On October 21, 1974, the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Barbados entered into an agreement (the Standard Basic Framework Agreement – SBBA) to “support and supplement the national efforts of developing countries at solving the most important problems of their economic development and to promote social progress and better standards of life.”

Subsequently, similar agreements were entered with Governments of the ten countries and territories that the UNDP Multi-Country Office (MCO) for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean serves: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The agreements have established the framework within which UNDP serves and is the foundation on which programme documents such as the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework and the Sub-regional Country Programme Document are built. Our work in the region continues to evolve and is now classified under three main pillars:

1. Sustainable Solutions, Energy and Climate Change (SSECC)
2. Prevention, Recovery and Resilience (PRR)
3. Poverty and Governance (P&G)

The three aforementioned pillars of work follow the "Blue Economy for Green Islands approach" that incorporates the deep interlinkages between blue and green economies while encompassing an entire island system and its maritime waters as one interlinked economic, social and environmental system.

At UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, we follow the Blue Economy for Green Islands approach in order to promote economic diversification, job creation and resilience.

Some of the activities that will be described below such as the Blue Economy Scoping Studies and the SDG Fund Component 1 have positioned the MCO as a leader in the blue economy space in the Eastern Caribbean.
Historically, the MCO has strived to be a key player in the Eastern Caribbean providing support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by promoting and implementing projects that increase the adaptability and resilience of both the island and the people to the impacts of climate change. This is achieved by engaging with country partners to develop and employ sustainable and viable solutions to the unique challenges caused by climate change and compounded by small scale economies heavily reliant on a fluctuating tourism industry, a scarcity of natural resources and low food security.

Often overlooked in the Caribbean, climate change will also have a profound impact on natural resource management particularly regarding blue and green resources. The aforementioned highlights the need for climate-sensitive strategies to improve climate risk management (a systematic and coordinated process in which climate information is used to reduce the risks associated with climate variability and climate change), and take advantage of collateral opportunities, in order to improve the resilience of social, economic and environmental systems. In the wake of, already present and, undoubtable future impacts of climate change, UNDP is poised and well equipped to assist SIDS sustainably develop and adapt symbiotically to environmental challenges.

The SSECC Cluster can achieve its mandate by developing and implementing projects that are not only focused on a country’s national priorities but will directly have an impact on the livelihoods of people given that Climate Change is being felt and will continue to be felt by the most vulnerable in the population.

Regional solidarity and collective commitment to cooperation are critical and through strategic multi-country programmes and initiatives under the SSECC pillar such as EnGenDER and Climate Promise, UNDP distinguishes itself as an invaluable and reliable partner in the region and beyond.

Life on land and below water
UNDP’s support for environmental management and nationally owned sustainable development pathways encompasses the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including Forest Management, Sustainable Land Management and Desertification, Water and Ocean Governance, Climate Change, Energy, Chemicals and Waste Management, Blue and Green Economy and Extractive Industries.

Our work
UNDP strongly believes that healthy ecosystems underpin sustainable development – these 2 go hand in hand with each other and are integral components when we are speaking about SIDS. Nature provides $ 125 trillion in assets to humanity, it underpins half of the world’s GDP. It is the very reason that the UNDP has nature-based solutions as one of our six signature solutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a direct result of the degradation of natural areas, species loss and exploitation. UNDP’s work towards helping governments to address inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted for the conservation, restoration and use of ecosystems and natural resources can contribute to the prevention of future pandemics. It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic has also created an unprecedented and insatiable demand for innovation and collaborative solutions throughout the region. Further, we need to recognize the interconnected and cross-sectoral nature of building resilience, specifically tailored to an integrated approach within the context of biodiversity conservation.

The SSECC Cluster is currently implementing several projects that address sustainable development challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS including:

- Terrestrial and Marine conservation using a ridge to reef approach
- Gender-responsive climate change policies
- Mitigation and Adaptation strategies to support the islands towards low carbon development pathways
- Developing more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
PREVENTION, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE (PRR)

The geographic size, small populations, dependent economies and fragile and intricate connections between ecosystems and livelihoods, have immense implications for the sustainability of Caribbean nations making these islands particularly vulnerable to hazards.

Tackling the dual threats of climate change and hazards is essential in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eradicate poverty and inequality. UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean has been supporting countries in building resilience and ensuring that all development is risk-informed. In so doing, countries and communities are better able to protect against losses while simultaneously, bolstering economic growth, creating jobs, improving livelihoods, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

UNDP’s support to countries on resilience and recovery is shaped by two important global agreements: the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the regional level, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy is the overarching framework guiding the work of countries. In collaboration with partners our office also supports countries in reducing the risk of disasters and, where needed, supporting resilient disaster recovery. Taken all together, these efforts certify that the path towards sustainable development is risk-informed, zero-carbon and resilient.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), with HQ in Barbados is a natural partner for disaster preparedness and response. However, and despite multiple attempts, additional opportunities for further collaboration still need to be explored. It should also be noted that, in the last few years, CDEMA has announced its intention to lead or set standards for recovery in the region. It will be important to have further discussions with this agency as it is hoped that the Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility (CRRF) will be significantly advanced during this year.

The novel Coronavirus is an unprecedented worldwide crisis affecting all countries in a myriad of ways. There is global uncertainty on the duration of the crisis and depth of impact on the deterioration of livelihoods, increase in hunger, access to markets and the economy.

The office has responded in three stages namely:

1. **Readiness:**
   - Strengthening the first line of defense so health systems can be better prepared to respond to the public health challenges.

2. **Response:**
   - Flatten the curve, by supporting governments with slowing the rate of virus spread.
   - Provide stimulus for business so companies maintain continuity and provide workers with an income.

3. **Recovery:**
   - Conduct impact assessments that, with solid data, lead to evidence-based decision-making processes.

A significant allocation of social and economic resources is required to rebuild following the impact of powerful high-intensity storms. It is therefore imperative that the UNDP MCO continues to focus efforts on enhancing preparedness measures as well as building resilience in order to capably and swiftly recover from devastation. Additionally, recent extreme weather events have continued to highlight the differential effects of hazard impacts on women and men and have consequently underscored the need to address systemic inequalities and design policies that respond to post-crisis needs. Developing national policies that encourage greater participation and representation of women in all levels of decision-making will be critical in empowering women to be more actively involved in the creation of measures that will build long-term resilience to hazards. The design of policies and programmes that provide protection and ensure equality for women in the event of hazards, including the provision of access to financing, insurance, landownership, banking rights and other critical areas, will be paramount. Adaptive social protection systems and income support mechanisms that respond adequately to shocks, will be needed so that the most vulnerable women and men in island-states can prepare for and recover from disasters.
POVERTY AND GOVERNANCE

The Caribbean’s small island economies face formidable challenges in dealing with globalisation, particularly in relation to economic dependency and vulnerabilities. Race, income and gender hierarchies that persist from the era of colonialism, have left a legacy of exclusion of the poor. Despite general improvements in living standards, poverty rates still average 30 percent of the Caribbean population. Social and human development indicators show that though the region is improving, there is still much work to be done.

With the vision of enhancing UNDP’s work in key sectors where other UN agencies are less focused, in 2020, the MCO established a Poverty and Governance cluster headed by a NOB. The Poverty and Governance cluster seeks to build the capacity of islands in the region to integrate a human rights-based approach to develop into national development plans and policies and to strengthen countries' capacities to achieve the SDGs. The Cluster carries a dual function - the first is focused on developing and implementing programmes in key strategic areas, namely expanding and enhancing national social protection systems, strengthening citizen security, enhancing universal access to justice and supporting the development of the blue economy and expanding the MCO offer on support to SDG mainstreaming through policy and planning support. Under this function, the main projects are CariSECURE, Joint Programmes on social protection and human security, the Blue Economy SDG fund initiatives and the Spotlight Initiative, all regional or sub-regional activities.

The team also leads the work related to the wider SDGs and the 2030 agenda such as RIAS, MAPS and VNRs. The second function is to provide monitoring, evaluation and gender-mainstreaming support across the wider MCO portfolio. This includes responsibility for quarterly/annual project reporting, Quality Assurance, ROAR reporting, coordinating data sharing with the RCO as well as project design, planning and implementation support.

This is the smallest and newest cluster with the potential to grow in areas related to multidimensional poverty, good (digital) governance and access to justice. In 2019, the MCO stirred the elaboration of the report on Caribbean Justice: A Needs Assessment of the Judicial System in Nine Countries.

During the COVID-19 Response, this cluster led the development of the Eastern Caribbean Human and Economic Impact Assessments and SURGE support for policy implementation; as well as supported gender-responsive assessments of government COVID-19 social protection responses for vulnerable groups in Saint Lucia and Barbados as part of the joint programme, developing recommendations and implementation plans for subsequent waves of the pandemic.
2. COUNTRY PROFILES

UNDP works in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to create an enabling environment where national governments have the capacities for inclusive and sustainable human development; meet their regional commitments and internationally agreed goals including the SDGs.

