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2025 ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT



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Foreword

From the desk of the UN Resident Coordinator

The year 2025 marked a decisive period for the Eastern Caribbean as our Member States continued to navigate a complex landscape shaped by climate vulnerability, global economic shifts, and the ongoing imperative to safeguard hard-won development gains. Across this dynamic region, the United Nations family worked in partnership with governments, development partners, civil society, youth, the private sector, and communities to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Building on the lessons of 2024, and the strengthened coordination that emerged from collective responses to climate related shocks and economic pressures, 2025 demonstrated the value of resilience, innovation, and partnership. From deepening policies that leave no one behind, to expanding opportunities for youth and women, to advancing climate action and supporting sustainable economic transformation, the results presented in this report reflect the shared commitment of a region determined to thrive despite an increasingly unpredictable global environment.

This year, our cooperation framework and country implementation plans continued to guide integrated, evidence-driven, UN support—anchored in national priorities and shaped by the voices of people across the Eastern Caribbean. Whether through advancing climate adaptation initiatives, strengthening justice and governance institutions, widening social protection systems, or supporting investments for inclusive growth, the UN development system continued to deliver more coherently and effectively as One UN.



Simon Springett
Resident Coordinator,
UN Eastern Caribbean

None of this progress would have been possible without the dedication of our national counterparts, regional institutions, international partners, and the many communities that continuously advocate for a safer, fairer, and more prosperous future. I am deeply grateful for your trust, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to multilateral solutions.

As we look ahead, 2026 will demand even stronger partnerships, deeper innovation, and continued solidarity. The Eastern Caribbean has repeatedly shown that its greatest strength lies in its people and its collective resolve. The United Nations remains fully committed to walking this path with you - supporting resilience, championing inclusion, and ensuring that no one is left behind. Together, we can continue to build a future that honours the dignity, aspirations, and potential of every person across this remarkable region.

UN Sub-Regional Team Delivering together for Caribbean SIDS

The United Nations Sub-Regional Team (UNST) in the Eastern Caribbean is 25 resident and non-resident UN entity signatories to the MSDCF that have programmatic coverage in the Eastern Caribbean region, with 230 Barbados-based staff, and 323 in the countries and territories across the Eastern Caribbean. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and aiming to better serve each country and coordinate the UN's cooperation in support of national priorities, six (6) UN Country Coordination Officers are posted respectively in Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

25 Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) Under the Cooperation Framework



10 Countries & Territories Covered by MCO



Key Development Partners

Strong, inclusive, partnerships remain at the heart of the work and overall success of the UN Subregional Team in the Eastern Caribbean. Throughout 2025, our national and regional partners have continued to walk alongside the United Nations, ensuring that development assistance is both meaningful and responsive to national and global priorities, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are profoundly grateful to the governments, civil society organizations, community groups, private sector partners, the media, academia, communities, and donor partners who have all contributed their expertise, leadership, and commitment to our shared ambition to Leave No One Behind and to advance sustainable development.

National governments and regional institutions have consistently demonstrated trust in the value of multilateralism and in the work of the UN. This confidence is reflected in our strong and sustained collaboration with Offices of the Prime Minister and key ministries—such as Finance, Foreign Affairs, Health, Agriculture and Environment, Gender Affairs, Sustainable Development, Social Security, Education, Youth, and Statistical Services.

The UN Subregional Team sincerely appreciates these enduring partnerships. We remain firmly committed to deepening our collaboration, strengthening our collective action, and upholding the principles of the 2030 Agenda as we work together toward a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

Financing Partners



Donor Governments



1 Key Developments in the Regional Context

Country and Regional Context: Key Developments in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

In 2025, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean continued to operate within a challenging and uncertain development landscape. The Sub-Region recorded gradual economic improvement, supported by the ongoing recovery of tourism and renewed activity in key service sectors. Rising prices began to ease across most countries, and several governments advanced efforts to reduce debt and better manage public spending. Despite these gains, the recovery remained uneven and vulnerable to external shocks, highlighting persistent structural constraints that limit sustainable development progress.

Climate-related risks remain the most significant and recurring threat to development outcomes. The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, along with increased flooding and coastal erosion, underscored the acute exposure of small island developing states to environmental hazards. Rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and the growing frequency of extreme weather events continued to strain water-management systems, agriculture, and coastal livelihoods. These impacts disproportionately affected low-income households, informal workers, and rural and coastal communities, reinforcing inequality and posing risks to food security, health, and livelihoods, with direct implications for progress on SDGs 1, 2, 10,

13, and 14. Limited fiscal space and slow access to climate finance continued to restrict the capacity of governments to scale up adaptation and resilience measures.

Social development challenges persisted across several dimensions. Labour market conditions improved in line with the tourism rebound; however, job creation remained concentrated in lower wage, less secure forms of employment. Youth unemployment, skills mismatches, and gender disparities in labour-force participation continued to impede inclusive growth. Increasing outward migration of skilled workers added further pressure to essential services, while emerging concerns around mental health and community safety signaled the need for strengthened social systems and community level interventions.

Within this context, in 2025, the UN delivered strategic support to Caribbean countries by combining long-term institution building and policy engagement with agile, targeted assistance in response to climate and socioeconomic shocks. Emphasis on integrated climate finance, resilient social protection, and enhanced data systems, enabled governments to better identify, reach and support vulnerable groups. The evolving risk environment reinforced the need for anticipatory action, adaptive programming, and stronger regional partnerships to safeguard development gains and ensure that those most in need are not left behind.

Across the subregion, the UN and partners supported countries to make targeted advancements in fiscal management, disaster risk reduction, digital governance, and climate resilience. In Barbados, innovative financing mechanisms such as a debt-for-climate-resilience swap was used to fund water security and environmental investments (IMF, 2024–2025). In Dominica, investments strengthened disaster preparedness, meanwhile Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines advanced post-disaster recovery and resilience initiatives, including investments in resilient infrastructure, housing reconstruction, and strengthened disaster risk management systems. Incremental progress in digital governance was also realized in Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda, with governments supported to expand e-government services, digital payments, and public administration modernization. Collectively, these developments signal gradual progress across the Eastern Caribbean toward strengthened macroeconomic management, improved disaster preparedness, and greater investment in digital and climate-resilient development pathways.

In 2025, the UN delivered strategic support to Caribbean countries by combining long-term institution building and policy engagement with agile, targeted assistance in response to climate and socioeconomic shocks.

UN Eastern Caribbean





1.6M

million people
affected by
Hurricane Melissa

Reinforcing Regional Disaster Response Capacity – The Case of Hurricane Melissa

The UN Team in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean is a vital cog in the wheel for the CDEMA regional response mechanism. The effectiveness of this capacity was significantly tested when Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica on 28 October 2025 as a Category 5 storm. Hurricane Melissa, the strongest Atlantic Hurricane to make landfall, affected approximately 1.6 M people, displaced tens of thousands and caused damage to housing, infrastructure and essential services across multiple parishes, particularly in western Jamaica. The scale and geographic spread of the disaster required



coordinated regional support to complement national systems. Through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the UN supported deployment of Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNATs) to strengthen early assessments, guide prioritization, and align external assistance with national efforts, later followed by Damage and Loss assessments to support recovery. Regional coordination platforms based in Barbados, further supported information sharing and operational alignment. This ensured coherent engagement between humanitarian and development partners and enabled a smooth transition from emergency response to early recovery.

Coordinated Surge and Technical Support

UN entities based in Barbados provided surge and remote support across priority sectors such as health, logistics, communications and information management, reinforcing national capacity while respecting government leadership. The Barbados-based CDEMA/ WFP Regional logistics hub enabled rapid delivery of pre-positioned supplies, while regional health partners strengthened disease surveillance and risk mitigation. Assistance was aligned with government priorities and focused on vulnerable populations, upholding accountability and the principle of Leave No One Behind. International partners mobilized timely resources through regional mechanisms: **The Government of Canada contributed CAD 7 million** (approximately USD 5 million) in humanitarian assistance for the Caribbean, including support channeled through regional mechanisms and logistics hubs that facilitated relief delivery to Jamaica. **The European Union** activated its Civil Protection Mechanism, mobilising in-kind assistance and **the UK**

Engaging the Private Sector as a Resilience Partner

The private sector also played a coordinated role in Jamaica's Hurricane Melissa response, supported by the OCHA-UNDP Connecting Business Initiative in partnership with CARICHAM and the CARICOM Private Sector Organisation. Operating under the Regional Response Mechanism, businesses aligned with national authorities through structured engagement, communication, and mobilization of resources. The Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, alongside regional partners, circulated Jamaica's official needs list and encouraged contributions of supplies and financial assistance. These efforts demonstrated growing solidarity across the region and highlighted the expanding role of private sector actors in crisis response and resilience building.



Government mobilized €2.5 million in emergency humanitarian funding to support response efforts. Emergency assistance from the **French and Dutch Governments** (Kingdom of Netherlands), engaged through regional coordination and logistics channels to support affected communities, saw two coordinated shipments from the Bridgetown Port, contributing emergency assistance, including vehicles, tents, tarpaulins, and approximately 90 tonnes of food. Transportation support was also strengthened through collaboration with DHL, as well as support from the Government of Barbados through the Customs and Excise department as well as the Bridgetown Port. Coordinated through CDEMA, these contributions enhanced predictability, minimized duplication, and ensured efficient delivery of aid to affected communities.

A Hub of Hope – How the Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub Became a Lifeline Ahead of Disasters

As climate change continues to reshape the region’s risk landscape, the Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub stands as a powerful symbol of faster response, stronger systems, and safer communities.



The fully operational Hub—positioned to serve the region when it matters. © WFP



Hub teams pack and dispatch life-saving supplies overnight for Jamaica, ensuring life-saving assistance reached affected communities as quickly as possible. © WFP



Pre-positioned IOM stocks stand ready for deployment across the region. © IOM

From Empty Warehouse to Lifeline...

Within days of inauguration, humanitarian agencies began stocking the Hub with essential emergency supplies. Shelter kits, hygiene items, telecoms equipment, and logistics assets quickly transformed the space into a prepositioned lifeline—allowing relief to move within hours, as opposed to weeks, when crises strike. For small, high-risk islands with limited storage capacity, the Hub immediately filled a critical gap.

First Major Test: Hurricane Melissa...

When Hurricane Melissa devastated Jamaica in October 2025, the Hub was activated for the first time - and instantly proved its value. Emergency teams coordinated shipments late into the night, dispatching 23 containers of supplies from seven partners to Jamaica. Because items were prepositioned in Barbados, support reached communities while the storm’s effects were still unfolding.

Strengthening Regional Resilience...

The Hub is reshaping how Caribbean countries prepare for climate-driven disasters. By reducing response times, preventing supply-chain bottlenecks, and consolidating storage, it helps governments plan proactively in an era of faster, more unpredictable storms. The facility’s shared, energy-efficient operations also lower the environmental footprint of disaster response.

A Timely Arrival...

In May 2025, the Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub opened its doors in Barbados - just weeks before a forecasted severe hurricane season. Supported by WFP, CDEMA and the Government of Barbados, the Hub instantly became the region’s primary launchpad for coordinated disaster response. Barbados’ location, strong air and sea transport links, and longstanding leadership in disaster management made it the ideal home for this regional resilience asset.

Expanding Capability : A Centre of Excellence...

A new CDEMA–WFP Centre of Excellence, funded through a USD 2M contribution from Japan, will soon expand the Hub’s role—providing a dedicated facility for training, coordination, and knowledge sharing in emergency logistics – further strengthening regional preparedness.

Signing ceremony for the new Centre of Excellence—another major step for regional preparedness. © WFP



Preparedness Meets Partnership...

Supported by Canada, the European Union, the United States, WFP USA, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Hub stands as a model of what the Caribbean can achieve together. Hurricane Melissa proved it is more than a warehouse—it is a regional resilience mechanism, ensuring faster response, stronger systems and safer communities.

Partnerships made the Hub Possible.

- European Union
- Government of Canada
- United States Government
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- WFP USA



Leaders, including Prime Minister of Barbados, the Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, mark the official launch of the Hub—signalling a new era for Caribbean readiness. © WFP

2 UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

In 2025, the UN Development System achieved measurable progress in the Eastern Caribbean under the four strategic priorities of its Cooperation Framework:

The UN Cooperation Framework delivered integrated results across the Eastern Caribbean, advancing all four strategic priorities despite global and regional challenges.




