



THE JOINT PROGRAMME IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN – ENSURING PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO ADAPTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION



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Leave No One Behind

The Caribbean is the most indebted region in the world and highly vulnerable to large-scale shocks including economic crises, public health emergencies, displacement and climate-related disasters. In the last four decades, Eastern Caribbean countries have suffered USD22 billion in damages as a direct result of natural disasters.

In a region where one in four people (24%) live in poverty, with a poverty rate that is even higher among children (33%), **no one should be left behind and face such events without adequate social protection.**

People are more vulnerable to the impact of crises, when they live in poverty and lack assets to prepare for, withstand and recover from such events.

Even those with adequate means may require support at some point in their lives. For example, in 2017, Hurricane Maria affected 90% of the population of Dominica in one way or another.

Social protection refers to policies and programmes aimed at preventing and protecting people against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion over the course of their lives. These include a wide range of interventions, such as social assistance, social insurance as well as supporting people’s skills and access to jobs.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women have come together under the Joint Programme “*Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Eastern Caribbean: Universal Adaptive Social Protection*”. This joint effort, supported by the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, aims to:

- ✓ Make social protection more *adaptive*, – linking it to disaster risk management and adapting to climate change – to ensure people have the means to prepare and can access support during and after crises;
- ✓ Expand social protection towards *universal* access for people.

Current situation



1 million people highly vulnerable to impact of shocks



US\$3 billion est. losses due to disasters annually



1 in 4 people live in poverty and 1 in 3 children



4 countries have a Social Protection Policy, 5 pending/planned



2 examples of emergency cash response through existing national programme



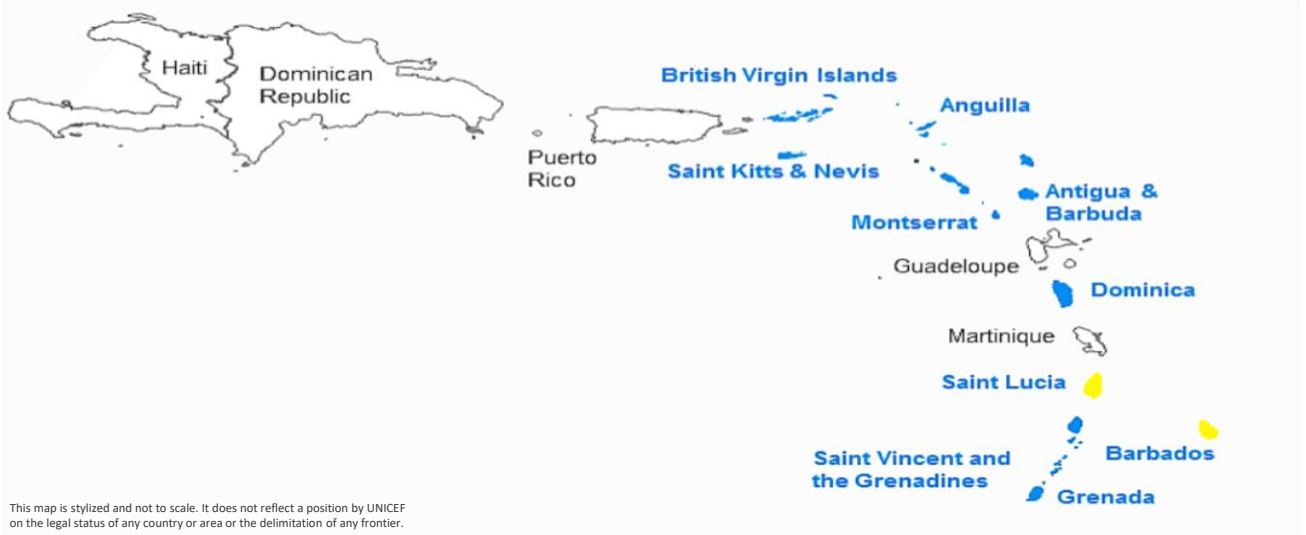
All countries have at least one public assistance programme



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Joint SDG Fund | Leave No one Behind through Social Protection in BARBADOS, SAINT LUCIA & the OECS



This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontier.

A Joint Programme



4.75 million

US\$3mn by SDG Fund plus agency contributions



3 SDGs

Poverty reduction, gender equality, climate action



5 agencies

of the United Nations coordinating their efforts

The Joint Programme will be implemented from January 2020 to January 2022, with Governments of Barbados and Saint Lucia, as well as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission.

In Barbados and Saint Lucia, programme interventions will contribute to strengthening social protection systems at the national level:

- ✓ for integrated service delivery by improving institutional capacities;
- ✓ through the collection of evidence to inform governments' social and disaster risk management policies and legislation;
- ✓ through support to improve management and operational tools; and
- ✓ through the development of innovative financing strategies to ensure fiscal sustainability and expanded coverage.

At community level, the Joint Programme will:

- ✓ pilot the use of social protection to respond to the needs of vulnerable men, women, boys and girls in emergencies.

At regional level, it will support:

- ✓ legal and policy coherence through inter-institutional engagement and South-South cooperation in the Eastern Caribbean.

Accelerating the SDGs

This is the first joint UN initiative to be implemented in the region, supported by the Joint SDG Fund. The Joint SDG Fund supports countries globally to accelerate their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN Secretary-General considers the Fund an essential part of the recent UN Reform: supporting collaboration amongst UN agencies and other development partners and promoting a whole-of-government approach. Its first focus is on social protection, considered one of the most effective instruments to reach those left behind – across many SDGs.

For more information see jointsdgfund.org or contact:

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TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD



World Food Programme



International Labour Organization

