANCAP	Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS
PAP	Public Assistance Programme
PD	Positive Discipline
PoC	Persons of Concern
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPA	Planning and Building Act
PPP	Public-Private Partnerships
PSA	Population Situation Analysis
PSSCs	Parish Safety and Security Committees
RAPMaLi	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
RDRMS	Regional Disaster Risk Management System
REC	Regional Economic Commission
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
SALMI	Logistics Management Information System
SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SC4D	Sports and Culture for Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Islands in Developing States
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SW PBIS	School Wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support
TCI	Turks & Caicos Islands
TIP	Trafficking In Persons
TRA	Transition Readiness Assessment
TTPS	Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
TVET	Technical, Vocational Education and Training
UN MSDF	UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework
UN Women	

UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDCO	United Nations Development Coordination Office
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDOCO	United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNLIREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
UNSDG	UN Sustainable Development Group
UNST	United Nations Sub-Regional Team
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UWI	University of the West Indies
VAC	Violence Against Children
VNA	Vulnerability and Needs Assessment
VNR	Voluntary National Report
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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The UN MSDF

7,600,000

Estimated Population served

US \$86 million

Estimated value of interventions undertaken in 2017 and 2018

1,055

Total interventions over the same period

18

English and Dutch Speaking Countries and Territories

19

UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes

8

Outcomes with 32 indicators

4

Programme Pillars

Our Countries and Territories



Anguilla



Antigua and Barbuda



Aruba



Barbados



Belize



British Virgin Island



Commonwealth of Dominica



Curacao



Grenada



Guyana



Jamaica



Montserrat



St. Kitts & Nevis



St. Lucia



St. Maarten



St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Suriname



Trinidad and Tobago

Our Agencies, Departments, Funds and Programmes



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Caribbean region covered by this report includes the countries and territories that have signed the UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) and they are: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The participating UN agencies are FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, ITU, OCHA, OHCHR, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNLIREC UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, WFP, and UN Women.

This report presents the main results of the UN System contribution in the Caribbean during the first two years 2017-2018, reflecting the planned strategies and priorities identified in the UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) 2017-2021 closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Strategic Plan, as well as with national development plans and priorities of Member States. The UN MSDF also seeks to bring all the cross-cutting issues of the Caribbean in one space where synergies and efficiencies can be enhanced. It has been operationalized and localized at the country level through Country and a Sub-regional Implementation Plans built around the four priority areas: (i) An Inclusive, Equitable, and Prosperous Caribbean; (ii) A Healthy Caribbean; (iii) A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean; and (iv) A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean.

Under Pillar 1, An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean, the focus of implementation in 2017 and 2018 was on the promotion of quality education, employability and sustainable economic development as well as strengthening access to social protection systems. The UN System was able to provide support to the formulation and improvement of over 20 key legal instruments, policies and plans in the region, enhancing each country's ability to implement the 2030 agenda. These efforts also resulted in an increase in the level of investment in the educational sector, with amounts ranging from 2.5 to 8% of GDP between 2017 and 2018. The cooperation between the UN System and national governments also translated into an increase in the level of school completion rates for the countries and territories in the Caribbean by building more child-friendly education systems, reversing teenage pregnancies, reintegrating adolescent mothers in schools, providing guidance on health and family life and promoting healthy school feeding. Responding to the needs of the most vulnerable persons affected by Hurricane Maria, two agencies partnered to implement an innovative government-led cash-based transfer programme. Following a vulnerability analysis, the programme expanded upon the largest national social protection programme in Dominica to meet the basic needs of the most affected families on the island.

In total, the UN system undertook 18 interventions (around policy, capacity building and advocacy) in the Caribbean that presented opportunities for improved access to sustainable economic opportunities. To ensure the appropriate consistency in providing sustainable economic opportunities for youth, the UN also

undertook a mapping of youth employment interventions in nine Caribbean countries, and supported the development of population situation analyses in Dominica, Jamaica and Suriname that would facilitate the preparation of a national population policy, including the 2020 round of censuses. Moreover, a network of 10 countries under the joint commitment to eliminate child labour by 2020 was also created in the region, composed by representatives of Ministries responsible for labour as well as delegates from the global employers' and workers' organisations. More countries in the region had their capacity strengthened for the implementation of nine major international human rights conventions, especially the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. In addition, the UN has also contributed to enhancing the capacity of media groups, journalists and audience across the Caribbean, as well as engaged with users and producers of information, media audience, mostly youth, on Media and Information Literacy to effectively transform present and future information and learning environments.

In a similar way, the UN System has also dedicated efforts to ensure 'A Healthy Caribbean' (Pillar 2) cooperating with countries in the region and strengthening more than 35 key legal instruments, policies and plans to promote universal access to quality health care services and systems, as well as to integrate all segments of the population into healthy lifestyles. Since 2017, ten Caribbean countries developed their National Human Resources Plans to strengthen the health workforce. Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis have achieved the goals and targets related to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. As a result, six out of the eleven countries that reached these goals globally are from the UN MSDF countries. In comparison to numbers from 1990, the regional commitment to combat maternity mortality has resulted in a reduction of 56.6% in the mortality rate in the region. These efforts are aligned with the initiatives to strengthen neonatal health, improve vaccination coverages, create baby-friendly hospitals, stimulate early childhood development initiatives, and promote family planning. The countries in the region received support in advancing the delivery of comprehensive sexuality education and reducing adolescent pregnancy. There has been a collective effort in reducing the number of new HIV infections in the region, especially among key vulnerable populations, and having more people test and under treatment, as a reflection of the 90-90-90 targets and "Treat All" policy. In addition, more than 40,000 people in the region, including 17,000 children, were given access to drinking water and purification tablets, saving lives and preventing outbreaks and transmission of waterborne diseases. Working to prevent and reduce the impact of non-communicable diseases in the region, the UN System has partnered with different Governments aiming to reduce the use of tobacco, promote actions to manage of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, as well as to reduce diabetes in pregnancy and diabetic retinopathy.

Under the pillar of 'A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean', the UN System has collaborated with Governments, civil society organizations and private sector institutions to advocate for the adherence of national government to international, regional and national commitments to ensure that all persons can live free from harm within the public and private spheres. More than 35 key legislations, policies and plans were designed or strengthened in the region to ensure more equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety as well as to strengthen the level of capacities of public policy and rule of law institutions and civil society organizations. All countries have signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all

forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Ending violence in the region has been an important area of cooperation between the UN System and Governments, resulting in capacity strengthening related initiatives in crime prevention, dynamic tools for crime data collection, and evidence-base planning and reporting, as well as reducing risk factors that drive youth crime, violence, and victimization. More than 25 workshops have been organized across the region on human rights themes including gender, human rights mechanisms, human rights mainstreaming, disability, lesbian gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights and the rights of people on the move, with more than 450 participants from state institutions and civil society organisations. Some countries have started working with national authorities on the creation of National Human Rights Institutions. Through the Being LGBTI in the Caribbean project, 21 government and CSO participants received training in stigma reduction to support the development of LGBTI sensitive public policy in the region.

As one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to climate change – as shown by the devastating effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, the UN System in the Caribbean has intensively worked on Pillar 4, A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean. This priority area encompasses the collaborative work to promote policies and programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and universal access to clean and sustainable energy, as well as the adoption of inclusive and sustainable solutions for the conservation, the restoration and the use of ecosystems and natural resources. The UN System collaborated in the organization of a retreat with regional parliamentarians from 15 countries, focusing on policies strategies and guidelines necessary for building national and regional level resilience. National strategies have been created in the region to foster sustained economic growth that is low-carbon and climate resilient and to promote social cohesion, good governance and careful management of finite natural resources. Trainings on gender-based violence, reproductive health and sustainable development have also been provided to local authorities, ensuring the safety of women in affected areas. More trainings were organized in disaster risk management in agriculture, climate information and its applicability in early warning, risk informed programming and impact of climate change on vulnerability. Ecosystems and biodiversity management are also part of the scope of the UN work under this pillar, with training initiatives on biodiversity mainstreaming in coastal landscapes and formulation of safeguards and legal instruments for natural resources management. Additionally, there was national and regional level support, particularly to the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), through technical assistance and knowledge transfers in end-to-end supply chain management, food security coordination and emergency telecommunications. To complement this, emergency logistics equipment and supplies have begun to be prepositioned in key locations throughout the region.

In conclusion, the MSDF will continue to guide the work of the UN system in the region at least until 2021. The UN System will continue its right-based approach to development in the region to ensure we ‘Leave no one behind’. We will continue to work towards a more diversified funding portfolio that looks beyond traditional donors (foundations, bilateral and multilateral) to individuals, corporate and private partnership and fund to ensure a more integrated approach to national and regional development challenges. As we continue to work on strengthening national and regional capacities for data and monitoring and evaluation

and adapt our systems and approaches to track not only progress but also growth and value addition, we will all be able to fully articulate the complete results (positive or negative) for our collective interventions.

2. THE CARIBBEAN: MAJOR DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) constitutes 15 full member states and 5 associate members with a total population of about 18.3 million. The UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) covers 18 countries and territories: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Based on their land area, population, topography, location and history, each country has its uniqueness, ambience and challenges. The sections below show common trends including challenges and opportunities to both the region and, in some cases, specific country or territory.

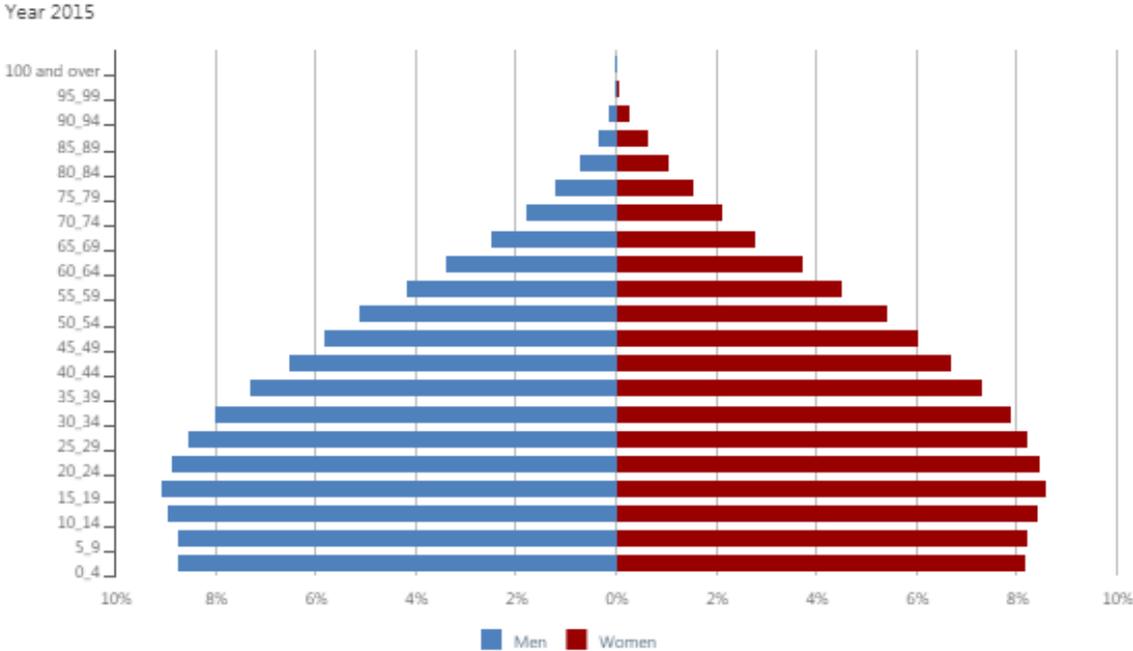
2.1. DEMOGRAPHIC TREND

The UN MSDF Caribbean countries, apart from Belize, Guyana and Suriname, are mostly Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with populations ranging from 2.7 million in Jamaica to about 5,200 in Montserrat. With a world population share of 0.6% (0.1 for MSDF Caribbean) and a density of 197 people per Km² (509 people per mi²)¹, the Caribbean is one of the least densely populated regions of the world. It has a predominantly youthful population with the median age of 30.6 years, most of whom are females.

The Caribbean, like other developing regions, records more live births than deaths as measured by total fertility and mortality rates, but fertility rates are now declining. In addition, net migration in the region is negative and elderly population is increasing. Average fertility rate in the region is estimated at 16.4 per thousand, compared to a 6 per thousand mortality rate. Net migration is negative (-0.5) as there are more emigrants than immigrants. Life expectancy increased from 74 years in 2015 to 76 years in 2017, with women (79 years) living on average 7 years longer than men (72 years). The net effects of all these is a relatively stable overall population figure. See Figure 1 below for the population distribution by age group and by sex (2015).

¹ Worldometers [Accessed](#) on January 22, 2019.

Figure 1 - This youthful population pyramid for Latin America and the Caribbean will be replaced by an elderly outlook (leaner pyramid) by 2050.



Source: ECLAC CEPALSTAT Databases and Statistical Publication.

The combination of a positive births-to-death ratio is knocked off by the net negative migration in the region to leave total population relatively constant over time. This might seem harmless in the first instance but the existing pattern, if maintained, might change the population dynamics of the region and exert more pressure on current welfare structures especially pension remunerations and care for the elderly. Currently, The Wider Caribbean² is one of the regions with the fastest growing older population in the developing world. In fact, it estimated that ‘by 2050, fully a quarter of Caribbean people will be 60 and over’³ and by 2030, for the first time, there will be more older people (60 and above) in the Caribbean than infants (under 5)⁴. With the declining trend in fertility rate, increased life expectancy due to improved health standards, high rates of emigration by young adults and the significant rate of returning residents of retirement age⁵, the subject of ageing should continue to be a significant part of current public policy discourse and planning.

² The Wider Caribbean refers to the Caribbean islands and continental territories bordering the Caribbean Sea (inclusive of Central and South America). It is used deliberately in the Cartagena Convention Secretariat to include all participating members of that Convention. The “Convention area” means the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the areas of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent thereto, south of 300 north latitude and within 200 nautical miles of the Atlantic coasts of the States referred to in article 25 of the Convention. See <http://www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention>.

³ Sheeran, Ali (2015), ‘Ageing in the Caribbean’, Trinidad and Tobago Guardian; Published Thursday, February 19, 2015; [Accessed](#) on Monday, January 21, 2019.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

The Caribbean is one of the most urbanized regions in the world with 72% of its population residing in urban areas.⁶ Rural-urban migration follows a steady pattern with on average a 1.3 time increase in urban population every year. With capital cities alone (Kingston, Port-of-Spain, Georgetown, Paramaribo, Bridgetown, Belmopan, etc) accounting for almost half of the residing population in those countries, there is increasing demand for housing, public utilities, jobs and recreation. There is even greater demand for safety, security and protection from pollution and other environmental hazards, crime and violence. These trends in demography point to rising public social expenditure and increased pressure on central and local governments.

2.2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC TREND

The Caribbean is one of the world's top tourism destinations with its magnetic scenery and vibrant cultures drawing visitors from all over the world. In the last three years, these countries have enjoyed reasonable Gross Domestic Product (GDP)⁷ growth rate. GDP growth rates in 2017 averaged 1.7% in service-oriented economies as compared to 0.1% in 2015⁸. With their Gross National Income (GNI) per capita ranging between US\$ 3,500 to US\$14,500, all the countries and territories of the MSDF are classified between upper-middle income and high-income countries. The economies of most of these countries is driven by tourism, and in some cases, natural resources.

To date, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Suriname, Guyana, Barbados and Belize, in this particular order, are the largest economies of the eighteen under review. Economic outlook in each country appears positive but each has to deal with its unique prospect and challenge. For instance, Belize, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago continue to face fluctuations in world prices for oil and other commodities that sometimes adversely affect national income. Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are service driven economies that tend to specialize in a few products and services. They rely extensively on tourism and agriculture, and are heavily dependent on imports for food, fuel and goods. Guyana, like Suriname, is driven by the extractive sector and agriculture. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining have been accounting for about one third of its GDP, with gold mining accounted for 48% of exports. The prospect of oil production in Guyana by 2020 would only expand its growth prospect and raise its income levels, among other things. According to the World Bank, the Caribbean also has "an educated, multilingual labour force, sophisticated financial systems, and is close to large markets including the United States and Mexico. The region has strong potential to further develop its services, logistics, agriculture, creative and digital sectors."⁹

All countries in this framework are either upper-middle or high-income countries. This classification has unfairly penalized these countries for their smaller population and expanding economies, leaving them with distinct challenges amongst developing countries. Poverty as traditionally measured, and multidimensional

⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014); 'World Urbanization Prospect The 2014 Revision', United Nations; p. 1.

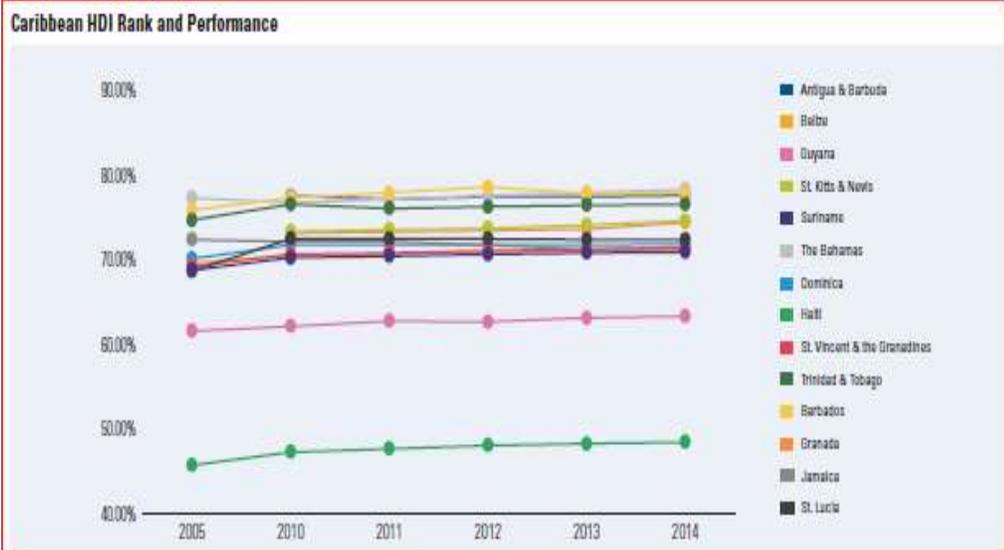
⁷ GDP is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a period (one year in this case). It estimates the size and economic performance of country.

⁸ Source: World Bank Data

⁹ Source: The World Bank, 'Where we Work - The World Bank in the Caribbean'. [Accessed](#) on January 15, 2019.

poverty, which takes account of the near-poor and vulnerable, persist under eroding development assistance and expanding fiscal demands for public utilities. Notwithstanding, the region continued to make progress in important areas of its development priorities. Its human development trend has been increasing year-by-year since 2012 (See Figure 2) reflecting gains in income, education and health in the region. The Caribbean is an excellent example in any argument against economic growth and income accretion as sufficient measure for lifting and keeping people out of poverty. As a consequence of both its classification and emerging challenges, the region has adopted measures to target and address key sources of vulnerability and deprivation and to strengthen adaptive capabilities, such as in the areas of education, health, training, employment opportunities, and social protection.¹⁰

Figure 2 - Caribbean HDI Rank and Performance has been increasing since 2012.



Source: UNDP, Caribbean Human Development Report; Multidimensional progress: human resilience and beyond (2016).

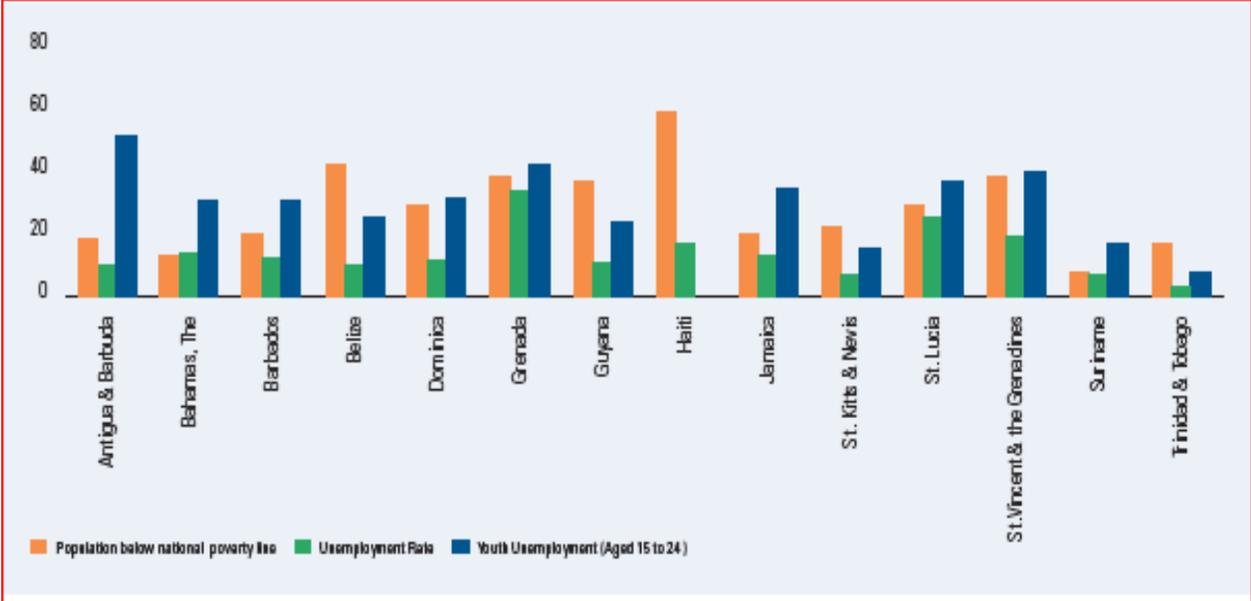
Despite its upper-middle to high income status and moderate to high human development classification, the region also has one of the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy, youth unemployment, rising crime and gender-based violence. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and climate change also present major challenges. They are also faced with medium to low levels of poverty, both multidimensional and extreme poverty, which affects mostly women and children. The growing feminization of poverty in the youth and adult population in the Caribbean is striking, as is the persistence of high poverty rates in rural areas. In addition, males and females aged 15-24 accounted for one-third of new HIV infections in the Caribbean in 2016.

The recorded stable economic growth rate in the region since 2015 may have translated into more jobs and sustainable sources of income for its residents. Unemployment rates in the region fell slightly to 7.8% in

¹⁰ Source: UNDP, Caribbean Human Development Report; Multidimensional progress: human resilience and beyond (2016).

2018, from 8.1% in 2017, reversing a three-year trend of rising unemployment.¹¹ The unemployment rate has been more severe among youth in the region with it ranging between 5% and 40% from the best to worst case in the region. See Figure 3 below for details.

Figure 3 - Unemployment has been severe among youth, except for Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and St. Kitts and Nevis.



Source: CARICOM Regional Statistical Database; 2015 Economic Review and 2016 Forecast, Caribbean Development Bank and World Databank: <http://data.worldbank.org>

The Caribbean region continued its efforts in reversing gender inequality and improving human rights. The difference in gender equality gap size between the highest-ranked and lowest-ranked countries in the region is about 3.2% on educational attainment and less than 1% on health and survival. Regional differences in

¹¹ ILO; Labour Overview 2018: Unemployment in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Accessed](#) on Monday, January 21, 2019.

gender parity are significantly higher on economic participation and opportunity and, in particular, political empowerment, with, respectively, 30% and 54% differences between the region's best- and worst-performing countries.¹² The clearest indication of sterner challenge is the fact that despite higher educational achievements of women and girls in the region, that does not translate into higher participation in the labour force or higher earnings¹³. Women and girls are said to be disadvantaged in the labour market as well as the legislature.

Data for the Caribbean on access to justice, crime especially those by youth, suggest a regional social fabric under stress and one in need of remedial intervention. The Caribbean conundrum is however that relative progress on the more prominent human development indicators such as income, health, education has contributed to global inattention to the region's social fragility, and until more recently, to the extent of its environmental vulnerability as well.

2.3. HUMAN RIGHTS TRENDS

The region has one of the highest homicide rates in the world. The main causes of violence and insecurity are rooted in social and financial inequalities. Judicial systems are frail. For instance, significant case backlogs hinder judicial due process and legal aid services for people in need of assistance are underdeveloped, understaffed and under resourced. Although Trinidad and Tobago has established an Equal Opportunities Commission to work towards elimination of discrimination and promote equality, no other country in the region as yet established a national human rights institution (NHRI). Nevertheless, Jamaica, Grenada, Bahamas and Barbados have announced their intention to do so. In 2018, Belize was reviewed by the Universal Periodic Review (3rd cycle) and accepted recommendations regarding the establishment of an NHRI and requested technical assistance from the UN and OHCHR. Other area that requires further enhancement is the engagement of governments with civil society organizations.

Discrimination and social exclusion prevent vulnerable groups from having access to quality education and employment opportunities. LGBTI persons, religious minorities, people living with HIV and persons living with disabilities are particularly living in situation of vulnerability. The LGBTI population, for example, is a frequent target of hate crimes and consensual sexual conduct between same sex adults is criminalised in many States. In Belize, a landmark legal challenge resulted with a Supreme Court ruling of 2016 (Caleb Orozco v. The Attorney General of Belize et al.) that section 53 of the Criminal Code could not be used to criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults committed in the privacy of their homes. Additionally, migrants and refugees are also among the most marginalised and often coerced into various forms of exploitation including human trafficking where Caribbean States are either a source, transit or final destination. It is also relevant to mention that, in some countries, indigenous populations are also subject to discrimination.

Gender-based violence is prevalent. United Nations statistics illustrate that the rate of reported rape cases is above the world average in every Caribbean State. However, rape and other types of sexual violence are

¹² Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report, 2018. [Accessed](#) on January 22, 2019.

¹³ Source: Caribbean Development Bank, Gender Inequality Remains Persistent in the Caribbean (2016)

the most under-reported crimes due to various factors including backlog of court cases, biased law enforcers, lack of investigation technology, poor access to medical care and referral services, and reluctance of victims for fear or stigma. Gender equality remains a challenge in the region. Women are a significant component of the labour force but earn significantly less than their male counterparts. They frequently occupy positions that are precarious, lower paying and/or less secure. Persistent gender stereotyping, gender-based violence, a lack of disaggregated data by gender and resources all contribute to perpetuating gender inequality.

2.4. ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS

For starters, the Wider Caribbean Regions' greatest threat is its vulnerability to climate change and exposure to natural disasters, causing damage that, for some small nations, can be larger than their annual gross domestic product (GDP). For instance, in 2017 Hurricane Maria and Irma wreaked serious havoc in the Caribbean. Recognizing the challenges posed by such natural hazards, building resilience is a key priority for the region.

The Wider Caribbean Region remains highly vulnerable to climate change and its impact on sea level rise, temperature change, coral bleaching, and water security issues, and ocean acidification. Pollution of hydrocarbons, agrochemical, sewage, heavy metals, solid waste, plastics, litter, persistent organic pollutants (POPs); habitat degradation caused by sargassum influx, coastal development, sedimentation, invasive species, ballast water; and weak governance in terms of legislation, policies and institutions also pose threats to environmental sustainability in the region. For details on factors affecting the Wider Caribbean environment see Figure 4 below.

Figure 4 - Environment and Vulnerabilities.