1 

Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity


To promote economic resilience, the UN supported transitions to diversified, climate-resilient economies by strengthening food systems, expanding access to finance, and promoting innovation in agriculture and fisheries. Investments in digital tools, data-driven agriculture, and fisheries infrastructure boosted productivity, while MSME support—particularly for women and youth—expanded financing through mechanisms such as zero-interest loan pilots. These efforts reinforced value chains, improved food security, and positioned countries to better withstand external shocks while fostering inclusive growth.



2 

Equality, Well-Being, and Leaving No One Behind

To ensure equality and well-being for all, the UN strengthened social systems and expanded equitable access to services. Health systems were reinforced through training, digital health investments, and vaccination campaigns reaching 105,000 people. Education became more inclusive, with 5,280 students with disabilities supported and 1,176 caregivers trained in early childhood development. Social protection was enhanced through improved data systems, household surveys, and harmonized poverty measurement, enabling more targeted interventions. Progress in gender equality and disability inclusion advanced through stronger GBV response systems, policy reforms, and women’s economic empowerment programmes, collectively reducing inequalities and reinforcing rights-based, data-driven development.



3 

Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

The UN supported regional efforts to manage climate risks and boost resilience. Climate action advanced through USD 36.7M mobilized for adaptation, ecosystem restoration, sargassum management, watershed protection, and climate-smart agriculture. Youth-led initiatives such as Green Rising expanded engagement, while anticipatory action and disaster preparedness systems enhanced resilience to shocks.



4 

Peace, Safety, Justice, and Rule of Law

The UN supported citizen security, justice reform, and governance through GBV prevention frameworks, human rights protection systems, and strengthened law enforcement. Notable achievements included regional agreements on domestic violence prevention, improved forensic and border management, and significant interdictions against organized crime. Together, these results demonstrate a coherent UN contribution to resilience, inclusion, and institutional strengthening—anchored in partnerships and delivering tangible progress toward the SDGs across the Eastern Caribbean.



2.2. Achieving Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SHARED PROSPERITY

Outcomes 1 & 2

Key Achievements



90+

agricultural stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda capacitated in water, soil, and pest management contributing to resilient protected agriculture systems



115+

stakeholders across four EC countries engaged in high-level national dialogues to support food systems strengthening and food and nutrition security



90+

small-scale fishers in Barbados and Grenada enhanced their navigational and sea safety skills boosting preparedness, response and resilience



21

women and youth owned MSMEs enhanced access to digital financial services and strengthened knowledge of digital literacy and financial management

Key Related SDGs



2025 Expenditure USD 44.8M

Contributing Agencies



As Caribbean governments work to mitigate shocks that undermine the lives and livelihoods of citizens, the UN is partnering with governments and stakeholders to build a more sustainable, climate-resilient, and prosperous region. In alignment with national priorities, our collaborative efforts helped to strengthen food security by advancing resilient agriculture and fisheries sectors and expanding pathways for MSMEs to access development finance and capacity building needed to scale their operations.

Our Collective Work in Strengthening Food Systems

In the face of increasing climate shocks and rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs), food systems transformation remained an urgent priority in 2025. Eighteen Caribbean countries were capacitated to apply the global **Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) tool**, thus enabling statistically sound reporting on food insecurity, and improving national capacities to identify and effectively allocate resources to vulnerable populations. In collaboration with CARICOM, 60 stakeholders strengthened their technical expertise to **assess the Cost and Affordability of Healthy Diets (CoAHD)** and diet quality indicators, thus equipping ministries of agriculture, health, and statistical offices with practical tools to improve evidence-based planning. Through RCO coordination support, over 115 stakeholders including government, farming communities, academia, and development partners were convened and actively engaged to support design, validation and strengthening of **National Food Systems pathways** in St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda. Countries advanced institutional reforms, resource mobilization strategies, and frameworks integrating agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and school feeding, ensuring access to safe, affordable, and nutritious diets across the Caribbean.



Richard Paris, lettuce farmer, proudly displays his greenhouse lettuce crop.

Boosting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Strengthening Value Chains

UN support accelerated climate-smart, technology-driven agriculture across the Eastern Caribbean, equipping farmers and ministries with tools to improve productivity, soil health, and climate resilience. In Barbados, **real-time digital sensors strengthened data-driven crop management**, while demonstration net houses—set for full operation in 2025—will model precision agriculture to reduce losses. **Extension services region-wide were upgraded** through soil scanner technology, nutrition software, and pesticide selection tools that enabled evidence-based advisory support.

Countries further strengthened value chains through expanded skills and infrastructure.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, **14 public officers received value chain training and farmers improved coconut, hot pepper, hydroponic, and greenhouse production**. Dominica **validated a sustainable Cocoa Roadmap**, and St. Kitts and Nevis **rehabilitated 15 protected-cultivation systems and trained more than 40 farmers and extension officers** in sensor-based farm management. Antigua and Barbuda **expanded digital agriculture and climate-resilient practices** through major GEF SOILCARE II and Adaptation Fund investments, while Barbados **enhanced diagnostic capacity through training for National Agricultural Diagnostic Facility (NADF) personnel**. Regional food safety was strengthened by **Integrated Pest Management training for 23 practitioners**.

Growing Precision, Growing Hope in St. Kitts and Nevis

The transition from open-field farming to protected agriculture is transforming the livelihoods of vegetable farmers in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

With FAO's support, greenhouses equipped with closed-circuit hydroponic systems and digital climate and water sensors are giving farmers new control over their crops and their futures.

For lettuce farmer, Richard Parris, this shift has been nothing short of life-changing. Once reliant on unpredictable conditions, he now uses real-time data to fine-tune irrigation and nutrient levels—turning precision into productivity.

Within just weeks of upgrading his system, his yield increased from 1,098 to 1,555 heads of lettuce.

"After removing the shade and installing sensors, production more than doubled," he shared, still struck by the speed of the transformation.

This story reflects a broader result: with the right technology and targeted UN support, farmers are not only increasing output but building climate-resilient agriculture systems that secure income, strengthen food supply, and empower families across the Federation.

Supporting Fisheries Resilience and Blue Economy Development

As Caribbean countries continue to advance digital transformation, various UN entities supported efforts to ensure that no one is left behind, including vulnerable communities, and those who earn their livelihoods at sea, such as small-scale fishers. Through the UN Smart Seas initiative, **50 fisherfolk in Grenada benefitted from digital literacy and navigation training** under the OECS Regional Oceans Policy, thus strengthening inclusive access to safety communications, improving preparedness and response, and supporting more resilient maritime and coastal communities. Under the Barbados Coastal Fisheries Project, the **UN supported Barbadian fisherfolk to improve their navigation, boat operations, and sea safety skills**. A validated business case for **Fish Silage Production, also opened opportunities to reduce waste and diversify incomes**. The provision of upgraded equipment also enhanced the operational capacity of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organizations' (BARNUFO) and progress on key infrastructure—including a **modernized marine lift and ice machine—will reinforce disaster preparedness, cold chain reliability, and long term sector modernization**. Work also advanced regionally under the UN-supported **Climate Change Resilience in the Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH II) Project**, with inception workshops, environmental and social assessments, and confirmed co-financing positioning the USD 12.5M project for Global Environment Facility approval. Operational Partners Implementation Modality (OPIM) clearance and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) boat design finalization remain on track to strengthen climate-resilient fisheries.

Enhancing Trade Competitiveness and Transport for Food Security

To bolster regional food security, the UN supported work on trade and transport systems that underpin reliable supply chains. **Phase 1 of a regional assessment on trade and transport for food systems was completed in 2025**, followed by country-level analyses of logistical challenges and opportunities. These findings—scheduled for validation with Ministries of Trade and Industry in 2026—will inform future planning on logistics efficiency, import stability, and resilient supply chains.



Zen Punette (left) aims to create a unique haven at Bush Bar

Expanding Access to Finance and Strengthening MSME Growth

Women and youth-led MSMEs improved their knowledge, competitiveness and pathways to access capital through targeted interventions across countries. Through the **UN Joint Programme Optimizing Innovative Finance for Underserved Groups**, governments completed **Commercial Finance Assessments** and **piloted two financial products**, including a zero-interest loan model in Antigua and Barbuda. Digital literacy, financial management, and innovative financing capacity were strengthened across MSMEs and public institutions. The digital finance ecosystem was further enhanced with the finalization of the operationalized plan for the **Caribbean Digital Finance Association (CDFA)**, completion of its non-profit registration and regional capacity-building delivered on digital assets regulation and FATF compliance.

Promoting Decent Work and Social Protection

Barbados launched its **Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2025–2030—the region's first to embed just transition principles**—positioning decent work at the centre of national development and climate strategies. With UN technical support and Cabinet approval, the DWCP strengthens labour governance, youth employment pathways, and alignment with international labour standards, promoting social dialogue and anchoring social justice across the country's sustainability agenda.



Ferique Shortte of Union Food Processing



Launched in February 2025, the initiative, which falls under UNDP's Ridge-to-Reef Project attracted over 200 applications, with 16 microenterprises selected for support based on sustainability, employment potential, and women and youth empowerment.

In North Union, Ferique Shortte, of Union Food Processing, is elevating local agro-processing to new heights. Known for high-quality hams, sausages, salamis, and fish burgers, Ferique's business experiences peak demand each Christmas season. With AMEPP support, he has expanded his refrigeration capacity, and acquired a high-capacity vacuum sealer, both critical to ensuing efficiency, food safety, and increased production volume.

Meanwhile, perched in the green hills of Queensbury, Zen Punette's Bush Bar is more than a place to eat – it is an experience rooted in culture, creativity, and ecofriendly rural tourism. Known for ital and vegetarian cuisine, the Bush Bar attracts hikers and tourists alike, including visitors from the nearby Sandals Resort. When Hurricane Beryl caused significant damage in 2024, Zen's spirit of resilience never wavered. Now, with AMEPP funding, she is expanding her workforce and growing her livestock operations to diversify her offerings.

Resilience From Ridge to Reef: How Small Grants Are Transforming Agricultural Enterprises in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, small agricultural and rural enterprises are charting new paths toward resilience and opportunity. This is thanks to the **GEF Agricultural Micro-Enterprise Post-Production (AMEPP) Small Grants Programme**.

These stories reflect how targeted investment can catalyze innovation, strengthen food security, and elevate community livelihoods. By supporting microenterprises in agro-processing, tourism, and climate-resilient practices, AMEPP is reducing environmental degradation, improving value chains, and building resilience against climate shocks—fortifying livelihoods from ridge to reef and reinforcing the nation's sustainable development agenda.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Outcomes 3 & 4

Key Achievements



81

health workers across Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, specially trained to improve diagnosis, counselling and continuity of care for HIV and STI prevention



5,280

Caribbean students with disabilities and developmental delays identified and supported through inclusive education systems



105,000

people in Grenada reached through vaccine confidence campaigns and over 500 newborns received lifesaving vaccines improving early survival prospects and reducing preventable morbidity



1,176

Early Childhood Development caregivers and practitioners trained, ensuring stronger developmental outcomes for children 0-8 years across the region



Key Related SDGs



2025
Expenditure
USD 13.7M

Contributing Agencies



Safeguarding the well-being of persons most at risk of being left behind remained central to Caribbean governments' priorities in 2025. With strong UN support, Member States strengthened education systems, improved health outcomes, advanced gender-responsive social protection, and addressed structural inequalities through improved data capacity and people-centred digital transformation. These joint efforts helped countries reinforce resilience, accelerate social development, and deepen equity in service delivery across the Eastern Caribbean.

Strengthening Health Systems and Expanding Access to Quality Care

The UN deepened support to national health systems, improving service quality, preparedness, and equitable access. **HIV and STI prevention services expanded significantly** across Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, under the UN Build Back Equal Joint Programme, where **81 health workers received specialized training**, improving diagnosis, counselling, and continuity of care. Barbados strengthened hospital-level service delivery with more than **450 new digital health and ICT devices installed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital**, enhancing diagnostic accuracy and patient tracking. Parallel investments in medical waste management, infectious disease infrastructure, and climate-resilient facilities further bolstered long-term preparedness. Grenada's national vaccine confidence initiative **reached more than 105,000 people**, restoring trust in routine immunization and **ensuring lifesaving vaccines for over 500 newborns**. Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda enhanced maternal and newborn care with competency-based **training for 28 midwifery educators and regulators**. Together, these interventions strengthened the region's health resilience and accelerated progress toward universal health coverage.