UNDP’s presence in Barbados is a Multi-Country Office that covers the Eastern Caribbean, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These tropical islands, in the Caribbean Sea, are characterized by their geographic and socio-economic similarities however, they each have their own distinct cultural identity and unique history.
Overview

The 35-square-mile island of Anguilla is a British Overseas Territory home to 16,187 people. The country has a separate constitution with an elected government, headed by a Chief Minister that is responsible for daily administration. The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor of Anguilla on behalf of the Monarchy of the United Kingdom. The Governor, appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, maintains oversight for external affairs, defence, internal security and international financial services.

Climate change hazards threaten this tourism-dependent territory and as such UNDP’s work has focused primarily on building capacity to prepare for, and respond to, extreme weather events and other disasters.

Main Initiatives

Recently, UNDP has supported the COVID-19 emergency response in Anguilla partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The report models a series of possible impacts on economic growth, poverty and government finances and identifies and examines a range of relevant interventions that could help mitigate these impacts. The relief package of UNDP also includes assistance to MSMEs in order to advance their transition to digital business models, in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

Additionally, UNDP has worked with the government to enhance the capacity of local stakeholders to conduct Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs). This forms part of a regional programme geared toward improving recovery planning and capacities for resilience in the Caribbean. Through a partnership with the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the EU Commission, and using a “Train the Trainers” approach, the online and in-person training improved the territory’s ability to assess the full costs of hazard impacts and the costs and benefits of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies.

This partnership has also kindled regional cooperation to support the deployment of early warning systems in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda by leveraging the expertise of Anguilla’s Department of Disaster Management.
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Overview
Antigua and Barbuda consist of two major islands and several smaller islands, which include Great Bird, Green, Guiana, Long, Maiden, and York islands and further south Redonda. The country which has a population of 97,929 people, remains a member of the Commonwealth with the Prime Minister as its head of government. Queen Elizabeth II is represented by an appointed Governor-General as the head of state, following the island's independence on November 1, 1981.

After Hurricane Irma's landfall and devastation on the island of Barbuda in 2017, UNDP strengthened its presence in Antigua and Barbuda by creating a project office in the capital city of St. Johns, to support the Government in its recovery efforts.

Main Initiatives
Under the leadership of the Government and in close collaboration with the Barbuda Council and national partners, UNDP’s support has been concentrated on Reconstruction, Recovery and Rebuilding in Barbuda. This has included a roof restoration initiative, funded by the People's Republic of China, a debris management project, funded by the United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), and a rehabilitation of public infrastructure project, funded by the Government of India, which also saw the reconstruction of the General Post Office and the Hanna Thomas Hospital (the only hospital in Barbuda). Additionally, a Housing Support project funded by the European Union was initiated in February 2019, aimed at rehabilitating up to 150 homes by 2021.

In addition to the many efforts on reconstruction, UNDP also implements its CariSECURE project in Antigua and Barbuda. CariSECURE works to strengthen the integrity and accessibility of citizen security data in eight Eastern and Southern Caribbean countries and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development Mission for Eastern and Southern Caribbean (USAID/ESC) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO).

The Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) has been operational in Antigua and Barbuda since 1994 and works to provide financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people’s well-being and livelihoods.

Recently, UNDP has supported the COVID-19 emergency response partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The report analyses the COVID-19-induced socio-economic state of the country in order to support the Government’s relief and recovery efforts. The relief package of UNDP also includes assistance to MSMEs in order to advance their transition to digital business models and promote business continuity. UNDP is also currently implementing a USD 1M initiative aimed at strengthening national health capacities and reducing the negative socio-economic and human development impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

The EnGenDER project will support the development of gender-responsive and targeted action plans and assessments relating to climate change and recovery plan with an aim to improve capacity in these areas.

Antigua and Barbuda is a beneficiary of the joint programme (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO) Trust Fund for Human Security funded activity Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities.

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note.
BARBADOS

Overview

At just 166 square miles with 287,375 residents, Barbados is the most densely populated country in the Eastern Caribbean. The island is characterised by relatively high human development, a stable political climate, strong governance systems and high levels of transport and technological connectivity.

Thanks to ongoing support from the Government and people of Barbados, the island hosts the UNDP Multi-Country Office which serves seven independent countries and three British Overseas Territories in the Eastern Caribbean.

Main Initiatives

The UNDP programme portfolio in Barbados spans two of the four outcomes of the UN’s regional Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF). These two outcomes are building climate resilience and improving data-driven decision-making for enhanced citizen security. In this regard, UNDP’s work in Barbados is focused on sustainable energy, disaster recovery, the blue economy and citizen security.

Recently, UNDP has supported the COVID-19 response partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The assessment concludes that the Government of Barbados has made significant strides in its crisis response and offers a range of fiscal, regulatory and social policy proposals aimed at accelerating post-COVID-19 recovery and mitigating the impacts on the country’s socio-economic fabric. The support package of UNDP also includes assistance to MSMEs under the “eFUTURE” platform, in order to advance their transition to digital business models and incorporates a collaboration with the local private sector to develop an economic recovery strategy.

In conjunction with national stakeholders in the energy sector, UNDP is assisting Barbados in its efforts to meet its international commitments to reduce fossil fuel dependence and its national goal to be 100% renewable by 2030. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) champions these efforts by implementing initiatives that strengthen the renewable energy policy framework and develop sector capacities such as the deployment of solar photovoltaic systems at emergency shelters and healthcare facilities. At the community level, the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) aids locally-based projects in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and the reduction of the impact of chemicals and waste.

UNDP is also working with local partners to improve disaster recovery planning through the strengthening of national recovery frameworks. This involves building the capacity of national stakeholders to undertake PDNAs as well as improving community resilience through local training in emergency response. All of these interventions are guided by the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy and focus on empowering women to take a more proactive role in emergencies.

The Barbados MCO is also home to one of the 92 global Accelerator Labs in 116 countries. The Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Accelerator Lab focusses on the Blue Economy and aims to promote out-of-the-box thinking and experimentation to support SIDS in the sustainable development of their ocean-based economic sectors. The Accelerator Lab is working with multiple partners, and to date has identified several key opportunities related to various sectors within the blue economy including fisheries, waste management, renewable energy, biotechnology, responsible tourism and innovative sustainable development financing.

In addition to this, through the Blue Economists Programme, the University of the West Indies and UNDP collaborated with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy (MMAE) to conduct a Blue Economy Scoping Study. This study provided a preliminary assessment of current blue sectors and identified opportunities for growth and development in the future.

Citizen security is key focal area. UNDP, with the support of USAID, is working with national stakeholders in the justice sector to execute the CarisSECURE project locally.
Barbados presently benefits from **three UN joint programmes**:  

- The SDG-funded Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the eAstern Caribbean: Universal adaptive social protection modelled at the community, national and sub-regional level (UN Women, UNDP, WFP, ILO, UNICEF)

- The UN Trust Fund for Human Security supported Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO)

- The SDG Fund supported Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development (UNDP, UNEP, FAO), where UNDP as lead is supporting the development of national integrated finance frameworks for financing the blue economy.

For more information on Barbados, please view the [Human Development Report Briefing Note](#) for this country.
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (BVI)

Overview

An archipelago consisting of four main islands and over 50 smaller islands and cays, the British Virgin Islands is home to 30,180 people.

In September 2017, two devastating Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, left a trail of devastation across the territory, causing widespread damage to homes and road infrastructure, and disrupting basic services leading to the loss of lives and livelihoods.

UNDP has been on the ground in the BVI since October 2017, supporting both recovery and reconstruction efforts while working closely with the government and communities.

Main Initiatives

In the British Virgin Islands, UNDP implements a ‘Build Back Better’ approach to recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction – the aim is not only to reconstruct but to increase resilience against future disasters. In this vein, UNDP supported the Government of the BVI with the UN Rapid Assessment Mission to determine immediate response needs post-Hurricane Irma and assisted the Disaster Recovery Coordinating Committee of the Premier’s Office, in designing early recovery interventions and drafting the Recovery to Development Plan and the Recovery to Development Act.

UNDP also established a Project Office (April 2018 to July 2019) to assist with the efficient and timely implementation of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)-financed $65.29 million Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Loan (RRL) to rebuild 36 critical social and economic infrastructures in the transport, water and sewerage, education and national security sectors. By providing project management, procurement and strategic sourcing support, financial management and other technical expertise, UNDP, with the support of partners, helped build resilient infrastructure, restore government functionality and facilitate socially and environmentally conscious recovery in the BVI.