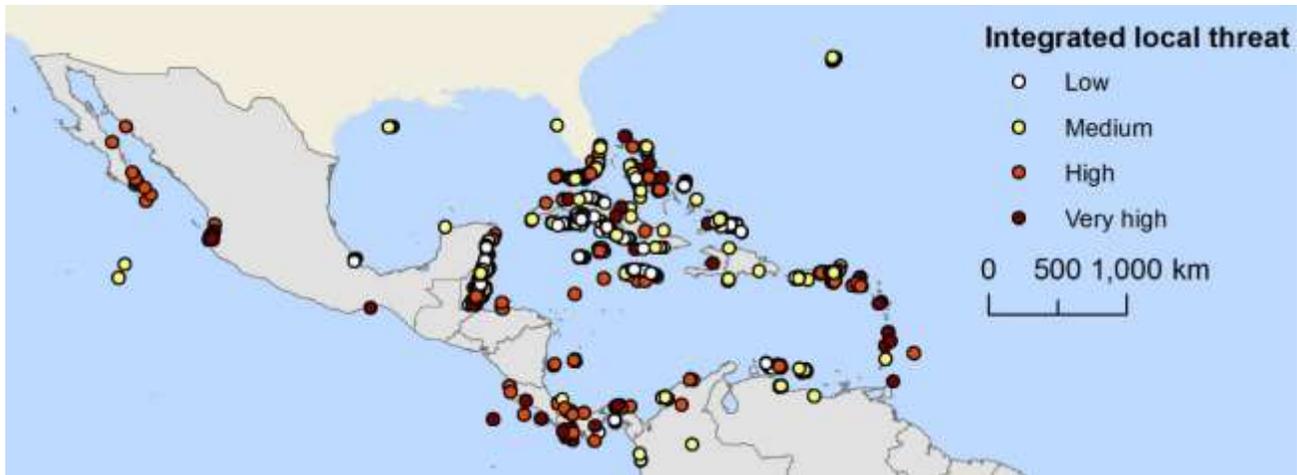
Source: UNEP Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean/Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP)

With its geographical location and natural conditions, relatively small size; concentrations of populations and infrastructure in coastal areas, limited economic base and dependency on natural resources, combined with limited financial, technical and institutional capacity for adaptation, the Wider Caribbean Region is particularly vulnerable towards climate change and natural hazards. Current data are showing that the region's systems are already under pressure from changes in global climate, and these trends are expected to worsen. For instance, hurricanes and tropical storms have increased in intensity over the last 30 years. Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 caused tremendous loss among Caribbean islands. In the Caribbean Basin, climate change contributes an additional US\$1.4 billion to Average Annual Loss based on wind damage alone. Climate change exacerbates many other driving forces and therefore amplifies environmental and related socio-economic impacts.

Urban areas continue to grow in the Caribbean. Whereas 62% of the population resided in cities at the start of the millennium, this has increased to 70% in 2015 and is projected to reach 75% by 2025. In most cases, the concentrations of people as well as the patterns of production associated with urbanization exacerbate environmental degradation. Pollution, be it associated with air, water, or land; or caused by nuisances such as noise and light, has been linked to a variety of environmental and socio-economic impacts including impacts on human health and reductions in ecosystem health and functioning. The management of waste and the control of pollution are of special concern in small island developing states, where land space and resources are limited, and ecological systems are particularly fragile. Ultimately, pollution can reduce the resilience of Caribbean countries to environmental disasters and other socio-economic shocks, like climate change.

The Caribbean contains diverse and productive coastal and marine habitats. The region represents the greatest concentration of biodiversity in the Atlantic Ocean Basin. Because the nations in this region depend heavily on the health and the beauty of the natural world to generate income, the conservation of the region's biological diversity is not only linked to social, cultural, and political conditions, but also to the economic realities of the region. Coral reefs, seagrass meadows and mangroves are among the best-known marine and coastal ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region and large contributors to the biodiversity of the region.

[Figure 5 - Coral reefs classified by integrated local threats \(2014\).](#)



Source: Map produced by UNEP-WCMC using data from Reef Base 2014. Reef locations are based on 500-meter resolution gridded data reflecting shallow, tropical coral reefs of the world. Organizations contributing to the data and development of the map include the Institute for Marine Remote Sensing, University of South Florida (IMaRS/USF), Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), UNEP.

Overall, the Caribbean has made significant gains since the unprecedented hurricane season in 2017. Its economic potential and growth opportunities continue to widen as more and more investment continues in its tourism and hospitality industry. Its rich ocean resources drive the “Blue Economy” in these small economies. Their small size, which can pose substantive challenges, also makes them nimble and agile as they respond to opportunities for innovation and competitiveness¹⁴.

¹⁴ Source: The World Bank, ‘Where we Work – The World Bank in the Caribbean’. [Accessed](#) on January 15, 2019.

3. THE MSDF APPROACH

The United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) defines how the UN will jointly achieve development results in partnership with 18 English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories for the period 2017-2021 (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago).

The framework aims to ensure that no one is left behind in national development efforts and exemplifies the commonly-shared belief that similar development challenges of the Caribbean countries require a coherent and coordinated response by the participating UN agencies (FAO, IAEA, ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV, WFP, UN Women).

This new initiative seeks to bring all the cross-cutting issues of the Caribbean in one space where synergies and efficiencies can be improved. It has been operationalized and localized at the country level through Country and a Sub-regional Implementation Plans built around the four priority areas:

- i) An Inclusive, Equitable, and Prosperous Caribbean;
- ii) A Healthy Caribbean;
- iii) A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean; and
- iv) A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean

Each of these priority areas contain two broad outcomes clearly aligned to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (see Figure 6 below for details).

It was envisaged to sharpen the UN system’s focus on common priorities and improve strategic partnerships, strengthen alignment and capacity to support the implementation and monitoring of regional and global strategies and agendas, including the CARICOM Strategic Plan, the SAMOA Pathway, the Sustainable Development Goals, and continue country-specific work with the added value of an overall framework that facilitates coherence, synergies, and knowledge sharing within the region. The UN MSDF is the platform for development cooperation between the UN system and CARICOM as agreed in UN-CARICOM meetings that take place every two years. It has provided a more coherent response to regional and national needs and priorities, improved integration, coordination, and coherence mechanisms within the UN System, better strategic positioning to leverage regional resources and more effective use of the region’s limited resources.

In order to coordinate the effective implementation of the MSDF several oversight and assurance mechanisms were established. The signatory Governments of the UN MSDF and the participating UN agencies meet in an Annual Coordination Meeting to provide strategic guidance and oversight to the UN MSDF implementation. Participants discuss progress made towards the achievement of UN MSDF outcomes and the results of country level and multi-country or regional programme initiatives and agree the actions to be undertaken to ensure advances in the implementation. Relevant stakeholders such as civil society, the private sector, and other development partners and institutions, are invited to participate. The first Annual

Coordination Meeting took place in June 2017 in Kingston, Jamaica. In June 2018 a virtual Regional Coordination Meeting was convened.

Figure 6 - Structure of the MSDF implementation in the Caribbean region.



Source: By author and based on MSDF information.

The UN Regional Steering Committee (RSC) provides strategic leadership and coordination within the UN system for the coherence of UN assistance and plays a key role to guide the overall implementation of the UN MSDF. The RSC ensures development of SDG-anchored MSDF outcomes and the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the UN Delivery as One Approach. Its membership includes the five Resident Coordinators and Agency Representatives from FAO, ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and UN Women. The Chair of the RSC is rotated annually. In 2017 the RSC was chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator in Jamaica; in 2018 the chair was UN Resident Coordinator Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname (until June) with the current chair being the UN Resident Coordinator in Guyana. The

new rotation is expected to take place in July 2019 to the UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS. The RSC meets virtually on a regular basis and meets once per year physically.

Virtual Policy Networks are organized around the four priority areas of the UN MSDF. Each network is convened by two members of the UN Regional Steering Committee. The networks work under the general guidance of the UN Regional Steering Committee and aim to seek regional synergies and maximize the impact of the UN within specific priority areas, while ensuring cross-cutting fertilisation with other thematic networks and country level actions. UN Regional Task Teams are organized around operational issues: Communication, Monitoring & Evaluation, Partnership & Resource Mobilization; and Operations. Each task team is chaired by a Resident Coordinator. The membership includes experts and focal points from across different agencies and the six UN Country/Sub-region Teams and discusses issues of relevance, solves problems and agrees on common approaches across the region.

The Country/Sub-regional Implementation Plans (CIPs/SIP) operationalize the UN MSDF at the country or OECS level by translating the regional outcomes into concrete, measurable and time-bound outputs and activities in each country of the framework. They are the equivalent of the Joint Work Plans. To coordinate the implementation and oversight of the CIPs/SIP, Joint National/United Nations Steering Committees (JNSC) have been established under the leadership of the respective Governments and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. The JNSC is aligned with existing broader national coordination mechanisms where they exist, and it is co-chaired by a Minister or senior official of the Coordinating Government entity or Ministry and the UN Resident Coordinator.

The CIPs/SIP serve the additional purpose of guaranteeing mutual accountability. National accountability is maintained through the national coordination structures and reflected in the CIP/SIP reports produced annually. At the regional level, the UN MSDF promotes regional accountability through the regional outcomes that are directly linked to one or several SDGs, towards which they are contributing. The biennial regional results report that measures this progress as well as other relevant regional frameworks reinforces this accountability.

4. PROGRESS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES IN THE REGION

This chapter will present the main results achieved in 2017 and 2018 by the UN System in the region, in close cooperation with national governments, civil society organizations, private institutions and other development partners. The results will be presented under the four priority areas of the UN MSDP. The chapter does not include every result reported in country/sub-regional annual reports but highlights the most significant results with a view to reflect on what is possible to attain together when designing approaches that not only take into consideration the national context but also takes advantage of the commonalities of the region and the different levels of interactions of all development actors. It is also a reflection on the directions to follow if inclusive sustainable development is to be realized in the Caribbean region.

4.1. INCLUSIVE EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN



Male respondent in Belize City.
©UNICEF/2018/Brent Toombs

Female respondent in Belize City.
©UNICEF/2018/Brent Toombs



The child-friendly space in Mahaut, Dominica. Children at a Return to Happiness session in Anguilla

©UNICEF/2018/ Harris

©UNICEF/2017/Harper

The priority area **'An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean'** builds on the core Sustainable Development concept of equitable development for all and "leaving no one behind" as a prerequisite for prosperous and sustainable societies. This implies promoting social and economic inclusion in an equitable way through access to education, decent work opportunities, the promotion of entrepreneurship, and improved social protection. It demands economic development from a human-centered perspective that can respond to the specific factors that have affected the ability of the Caribbean to remain competitive, taking into consideration issues such as brain drain and limited fiscal space to support technological innovation.

This section presents the collective efforts and contributions of the UN system in the Caribbean towards ensuring 'An Inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean' as envisaged in two broad programme outcomes of:

- i) Access to quality education and life-long learning increased, for enhanced employability and decent and sustainable economic development, and
- ii) Access to equitable social protection systems, quality services improved.

The results are presented in subsections reflecting aspects of outcome statement. The UN provided wide ranging support in the areas of legal framework and policy, institutional capacity building, research, advocacy and direct community intervention. Table 1 details key legal and policy support provided towards 'An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean'.

Table 1 - Key Legal Instruments, Policies and Plans supported by UN System for an Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean.

<p style="text-align: center;">Barbados and the OECS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and legislation on gender and child responsive social protection in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Montserrat, and Anguilla to strengthen social protection in those countries. • Master Plans for Spectrum Management for St. Vincent & the Grenadines. • Population Situation Analysis and Population Policy for Dominica to guide population and development activities (UNFPA). • Supported the development of a road map to integrate shock-responsiveness of the social protection system in British Virgin Islands, which will inform social protection and disaster management policy updates. • <p style="text-align: center;">Belize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Early Childhood Development strategy for a more coherent approach. • Strategic development plans for each of the nine municipalities to guide medium term local development. • National Parenting Guide to improve parent and child care. <p style="text-align: center;">Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Occupational Safety and Health Policy. • Re-integration Policy for Adolescent Mothers and Pregnant Teens to bring back adolescent mothers to school. • Gender Responsive Education Strategy Plan 2019-2023 to ensure that boys and girls receive fair and equitable education services. • Child Labour Policy to end child labour in Guyana. • Mines Safety Inspectors’ Manual to ensure greater safety for miners. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Jamaica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National population policy to guide population activities. • Guidance and counselling policy and a psychosocial support handbook. • National Special Education Policy. • ICT in Education Policies and Master Plans for better ICT facility in schools. • The Jamaican Tertiary Education Strategy to bolster the tertiary education sector of the country. • National early childhood development policy for more coherent interventions. • National Food Safety Policy and Implementation Plan (PAHO/WHO, FAO). • National Nutrition Standards for Foods Offered to Children in Schools (PAHO/WHO). <p style="text-align: center;">Trinidad and Tobago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Workplace Policy on HIV & AIDS to end discrimination and stigma at the workplace. <p style="text-align: center;">Suriname</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-sensitive e-learning course for secondary school students. • Development of Education Strategy Plan. • Plan for Reform and institutional strengthening departments for special education. • Adolescents Health Strategy Development.
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Source: UN Country Teams

4.1.1. Increasing Access to Quality Education and Life-long Learning

Between 8% to 2.5% of GDP

Expenditure on education in the Caribbean

In the past two years, Governments in the Caribbean stepped up their efforts in increasing access to education by ensure more investment in the sector. With amounts ranging between 2.5% to 8% of GDP between 2017 and 2018, the region has demonstrated strong commitment to overturning deficits in education and achieving its Sustainable Development Goal on Quality Education (SDG 4). According to the World Bank's compilation of development indicators, average primary school enrolment in the region was 93.5%, representing a half percentage increase from 93% in 2015. Secondary school enrolment (% gross) also increased over the same period from 76.6% to 76.9%. With an estimated 66.5 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 in the Caribbean, adolescent girls are significantly hampered by pregnancy. Guided by national and regional strategic plans, the CARICOM countries have committed to four 'foundational' areas, namely: agreeing on a philosophy of education in the contemporary Caribbean; establishing a seamless education system; making learning fun; and, attuning assessment to key competencies and global competitiveness.

96 education experts across the region

took stock on progress and gaps in aligning national education policies to SDG 4.

As they continue leading the UN system in the Caribbean on Education undertakings, in June 2017, UNESCO assembled more than 90 education experts from across all the Caribbean in Barbados for the official launch of the Caribbean Centre for Education and review the Caribbean countries' Education Management Information System (EMIS). This process ensured effective stock take on progress and gaps in aligning national education policies with SDG 4 imperatives and the development of a roadmap for addressing areas of education planning capacity needs and policy gaps. Similarly, teachers were trained to reverse the 'ongoing learning crisis gap' and be able to constantly adjust their teaching style to innovative teaching practices

or adaptive pedagogies. Further outcomes of such interventions by UNESCO was that Member States committed to put in place responsive teachers' professionalization policy frameworks including knowledge and best practices sharing, monitoring and evaluation, and partnership development within the framework of SDG 4 implementation. In May 2017, 13 Caribbean countries' vocational education policymakers and practitioners shared and benefited from best practices, particularly in the areas of quality assurance, sustainable financing models and innovative and technology-enabled pedagogical approaches for vocational education instructors.

At national levels, efforts in early childhood development, life-long learning and access to quality education has been a critical in the work of the UN system in the Caribbean since 2000. To increase school completion rates for the countries and territories in the Caribbean, UN agencies and Governments worked to build more child friendly education system, reverse teenage pregnancy, integrate adolescent mothers in schools, provide guidance on health and family life and promote healthy school feeding.

In Suriname, 71% of 3- and 4-years-old children are developmentally on track. Low performance on the literacy-numeracy domain is a concern. Few services exist for early stimulation from birth to age 3 and including age 3. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Medical mission, UNICEF contributed to the preparation of a strategy to promote positive learning and inclusive environments for all children and adolescents. This strategy, aligned with UNICEF's use of evidence to drive change for children, helped to strengthen national frameworks, policies, plans and standards to increase access to high-quality, equitable,

inclusive, and holistic early childhood development, learning and care environments for girls and boys (ages 0-8) and their families by 2021, including in emergencies. In Guyana, for instance, the Ministry of Education in partnership with UNICEF finalized the reintegration policy for adolescent mothers into the formal school system. Belize developed National Early Childhood Development Policies, while UNICEF in Jamaica continued to implement its multisectoral national strategic plan for early childhood development (ECD) overseen by

83 children in special needs in rural Jamaica

received adaptive training and learning materials to help them enroll and complete secondary education.

the Early Childhood Commission, a national body widely recognized in the region as a model for ECD implementation, support, monitoring and regulation. UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI) finalized the First 1000 Days Strategy entitled the “Jamaica Brain Builder Programme”. This programme aims to consolidate and maximise government provision to facilitate early access to quality educational development for all children aged 0 to 3, including those with disabilities. As to February 2019, 23 Brain Builder Centres are operational in the country. As a result of these policy and capacity strengthening interventions, an additional 60 students per year will be able to attend school in Belize; adolescents (boys and girls) in Guyana would return to and complete secondary

education. In addition, all Jamaican students with moderate to severe learning challenges would be taught using a new UNICEF funded national curriculum and 83 children with special needs in rural Jamaica received adaptive training and learning materials as part of programming in the country’s first inclusive infant school earmarked as a model for replication so as to ensure more such children are not only enrolled in schools but also are on track to complete secondary education. On this same subject, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and the OECS countries pursued more capacity building interventions for children, adolescents and women’s rights. In November 2018 and with support from UNICEF, Suriname had its first interrogation studio and interrogation room for hearing adolescents in a child-friendly way and in a child-friendly environment (room). This platform ensures a child feels comfortable and answers questions more easily by and at the time of the child. In the area of promoting better linkages between education and the labour market, the ILO assisted Antigua and Barbuda with revision of its national Technical and Vocational Education and Training policy. It also assisted Belize with the establishment of a national Tripartite Sector Skills Advisory Committee for the tourism sector, which is tasked to provide practical guidance related to human resource development in the tourism sector.

47%

of primary school children in
Suriname experienced physical
violence,

81%

had experienced at least one
form of violence within the
household

Source: UNICEF Suriname

An unfriendly school environment that is characterized by corporal punishment, violence, poor school service delivery and facilities are among critical challenges affecting children and young adults in schools in the region. Over the last two years, Government in the Caribbean focused on promoting child-friendly school philosophy. In Barbados and the OECS, Jamaica, Belize and Guyana the focus was to abolish corporal punishment and reduce violence in schools. The Violence Against Children (VAC) research was commissioned by the National Parliament of Suriname and carried out by the Institute for Graduate Studies of the University of Suriname in 2018, with the support of UNICEF. Some of the findings of VAC research indicate that 47% of primary school children experienced physical violence, 81% had experienced at least one form of violence within the household, 74% had experienced psychical violence within the household, 77% of children in conflict with the law experienced violent behaviour, of which 45% of the cases were violence amongst children; 62% of children in the pre-detention and 70% of the children in detention had a negative

experience with one of the service provider and over 8,000 children have been victims of sexual abuse within the house. In response, anti-bullying program assessment was implemented as part of the VAC scale-up expanded to differentiated learning approach which includes anti-bullying and teachers were trained in differential education methods as a result of which teachers are now following the standard model of preparing for teaching and grouping the pupils in the classroom.

In Guyana, there is a 5% rise in those children advocating for positive discipline (PD) in each of the 11 education districts countrywide, that was after 7,500 educators worked with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education on a pilot involving 56 schools to eliminate corporal punishment. UNICEF in Barbados pursued a rights-based approach to discipline in schools. 28,383 students in Barbados and the OECS were the focus of rights-based disciplinary approaches in schools. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis stepped up the Professionalizing Teaching Service in close collaboration with UNESCO; while the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Suriname developed Open Education Resources (OER), ICT in Education Policies and Master Plans to improve the use of ICT in education. The tertiary education system in Jamaica is set to have improved governance and quality assurance mechanisms with more 'vocationalised' tertiary education programmes. Improvement in the delivery science and innovation streams was also envisaged as was the rationalization of teachers' education delivery network, and the long-term financial sustainability after a thorough revision of the Jamaican Tertiary Education Strategy in 2018.

Efforts to promote healthy lifestyles among adolescents was also prevalent on education interventions across the MSDF countries. While Guyana built local capacity for the monitoring and sustainability of both the SC4D and HFLE programmes, Jamaica completed and rolled-out its School Wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support framework (SW PBIS) and its HFLE SW PBIS Tier 1 alignment reaching 30,000 children and 6,000 teachers (almost 25%). In Belize, UNICEF supported the government to conduct urinary iodine and sodium study in 6-12 years old in primary school to support data on population iodine status and worked with PAHO and UNFPA to develop the country's first comprehensive adolescent health strategy. Jamaica built a sea water pool and launched a swimming programme serving 250 primary school children each term in a rural fishing village with a high rate of drowning. Against the backdrop of aiming to ensure equal learning opportunities for boys and girls, a Caribbean Education Ministers Round Table on *"Educating Boys in the 4th Industrial Revolution Age: Sharing Caribbean experiences, challenges and lessons learned-*

Rethinking Youth/Boys learning”, at Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 26 July 2018, was staged by UNESCO which raised awareness and advocated for an Action Plan on the crucial challenge of boys’ ‘learning crisis’ and dropout rates across the Caribbean SIDS. To ensure school related gender-based violence did not reverse gains in providing friendly learning environment in schools, UNESCO worked with 20 officials and experts across the Caribbean sub-region and identified a number of key priority issues to be addressed in 2019. In addition, UNICEF in collaboration with UNFPA supported the localization of the SDGs through the implementation of the Child Friendly Municipalities in all 100% of the urban centres in Belize.

Empowering young people to find innovative solutions to challenges in their communities remains crucial to their lifelong learning. Using ICT as a tool of empowerment, UNESCO worked to increase the knowledge and skills of young people in the region in contribution to Information for All and Memory of the World National Committees in the Caribbean. There was Caribbean wide integration of youth perspectives into developmental agenda. Information literacy was targeted as significant to empower youth to understand and become meaningful users and producers of information. Specifically, Belize introduced English as a Second Language programme for youth and adults that facilitated integration. Also, in Belize, UNICEF launched U-Report, a mobile platform to enable collection of real time data and perspectives and to ensure inclusive problem-solving. Over 2,000 people of all ages registered with the platform in the first few months since its launch and have contributed towards polls on violence in schools, child marriage, water and sanitation, health and more, with this data now available to complement traditional data sources to guide planning. In Jamaica, the focus was incentives systems and sectoral policies to address youth demand for labour and the re-integration of vulnerable youth into learning or employment opportunities.

In order to enhance the capacity of education staff, UNESCO Cluster Office facilitated participation in a number of conferences, providing opportunities for cross-fertilization, networking and experience sharing with other education practitioners. This included participation of Caribbean SIDS officials to the Technical Consultation Meeting on the future of Education for Sustainable Development, 9-10 July 2018, Bangkok - Thailand, as well as to the Regional Conference on Higher Education, 11-15 June 2018, Cordoba - Argentina, among others. UNFPA provided technical support to: (i) Jamaica - for the development of a population situation analysis and the review of the national population policy; (ii) the Commonwealth of Dominica - towards the development of a Population Situation Analysis that will facilitate preparation of a national population policy; and (iii) the Government of Suriname - via a 3-day capacity building workshop to enable the drafting of the PSA which will drive the initiative to develop a national population policy forward.

EduSport in Jamaica

UNICEF Jamaica continued its EduSport sports development primary school programme in St. Elizabeth and expanded to add an innercity after school component and through a MOU with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information to a neighbouring parish. This has doubled the number of coaches from 25 to 50 and increased the programme’s reach from 60 to over 100 schools and from 11,000 children aged 3 to 12 years old to 25,000 children learning literacy, numeracy and life skills through a game-based approach. UNICEF also launched a national game-based curriculum for grades 1-3 and repositioned National Play Day as part of World Children’s Day activities to promote play as a right of all children and a key to teaching and learning.

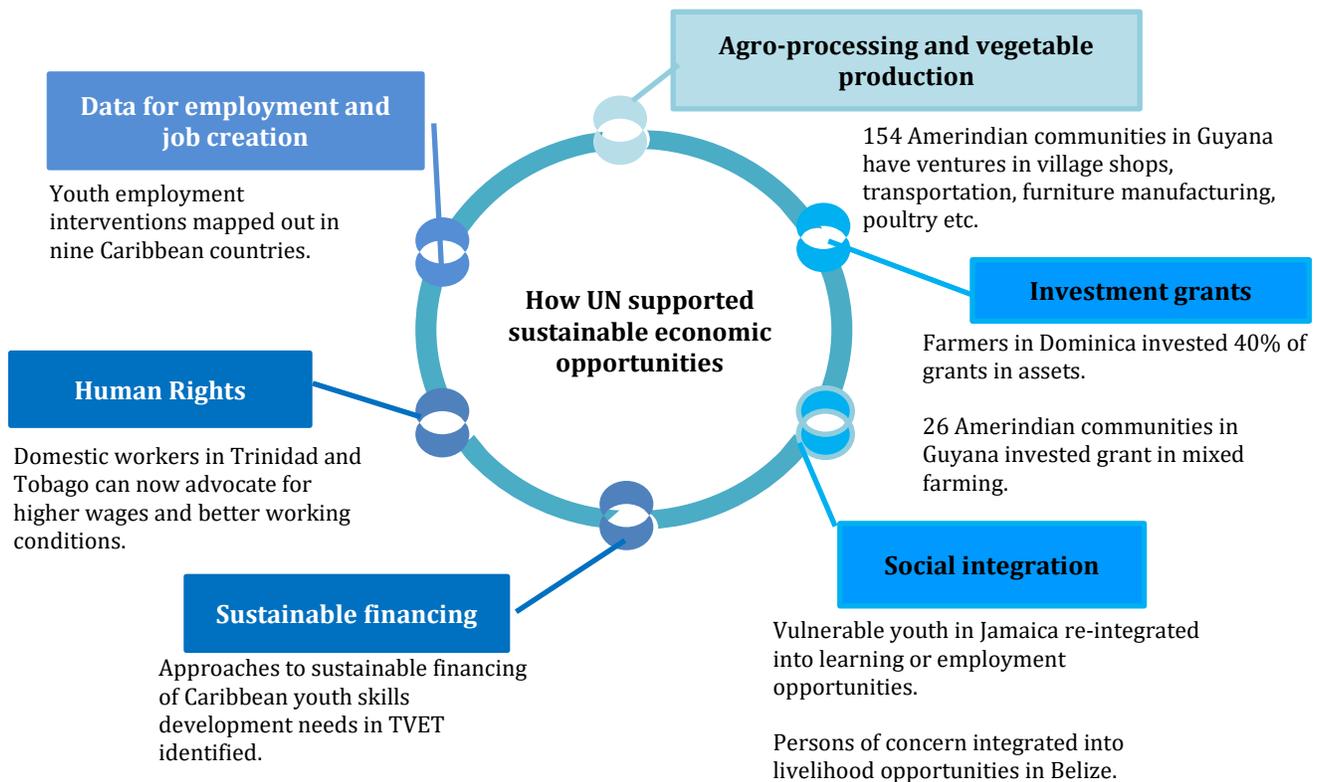
Source: UNICEF, Jamaica

In addition, UNFPA provided continuous technical support to CARICOM and National Statistics Offices in the preparation of the 2020 round of censuses. Among others, the CARICOM 28th Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee and Workshop on Census Management held in July 2018 at the CARICOM Secretariat Headquarters was supported by UNFPA and saw 40 participants in attendance, including directors and representatives of National Statistics Offices from 14 CARICOM countries. Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago were also supported by UNFPA with the preparation and publication of National Progress Reports on the Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

4.1.2. Improving Access to Sustainable Economic Opportunities

Policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks, such as unemployment, exclusion, sickness, disability and old age are crucial in improving access to fair and equitable social protection, quality services and sustainable economic opportunities. The UN system in the Caribbean worked with Governments across the region to address issues of unfair and unequal access to services and opportunities. Since 2017, issues related to wages, exploitation, employee benefits and other related issues of the wellbeing of domestic workers were addressed in Trinidad and Tobago. Domestic workers can now advocate for higher wages and better working conditions as a result of the targeted action to improve the capacity of the Service Workers' Centre Cooperative. Trinidad and Tobago formulated evidence-based policy recommendations on issues such as productivity, social dialogue and strengthening institutions to support industrial relations. Belize and Barbados and the OECS empowered women for economic opportunities in the private sector. In total, the UN system undertook eighteen interventions (policy, capacity building and advocacy) in the Caribbean that presented opportunities for improved access to sustainable economic opportunities. See Figure 7 for of each UNCT's share of intervention and the list of key strategic intervention from the total.

Figure 7 - Supporting sustainable economic opportunities in the Caribbean.



Source: By author from inputs provided by UN Country Teams.