Improving Health Governance and Workforce Capacity

Across six Eastern Caribbean countries, the UN supported governments in strengthening health governance and workforce planning. **Essential Public Health Function assessments** informed new **National Strategic Plans for Health** in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia, while Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is working on a new **National Health Policy**. Capacity building was targeted at improving planning and forecasting and human resources for health data for decision making. Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are **advancing to establish electronic centralised health workforce databases** to support improved data, monitoring, and investment decisions. Service delivery optimization was improved through application of the **WHO Service Package Delivery and Implementation tool** in Barbados, Grenada, and Montserrat, **enabling systematic mapping of services across care platforms, and supporting analysis to close gaps, foster integration and strengthen efficiency** in local versus overseas service delivery.

Building a One Health Shield Against Emerging Diseases in the Eastern Caribbean

Across the Eastern Caribbean, countries are taking decisive steps to protect people, animals, and ecosystems from the growing threat of emerging and zoonotic diseases. In 2025, with support from PAHO, FAO, and the World Bank, governments launched a USD 24 M, three-year regional One Health initiative financed by The Pandemic Fund—a landmark effort spanning Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The programme is strengthening three essential pillars: early-warning and disease-surveillance systems, modern laboratory capacity, and the public-health and veterinary workforce.

According to Dr. Amalia Del Riego, PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, concrete results are already taking shape.

"All six countries have upgraded laboratory equipment, 135 professionals have been trained in DHIS-2 data entry, four countries have completed zoonotic-disease prioritization exercises. Forty-six people were trained in the management of critical patients, 23 participants from 5 countries trained in use of the WHO Workload Indicator of Staffing Needs (WISN) tool to estimate workforce needs, and Ministry of Health teams from five countries trained on approaches to develop/strengthen human resources for health information systems," she said.

By bringing together health, agriculture, veterinary and environmental actors under one coordinated framework, this One Health partnership is helping the region detect threats earlier, respond faster, and safeguard lives and livelihoods—fortifying the Caribbean's frontline against future pandemics.





From Passion to Preparedness: Women Entrepreneurs Embrace Disaster Preparedness

For Dalia Bowens crafting natural soaps is more than a small business – it is her calling.

Thanks to the UN, with support of the Government of Canada, she now recognizes that passion alone is not enough to sustain a small business in a region prone to hurricanes and other disasters.

Under the Build Back Equal Joint Programme Dalia, the owner of Nature's Touch, and 16 other women entrepreneurs, were sponsored by UN Women to attend three days of practical business continuity training. The experience revolutionized their approach to business.

"I never thought of having a business continuity plan ...[hurricane] Beryl came and I just thought ok at some point I'll get back on my feet," Dalia remarked, minutes after being exposed to these new business practices. She also expressed surprise that business insurance should also be extended to one's contents and supplies.

"I've done business continuity planning trainings before, but this one had so much detail. I now see my gaps more clearly than ever," said Sophia Searles of Searles Agro Products, an agro-processing business.



Shannsha Browne of Serene Naturals skincare line added: "I am grateful. I leave with new knowledge and a changed mindset about what I need to do."

Together, these voices illustrate how the BBE Project, jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA, is not only equipping women with tools for resilience but also cultivating collective strength – empowering them to lead, adapt, and thrive despite the Caribbean's vulnerability to disasters.

"Population policies are ultimately about people – their rights, choices, and potential. Prioritizing reproductive agency, youth engagement, and gender equality ensures that every person can live with dignity, realize their potential, and contribute meaningfully to national development."

Jenny Karlsen, Deputy Director UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean

for multisector GBV response, while Saint Lucia validated its Clinical Management of Rape protocol and strengthened frontline emergency capacity (UN/ Caribbean Development Bank/Inter-American Development Bank/ European Investment Bank). Public mobilization efforts, including the Red Shoes GBV Installation in Barbados, in collaboration with the EU, heightened awareness, amplified survivor voices, and strengthened national dialogue on ending violence against women and girls.

Building Resilient and Inclusive Education Systems

Caribbean countries expanded efforts to ensure safer, more inclusive, and climate-resilient learning environments. More than 5,280 students in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, and Saint Lucia benefited from strengthened systems for early identification and support for children with disabilities and developmental challenges. Psychosocial well-being was reinforced through the training of 93 facilitators in Psychological First Aid under the I Support My Friends programme, expected to benefit over 4,000 students by 2026. The Caribbean Safe School Initiative advanced regional Education in Emergencies (EiE) readiness, with 85% of principals in Grenada and 79% in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines trained, and a new Safe School Policy Model piloted across countries. Through the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRiS) Joint Programme, Barbados strengthened eight pilot schools with hazard assessments, safety equipment, and EiE training. At the regional level, engagement with the OECS Commission ensured evidence-based reforms, shaping the new OECS Education Sector Strategy, the 2025 Education Digest, and new Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) guidelines for school counselors.

Advancing Gender Equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Protecting Women and Girls

In Barbados, the UN supported the launch of an Intersectoral Implementation Group for the Barbados Population Policy 2023-2040 (BPP), as part of a Joint UNFPA and Government of Barbados Policy Forum. This forum highlighted global and regional population dynamics and trends, discussed key issues related to the national context, and provided substantive recommendations to advance the BPP's implementation.

The Build Back Equal Joint Programme drove wider regional progress across four Eastern Caribbean countries, improving legislation, strengthening access to reproductive health commodities, expanding crisis preparedness, and increasing the availability of GBV services. Grenada and Dominica adopted improved coordination models



Protecting Children and Strengthening Social Protection Systems

Caribbean governments, with UN support, strengthened child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection systems to safeguard vulnerable families. Barbados set a regional milestone by **integrating child-sensitive social protection into its Nationally Determined Contribution**, aligning climate action with child well-being. Saint Kitts and Nevis accelerated its **Livelihood Improvement for Family Transformation (LIFT) Programme and national social protection policy reforms**, strengthening pathways for vulnerable households. In Anguilla and Grenada, **improvements to management information systems** enhanced eligibility determination, data integration, and service delivery for cash transfer programmes. Collectively, these measures improved governance, fiscal dialogue, and delivery capacity across the OECS.

Expanding Early Childhood Development (ECD) Systems

The UN supported regional efforts to ensure safe, inclusive, and high-quality early childhood services. **Training provided for 1,176 caregivers, parents, and educators** improved positive discipline, inclusive practices, early stimulation, family engagement and developmental screening in both formal and informal settings. Saint Kitts and Nevis expanded its **Second Chance Teen Mothers Programme**, helping adolescent mothers remain in school while accessing psychosocial and health support. Grenada developed a national **Intersectoral ECD Strategy**, aligning health, education, social protection, and child protection services around shared quality standards. Other countries strengthened national ECD plans, cross-agency coordination, and behavioral-change initiatives to support families with young children.



Using Quality Data to Address Structural Inequalities

In line with the UN's Leave No One Behind mandate, regional efforts to strengthen data-driven, equity-focused decision-making improved significantly. Saint Lucia launched **MICS7**, collecting data from 3,040 households to produce the most comprehensive dataset on child well-being in the country's recent history. An inaugural regional **Symposium on Statistics for Poverty Reduction**, with participation from Anguilla, Grenada, Montserrat, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, improved harmonized poverty monitoring across multiple territories. Complementary analytical work on poverty, disability inclusion, gender equality, violence, and mental health informed national research and strengthened evidence for SDG implementation. **India-based census operations training** enhanced capacities in Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis to generate high-quality, disaggregated population data.

Advancing People-centred Digital Transformation

With UN support, governments across the Eastern Caribbean **accelerated rights-based, people-centred digital transformation to improve service delivery, inclusion, and public-sector effectiveness**. Comprehensive legislative gap analyses conducted in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia strengthened digital financial services regulation, providing clear roadmaps for modernising national frameworks. **More than 50 senior public officers in Saint Lucia enhanced capacities** in systems thinking, foresight, and adaptive leadership, supporting a shift toward citizen-centred governance. **Antigua and Barbuda advanced digital governance, cybersecurity readiness, and inclusive policy frameworks** aligned with national 2030 digital ambitions, the ABAS, and global SIDS priorities. Across the sub-region, the UN partnered to strengthen e-government systems, digital financial regulation, and youth digital literacy. Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines made progress in digital ID integration, data governance, and user-centred digital services, with 40 stakeholders in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enhancing skills in proposal writing and project management and more than 80 individuals across the region improved mobile security skills, enabling safer access to digital financial services and government platforms. The **UNICEF-ITU Giga initiative further expanded affordable internet connectivity, linking schools and communities and advancing inclusive digital transformation**.



Supporting Early Recovery After Hurricane Beryl

Hurricane Beryl (2024) severely impacted livelihoods in Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In 2025, the UN **delivered targeted cash assistance, supporting 662 beneficiaries in Barbados' fisheries sector and 5,096 vulnerable individuals in the Southern Grenadines**. Through coordinated targeting, digital payment innovations, and inclusive eligibility, the assistance stabilized household incomes, improved food security, and supported early recovery across both countries.

Promoting disability inclusion

The UN expanded partnerships to promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities. A **High-Level Policy Dialogue** in Grenada facilitated collaboration among government, civil society, and development partners, and strengthened government's capacity to implement the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. Efforts also extended to supporting the private sector in St. Kitts and Nevis, towards ensuring accessibility and non-discrimination within the workplace.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Outcomes 5 & 6

Key Achievements



USD

36.7M

in climate financing advanced for Saint Lucia to boost food security and environmental resilience



11,000+

persons reached across 10 countries successfully embedding the Human Security approach into disaster management frameworks



15

sargassum-removal tractors and 6 workboats deployed across five countries, boosting coastal resilience and protecting fisheries



Barbados became the first country to formally integrate Just Transitions into its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) ensuring that employment, skills development, and social protection measures are embedded in climate policy

Key Related SDGs



2025 Expenditure USD 12.0M

Contributing Agencies



As Caribbean nations continue to be on the frontlines of the climate crisis, regional Governments are being supported to foster people-centred climate resilience, deepening links between climate ambition, social justice, ecosystem protection, business continuity and community leadership. With UN support and through coordinated regional mechanisms, countries strengthened institutional capacities, expanded financing for adaptation, strengthened business continuity among MSMEs, empowered youth and vulnerable groups, and improved readiness for climate and disaster-related shocks

Linking Climate Ambition and Social Justice

Barbados achieved a major regional milestone by formally **integrating just transition principles** into its updated **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)**. With UN technical guidance, the country developed a tripartite-endorsed framework ensuring employment, skills development, and social protection measures are embedded in climate policy. Across the region, UN Human Rights specialists convened governments, communities, and technical experts to **ensure climate finance mechanisms upheld rights to health, housing, food, and livelihoods**. UN participation in the **Third Forum on Defenders of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean**, also served to enhance partnerships between environmental human rights defenders and governments, further contributing to progress on **environmental rights protection**. Capacity-building support also strengthened human rights defenders, enhancing protection and reinforcing climate justice as a core pillar of regional environmental action.

Saint Lucia Leads Regional Action on Safer Climate-Resilient Schools

Amid increasing climate risks, Saint Lucia positioned itself as a regional leader in disaster-resilient education by hosting the **Fourth Caribbean Ministerial Forum on School Safety** and assuming chairmanship of the **Caribbean Safe School Initiative (CSSI)**. Co-hosted with UNDRR, UNICEF, UNESCO, CDEMA and DG ECHO, the forum strengthened regional commitment to safe learning environments and accelerated progress on the **Caribbean Regional Roadmap on School Safety**. Key achievements included establishing the **CSSI Coordination Committee**, integrating it into the regional Safe School Working Group, and concurrence on **quarterly coordination meetings and annual reporting** using a new **CSSI Monitoring Tool**. Countries also pledged to scale early warning integration, reinforce school infrastructure, and expand youth-led advocacy in the lead-up to the Fifth Ministerial Forum.

Prime Minister of Barbados, the Hon. Mia Mottley is supported by a young student as she turns the sod at the Green Rising Barbados launch.



Youth Leading Climate Action in Barbados

Barbados made history with the launch of its national Green Rising chapter—part of a global youth movement mobilizing young people to lead climate solutions.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley was named Global Chair, pledging half of her 2025 Zayed Award for Human Fraternity prize funds to support Green Rising's efforts in Barbados.

"I did not hesitate in accepting the responsibility to be the Global Chair for Green Rising because more than anything else, I want to see the young people of this planet, of this country, of this region, rise to claim that which is theirs," said Prime Minister Mottley as she formally accepted the role during an event at Barbados' National Botanical Gardens.

Supported by UNICEF Eastern Caribbean, Generation Unlimited, the Government of Canada, and the Prime Minister's Office, the local initiative will equip 5,000 young people with training, mentorship, and resources to build resilient communities and develop green and blue businesses.