UNDP’s support was also critical in certifying that each of the 36-infrastructure works fulfilled social and environmental standards while supporting the government in the design and implementation of a communication strategy and stakeholder engagement process to manage citizens’ expectations with recovery and reconstruction.

Timely warnings and high-quality forecasts delivered to vulnerable communities, which are then translated into preventative actions can help to save many lives and reduce economic losses. However, Hurricane Irma and Maria severely impacted BVI’s disaster management systems and structures, including their early warning system network. Through the RRL, UNDP supported the Government in the purchasing of seismic networks, data collection, weather monitoring, telecommunications and early warning equipment. This now robust, early warning system will increase the country’s capacity to generate and communicate effective, timely and clear warnings of hurricanes and extreme weather events, and to manage disaster risks.

Vital to the success of the recovery process is ensuring that it is gender-responsive and that there is community ownership. Community input was sought during each project phase and mechanisms were put in place to receive, evaluate and address project-related complaints and suggestions. UNDP recognises the particular vulnerability of women and girls to climate-related disaster risk as well as their unique skills and experiences relevant to disaster risk reduction efforts. Therefore, UNDP continues to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of public officials on how to integrate gender issues in disaster risk management, recovery and reconstruction projects.

In order to build resilience following the 2017 hurricanes and diversify its economy, the BVI is seeking to grow the country’s blue economy. To help the BVI accomplish this, assistance was provided on the formation of a Strategic Blue Economy Roadmap 2020-2025, which includes innovative interventions supported by the Accelerator Lab for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. This Roadmap examines key sectors in the blue economy including fisheries, tourism and maritime monitoring and will provide guidance for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development.
UNDP has supported the territory's COVID-19 emergency response partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The report commends the decisive action from the BVI government in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and outlines a number of interventions aimed at ensuring the country can weather further shocks and rebuild in the wake of the current crisis. Economic support to MSMEs within the hospitality sector was also provided which allowed for employee retention through salary payments.

In November 2020, UNDP and the Government of the BVI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthening partnerships towards the achievement of the SDGs in the Caribbean, in times of COVID-19 and beyond.
DOMINICA

Overview

Dominica, officially the Commonwealth of Dominica is a 290-square-mile Eastern Caribbean island, with a population of 71,941. The country which gained Independence in 1978 is known as the ‘Nature Isle of the Caribbean’ and is lush with rivers and rainforests – home to an expansive array of flora and fauna.

In 2017, after a long history of being ravaged by hurricanes, the full category-five force of Hurricane Maria hit Dominica, decimating its physical and economic infrastructure. However, with the aid of many nations, the people of Dominica are reconstructing their country and building it back better. Dominica is on its way to becoming the first climate-resilient nation in the world.

A UNDP project office was established in 2017 to assist the government with immediate response, recovery and reconstruction post-Hurricane Maria.

Main Initiatives

UNDP’s current work in Dominica includes a focus on recovery, resilience and social protection. Strengthening national recovery frameworks, disaster preparedness and climate and community resilience is a part of that work, as is empowering women to take a more proactive role in emergencies.

Under the projects Improving Recovery Planning & Capacities for Resilience in the Caribbean and Development of Climate Resilience & Recovery Plan, UNDP along with the Dominican Office of Disaster Management advanced the creation of a Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) which bolsters national systems for preparedness and ensures the integration of gender equality. UNDP also provides implementation support to the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD) and in partnership with the UK Government, monitors the progress of CREAD in delivering on the CRRP.

Dominica’s goal of becoming the world’s first climate-resilient nation is an ambitious one, but through projects and programmes, UNDP is providing the support needed to accelerate and achieve this goal. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Support project (finalized on March 2020) was created to enhance the capacity of the country to access climate change funding and financing available from the GCF. Meanwhile, the EnGenDER project is being implemented to ensure that climate change and post-disaster recovery actions are better informed by an analysis of gender inequalities and to guarantee that inequalities are alleviated rather than exacerbated. UNDP also supports climate resilience and energy efficiency. The Low Carbon Development Path (LCDP) project aims to remove technical, financial and policy-based, barriers for the use of energy-efficient applications (to close March 2021); and under the Japan Caribbean Climate Change Partnership, Dominicans were able to access alternative low-emission and climate-resilient technologies and strengthen their knowledge networks to further develop these technologies.

Restoration efforts in Dominica are conducted using UNDP’s “build back better” approach to ensure resilience against future shocks. Employing this approach UNDP supported the resilient rehabilitation of two buildings at the Salisbury Educational Facility which were severely damaged by Hurricane Maria. Resilient reconstruction of this facility accelerated the return of essential schooling for students, providing a safe haven in the event of future disasters. The Handover Ceremony of the Facility took place on 14th October 2020.

Other recovery efforts, also included the provision of technical expertise in debris/waste management, the implementation of a short-term emergency employment programme that benefited 400 persons (in 18 communities), the re-roofing of 480 buildings (472 homes, 3 schools and 5 medical centres), and the successful implementation of a Building Damage Assessment (BDA) to evaluate the state of 29,431 structures throughout Dominica.

The need to improve post-disaster communication infrastructure is also critical given the physical isolation and communications’ disruption experienced by villages and communities after Hurricane Maria. In collaboration with national and international partners and input from three communities, UNDP implemented an innovative community wi-fi network to provide communities with reliable access to emergency communications systems.
Sustainable sectoral development is necessary to build resilience against shocks. The agriculture sector is Dominica's primary industry; however, it is constantly threatened by reoccurring disasters. The Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity of Women in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and Commonwealth of Dominica aims to scale up the resilience of small farmers and female farmer groups by enhancing risk-informed decision making and community support. Similarly, the Supporting Sustainable Ecosystems initiative (to close April 2021) provides effective integrated landscape management of the Morne Trois Pitons National Park, establishing a buffer zone to reduce threats to biodiversity and ecological functioning.

There is an ongoing initiative benefiting the indigenous community in Dominica. The Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience in the Kalinago Territory initiative seeks to strengthen the livelihoods and resilience of the Kalinago Territory, by working with Government in delivering an integrated package to strengthen capacities to boost agricultural production and sustainable agricultural practices; design and implement community reforestation programmes to augment livelihoods and protect critical water catchment areas; develop a comprehensive Kalinago tourism strategy and brand that generates new income opportunities for the territory, and; boost institutional capacities of the Kalinago Council for improved participative and inclusive decision making and planning.

The development of the blue tourism sector is essential to Dominica’s sustainable economic growth. Through the donation of vital equipment, UNDP supported the livelihoods and economic recovery of the Portsmouth Association of Yachting Services (PAYS). This initiative benefitted over 100 persons by connecting farmers, fishers, laundry services, restaurants, retailers, tour guides, tour operators, taxi operators and others within the yachting and tourism sector.

One of the most significant interventions supporting recovery and reconstruction is the recently signed Dominica Development and Reconstruction Facility, DDRF (signed in April 2020); which assists the government with direct cash transfers and technical assistance to implement social protection, COVID-19 response and reconstruction programmes that are estimated to directly benefit over 15% of the Dominica population.

Digital transformation is an emerging area for collaboration in Dominica. Through a successful pilot initiative by the Government of Dominica’s Ministry of Public Works and the Digital Economy, UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean collaborated with IsraAID to deliver a 12-week training programme, Work Online Dominica, to provide an alternative pathway of employment and to leverage and build skills to find freelance opportunities online. Of the sixty graduates from the training, more than half gained an online job while others received jobs locally. Participants were 72% women, more than 60% under the age of 30, and from all regions, including the indigenous Kalinago territory. Plans are underway for replication of this pilot this year.

In the broader picture of digital transformation, Dominica is implementing a digital economy development project, the Caribbean Digital Transformation Project, financed by the World Bank. The project aims to boost access to digital services, technologies and skills. The project is opening new areas of work for UNDP in Dominica. To support this process, the UNDP Chief Digital Office piloted its first digital readiness assessment in Dominica in November 2020, to assist with the framing of the digital opportunities across core pillars of digital transformation. Plans are currently underway to mobilise a consultancy to develop the national digital economy strategy.

Currently, UNDP continues to advance recovery by partnering with the Government to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. Towards this end, UNDP has supported the development of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women; provided assistance to MSMEs to go digital and provided technical assistance to support Government efforts in designing a successful Reopening Strategy.

Dominica is also a beneficiary of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNHSTF) joint programme (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO) “Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector’ which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities.

Finally, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, UNDP has assisted with the improvement of Dominica’s fiscal outlook, through a public expenditure review. This includes a review and validation of the recommendations for expenditure reduction made by International Financial Institutions and the provision of additional feedback to assist with decision-making to inform the three-year budget process.

