

United Nations  Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

Distr. RESTRICTED  
CRS/2009/DP.7

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade  
for the Eradication of Colonialism: challenges and opportunities in the process of  
decolonization in today's world

Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis  
12 to 14 May 2009

DISCUSSION PAPER

PRESENTATION

BY

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



## **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados & the OECS and Jamaica – support to the Overseas Territories (OTs) of the UK Government in the Caribbean**

UNDP's subregional office for Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) serves Barbados and the nine member states of the OECS of which three Overseas Territories of the UK Government are members, namely – Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Montserrat. Technically, these countries receive no direct funding from the UNDP given their designation as Net Contributing Countries (NCCs) however they are eligible for support through the sub-regional programme funded by the OECS, as are the other OECS Member States. Montserrat receives a small allocation from the UNDP given its designation by the UN of being in a Special Development Status situation arising out of the impact of the volcanic eruption in the 1990s. UNDP Jamaica is responsible for programmes in the UK Overseas Territory of The Turks and Caicos Islands which receives support through that Office's regional programmes.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) main areas of support is technical assistance and policy advice in the areas of macroeconomic, financial and fiscal management, production and management of economic statistics, disaster mitigation and resettlement and recovery programmes, and capacity-building in environmental sustainability.

Emanating from the detailed review of UNDP's programmes from 2001-2008 and discussions with beneficiary countries, the UNDP has identified focus areas for its support to the OTs and other middle-income countries (NCCs) in the region. Specifically these include:

- Deepening the focus on policy advice, affording policy choice, and capacity development for better management for development results
- Improving south-south cooperation to catalyse development progress, capitalising on the changing aid environment, and the strengths and experiences of other developing countries, as epitomised by the CRMI project
- Full engagement with net contributing countries (NCCs)
- Integrating climate change issues throughout all programme areas given its impact on the broader development process

Government officials in three British overseas territories (Montserrat, British Virgin Islands and Anguilla) were particularly eager to increase their regular contact with UNDP for knowledge-sharing and networking reasons. UNDP provides non-project support to a number of other initiatives and activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Some of these are outlined below.

### **Montserrat**

In 2007, UNDP Barbados collaborated with the OECS Secretariat to maximize support to Montserrat in the area of Poverty and Social Sector Development Programme. Further to discussions on the use of those resources, an agreement was reached with the government to use the resources in support of the establishment of a Child Health Database. This support was provided in 2007 through the Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean (SPARC) programme. Support to capacity development in statistics, poverty and MDG monitoring was also provided through the SPARC. Through this, support capacity has been

developed in the area of poverty reduction and social sector development particularly on poverty and MDG monitoring.

UNDP funding allocated to Montserrat for poverty reduction is integrated into regional initiatives such as the SPARC in order to benefit from linkages and to greater leverage the funds received to support the country in key areas of interest. Another avenue for indirect support to Montserrat is regional (OECS) efforts to define a social policy framework and from the conclusions and recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> OECS HDR on Youth. The UNDP will continue to provide support to poverty and MDG monitoring as well as social policy reform; and is keen to particularly support the analysis of the Country Poverty Assessments (CPA) and the follow-up policy formulation process.

Through the GEF Small Grants Programme the overseas territories are designated Associated Countries and even though they do not qualify for direct GEF funding they still remain part of the sub-regional knowledge network and possess webcams which allow them to participate in online training.

Following the volcanic eruptions in the 1990s disaster recovery support was provided through the initiative "Disaster Mitigation, Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening in Support of Montserrat's Post-Emergency Resettlement Programme" to build capacity for recovery with a focus on livelihoods. This included the placement of UN Volunteers to provide technical assistance. The Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI) has also built capacity in disaster risk reduction and climate change in the OTs through knowledge management and sharing of best practices as well as regional capacity for climate change modelling has been strengthened through the CCCCCs, UWI and INSMET Cuba.

Direct support to the Montserrat Institute for Disaster Research and Education (MIDREM) Search and Rescue Training Course has already been provided in the first quarter of 2009 through the OCTs Regional Risk Reduction (R3I) Initiative. Additional technical and coordination support to the training course will be facilitated by the UNDP through CDERA to ensure harmony with the priority outcomes of the region represented in the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy. Further support to risk reduction is envisaged through the R3I which will build capacity for Early Warning Systems, Hazard Mapping & Vulnerability Assessments, and will share experiences and good practices in disaster risk reduction.

#### **British Virgin Islands (BVI)**

While there is no assigned portfolio on an annual basis, support to the BVI is rendered on a demand-basis through sub-regional and regional projects. An MDG Localization Report was just completed in the BVI in 2008. BVI has also benefited from SPARC support to capacity development in statistics and poverty and MDG monitoring. Capacity has been developed in the area of poverty reduction and social sector development particularly on poverty and MDG monitoring; a representative participated in the 2005 MDG/HDR Reporting workshop. Montserrat will also benefit indirectly from the OECS efforts to define a social policy framework and from the conclusions and recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> OECS HDR on Youth. The UNDP will continue to support on poverty and MDG monitoring and coordination, as well as social policy reform.

Through the OECS the UNDP has implemented a community risk reduction initiative to reduce risk to landslides. This initiative has succeeded in reducing risk in several communities to the extent that the initiative has received additional funding from the government of the BVI. The

BVI has also participated in the CRMI and will also benefit from the R3I which is funded by the European Commission for the Dutch and UK Overseas Countries in the Caribbean.

### **Anguilla**

Anguilla has benefited mainly through SPARC and the OECS Poverty Reduction and Social Sector Development programme with support in capacity building in data collection and analysis; MDG and HDR reporting; and in 2007 support to some of the field work associated with their Country Poverty Assessment. In 2009, it will receive support through the UNDP funded OECS Localization initiative on MDG Localization and action planning. The country will also indirectly benefit from the OECS efforts to define a social policy framework and from the conclusions and recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> OECS HDR on Youth. The UNDP will continue to support on poverty and MDG monitoring as well as social policy reform. Additionally, support to enhance coordination on the MDGs is needed.

Through its Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) project established in 2002, UNDP has provided Anguilla with assistance in financial sector supervision and development of risk management guidelines. Similar to the other OTs Anguilla will also benefit from the R3Is project.

### **Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)**

UNDP Jamaica fielded last August two missions: (1) UNDAC multi-disciplinary team to support the immediate relief and communications in the country after hurricane Ike. At our request, Canada also sent a handful of military engineers who happened to be on exercise in Jamaica to accompany the UNDAC group; and (2) I led a UNCT group subsequently to follow-up on the recovery. TCI proposed a donor round table to raise funds for the recovery efforts. This was delayed and dropped because of the departure of the Premier. Through BCPR, UNDP provided the detailed recovery plan for TCI.

In the future UNDP could focus specifically on (1) providing disaster relief and recovery for natural disasters such as hurricanes; (2) facilitating access to regional or global windows for human resources referrals, knowledge and expertise; and (3) provide access to GEF funding.

For further information: **Website:** [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

#### ***UNDP Focal Point for Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat***

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

UN House, Marine Gardens,

Christchurch, Barbados

Tel: +1246 437 8874

**Email:** [registry.bb@undp.org](mailto:registry.bb@undp.org)

**Website:** [www.bb.undp.org](http://www.bb.undp.org)

#### ***UNDP Focal Point for Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda and Cayman Islands***

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

1-3 Lady Musgrove Road

Kingston 10, Jamaica

Tel: 876 978 2390 to 2399, 876 946 2163

E-mail: [registry.jm@undp.org](mailto:registry.jm@undp.org)

**Website:** [www.undp.org/fojam](http://www.undp.org/fojam)