"We are working to ensure that green and blue jobs are not a luxury for the few, but a right for the many," said UNICEF Director of Programmes George Laryea-Adjei.

"While the challenges of climate change are profound, so too is the potential for youth led innovation to address them," added Ms Abebech Assefa, representing as the Chargé d'affaires, High Commission of Canada in Barbados. Canada is one of the first partners supporting Green Rising as Lead Government Partner of Generation Unlimited.

Building on global momentum that has mobilized 11 million youth, planted 20 million trees, and trained 1 million students in disaster risk reduction, Maria Marshall, Barbadian climate leader and UNICEF Youth Advocate affirmed: "Green Rising puts us at the heart of the blue-green transformation."

Strengthening Business Continuity for Barbados' MSMEs

While MSMEs make up **60% of private-sector jobs** in Barbados, many lack the tools to withstand disasters. In 2025, UNDRR and the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) hosted hands-on Business Continuity training for **30 enterprises**, equipping owners with practical tools to reduce disruption and protect livelihoods. Building on this momentum, partners launched a national **Business Continuity Planning (BCP) Guidance Document** and **five sector-specific templates**—covering retail, manufacturing, finance, professional services, and tourism—aligned with ISO 22301. These tiered tools enable businesses to adopt continuity measures at their own pace, strengthening preparedness and reinforcing resilience as a core pillar of Barbados' sustainable development pathway.

Strengthening Coastal Resilience and Safe Sargassum Management

To address escalating sargassum influxes that threaten coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, the UN helped strengthen operational readiness across the region. **Fifteen specialized tractors and six workboats** were procured across five countries—including Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados—boosting national capacity for safe, efficient sargassum removal and reducing risks to fisherfolk and coastal communities.



Expanding Climate Financing and Youth Leadership in Adaptation

Saint Lucia advanced efforts to secure **USD 36.7 million** in climate financing to strengthen food security and environmental resilience. Grenada integrated child and youth priorities into its **NDC 3.0 and National Adaptation Plan**, ensuring more inclusive adaptation planning. The **Climate Change National Youth Forum** convened 173 youth from four countries, generating youth-led policy recommendations and expanding intergenerational climate dialogue. A national **USD 16.7 million fisheries initiative** now provides safer infrastructure and weather information to **2,000 fishers**, with 30% participation prioritized for women.

Strengthening Youth Engagement in Sustainability: The Canouan Eco Quest Experience

An inaugural **Canouan EcoQuest Summer Programme** in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines empowered more than 30 students with practical skills in **climate-smart agriculture, biodiversity conservation, freshwater management, disaster preparedness, and mental health awareness**. The week-long initiative, was held under the GEF and UN Ridge to Reef Project, in partnership with the Canouan Group, and national authorities including the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority. It demonstrated the power of experiential learning and multi-sector partnerships in cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.



Protecting Watersheds, Forests, and Biodiversity

Tangible improvements in watershed and forest management were achieved across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, where riverbanks were stabilized, forestry skills strengthened, and key infrastructure for eco-tourism and biodiversity rehabilitated, including the Vermont Nature Trail. Youth engagement expanded through seven hands-on programmes covering forest ecology, species conservation, and climate-smart agriculture. The **AMEPP Small Grants Programme** awarded **USD 160,500 to 16 community-based grantees**, bolstering community-led resilience efforts. In Saint Lucia, government officials and other stakeholders developed a proposal for its first **Biosphere Reserve**—linking ecosystem protection with community well-being.

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Hon. Gaston Browne, joined by UN leaders and partners, listens to innovative project pitches during the UN Global Call Proof of Concept Workshop.



Global Innovation Turning Ideas into Impact for Caribbean SIDS

Across the globe, innovators are proving that the region's toughest challenges can inspire its boldest solutions.

In 2025, the UN Resident Coordinator Office—working alongside the Government of Antigua and Barbuda—hosted a landmark UN Global Call Proof-of-Concept Workshop, bringing together 10 standout finalist teams from more than 70 applicants to co-design scalable, climate-resilient, solutions for Small Island Developing States.

Over several days, innovators, government leaders and development partners worked side-by-side to refine practical models spanning renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and circular economy technologies.

Among the solutions identified for national implementation were solar-powered hydroponic systems, circular waste-to-energy models, and mushroom cultivation ventures that create new livelihood opportunities for youth and women entrepreneurs.



Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne praised the calibre and ambition of the finalists, noting: "This level of innovation reflects the forward thinking our region needs to thrive in a rapidly changing global environment. I wish all the finalists the very best as they progress to the next phase of this important initiative."

Final project proposals will be vetted by the UN team and advanced to the Government as well as development partners to determine which ones are funded.

With some partners having pledged support to accelerate its rollout, the initiative is already charting a pathway from ideas to impact—unlocking green jobs, strengthening climate resilience, and positioning Caribbean SIDS at the forefront of global sustainable innovation.

Accelerating Climate-smart Agriculture and Sustainable Land management

Across the region, governments strengthened **climate smart agriculture and land management** practices in the face of increasing climate shocks. Through the ESSAA 1 Project, Dominica established **nine demonstration farms** and identified **25 farmers for targeted capacity building**. Regional technical workshops enhanced disaster preparedness, standardized data protocols and climate-information services. In Antigua and Barbuda **ecosystem-based flood management strategies** were completed for four priority agricultural zones, soil laboratories upgraded, and **76 stakeholders trained** in rainwater harvesting, soil analysis and CSA/SLM practices. Grenada produced a **national soil carbon sequestration map**, upgraded its soil laboratory and invested in national expertise through scholarships.

Fostering climate-resilient and equitable health systems

Through direct technical support, the UN team helped to advance key actions in strengthening climate-resilient and equitable health systems. **Health National Adaptation Plans** and environmental assessments were completed in Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, enabling evidence-based planning for resilient infrastructure and service delivery. Air-quality and building assessments also generated actionable recommendations across several islands.

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness, Shock Response, and Inclusive Governance

The UN Team collectively helped to strengthen national disaster preparedness and shock-responsive social protection across the Eastern Caribbean. Through **Early Warnings for All (EW4All) capacity-building initiatives**, multiple countries improved multi-hazard alert systems, strengthened community preparedness, and reinforced anticipatory action. Regional emergency readiness was further enhanced through UN technical support for **National Emergency Telecommunication Plans**, ensuring resilient connectivity during climate events. Five countries—Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint



Lucia—bolstered emergency

response capacity through expanded training in mass-casualty management, incident command, emergency care, and multi-hazard planning. Regional preparedness and logistical coordination improved through the **Stock Take 2025 Initiative**, implemented in partnership with CDEMA, which harmonised data from 55 warehouses across nine countries, accounting for 444 metric tonnes of relief supplies. Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines advanced multi-hazard plan updates and after-action reviews, incorporating lessons from Hurricane Beryl. Shock-responsive social protection and emergency responsiveness was reinforced through **improved beneficiary data systems in Dominica (Social Welfare Information Management System) and a strengthened SEED Programme in Grenada**. Climate risk financing also expanded through the **WFP-CCRIF-SPC top-up mechanism**, increasing insurance coverage across four countries and supporting faster, more equitable post-disaster recovery. A pilot anticipatory action mechanism was also designed to deliver **pre-emptive assistance to 2,000 vulnerable households** ahead of forecasted hurricanes. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also **improved systems to protect historical records from climate threats**, while a regional media hackathon **enhanced journalists' capacity to design data driven solutions** for disaster risk reduction and **climate resilience**.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW

Outcomes 7 & 8

Key Achievements



200+
healthcare providers across 5 countries trained in survivor-centred GBV response



AIRCOP
Barbados Unit seized 83.85 kg cannabis, 6.75 kg cocaine, and interdicted significant amounts of cash, disrupting transnational criminal activity



300+
justice professionals across 14 jurisdictions and 5 Caribbean countries trained in modern case management and restorative approaches



8
Eastern Caribbean countries committed to a coordinated regional domestic violence prevention agenda via a Multi-country Agreement

Key Related SDGs



Contributing Agencies



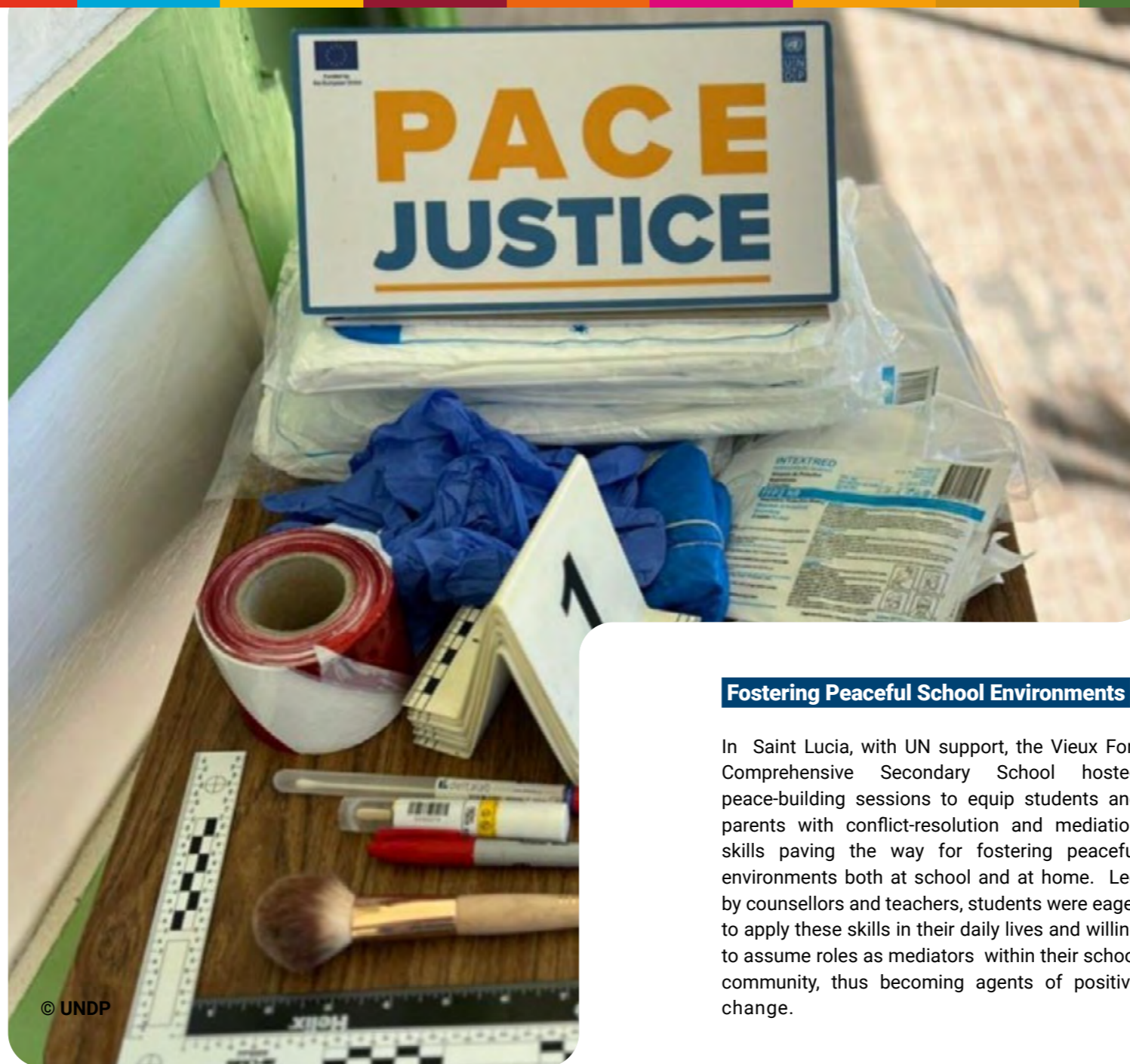
2025
Expenditure
USD 3.1M



In 2025, the UN supported Member States and stakeholders to strengthen peace, safety, justice, and rule of law, advancing ethical AI governance, expanding survivor-centered GBV prevention and response, and deepening regional security cooperation. Efforts prioritized institutional capacity, community resilience, and inclusive governance—ensuring safer, more just societies across the Eastern Caribbean.

Promoting Citizen Security through Civil Society Leadership

A more cohesive, **prevention-focused citizen security agenda** emerged across Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, positioning civil society organizations (CSOs) as central actors in violence reduction and community resilience. Engagement workshops held under the coordination of the Resident Coordinator Office, and in collaboration with national citizen security focal points, the UN Regional Peace and Development Officer and the Caribbean Policy & Development Centre (CPDC), convened close to **100 civil society actors** and representatives. Shared priorities that emerged included the need to expand youth-focused and gender-responsive community programmes, and improve coordination between CSOs, law enforcement, schools, and faith-based partners. Countries endorsed stronger regional mechanisms, including proposals for a **CSO Secretariat** and **harmonized data systems**, laying the foundation for a community-anchored prevention ecosystem.