For more information on Dominica, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note for this country.
Overview

Having gained independence from Britain on 7 February 1974, Grenada known as the ‘Spice Isle, is a parliamentary representative democracy, with the Prime Minister as head of Government. The country, home to 112,523 people, is a sovereign state located in the Caribbean Sea, consisting of Grenada, Carriacou, Petite Martinique and several smaller, uninhabited islands.

Main Initiatives

UNDP has a dedicated space in St George’s, the capital city, provided by the Government of Grenada with two members of staff.

The Climate-Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management project works to operationalise integrated agroecosystem management through mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the production landscape and increasing resilience of the agricultural system to emerge stronger from the pandemic. Launched in late 2020 the activities under this project will contribute to the attainment of national development priorities and SDGs. Implementing technologies that support climate-resilient agriculture will be a key aspect of the initiative, with participation from public and private sectors, academia and civil society. Proposed activities in this first year include a digital agriculture challenge to provide small grants towards digital transformation of the sector to facilitate developmental leapfrogging and resilience building.

In the context of the Climate Promise, UNDP has offered support to revise Grenada’s Nationally Determined Contributions and assist with the implementation of one select intervention such as replacement of public lighting with LED bulbs.

UNDP is supporting the COVID-19 response in Grenada, partnering with the Government in the production of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women. The relief package of UNDP includes MSME support through “eFUTURE” and assistance to the government in its transition to online learning through the procurement of 3,600 laptops and 112 changing stations to facilitate the administering of the CPEA and CSEC online exams.

UNDP is leading two pillars of the Grenada Spotlight Initiative, which supports a comprehensive national programme to contribute to the end of family violence and all forms of violence against women and girls in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The programme is comprised of six outcome areas of which UNDP leads the implementation of Outcomes 2 and 5, with UN Women, UNICEF and PAHO leading the implementation of others. Also, under the Spotlight Initiative, UNDP supported the Government of Grenada with obtaining PPEs by providing masks, face shields and gowns to be used by GBV practitioners.

Grenada is also one of the beneficiary countries of CariSECURE and presently benefits from two UN joint programmes:

1. Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO)

2. The SDG Fund supported Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development (UNDP, UNEP, FAO), where UNDP as lead is supporting the development of national integrated finance frameworks for financing the blue economy.
In late 2020 the UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Office supported the Government of Grenada to conduct a rapid assessment of the country's readiness to become a Small Smart State (SSS). Through consultations with key government and private sector stakeholders and drawing upon international examples of innovation and digitalization, the project team has defined a conceptual roadmap and immediate steps to usher in this Smart Small Grenada. Smart Grenada vision aims to deliver economic growth and development for the country. Harnessing digitalisation as an enabler will yield increased productivity in existing areas such as tourism, government administration, commerce, education and agriculture. The vision aims to leverage Grenada's strengths by the way of its natural resources: agriculture, marine environments, and tourism, and double down on its vulnerability to environmental and external shocks. With support from the UNDP Chief Digital Office, the process also piloted the new digital readiness assessment, which highlights priority areas and opportunities for development in digitalization.

Grenada is also a beneficiary of the regional EnGenDER project and benefits from training in gender mainstreaming in climate action plans and the development of these sector-level action plans. The major objective of the project in-country is to improve national capacity for gender-responsive climate change planning to also improve integrated recovery planning and frameworks.

The Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) has been operational in Grenada since 1994 and works to strengthen national capacities, by providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment, while enhancing people’s wellbeing and livelihoods. The programme has assisted the women of Petite Martinique with the implementation of an aquaponics system in a solar-powered greenhouse, to help reduce the reliance on imports and provide a healthy source of fresh available food on the arid island, year-round.

For more information on Grenada, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note for this country.
Overview
With a population of around 5,000 people on a land area of just 39 square miles, Montserrat is the smallest state in the OECS. Like all small island developing states, Montserrat is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – vulnerabilities that are exacerbated by the social and economic legacy of the devastating eruptions of the Soufriere Hills volcano in the late 1990s.

Main Initiatives
Montserrat, like most countries in the region, is dependent on external partners to define and conduct comprehensive impact assessments. Therefore, using a “Training of Trainers” approach, UNDP has created a sustainable framework for further and continuous capacity development in PDNA, ultimately ensuring that there is sufficient capacity to independently conduct a PDNA as a basis for post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation. The partnership between UNDP, the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the EU Commission has already trained several government personnel.

UNDP is supporting the Government of Montserrat through technical assistance and capital investment to further advance the country’s plastic awareness campaign in contributing to the sustainable development of the blue economy. This includes activities such as the provision of reusable bags and the development of communications materials such as newspaper articles and animated videos.

Like many other countries in the region, the blue economy is becoming both a national and regional priority and opportunity to achieve sustainable development therefore UNDP is developing a Blue Economy Scoping Study for Montserrat.

UNDP also assisted Montserrat's COVID-19 emergency response through the provision of grant support to farmers and fisherfolk to contribute to their food security and assistance to MSMEs through eFUTURE.
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Overview
Saint Kitts and Nevis (also known as the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis) is 101 square miles with a population of 53,104 persons. Basseterre is the capital located on the larger island of St. Kitts, and Charlestown is the capital of the smaller island of Nevis, which is located 2 miles away, across a shallow channel called The Narrows. Booby Island, a bird nesting site lies between the two islands.

The country gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1983 but still recognises Queen Elizabeth II as its Head of State. The Queen is represented in the country by the Governor-General, who acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Main Initiatives
UNDP’s work in St. Kitts and Nevis is primarily related to climate change adaptation and citizen security. To advance climate change adaptation, UNDP works with the Ministry of Agriculture through the Department of Environment, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Economic Affairs, the Department of Physical Planning and Environment, the St. Christopher National Trust and the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society to implement the Conserving Biodiversity project. This project contributes to the expansion of the existing Protected Area (PA) system through the establishment of two new terrestrial PAs and three new marine PAs and also implements measures to reduce habitat degradation, which is adversely impacting the ecological integrity of PA buffer sites.

With a similar focus on climate change adaptation, the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) which has been operational in St. Kitts and Nevis since 2013, is also working to protect the environment through various activities that support global environmental benefits. The key areas are coastal preservation, sustainable use of natural resources, renewable energy, environmental sustainability and sustainable livelihoods.

Citizen security is of utmost importance to the government of St. Kitts and Nevis and as such the country is one of the beneficiaries of the CariSECURE project. In St. Kitts and Nevis, CariSECURE has a full-time National Officer that supports the implementation of country-level activities in collaboration with the national task force, the Ministry of National Security, the St. Christopher and Nevis Royal Police and Prison Services, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Department of Statistics and the Department of Youth. The COVID-19 response in St. Kitts Nevis was also assisted by CariSECURE through the provision of PPE and the country benefits from the eFUTURE Programme.

Most recently, UNDP provided support to the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis for the digitalisation of their National Heroes Monument. This recently inaugurated monument commemorates the country’s independence as a sovereign state and represents the identity of Saint Kitts and Nevis through the recognition of their five national heroes. Thanks to the contribution of UNDP, the National Heroes Monument has a digital wing fully equipped to provide an interactive experience where visitors can learn about Saint Kitts and Nevis recent history through the life and work of their national heroes.

For more information on St. Kitts and Nevis, please view the Human Development Report Briefing Note for this country.
SAINT LUCIA

Overview

The volcanic island of Saint Lucia is 238 square miles and home to 183,627 people. The country gained independence in 1979 and is known for its iconic Piton Mountains which have been designated a World Heritage Site, and for its lush rainforests, covering approximately 77% of the island. Saint Lucia is a founding member of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the country’s capital, Castries, hosts the Organisation’s headquarters as well as that of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC).

Main Initiatives

UNDP’s work in Saint Lucia is primarily related to climate change, citizen security and the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the first, UNDP implemented a series of mitigation and adaptation actions focused on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. In line with work being conducted to improve climate change adaptation, UNDP is also working with local partners to improve disaster recovery planning through strengthening national recovery frameworks. This involves building national capacity to undertake Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) with a focus on empowering women to take a more proactive role in emergencies, aligned with the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy. The EnGenDER project also supports climate change and recovery planning in St Lucia through the development of budgeted gender-responsive and inclusive sectoral level action plans and M&E for NAPs and NAMAs as well as undertaking recovery capacity assessments.

At the community level, the Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) supports local projects in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and reduction of the impact of chemicals and waste.

To advance citizen security in the country, UNDP is implementing the CariSECURE project. The Project’s Deputy Team Leader is based in Saint Lucia and supports country-level implementation and engagement with key national stakeholders including the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Central Statistical Office, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and other GOSL agencies represented on the project’s national task force. Notably, under CariSECURE and with support from UNODC, the Saint Lucia National Crime Victimisation Survey (SLNCVS) was completed in July 2020, making Saint Lucia the first country in the English-speaking Eastern Caribbean to complete a comprehensive crime victimisation survey using UN international standards.