Sustainable economic opportunities are those anticipated to last for at least a couple of years. With support from UNDP in Guyana, 154 Amerindian communities are now having ventures such as village shops (13%), transportation (12%), forest based artisanal (2%), furniture manufacturing (6%), poultry (9%), fisheries (4%), cattle (22%), crops (22%) and hospitality (10%). Further to this, WFP partnered with FAO in Dominica to build the capacity of farmers post-hurricane Maria through agribusiness training, conditional cash transfers, 40% of which was invested in assets for their cooperative, and the distribution of materials for greenhouses, beehives and fishing gear. It could be argued that one of the best ways to ensure sustainability in such interventions is safeguarding them through capacity, systems and frameworks. To that end, UNHCR ensured social integration and livelihood opportunities for Persons of Concern (PoC)¹⁵ in Belize. While UNDP ensured a standard approach to sustainable financing for Caribbean youth skills development needs in Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) exist, it also ensured vulnerable youth in Jamaica were re-integrated into learning or employment opportunities. In the same way, FAO and UNDP in Guyana helped establish an alternate dispute resolution mechanism for Amerindian land titling, a critical safeguard of their livelihood. To ensure the consistency in providing sustainable economic opportunities for youth, the ILO undertook a [mapping of youth employment interventions](#) in nine Caribbean countries – Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and

¹⁵ A person of concern is any person whom the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, considers a refugee, internally displaced person (IDP), asylum seeker or stateless person, with some additional persons not fitting these criteria.

Trinidad and Tobago to provide information that would be instrumental in the design of future development cooperation. At the regional level, the ILO also supported the strengthening of social dialogue mechanisms between employers' and workers' organizations and workers' which resulted in the commitment by CARICOM Heads of Government to amend the Treaty of Chaguaramas to include representative bodies of Labour and the Private Sector. This will help to ensure that employers' and workers' representatives can have a voice in important matters on regional integration, such as movement of workers across the region, skills recognition and regional labour policies.

4.1.3. Improving Social Protection, Social Inclusion and Equality

The choice to combine social protection with quality service delivery and sustainable economic opportunities in the MSDF countries was deliberate and in recognition of the notion that social protection reduces poverty by tackling vulnerability across the lifecycle (SDG target 1.3). It is a way to increase access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all (SDG target 3.8) and reduces income inequality (SDG 10).

Preventing and Eliminating Child Labour in the Caribbean

This is a regional initiative that came out of commitment of the region to eliminate child labour by 2020. It is an innovative network comprising representatives of ministries responsible for labour as well as delegates from the global employers' and workers' organisations. This initiative seeks to contribute international cooperation and south-south and triangular cooperation - SDG 8 (Target 8.7); and SDG 17 (Target 17.9). Presently, 10 Caribbean countries are members of the Regional Initiative (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago). With support from the Government of Brazil, the ILO has been closely working with Caribbean countries at the national and regional levels to promote south-south cooperation to achieve these goals, as well as increase and enhance youth employment.

Source: ILO Regional Sub-Office, Trinidad and Tobago

Social protection systems are fundamental to preventing and reducing poverty and inequality at every stage of people's lives either through benefits for children, mothers with new-borns, persons with disabilities or older persons and those persons who are poor and without jobs. To increase the proportion of children and households covered by social protection systems in the region and reduce vulnerabilities UNICEF and ILO provided support in Belize to strengthen the national social protection system, through Social Protection Conferences on social protection floor, in December 2018, Labour and Social Protection, multidimensional poverty measurement, and social protection response in emergencies, from February to April 2018. Suriname, with support from UNICEF, increased access to Adolescent Friendly Health Services. In Guyana, UNICEF and the Inter American Development Bank in Guyana conducted and updated mapping of social protection systems in the country. A policy and legislation on social protection was developed in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Montserrat, and Anguilla. UNICEF also carried out capacity building on shock

responsive social protection through its partnership with the OECS Commission, which focused on Dominica as one of the countries selected for the case study. Towards ensuring all births are registered in the country, Guyana scaled up its births registration to ensure all citizens benefit equally from national opportunities and services. By June 2018, the registration legislation was reviewed, mobile births registration points established, and 1,000 births registered with more than 500 persons issued birth certificates in Regions 1 and 8. This initiative was complemented by the development of material to increase awareness for hinterland populations on the “right to a name and identity”.

Deepening and sustaining access to social protection and employment opportunities require their integration in the national development strategy. In Trinidad and Tobago, UNDP and UNICEF launched a joint programme to discuss subjects around National Measurements of Multi-Dimensional Poverty. The findings of the discussion are relevant to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy. The UN system, through ECLAC, carried out an analysis of the situation of people living with disability in Trinidad and Tobago. As part of Trinidad and Tobago’s implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), an Accessibility Code was developed by Bureau of Standards for accessibility which has been included in the regulations of the Planning and Facilitation of Development Act. Developers submitting applications for consideration must satisfy the Town and Country Planning division that projects are compliant with the Accessibility code

Post Hurricane Maria, after ensuring that the market was functional, WFP in collaboration with UNICEF supported the Government of Dominica to launch a Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme. For WFP and UNICEF, the overarching objective was to support the Government of Dominica to provide immediate support to vulnerable households and children affected by Hurricane Maria, through the provision of emergency cash transfers. Specifically, by providing three unconditional cash transfers, the programme aimed to ensure adequate access to food and other essential needs for 8,300 vulnerable households (25,000 people) affected by the hurricane.

The Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme also aimed to support the essential needs of 6,000 children living in the most vulnerable affected households through the provision of top up emergency child grants. The two components were thus calculated: Household grants (unconditional, funded by WFP): US\$90/household/tranche and Emergency child grants (unconditional, funded by UNICEF): US\$

Aneesha’s Story

“Our house was destroyed by Hurricane Maria in September 2017, and since then my family and I have stayed in a small dark shelter in Roseau, Dominica's capital. One day I heard about the emergency cash-transfer programme through the local radio station. I was listening to the news yesterday and heard that the government and some organizations were going to give money to families really affected. So, I took my mother to the Ministry to get the money right away.

With my mentally-ill mother and sister, I took matters into my own hands since Hurricane Maria. I did not only make my parents register, I also collected the cash offered by WFP. On my way from the Ministry to the shelter, and then to the food market, I kept my envelope to avoid any suspicion. The cash I received I will use for eating today. Anything else can wait. We have had many challenges to face, but with the help of the Dominican Government, WFP and UNICEF at least we do not have to worry about meeting our dietary and nutritional needs for some few weeks.”

Source: Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme for the Caribbean

50/child/tranche¹⁶. The programme leveraged the largest national social protection programme, the Public Assistance Programme, and its payment platform issued by the national government and the local village councils. The Government of Dominica took leadership in the provision of humanitarian assistance through the Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme while UNICEF and WFP provided support in the process. The Local Disaster Management Committees were appointed as focal points for the emergency response. Three main modalities were identified for coordination and implementation through Village Councils, local distribution committees or constituencies. Ultimately, the programme had the outspoken objective to strengthen government efforts to make existing systems more robust and responsive to predictable shocks. Within the framework of the programme, with the support of WFP, the Government of Dominica reached a total of 7,296 households, which represents approximately 34% of the population of the country (24,077 beneficiaries). Almost one third (28%) of households identified through the Voluntary and Needs Assessment was targeted as beneficiaries of the intervention. The beneficiaries of the Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme reached the pre-existing 2,061 beneficiary households of the Public Assistance Programme as well as an additional 5,235 households (around 17,000 beneficiaries) included in the horizontal expansion of the programme. Results from post-distribution monitoring indicate that most beneficiaries spent their cash transfers on food (92.4%), followed by utilities/bills (18%), education (17.6%), medical expenses (14.4%), building material, repair/accommodation (14%), clothes (12.4%) and water (11.2%). These cash transfers allowed for an expansion of the Public Assistance Programme recipient list and laid the groundwork to the review of the national programme, strengthen the information management system and adapt protocols and regulations, ultimately facilitating a more rapid response to shocks through the programme in the future. Additionally, technical capacity transfer occurred as government workers were the ones who directly implemented the cash transfer programme, as well as the vulnerability analysis that preceded it to identify those to be targeted.

Following governmental changes in the structures and responsibilities of various ministries, the Public Assistance Programme transferred from the then Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs to the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS). Based on findings from monitoring data, as well issues related to the overall rate of recovery, WFP and the MHSS issued an additional Food Security Cash Transfer in July 2018 to address continued food assistance needs of the same beneficiaries from the initial Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme. This also had a secondary effect of allowing households to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season 2018. The value of the Food Security Cash Transfer amounted to USD 135 per household and was disbursed to 6,894 families (22,750 beneficiaries).

Through implementation of the post-Maria Emergency Employment Programme (EEP) in Dominica, UNDP was able to increase the most vulnerable populations' opportunities for livelihoods recovery through the provision of temporary employment opportunity for clearing and sorting debris as well as reduction of the health risk associated with the debris formed as a direct result from the Hurricane. UNDP leveraged the existing National Employment Programme (NEP) to channel these resources given that this agency had an effective management structure in place. The programme ultimately benefitted 5,724 persons and directly employed 405 persons (105 households) within 18 communities through income support. UNDP strongly advocated and emphasized the importance for achieving gender parity in selecting beneficiaries and as a result over 42% of beneficiaries receiving income support were women. This programme was replicated in Barbuda and the British Virgin Islands following the impact of Hurricane Irma where similar interventions directly supported approximately 2,500 persons across the two territories.

¹⁶ Up to a maximum of three children/household (US\$ 150).

While there are no significant differences in the prevalence of poverty between men and women in Dominica, 39% of poor persons live in single female-headed households. Thus, WFP paid special attention to the needs of women impacted by the hurricane by implementing the selection criterion of single-headed household with two or more children. Moreover, the programme targeted pregnant and lactating women as well as children, elderly people, chronically ill, physically or mentally-challenged persons. This careful consideration of the most vulnerable individuals and households allowed WFP to ensure that the families most affected by Hurricane Maria were reached.

Following governmental changes in the structures and responsibilities of various ministries, the Public Assistance Programme transferred from the then Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs (MSSFGA) to the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS). Based on findings from monitoring data, as well as issues related to the overall rate of recovery, WFP and the MHSS issued an additional Food Security Cash Transfer in July 2018 to address continued food assistance needs of the same beneficiaries from the initial Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme. This also had a secondary effect of allowing households to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season 2018. The value of the Food Security Cash Transfer amounted to USD 135 per household and was disbursed to 6,894 families (22,750 beneficiaries). Monitoring results are still under review and will be shared with the Government of Dominica when available.

In Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten, UNDP provided technical expertise to senior public servants, initiated a system for statistical data storage and retrieval, and helped produce the National Development Plan (NDP) in line with the SDGs. The plan, ratified in 2016, focuses on five priority areas: sustainability; economy; education; national identity; and good governance and leadership. These priority areas intersect well with SDG4: Quality Education; SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; and SDG 14: Life Under Water. UNDP also helped implement the plan in collaboration with other planning programmes to bring improvements to the lives of the citizens of Curaçao, through strengthening the government's structure and processes for implementation, and creating an environment for growth, quality jobs and innovation.

The Aruba Centre of Excellence project leveraged Aruba's technical expertise and experience in sustainable development to provide a platform for strengthening innovation and resilience among SIDS through South-South cooperation and exchange of knowledge on sustainable practices in energy, public-private partnerships (PPP), water management, environment, tourism and health. To formulate sustainable development roadmaps, UNDP supported several in-country technical missions to SIDS in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS regions. The areas of focus included Waste Management, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Tourism. These efforts were bolstered by the development of several best-practice Case Studies, highlighting the efforts of Aruba and other SIDS in working towards sustainable and resilient development. Additionally, the COE was able to coordinate and offer support to several events targeting resilience in SIDS including: A Build-Back-Better Hackathon in St. Maarten (in the wake of the recovery efforts from Hurricane Irma); a Financing for Resilience event held in Antigua which sought to identify financing options for SIDS in their efforts to build resilience; A Resilient Energy event hosted by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA); and a Dutch/CDEMA co-organized event on Planetary Security.

To guide initiatives to combat domestic violence, it is imperative that data gathering is standardized and of uniform quality. It allows cross-country as well as inter-temporal comparisons, usage for policy guidance and improvement of services for survivors. With the support of UNFPA, Suriname developed a national domestic violence form as per the domestic violence Act of 2009 and strengthened the capacity of NGO and

Government first responders to utilize the form. Hereby strengthening the system for administrative data collection and quality assurance needed to initiate an electronic data base.

4.1.4. Human Rights

Human rights, like gender and environmental sensitivity, is one of the cross-cutting subjects in the work of UN in the Caribbean. As part of the MSDF and CIP/SIP implementation, human rights was mainstreamed into all outcomes and interventions. However, several affirmative actions were taken to drive human rights results in the region. Through support from UN Women, Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and OECS countries strengthened capacity of duty bearers for the implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In addition, UNFPA provided support to Suriname (technical and financial from 2016-2018) through capacity building workshops and sessions for duty bearers and government gender focal points including for development of the CEDAW report and further implementation of standing issues. Led by UNDP, with support from UNFPA, a communities-of-practice was convened among national stakeholders to address Trinidad and Tobago's commitments to CEDAW. Capacities for CEDAW reporting were also enhanced through a series of intense training sessions undertaken by the National Human Rights Advisor (NHRA) in Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda. In Antigua activities culminated with a full day mock CEDAW review, with the Antigua and Barbuda proposed state delegation and resources persons, in preparation for the country's appearance before the CEDAW Committee in 2019. Human rights dialogues between state and non-state actors, including persons with disabilities, were also supported by the OHCHR. These dialogues facilitated stakeholders discussing the obligations of the state under the CRPD as well as identifying legislation and policy gaps. A series of workshops were also undertaken on the CRPD in Saint Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Suriname and Saint Kitts & Nevis with a focus on building capacity among government representatives from different ministries and agencies with a view to supporting these countries in ratifying the CRPD. Together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the UN system in Suriname launched an awareness campaign on CRPD named "Show Yourself" in commemoration of UN Day.

In Barbados the NHRA hosted a series of capacity building activities for the Barbados National Mechanism to enhance stakeholder capacities for reporting and follow-up on the international human rights system, Barbados' experience during its third cycle UPR, and on the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. The NHRA also supported work in Trinidad which included a high-level workshop for judges and personnel of the Caribbean Court of Justice on the development of sexual harassment policy. The NHRA, in collaboration with Jamaicans for Justice, also co-facilitated a two-day workshop for CSOs on human rights advocacy, with a focus on advocating for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institutions.

Nine countries in the region have double the world average incarceration rate and in most of them prison conditions are dire. In the majority, torture has not yet been prohibited or criminalized. Despite a de facto moratorium on the death penalty in the region (the last execution was in 2008 in St. Kitts and Nevis), the region is retentionist as it considers the death penalty as a deterrent to violent crimes: there are 81 death row prisoners in the region. Of particular concern, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago still maintain the mandatory death penalty for certain crimes. In 2018, the Caribbean Court of Justice unanimously declared

the mandatory death penalty unconstitutional in Barbados. Belize ratified OP-CAT in 2015 but has so far not established a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), an obligation under the OP-CAT to establish an NPM within one year of ratification. In 2018, the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) conducted an official visit to Belize (22 to 27 April).

Climate change has had a significant social and economic impact. Hurricane Irma left Antigua and Barbuda inhabitable in 2017. The lack of country's capacity in addressing the hurricane has delayed reconstruction, leaving many people without access to clean water, health care, education and social services.

The majority of countries in the region have a low ratification rate. Only the CRC and CEDAW have been ratified by all countries. CAT, CED, CMW and optional protocols that provide complaint mechanisms have not been ratified by the majority of the countries. Belize has ratified 9 main human rights treaties (ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, CRC, CMW, CRPD, CERD, CED, CEDAW) and some progress concerning the promotion and protection of human rights has been achieved. Many Treaty Body reports remain outstanding, however Belize, made encouraging progress to meet its reporting obligations, with the support of the UN system in Belize, including OHCHR. Human rights treaties are not fully incorporated in national law and some legislation is clearly in conflict with human rights obligations. Only two countries in the region (Bahamas and Dominica) have issued a standing invitation to special procedures.

In 2017 the UNCT in Belize initiated and sought to provide human rights advisory services through the RC Office in partnership with OHCHR and UNHCR to support strengthening national capacities for an effective mechanism for State engagement, reporting and follow-up on human rights treaty bodies and other mechanisms. Key results achieved in 2018 under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, include training to government officials on UN human rights mechanism reporting; the government having a methodology for the preparation and holding of consultations/validation of State reports; the elaboration of a Common Core Document; a draft 5-year reporting plan to address treaty reporting and initiated preparations of the State's initial reports for the Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and their families (CMW) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In addition, capacities of key government officials from ministries responsible for migration and labour benefited from dedicated training on CMW and CERD with experts from OHCHR and the respective Committees. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the designated ministry for coordination, consultations and submission of State reports and engagement with UN human rights mechanisms. The main challenge, however, remains the human resources constraint in the designated ministry. Continued assistance to strengthen their capacity has been requested by the Government to the UN RC and OHCHR.

The UNCT of Belize strengthened national capacities for an effective mechanism for State engagement, reporting and follow-up on human rights treaty bodies and other mechanisms with joint support from the Resident Coordinator's Office and OHCHR. Among others, the following were notable results from this partnership: (i) officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had increased capacity on UN human rights mechanism reporting; (ii) they systematized methodology for the preparation and holding of consultations/validation of State reports; and (iii) drafted a 5-year reporting plan to address treaty reporting and initiated preparations of the State's initial reports for the Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and their families (CMW) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In 2018, after 15 years and with support from UNICEF, Belize submitted its first State report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This report provides important update to significant changes in measures put in place to fulfil obligations for protection, respect and provision of the rights of all children as well as the current gaps in place. In Jamaica, UNICEF launched a situation analysis on persons with disabilities

alongside a national “I Am Able” campaign, and an additional 1,000 children in state care were added to the national registry of persons with disabilities giving them access to state services. Its ongoing partnership with Special Olympics Jamaica (SOJ) enabled health screenings of 1,000 children, the training of over 100 volunteer clinicians (including SOJ volunteers from MSDF member countries) and the expansion of unified sports nationally were achieved.

To deal with discrimination as a form of human rights violation, UNDP strengthened the capacity of civil society organizations in Jamaica on targeting key populations. These organizations subsequently registered to the Caribbean Civil Society Shared Incident Database and have uploaded cases to the database. Such tool represents a mechanism for documenting and reporting on human rights violations. Further, Legal Literacy Manuals were developed and distributed in Jamaica to key populations geared at improving understanding of the laws and their rights. The legal literacy manuals provide the basis for training and educating key population leaders, NGO staff, community paralegals and pro bono lawyers. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago changed the Marriage Act with the objective to end child marriage, in alignment with principles from the Convention on Rights of Child, as well as with its efforts to institute national legislation to reflect its commitment to the Convention on Refugees. Free independent and pluralistic media systems that are rooted in diversity constitute the backbone of an enabling environment for innovation and social inclusion. In this context UNESCO built the capacity of media groups, journalists and audience across the Caribbean. In total, over 90 journalists in the Caribbean were enabled for effective investigative journalism, financial reporting, social media for journalists, radio programme development and sustainability, SDG reporting and raising awareness for the risk of hate speech and its contribution to increasing violence. As a result, the Reporting Hate Speech & Violence in the Caribbean: An Action Plan for Media Practitioners, Managers and Owners (2018) and Social Media Guidelines: A Handbook for Media Professionals & Journalists in the Caribbean (2017) were developed. As active users and producers of information, media audience, mostly youth, were engaged on Media and Information Literacy across the Caribbean to effectively transform present and future information and learning environments. Youth leaders from over ten countries, including social media influencers, young entrepreneurs, leaders of youth organizations, local young journalists and students, shared their experience related to Media and Information Literacy, as well as their understanding on the topic, through sofa-talk style panel discussions, interactive sessions and the Youth Video Contest.

4.2. HEALTHY CARIBBEAN

The priority area ‘**A Healthy Caribbean**’ responds to the concern that health and nutrition are increasingly affecting the lives of the people in the Caribbean. It acknowledges that to improve health, a multisectoral and human rights approaches building on a ‘health for all’ policies are needed. It means addressing environmental factors such as access to safe water and food safety. This implies strengthening the ability of the state to provide universal access to quality services and healthy nutrition as well as to the knowledge needed for prevention of disease, including Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). It demands action on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV/AIDS and related stigma and discrimination and to promote sustainable agricultural production for improved health outcomes. Its outcomes are:

- (i) ‘Universal Access to quality health care services and systems improved’, and
- (ii) ‘Laws, policies and systems introduced to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population’.

The results delivered under this pillar are presented below. For starters, see key legal instruments, policies and plans supported between 2017 and 2018 in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Key Legal Instruments, Policies and Plans support by the UN system for a Healthy Caribbean (2017-18).

<p style="text-align: center;">Barbados and the OECS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed policies and legislation geared at Expanding Health Financing and Increasing Fiscal Space for UHC (PAHO/WHO). • Developed National Health Financing Legislation for Anguilla (PAHO/WHO). • Developed the Caribbean Action Plan on Health and Climate Change (PAHO/WHO). • Developed National Health Insurance Plans for Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia (PAHO/WHO). • Developed HRH National Policies and Plans in Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis (PAHO/WHO). • Developed a Breastfeeding Policy in OECS Countries (PAHO/WHO). • Developed the E-Health Strategy and Knowledge Management in British Virgin Islands (PAHO/WHO). • Supported the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy for Anguilla (UNFPA, PAHO/WHO). • Supported the National Action Plan to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancy in Antigua and Barbuda (UNFPA). • Mapped sexual and reproductive health legislation in Caribbean including Barbados and Eastern Caribbean (UNFPA). • Completed St. Lucia Livestock policy and strategy (FAO). <p style="text-align: center;">Jamaica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (UNFPA). • HIV Policy (UNFPA, UNDP, PAHO/WHO). • National Integrated Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health Plan and Standards of Neonatal Care (PAHO/WHO). • Developed National Health Research Policy. • Drafted Nutrition Policy and Standards. • Drafted School Nutrition guidelines. • Drafted Regional food labelling standards. <p style="text-align: center;">Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and operationalized the guidelines for certifying ECD providers (UNICEF). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a New National Tuberculosis Guidelines (PAHO/WHO). • Supported the AIDS Strategic plan costing using the Resource Needs Model (RNM) (UNAIDS, PAHO/WHO.) • Assented the Tobacco legislation in 2017 (PAHO/WHO) • Approved the “test and treat” policy by the Ministry of Public Health (UNAIDS. PAHO/WHO). • Regulated the reporting on all maternal deaths in the country (PAHO/WHO). • Developed the Conservation and Contingency Plans. • Developed a plan of action to prevent the transmission of vaccine preventable diseases through border locations (PAHO/WHO). <p style="text-align: center;">Belize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National roadmap for development of a national strategy building on the global guidelines Accelerating Action for Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) (PAHO/UNICEF/UNFPA). • Amendments to the Food and Drugs Act 2016 (PAHO/WHO). • The National Human Resources for Health Strategic Plan 2019-2024 (PAHO/WHO). • National Strategic plan for Malaria Elimination (PAHO/WHO). • Food and Drugs (Registration, Licensing and Inspection) Regulations (PAHO/WHO). • The Tuberculosis National Strategy for Belize (PAHO/WHO). • National Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Obesity (PAHO/WHO). <p style="text-align: center;">Suriname</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed HIV/TB Transition Readiness Workplan and mobilized global fun resources (UNAIDS). • Approved “Treat All” Policy (PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS). <p style="text-align: center;">Trinidad and Tobago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed Child Health Policy Manual (UNICEF). • Developed National food safety Policy (PAHO/WHO). • Prepared a draft Sexual Reproductive Healthy Policy (UNFPA). <p>Developed a SRH mobile application for young people (UNFPA)</p>
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- Supported the development and approval of the National Sexual & Reproductive Health Policy (UNFPA).

Source: By author from inputs received from the UN Country Teams.

4.2.1. Health System in the Caribbean

In the Caribbean, four areas of continuing challenge relate to health: maternal mortality, adolescents birth rate, neonatal mortality which constitutes 50% of child mortality in the region, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and increases in the incidence of non-communicable diseases. The United Nations System undertook focused on addressing issues of access to health services, healthy lifestyle and delivering on health targets as defined in the SDG 3 and other related health indicators and targets in the SDGs. Towards ensuring all health systems in SIDS are resilient to climate variability and change, PAHO/WHO launched a Special Initiative on Climate Change and Health in SIDS, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). With this, the Caribbean join their voices to those of SIDS in the Pacific, in Africa, and in the Indian Ocean in fighting against climate change through actions to protect health and leaving no one behind. As part of this initiative, The Caribbean Action Plan on Health and Climate Change was developed. Member States have been developing National Adaptation Plans. And since 2017, ten Caribbean countries developed their National Human Resources Plans to strengthen the health workforce.

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis

were among countries certified in 2017 for having achieved their goals and targets on the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis.

PAHO/WHO is responsible for providing notification of validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) and has an independent body that certifies validation. Following the launch of the regional EMTCT strategy, PAHO/WHO implemented a range of critical strategies that guided both national and regional efforts. Through collaboration with key partners such as CARICOM, CARPHA, PANCAP, UNICEF, UNAIDS and the CDC, the region was able to strengthen services towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. As of July 2017, fifteen countries and territories had applied to the PAHO Director to validate that they had achieved the status of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. At the end of 2017, the Global Validation Advisory Committee recommended certification of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda,

Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis as having achieved the EMTCT goals and targets. With the inclusion of Cuba which was validated in 2015, seven out of the eleven countries validated globally are from the Caribbean.

High-level meetings provide significant opportunities for dialogue on approaches and measures to tackle global and regional issues. PAHO/WHO facilitated CARICOM's participation on the negotiations on the Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the CARICOM Community Heads of Government Breakfast Event on NCDs where "Caribbean Moves" was launched.

4.2.2. Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health

Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health interventions focused on health concerns across the life course involving women before and during pregnancy, new-borns during the first 28 days of life and children to their fifth birthday. The Latin America and Caribbean region made progress on maternal and child health including family planning and contraception, prenatal care, and skilled birth attendance. In 2017, the region as a whole had a maternal mortality ratio of 60.8 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births, which signifies a 56.6% reduction from 1990 levels (140 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births). However, most of these maternal deaths are preventable. Access to quality maternal health care would prevent 54% of these deaths and universal access to family planning could prevent an additional 29% of maternal deaths.¹⁷

Birth asphyxia (60%) and sepsis (15%) are the main causes of neonatal and perinatal mortality.

Source: PAHO/WHO

The main causes of neonatal and perinatal mortality were birth asphyxia (60%) and sepsis (15%). Towards a more coherent approach to dealing with neonatal and perinatal mortality, the Eastern Caribbean sub-region, Trinidad and Tobago and with PAHO/WHO to expand the Perinatal Information System. Using this system, countries are now pursuing measures to improve quality of neonatal and perinatal services, monitor patients in labour through the use of the partograph and improve documentation of the maternity records. The work in Belize was more focused on understanding of prenatal care, including

common pregnancy related health issues and warning signs during pregnancy and facilitated regular check-ups at antenatal care and laboratory tests, and prepared the mothers for the care of their child. The implementation of the Maternal and Perinatal Strategy is expected to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity and neonatal health in the region. To that end, UNFPA, PAHO/WHO and UNICEF worked across the region to secure the reproductive health rights (Belize and Guyana), strengthen policies (Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla) and increasing knowledge among school leavers and media representatives and journalists (Montserrat and Barbados). The Latin American Centre for Perinatology and Women's Health expanded the use of the Perinatal Information System available online. The online system will provide information on antenatal care data to address issues and progress toward reduction of maternal mortality.

Across several MSDF Caribbean countries, UNICEF launched or piloted the U-Report platform, which offers a resource for rapid real-time data collection and information dissemination that can improve availability of

¹⁷ GTR; December 2017; Overview of the Situation of Maternal Morbidity and Mortality: Latin America and the Caribbean; pp. 10-13, accessed on January 17, 2019

data on health, health literacy among other areas of concern. In Suriname, UNICEF supported the promotion of health and development of all children especially in immunization and maternal and new-born health, to enhance the institutional framework and capacities to plan, coordinate and implement the baby-friendly hospitals, to provide technical assistance to the Country Coordinating Mechanism on fight against HIV, and to promote the integrated, multi-sectoral policies and programmes. Through the partnership with the Medical Mission, the Early Childhood Development programme, focused on adolescent-friendly health services, was scaled up starting in hard to reach areas in the interior. 52 out of approximately 118 Healthcare Workers from 27 clinics from the Medical Mission were trained in adolescent-friendly health services in East Suriname, Middle Suriname and Upper lands Amerindians area. Feeding and Essential Care of the New-born booklets were distributed to all health clinics ensuring critical information for the care of at least 10,000 new-borns were transmitted to mothers and caregivers. UNICEF worked to improve vaccination coverage in hard to reach areas in the interior by providing 3 clinics with innovative solar powered vaccination refrigerators and supported the outreach of dropouts. To ensure continuation of proper monitoring and tracking of vaccinations, 20,000 vaccination booklets were printed ensuring vaccination tracking for 20,000 infants for two years including 150 vaccination manuals for Healthcare Workers. Support was also provided by UNICEF to ensure continuation of the Yellow Fever program by ensuring stock of 20,000 yellow fever vaccination booklets. Based on the 2018 Expanded Programme on Immunization report, the percentage of the infants reaching immunization (SDG target 3.b) represent 90% in Suriname and 97% in Guyana for the DPT antigens and 97% in Suriname and 99% in Guyana for Measles.