Strengthening Citizen Security and Community Resilience

In St. Kitts and Nevis, the UN Team alongside the UN Peace and Development Advisor for the Eastern Caribbean, contributed to citizen security initiatives through implementation of the PACE Justice Project, which **improved criminal case management and helped reduce case backlogs**. National consultations advanced a proposed Action Plan to frame crime and violence as a public health issue, emphasizing prevention and multisectoral coordination. Harassment and gender-sensitivity training at the leadership level, strengthened institutional accountability and contributed to safer, more inclusive justice and governance systems.

Fostering Peaceful School Environments

In Saint Lucia, with UN support, the Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School hosted peace-building sessions to equip students and parents with conflict-resolution and mediation skills paving the way for fostering peaceful environments both at school and at home. Led by counsellors and teachers, students were eager to apply these skills in their daily lives and willing to assume roles as mediators within their school community, thus becoming agents of positive change.

Strengthening Ethical and Inclusive AI Governance

The UN supported advancing AI Governance by collaborating on the **Caribbean Digital and AI Policy Framework** to establish ethical standards and regional harmonization for emerging technologies. Antigua and Barbuda strengthened national AI governance through the UN-supported **AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM)**. National consultations and a validation workshop helped to assess legal, institutional, and technical preparedness, while a high-level launch at the **University of the West Indies (UWI)** Five Islands AI Conference demonstrated strong political commitment to using AI to enhance public services and accelerate digital transformation. The RAM now positions Antigua and Barbuda as a regional leader in responsible AI adoption.

Advancing Regional Action to Prevent Gender -Based Violence

GBV prevention and survivor-centred care across the Caribbean was strengthened through UN-supported research, behavioural-change strategies, and multi-country coordination. Collaboration with Antigua and Barbuda and UWI advanced the **Caribbean Model for Behaviour and Cultural Change**, equipping social, health, and community actors to challenge harmful norms. A regional symposium on domestic violence, a collaborative effort between the UN, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Barbados, convened **over 100 officials from 18 countries**, resulting in a landmark **multi-country agreement committing eight states to coordinated domestic-violence prevention**. Integrated training on **Clinical Management of Rape and STI Prevention**, delivered in partnership with national disaster management and health authorities, strengthened frontline responses in Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. More than **200 healthcare providers reported improved competency and confidence**, improving delivery and access to the Essential Services Package across communities.

Strengthening Justice, Security, and Social Protection

The UN Team continued efforts to strengthen national human rights protection systems across the Eastern Caribbean in 2025. In Antigua and Barbuda, support to the National Directorate of Gender Affairs helped re-establish the **Support and Referral Center** and improved National GBV Policy. UN Human Rights strengthened the capabilities of prison officials, judges, and Crown Counsel in Saint Kitts and Nevis to improve conditions of detention and uphold the rights of persons deprived of liberty. Regional workshops—organised with the Convention against Torture Initiative and the OECS—brought together officials from Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia, to enhance human-rights-based justice administration. These efforts contributed to the appointment of Barbados' first-ever **National Human Rights Commissioner** and supported the **Youth for Peace Initiative**, empowering young people to address rising crime and violence across the region.



Strengthening Transnational Crime Prevention for a Safer Caribbean

In 2025, the Caribbean made major strides in safeguarding borders and disrupting organized crime. Underpinned by strengthened UN-led security cooperation, frontline agencies deepened coordination across borders and continents. Central to these efforts was support for regional harmonization of ICT regulations for member states, improving cross border investment, digital trust and policy coherence in Barbados and across the OECS.

In December, Phase II of the UNODC Passenger and Cargo Control Programme (PCCP) Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) Africa - Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Programme was held in Barbados. This follows an earlier foundational session held in Nigeria in August.

Held in collaboration with AIRCOP Barbados and the CARICOM IMPACS Joint Regional Communication Centre (JRCC), the week-long exchange brought together eight representatives from AIRCOP Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) in Barbados, Jamaica, Ghana and Nigeria, forging faster, more unified transatlantic responses to illicit trafficking.

The impact was immediate and measurable. The AIRCOP Barbados unit achieved significant enforcement gains, including the seizure of 83.85 kg of cannabis, 6.75 kg of cocaine, 23.25 L of cough syrup, major cash interdictions totaling USD 88,947 and GBP 8,125, and the apprehension of six wanted individuals. Authorities also pursued successful prosecutions for fraud and tax evasion, recovering USD 20,951 in evaded duties and taxes—striking at the financial flows that sustain criminal networks.

Behind the scenes, the UN Team worked together to strengthen border management, upgrade forensic and justice-sector tools, expand CSO capacity, and reinforce national GBV response systems

These integrated reforms reduced security-sector bottlenecks, strengthened institutional capability, and boosted community resilience, equipping governments with the tools they need to better protect vulnerable populations and advance long-term stability.





Progress on Leaving No One Behind

Cross-cutting Human Rights Support and Outreach

In 2025, the UN pursued a rights-based, whole-of-society approach to move human rights commitments from resolution to reality. Through the provision of technical support and training, **duty-bearers strengthened their capacity to apply international human rights standards.** Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica made measurable progress toward strengthening **National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up** to international human rights mechanisms. Groups at risk of marginalization, including **persons with disabilities and those in detention**, saw stronger recognition of their rights, benefitting from reinforced safeguards against ill-treatment and exclusion. Through **targeted training, regional dialogues, support for treaty ratification and reporting, and renewed institutional coordination**, governments enhanced accountability and inclusion—ensuring that no one is left behind. Together, these efforts reinforced dignity, accountability, and resilience—anchoring human rights at the core of sustainable development across the Caribbean.



Barbados
Regional dialogues aligned climate finance with human rights, contributing to environmental justice.



Grenada
High-level Policy Dialogue addressed Disability Inclusion & State Responsibility



St. Kitts and Nevis
Sensitization Workshops targeted Inclusive employment



Saint Lucia
National Coordination Committee for Human Rights was reactivated



Judges and Detention Officers trained to uphold international standards in detention facilities



Regional collaboration with OECS and CTI strengthened torture prevention

Eastern Caribbean Youth Lead on Resilience and Advocacy

Championed by coordination efforts and fueled by joint initiatives, **more than 12,200 young people across the Eastern Caribbean engaged in national and sub-regional initiatives amplifying youth voices on SDG advocacy, mental health, gender equality, climate justice, food security, digital transformation, and citizen security.** In the wake of Hurricane Beryl, youth mental health awareness surged. Responding to this need, the UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Youth Advisory Group (YAG) launched a podcast series, **Rooted in Resilience: Exploring the Interlinkage Between Mental Health and Climate Change in the Caribbean.** The series created a timely space to examine how climate hazards affect young people’s emotional well-being, while showcasing how Caribbean youth are building resilience through advocacy, creativity, and collective action.

▶ **5,000+** youth engaged through the Joint Programme “Putting Youth and Women at the Center of Climate Resilience and Safety”

▶ **800+** youth participated in the SDG Youth Summit hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister (Barbados)

▶ **500+** children & youth benefited from school safety actions, consultations, and peer support training (Barbados)

▶ **400+** youth reached to boost SDG awareness at CARIFESTA

▶ **50+** youth across the Eastern Caribbean engaged by YAG to promote mental health awareness

▶ **20+** youth trained in the Eastern Caribbean to advance national-level disability inclusion



Progress on Disability Inclusion

The UN is embedding disability inclusion in its work across the Caribbean, advancing accessibility, advocacy, and partnerships to strengthen rights and resilience for persons with disabilities. In 2025, despite persistent barriers in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and disaster systems—that serve to reinforce the poverty-disability nexus—the **UN achieved 78.6% compliance with UNDIS requirements**. Strong leadership and planning results reflect senior-level commitment, while gains in programming and data, particularly in humanitarian contexts, signal positive momentum. Nevertheless, 21.4 percent of indicators underscored the need for improved accessibility and stronger monitoring frameworks. Advocacy and strong partnerships continue to reinforce progress across the region.

The launch of the UN-supported **HireAbility Campaign**, a sub-regional webinar on inclusive hiring with UNESCO, ILO and OHCHR, and a government-led initiative in Barbados, supported by UNFPA and ILO to operationalize the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025**, all improved employment prospects. The RCO remained central to bridging inclusion gaps through advocacy and convening, from supporting observance of **Blindness Awareness Month** in Saint Lucia to facilitating UN-wide engagement in Grenada’s **High-Level Policy Dialogue on Disability Inclusion**. Building on these gains, the UN achieved **64% of disability inclusion targets regionally**, improving accessibility, embedding inclusion in disaster response, and launching a Joint Programme with governments and OPDs to accelerate progress.



“My partnership with the UN has helped me think beyond individual advocacy and toward systemic change, especially in education, employment, and policy”.

Zinzee Noel, Disability Advocate, UN YAG Rep. for Grenada & Visionary behind the UN-supported HireAbility Campaign

Read more here

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

In 2025, the UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Assessment for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean was conducted as a participatory, evidence-based, self-assessment led by the Resident Coordinator’s Office with UN Women. The exercise evaluated UN system performance in mainstreaming gender equality across planning, programming, partnerships, leadership, coordination, and resource allocation under the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF).

Five priority indicators were reassessed: Monitoring and Evaluation, Engagement with Government, Organizational Culture, Gender Coordination Mechanism, Resource Allocation, and Tracking. The assessment highlighted **strong progress in government engagement, joint communications, and organizational culture**. Improvements were also noted in strengthening gender architecture through the establishment of the Regional and National Gender Theme Groups. However, challenges remain in gender responsive monitoring, data availability, and ensuring adequate gender mainstreaming capacities across the UN system. The report calls for enhanced training, systematic tracking of gender indicators, deeper civil society collaboration, and stronger mechanisms to monitor GEWE results under the MSDCF.

UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Comparative Ratings Dashboard (2023–2025)

Legend: Not yet assessed using updated guidance (Grey), Missing (Red), Approaching (Yellow), Meets (Green), Exceeds (Blue)

	2023	2024	2025
PI 1.1 – Common Country Analysis	Approaching	Not yet assessed	Not yet assessed
PI 1.2 – Cooperation Framework Outcomes	Approaching	Not yet assessed	Not yet assessed
PI 1.3 – Cooperation Framework Indicators	Meets	Meets	Meets
PI 2.1 – Joint Programmes	Approaching	Meets	Meets
PI 2.2 – Communication and Advocacy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
PI 2.3 – Cooperation Framework M&E	Missing	Not yet assessed	Approaching
PI 3.1 – Engagement with Government	Meets	Not yet assessed	Exceeds
PI 3.2 – Engagement with GEWE CSO	Meets	Not yet assessed	Not yet assessed
PI 4.1 – Leadership for Gender Equality	Missing	Meets	Meets
PI 4.2 – Organizational Culture	Missing	Approaching	Meets
PI 4.3 – Gender Parity	Missing	Not yet assessed	Not yet assessed
PI 5.1 – Gender Coordination Mechanism	Missing	Missing	Approaching
PI 5.2 – Gender Mainstreaming Capacities	Missing	Missing	Missing
PI 6.1 – Resource Allocation and Tracking	Missing	Missing	Approaching
PI 7.1 – GEWE Results	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching






Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEAH)

Over 65 UN personnel across Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean participated in refresher trainings on preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH) in 2025. The sessions reinforced the UN’s commitment to (PSEAH) through strengthened awareness, accountability, and interagency coordination. Participants across all sessions emphasized the need for early and continuous training, clearer reporting mechanisms, and a stronger organizational culture grounded in transparency, protection, and zero tolerance. Training covered (PSEAH) definitions, UN legal obligations, power dynamics, high-risk environments, survivor-centered approaches, and case-based learning. Participant feedback also highlighted the importance of culturally sensitive engagement, reassurance of protection from retaliation, and the need for improved facilitation methods, including more interactive and scenario-based learning. These trainings are helping to ensure safer, more accountable operations that protect the dignity and rights of all.

2.3. Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2025, the UN scaled partnerships and mobilized development finance to drive climate action, justice reform, gender equality, and inclusive economic growth across the Eastern Caribbean. Collaboration with governments, financial partners, regional institutions, and the private sector strengthened national systems and accelerated SDG progress and the 2030 Agenda.