UNDP also supported the COVID 19 emergency response in-country and has assisted with the improvement of local health systems through the procurement of PPE for front line workers and ventilators to improve access to care. UNDP has supported the development of a Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report, with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women.

Saint Lucia presently benefits from two UN joint programmes:

1. The SDG Funded Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean: Universal adaptive social protection modelled at the community, national and sub-regional levels (UN Women, UNDP, WFP, ILO, UNICEF)

2. The UN Human Security Trust Fund supported Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector which seeks to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, agri-fisheries and related small business activities (UNDP, UN Women, FAO, ILO)

As part of its mandate to help countries towards the achievement of the SDGs, UNDP has supported SDG mainstreaming by providing key support to the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for the 2030 Agenda (MAPS) process including the undertaking of a Rapid Integrated Assessment and a MAPS Scoping Study. UNDP also provided key leadership to a MAPS mission in 2019, which produced a draft roadmap, currently being finalized in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator Office.
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Overview
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a sovereign state in the Lesser Antilles consisting of many islands and cays – of which nine are inhabited, including the mainland Saint Vincent and the Grenadine islands: Young Island, Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Union Island, Mayreau, Petit Saint Vincent and Palm Island. The country with a population of 110,940 people, gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1969 with Queen Elizabeth II remaining as Head of State and the Governor-General acting as her representative on the island. The Prime Minister is the Head of Government.

Main Initiatives
UNDP’s current portfolio in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines includes several projects that aim to build resilience, strengthen national capacities for disaster mitigation and preparedness, enhance citizen security and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while ensuring gender equality and community empowerment are recognised and supported.

To strengthen national systems for preparedness and national recovery frameworks, while improving community resilience and empowering women to take a more proactive role in emergencies, UNDP in collaboration with partners and the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, is implementing two projects – **Strengthen Integrated and Cohesive Preparedness Capacity at a Regional, National and Community Level in the Caribbean** and **Improving Recovery Planning and Capacities for Resilience in the Caribbean**. UNDP also provides climate action support, disaster risk reduction and environmental management interventions through the [EnGenDER project](#).

Under the **Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using a Ridge-to-Reef Approach** project, UNDP works in partnership with the government to enhance biodiversity and ecosystems conservation through an expanded and strengthened Protected Area (PA) system and with sustainable land management (SLM) practices. At the community level, the UNDP Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) sets out to achieve environmental sustainability, alleviate poverty and build the capacity of local NGOs and community-based organisations through projects and programmes.

The UNDP Regional Hub provides support to the SVG Electoral Office— the first electoral support requested and provided by the UN to the country. The UNDP Regional Hub offers support in the design of a Voter Education (VE) Programme. UNDP strengthened the Electoral Office (EO) capacity by financially supporting the Office with equipment to improve boundary delimitation, encouragement of voter registration, the extension of voter education in remote locations, and administrative management of electoral operations before the elections. Recently, UNDP provided funding and procurement services to purchase one four-wheel-drive vehicle to be used by the EO team.

In support of SDG mainstreaming and to advance the commencement of a MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for the 2030 Agenda) process, UNDP supported the undertaking of a Rapid Integrated Assessment per the request of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at the end of 2019. A follow up with the government, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator Office, will take place in 2020.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines presently benefits from the SDG Fund supported joint programme **Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development** (UNDP, UNEP, FAO), where UNDP as lead is supporting the development of national integrated finance frameworks for financing the blue economy. The country also benefits from the CarSECURE project.

In light of the current crisis, UNDP supported the **COVID-19 response** by partnering with the Government in the production of a [Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Report](#), with the collaboration of UNICEF and UN Women.

For more information on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, please view the [Human Development Report Note](#) for this country.
3. MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS

UNDP Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Accelerator Lab on Blue Economy

UNDP’s MCO for Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean is home to the Accelerator Lab for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. The Accelerator Lab is a part of the global UNDP Accelerator Labs initiative, which consists of 92 Labs in 116 countries around the world aiming to build the largest and fastest learning network to address development challenges in the 21st century era wherein changes are happening rapidly.

The primary objective of the Accelerator Lab is to promote out-of-the-box thinking and experimentation to support Eastern Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in the sustainable development of their ocean-based economic sectors. Under the blue economy frame, the Lab focuses on key sectors such as fisheries, waste management, renewable energy, responsible tourism and innovative finance.

To accomplish its goals, the Accelerator Lab is working in partnership with the public, private and third sectors on identifying a locally-sourced portfolio of solutions to challenges in ocean-based sectors. In particular, the Lab is looking to accelerate innovative initiatives that are already in progress in order to have a greater impact on the problems being addressed through learning what works and what does not. These accelerations may take the form of primarily technical assistance, and partnership generation with the option of capital investment available.

Thus far, experimentation has occurred through testing of a biogas using fish offal and local grass substrates, coral reef mapping and monitoring via underwater robotic technology, the development of a traceable tuna brand and the formulation of a bioplastic packaging alternative with starch and cassava elements.

In the next phase of the Accelerator Lab, the team will lead support to MSMEs in key sectors of the blue economy to transform into the digital economy. Through the BlueDIGITAL initiative, which is based on collective intelligence, sense-making, solutions safaris and insights identified from numerous community conversations, this pilot will introduce a suite of digital solutions for key stakeholders including fisherfolk, Government, tourism industry partners and the general consumer to enable better access and connection across blue economy value chains.
“Strengthening Evidence Based Decision Making for Citizen Security in the Caribbean” (CariSECURE) is a regional project being implemented by UNDP since 2016 and is one of three components of the broader United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Project. CariSECURE works to strengthen the integrity and accessibility of citizen security data in 8 Eastern and Southern Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname). CariSECURE also benefits from complementary funding from the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO) and the ACRO Criminal Records Office. The project supports the development of systems and capacities of public officers to generate, analyse and use data to develop targeted policies and strategies to effectively manage crime and violence and by extension to reduce and prevent youth involvement.

The Project’s rationale is based on the premise that the increased use of both quantitative and qualitative information by public servants at state institutions leads to more evidence-based decision making. It also allows for the identification of successful strategies, programming interventions and policies which can be replicated and scaled up for widespread impact at the national level.

In July 2020, CariSECURE was awarded a contract extension to September 30, 2021, with an additional USAID allocation of USD 1.45 million in funding, resulting in a total investment for CariSECURE over the 5-year project of USD 9.165 million. Year 5 (Oct. 01 2020 – Sept. 30 2021) will see CariSECURE reduce the number of primary agency beneficiaries across the beneficiary countries from four (Police, Prisons, Judicial Institutions and Health care agencies) to one (Police Force) and support necessary institutionalisation with the deployment of a Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) Platform, implement a Sub-Regional Crime Observatory at the Regional Security System (RSS) and, add technical support to select countries for Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

The Project Outputs are:

- **Output 1**: Standardised and disaggregated crime data reporting within and among national authorities to foster the reliance on valid, reliable and comparable data on citizen security

- **Output 2**: Utilisation of evidence-based analysis of crime data to inform citizen security strategies, programs and policies

- **Output 3**: Improved decision-making on youth crime and violence based on the available evidence at national levels
The EnGenDER Project supports the further integration of gender equality and human-rights based approaches into disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and environmental management frameworks and interventions. EnGenDER therefore aims to identify and address gaps to ensure equal access to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change solutions for both men, women, boys and girls in nine Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname).

The official start date for the project was March 2019, and part-funding was transferred for implementation of activities by the two donors, the Government of Canada and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO) (formerly DFID). The Project Management Unit (PMU) was set up in January 2020 when the first three team members came on board. The project also facilitates implementing agreements with three partners, namely, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Women for the implementation of specific activities related to their core functions. As such CDEMA, implements all DRR activities relating to gender-responsive resilient recovery approaches and UN Women manages the gender equality policy mainstreaming aspects of the project.

The management arrangements of the project follows that the PMU (which sits in the Barbados Office) has ultimate responsibility for implementation and reporting to the donors, however, the three implementing partners, as well as the four Country Offices (Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname) are responsible for specific outputs and national activities respectively. As a DFM project implemented from this MCO, the PMU is directly responsible for all implementation in its 5 Eastern Caribbean Countries and therefore handles procurement and payment for these countries through this office (unless otherwise stated through a Letter of Agreement).