The critical information for the care of
10,000 newborns
in Suriname was transmitted to mothers and
care givers.

Source: UNICEF Suriname

Adolescent Health Strategy, as well as starting the draft of the Standards and Norms for Adolescent health. UNFPA in Trinidad and Tobago advanced government efforts to expanding their contraceptives method mix through advocacy, technical assistance and facilitating their access to a wide range of contraceptives through UNFPA's procurement and information platform. UNFPA and PAHO have provided technical and financial support for the introduction of contraceptive implants. To improve access to not only contraceptives, in 2018, UNFPA supported the MOH in assessing its pharmacies in an aim to adopt a national logistics

Perinatal Health Information System transforming the health sector in Trinidad and Tobago

With support from PAHO/WHO, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago now has a Perinatal Health Information System (SIP) that has improved evidence-informed clinical decision-making and programme development for maternal and new born health services. Over 300 health care service providers have knowledge on how to access and use the system. After the pilot of the system in 2017, eight thousand (8,000) records retrospective and prospective records have been entered into the Platform and has provided job opportunity for approximately 20 doctors on internship. The data transfer helped in noticing data gaps which has led to prompt corrective actions by hospital management teams. Ministry of Health has mandated the adoption of SIP throughout the Public Health Sector and roll-out to the Private Sector.

Source: PAHO/WHO

To improve timeliness and quality of health care services for vulnerable children in rural, underserved communities in southern Belize, laboratories in San Antonio and Santa Theresa Health Clinics and the Southern Regional Hospital in Dangriga were remodelled or equipped and the Ministry of Health was supported by UNICEF to strengthen training for health facility staff nationwide. UNICEF, in collaboration with UNFPA and PAHO, supported the Ministry of Health in drafting the National Adolescent Health Strategy, as well as starting the draft of the Standards and Norms for Adolescent health. UNFPA in Trinidad and Tobago advanced government efforts to expanding their contraceptives method mix through advocacy, technical assistance and facilitating their access to a wide range of contraceptives through UNFPA's procurement and information platform. UNFPA and PAHO have provided technical and financial support for the introduction of contraceptive implants. To improve access to not only contraceptives, in 2018, UNFPA supported the MOH in assessing its pharmacies in an aim to adopt a national logistics management information system SALMI, for all pharmaceuticals. Based on the experiences from Trinidad and Tobago, UNFPA also supported Suriname to develop a roadmap for the introduction of LARCS . The expansion of contraceptive choices will positively impact the unmet need for family planning and the reduction of teenage pregnancies, which are both high. Promoting early stimulation for the 0 - 3 age is essential in Early Childhood Development (ECD). In Guyana and Belize, a standardized training for ECD practitioners built the foundation for the Government ownership in the expansion of child care services in established centres in various parts of the country. Various forms of child care - centre based care, play groups and community-based child care programming are now found in various parts of Guyana emphasizing cultural appropriateness and ensuring smoother home-school transitions; more positive parent-child interactions; on time enrolment to formal school and more children meeting developmental milestones. UNICEF and PAHO in Suriname supported the process of having hospitals certified in Baby Friendly Health services. As such, 12,000 prenatal control cards; 10,000 prenatal clinic cards and 200 counselling cards for the Infant & Young Child Feeding and Essential Care of the New-born were distributed to all health clinics ensuring critical information for the care of at least 10,000 new-borns were transmitted to mothers and caregivers. In Barbados and the OECS, 245 orphans and vulnerable children and 700 men who have sex with men (MSM) were served with nutritional and prevention packages respectively to meet the needs of those affected or infected by the AIDS epidemic.

In 2017, a joint advocacy between UNFPA, PAHO, National FP Association and other CSOs on the draft Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) policy in Trinidad and Tobago resulted in an updated draft version of the policy. In Jamaica, technical assistance was provided to Ministry of Health and the National Family Planning Board for the development of the National Policy on SRH. During 2018, two additional countries have advanced in developing/updating their SRH Policies, namely Guyana and Suriname, with support from UNFPA. The revised draft National SRH Policy for Guyana has been submitted to the Ministry of Public Health for review and was approved at the time of the development of this report. UNFPA, in coordination with the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, Caribbean Network of Parliamentarians on Population and Development organized a Regional Forum of the Caribbean Parliamentarians: Fostering Alliances to Advance the International Conference on Population and Development and 2030 Agenda which was critical in renewing the commitments of Caribbean Parliamentarians on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, promote SRH rights under the Sustainable Development Goals. Some of the key points made include: the need for parliamentarians to work with religious groups around key SRH issues and it was recommended that a review of existing legislation related to SRH is necessary to analyse the gaps in compliance with international standards and obligations. The latter conclusion was because SRH legislation, in many English and Dutch-speaking countries in the Caribbean, are outdated and do not reflect an understanding of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, human rights and dignity, including the equal rights of women and girls.

Using Sex Worker Implementation Tool, the Trans Implementation Tool, and the MSM Implementation Tool, the regional capacity of 96 Programme managers, health care providers and community peer advocates and 32 sex worker peer leaders to increase reach, coverage and access of key populations was improved in Jamaica through sensitization and capacity building workshops in the effective design, implementation and monitoring of programmes. The intensive capacity building sessions ensure the 6 modules of the tool can now be applied by the target group.

UNFPA provided technical support of 11 countries to advance the delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The office convened a regional high-level meeting on Comprehensive Sexuality Education with participation from 8 countries which brought together over 40 ministers of health, permanent secretaries, senior education technicians along with delegates from allied regional agencies to dialogue and agree on opportunities to improve access to SRH information and services by Caribbean youth through the effective delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Health and Family Life Education programmes. The meeting concluded with an agreement of 36 key recommendations to be taken forward for action. As a follow up to agreements forged at the High-Level Meeting one south-south collaboration was initiated, Jamaica to Grenada. In 2017, a Sexuality and Sexual Health Training Manual developed for the Health Family Life Education (HFLE) Technicians of the Jamaica Ministry of Education and consequently 80 HFLE Master Trainers were certified. A year later and with support from UNFPA, approximately 90 education technicians from the Ministry of Education in Jamaica were trained and certified in life skills education principles and techniques.

In 2018, UNFPA and PAHO organized a regional meeting with key UN partners, OECS, CARICOM and a representative of the Youth Ambassadors, to review the implementation status of the CARICOM Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF) for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and to strengthen coordination between UN agencies and the network of International Planned Parenthood Federation affiliates toward achieved the targets of the ISF. As a result, an action plan was developed and agreed with actions per ISF outcome.

The aspirations of the Latin America and Caribbean region is to work collectively towards achieving all reproductive, maternal, new born and child health targets set out in the SDGs. The [PAHO Regional Integrated Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Plan 2018-2030](#) and similar frameworks by UNFPA and UNICEF in the region present innovative and more effective efforts to reduce health inequities, increase access to health care and services, and ensure that every woman, child, and adolescent in the Americas not only survives but thrives in a transformative environment in which they can realize their right to enjoy the highest attainable standard health.

Access to strategic information for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health advocacy and policy guidance was improved for a few countries through the commissioning and dissemination of study reports. UNFPA conducted a rapid assessment of the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health information and services that are presently being provided in Belize to vulnerable and marginalized groups, including adolescents. The assessment identified existing barriers of information and services and delivered key recommendations for addressing the gaps and barriers among the target populations to guide policy and decision makers in improving access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services and information. In Trinidad and Tobago, a protocol was developed to support the conduct of a study on the legal barriers that affect adolescents' access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services. This study responds to a request from the National AIDS Coordinating Committee and is critical evidence in supporting the proposed amendment to Trinidad and Tobago's Children's Act of 2015 with the aim of facilitating minors' access to sexual reproductive health services and information drafted by a group of national stakeholders. Furthermore, in 2017, UNFPA, in collaboration with UNAIDS and the National AIDS Coordinating Committee, also supported a literature review on the vulnerability of young males to STIs and gender-based violence.

A National Action Plan to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancy in Antigua and Barbuda was developed in 2018 with technical and financial support from UNFPA. The Plan established a comprehensive multi-sectoral partnership to improve adolescent health with focus on decreasing the adolescent fertility rate. Through a collaboration between PAHO-WHO and UNFPA, the National Strategic Adolescent Health and Development Plan for Barbados was finalized in 2018 in line with the Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-AH!) guidelines. Moreover, the Ministry of Health of Jamaica received UNFPA support to train and certify over 80 clinicians and other health care providers in the assimilation and application of the Adolescent Health Standards in the delivery of quality services to adolescents in clinics and other health care settings.

UNFPA facilitated the capacity building of over 60 Caribbean youth leaders to advocate for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights through their participation in 3 regional training initiatives: The Caribbean Forum on Population Youth and Development, co-convened with ECLAC; The "Youth Now! Youth Political Leadership Camp", a regional youth leadership camp held to prepare youth delegates for participation in Regional Conference on Population and Development held in Lima; UNFPA Belize also conducted a subsequent Youth Leadership workshop to strengthen capacity and networking of youth leaders. Self-assessment of the Youth Advisory Groups operations conducted by youth leaders in 6 countries.

4.2.3. HIV AIDS and other Infectious Diseases

25,000

PLHIV in the UN MSDF countries to be reached with treatment services by 2020.

Source: UNAIDS Guyana and Suriname

Infectious diseases¹⁸ are diseases caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi. The diseases can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another. Infectious diseases of major concern include human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis and other tropical diseases. Major advances have been made in combating infectious diseases. Globally in 2015, there was a decline of 45 % of new HIV infection per 1,000

uninfected people and 71% among children under 15 years of age since 2000. It translated into 0.3 new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected people and 0.08 among children under 15 years of age. In the same year, 10.4 million new cases of tuberculosis were reported worldwide, which represents 142 new cases per 100,000 people, or a decline of 17% since 2000.

In the Caribbean, efforts are being directed to reverse the increasing trend of major communicable diseases, eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, implement the 'Test All, Treat All' strategy to reach the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets. According to an evaluation by the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS, annual number of new HIV infections among adults in the Caribbean declined by only 18% from 2010 to 2017, from 19,000 [14,000–31,000] to 15,000 [11,000–26,000]. Key populations, Men who have sex with men, Sex Workers and their clients, and partners of key populations, transgender persons, and persons who use drugs, accounted for the majority of the new HIV infections (68%) during this period.¹⁹

The same evaluation maintained that 'there has been progress in placing more people living with HIV on treatment, however, much more needs to be done to increase the numbers and to retain people on treatment'. By December 2017, the percentage of people living with HIV on treatment by country ranged from 31% to 64%. Generally, there is an increment of coverage of people living with HIV on treatment by 2017 for countries when compared with the SDG baseline year of 2015. However, there is still a large gap in most countries to reach the second of the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets ranging from 862 to 15,880 people living with HIV who are yet to get treatment. In total, over 25,000 people living with HIV in the UN MSDF countries will have to be reached with treatment services by 2020. Proven strategies for early diagnosis and treatment enrolment, retention and adherence must be applied and scaled up rapidly to achieve the 90-90-90 targets.

Due to the shrinkage of donor resources to the region, HIV and AIDS sustainability planning has been a priority in the region. The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana led partners in the development of a sustainability plan for HIV and AIDS. In Suriname, a Transition Readiness Assessment (TRA) for the Global Fund HIV/TB programme was conducted using strategic information collected from HIV/STI and TB programme reviews, treatment cascade analyses and HIV estimates, and projections reported by the

¹⁸ As defined by PAHO/WHO.

¹⁹ PANCAP Press Release on January 21, 2019 on 'PANCAP Evaluation reveals impact of HIV Prevention Response has been inadequate particularly among Key Populations'.

country. A Transition Readiness Workplan was derived from the TRA and used for resource mobilization from the Global Fund.

The need for improved capacity in the health sector to combat HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases and other health concerns is imperative. The UN system in the Caribbean also directed efforts and resources to strengthening capacities to 'Treat All'. In Trinidad and Tobago increased access to 'Treat All' by making ARVs more affordable and available; UNDP in Belize anticipated increases in the number of individuals tested on HIV/AIDS with significant progress in TB surveillance and coverage across the country following an expansion of the formal system for testing, surveillance and data gathering. Guyana expanded the services and obtained the drugs necessary to provide for a higher number of people living with HIV as a result of the adoption of the "Treat all" policy. Suriname is among the countries in the Caribbean that have adopted the "Treat All" policy. These were notable efforts associated with the increment in people living with HIV receiving treatment in the Caribbean. The capacity of nurses in the regions in Guyana to deliver better comprehensive HIV services was also increased and an online system for reporting AIDS epidemic has been made available for planning and monitoring.

Despite their collective aspirations, MSDF Caribbean countries pursued specific HIV/AIDS interventions to address peculiar challenges and issues. For instance, Suriname trained CSOs working with people living with HIV and Trinidad and Tobago trained 150 clinicians, HIV testers, prevention of mother-to-child transmission nurses, lab technicians and service managers on HIV, STIs and Stigma and Discrimination and established a framework for action that sets out national standards with respect to HIV and AIDS in the workplace. UNDP in Jamaica UNDP Jamaica supported the training of two (2) Pro Bono lawyers to support strategic litigation/Key Population²⁰case management. The training raised the awareness of lawyers for non-discriminatory management of key populations and identified and informed them on the legal needs of key populations. In Guyana, data pertaining to Elimination Initiative of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV was collected from the years 2013-2016 from all the regions. The review examined the number of HIV exposed infants, HIV positive infants, the number of pregnant women and infants who were placed on ARV drugs, had either Dried Blood Spot (DBS) or Rapid testing. The information was used to complete the Second Report of the elimination initiative report as requested by the PAHO/WHO Review Committee. UNDP in Belize trained surveillance teams consisting of more than 500 health care personnel to participate in national surveillance of TB and HIV in their local communities and strengthened capacities of all laboratory staff nationwide in topics such as infection control, parasitology, molecular biology, standard practices in blood bank, HIV/AIDS, biosafety and waste management, allowing them to conduct better specialized medical tests. In Eastern Caribbean, the focus was to support six Caribbean Countries to meet the requirement for the elimination of HIV and congenital syphilis. There were also widespread advocacy initiatives across the MSDF countries directed towards the 'Test All Treat All' Policy.

Towards reversing the trend of other communicable diseases, Belize, with support from UNDP, developed its Tuberculosis National Strategy and the National Strategic Plan for malaria elimination. The country further institutionalized its updated TB guidelines within its TB/HIV continuum of care algorithms. Similarly, Guyana improve access to care for Leprosy and built capacity of health care providers on the use of the chronic illness care model and the chronic care including early diagnosis of Multi-drug resistance in Tuberculosis and Anti-microbial resistance. The UNDP and UNV office in Trinidad and Tobago provided medical professionals to add to the availability of doctors in primary health centres, particularly in underserved rural areas and

²⁰ Key Populations are People Living with HIV (PLHIV), Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Transgender people (TG), Sex Workers (SW), People Who Use Drugs (PWUD).

increased the opening hours of health centres throughout the country. A number of Eastern Caribbean countries (Anguilla, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Lucia) developed policies and legislation geared at Expanding Health Financing and Increasing Fiscal Space for universal health care. In addition, UNICEF provided more than 40,000 affected people, including 17,000 children in region access to drinking water and purification tablets to save lives and prevents the outbreak and transmission of waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea.

4.2.4. Non-Communicable Diseases

A non-communicable diseases (NCD) is a medical condition or disease that is not caused by infectious agents. They are a non-infectious or non-transmissible chronic disease which last for long periods of time and progress slowly. The NCDs include diabetes, strokes, hypertension, heart disease, cancers and chronic respiratory ailments. The World Health Organization estimates that NCDs kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally. And that each year, 15 million people die from a NCD between the ages of 30 and 69 years; over 85% of these "premature" deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.9 million people annually, followed by cancers (9.0 million), respiratory diseases (3.9million), and diabetes (1.6 million). These 4 groups of diseases account for over 80% of all premature NCD deaths²¹. Tobacco use, physical inactivity, the harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diets were identified as the major risk factors that increase the likelihood of one dying from a NCD.

Tobacco use as a risk factor for NCDs is well established, and as such, part of the strategies in the prevention and control of NCDs in the Caribbean is to reduce the use of tobacco. Three countries: Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Belize took affirmative actions against smoking. While Trinidad and Tobago empowered a cadre of health professionals to implement tobacco cessation clinics across the country, Guyana implements three out of the four tobacco-control best buys identified in the WHO Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs - FCTC Article 8: protection from exposure to tobacco smoke, FCTC Article 11: Packaging and labelling of tobacco products and FCTC Article 13: tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. Belize promoted the ill effects of tobacco use by providing educational materials for the prevention of tobacco smoking and the observance of World No Tobacco Day.

The UN system supported the development of policies and legal instruments, built capacity of institutions and supported actions to address non-communicable diseases in the Caribbean. In the British Virgin Island, PAHO/WHO supported the development of E-Health Strategy and Knowledge Management. Belize developed a National Strategic Plan for the prevention of Obesity. Guyana took actions relating to the management of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases to reduce diabetes in pregnancy and diabetic retinopathy by building national capacity for health care providers on the use of the chronic illness care model and the chronic care passport. The UN and Government in Trinidad and Tobago improved access to NCD screening and preventive service by carrying out Public Assistance Programme (PAP) smear testing, breast examinations, prostate evaluations for one hundred participants via

²¹ Source: World Health Organization, 'Communicable Diseases; [Key Facts](#)'; accessed September 20, 2018.

vouchers. Blood pressure and glucose testing and lectures and demonstrations on smoking cessation and healthy eating were also some of the services provided to attendees at the event.

With one of the highest suicide rates in the world, the Caribbean has identified mental health or mental as one of, if not the sole, cause of sexual and domestic violence, homicides and suicide. In Guyana, where suicide rates are among the highest in the Caribbean, The UN Country Team, led by the PAHO/WHO in collaboration with the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Parliamentary Committee on Social Services held a dialogue on suicide in Parliament. Members of Parliament on both sides of the bench, UN agencies and Civil Society jointly discussed the causes, scope of interventions, challenges and shared recommendations to confront the national challenge that puts Guyana in the second highest suicides per population in the world. The dialogue is expected to lead to stronger collaboration among parliamentarians and the UN system to strengthen efforts to reduce suicides in Guyana. PAHO/WHO also trained two doctors from the Baramita Health Centre in Region One on mental health and conducted outreaches on violence against women and children in three Regions in Guyana.

4.2.5. Healthy Lifestyle

A lifestyle that is pro-health is major success factor to reaching those targets set out in the sustainable development goals for universal health coverage. The UN in the Caribbean has been working closely with its Government counterparts to promote healthy lifestyle through the interventions and policy advocacy that are focused and organized around the health guidance and sensitisation of people and communities. It is to that end UNICEF in Suriname worked on improving Child Healthy Schooling through its MZ School Health Program. This intervention has ensured early diagnosis, treatment and follow up of defects/abnormalities, health education and piloting the implementation of growth charts.

Trinidad and Tobago: Collective Actions to Promote Healthy Lifestyle among all age groups

The 'Healthy Me' Camp is part of the Child Health Promotion Strategy in keeping with the country's Strategy for the Prevention and Control of NCDs; more so the prevention and reduction of obesity in children. This intervention has created learning space for parents and 'at risk' primary school aged children to develop knowledge and skills for healthy living. During the July-August school vacation, Trinidad and Tobago hosted four Healthy Me Camp, targeting children assessed as overweight or obese (above 2 standard deviations or $>30\text{kgm}^2$ for BMI) by School Health Nurses and Dietitians in the community health services in the health regions.

The 'Healthy Community Initiative' utilize the PAHO Healthy Communities and Municipal approach by undertaking several activities throughout the year. This initiative promotes healthy lifestyle within targeted settings using community mechanisms and resources to address local determinants of health. It also empowered individuals and communities to take actions to promote population health and well-being. "Keep Moving Family Fitness Sunday- Celebrating Streets for Wellness," workplace wellness and healthy farmers events were held. Through this initiative, institutions including local authorities, the public and private commercial sector, civil society organizations, and the general public assembled to highlight the importance of promoting environments that favour the selection of the healthiest options. It raised awareness and

encouraged change towards healthier habits, environments, and policies. Health screening to include blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), cholesterol, glucose, HIV, PSA and vision screening. Health discussions and displays focused on healthy diets, mental health, sugar content in drinks, tobacco cessation and pathologies secondary to tobacco and alcohol abuse were done at these events. Community members and workers were happy with these events. One participated recounted that it has been a long time since their last medical as he did not have the time to schedule a doctor's appointment for a routine check-up.

School feeding was another key programme intervention seen by many countries in the Caribbean as a top priority for a healthy lifestyle among school going children. As such, policy instruments for food and nutrition security as well as a means of promoting healthy eating habits among school children dominated actions on this subject. It is provided knowledge and sensitized on the importance of School Feeding as a means to ensure the right to adequate foods in the Caribbean, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The assessment of the School Feeding system in 14 CARICOM countries was discussed with Officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education and Social Development of the CARICOM countries, as well as regional organisations including CARPHA, CROSQ, HCC, IICA, CARDI, CABA. Building on this assessment, a set of actions and recommendations will be further agreed to the COTED. Trinidad and Tobago developed its national food safety policy and implementation plan and is taking significant strides towards reducing childhood obesity through the development of a National Nutrition Standards for Foods Offered to Children in Schools. While Trinidad and Tobago successfully banned sugar sweetened beverages in schools with the last assessment showing a high rate of compliance, Guyana has in place a Nutrition Coordination Mechanism including nutrition in emergencies, that will guide the mainstreaming of nutrition education and promotion and hygiene education. In Guyana, a standardized training for Early Childhood Development practitioners set the foundation for the expansion of child care services in purpose build centres in various parts of the country. Various forms of child care – centre based care, play groups and community-based child care programming are now established in various parts of Guyana emphasizing cultural appropriateness thus contributing to (a) smoother home -school transitions; (b) more positive parent -child interactions; (c) on time enrolment to formal school; (d) more children meeting developmental milestones.

Concerns about the quality and standard of food sold in the market are rife; hence there is need for greater control and protection of consumers. Country Cooperation for Health and Development between Chile and CARICOM has been a key impetus for the Caribbean to focus on front-of-packaging labelling. The cooperation team is led by the PAHO sub-regional Program and comprised of key stakeholders – CARICOM Health Desk, UWI, HCC, CARPHA, CLIC, CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), the CARICOM Office of Trade Negotiation, and the Government of Chile – which provides general oversight ensuring coordination among key partners and related ongoing activities. Key achievements to date include the approval by the CROSQ Council of a proposal to start the revision of the current 2010 standard for labelling of pre-packaged foods to include front-of-packaging labelling; as well as a harmonized protocol to produce additional evidence required to support development and implementation of related regulations. In Guyana, a Nutrition Assessment was conducted for students of Grades 1 and 5 of the Baramita Primary school. The findings of this assessment will guide the implementation of ongoing community and in-school nutrition education activities.

UNESCO, in partnership with the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other key stakeholders across the Caribbean region, launched the Caribbean Sport Compass. This initiative contributed to the strengthening of policy-making processes in Caribbean SIDS by elevating sport as a real contributor to the Agenda 2030 and establish a regional youth-led “Task Force”

aimed at up-scaling and supporting youth-led grassroots programmes dedicated to youth empowerment and sustainable development through sport.

4.3. SAFE, COHESIVE AND JUST CARIBBEAN



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“These gang leaders in the neighbourhood, you don’t see them as a monster or someone to be scared of. They are some guys you might get a dollar from or get something to eat. They are community figures and they fill a void.”

-Male, 27 years old, Belize City

The priority area ‘**A safe, cohesive and just Caribbean**’ acknowledges that insufficient citizen security restricts the people of the Caribbean to live full and productive lives. This has an impact especially on women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups. It acknowledges conditions that will promote security and rule of law as well as addresses the root causes that perpetuate violence, including attitudes, vulnerabilities and lack of access to justice. Within this priority, the UN will support member States to adhere to international, regional and national commitments to ensure that all persons can live free from harm within the public and

private spheres. The outcomes leading to safe, cohesive and just Caribbean are ‘Equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety reinforced’, and ‘Capacities of public policy and rule of law institutions and civil society organizations strengthened’. Intervention under this pillar sought to address the challenges relating to democratic governance and public service delivery, capacity of rule of law institutions and access to justice as well as citizen security and safety. Table 3 below list key support to relevant legal instruments, policy and plan provided towards a ‘Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean’.

Table 3 - Legal Instruments, Policies and Plans Supported towards a Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean.

<p style="text-align: center;">Belize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile Justice Bill (UNICEF). • Belize Crime Observatory Bill (UNDP). • Amended Criminal code 2014 expanding the definition of rape to better protect girls and boys (UNICEF). • Supported associated regulations to operationalize the Sexual Offenders Registry (UNDP). • Drafted of the Citizen Security Strategy (UNDP). • Supported Judiciary to Develop the Gender Protocol for Judicial Officers with CCJ JURIST and CAJO (UN Women). • Pocket Guide on Human Rights in Law Enforcement was published. <p style="text-align: center;">Jamaica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised the National Gender Policy (UN Women). • Developed Manual to train Law enforcement officers to identify victims of trafficking. • Developed Legal Literacy Manuals. • Completed costing of National Strategic Action Plans on GBV in both countries (UN Women). • Drafted the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies. • Child Diversion Act (2018) passed (supported by UNICEF and other international partners). • Supported review of the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence 2018-2023 and development of the 2018 Road Map for Ending Violence against Children (UNICEF). • Supported Judiciary to Develop the Gender Protocol for Judicial Officers with CCJ JURIST and CAJO (UN Women). • Supported SVG in completing their NSAP on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (UN Women). • Supported the updating of the DV Act in Barbados (UN Women). 	<p style="text-align: center;">Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a National Social Cohesion Strategic Plan and accompanying Implementation Plan (UNDP). • Developed a Juvenile Justice legislation (UNICEF, UNDP). • Developed plan of action for the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act, 2010 (UNICEF). • Provided human resource to facilitate a legislative and policy review of existing TIP legislation (IOM). • Reviewed the birth registration legislation in order to determine what positive and challenging factors can be addressed to achieve universal birth registration (UNICEF). • Constructed policies and programmes for the reduction of youth crime and violence (UNDP). <p style="text-align: center;">Suriname</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed an Integrated Organizational Development Programme for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UNDP). • Developed/approved Legislation on child labor” (UNICEF) <p style="text-align: center;">Trinidad and Tobago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted the Family and Children Division Act 2016 (UNDP). • Supported Judiciary to Develop the Gender Protocol for Judicial Officers with CCJ JURIST and CAJO (UN Women). <p style="text-align: center;">Barbados and the OECS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the passing of laws that were used by member states to develop policies which modernize the enabling environment for children’s access to justice and protection (UNICEF)
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Source: Generated by author based on inputs received from the UN Country Teams.

4.3.1. Democratic Governance and Public Service Delivery

The MSDF Caribbean countries have known no other type of political regime in the last 30 or so years apart from democracy.

Source: Center for American Progress

The Caribbean has the reputation of being the most democratic region in the developing world. Nearly all the states can be defined as liberal democratic, and in the Commonwealth Caribbean most of the countries have known no other type of political regime in the last 30 or so years. “Effective governance for sustainable development demands that public institutions in all countries and at all levels be inclusive, participatory and accountable to the people. Laws and institutions must protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. All must be free from fear and violence, without

discrimination.”²² Strong and legitimate institutions and inclusive systems of governance are crucial to providing citizen security, participatory leadership, and gender responsive administration of justice.