Key Development Partners & Focus Areas

Global Affairs Canada 	Gender Equality
	Climate Change Adaptation
	Agricultural Development
EU 	Justice Strengthening
	Climate Resilience
Japan 	Coastal and Climate Resilience

Key Partnerships Leveraged to Strengthen Financing for Sustainable Development

Global Affairs Canada, Japan, and the European Union remained the largest contributors to UN development initiatives, enabling transformative work across social protection, justice, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability. Their support allowed countries to strengthen national systems, safeguard vulnerable groups, and modernize public services in line with SDG priorities.

Major ongoing programmes in 2025 included **Build Back Equal**, the **PACE Justice Programme**, and **Sargassum Management** Project. To further support the region, one new Project, and a policy-focused initiative were also launched. In August 2025, the UN and EU also

partnered to launch the **European Union-Caribbean-Resilient Programme (EU-CA-RES)** aimed at boosting the region's resilience against climate and crisis shocks, by enhancing Multi hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS). In partnership with the UN DESA and the UN-ECLAC, the UN also supported the development of a proposed methodology for the **Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profile (VRCP) and piloted a national VRCP for Saint Kitts and Nevis**. This initiative is expected to advance operationalization of the **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)**, improve analytical foundations for policymaking, and is envisaged to strengthen countries' ability to secure additional financing aligned with resilience and SDG priorities. This collaboration seeks to promote a more responsive policy environment, support strategic national prioritization, and enhance engagement with multilateral partners and institutions towards accelerating SDG progress.

Ongoing Projects



Pace Justice Project

€9.7 M

4 years
UNDP

14 countries including...



- ▶ 300+ professionals trained
- ▶ 8 countries introduced Restorative Justice Systems
- ▶ Attorneys-General Networks established across all countries
- ▶ Reduction in case backlogs and remand populations
- ▶ Investments in digitalization, modern equipment and prison case management tools
- ▶ Region moved from fragmented crime response to shared data informed preventive model of justice



Build Back Equal JP

US\$7.4 M

Multiyear
UN Women / UNFPA

4 countries



- ▶ 100+ women-led MSME's supported to access financing and new markets
- ▶ GBV Systems strengthened across 4 countries
- ▶ 170+ healthcare workers trained in Clinical Management of Rape and STIs
- ▶ 13 knowledge products produced to support gender responsive policy
- ▶ 4 draft SRHR policies
- ▶ GBV Taskforces established in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- ▶ 3 standards for quality healthcare for adolescents approved for roll out



Strengthening Sargassum Management Project

US\$7.8 M

Multiyear
UNDP

5 countries including...



- ▶ National capacity for the collection, removal and disposal of sargassum enhanced across participating states
- ▶ Equipment, expertise and technical assistance provided to countries
- ▶ Marine and nearshore coastal conservation enhanced
- ▶ Integrated Coastal management actions supported
- ▶ Negative impacts on fisheries, public health and tourism sectors mitigated



New Project Launched in 2025



EU-Caribbean Resilient Programme

€4 M

4 years
UNDP / UNDRR / WFP / UNICEF

8 countries including...



- ▶ Boosts Caribbean's resilience to climate/ crisis shocks
- ▶ Strengthens inclusive Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems
- ▶ Enhances national recovery processes
- ▶ Supports data-driven decision making processes



Resource Mobilisation through Joint Programmes

In 2025, six Joint Programmes supported by the Joint SDG Fund and the Human Security Trust Fund strengthened resilience, inclusion, and access to opportunity across the Eastern Caribbean. Three initiatives concluded during the year, showcasing tangible results. The **Build Back Equal programme**

reinforced women’s economic empowerment, supporting 100+ MSMEs, and strengthened GBV and SRHR systems, and improved adolescent health standards. The **Human Security Disaster Displacement Programme**, which ended in April, reached more than 11,000 people and embedded a human-security approach into disaster management frameworks across ten countries. In Barbados, the one-year **Infrastructure for Resilient Island**

States(IRiS) initiative closed in September, having increased the resilience of eight pilot schools in the north of the island , supporting gender-responsive and inclusive planning in coastal communities. At its December closure, the **Innovative Finance for Underserved Populations programme** had made some gains, including improving access to digital financial services for 21 women and youth owned MSMEs. Meanwhile, the **Green &**

Renewable Energy Transition initiative, launched in February, is working to equip youth and educators in four countries with renewable-energy and circular-economy skills, laying groundwork for greener, more sustainable economies. Since its launch in August, the **‘European Union-Caribbean-Resilient Programme (EU-CA-RES)**, is enhancing climate resilience through early warning systems.

Projects Closed Out in 2025

Promoting a Human Security Approach to Disaster Displacement and DRR

US\$387 K

IOM / UNDRR / OECS / CDEMA

10 countries



- ▶ 100+ persons reached and a human security approach embedded in the region’s disaster risk frameworks
- ▶ Strengthened inclusive and accessible Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) across the region
- ▶ Boosted Caribbean’s resilience against climate/ crisis shocks
- ▶ Enhanced national recovery processes
- ▶ Supported data-driven decision making processes



‘IRiS’ Youth and Women at the Centre of Climate Resilience

US\$223 K

UN Women / UNICEF

1 country



- ▶ Strengthened resilience of 8 pilot schools through hazard & vulnerability assessments
- ▶ Hazard and vulnerability assessments conducted
- ▶ Women and youth empowered as resilience leaders through emergency preparedness training
- ▶ Ensured gender-sensitive and inclusive planning



Innovative Finance for Underserved Populations

US\$1.4 M

UNDP / UN Women / ITU

2 countries



- ▶ Improved access to commercial finance for underserved women and youth
- ▶ Secured affordable financing for 21 women and youth owned MSMEs in Antigua and Barbuda through de-risking mechanisms
- ▶ Supported safe digital financial services through strengthened policy and regulatory frameworks
- ▶ Strengthened capacities of financial service providers, businesses and entrepreneurial support agencies



New Project Launched in 2025

Green & Renewable Energy Transition JP

US\$492 K

UNDP / UNICEF

4 countries



- ▶ Introduced model renewable energy kits into schools to support greener education and workforce development
- ▶ Equipped youth and educators with renewable energy and circular economy skills
- ▶ Laying the foundation for greener education and workforce development





South-South Partnerships Supporting Health and Inclusive Development

Since 2024 South-South cooperation has strengthened resilience and sustainable development across the Caribbean, with the India-UN Development Partnership Fund investing USD\$1 M in two impactful projects in 2025. The Fund supported maternal and child health systems in 13 Caribbean countries—including eight in the Eastern Caribbean—by strengthening laboratory capacity, surveillance, and leadership for the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B, and congenital Chagas disease. In Dominica’s Kalinago Territory, local resilience and sustainable livelihoods were strengthened in 2025, through an initiative targetting climate smart agriculture, watershed management and indigenous tourism.

Strengthening EMTCT Strategy within Maternal and Health Services

PAHO / National Line Ministries

13 Caribbean countries, including 8 in Eastern Caribbean

- ▶ Enhancing leadership and capacity
- ▶ Upgrading national laboratory systems for timely diagnoses and treatment.
- ▶ Improving surveillance for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B, and congenital Chagas disease



Strengthening Community Resilience within the Kalinago Territory

UNDP/Government/ Kalinago Council

1 country



- ▶ Promoting climate-smart agriculture by combining traditional knowledge with modern approaches
- ▶ Strengthening Forest and watershed management
- ▶ Leveraging indigenous tourism
- ▶ Addressing climate and economic vulnerabilities while creating sustainable livelihoods for the Kalinago community



Expanding Private Sector Partnerships

Through UN-Private Sector Forums held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, and Barbados, in March, June and November respectively, the UN engaged over 75 businesses, two chambers of commerce, and several civil society representatives to accelerate SDG-aligned investment and sustainability practices. Companies showcased how integrating sustainability improved profitability and market access, while governments emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships. These engagements were complemented by regional UN Global Compact open houses held in six islands, UNDRR-led business resilience training, and sector specific partnerships between UN Women and UNFPA, to address gender-based violence and support women owned MSMEs. Together, these initiatives strengthened the business ecosystem’s contribution to social, economic, and environmental resilience.

“Sustainability is not charity, it’s smart business.”

UN Resident Coordinator, Simon Springett.
Barbados Private Sector Forum



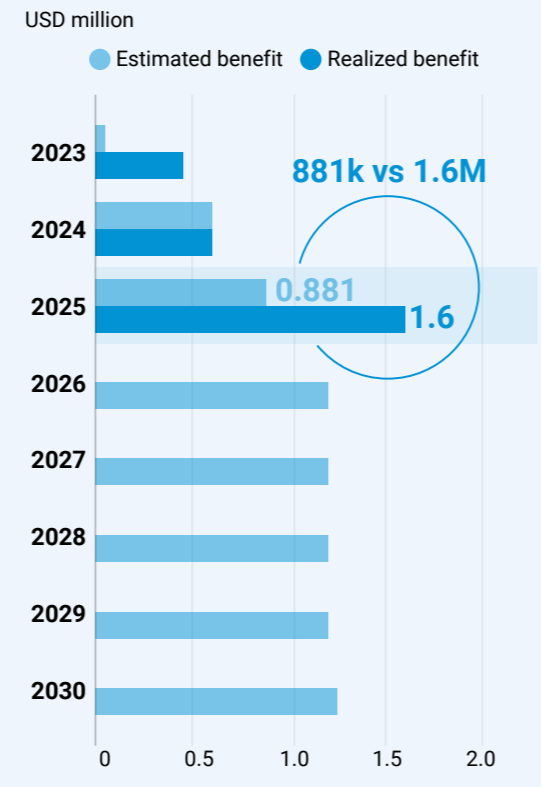
The Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG)

The Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group (ECDPG) continued to serve as the region’s coordination hub for donors, development banks, regional organizations, and embassies. Four thematic sub-groups—Climate Resilience, Digitalisation, Peace/Justice/Security, and Sustainable Livelihoods—helped align resources and policy dialogue around shared priorities, improving coherence and impact across the Eastern Caribbean. By convening partners regularly, the group has strengthened cooperation on pressing sub-regional priorities including citizen security, tariffs, food security, and resilience.

2.4. Enhancing UN Coherence, Efficiency and Joint Delivery

In 2025, the UN Sub-regional Team strengthened operational efficiency by expanding joint procurement and consolidating shared services, enabling cost savings and reinvesting resources into programming. Under the **Business Operations Strategy (BOS)**, UN entities leveraged joint LTAs for travel, ICT, and security services, supporting more streamlined operations across the sub-region. Cost efficiencies were further realized through common premises in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, generating approximately **USD 360K** in savings, while discussions moved forward on establishing additional premises in Dominica and Grenada. These efforts contributed to a more coherent, cost-effective UN presence that enables better delivery of results.

Realized and Projected Benefits 2023–2030



Protecting Lives and Livelihoods Through Joint Emergency Response

Following the displacement of 1.6 million people in western Jamaica due to Hurricane Melissa, the UN strengthened coordinated disaster response in partnership with CDEMA. Through the Barbados-based CDEMA/WFP Regional Logistics Hub, vehicles, tents, tarpaulins, and nearly 90 tonnes of food were deployed rapidly to affected areas. The UN supported Rapid Needs Assessment Teams and Damage and Loss assessments, while regional coordination platforms enhanced information-sharing and operational alignment. Surge support in health, logistics, and information management reinforced national capacities, demonstrating the value of a unified UN response in protecting lives and supporting recovery.

Strengthening Advocacy and Strategic Communications

Targeted outreach and partnerships amplified the UN's visibility and elevated the strategic role of both the RC and the RC System across the Eastern Caribbean. The Resident Coordinator and the UN Sub-Regional Team were supported

in strengthening thought leadership through joint op-eds, support for key speaking engagements, coordinated messaging, and convening of strategic engagements with key partners and stakeholders. In keeping with efforts to LNOB, communications efforts also advanced joint advocacy on normative priorities, including gender equality, youth, disability inclusion, and SDG acceleration, in collaboration with the UNCG and RCO focal points.

Through RCO communications leadership, a new **SDG Champion Media Award** was developed and launched with the **Caribbean Broadcasting Union**. Inaugural awardees will be honoured at the 2026 Media Awards in Guyana, **expected to reach an audience of over 6 million people**, thus significantly amplifying UN visibility and reinforcing information integrity through trusted media channels. As part of this initiative, capacity-building was also provided for regional journalists on SDG reporting.

The UN Communications Group (UNCG) supported participation in major outreach events, including the **GEF Small Island Future Festival (SiFF)** hosted in collaboration with the Ashley Lashley Foundation, through a **UN Village** exhibition that exposed **3,000+ attendees, including 300+ students** from 12 schools, to the UN's work and SDG messagings.