The Project’s ultimate outcome is the improved climate and disaster resilience for women, girls and key vulnerable populations (such as disabled persons) and future generations in the Caribbean. The project is classified with a Gender Marker 3 and it aims to ensure that climate change and disaster risk reduction actions for each of the nine participating Caribbean countries are better informed and steps are taken to ensure that inequalities experienced by persons as a result of system biases due to gender, disability, or age are alleviated rather than made worse. More specifically, the project will support climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental management interventions in the 9 Caribbean countries by leveraging sector-level entry points such as the countries National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMAs) (e.g. NAPs and NAMAs) and specifically supporting implementation and/or upscaling of countries’ priority actions. The project has made significant progress toward this ultimate outcome over the year 2020. In the area of improving national capacity, the project was able to commence the development of cross-sectoral, gender-responsive and human rights approach sector-level action plans in 6 of its project countries. Through one of its implementing partners, UN Women, over 100 technical persons were also trained in gender mainstreaming for climate change planning with 6 costs of inaction studies conducted. Vulnerable persons also benefitted during this time as the project repurposed over 1,149,000 ($500,000 for the five Eastern Caribbean countries) to support the COVID-19 response under initiatives that: tackle Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and provide direct assistance to women victims of violence; facilitates the delivery of essential goods and services; and provide income support for the most vulnerable, including women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and individuals who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19. These interventions reached some 1,500 direct beneficiaries and over 30,000 indirect beneficiaries in the Eastern Caribbean (Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent).

Additionally, the Project is providing a significant contribution to the gathering data on gender and climate action in the region as the team is finalizing the formulation of dedicated studies in the 9 beneficiary countries: – Gender-based Climate Resilience Analysis (UNDP); KAPB Study and Cost of Inaction (UN Women). As one of its implementing Partners, CDEMA also made progress towards updating and integrating recovery planning frameworks by commencing national capacity assessments in three countries, and by advancing work around the Caribbean Recovery Facility (CRF), WFP completed 5 national shock responsiveness analyses under the EnGenDER work plan. Of note has been the Innovative Offer of Complementary Funding (OCF) launched by the project in 2020. This process leverages approximately USD700,000 in project funding for the application and access to over USD70 million in funding for the further development and implementation of targeted climate and resilient actions while promoting the inclusion of the most vulnerable sectors of the population.
**Spotlight Initiative**

The **Spotlight Initiative** Regional Programme entitled: “Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Prevent and Respond to Family Violence in the Caribbean” is funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by four UN Agencies – UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA and heads of these funds and programmes, along with the UN Resident Coordinator. Phase 1 of implementation is July 24th, 2020 – Dec 31st, 2022 with a budgeted amount of US$2,194,611 (for UNDP).

Complementing the Spotlight country programmes in Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, the Regional Spotlight Initiative focuses on 4 out of the 6 pillars (pillars 2, 3, 5 and 6).

**Pillar 2:** Regional and sub-regional systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG), including family violence, including in other sectors.

**Pillar 3:** Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at the community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including family violence.

**Pillar 5:** Quality disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of VAWG, including family violence, is collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

**Pillar 6:** Women’s rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG.

The programme will complement the investments of regional institutions and platforms and contribute to the scale, sustainability, visibility, lessons learnt and replication of programming throughout the region. It will address specific regional institutional bottlenecks that impede or limit the reach of technical support to respond to and prevent family violence in CARICOM member countries. In particular, the regional programme will support CARICOM and the OECS as the two intergovernmental frameworks leading to functional cooperation in the region. It is a timely injection of technical expertise and resources to ensure that the COVID-19 response is shaped by women’s involvement in the community and national decision making to ensure the accessibility of services and approaches to prevent and protect against family violence.

UN Women is the Lead Agency to coordinate the implementation of the Regional Joint Programme. UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA are recipient UN organisations (RUNOs) that will jointly implement resources and provide technical assistance and guidance to the implementation of the regional joint programme as well as to the Joint Programme Team. Associate Agencies will be working closely with RUNOs providing their technical assistance and working in partnership. Intergovernmental organisations, regional networks of CSOs and other regional partners will be engaged as well.

The regional programme will add value in a number of ways, including:

1. Supporting the integration of protection and prevention programming within the COVID-19 national and regional action plans, during the crisis response and in the recovery phase

2. Ensuring that countries without a country level Spotlight programme benefit from the regional public goods developed through the regional programme

3. Supporting regional integration and functional cooperation both within and between regional institutions as approaches to ending family violence are mainstreamed into approaches to crime and security, health, justice and data and research

4. Build capacities of regional-level organisations to provide technical support to national institutions will contribute to sustainability

5. Support the demands of civil society for inter-governmental and state action and accountability to end family violence.

6. Provide models for Caribbean specific community approaches to support behavioural and cultural change.

At the regional level, because of the Spotlight interventions, key regional institutions will have increased capabilities, that is, capacity and political commitment, to drive functional cooperation with member states to improve the implementation of a comprehensive approach to ending family violence. More information can be found [here](#) in the newsletter and on the website [here](#).
The Small Grants Programme is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It provides financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the natural environment while enhancing livelihoods and well-being. Through grants, the Programme provides up to USD 50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous people, community-based organisations and other non-governmental groups for projects in biodiversity, climate change mitigation & adaptation, land degradation and sustainable forest management, protection of international waters and management of chemicals and waste.

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the Small Grants Programme operates in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. The number of projects currently under execution is listed by country and thematic areas. In addition to this, the Small Grants Programme has worked closely with its grantees to assist in the delivery of necessary interventions at the community level in response to COVID-19. This and much more of the work in the Sub-Region is detailed here in the quarterly newsletter.
4. JOINT PROGRAMME/SPECIAL INITIATIVES

SDG Funding Components 1 and 2

Component 1: Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development

Joint Programme participating UN agencies are UNDP, UNEP and FAO. UNDP is the convening agency.

Participating countries: Barbados, Grenada and Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

Timeframe: August 2020 – July 2022 (24 months)

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The global health crisis has impacted the socio-economic pillars of very dependent societies. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) losses in the Eastern Caribbean will surpass two digits in almost all countries. The rise of extreme poverty and unemployment and the damage to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be significant, especially in the tourism and ancillary sectors: empty piers with no cruise ships, flights cancellations, hotels closures and empty restaurants leave fishermen, farmers, cleaning personnel, cooks and taxi drivers and many other traders without income other than government cash transfers, where they exist and while they last. The Blue Economy Strategies are amongst the most promising approaches to support SIDS economic structuring transformation to build resiliency to exogenous shocks, including natural disasters, manmade or financial crises and global viral pandemics while preserving their natural heritage.

Using the Blue Economy as an integral driver for resilient economic recovery and growth in the Eastern Caribbean, the Joint Programme’s emphasis will be on the development of an enabling and supportive environment for financing the Blue Economy, through different measures: the identification of policy and regulation gaps, a methodology to identify key Blue Economy opportunities, and the definition of specific financing mechanisms for Blue Economy initiatives to achieve resilient growth. The three participating countries are at the vanguard of the Blue Economy “wave” and offer therefore a conducive environment to the success of the Blue Finance proposal. Integral SDG support from the United Nations (UN) provides the policy and planning background to this initiative.

The JP will address the current financial challenges of the beneficiary countries including the additional financial burden arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the three countries will benefit from upscaling the UN’s existing initiatives with the private sector, through the establishment of a public-private consortium for blue investment. This partnership aims to leverage substantial resources from the private sector, in addition to the development finance provided by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) (CDB, IDB, World Bank and EIB), who have significant and structured investments in the region in the Blue Economy sector, and beyond.

The JP builds on the existing initiatives that Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) have in the Eastern Caribbean on Blue Economy and other SDGs related areas. The JP model and best practices may be the basis for future upscaling of this intervention to the rest of the Eastern Caribbean.

Total budget: USD 1,000,000 (SDG Fund) + USD 120,000 (UN Agency In-Kind) = USD 1,120,000

While the official launch has been delayed and is being planned by the RCO for Q2 2021, the inception phase of the project is underway, and several consultancies have already been launched by the respective agencies.

Component 2: Blue Invest: A Facility for Caribbean SIDS’ Financial Expansion

While Component 2 was not approved as submitted, an additional $100,000 has been made available to the MCO to enhance the proposal. Funding for the proposal may then be possible through the second round of funding under the Blue Finance window.
Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean: Universal adaptive social protection modelled at the community, national and sub-regional levels

Timeframe: January 2020 – January 2022

Target countries: Barbados, Saint Lucia and the Eastern Caribbean (through the OECS)

Participating UN Agencies: UNICEF, WFP (Co-leading agencies), UNDP, UN Women, ILO

This Joint Programme contributes to the development of an adaptive and universal social protection system in Saint Lucia and Barbados through integrated policy development, programme design and service implementation. It takes an innovative approach to modelling and piloting at the community, national and sub-regional levels, which will complement national plans and leverage resources from existing policy loans from international financial institutions. The programme will utilise research, analysis, monitoring and evaluation to support the evidence-based development of an adaptive system towards progressive universal coverage of social protection while facilitating replication and expansion to Eastern Caribbean Countries (ECC) through South-South exchange under the OECS framework. This will also include strengthening the OECS Commission to support the scaling-up and sustainability of interventions and implementation across the ECC.