Accountable, effective, and participatory governments systems make better and more reliable policy decisions and serve as the cornerstones of national and international stability. A recent drive to promote democratic governance has seen countries and territories in the Caribbean take positive actions to tackle corruption; manage public resources effectively; protect the rights of individuals, religious groups, and minorities; promote press freedom; organize political campaigns; ensure free and fair elections; and establish think tanks.²³ The Caribbean is generally strong on human rights legislation and has robust legislation and policy on key aspects of human rights and democratic governance. An excellent example is the role that the region played in leading the way in developing countries in legislation regarding violence against women. ‘All countries have signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), though only Antigua and Barbuda, Belize and St. Kitts and Nevis have signed and ratified the Optional Protocol. However, timely reporting and implementation remain a challenge for all countries in the region.’ While there is general need for strengthening and updating legislation and policies, implementation and monitoring remain significant challenges in effective governance. Through the support of UN Women and OHCHR countries in the region received CEDAW sensitization sessions, as well as mock sessions resulting in five countries (St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda) reporting to the CEDAW Committee.

Through support provided by UNODC, the services of an international technical advisor were secured to build capacity in anti-corruption within various ministries and agencies in Trinidad and Tobago, including the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Special Organized Crime Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, the Department of Public Prosecutions, and the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago.

²² Secretary General’s Synthesis Report, para. 77.

²³ Source: Center for American Progress, ‘Democracy, Democratic Governance, and Transparent Institutions in the American Interest’; accessed on September 20, 2018

4.3.2. Capacity of Rule of Institutions and Access to Justice

Strong, efficient and responsive national institutions play important roles in ensuring that States deliver on their human rights obligations in a way that is fair, just and unbiased. Capacity and legislation for fair and transparent justice service delivery, freedom of information and equal access to justice are paramount. In the Caribbean, access to justice and rule of law is being hampered by the weak technical capacity of law enforcement and slow implementation of laws. Trinidad and Tobago, for instance, recorded major strides towards improving access to justice between 2017 and 2018 by establishing a Children Court System (CCS) and launching the Table of Equivalencies for the Classification of Crimes in Trinidad and Tobago. Belize has established through the Ministry of National Security and with UNDP's support, the first Crime Observatory platform, which is the major repository of crime data within the country. Through the observatory, key technical officers received training on criminal data analysis, infographics and data visualization, GIS and spatial data representation. UNDP also supported the development of a training module for justice officials in Belize, the training module covered topics such as interviewing children and best interest decision making. This was complemented by training provided in criminal data analysis, the use of infographics to support data presentation simplification and GIS utilization for spatial representation of data. The Jamaica Crime Observatory-Integrated Crime and Violence Information System was supported by UNICEF to compile the 2016-2017 Report on Children and Violence.

Crime in the Caribbean disproportionately affect poorer males between the ages of 18 and 30 and victims of violent crime are predominantly between the ages of 18 to 30 and from lower levels of income, while 80% of prosecuted crimes were committed by people aged 17 to 29 years.²⁴ Actions to curtail such violence ranged from regulation to capacity for implementation and advocacy. UNDP Jamaica had 351 (238 females/113 males) court staff trained to implement Court Reform Plan/Case Management. The trainings were centred around data entry, case flow management, that should develop the statistics data capture and reporting system for evidence-based policy development and decision making in the courts. In addition, over 108,000 colour coded file folders were provided to Courts to facilitate the roll-out of a new and improved records management system. Guyana has a "new" Juvenile Justice legislation, which among other things, raises the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years, prohibits the use of corporal punishment in detention centres and promotes the use of alternative sentencing. In the Eastern Caribbean, UNICEF supported the passing of laws that were used by member states to develop policies which modernize the enabling environment for children's access to justice and protection. UNICEF assisted in the training of 92 members of the police force in Jamaica on specific aspects of the OCA's Child Justice Guidelines; reviewed the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence 2018-2023 and developed the 2018 Road Map for Ending Violence against Children.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an important dimension of human insecurity, where insecurity begins in the home. The cultural notion that males need to be aggressive fuels both male on male violence as well as male violence against women. The proportion of women in the Americas region reporting having experienced violence was 36.1%.²⁵ Intimate partner violence in the Caribbean was estimated at 27.09% – just above the global average of 26.4%, but almost twice the East Asia prevalence rate of 16.3%. Through the 'Access to

²⁴ Source: Wong, J and Ramakrishnan, U; (November 14, 2017), 'Crime and Youth Unemployment in the Caribbean', IMF Western Hemisphere Department, IMF News. [Accessed](#) on January 23, 2019

²⁵ The Americas includes the Caribbean. Two Caribbean countries, Haiti and Jamaica, were included in the intimate partner survey, while Belize and Jamaica were included in the non-partner sexual violence estimates.

Justice' project between the Multi-Country Office in the Caribbean and the Caribbean Court of Justice, the capacity of judicial officers was strengthened resulting in the development of gender protocols for judicial officers in Barbados, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago. Guyana plans to finalise their gender protocol in 2019. In addition, UN Women supported the development of sexual offences guideline, which has been used across the region.

Under the End Violence Against Women programme, UN Women supported the Governments of Jamaica in the development and adoption of a national strategic action plan on Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica in 2017. Thus, supporting a significant contribution toward an enabling policy environment for addressing violence against women and girls. This support was also provided to the governments of the Bahamas and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In collaboration with the Bureau of Gender Affairs within the Office of the Prime Minister in Trinidad and Tobago, UN Women trained over 30 trainers to support the implementation of the Foundations Programme towards ending violence against women. The Office of the Prime Minister has identified three institutions for the programme roll out which begins in the second quarter of 2019. In 2017 with UN Women's support the Government of Antigua and Barbuda were able to open the Support and Referral Centre, which provides coordinated services to survivors of Gender-Based Violence. In addition, a Women's Health Survey was conducted in Trinidad and Tobago and produced in 2018 along with a qualitative study on gender-based violence, led by UN Women and Gender Affairs with support from UNFPA and other stakeholders.

UNDP contributed to the increase in institutional and technical capacity of regional bodies, selected national government systems and community stakeholders to reduce risk factors that drive youth crime, violence, and victimization. Suriname standardized and disaggregated crime data sources to facilitate identification and measurement of youth risk and resilience factors. Trinidad and Tobago continued its actions in improving access to justice and reform of its criminal justice system by building capacity for diversionary programmes among key stakeholders including 121 adults, 195 youth and 59 persons from justice, education, and civil society sectors. In Jamaica, UNICEF supported the work of the Ministry of Justice over a number of years which resulted in the establishment of the Child Diversion Act in 2018.

In respect to the GBV surveillance system, through South-South Collaboration, UNFPA facilitated a review of the system utilized in Antigua and Barbuda among partners in Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Since this review, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has requested UNFPA's support in adapting the Antigua and Barbuda system to Trinidad and Tobago. In Suriname, a workshop was conducted among the staff of Government institutions, Police Corps and Faith Based Organisations regarding the piloting of the intake forms (hard and e-copy) for 5 months to allow for integration into the Domestic Violence Act. The intake forms have since been finalized by Government. Representatives of Government from Guyana, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago participated in a regional meeting on the Essential Services Package in Panama in 2018 and will start the roll-out of the package in 2019. In Jamaica, an online GBV Platform which allows survivors and populations at risk to GBV to access information and needed support, was successfully launched in 2018. The tool, developed by UNFPA, was officially launched and handed over to the Bureau of Gender Affairs within IDEVAW celebrations on 4 December 2018. In 2018, a total of over 90 health care professionals and GBV service providers from Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica and Montserrat had their capacities strengthened on the Minimum Initial Service Package to address sexual and reproductive health needs and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies. In collaboration with IOM, over 100 shelter managers in Dominica were trained on preventing GBV in shelters, safe reporting and referrals. UNFPA partnered with UNICEF and IsraAid to conduct a rapid assessment 20 emergency shelters in Dominica, aimed at identifying factors that increase women and girls' vulnerability to

violence, gaps in services and barriers to access of services for survivors of gender-based violence. Data from the shelter assessment was instrumental in allowing for a more focused response and continues to provide an evidence-based platform from which to strengthen multi-sectoral response to GBV in shelter settings.

UNFPA further collaborated with the Bureau of Gender Affairs and the Dominica Broadcasting Service to reach the population with information on GBV, male engagement for prevention and response as well as the interlinkages between sexual and reproductive health. Three one-hour talk shows and four public service announcements were aired on the Dominica Broadcasting Service to raise awareness among listeners about GBV issues and access to information, safe reporting and referral to GBV specialized services. Extensive public outreach and community sensitization sessions were also conducted in 16 communities in Roseau, St Joseph, Portsmouth, St. Martin and Wood Ford Hill and a total of 1,222 information, education and communication materials and promotional products on GBV prevention and mitigation were widely disseminated. OHCHR, through its Human Rights Advisors in the region, conducted 25 workshops on human rights themes including gender, Human Rights mechanisms, human rights mainstreaming, disability, LGBTIs and the rights of people on the move. 450 participants from state institutions, civil society organisations and the UN agencies. In partnership with the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Health, Lifeline Ministries and other partners, the GBV Referral Pathway and accompanying standard operating procedures were developed for Dominica. It provides comprehensive information on the service providers and the path for GBV survivors to access multi-sectoral, survivor-centred services.

The ratification of nine core human rights instruments in the region is a positive sign of the engagement of States with OHCHR in the region. Five countries have created inter-ministerial committees as national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up and OHCHR is working closely with them to support these. OHCHR provided technical assistance services and progress continues to be achieved. For instance, since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), in 2006, States in the region have quickly ratified the instrument: Suriname most recently ratified the Convention in March 2017. As of 2018, only two Caribbean countries have not yet ratified the CRPD, St. Kitts and Nevis²⁶ and St. Lucia. In 2018, OHCHR provided capacity building in St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Suriname to raise awareness on disability and promote CRPD. Bahamas ratified the Convention against Torture in May 2018. Effective implementation through legislative and institutional reforms call for further technical assistance and advisory services to continue.

Based on expressions of interest to establish National Human Rights Institutions, OHCHR has started working with some authorities on the creation of National Human Rights Institutions (e.g. in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago).

In 2018, OHCHR took the lead on four reports by UN Country Teams to human rights mechanisms (Antigua and Barbuda: CEDAW; Dominica: UPR; St. Vincent and the Grenadines: ICCPR and Guyana: CEDAW) as well as having participated in capacity-building work with relevant authorities related to the reporting. OHCHR has also provided support to civil society to further engage with human rights mechanisms, in particular Barbados, Jamaica, Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Suriname. OHCHR has played a role in raising awareness on human rights through its participation in various campaigns (e.g. Being LGBT in the Caribbean,

²⁶ It is important to outline that the Cabinet in St. Kitts and Nevis approved the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in April 2016, which is a critical step made towards the ratification of the Convention.

UN Free & Equal, Death Penalty reform project and 70th celebrations of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights).

The Jamaica Constabulary Force has adopted its Child Interaction Policy and Procedure. Given that violence against children is still widely accepted as a disciplinary measure and sexual offences against children have lower punitive measures than against adults in the country, it is a positive step towards promoting child protection. OHCHR provided technical advice on designing the policy upon the request of Jamaica Constabulary Force. The policy is expected to serve as a guidance for the police in treating children in conflict with the law and assist stakeholders to identify and report child abuses.

An online training course titled “Human Rights for the Judiciary” was developed and published on the website of the Judicial Education Institute in Jamaica. OHCHR developed this course for members of the judiciary to be sensitized on human rights, in particular, promote the protection of the right of liberty and security of persons and prohibition of torture, the right to a fair trial, the right of specific groups in the Administration of Justice. In collaboration between OHCHR and the National Police College of Jamaica, a Pocket Guide on Human Rights in Law Enforcement was published to prevent human rights violations and to ensure accountability on violations committed by the police force. The guide also sensitizes the police on issues relating to women’s rights and gender-based violence

With UNFPA’s support, the Northern District Progressive Women’s Club in the community of Portsmouth was re-established as a Women Friendly Space providing a safe space for women generally as well as for survivors of gender-based violence. The women were provided with access to psychosocial support, referrals for health services, legal aid, counselling, information and skills building in computer use, sewing and hair braiding. President of the Northern District Progressive Women’s Club, Ms. Verlanda Bruney, expressed that “UNFPA’s intervention in the form of a safe space is critical to the development of members psychologically in the form of peer to peer counselling, socialization, empowerment, financially in the form of developing skills to create or access employment, as well as an overall improvement in sense of worth.”

In view of preventing violence among youth, a special challenge for SIDS in the Caribbean context, UNESCO drew on expertise from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the prevention of violence and enhancing the livelihoods of young people. In 2017, UNESCO led a Youth Engagement Campaign, which was aimed at creating avenues for youth involvement beyond being beneficiaries. The youth volunteers are relevant human resource pool that can be called upon to provide ideas, support communication and outreach efforts as well as effective implementation of events throughout the year. At country level, Jamaica revised its National Gender Policy, and Belize built capacity of duty bearers at all levels coming into contact with adolescents on armed violence prevention and reduction, while UN women worked with the government of Grenada to carry out a prevalence survey on violence against women. In Barbados, UNICEF reached out to approximately 20,000 students in Barbados with messages that would prevent interpersonal violence in schools. In Jamaica, the Peace Management Initiative, with support from UNICEF, established a group of 25 women called Mothers Against Murder, who seek healing and resilience-building following the deaths of their children. In Belize, UNICEF contributed to the strengthening of that country’s Gender-Based Violence Surveillance System. As part of the National Gender and Gender Based Violence Committee, UNFPA provides technical support for the implementation of the Gender Based Violence Plan of Action 2017-2021 and the Gender Policy 2013.

Following on the above, even with some progress in recent years respect for the human rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) persons remain largely absent in the Caribbean region.

Many Caribbean countries still criminalize same sex relations resulting in pervasive stigma, discrimination and violence. Violations of civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights continue. Ten Caribbean countries have discriminatory laws against same-sex sexual acts. In Jamaica, the 1864 Offences against the Person Act, calls for a penalty of up to 10 years of imprisonment for those convicted of the “abominable crime of buggery”.²⁷ Although these laws tend not to be enforced, their existence is used to harass and threaten LGBTI people, and they contribute to an environment that condones discrimination, stigma and violence.

In support of the rights of LGBTI people the “Being LGBTI in the Caribbean” Project is being supported by UNDP and USAID and works closely with civil society, government and private sector to develop positive avenues for dialogue, advocacy, research and education and to build capacity to address the challenges faced by the LGBTI community. The work focuses on strengthening partnerships and close communication with the government and other partners towards shared goals of non-discrimination and access to human rights. Through the Being LGBTI in the Caribbean project, 21 government and CSO participants received training in stigma reduction to support the development of LGBTI sensitive public policy in Barbados in 2018. Participants included staff from Ministries of Labour, Welfare Department (People Empowerment & Elder Affairs) and Health. Capacity for human rights and advocacy strategies for stigma reduction was strengthened among CSOs working on human rights issues in Barbados, including issues of LGBTI people and disabled people. 15 CSO participants joined regional NGOs and UN family including the UN National Human Rights Officer to enhance their practical knowledge on human rights, connect to resources useful for their human rights work and build alliances for outreach and advocacy.

4.3.3. Citizen Security and Safety

Effective citizen security implies profoundly changing the relationship between the state and the citizenry by making institutions more responsive and accountable to the people they serve. UN Security Council Resolution 1540 requires all States to implement effective measures aimed at preventing Non-State Actors from acquiring and using nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In 2017, the capacity of the Government of Guyana to implement the UNSCR 1540 was strengthened by the presentation, to the Government, of the Guyana National Legal Study. This study analysed the existing legislative framework with regards to the UNSCR 1540 and aided in the identification of key needs and challenges in implementing the resolution. National authority representatives also came together, with UNLIREC’s assistance, to develop a draft NAP document that sets out Guyana’s plan for implementing resolution 1540. A total of 33 persons participated in both activities.

Strong and legitimate institutions and inclusive systems of governance are crucial to providing citizen security and justice and breaking cycles of violence. Under the regional CARISECURE Project funded by USAID, UNDP and the Ministry of Public Security developed a Citizens Security Toolkit to be used for standardized and disaggregated data collection and analysis. This toolkit includes indicators, guidance notes on citizen security data collection and dissemination, the citizen security data collection form and coding structure, and an information sharing agreement. The data collected and analysed would be used to

²⁷ Human Rights First; 2012; Fact Sheet; LGBT Issues in Jamaica; <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/sites/default/files/Jamaica-LGBT-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

construct and implement policies and programmes for the reduction of youth crime and violence. With support from UN Women and the Inter-American Development Bank Trinidad and Tobago is set to have a much-needed baseline data on the prevalence and incidence of different forms of gender-based violence after a Gender-Based Violence Prevalence Survey was conducted in 2017. The survey is based on the CARICOM model which is an adaptation of the WHO international prevalence survey model. National Coordination Committees for Citizen Security were established in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, representing a key step to strengthening citizen security planning across the region. Cooperating with a range of national stakeholders, the CARISECURE project supported the establishment of National Level Task Forces to provide an Inter-Institutional Coordination Committee for engaging stakeholders to guide and support country level activities. In many project countries the NTF is the only functioning Coordination Committee among Security Sector Agencies and thus will continue to support national level coordination among agencies even after the completion of the project. In collaboration with the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers, the Caribbean Court of Justice, Trinidad and Tobago developed gender protocols. Twenty-five judicial officers who received training confirmed the positive impact of the training and the increased capacity to use the gender protocols in their work. In Guyana, similar survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences is set to provide important baseline data on the prevalence of violence among women locally and will make available for the first time in Guyana, comprehensive data to inform targeted violence prevention and mitigation strategies for women.

Caribbean countries have generally strong social policy frameworks and safety nets for social security with many having departments and overlapping agencies in principal encompassing most categories of marginalised and vulnerable groups. To improve the delivery of social services for the prevention and treatment of cases of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, the University of Guyana commenced Certificate, Diploma and Degree Programmes in Psychology with a planned master's Programme in Clinical Psychology in 2018. In addition, the country developed its National Social Cohesion Strategic Plan and accompanying Implementation Plan which are expected to contribute to a unified Guyana where diversities are embraced, conflicts resolved, networks and collaboration with stakeholders strengthened, equity promoted, and decision-making processes result in equal opportunities and benefits to all.

Countries have made solid progress in terms of detecting victims of human trafficking, as reflected by the increasing number of victims detected over the last decade. Guyana is developing its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to strengthen national capacity to effectively combat trafficking in persons (TIP) and guide investigations, prosecutions and convictions, child-sensitive investigation procedures, court procedures, identification, referral and protection of victims of trafficking. The SOPs are also expected to ensure more protection of victims of TIP and prosecutions of traffickers. The IOM provided the technical expertise that facilitated a legislative and policy review of existing TIP legislation and established a national networking group of civil society stakeholders to coordinate TIP related efforts and interactions with Government. UNDP Jamaica supported the drafting of the sustainability strategy for Parish Safety & Security Committees was developed¹ for adoption and application of the Parish Safety and Security Committees (PSSCs). The sustainability strategy seeks to improve the ability of Parish Safety and Security Committees to oversee and manage issues related to migration with a focus on IRMs within their jurisdiction. The overall outcome is the strengthening of the PSSCs as part of enhancing local governance with a focus on addressing issues relating to IRMs. In Trinidad and Tobago, UNLIREC conducted National Competency Testing/ Collaborative Exercises with Firearm Examiners at the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre. The areas tested included trigger pull, range of fire determination and distance determination. It also delivered specialized Shooting Incident Reconstruction training to two females and four males from the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS). Seven persons (two

females and five males) of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre and TTPS received technical equipment and training in Double Casting, the making of replicas of bullets and cartridge cases recovered from crime scenes. Other basic operational forensic ballistics materials were handed to the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre, including CartWin Pro Software, health and safety equipment and safety signage.

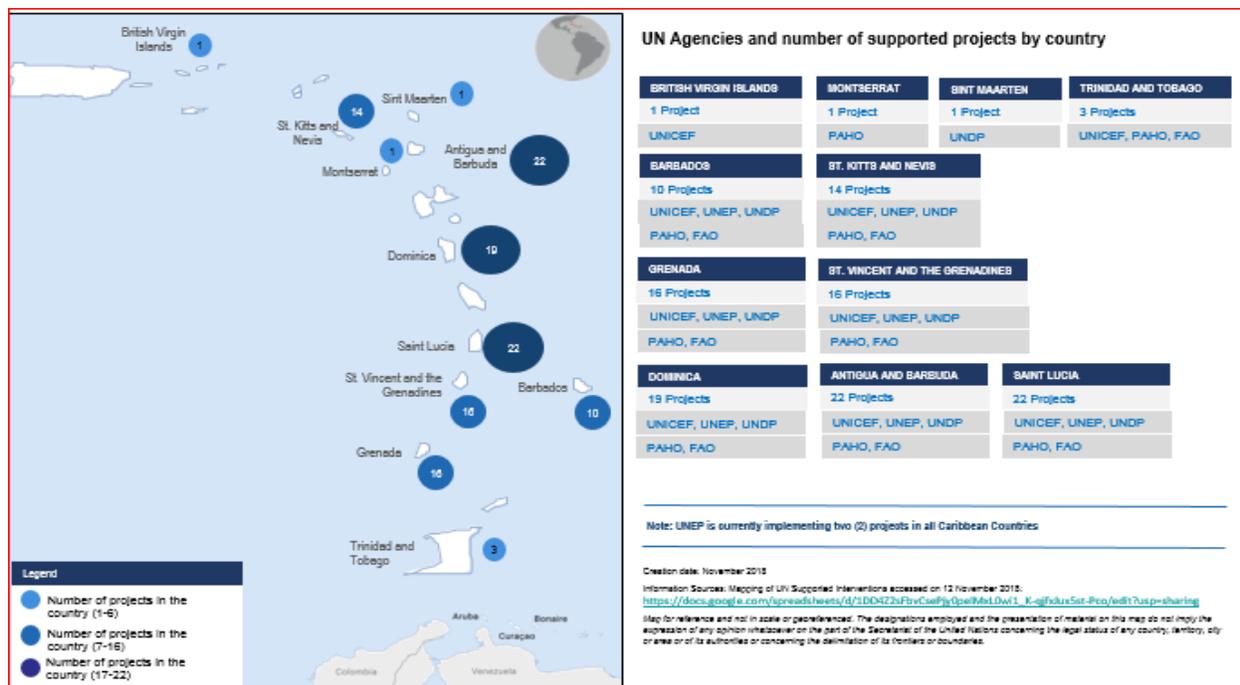
The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) with support from the US State Department and Canada, has provided the Government of Guyana with CartWin Pro software for the quick and professional identification of cartridges and calibres, double casting equipment to create replicas of bullets and cartridge cases. These interventions would improve the country's capacity to identify ammunition and to share ballistics information across the world, even with those countries utilizing an electronic ballistics identification system. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean has been providing technical assistance in the field of small arms control and disarmament in Trinidad and Tobago. This assistance has included stockpile management, firearms, ammunition and explosives destruction, armoury management and, Operational Forensic Ballistics. UNODC provided training on profiling of high-risk containers which will boost government capacity to manage ports. In addition, 12 persons from the GPF and GFSL also participated in operational forensic ballistics training, delivered by UNLIREC, on the history and development of firearms, open case file, unknown head stamps and wound ballistics.

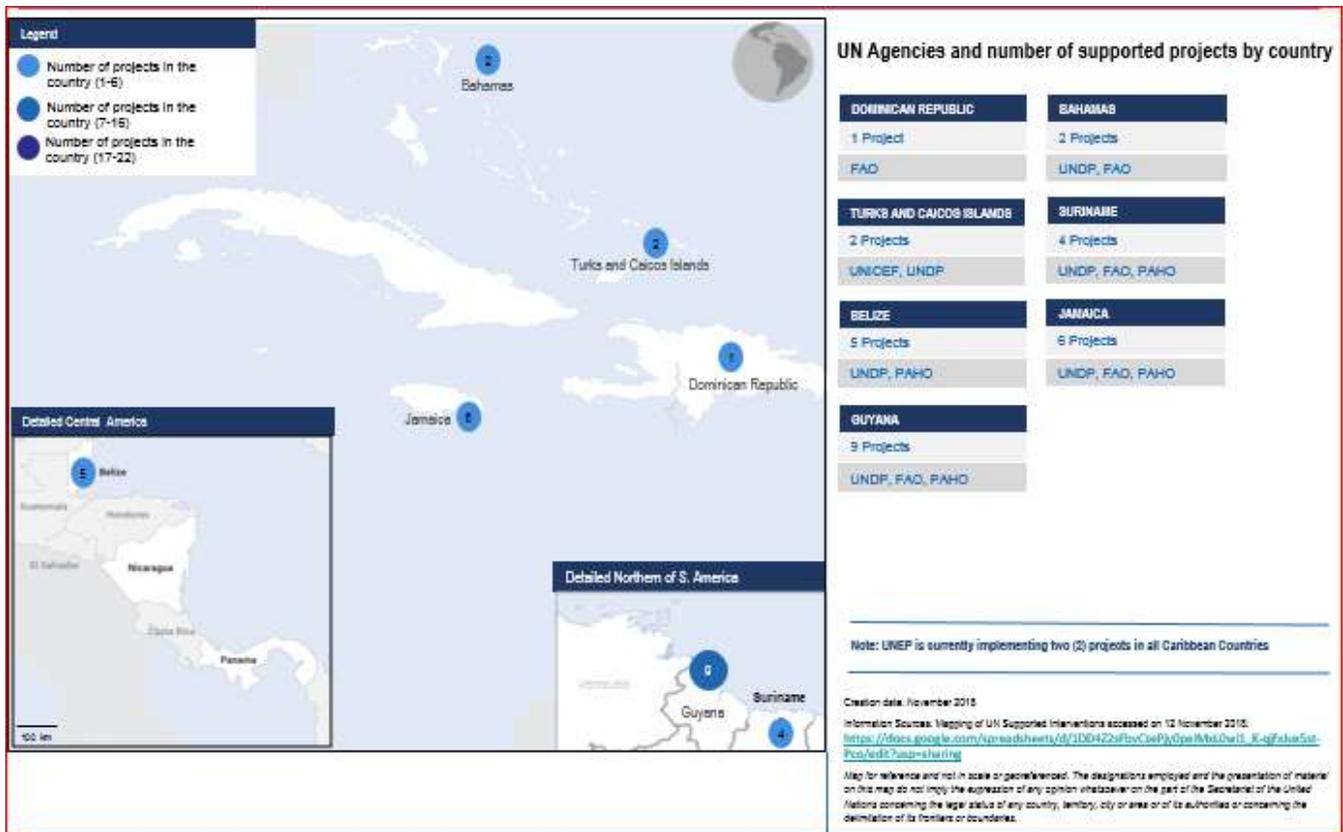
4.4. SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

The priority area '**A sustainable and resilient Caribbean**' is a call for the UN to support the Caribbean in addressing the effects of climate change on livelihoods, especially those who are most vulnerable. It focuses on UN System support to strengthening institutional and community resilience in the Caribbean in terms of natural resources management, the protection and sustainable use of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, renewable energy systems, and inclusive and sustainable societies. Finally, it demands an integrated approach to the sustainable use and management of natural resources. The planned outcomes are crafted to ensure all aspects of the environment are given equal attention. They are:

- i) 'Policies and programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and universal access to clean and sustainable energy in place', and
- ii) 'Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted for the conservation, the restoration and the use of ecosystems and natural resources'.

Figure 8 - Map of UN Actions in Sustainable Development & Resilience – Eastern and Western Caribbean.





Source: United Nations Virtual Policy Network on Resilient Sustainable Caribbean.

4.4.1. Climate Change Adaptation

The islands of the Caribbean are not considered to be major global producers of greenhouse gases. Yet, they are among the planet’s most vulnerable countries regarding climate change²⁸. Affecting all aspects of the environment are local and regional meteorological changes associated with global climate change. The threats include sea level rise, extreme storm events and droughts, coastal erosion, inundation, saltwater intrusion into groundwater systems in low-lying atolls, coral bleaching, ecosystem destruction, ocean acidification, adverse effects on crops and fisheries and increases in vector-borne diseases. Climate change is already having a significant impact on these countries which is unlikely to abate. In November of 2017, the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago convened a regional retreat on “Building Caribbean Resilience” for 22 local and regional parliamentarians from 15 countries. The retreat focused on policies strategies and guidelines necessary for building national and regional level resilience. Food and Nutrition

²⁸ IPCC 2014, ‘Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part B: Regional Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’, in C.B. Field, V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea & L.L. White (eds) Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK

Security and Resilience; Health Security and Resilience; and Resilience Budgeting were also flagged as similar discussions.

