



Caribbean Countries

Advancing Sustainable Development through Human Security, Climate Resilience and Women's Empowerment in the Caribbean

Background information

In the Caribbean region, middle-income countries are marked by decreasing aid flows despite lagging economic growth, high and unsustainable levels of debt, increasing poverty and inequality, climate change and disaster risks, and public safety challenges. Women and youth are disproportionately affected by these challenges as a result of low income levels and high barriers to economic participation that further increase their vulnerabilities to economic, social, and environmental shocks.

In response to these common challenges, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has long been advancing regional integration for greater coherence and effectiveness in addressing both regional and national needs and priorities, including economic expansion and greater resilience. Such an integration aims to ensure that no one is left behind in national development efforts while tackling shared development challenges through greater cooperation.

Goals and objectives

Coordinated by the UN Multi-Country Office in Barbados, the overall goal of the programme is to enhance human security by advancing comprehensive and gender-responsive development with a focus on key economic sectors in the Caribbean, including farming, fishing, and related small-business activities. The programme subsequently combines policy reform across the 14 CARICOM countries with community-based initiatives to enhance the capacity of vulnerable groups. Specifically, it aims to mainstream the human security approach in regional and national policies to: (i) strengthen and increase access to gender-responsive and disaster-resilient agricultural, fisheries, and small business extension services; (ii) improve gender-responsive social protection, insurance, and financial programmes with enhanced access, especially for female-headed households and unemployed youth; (iii) increase market access readiness and resilience for smallholder farmers and small businesses; and (iv) reinforce community resilience through advocacy and community engagement.



DURATION

August 2019- December 2023



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UN Women, FAO, ILO, UNDP in partnership with UNFPA, UNICEF, RCO



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Relevant ministries in participating countries; Gender Equality Departments and /or Focal Points; Land Registration Offices; small credit and disaster insurance private and public sector entities; civil society; community, farmer and women's groups; the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency; and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute.



BENEFICIARIES

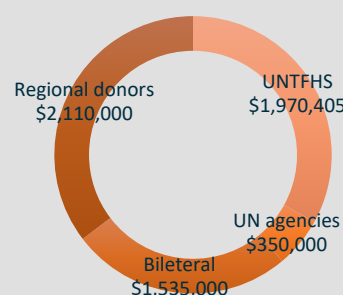
162,000



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 5,965,405

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme will benefit more than 162,000 people in the Caribbean region, with targeted activities in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Lucia. Capacity development of national Ministries and gender focal points will ensure that advancements in gender equality and resilient economic sectors are experienced more broadly throughout the region. Specifically, the programme will (i) provide small grant support for approximately 2,500 farmers, fisherfolks and small-business entrepreneurs with at least 50% women, reaching altogether up to 12,500 people; (ii) enhance disaster preparedness and mitigation, climate change adaptation and value chain development for 50 community groups, reaching 30,000 people; and (iii) strengthen capacity building for associated ministries and the National Gender Machineries and Focal Points.

Applying the Human Security approach

Based on the UN System Common Multi-Country Assessment (CMCA), the programme will promote the implementation of the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSDF) by engaging in both gender-sensitive policy reform and community-based initiatives to strengthen women's participation in core economic sectors towards positive multiplier impacts on sustainable development in disaster and climate-vulnerable communities.

Recognizing the complex interlinkages between climate change, disasters, economic growth, gender equality and sustainable development, the programme takes a comprehensive human security approach that leverages the weight of key economic sectors to accelerate development progress. To this end, it aims to reach those furthest behind and at risk of being left behind, particularly women and youth, for a more inclusive and resilient development trajectory in the region. By combining support to regional political integration with community-based initiatives to build the capacity of and enhance the conditions for farmers, small agriculture and fisheries business entrepreneurs, the programme strengthens regional development prospects while tailoring actions to address national specificities.

The programme will also contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).

Achievements

- The programme significantly advanced gender responsiveness and disaster resilience across key sectors in the Caribbean. Support for small-scale sectors was enhanced through a desk review of small business support programs, resulting in the production of guides and directories for women farmers and entrepreneurs. Addressing the identified gaps, digital Help Desks were launched, including animated videos and apps. The Help Desks, along with the distribution of over 20 tablets and laptops, have significantly improved access to information and resources for beneficiaries.
- The programme further strengthened extension services for women by conducting a gender-sensitive assessment with data from 30 Extension Officers in four countries. This work revealed gaps in gender mainstreaming in Barbados and Saint Lucia, leading to the creation of a Gender-sensitive Assessment tool and completion of detailed reports on gender, agriculture, and climate.
- In increasing market access readiness and resilience, the programme implemented an online agricultural land management system in Grenada and introduced it in Barbados and Dominica. This included piloting a land bank in Grenada and providing capacity-building for applicants. Business support was further bolstered by training 278 people, including 74% women and 22 new business coaches, in financial literacy and microinsurance and conducting value chain analyses to enhance sectors like beekeeping.
- Community resilience was strengthened through the development of risk maps and disaster management planning in several countries. These activities, combined with the creation of gender equality and human security guidelines, underscore the programme's comprehensive approach to fostering sustainable development and resilience in the Caribbean.



www.un.org/humansecurity



humansecurity@un.org



[@UNHumanSecurity](https://twitter.com/UNHumanSecurity)



[@UNTFHS](https://www.facebook.com/UNTFHS)



United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.