UNDP will deliver on the following components of the joint programme:

Output 1:

- Gender-responsive assessment of Barbados’ COVID-19 social protection response, and its impact on the existing social protection systems/programmes, and support estimations of longer-term needs as a result. Support the adaptation of the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) to include attention to the linkages between the current social protection system and the disaster risk management infrastructure and undertake a gap analysis of the same. The gap analysis will include attention to sector-specific linkages and needs; paying attention to the most vulnerable sectors related to both climate and economic shocks (Barbados).

  • Gender-responsive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups in communities most affected (loss of jobs, health burden etc.) – based on information on closures, lay-offs etc., and information from health facilities and other public services use, and on the social protection system in Saint Lucia, with a specific focus on the response to COVID-19, and development of an implementation plan to strengthen the gender-responsiveness and adaptiveness of Saint Lucia’s social protection system.

  • Gender-responsive, and multi-dimensional socio-economic and climate-based vulnerability analysis of the SLC-HB 2016 to inform recommendations for policy and legislative reform, as well as relevant protocols and guidelines for integrated systems development for adaptive social protection (Saint Lucia).

Output 2:

- Conduct and implement the recommendations of an assessment of gender-responsive sustainable financing options for adaptive social protection with a focus on linking the current system to relevant disaster risk management infrastructure; and implementation of agreed recommendations for prioritized interventions of the government (Barbados).
United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)

Joint Programme: Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector

Participating UN Agencies: UN Women, FAO (Co-leading), ILO, UNDP

Participating countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and Saint Lucia

This project is built on the premise that there can be no improvement in human security in the Caribbean without addressing the issue of ‘lost opportunities’ and ‘foregone achievement’ that result from deep gender inequality and insufficient progress in the economic empowerment of women and marginalised youth. The objective is to inform and further strengthen the recently formulated Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) for the Caribbean. The project will focus specifically on the agricultural sector (including fisheries) because of the significant role agriculture plays in Caribbean GDPs and food security. In addition, the agricultural sector is extremely vulnerable to disaster and climate change risk impacts and is a sector where gender inequality is possibly most entrenched.

The project aims, through a combination of policy reform advocacy, technical support, and services to contribute to human security for farmers and small agro-and fisheries business entrepreneurs, many of whom are women. Three categories of beneficiaries will benefit from the project’s activities through direct households and community support in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and Saint Lucia for a duration of 3-years. Small grant support will be offered for livelihoods development and will target approximately 25,000 farmers, fisherfolk and small-business entrepreneurs with at least 50% women and 25% under 40 years, reaching 12,500 people. Pilot and demonstration activities in areas of disaster preparedness and mitigation, climate change adaptation and value chain development will be implemented in 50 community groups, reaching 30,000 people. Through the policy reform and institutional strengthening contribution of the project, farming, fishing and agriculture fisheries sectors related to small-business activities throughout the 14 CARICOM countries, will be positively impacted. Associated ministries and the national gender machineries and focal points will also become beneficiaries.

Successes from the project will provide major impetuses for a broader recognition of the priorities of gender equality and women empowerment for enhanced resilience, stronger economic growth, a more inclusive society and strengthened human security.

This joint programme will also promote the principles of the UN through the application of the human security approach, by engaging in both gender-sensitive policy reform and community-based initiatives to strengthen women’s participation in core economic sectors towards positive multiplier impacts on sustainable development in disaster and climate-vulnerable communities.

UNDP has responsibility for Output 3.7 of the joint programme, which is contained under Outcome 3: Increased market access readiness and resilience for smallholder farmers and agriculture-related small businesses.

Review of Structural Adjustment Programmes and proposals and national policies impacting farming and fisheries; recommendations developed for integration, development of Advisory Notes to mitigate negative impacts and Advocacy Initiatives developed concerning recommendation related to recommended reviewed and adjustments required and integrated.
**Blue Economists**

Responding to the challenges Caribbean islands are facing related to the sustainable use of marine resources, including impacts on ocean-related sectors, such as fisheries, research, tourism, and on maritime transport infrastructure, The University of the West Indies (The UWI) and UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Friday 21 September 2019 to support governments in the creation of public policies to diversify their economies while ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable development.

**Product 1: Study on Public Finance Management in Dominica**
During Q1 of 2020, a rapid assessment of public expenditure was completed to support the preparation of national estimates. The assessment was undertaken by a two-person economic team and relied on government staff interviews, fiscal account data and analysis from other development agencies to identify specific opportunities for reducing public expenditure, in the context of minimising the impact on the most vulnerable.

**Product 2: Blue Economy Scoping Study in Barbados**
The increasing potential of the Blue Economy in Barbados as a sustainable approach to diversify the economy and create jobs is one of the key messages highlighted by the recent rapid Blue Economy Scoping Study elaborated by UNDP under the leadership of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy and in consultation with key stakeholders. The document will serve to stir discussions around relevant policies and long-term strategies. The report is accessible [here](#).

**Product 3: Transition from Education to Employment (TE2T) in Grenada**
Independent technical review to assess and make recommendations on the main bottlenecks and possible solutions to a successful transition from current vocational training systems and curricula, as well as other education levels, to the current and future labour market needs in Grenada. The review focuses on youth, understood as the cohort from 15 to 24 years of age. Special attention is being paid to the particular transition difficulties and employment strategies for youth at risk. The review will equally consider and take into account both the negative effects on youth unemployment but also the possibilities aroused from the COVID-19 crisis. The report is accessible [here](#).

**Product 4: UWI Global Institute for Climate Smart and Resilient Development (GICSRD)**
The GICSRD, powered by UNDP, is a UWI facility that provides thought and academic leadership and services that build a Caribbean culture of resilience and advance the region’s proposition to become a climate resilient zone.

**Product 5: UWI Climate Action portal powered by UNDP**

**Product 6: Mapping of construction companies in the Caribbean for disaster response (currently being finalised).**

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**Gamifi-Action for Climate Action**

In February 2020, UNDP and UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Offices were among the top 5 finalists, and winners, of a global call for innovation launched by UNDP and UNICEF administrators in September 2019. The innovation project, entitled Gamifi-Action for Climate Action (GACA), was selected from among 196 submissions.

UNDP and UNICEF Country Offices globally share the ambition to unlock the potential of gaming as a transformational approach to educate and empower children and young people, particularly in tackling the climate crisis. The GACA project, to be piloted in Barbados, is being designed to be scalable to the Caribbean and other parts of the world where challenges such as climate disasters, deforestation and slow transition to renewable and clean energies need to be urgently addressed.

The GACA project goes far beyond including a ‘green’ educational component to gaming. It will be the first gamification project that will fully integrate existing forms of gaming technology (i.e. augmented reality) to real-world, impact-driven climate actions. In other words, the project proposes to do more than just using gaming to raise awareness for an environmental cause or about climate change but to drive positive behavioural change. The aim is to spark and support real-world actions, with gaming as the trigger.

The demo of the game has now been completed under the name Nature Heroes and was presented in a stakeholder workshop on March 3rd.

Extra funds were mobilised by UNICEF and a new phase on the development of the game is expected to start in late March 2021 spanning until the end of the year.
5. COVID-19 PROGRAMME

Rapid Resource Facility (RRF)

Resources through RRF were instrumental in providing immediate support to countries in the Eastern Caribbean to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Activities led by the MCO and in support of the countries are categorized as follows:

Pillar 1 – Addressing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19
In partnership with the governments, UNDP developed Human and Economic Impact Assessments in 8 countries in collaboration with UNICEF and UN Women. In addition, SURGE support has been launched in BVI based on the findings of the report. The assessments can be accessed here.

Pillar 2 – Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response
Support to economic transformation, retooling, reskilling and recovery for MSMEs, and vulnerable populations. Technical coaching for the reconversion of MSMEs which need expertise and financial assistance to refocus their business model on a domestic and regional consumer base, implementing an import substitution strategy, repurposing production facilities to manufacture high-demand goods and services (PPEs, ancillary and basic medical equipment) and/or transition from an in-person, physical interaction business model to a virtual, online, take-away or e-commerce one (Access to some of the resources under pillar 2: #eFUTURE, The KEY partnerships with the private sector).