With its geographical location and natural conditions, relatively small size; concentrations of populations and infrastructure in coastal areas, limited economic base and dependency on natural resources, combined with limited financial, technical and institutional capacity for adaptation, the Wider Caribbean Region is particularly vulnerable towards climate change and natural hazards. Climate change is impacting the whole ecosystems - marine inundation of low-lying areas and saline intrusion into terrestrial systems; coral reefs and mangroves disappearing, water resources, water quality, sediment transport, food security, human health- higher incidence of endemic diseases and non-communicable diseases (NCDs, settlements and society-migration and preservation of cultural and natural heritage, putting Wider Caribbean Region into accelerating vulnerable conditions. The most affected economic activities include agriculture, fisheries, tourism as well as public spending and investments. Current data are showing that the region's systems are already under pressure from changes in global climate, and these trends are expected to worsen. For instance, hurricanes and tropical storms have increased in intensity over the last 30 years. Observed and projected increases in sea surface temperatures indicate potential for continuing increases in hurricane activity; model projections indicate that this may occur through increases in intensity of storm events and possibly through increases in the frequency of storms (CARIBSAVE Climate Change Risk Atlas Phase I, 2011). In 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused tremendous loss among Caribbean islands. In the Caribbean Basin, climate change contributes an additional US\$1.4 billion to Average Annual Loss based on wind damage alone. Climate change exacerbates many other driving forces and therefore amplifies environmental and related socio-economic impacts. Urban areas continue to grow in the Caribbean where 62% of the population resided in urban areas at the start of the millennium, increasing to 70% in 2015 and projected to reach 75% in 2025. In most cases, the concentrations of people as well as the patterns of production associated with urbanization exacerbate environmental degradation.²⁹

Effective climate-change policies will depend on the level of cooperation between countries and the deployment of economic incentive instruments. The current divergence of policies among countries and the lack of regional coordination can hinder efforts, where the impact of the innovations of one country may be diminished by policies of other nations. Policy priorities for the region might consider including cooperation in designing climate change policies. The other critical intervention point is the need for more effective implementation of policies at the national and sub-national levels. Reducing the vulnerability of the region to climate change impacts will require robust adaptation policies and strategies. Particularly in the context of adaptation, policy development needs to be adjusted to the challenges of growing urbanization. Focus must also be placed on the high-risk coastal communities that will be affected by sea level rise and extreme weather events. Climate adaptation policies also must be crosscutting to address nexus issues such as the water-energy food nexus. In addition, ecosystem-based adaptation could help maintain and improve ecosystem integrity and at the same time reduce economic and social vulnerability. Through critical technical support provided by the UNDP Barbados Multi-Country Office (MCO), comprehensive national adaptation planning processes were advanced in Belize, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Suriname. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) have already been completed and approved in St. Lucia and St. Vincent, with completed NAPs in the other countries expected during 2019. These foundational plans include cross-sectoral and sectoral proposals to enable and catalyse climate change adaptation in all development sectors

²⁹ GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK REGIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN GEO-6 Regional Summary for Latin America and the Caribbean.

and have focused on a wide range of climate-related issues including water resources management, food security, infrastructural resilience, biodiversity conservation and health. Suriname is 90% completed with their NAP development and should have a Final approved NAP in first quarter of 2019. UNDP has also supported these countries in leveraging grant funding to develop sector-level plans and begin implementation of key interventions.

Through support provided by UNDP Jamaica, irrigated school gardens are being used as teaching aids in subjects/lessons including agriculture, climate change impacts, integrated science, environmental science and as practical components for School Based Assessments. In addition to using this technology as a teaching aid, it is envisioned that these irrigation gardens will increase production of vegetable crops through increased yields and enhance opportunities to cultivate during periods of drought with decreased losses. Beneficiaries have indicated that vegetables are being used to supplement the school feeding programmes with the surplus being sold. Further, the income generated from the gardens is reinvested into the agricultural programme and/or used to supplement other budget areas such as sports. Notably, through the Parents and Teachers Associations and knowledge transfer of students, the wider community members are gaining knowledge and are starting to participate in the school garden activities.

The variability of the climate in the Caribbean has impacted the availability, access and quality of freshwater, which has made water security one of the biggest challenges that Caribbean SIDS face. In an effort to implement the of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) phase out management plans to meet the specific phase-out targets set by the Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer and reduce on global warming, UN Environment supported institutional capacity building of the National Ozone Unit and staff, as well as communications and operations. Thus, Guyana has submitted 2017 CP data report and the National Ozone Officer has participated in the Global Inter-Regional Network Meeting of Ozone Officer in Paris in January 2018 as well as in the Caribbean Network meeting in St. Vincent in May 2018. In Trinidad and Tobago, UNDP enabled the Ministry of Planning & Development to initiate actions related to low-emission development strategies and complemented the role of the National Ozone Unit on the certification scheme for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning sector. The support was extended to ensure that staff at the Bureau of Standards in refrigeration identification can implement the standards that were developed. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, FAO implemented a re-training program for extension officers from the livestock unit of the Ministry of Agriculture in enhanced techniques in artificial insemination through a South-South Cooperation mechanism with the Government of Uruguay. This training will facilitate the improvement of the artificial insemination programme in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and have the capacity to improve the breeding stock for the farming community.

An Associate Degree in Agricultural Extension programme was developed and launched in Grenada. FAO has collaborated with academia at the TA Marryshow Community College and the Ministry of Agriculture to improve the capacity of the extension officers in the public and private sector to better implement the mandate of the agricultural sector. FAO conducted training for small-scale farmers and technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda on best practices and innovative techniques in climate smart livestock production, pest management and use of land. There was an emphasis placed on women and young producers.

In Dominica FAO supported the development of the value chains of cassava and other rootcrops promoted through conducting a market assessment to verify the existing and potential markets for cassava and its by-products and facilitate improved farmer-buyer linkages. The market assessment that included the engagement of relevant ministries, women's cooperatives, and research institutions. Three aquaponics

demonstration systems were built with the support of FAO for food production in collaboration with both the public and private sector in Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis.

With support from UNEP, Jamaica reviewed its National Building Policy and prepared a sample policy that included new building codes which support the goal, that by 2050, all new constructions must be Net Zero Energy Buildings (related to SDG 7 and SDG 13). In addition, UNEP also facilitated the calculation of the national fuel economy baseline which shows a small improvement in the fuel economy over a nine-year period. Similarly, UNDP Jamaica ensured the development of a training programme for the health sector on renewable energy and energy management under the Deployment of Renewable Energy and Improvement in Energy Efficiency Project. Under the Deployment of Renewable Energy and Improvement in Energy Efficiency Project, an assessment of sustainable energy education at post-secondary level was conducted with recommendations proffered for an improved curriculum. Additionally, Investment Grade Energy Audits for six public health were undertaken to facilitate retrofits of these public institutions with renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. With support from UNDP and UN Environment, Belize drafted its National

Guyana Building Resilience and Sustainability through a Green State

Guyana elaborated the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS), its national development vision and strategy to 2040. The GSDS was developed via a national consultation process that commenced in 2017 and involved 33 regional consultations in all ten regions drawing 1,700 participants from 200 communities; and 7 multi-stakeholder expert groups comprising 130 professionals from the public and private sectors, and civil society. UN Environment and the UN Country Team provided technical advice and assistance to the formulation process. The document provides a comprehensive set of strategic action lines to guide public investment over the next 20 years in achieving sustainable and inclusive development. The Strategy captures a more holistic view of social, economic and environmental well-being, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is envisaged to foster sustained economic growth that is low-carbon and climate resilient and promote social cohesion, good governance and careful management of finite natural resources. Guyana is also developing a simpler "common person friendly" version of the GSDS that could be used for public dissemination. Following adoption of the GSDS, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) will be an important mechanism to support the implementation of the GSDS: Vision 2040, which include the work on sustainable agro-processing, fiscal policies, green jobs and institutional and individual capacity development. PAGE, comprising of UNEP, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNITAR, will be an important partner in elaborating the Green State Development Strategy and will build capacity of key stakeholders and institutions as well as advance sectoral studies to inform policy reforms in line with the Green State Development Strategy.

Source: UN Resident Coordinator's office Guyana

Chemicals Management legislation; and provided technical advisory services for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Among other, Belize was able endorsed a proposed institutional structure for Green House Gas (GHG) inventory coordination with support from UNDP and also developed National Strategy and Action Plan for chemicals waste management. Further to that, 33 national functionaries, representing both public and private sector interest groups in Belize improved their knowledge on conducting greenhouse gas inventories, with support from UNDP and UNFCCC GSU. The support also included in-depth training on data collection and mitigation assessment to a staff of the National Climate Change Office (NCCO). UNDP's additional input included strengthening the capacity of 23 national functionaries (of which 8 are women) in

the use of various adaptation vulnerability and capacity assessment tools and 29 individuals under the UNFCCC partnership in the use of climate change impact tools and the interpretation and use of climate information in disaster risk management and development planning.

Through UNDP's support, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago prepared a Third National Communication and First Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC. Through this a Third National Communication, the first Biennial Update Report and Trinidad and Tobago's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC. These outputs are all part of the Trinidad and Tobago's obligations as a signatory to the UNFCCC.

UN Environment also provided support to facilitate the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention by Trinidad and Tobago. To this end, a National Minamata Initial Assessment Report was completed so was the development of communication materials (awareness raising infographics on key mercury issues, national MIA live-action video and regional project synopsis video). Dissemination of results and awareness raising material with national stakeholders through workshops and seminars was undertaken.

UN Environment also provided support to Trinidad and Tobago to implement effective, operable, transparent and sustainable National Biosafety Framework which cater for national delivery of global benefits and are compliant with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In this regard the National Biosafety policy (2014) is being updated including financing mechanism, a draft legislation has been prepared and is being reviewed by government, and work on the development of a draft administrative system is in progress.

UNESCO is well-placed to provide a space for collective and innovative learning in relation to environmental adaptation in Caribbean SIDS. Hence, a knowledge brokering exercise bringing together academics, public officials and representatives from civil society, prioritizing young participants and women. The purpose of the Science School was to strengthen the contribution of scientific research to public policies and decision-making processes towards climate change adaptation in the Caribbean. CARICOM was present through its Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. UNESCO undertook a review on gaps and opportunities for water education and training for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. UNICEF led regional trainings in Emergency in Education charging all countries to review and strengthen plans for school systems to prepare, mitigate and respond to national disasters with special emphasis on psychosocial support. UNICEF Jamaica then co-convened an Emergency in Education working group to that end and is in the process of moving 500 recreation kits repositioned with a NGO to the country's national disaster agency.

UN Women collaborated with the Government of Jamaica and the NAP Global Network on a workshop on Integrating Gender Considerations in Jamaica's National Adaptation Planning Process. The workshop brought together climate change focal points and gender focal points from Jamaica's key climate-sensitive ministries, departments and agencies to discuss how to integrate gender considerations into Jamaica's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. Gender and climate change focal points from Antigua and Barbuda and Turks and Caicos also attended.

Insufficient external funding as well as lack of concessional loans due to mid-income level status of many of the countries are considered to be the biggest hurdles for Caribbean countries to deal with the effects of climate change and to promote sustainable development. Programmes such as ecosystem-based adaptation and management present a significant opportunity for the Region to access resources for development from the environment financing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate

Fund (GCF). Capacity building for, and adopting a coordinated approach to, resource mobilization as a region, will yield benefits

4.4.2. Disaster Risk Reduction

Small Island Developing States are fragile and vulnerable both economically and ecologically. The Caribbean region is disproportionately affected by natural hazards (e.g. earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and landslides), and hazards due to the poor management of industrial activities and disposal of chemicals, waste and pollutants. In keeping with Outcome 3.2 of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy 2014-2024 (Hazard information integrated into sectoral development planning and programming), the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) in Guyana with UNICEF re-engaged the established Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committee and Community Emergency Response Team of the Baramita community in Region One to develop databases and maps which will illustrate the Baramita community's specific hazard through the use of drone, satellite imagery and GPS technology. UNICEF has supported CDC with operationalization of the Regional Disaster Risk Management System in three of the Administrative Regions which have been impacted by the Venezuelan Migration situation. Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supplies have been procured and are in the process of being pre-positioned and/or distributed for a total of 180 families in Regions 1, 7 and 9. UN Women signed an MOU with CDEMA in 2018 to ensure gender is mainstreamed through disaster response. UN Women and UNDP collaborated to supported Community Disaster Officers in Barbados on a training on gender and development.

FAO and UNDP jointly worked with the Ministry of Agriculture in Guyana and its agencies, other Government Ministries and civil society to establish an Agriculture Disaster Risk Management Committee. An assessment of the status of implementation of the ADRM Plan was conducted and findings made available to all stakeholders. A review of the existing policy documents and institutional and coordination mechanisms for DRM in the agriculture sector was conducted and recommendations made for improved governance. Over 150 farmers benefited from training and field visits, and 40 extension officers were trained. Training was also done on climate information and its applicability in early warning. Hydromet was able to adjust its climate information and now provides greater access to more user-friendly and real-time information to extension officers and farmers. The average use of the climate information has moved from low to medium. Over 40 Extension Officers benefited from training in Early Warning Systems and use of Climate data for evidence-based decisions.

The UNDP Barbados and the OECS Multi-Country Office (MCO) also worked with partners to develop an Early Warning System toolkit to be used across the region. The toolkit includes a repository of successful Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies from the field relating to establishing EWS and identifies guiding principles that create a strong foundation for the designing or strengthening of EWS at varying levels and within different sectors. The MCO also worked with partners in DOM to build a cohort of local disaster response personnel through the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) programme. This programme was implemented in collaboration with local government personnel and the Office of Disaster Management. This risk reduction strategy focuses on training local first responders in critical areas related to medical triage, search and rescue and conflict resolution.

In mainstreaming risk informed programming and humanitarian preparedness, the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) - chaired by UNICEF - strengthened the country's preparedness measures through a national training workshop for the National Emergency Management Organization. The support included risk informed programming that is in line with the Core Commitments for vulnerable groups in Humanitarian Action and the SAMOA Pathway agreement and three major humanitarian and simulation capacity building sessions. Drawing from UN experience in international disaster risk management, participants introduced to concepts of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, gender equality in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian settings approaches to reduce risk (institutional and community level), impact of climate change on vulnerability and the Humanitarian Programme Cycle. Participants now know the standards and best practices in the context of case studies from various regions as well as learned lessons from local experience.

The simulation exercise, supported by the Emergency Specialists from UNICEF's LAC Regional Office and the region, was successful in strengthening the UNETT's capacity to respond to disasters while it increased the understanding of key stakeholders and their role, in conjunction with UNICEF, in responding to disasters in Belize with a primary focus on children, women and other vulnerable groups.

In partnership with CDEMA, WFP also helped to build national and regional capacity in end-to-end supply chain management, logistics coordination and emergency telecommunications to improve future emergency response efforts, which accompanied the prepositioning of logistical assets for humanitarian response in the region. This included a series of trainings and simulations, south-south knowledge exchanges and the transfer of logistical assets.

4.4.3. Use of Ecosystem and Natural Resources

Coastal and marine ecosystems are being negatively impacted by pollution including from solid waste and marine litter. This threatens livelihoods especially through economic losses to the tourism, shipping and fishing sectors. Marine pollution also poses risks to human health, and Caribbean islands and their coastal communities. The majority of marine litter in the Caribbean region is from land based and recreational activities, with plastic beverage bottles accounting for nearly 20% of total litter, according to Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management (RAPMaLi) for the Wider Caribbean Region 2014. Plastic and paper bags comprise nearly 17% of marine litter, followed by caps and lids (11.4%), utensils, cups and plates (9.6%), cigarettes (8.4%) and glass beverage bottles (8.3%). The coral reefs of the Caribbean continue to show signs of decline and degradation. It has been documented that most of the reefs in the region (over 75%) are facing serious threat. A study based on 88 sample points found average coral cover declined in the Caribbean from 34.8% to 16.3% between 1970 and 2011.

Waste can destroy local economies when commercial agriculture and fishing are no longer viable due to contaminated soils and waters, and quite often exerts a lot of pressure on the very ecosystems on which SIDS tourism economies are dependent. Waste pollution, which accumulates along the beaches and waterways, disrupts the natural aesthetic beauty of the beaches, which diminishes the recreational value and tourism quality of these resources. Sustaining the tourism sector will require not only an improved waste management system, but also improving local governance and infrastructure, and conserving coastal and

reef ecosystems. Waste is a resource that leaks from the economy, and through discarded produce, all the economic value put into the resource extraction and processing is lost. Increasing circularity in the economic system means keeping resources within the economy at their highest possible value, which also results in them not becoming polluted. UN Environment provided support to Trinidad & Tobago in its Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States in May 2018 with a press release that increased awareness among stakeholders. This intervention should reduce risk posed by land degradation by quarries at selected Quarry site(s) in the northeast of Trinidad through the employment of an integrated water, land and ecosystems management approach. In Jamaica, the same intervention would address biodiversity mainstreaming in coastal landscapes within the Negril Environmental Protection Area of Jamaica. With UNEP support, Jamaica also prepared policies that included new building codes which brought together stakeholders in Negril on Integrating Water and Land and Ecosystem and strengthened the capacity of policy makers to develop and implement strategies and action plans for the reduction of marine litter due to land-based activities.

Towards a cohesive result on the use of ecosystem and natural resources, Belize developed its Sustainable Financing Policy for biodiversity management informed by a national Biodiversity Expenditure Review and the development of a Financial Needs Assessment, with support from UNDP. The support package also included the development of enabling regulations for water abstraction and use under the National Integrated Water Resources Management Act, under the aegis of the Ministry of Natural Resources. In addition to that, Belize, with support from UNEP, had a draft a National Biosafety Framework and revised its legislation on Biosafety. Similarly, Guyana has improved its capacity to develop and enforce laws and strengthen institutions to achieve internationally agreed Biosafety objectives and goals and comply with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. To that end, a National Biosafety Frameworks (NB) with established financing mechanisms has been completed, a legislative framework has been assessed and a cabinet paper has been produced for cabinet.

Guyana, with UN Environment support, has produced its 5th National Report outlining measures taken for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the effectiveness of these measures and submitted it to CBD. It also revised its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the country. A Biodiversity "Clearing-House Mechanism" for the Caribbean region was created to ensure that all governments have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on biodiversity. UNDP provided leadership and access to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donor resources to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environment and Office of Climate Change to promote and support biodiversity-friendly mining, mercury reduction in small-scale gold mining, low emission technology for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and mainstreaming of Rio Conventions. UNDP's policy and technical guidance assisted in strengthening the capacity of Environmental Protection Agency in enforcement of mining-related environmental regulations, including Agency's ability to oversee miner's adherence to the regulatory framework, establishing inter-institutional coordination with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, and collaboration mechanisms for enhanced monitoring and enforcement including joint compliance monitoring. Three hundred stakeholders from Ministries, media, mining, logging and private businesses were equipped by the Department of Environment with support from UNDP to improve environmental management and the general institutional mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on environmental issues. Nine hundred persons now have an increased awareness of global environmental values to promote greater appreciation for addressing global environmental obligations.

Rapid environmental assessments of pesticide contaminated sites were conducted in St. Kitts and Nevis for remediation. Studies were conducted using locally available materials and technicians were trained by FAO. FAO also supported the development of the Protocol on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Fisheries and Aquaculture which was finalized and endorsed by the Ministerial Council of the CARICOM in October 2018. A methodological toolkit for vulnerability and capacity assessment was also developed for the fisheries sector as well as a conceptual framework. In addition, two pilot studies on vulnerability and capacity assessment were carried out in coastal communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia.

Coastal communities are vulnerable to the influxes of sargassum seaweed, which impacts fisherfolk and marine life. FAO convened a Sargassum Symposium which attracted participants from across the Caribbean and Africa to share academic research and provide practical solutions with engagement from the public and academic sectors. With FAO technical support, the governments of Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are updating their fishery legal and policy frameworks to incorporate the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing compliance and developing the capacity of stakeholders for enforcement. FAO developed an institutional framework for the creation of national land banks programmes in Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This is to improve the food and nutrition security and rural land administration by revitalizing idle lands for production purposes.

FAO partnered with the Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, the trawl fishing sector and Trinidad's north coast communities to test fishing gear technologies. The gear trials reported 20% reduction in bycatch presenting an improved option for responsible fishery practices. FAO contributed to the fishery management team's knowledge on the health of the fishery ecosystem through protocols for improved data collection on the trawl sector, trained two fishery researchers on species identification and conducted surveys for bycatch composition. Nine fishing communities gained greater knowledge of critical habitats including feeding, spawning and nursery areas through contributing to the GIS mapping of these areas. Through project actions, communities participated in fourteen stakeholder meetings, shaping fishing management options such as closed trawling seasons and on best ways to apply, to their fishing grounds, the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and the Sustainable Small Fisheries guidelines³⁰. In addition, during 2017 a second FAO / GROTT project, through expert consultations with fishing resource managers and stakeholders, generated revised draft legislation and regulations to deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing³¹. To finalize the legal drafts, in 2018, the consultative process included a wider spectrum of stakeholders.

FAO, Global Environment Facility, European Union and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago advanced the development of a Management Information System (MIS) for national monitoring of protected areas³². With assistance of Mexico's Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity, the project contributed to the MIS design model and adaptation. Within the MIS' searchable entries, project generated content of 2017 includes the Draft National Protected Areas System Plan and reports of two national consultations on the present draft, guidelines for the ecological monitoring, protocols, code of conduct and draft management approach to forestry. The 2017 baseline biodiversity inventory identified over 100 species of six taxonomic groups.

³⁰ Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries

³¹ Strengthening Fisheries Legislation in Trinidad and Tobago - Focus: IUU Fishing (TCP/TRI/3601/C1).

³² Improving Forestry and Protected Areas Management in Trinidad and Tobago (GCP/TRI/003/GFF).

As a result of project assistance, multi stakeholder committees are now operational for six pilot protected areas. Communities and other public and private sector stakeholders contributed to threat assessments, management effectiveness assessments and drafted biodiversity conservation objectives for the six protected areas. Twenty-even government personnel and 19 nongovernmental personnel participated in the field training for the ecological baseline (August 2016 – August 2017). The Livelihood assessment conducted for the Matura Forest and coastal zone Pilot Protected Area (PPA), gained insights from forty households on social and economic possibilities for environment friendly enterprises.

4.5. HURRICANE RESPONSE: EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY SUPPORT

In the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria, the UN system leveraged its strengths in post-disaster analyses and vulnerability assessments to identify the greatest areas of need. With this information, the United Nations system (and other actors) jointly issued a Flash Appeal adopting a sectoral response to address needs around shelter, camp coordination and management, food security, health, social protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, logistics and emergency telecommunications, coordination, and early recovery. The appeal raised over US\$19 million for response and relief efforts in Dominica. Resources were jointly mobilized to address these core needs and agencies worked together to support the Caribbean Disasters and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), as well as other international, regional and national entities.

UN Environment developed flash environmental assessments to identify chemical and industrial risks which could exacerbate humanitarian needs or put emergency responders at risk on the affected islands and shared these with governments and first responders following the devastating hurricanes Maria and Irma in 2017. UN Environment also worked with the CDEMA and deployed two experts in disaster waste management to Dominica, to support the appropriate management of debris, hazardous waste, medical waste, domestic waste and other wastes which have been left by the hurricane. In addition, they assisted local authorities in the development of a disaster waste management plan/system and provided advice and guidance to national and international aid organisations with disaster waste management issues. This was to minimize risks to human health and livelihoods and potential future environmental legacies. In view of this, a project proposal on Building Resilience to Climate Induced Emergencies Through Disaster Waste Management in the Caribbean focusing on Dominica has been prepared and submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for funding. UN Environment also responded to requests by the government of Antigua and Barbuda to provide advice on recovery funding, as well as the incorporation of the above assessments into their own recovery planning.

Following Hurricane Irma and Maria, WFP and FAO worked to address the immediate and medium-term food needs of persons affected by the disasters in Sint Maarten, Antigua & Barbuda, Turks & Caicos and Dominica. WFP, in Sint Maarten, distributed, through the Government and Samaritan's Purse – 12.07 metric tonnes (MT) of high energy biscuits (HEBs), reaching over 9,200 hurricane-affected people. It also strengthened the capacity of the Government to coordinate the relief distribution of food and non-food assistance arriving into the country. WFP staff were deployed to Turks & Caicos, where 6 MT of HEB were distributed to the population, and Sint Maarten to support the Governments with logistics, food distribution and community-

based targeting as well as provide technical assistance and recommendations on emergency food distribution, which is discussed under the capacity building section below.

In Dominica, WFP distributed 17.28 MT of HEBs, along with 39 MT of food and non-food items and 66,000 litres of water provided by the Government and other actors, including UNICEF. This assistance reached approximately 33,900 people in about 50 locations across the country. With HEBs alone, WFP reached around 15,400 people in the most remote areas. In a second phase, while markets were still yet to resume functionality, WFP provided an additional 374 MT of in-kind rations, composed of rice, beans, canned sardines and vegetable oil, reaching about 29,500 people, roughly 40% of the total population, across 44 prioritised settlements and 65 communities. A coordination mechanism including both the local and national government was put in place for the implementation of the emergency food distribution. Results on food consumption showed that 97.6% of the surveyed households had acceptable food consumption. Over 90% (98.4%) of the beneficiaries felt that the selected distribution sites as well as the road to the distribution points were safe for both males and females, which is an indication of good safety protocol implemented. Households that did not make it to food distribution points were provided with food through house visits, ensuring that the entire communities' food needs post Hurricane Maria have been met. Similarly, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in Dominica, 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 Subregion Office for the Caribbean (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.

In Dominica, UNFPA conducted extensive public outreach and community sensitization sessions in GBV prevention and mitigation in 16 communities. IEC materials were produced and disseminated, talks shows, public service announcements addressing GBV, safe reporting and referral to GBV specialised services. A Women Friendly Space was established and operational and women were provided with physiological support, referral to health services, legal aid, counselling, information and skills building in computer use, sewing and hair braiding. The GBV referral pathway and accompanying standard operating procedures were developed and was strengthened the skills and competencies on IASC guidelines on GBV mitigation of 93 frontline workers from protection, health, shelter management, community-based organizations and UN. The referral pathway for multi-sectoral services and care for GBV survivors in Antigua and Barbuda and St Maarten were also established with support from UNFPA. In addition, skills and competencies of 156 health care professionals in Dominica where strengthened through dedicated training sessions and on-the-job training and mentoring on MISIP, syndromic treatment of STIs and clinical management of rape for first level diagnosis, treatment and referral of GBV sexual survivors (including data collection tools). SRH IEC material was produced and widely disseminated to affected communities in all affected islands as part of public awareness and sensitization outreach activities. In addition, a total of 52 RH kits (clinical delivery kits and STIs kits) where distributed to health facilities for the provision of live-saving SRH services. A total of 3,122 women and girls where reached with hygiene kits for dignity and well-being and as a GBV mitigation strategy to

reduce recourse to transactional sex to meet their basic needs. (932 - Turks and Caicos; 962 - Saint Maarten; 406 - Antigua and Barbuda and 822 - Dominica).