Support for the annual EU-led **Red Shoes Project** installation, also enhanced GBV advocacy during the 16 Days of Activism observance, and our partnership on the Government of Barbados' **We Gatherin' Future of Fishing Forum** amplified our work around sustainable Fishing and Climate Resilience. The communications team also collaborated with the UN Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on meaningful campaigns around International Women's Day, International Youth Day, and the **Secretary-General's "Moment of Opportunity"** with a viewing and virtual Youth Dialogue.



Innovative outreach under the UN80 banner, saw UN Day celebrations across the region featuring impactful **UN 80 awareness campaigns**. These included the Barbados launch of a UN 80 bus, expected to cover an average of over 700,000 passenger trips monthly, an SDG Mural jointly created by youth, persons with disabilities, and CSOs in Antigua and Barbuda, and a UN80 bus shelter display installed at the popular Argyle International Airport Bus Stop Shelter under the theme "Building on the Past. Honouring the Present." Dominica celebrations focused on youth, innovation, and sustainable development, with dynamic school visits under the banner "Youth Leading Change through the SDGs" and in Barbados, the UN Team welcomed a visit by Prime Minister the Hon. Mia Mottley.

Strengthened **publications outreach** contributed to coherent messaging, and enhanced visibility and public awareness of UN and member states' joint priorities. More than 100 communication products were disseminated, including 84 press releases and stories, and 25 publications featured on the UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean website. **Digital engagement** expanded significantly, with 1,029 multimedia outputs across X, Instagram, and Facebook and a net increase of 2,202 followers—a 37% growth—reflecting stronger regional reach and engagement.



UN Resident Coordinator and staff celebrate the launch of the UN 80 bus



The UN80 bus made a brief stop at the Barbados Parliament Buildings in Bridgetown, during its special charter tour of the City



Sustainable Fishing and Climate Resilience in Barbados' Blue Economy were the focus as UN agencies joined national partners at the We Gatherin' 'Future of Fishing Forum' to observe UN Month.

(L-R) UN Resident Coordinator Simon Springett, Dr. Yvette Diei Ouadi, Fishery and Aquaculture Officer, FAO, Moderator Chantelle Evelyn, and Chief Fisheries Officer Dr. Shelly-Ann Cox.

UN80 IN PICTURES



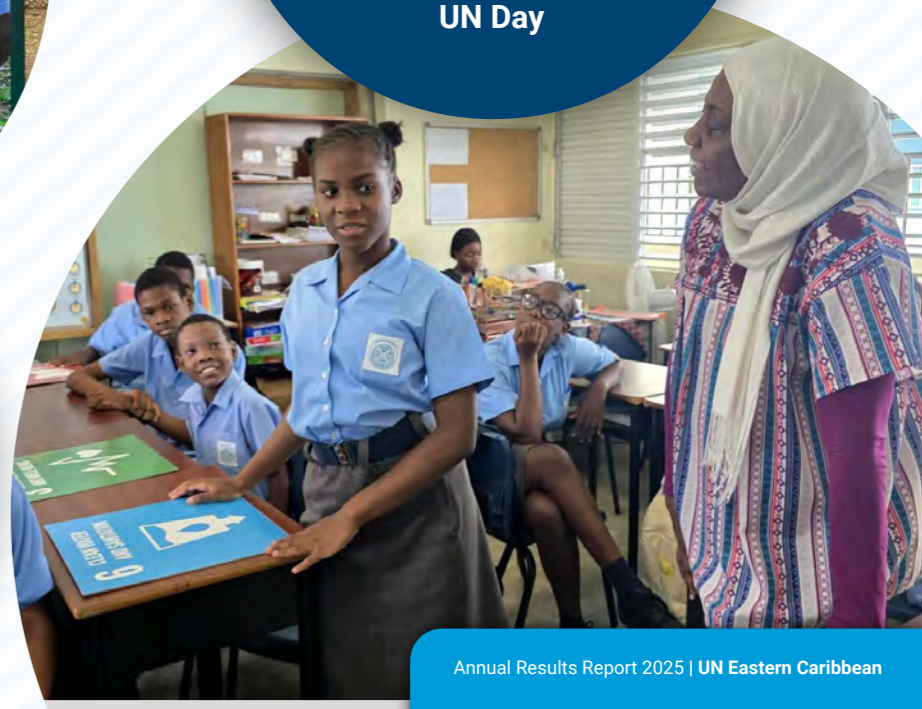
Prime Minister of Barbados the Hon. Mia Amor Mottley addressing staff at UN House to mark UN80



The Karaoke competition was a hit during UN Staff Day festivities to celebrate UN Day 2025



UN Country Coordination Officer for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, La Fleur Quammie, launches the UN 80 branded bus shelter at the Argyle International Airport Bus Stop



UNDP Resident Representative, Limya Eltayeb, engaging with students of the Ann Hill School in Barbados, which caters to students with disabilities and developmental delays, during a school visit for UN Day



UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, arrives for the 48th Regular Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in Barbados, where he delivered remarks at the Opening Ceremony. He was welcomed on arrival by UN Resident Coordinator, Simon Springett, (right).



Young climate advocates in Barbados shared their plans for climate action with Selwin Hart, UN Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action, Selwin Hart, during a roundtable discussion at UN House, Barbados



UN Resident Coordinator, Simon Springett, announces the new UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean SDG Champion Media Award during the 2025 Caribbean Broadcasting Union Awards Ceremony in Barbados. Here he presents the Award for the Best Educational Reel to the RJR Gleaner Group.



UN Women MCO Caribbean joined the People's Republic of China and key partners to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action



Members of the Dominica Beekeeper's Association receive sponsorship funding from the United Nations

Students of the neighbouring Arthur Smith Primary School, visited UN House Barbados on UN Charter Day, engaging with UN agencies and gaining a deeper understanding of the UN's work and impact

UN80 IN PICTURES



While in Barbados for the 2nd Wider Caribbean Regional Risk Conference, Charlotte Scaddan, Senior Adviser on Information Integrity, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, visited UN House and met with Resident Coordinator Simon Springett and members of the UN Communications Group



2.5. Lessons Learned and Evaluations

In 2025, the UN development system held Annual Reviews of its Country Implementation Plans for the year 2024 with eight countries across Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

These Annual Reviews provided an important touch point for feedback from member states and development partners on the relevance, and effectiveness of the UNDS support over the last year under the current Cooperation Framework.

Among the key lessons learned were: (i) the Sub-Region remains highly relevant to addressing the current social-economic realities of the countries. (ii) The United Nations continue to be a viable platform for the issues of Small Island Developing States to be highlighted at a global level and (iii) the UN has made an impact contribution to building capacity of the region to respond and recover from recent shocks including Hurricane Beryl which significantly impacted the Islands of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and caused some destruction mainly to the fisheries sector in Barbados.

Government stakeholders and development partners also highlighted that 2024 continued to reveal persistent challenges with low project and programme implementation capacity of countries across all sectors.

Key Recommendations

ENHANCE SCHEDULING AND SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure that projects and programmes serve the maximum benefit of member states, steps should be taken to undertake systematic project scheduling to ensure that the number of projects do not exceed countries' implementation capacities, both in terms of resources and technical capacity. Attention must also be paid to incorporating greater sustainability measures into projects for the measurement of results.

STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION

Intersectoral collaboration is very important. As key project personnel can potentially change, it is critical to have various parties appraised of and participating in project governance. Close collaboration with the RCO was crucial for helping to unclog bottlenecks that the agencies faced with regards to project implementation. The silos in how the UN works also need to be broken. These silos frustrate collaboration and without collaboration, we don't move forward.

INCREASE VISIBILITY

Awareness of the UN CIP and MSDCF needs to be increased as a means of combatting overarching SDG awareness, which is relatively low, across some Eastern Caribbean countries. Greater awareness of the frameworks under which the UN partners, SDGs and their impact on the livelihood of the average citizen, as well as underlying rights-based focus for all, would contribute to a more collaborative push by everyone for their achievement.

ACCOUNTABILITY

for the resources and reporting them has continued to demonstrate value for the investment.

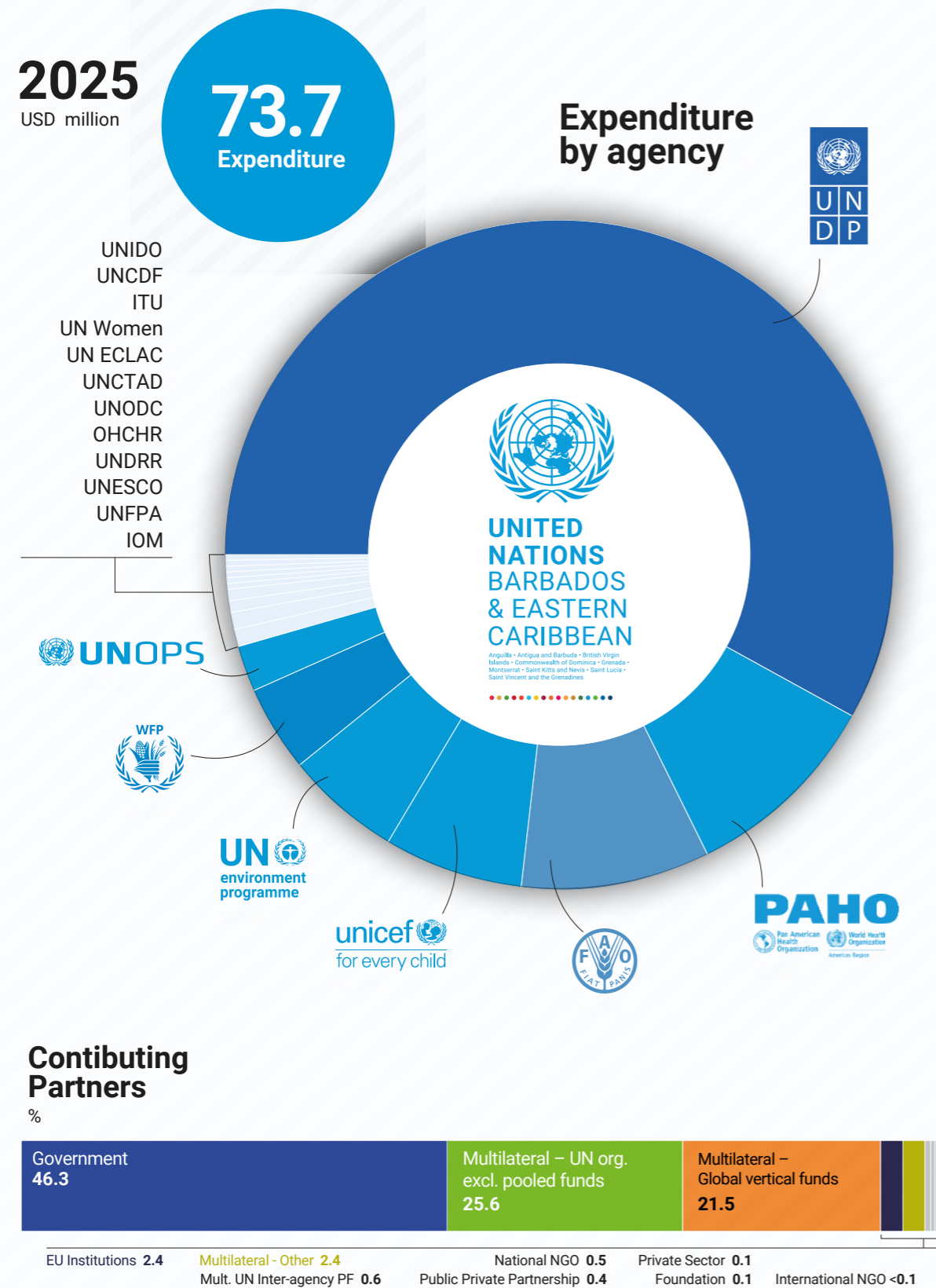
DATA GAPS

The data gaps in Barbados and the Caribbean in this case were hindrances to the tracking and monitoring of the work being done and the results being achieved.



2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

Despite a challenging and uncertain global development finance environment, in 2025 the UN Sub-Regional Team delivered USD 73.7 million in support of governments development priorities. Overall, the 2025 delivery demonstrates both the scale and the breadth of partnerships supporting UN engagement in the region. The combination of strong government financing, multilateral support, and global environmental funding positioned the UN Sub-Regional Team to maintain momentum in advancing sustainable development outcomes despite a volatile external financing environment.