Pillar 3 – Resilient health systems to respond to COVID-19, including health procurement support
To overcome the severe disruptions in the global supply chain for key healthcare and ancillary supplies and equipment crucial to the crisis response, including difficulties in trade routes, price hikes and speculation, a specific service line, based on UNDP’s extensive logistics experience in the health sector procurement provides quality assurance, products from reputable suppliers and manufacturers and efficient, timely and cost-effective procurement. UNDP is part of the UN Caribbean Sub-regional Team Procurement Taskforce (PAHO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNOPS) and of the CDEMA logistics cell (Access to information on the support to Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

Project Status: Completed
Overall Budget: USD 755,000
Country Beneficiaries: Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
Project Duration: March 2020 to September 2020
The FUT-Tourism project will directly benefit the ten countries and territories covered by the UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Office, who have acknowledged the need to respond and recover from the challenges of COVID-19 beyond enhancing emergency health and the needed capital expenditure to manage and mitigate the spread of infection as well as to avoid a significant derailment of progress towards achievement of the SDGs. Countries have responded by developing policy statements or COVID-19 Stimulus packages identifying key priority interventions within their key strategic sectors, tourism being the most prominent one. Consistent with country priorities as identified in the policy statements as well as the recommendations from the Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) Reports, this project aims to support the efforts of 10 governments within the Eastern Caribbean region by targeting some of the indicated country priorities with a specific focus on supporting MSMEs, young entrepreneurship and workforce within the tourism sector.

Substantively through the achievement of these outputs, job creation, economic diversification, gender equality and resilient recovery within the countries will be enhanced through supporting government capacity to:

a. Manage the crisis and mitigate the socio-economic impacts on livelihoods, particularly on women’s employment and economic security.

b. Boost competitiveness and build resilience.

c. Advance innovation and the digitalisation of the tourism ecosystem.

d. Foster sustainability and inclusive green growth.

e. Coordinate partnerships to transform tourism and achieve the SDGs

Three outputs are envisioned for this project as follows:

- Policy solutions for the tourism sector enhanced through sub-regional and national diagnostics using participatory approaches.
- Technical support for MSME retooling and access to markets within tourism value chains
- Financial assistance for the economic recovery of MSMEs affected by the impact of COVID-19

Project Status: Ongoing
Overall Budget: USD 1,500,000
Country Beneficiaries: Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
Project Duration: December 2020 to June 2022
Potential Partnerships: UWI, Frankfurt School, EIB, UNWTO, CDB, CTO
COVID-19 Projects Through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund

Building on the valued partnership developed after the impacts of Hurricanes Maria and Irma within the region, the Government of India, through the India-UN Partnership Fund has continued to support the region in an effort to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Thus far approximately USD 2,200,000, covering three countries, is to be provided to UNDP to support health system strengthening and reduce the negative impacts of COVID-19 within the countries.

**Antigua and Barbuda**
The project aims to strengthen national health capacities and reduce negative socio-economic impacts of the crises in Antigua and Barbuda through procurement of PPE; support to assess the socio-economic and human development impacts of the crises and e-commerce services developed for MSMEs and other businesses.

All PPEs have been procured and delivered to countries

**Status: Ongoing**
**Budget:** USD 1,000,000  
**Duration:** 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021. No cost extension is to be requested.

**St. Kitts and Nevis**
This initiative seeks to construct a modern state of the art healthcare facility within the St. Peters Health District, inclusive of a headquarters for health emergency operations, which will expand on the normal health care and emergency response services for residents of the health district of St. Peters, its environs and the Federation at large. Proposed activities include:

1. Complete construction of the New St. Peters Health Centre inclusive of an area designated to serve as headquarters for the Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC)
2. Procurement of necessary furniture and equipment for outfitting the Centre including desk, chairs and medical beds
3. ICT infrastructure - Develop and install Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that is integrated across the health sector network and the proposed Government Wide Area Network.

**Status:** Proposal re-submitted to the donor  
**Budget:** USD 700,000  
**Duration:** TBD.

**Saint Lucia**
UNDP is contributing to the Government of Saint Lucia’s human security and sustainable development COVID-19 response through procuring ventilators and personal protective equipment.

**Status:** Completed  
**Budget:** USD 500,000  
**Duration:** 6 months (July to December 2020)

Procurement Support Services through the Caribbean Development Bank

An MoU with the Caribbean Development Bank signed in 2017 continues to support collaboration relating to the transition to online learning and procurement service support to countries and institutions. Through this partnership, UNDP was selected to be the partner of choice for Grenada, UWI and soon to be Antigua and Barbuda relating to the procurement of tablets, computers to support resilient education. This partnership currently is to the tune of USD 2,114,391 and is being facilitated through the MPS agreement.
In support of Eastern Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) short and medium-term needs for COVID-19, the United Nations Barbados and the OECS developed a Multi-Sectoral Response Plan (MRP) for COVID-19. The UN MRP developed in collaboration with Governments outlines eight pillars that comprehensively address the immediate health and socio-economic needs of the pandemic. Within the framework of the MRP pillars, this project seeks to support the efforts of seven (7) beneficiary governments in the Eastern Caribbean region to accelerate and enhance the impact of COVID-19 recovery interventions, with a focus on supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), strengthening of value chains and improving access to goods as well as the promotion of food security in the Caribbean. Important to note that an MRP 2.0 is currently being developed for 2021.

This project will be implemented directly by UNDP, collaboratively with FAO and WFP, who will act as participating agencies contributing to the implementation of relevant outputs and activities as outlined below:

- **Output 1:** Gender-responsive economic transformation and digitisation for the new business requirements according to the novel operating context. (UNDP led)

- **Output 2:** Economic Relief for countries affected by the impact of COVID-19 (UNDP led)

- **Output 3:** Enhanced market linkages between value chain actors (FAO led)

- **Output 4:** A scalable digital marketplace and agricultural services platform developed (FAO led)

- **Output 5:** Cold storage and handling facilities improved within beneficiary countries (FAO led)

- **Output 6:** Improving market access for the most vulnerable to increase their food security and resilience to shocks (WFP led)

**Project Status:** Project proposal. Resources to be mobilized.

**Overall Budget:** USD 4,454,455

**UNDP Specific Budget:** USD 2,227,000

**Country Beneficiaries:** Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**Project Duration:** January 2021 to December 2022

**Other UN Implementing Partners:** FAO, WFP
UN COVID-19 Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)

UNDP will support FAO, as the lead UN agency, in the implementation of the MPTF. The proposed project entitled ‘Building inclusive, competitive and resilient value chains through enhanced risk management strategies for COVID-19 affected economies of six countries of the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean (OECS), is designed to pursue a collaborative and coherent approach to addressing the food systems strengthening, food and nutrition security considerations, employment especially of women and development of a governance framework to build climate-resilient and inclusive value chains.

Consistent with the ongoing response, UNDP is expected to lead the component specific to MSMEs to complete the following activities:

i. MSMEs (or cooperatives) retooled with business skills including risk analyses and management

ii. Technical and financial support to access ICTs and Digital Technologies (e.g. to leverage e-commerce platforms, improve market access), particularly those MSMEs that are women-led.

iii. Implement a ‘Small Grants Facility’ (SGF) for women and youth to develop business for alternative markets.

Other project outputs include:
- Governance Framework and climate-resilient & inclusive value chains – Led by FAO
- Gender-inclusive social protection programmes – Led by UN Women

Project Status: Not Started. FAO still awaiting final approval
Overall Budget: USD 4,000,000
UNDP Specific Budget: To be determined

Country Beneficiaries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Project Duration: November 2020 to October 2023
Other UN Implementing Partners: FAO (lead), UNDP, ILO, UN Women
Support from the EnGenDER project to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 is in direct fulfilment of the overall goals of the project. The projects seeks to contribute to gender-responsive and inclusive resilience recovery approaches to the pandemic in the Caribbean; this will help to improve institutional capacities in delivering required services to the most vulnerable population substantially affected. The project focused on interventions in the various countries according to needs and priorities which were organized around the following service lines:

- Support to initiatives that tackle Gender-Based Violence and provide direct assistance to women victims of violence, with special emphasis in rural and small communities. The project provided training in psycho-social support to victims of GBV (as to social response workers) and supported this with the establishment of hotline services in Antigua and Dominica that allowed for a referral pathway to safe-housing and further counselling support. There were also national ad campaigns in these countries as well as Grenada with a reach of over 30,000 persons.

- Income support for the most vulnerable, including women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and individuals who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19. Over 950 vulnerable persons benefitted from this income support in countries such as Antigua, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Female-headed households, the disabled and the elderly were direct beneficiaries of this initiative.

- Support to initiatives that facilitate the delivery of essential goods and services, such as food, medicines and care services to those who have lost their ability to access them. As of December 2020, the project has provided support to more than 7,000 persons through programmes which provided food/care hamper distribution as well as food voucher support in Grenada, Dominica and Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Status: In-country activities completed. Verification ongoing
Overall Budget: USD 1,149,000 (USD 500,000 for the 5 Eastern Caribbean countries)

Country Beneficiaries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Duration of interventions: June – December 2020
Other UN Implementing Partners: UN Women