To help Sint Maarten recover from the damaging effects of Irma, UNDP has worked in partnership with the Governments of Sint Maarten and the Netherlands, local contractors, and NGOs, employing a “Build Back Better” approach. For example, in the housing sector, 75 roofs were repaired to hurricane resilient standard, while the Community Clean-up Programme successfully cleared 15 660 m² of debris, targeting the most vulnerable households and restoring access to remote areas. UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Development helped persons who had lost their jobs or worked fewer hours as a direct result of Hurricane Irma find temporary jobs in various UNDP projects, such as the Community Clean-up and the Roof Repair Programme. The Government of Sint Maarten and UNDP also encouraged local contractors to hire unskilled workers to promote greater social inclusion. As a result, 204 persons benefitted from this cash-for-work programme, which became a significant source of livelihood in a time of great need. To strengthen the country’s resilience to future shocks, UNDP conducted the Disaster Management and Risk Evaluation, which highlighted the need for improvements in community awareness, community development and telecommunications

Following the two devastating hurricanes in 2017, UNFPA prioritized supporting the Caribbean countries and territories in the provision of the Minimum Initial Service Package for SRH in Emergencies. In 2018, programme officers from Ministries of Health, Offices of Gender Affairs and/or other relevant civil society organization partners from St Maarten, Belize, Guyana and Barbados, Anguilla, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands and St. Lucia have the capacity to roll-out these trainings. Also, UNFPA and UNICEF provided technical support to CDEMA's Emergency Training for CARICOM First Line Responders on Dignity and Human Rights of Vulnerable Populations in Emergencies in 2018 with focus on SRH, GBV, Child Protection and HRBA.

In addition, technical support is being provided to the Belize National Emergency Management Organization and the City Emergency Management Organization in collaboration with other UN Agencies, for the organization of a capacity building workshop covering the care for children, the elderly and care for women in emergencies; Gender equality; Climate Change; and Conducting effective disaster assessments.

Through the UNDP Jamaica, support was provided to the Turks and Caicos Islands in the wake of two category five hurricanes in September 2017 for Climate and Disaster Risk Coordination and the development of a Recovery Mechanism. Affected residents were provided cash for hurricane debris removal, as well as hurricane recovery grants for the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises. The project also supported a social and economic impact analysis of hurricanes, a debris and waste management plan, capacity building for government and Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises in minimizing disaster risk and quicker recovery for the future, development of innovative financial products that will make it easier to support reconstruction and recovery in the future. UNDP in collaboration with the CED and Invest Turks & Caicos Islands (Invest TCI) developed and implemented a Small Business Recovery Grants to aid the recovery of businesses that suffered considerable damages.

The grants assisted the 40 small business owners, of which 22 were females who were able to replace or repair damages to buildings and/or furniture and equipment; and damaged or lost inventory. In addition, UNDP Jamaica designed, developed and delivered a training programme in Disaster Management for businesses to build capacity for resilience in the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises sector. The training was delivered across all six islands. In 2017, lessons learned from Hurricane Maria and Irma identified that many of the social protection systems were not ready to respond to emergencies. As a result, SIDS are

prioritizing investment in institutional capacity and establishing clear procedures and guidance on their public assistance programmes. This includes UNICEF work in the development of the Dominica PAP Operational Manual in collaboration with UN partners, provision of technical support in the Virgin Islands (UK) to establish core set of social indicators to inform the development of their social registry. UNICEF supported the Dominica PAP Op Manual that will include a module on shock responsive social protection and integrate the importance of building the capacity of those in the village councils who handle the grant payments to the beneficiaries. Capacity building shock responsive social protection is also provided through the partnership with the OECS Commission and with a specific strategy in the Virgin Islands (UK).

UNDP Barbados Multi-Country Office (MCO) supported the governments of Antigua and Barbuda as well as Dominica in undertaking a pioneering geospatial data collection and analysis project to identify and categorise the damage to the national building stock. The project, undertaken in collaboration with Microsoft and the Ministry of Housing, collected data on 30,612 buildings which were assessed by 71 women and 80 men. Specific to Dominica this work not only assisted the Government in identifying and prioritising post-hurricane repairs, but it built a repository of data that can be used to identify vulnerabilities and support risk mitigation actions.

In Dominica, UNDP Barbados MCO leveraged critical resources from the Government of China to support re-roofing of several critical Government buildings, including 9 healthcare-related structures among which was several buildings at the country's main trauma facility (Princess Margaret Hospital). The partnership with China also allowed UNDP to support the Government to re-roof 6 structures at the Dominica State College. Additionally, rehabilitation of the two buildings at the Salisbury Educational facility has recently commenced through funding from the Government of India. In Barbuda, the partnership with China saw over 250 homes being re-roofed post-Irma. UNDP is providing support to the Government and Barbuda council for the rehabilitation and equipping of the Hospital and Post Office in Barbuda.

Through a partnership with Engineers Without Borders, UNDP Barbados MCO supported the Government of Dominica in overhauling the national housing standards. The new standards promote climate resilient construction techniques and provided clear, accessible guidance on how to "build back better" by building or retrofitting structures to significantly enhance their resilience to hurricanes and other extreme weather events. In addition to trainings orienting local contractors on the new standards, over 5,000 copies have been downloaded have been downloaded from local websites.

The Government of Dominica has outlined a goal to be the world's first climate resilient country with the creation of a new Agency Climate Resilient Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD), tasked to coordinate the reconstruction efforts and fast-track the implementation of reconstruction projects over a 4-year timeframe. The UNDP MCO has supported the creation of the CREAD by providing technical inputs to national authorities, based on global best practices and comparative experiences of post-disaster institutional recovery frameworks. Further the UNDP office has facilitated the establishment of a transitional structure to precede the CREAD through recruitment of the personnel and procurement of equipment.

In the British Virgin Islands, the UNDP Barbados MCO is supporting the government in strengthening its recovery strategies and supporting government capacity building to facilitate efficient implementation of the CDB funded rehabilitation and reconstruction loan through 1) timely and effective implementation of strategic sourcing procurement and supervision of consultants and 2) establishment of effective project management, financing and reporting systems for implementation.

24,077

vulnerable people reached in innovative cash transfer programme in Dominica.

Technical support, including training, was provided to government to roll out a nation-wide vulnerability analysis that covered 68% of households. Results informed the particularly innovative cash transfer programme that allowed families the freedom to spend the money received on whatever they need to improve their situation. The three-month Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme which started in December 2017, was run by the Government of Dominica with support from UNICEF and WFP. More than 8,000 vulnerable families (or 24,077 people) benefitted, with UNICEF targeting some 6,000 children among

those families who received a child-related top-up in addition.

In May 2018, the cash transfer programme partners and implementers held a workshop in the capital Roseau to review the initiative, take stock and explore how it could be improved, better monitored, expanded and scaled up. At the same time, the regional directors for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNICEF and WFP, Marita Perceval and Miguel Barreto, respectively, also signed an MOU strengthening collaboration in humanitarian and development engagement for the region. The two agency heads agreed to work together to support governments in the region to be better equipped to use a cash transfer system in emergencies and agreed to prepare feasibility assessments to determine how such a system could be adapted to different countries and contexts.

After having deployed staff for post hurricane support in the Caribbean, UNICEF maintained its emergency response roster and continued aligned trainings for staff to be ready for deployment and to respond strategically in the event of a disaster. In late September 2018, UNICEF, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Government of St Lucia, held a skills-building workshop that brought together social development and disaster management experts from seven countries and territories, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, and Dominica.

In relation to GBV, there is global evidence that the risk of violence, exploitation and abuse is heightened during emergencies, particularly for women and girls. GBV exacerbates due to the breakdown of community and family structures, the disruption of the local community and the collapse of institutional protection systems, including referral systems for aiding survivors of GBV. In addition, overcrowding, insufficient doors and partitions in sleeping areas, inadequate locks, and lack of privacy for dressing and bathing in the various communal shelters being established across the island introduces risk of sexual harassment, abuse or assault. Moreover, reportedly, transactional sex is on the rise in Dominica and adolescent girls are not aware of the health consequence, including HIV/STIs, etc.

Under the Caribbean Regional Response Plan to Hurricane Maria and the GBViE programme in Dominica, UNFPA procured and distributed dignity kits (underwear for women and men, sanitary pads, tooth paste and tooth brushes, soap, deodorant, combs, body lotion, torches) in order to reduce women's and girls' exposure to a higher risk of GBV while ensuring all affected women and adolescent girls receive crucial information on how and where to access care services. The referral pathway on life-saving multi-sectoral comprehensive GBV services was also strengthened as was the technical capacity of GBV specialized service providers (shelter, health facilities, psychosocial support, security, etc.) and non-specialized sectors engaged in the response, on preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV in emergencies and on safe and ethical GBV information management.

In the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and, consequently, Maria, WFP established an operational hub for the distribution of supplies and support for air operations to affected countries. The UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Panama and the UN Humanitarian Air Service – both managed by WFP — offered support to humanitarian partners in Dominica and the region. The UN Humanitarian Response Depot airlifted critical emergency supplies, including mobile storage units and pallets, tarpaulins, boats, and electric generators to support needs. These assets were subsequently donated to the country for future humanitarian response efforts. UN Humanitarian Air Service provided regular flight services to a total of 836 passengers, and 10,096 kg of cargo, which were transported to 17 destinations throughout the Caribbean region, serving 31 humanitarian entities. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster offered support to CDEMA with Information and Communications Technology assessments and deployment of Internet connectivity services where required, in support of Hurricane Irma response. In Dominica WFP, facilitated connection for national emergency response services, representing 2,900 users and 60 agencies in 18 locations in Dominica.

4.6. VENEZUELAN MIGRANT SITUATION RESPONSE

Preparedness for and response to the impact of a further increase of humanitarian needs in relation to the Venezuelan migrant situation in the region (Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana) was strengthened with greater collaboration among UN agencies. UNFPA, UNICEF and IOM have been at the forefront of the Venezuelan migrant support in the region. UNFPA has been supporting Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and the Dutch territories of Aruba and Curacao through support to addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health. A total of 500 dignity kits were delivered to Venezuelan women in need and who are living in precarious situations in Trinidad and Tobago and a referral pathway for GBV survivors was initiated; a mapping and a referral form developed and shared with partners; and Standing Operating Procedures were also drafted. UNICEF supported CDC in Guyana with operationalization of the Regional Disaster Risk Management System (RDRMS) in three of the Administrative Regions which have been impacted by the Venezuelan Migration situation. Shelter, hygiene and WASH supplies have been procured and are in the process of being pre-positioned and/or distributed for a total of 180 families in Regions 1, 7 and 9.

Following agreement with the Department of Citizenship, in the Ministry of the Presidency in Guyana, the need to strengthen approaches for universal birth registration, mobile registration efforts are ongoing in Regions 1 and 9 – both as part of the country’s support to communities hosting families coming from Venezuela. IOM in Guyana has been supporting the Government with the Venezuelan migratory flow and assisted five Venezuelans victims of human trafficking.

4.7 MAPS – A Common Approach to UN’s Policy Support to SDGs

The Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) intervention was adopted by the UNDG in October 2015 as a common approach to its support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all country levels. It is an opportunity for UN agencies, funds and programmes to broker relevant knowledge and technical assistance on sustainable development challenges, opportunities and solutions by providing an umbrella framework for such support (data, accountability and partnerships).

The MAPS approach captures the core components of UN’s upstream support to the SDGs. Mainstreaming work raises public awareness on the 2030 Agenda and ensures that the principles and goals of sustainable development found in the 2030 Agenda are fully integrated into national and sub-national policy formulation, planning and budgetary processes. Analytical work informs policy makers of the drivers and bottlenecks to sustainable development at the country level, and that contributes to the design of policy interventions that can accelerate progress towards achieving national SDGs by 2030. On Policy Support, the work focuses on joined-up approaches that will enable the UN to deploy its technical expertise and advice to Member States in support of SDG implementation in a coherent and integrated way.

Between 2016 and 2018, countries within the framework of MSD - Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba and Curacao and Guyana - requested technical support from the United Nations to advance their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As a result, a Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) Mission was deployed to Jamaica (October 2016) and Trinidad and Tobago (April 2017), while the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) mission was deployed in Guyana (October 2017). The missions outline the UN development system’s support in the implementation of the new agenda, and seeks to make available a set of tools, guidance and expertise to governments, civil society and other partners.

As a precursor to most in-country MAPS Missions, a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) would be carried out. In Jamaica, the RIA revealed that for the 115 SDG targets considered relevant for the country, and considering all planning documents, Jamaica was found to be aligned, either fully or partially, with 91.3 per cent of them. In Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba and Curacao, it was 81 per cent out of 144 SDG targets and in Guyana it was 78 per cent out of 112 SDG targets in Guyana. Following the MAPS missions, the SDG implementation Roadmap was developed which reflects strong partnership between UN and Governments on advancing the 2030 Agenda. The Roadmap drew insights from series of consultations and bilateral meetings with key stakeholders over the course mission period.

The Roadmap for Jamaica was approved by the Cabinet in 2017 and embodies 15 accelerators that are aligned to the development goals of Jamaica’s Vision 2030 and its Medium-term Framework (MTF). The SDGs Implementation Roadmap has been identified as a document of utility and been used in conjunction with Vision 2030 Jamaica to inform Jamaica’s First SDG Report and the Voluntary National Report (VNR) through support from UN system in Jamaica. Through this support, the Government has moved ahead in exploring

innovative financing for the SDGs and Vision 2030. In Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba and Curacao, the Roadmap discussed some ideas to explore sources of domestic, international and private financing, which is a critical challenge in the implementation of the SDGs. It delved into opportunities for smart taxation and public subsidies reform, optimization of public spending, and leveraging innovative finance such as green and blue bonds, diaspora investment and impact investment. It also presented the challenges and opportunities for those countries or territories in SDG monitoring and reporting. It concluded that the country's capacity for monitoring the implementation of SDGs needs improvement and recommends improved coordination, prioritization, standardization sensitization, innovation and partnerships for data generation.

In Guyana, the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) provided national policymakers with a snapshot of SDG alignment of currently existing policies and plans. The assessment found that indicators were lacking to enable targeting, monitoring and measurement of results. Based on themes, Peace, Planet and Prosperity SDGs, have the lowest availability of indicators, with 40% or less of their covered targets having indicators attached. Of these, Poverty, Zero Hunger, Reduced Inequalities, have 20% or less of targets with indicators attached. Guyana does have instruments containing monitoring frameworks, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which provides a breadth of indicators, particularly on social targets, and the Budget Speech, on standard growth and social indicators, but they have not been linked to specific national sectoral targets³³. As a follow-up to the RIA, UNDP and the Ministry of Communities are working to localize the SDGs at sub-national level.

These MAPS engagements were envisioned as a collective investment in missions, initiatives and support packages to countries bring about useful actions, tools and solutions for SDG implementation. It involved national and subnational engagements that were tailored to specific country demand and included scoping and preparatory analytic work, partnership and capacity analysis. The Missions (MAPS and RIA) presented, among others, the gaps, opportunities and challenges to national development achievements and priorities with a focus on new and innovative partnerships on specific "accelerator" issues addressing specific SDG challenges faced by the countries.

³³ UNDP, October 2017, Rapid Integrated Assessment, Guyana; p. 15

5. UN COMMON BUSINESS OPERATION

As the small islands developing states of the Caribbean grapple with the accelerating impacts of climate change, the United Nations is reshaping itself to better serve the subregion and help the governments achieve sustainable and inclusive development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda. In line with the vision articulated by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the six country teams are pursuing common business operation strategies (BOS) to enable the UN to deliver better results. In the first two years of implementing the MSDF, the teams sought to develop strategies that would harmonize business operations, lower costs, improve efficiency and strengthen programme delivery. While these aims were shared across the UNCTs, each Operations Management Team engaged in a review process to create a plan tailored to its national or multi-country context. In cultivating the country-specific BOS, teams analysed data to identify areas that would (i) reduce operational costs through reduction of monetary and labour costs realized by leveraging economies of scale, simplifying procedures and reducing duplication in UN operational transactions and processes; (ii) increase quality of business services for both resident and non-resident agencies; and (iii) strengthen reputation of the UN as a strategic, coherent and (cost-) effective partner working together as One.

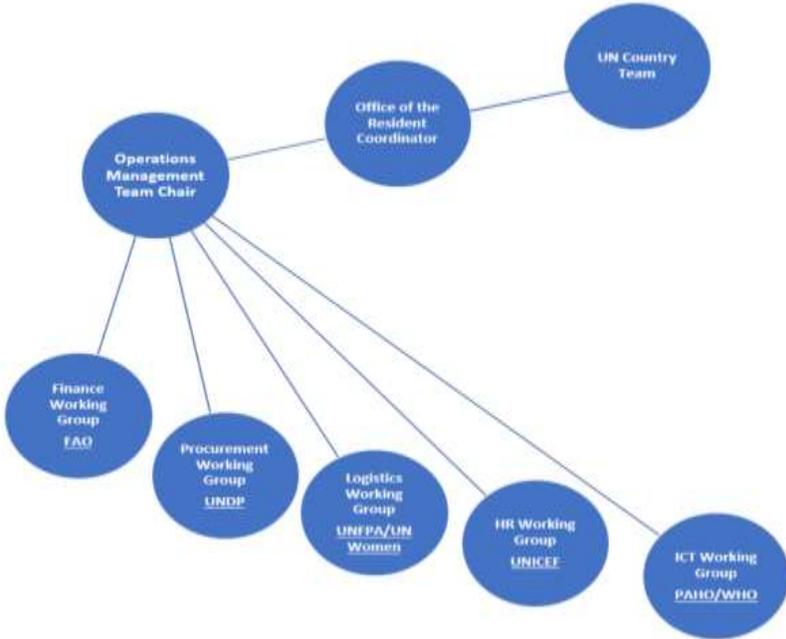
Jamaica and Barbados adopted tailored BOS in the period 2017-2018. In Barbados, the UN Sub-regional Team determined that by working collectively to ensure efficiency in banking, travel, hotel, conference services, catering, ICT hardware, tax reclaims, mobile phone service and office supplies, the UN could continue delivering critical services in its areas of strategic advantage, while reducing operational costs. Adopted in March 2017, the Barbados and the OECS BOS straddles five-years from 2018 to 2022 to be reviewed and adjusted annually to synchronize with the needs of the MSDF. With projected financial gains of US\$742,338.44, the BOS would save US\$13 for each US\$1 invested. To effectively implement the BOS, the UNST worked to create active structures for interagency engagement and review. Five working groups were developed, with each corresponding to an operational area. Led by a member of the Operations Management Team, the Working Group established clear Terms of References and served as the operations engine for the implementation of the 2018 BOS workplan. Throughout the year, the OMT and Working Groups received consistent support from the Resident Coordinator and Heads of Agencies who advocated on the importance of the groups under the OMT's leadership as the new normal for delivering as one.

The OMT has achieved some successes:

- The procurement working group along with the UN interagency community was successful in sharing and supporting two preferred agreements with hotels in Barbados. The agreements were established for use by all UN Agencies in country and are being utilized. The group led by UNDP was instrumental in the procurement of an updated Travel LTA for interagency use. The group worked in close collaboration with the Logistics Working Group in the execution of a UN-wide survey to identify Agency travel-related needs which was used in the development of the LTA sourcing document. The procurement process is underway with expectation of a new travel LTA in January 2019.

- The Logistics Working Group’s (LWG) 2022 goal of “UN Agencies benefiting from more cost-effective travel arrangements” made great strides in 2018. The group worked steadfastly with all Agencies in a comprehensive stock take of travel data (historical and projected) as well as developed and executed a travel survey to assess needs across the UN community. Each body of data was effectively used in the drafting and procurement of the new Travel LTA which will serve most UN Agencies. The group has also started work towards the development of surveys to assess opinions and needs in the logistics areas of common premises, ICT and security services which will be launched in early 2019.
- Important strides were made in the Human Resources Working Group’s (HRWG) 2022 goal “to simplify the recruitment of individual consultants through a common roster and harmonized rates”. The groups first efforts were dedicated to their interim objective of developing an emergency consultant’s rosters to be shared with and accessible to all Agencies. This product was effectively developed, updated and circulated as a key preparedness measure for the 2018 hurricane season.

Figure 9 - Barbados and the OECS BOS Governance Structure.



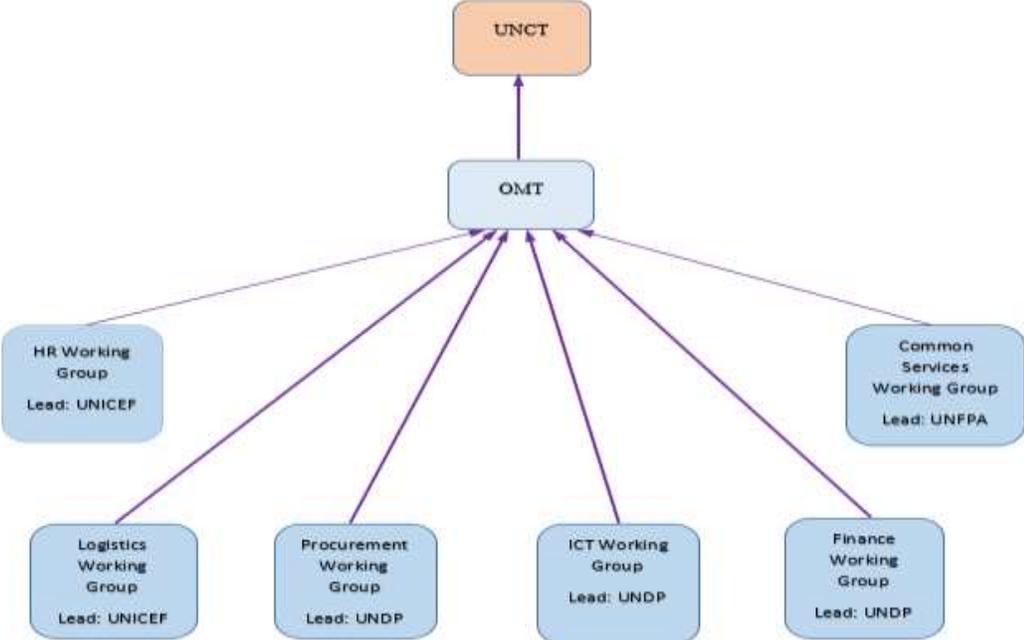
Additionally, the group worked very closely with the ICT Working Group in the development of a SharePoint site to house the legacy consultant roster which would be equally accessible by all Agencies.

The ICT Working Group quickly became active and cross-cutting among other Working Groups. As the year progressed, it became apparent that many goals of other working groups could not be epitomized without the input and consultation of the ICT group. In addition to providing direct support to the Human Resources Working Group in the development of the SharePoint application for the consultant’s roster, the group also supported the Logistics Working Group in the development of user surveys. The ICT Working Group main objective of consolidation of mobile service providers was met with limited success this year due to the findings that Agencies are working with different service provides and are engaged in multi-year contracts.

The stock take of cellular usage was undertaken and results will be used to refine the group’s objectives in 2019.

Overall, efforts towards achieving gains under Delivering as One in 2018 were successful, with more

Figure 10 - Jamaica BOS Governance Structure.



qualitative than quantitative successes. High among the gains was the integration of UN personnel through the Working Group structure. Although the OMT historically had a strong role as an inter-agency body, that culture of working together amongst other groups of staff was not previously realized. Once the working groups began to congeal (at different points throughout the year) there became a palpable increase in the interpersonal exchanges among the UN collective. Like-colleagues who had not previously met nor professionally interacted became acquainted and working group meetings oftentimes morphed from focusing on the direct objectives under the BOS to a rich exchange of ideas and innovation across the inter-agency context. Many exceptional ideas not previously anticipated under the BOS were shared, several of which will be translated in each group’s 2019 workplans. The cultural beginnings of Delivering as One therefore started to take shape in 2018. In 2019 and beyond, the hard work required to ensure this traction is sustained and integrated into daily standards will be fundamental. As the UNCT most advanced with its BOS, Barbados & the OECS serves as an example, offering successes and lessons learned.

Jamaica also adopted the BOS in 2018. With the guidance from a BOS expert, the OMT utilized the Cost Benefit Analysis process to identify common facility services including pouch service and mail, ICT, finance, vehicle staff management, staff counselling, procurement of stationery and maintenance cleaning as shared, strategic priorities. To support the BOS, the OMT proposed a management structure that would ensure interagency collaboration towards these common goals. Having identified staff turnover, delays in data gathering, limited resources and competing priorities as constraints, the OMT identified key recommendations to remedy these. These are outlined in the section below. The other countries laid key

groundwork, with Trinidad and Tobago completing data collection and Suriname creating a BOS working group. Guyana chose to focus on a catalytic element of operating as one—pursuing common premises.

The year of 2018 was indelibly marked by a burgeoning cultural shift towards Delivering as One. In 2019 countries will either seek to finalize the BOS or ensure requisite formalization of the BOS governance structure to enable the OMTs to achieve operational efficiencies. The real objective of the BOS is not about uniting periodically to assess a series of activities enshrined in a document, but in ensuring integration of technical staff daily, with equal commitment and enthusiasm. When this attitudinal and practical shift is achieved, the UNCTs will witness impactful results.

In Guyana, the Government confirmed its commitment to provide a UN House from 2019 and budgetary provisions for UN House were approved by the National Assembly in December 2018. Aligning with the ongoing reform of the UN Development System, all UN agencies will move into the common premises in 2019 with the exception of PAHO/WHO that has an existing long-term arrangement with the Ministry of Public Health.

6. COMMUNICATING AS ONE

Social Media/Website	Growth (2017)	Growth (2018)
Facebook	Likes: 402 Followers: 328 Established an online presence on Facebook	Likes: 2,377 Followers: 2,446 Increased audience engagement and public interest
Instagram	Followers: 249 Created a theme and posted engaging content (i.e. IG Stories, IG TV, Sunday Trivia, etc.)	Followers: 1,948 We now have a gallery of images on events and programmes taking place
Twitter	Likes: 221 We have an online presence on platform.	Likes: 448 Created content such as Twitter Polls, Twitter threads, etc. that was read and retweeted by followers
YouTube	Views: 4,852 Subscribers: 75 There is an online presence on platform with videos from around the region.	Views: 12,700 Subscribers: 163 Produced “SDGs for You” video series to highlight the work of the UN in the Caribbean in achieving the SDGs.
Flickr	This platform was used to store images from local, regional and international meetings, events and programmes.	Images on this platform are now categorized into a “collection” titled UNCT/UNST: “Leaving No One Behind”. Each album in this collection contains the work of each UN Country Team in the Caribbean as it relates to the four pillars of the MSDF. View the gallery here: https://bit.ly/2PhLykI
One Caribbean 2030 Bulletin	Bulletin was distributed internally among regional and international staff members. Estimated reach: over 500 staff members.	Bulletin is available for the public on ISSUU, an online publishing platform. Readership: Trinidad and Tobago (761 views), United States (171 views), Jamaica (111 views), Barbados (125 views) and Guyana (62 views). Readers are also from Panama, Belize, Austria, Netherlands and Suriname.
2030Caribbean.org (Website)	The website received regional and international visitors. The most viewed page was the “news” section.	There has been a significant number of new and returning visitors to the website. The “careers” section is the most viewed page on the website.

Source: UNMSDF Communications Teams

The UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) provided the opportunity to communicate the work of the UN and its collective support to the people of the Caribbean region, using the platform of a One UN Caribbean website, social media platform and news bulletin, managed by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Trinidad and Tobago. This sub-regional website supported the increased visibility of the UN in the Caribbean. Another innovative communications tool in place was the engagement with Social Media, having now established a social media presence for the UN in the Caribbean, including Facebook (United Nations Caribbean); Instagram (UN_Caribbean); Twitter (UN_Caribbean); Youtube (United Nations Caribbean) and Flickr. Each social media page is updated daily, utilizing information provided and disseminated by the agencies and UNCTs in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean.

In addition, a monthly bulletin highlighting agencies' work to support achievement of the four pillars of the Multi-country sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) and the SDGs was disseminated widely. This includes A more Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean, A Healthy Caribbean, An Inclusive, Prosperous and Equitable Caribbean, and A Safe, Just and Cohesive Caribbean. In 2018, the bulletin received an upgrade using the Issuu platform, that allowed for the tracking the readership.

Advocacy and public awareness of the work across the six UNCTs in the Caribbean towards SDG implementation were conducted. Informational materials produced and disseminated included SDGs Fact Sheets; SDG games which were used to promote the SDGs with primary school children through the UN4U programme; SDG Mobile Gallery which targeted young people; SDG Go for the Goals Campaign which took the UN to the rural communities. A regional social media communications campaign was also implemented on Non-Communicable Diseases. The UN Caribbean You Tube channel housed videos on the work of the agencies and its fulfilment to the SDGs in the Caribbean, including a segment called "SDGs and You".