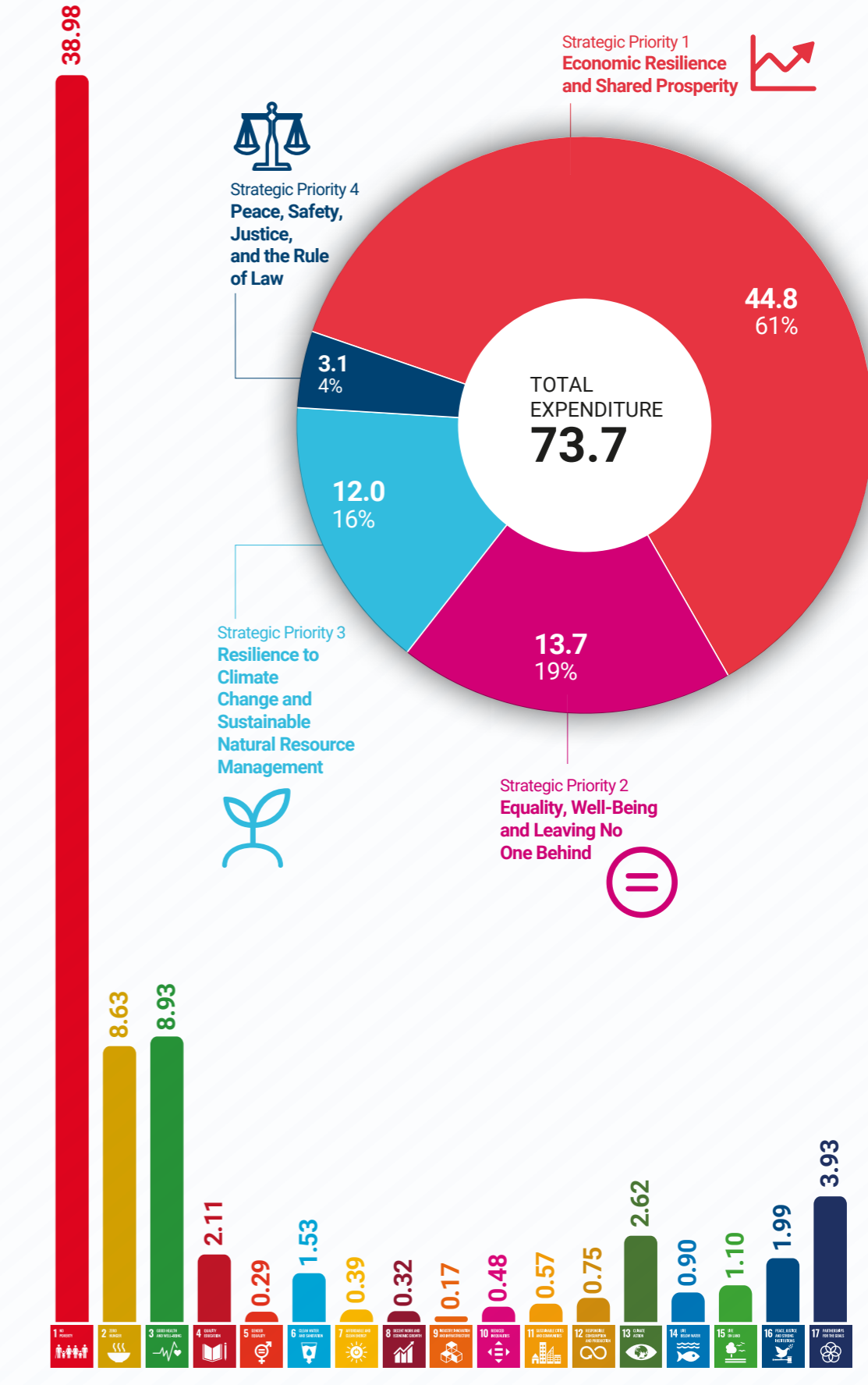
Expenditure by Type of Funding

USD million



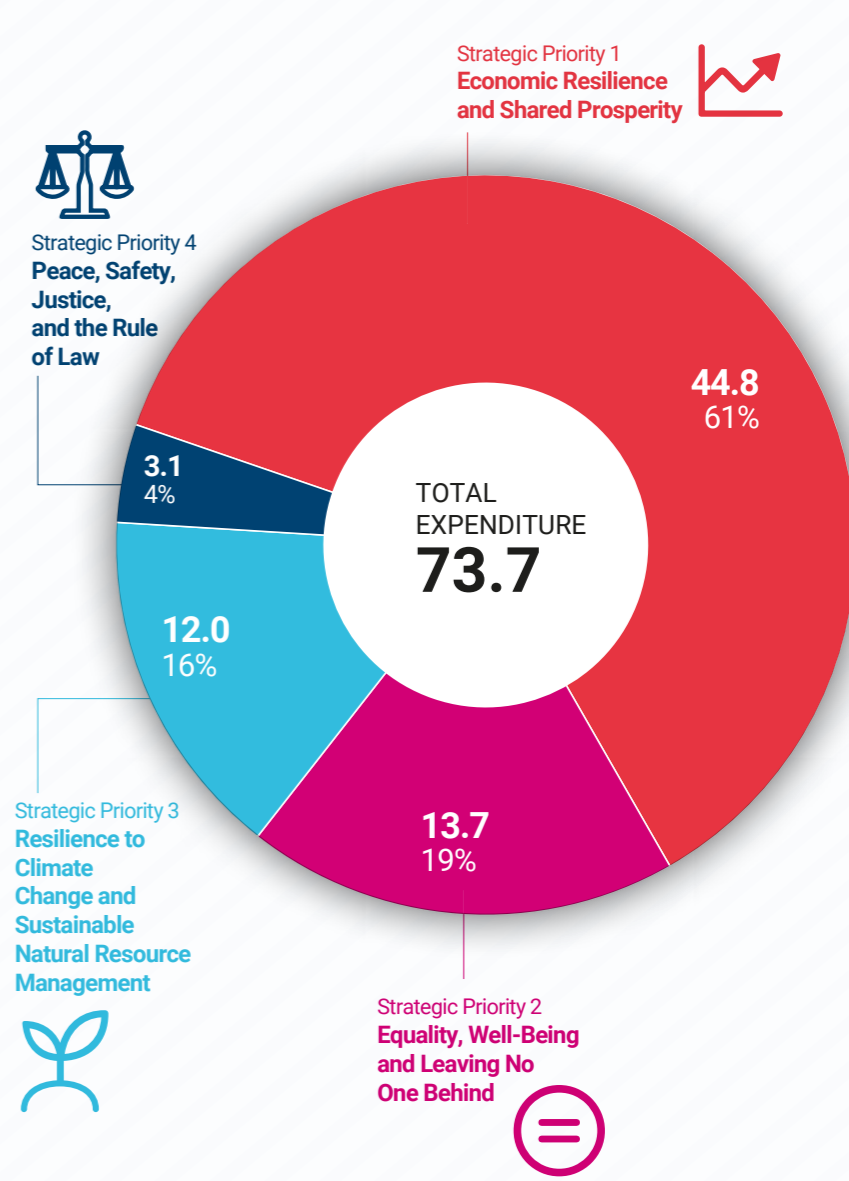
Expenditure by SDG

USD million



Expenditure by Priority Area

USD million / %



3 INTO THE FUTURE UNST Key Focus for 2026

As the United Nations Development System continues to enhance its focus on providing more coherent and integrated support to SIDS, the key focus for 2026 is on accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring more programmatic alignment with the 10-year Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). Central to this effort will be transformative action in food systems, climate resilience, and digital innovation. By advancing integrated approaches that link sustainable agriculture with climate-smart practices and harnessing digital technologies for inclusion, the UN will help countries unlock pathways to equitable growth. This acceleration agenda is not only about meeting targets—it is about ensuring that vulnerable communities, particularly in Eastern Caribbean Small Island Developing States, are empowered to thrive in the face of global shocks.

Equally vital is the UN's commitment to business efficiencies that strengthen its operational backbone. A revamped Business Operations Strategy (BOS) will serve as a cornerstone for building a Common Back Office model, enabling the UN Sub-Regional Team (UNST) to become a self-starter in delivering streamlined, cost-effective services.

This shift reflects a recognition that efficiency is not merely administrative, it is a strategic enabler of impact. By reducing duplication and maximizing shared services, the UN Development System will free up resources to invest more directly in programmatic priorities, ensuring that every dollar and every hour contribute to advancing the SDGs.

At the regional level, partnerships will be deepened to bolster disaster preparedness and response capacities. The increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters demand a coordinated, anticipatory approach that leverages regional institutions, civil society, and private sector actors. The UN will prioritize building interoperable systems for early warning, rapid response, and recovery, ensuring that countries can act collectively and decisively when crises strike. These partnerships will embody the spirit of solidarity that has defined the UN for eight decades, while adapting to the realities of a more complex risk landscape.

Finally, 2026 will be a pivotal year for shaping the future of UN-government collaboration. The preparation and finalization of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2027–2031) will guide joint action in the last four years of Agenda 2030. This framework will be designed to align national priorities with global commitments, embedding inclusivity, resilience, and accountability at its core. By co-creating this roadmap with governments and stakeholders, the UN will ensure that the Development System remains a trusted partner—one that not only responds to immediate needs but also lays the foundation for a more just, sustainable, and human-centered world.



Acronyms

ABAS	Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States	LNOB	Leave No One Behind
AIRCOP	Airport Communication Programme	MCO	Multi-Country Office
AMEPP	Agricultural Micro-Enterprise Post-Production Small Grants Programme	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ARR	Annual Results Report	MHEWS	Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems
BARNUFO	Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organizations	MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
BBE	Build Back Equal (Joint Programme)	MICS7	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (Round 7)
BCP	Business Continuity Planning	MSDCF / UNMSDCF	United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
BCCI	Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry	MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	MVI	Multidimensional Vulnerability Index
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	NADF	National Agricultural Diagnostic Facility
CARICHAM	Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce	NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
CC4FISH-II	Climate Change Resilience in the Caribbean Fisheries Sector (Phase II)	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility	OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
C DFA	Caribbean Digital Finance Association	OPDs	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
CoAHD	Cost and Affordability of Healthy Diets	OPIM	Operational Partners Implementation Modality
CPDC	Caribbean Policy and Development Centre	PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture	PACE	Programme on Advancing Community-based Empowerment (PACE Justice Programme)
CSSI	Caribbean Safe School Initiative	PCCP	Passenger and Cargo Control Programme
CSO	Civil Society Organization	PSEAH	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
DHIS-2	District Health Information Software 2	RAM	Readiness Assessment Methodology (AI RAM)
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations	RC	Resident Coordinator
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
DWCP	Decent Work Country Programme	RNAT	Rapid Needs Assessment Team
ECD	Early Childhood Development	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ECDPG	Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
EiE	Education in Emergencies	SiFF	Small Island Future Festival
EMTCT	Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B)	SLM	Sustainable Land Management
ESSAA-1	Enabling Sustainable Smallholder Agriculture Project	SPC	Social Protection Committee / Programme
EU	European Union	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
EU-CA-RES	European Union–Caribbean Resilient Programme	SWAP	System-Wide Action Plan (UNCT-SWAP)
EW4All	Early Warnings for All	SWIMS	Social Welfare Information Management System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UN	United Nations
FATF	Financial Action Task Force	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	UNCT-SWAP	United Nations Country Team System-Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality
HDPE	High-Density Polyethylene	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNDG	United Nations Development Group
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
IMPACS	CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security	UNDS	United Nations Development System
IRiS	Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (Joint Programme)	UN ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
JAITF	Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
JRCC	Joint Regional Communication Centre	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
LIFT	Livelihood Improvement for Family Transformation	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
		UNST	United Nations Sub-Regional Team
		UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
		VRCP	Vulnerability–Resilience Country Profile
		WFP	World Food Programme
		WHO	World Health Organization
		YAG	Youth Advisory Group



UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights, Elisa Morgera visited UN House and shared words of encouragement and inspiration to current UNVs while reflecting on her time as a UNV.





**UNITED
NATIONS
BARBADOS
& EASTERN
CARIBBEAN**

Anguilla • Antigua and Barbuda • British Virgin Islands • Commonwealth of Dominica • Grenada • Montserrat • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Lucia • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
UN House
Marine Gardens, Christ Church
Barbados

Phone: 1(246) 467-6000
Email: rco.bb@un.org
www.uneasterncaribbean.org

UNBarbadosandOECS 
@unBdosandOECS 
@unbarbadosandoeCS 