The main UN joint communication was around the Sustainable Development Goals, through a mobile SDG Gallery, which is expected to be mounted in all programme countries. This gallery is being used as a vehicle to demonstrate UN agency's work to support governments and other partners to advance the SDGs. It also aims to visually demonstrate the developmental goals to the public at large in the various countries. The UN communication group also continued efforts to cross post information on respective agencies social media channels, especially as it relates to the pillars in the MSDF. This effort will be deepened next year with the active use of the UN website and social media pages.

7. LESSONS, CHALLENGES AND EMERGING PRIORITIES

The UN MSDF was conceived and has been delivered on the precept of effective leadership, greater accountability, national ownership and better efficiency in bringing out the best in the joint collaboration between the UN system, Governments and development partners. Over its two years of implementation so far, the MSDF seemed to have unlocked opportunities, fostered greater collaboration, broken barriers and facilitated programme synergies, however, there seems to be some room for improvement.

With the lack of a harmonized UN system wide policies and approaches when delivering such a complex development agenda, challenges in planning, monitoring and reporting on the country and region-wide work have prevalent. As a framework, the MSDF is an attempt by the UN system to promote 'One UN accountability' system through the CIP/SIP and biennial results reports. However, UN agency policies and procedures still demand specific agency country programmes, annual work plan, compliance tools and annual reports. Since the MSDF procedures are still a long way from either replacing or being in tune with those agency accountability tools, the challenge to 'one accountability' at the national level would persist. The first step to overcoming that is a decision at the corporate level to eliminate or align those requirements with the UNDAF/UN MSDF and promote greater convergence in the collective development approach of the UN. Alignment of agency results and indicators and harmonization of timelines and activities would allow the collective use of common tools and systems for more coherent planning, monitoring and results reporting. The lesson is that the more we move towards convergence in policies and procedures, the more we harness the full potential of our collective aspirations and unlock greater opportunities.

Challenges in coordinating UN supported interventions within the national development context also persisted. Difficulties in coordinating responses to national development needs was evident based on the diverse portfolios supported by the large number of participating resident and non-resident agencies; and the seemingly lack of an adequate systems or mechanisms for the continued engagement of those non-resident agencies beyond the limited period of CIP/SIP elaboration. The result of this is the creation of inefficiencies as there are observed duplication across work programmes as well as missed opportunities for synergies and the demonstration of the value proposition the CIP/SIP and MSDF. One way out of this would be to inject new energy in coordinating efforts around our shared national priorities. It has been the experience of several Results Groups that national implementing partners have been able to provide more complete account of their cooperation with agencies of the UN system than the UN systems themselves. Greater coordination or communication especially in the monitoring and reporting of interventions would allow the UN System to know what the other is doing and work better together. Such efforts would enable joint programming and allow established agency partners to leverage their strengths and relationships with national counterparts in support of the advancement of new agency work programmes.

The challenge in demonstrating individual and collective results by use of quality data would persist at least for a short-run. This challenge has been evident from the design phase of the MSDF and continued to thwart proper articulation of results. In response, the UNCT have adopted either joint approaches to strengthening

national data capacity as well as pursued agency specific agenda to address such challenges in their areas of work. The availability of quality and reportable data is the first step to proper accountability on human development.

In addition to data constraints, joint work or delivering joint results has been equally difficult. planning been conceived as way of planning together and consolidating all activities in one place (CIP/SIP and MSDF). But delivering results collectively goes beyond planning together or contributing to the same outcomes and outputs. It requires more joint or shared outputs, follow up beyond the completion of activities, more joint field visits and substantive coordination of the flow of information. To move away from delivering agency projects, processes and activities to jointly or collectively delivering outputs and outcomes, we should be fully exploiting the opportunities offered for national, multi-country and regional joint work and interventions. One important step to this end would be a regional implementation plan that captures such opportunities for joint actions and bridge any gap in intra-agency and inter-agency work within and across countries. Such regional initiatives would address the issues Regional Agencies and Non-Resident Agencies.

Flexibility has been vital in overcoming challenges and producing concrete results on the MSDF but not without some downside. In the design and execution of the MSDF, there was an intrinsic acknowledgement of the uniqueness in the context of each country or UNCT. This practical truth does not only recognize the differences in national architecture, approaches, tools and actions in addressing seemingly identical issues and priorities but also allows dialogue and national solution pioneering. This way, there was significant leeway in the way UN Country Teams engaged national counterparts and channelled their collective priorities, actions and outputs to the desired development outcomes in those country. By extension, the UN Country Teams also decided what local institutional arrangement and tools would work best for them in the context of their working environment. For illustration, in the conceptualization of the MSDF at national levels through the Country Implementation Plans or Sub-regional Implementation Plans, all UN Country Teams were able to decide the issues they are better placed to tackle, the intended outputs and units of measurement for those. As amazing as that may sound, it is the reason it is almost impossible for cross-country aggregation and comparison of UN's collective outputs in the region.

Similarly, one size (in terms of the proposed governance arrangement for the MSDF) did not fit all despite countries identical challenges and priorities presented in the MSDF. The national context that each UNCT or UNST worked was different and that influenced each country's institutional arrangement. The MSDF argued that with a Regional Steering Committee in place to drive the implementation and accountability on the MSDF at the regional level through Regional Coordination Meetings with UN and government counterparts closely supported by a Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) which is leading the national implementation and oversight; regional and national ownership and effective accountability are assured. That is the case because, each UNCT will work with their Government to establish four joint Results Groups for each of the four pillars of the MSDF to jointly plan, monitor and report on results. While this worked best in Guyana, it was not the same in all UNCTs. For instance, the UNCTs in Belize, Suriname and Jamaica had to adapt those groups to work within established national structures. In Barbados and the OECS that proposal is almost impossible given the number of countries and territories involved and small number of the public officials to serve in those groups. The lesson from this experience is for the UN to work with within the margins of what exists or what works as long as quality assurance and oversight responsibilities are covered.

Going forward, at least until 2021 and within the framework of the current UN reform, the UN system in the Caribbean will be guided by the UN MSDF. Despite that, the UN System is aware about the changing global political, social and economic trends and will continue to adapt its approaches and priorities to meet any

unforeseen change. At this point, the UN System in the region will continue its right-based approach that is anchored on the concept of 'Leave no one behind' to pursue a multidimensional approach to addressing teenage adolescence, promoting youth employment, tackling gender-based violence, and continue its work in reversing the trend of NCDs in the region. It will focus on ensuring school systems adapt to global economic and social changes to equip students with the relevant skills, knowledge, attitudes and values needed for success in current and future work environment. With the growing expansion in technology, particularly in digitalisation, the UN will explore new opportunities for enterprise in this area to foster lifelong learning and youth employment. As a very disaster-prone region, the UN will scale-up its work on climate change and disaster risks reduction for greater resilience and reduced impact from hurricanes, earth-quakes and other natural disasters.

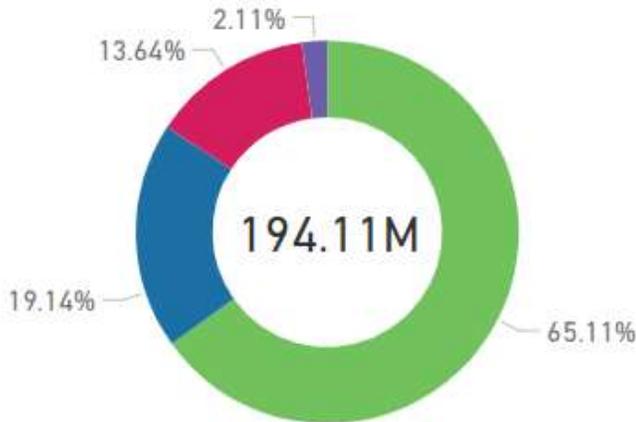
Poverty reduction remains high on the agenda of many Governments in the Caribbean. The UN will continue to work on combating the feminization of poverty in region by promoting equal opportunities for boys and girls. Inclusive business options will be explored in partnership with national and multinational companies, civil society, and governments, to support those identified as 'left behind' not just as employees or beneficiaries but also as employers, managers and decision makers. Towards a more symmetric delivery of results across all pillars, the UN will continue its work on social protection, social inclusion, gender and human rights and continue to build capacity of civil society organizations for increased advocacy. Work will also continue on disaster preparedness and mitigation, climate change mitigation, clean and sustainable energy, use of ecosystem and natural resources and conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

In all, the UN System will engage a wide spectrum of partners for a more diversified collaboration and joint work that looks beyond traditional donors and partners (foundations, bilateral and multilateral), to say individuals, corporate and private partners and funds. In addition, the UN will continue to strengthen national and regional capacities for data and M&E and adapt its systems and approaches to track not only progress but also growth and value addition of the MSDF to more fully articulate the complete results (positive or negative) of our collective interventions.

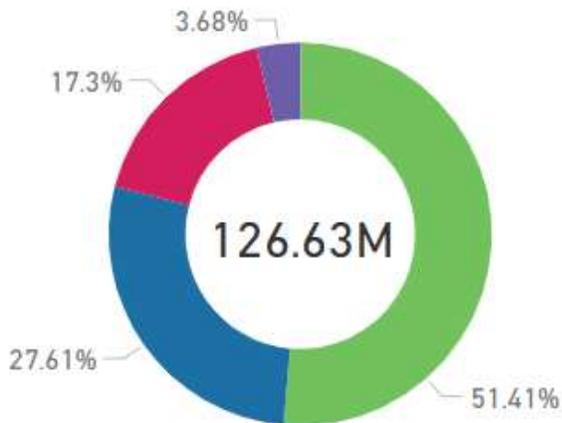
8. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

MSDF Priority Area	2017-2018 Budget	2017-2018 Expenditure	2017-2018 Mobilized Resources
Pillar 1 - An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean	26,471,118.41	21,909,591.67	18,189,012.59
Pillar 2 - A Healthy Caribbean	4,102,302.49	4,658,350.66	2,277,448.32
Pillar 3 - A Safe, Cohesive, and Just Caribbean	37,145,576.39	34,961,122.09	38,169,131.74
Pillar 4 - A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean	126,392,302.81	65,101,684.99	69,520,224.58
Total	194,111,300.10	126,630,749.40	128,155,817.22

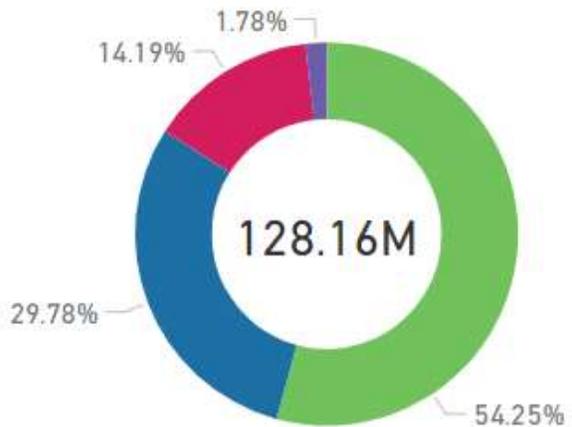
2017-2018 Total Budget by MSDF Priority Area



2017-2018 Total Expenditure by MSDF Priority Area

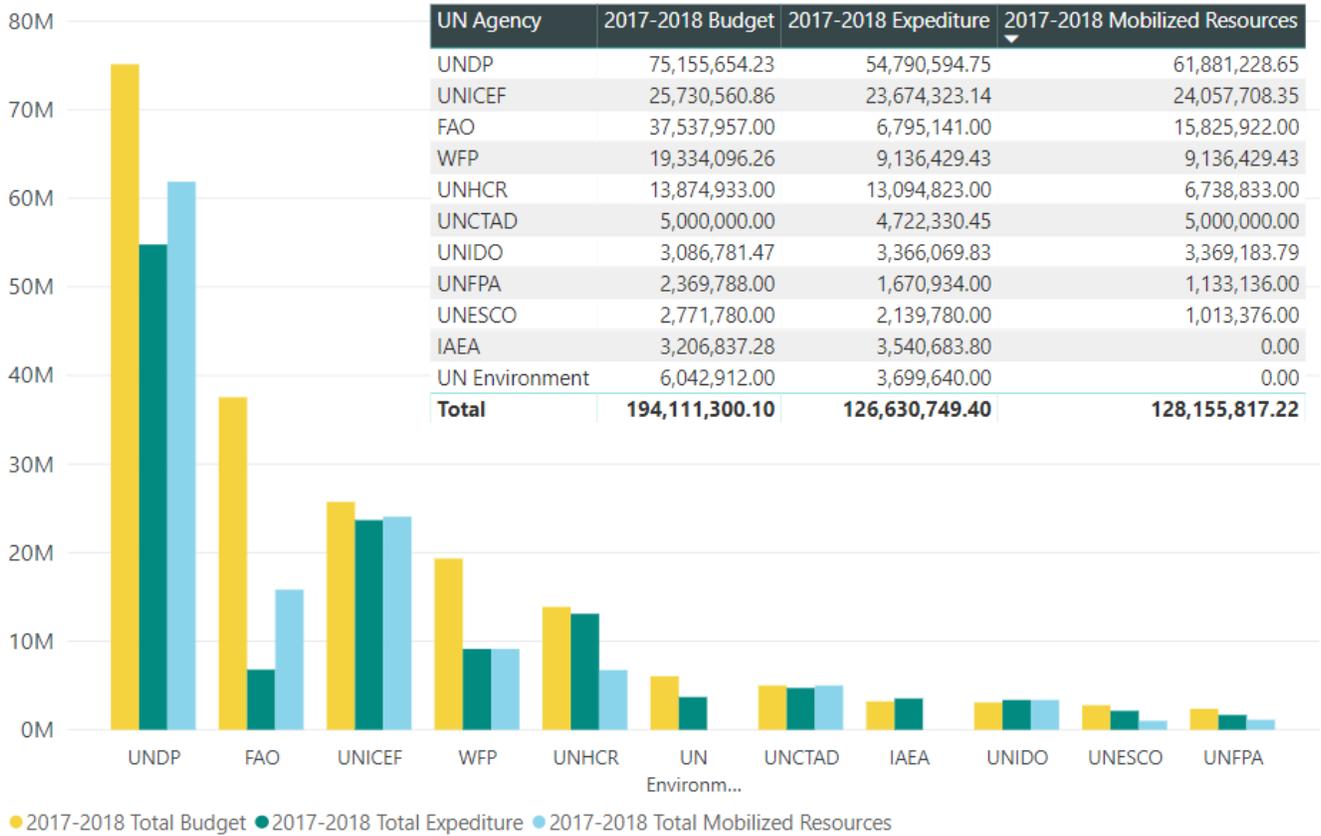


2017-2018 Total Mobilized Resources by Priority Area



2017-2018 Expenditure over Budget

2017-2018 Mobilized Resources over Budget

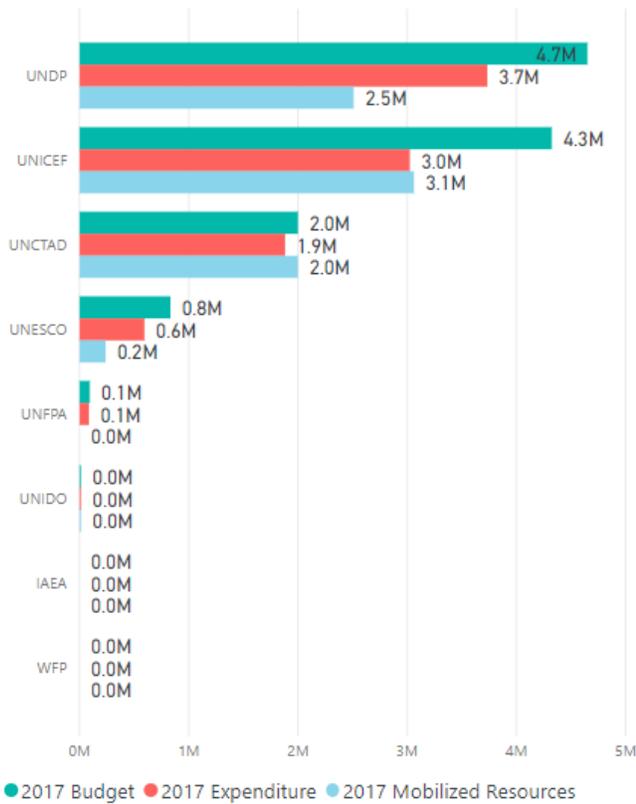


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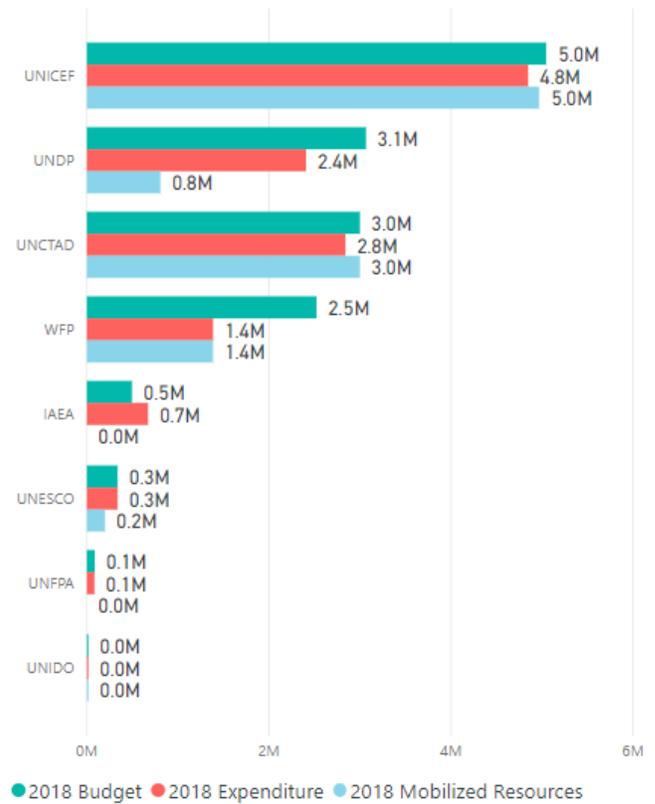
³⁴ The value of donor contributions to UNLIREC projects implemented across the Caribbean for the 2017 - 2018 period amounted to approximately USD\$2.1 million. The disaggregated country data is not available at the time of publication. This includes the Dominican Republic but does not include non-UN Member states.

Priority Area 1: An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean

2017 Financial Overview by UN Agency

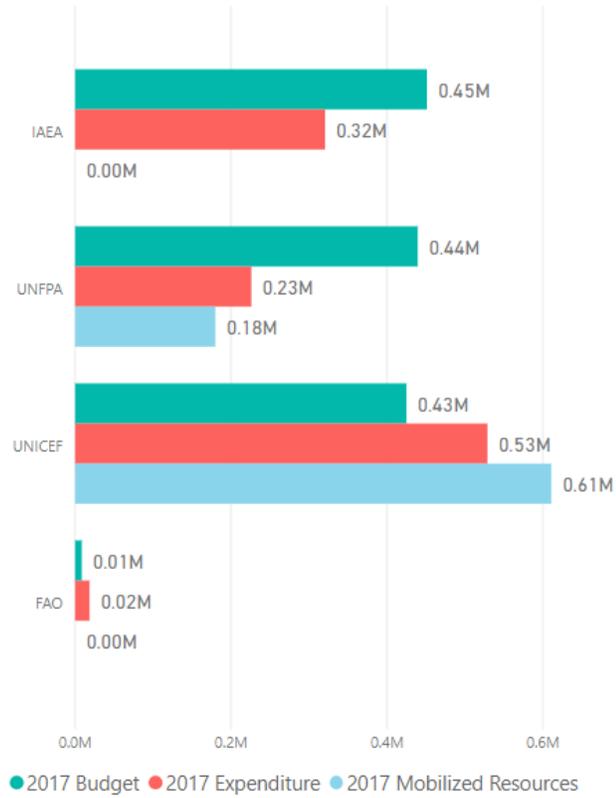


2018 Financial Overview by UN Agency

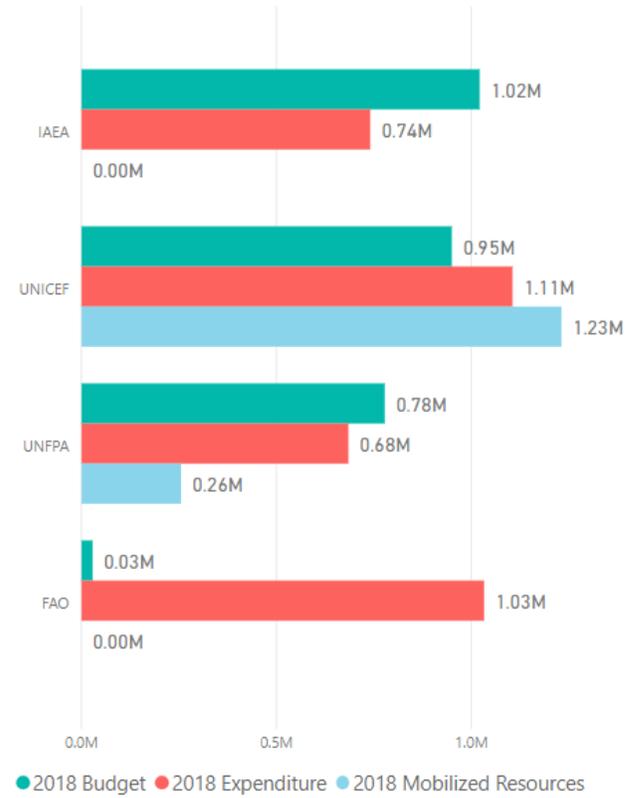


Priority Area 2: A Healthy Caribbean

2017 Financial Overview by UN Agency

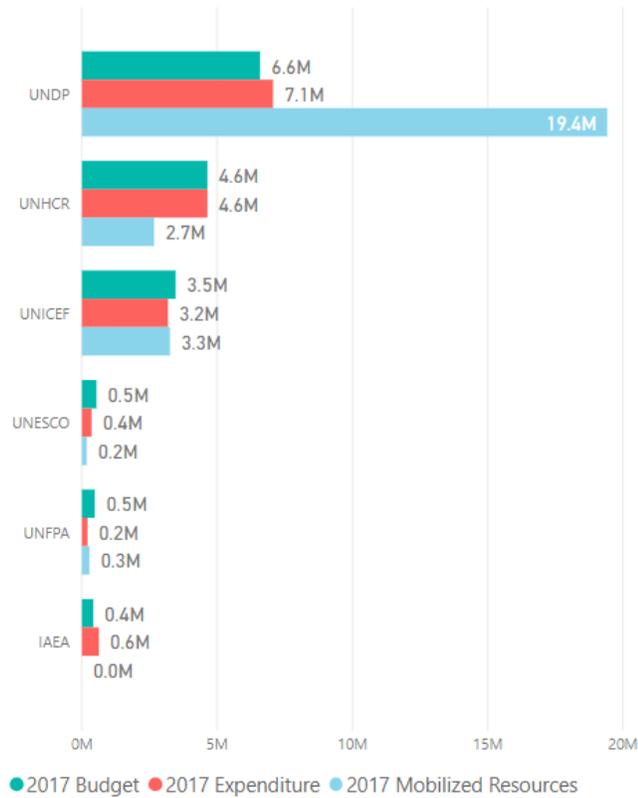


2018 Financial Overview by UN Agency

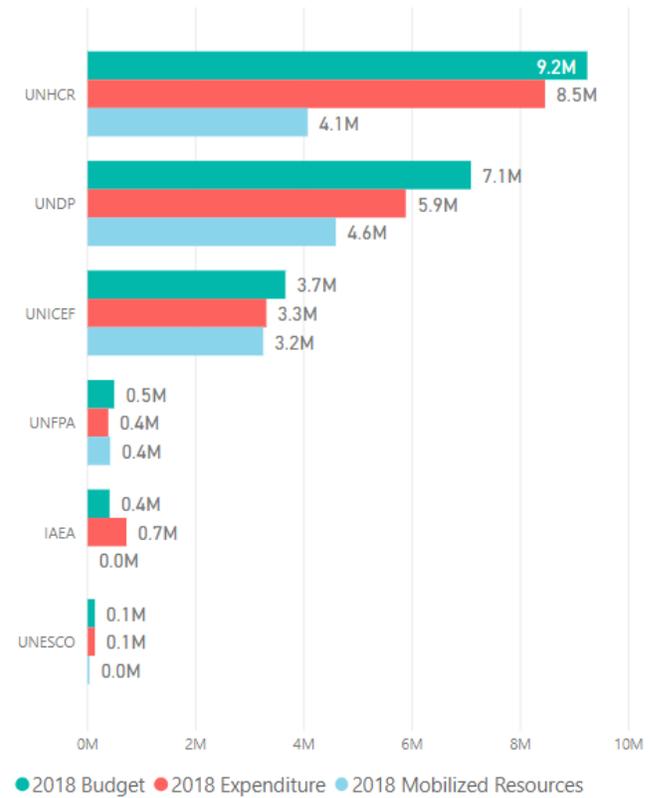


Priority Area 3: A Safe, Cohesive, and Just Caribbean

2017 Financial Overview by UN Agency

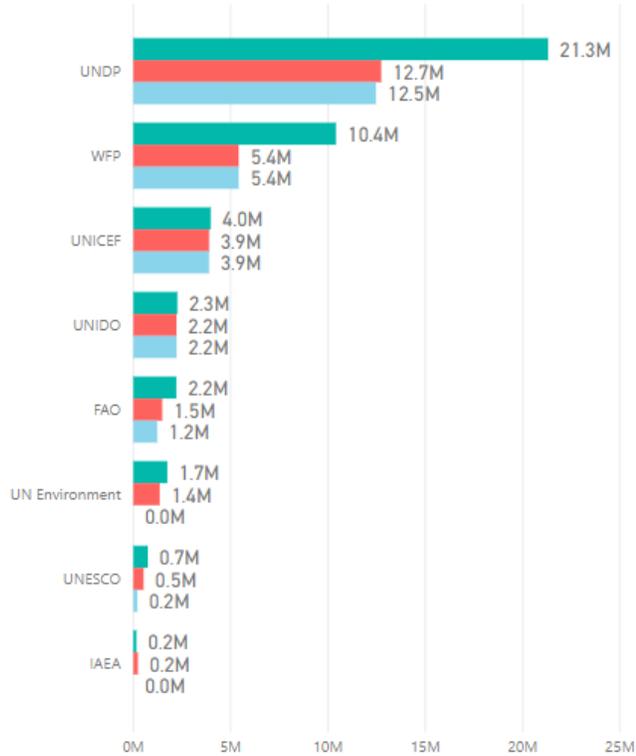


2018 Financial Overview by UN Agency



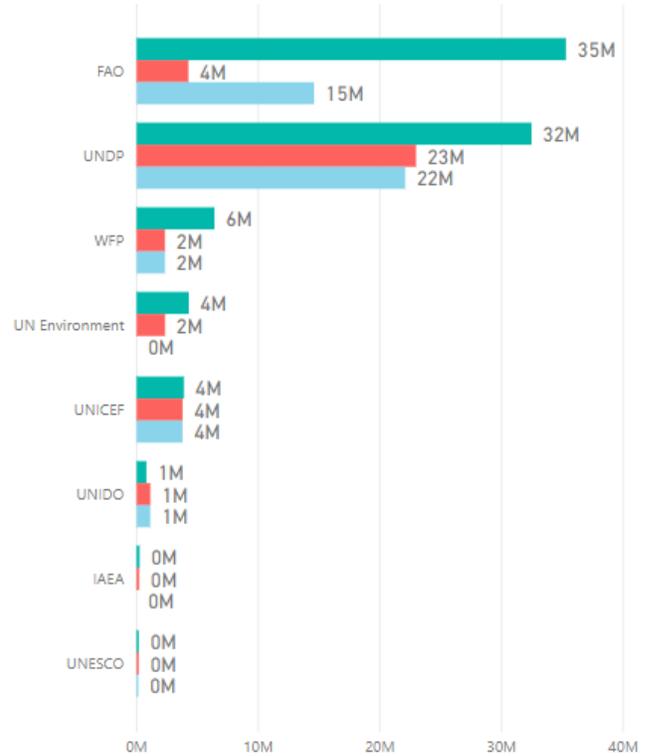
Priority Area 4: A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean

2017 Financial Overview by UN Agency



● 2017 Budget ● 2017 Expenditure ● 2017 Mobilized Resources

2018 Financial Overview by UN Agency



● 2018 Budget ● 2018 Expenditure ● 2018 Mobilized Resources