

## Integrating the Human Security Approach in Disaster Displacement and Environmental Migration Policies in the Eastern Caribbean



### Project Summary

#### Overview

This Joint Programme (JP), will promote the human security approach to address the challenges of environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Eastern Caribbean. The programme will partner with the OECS Commission and other regional institutions, national governments, communities and other stakeholders, and use the human security approach to cohesively address multidimensional challenges (COVID-19, disasters and climate change, and human mobility) to ensure that no one is left behind.

The JP will focus on raising awareness among national and regional practitioners on the human security approach (HSA) to addressing human mobility in contexts of disasters and climate change. The HSA puts the well-being of migrants, displaced persons and vulnerable communities at the centre of attention, and advocates for the adoption of frameworks that can help to address these movements in a timely, adequate and protection-sensitive manner to ensure freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity.

#### Rationale

By applying the human security approach, the programme will promote the protection of disaster displaced persons, environmental migrants and communities in the Eastern Caribbean that are vulnerable to multiple threats, including the COVID-19 pandemic. In the Eastern Caribbean:

- Climate and migration policies do not always include environmental migration.
- Gaps persist in the concrete operationalization of initiatives and the improvement of national frameworks to prevent forced migration and address the needs of environmental migrants.
- There are gaps in the preparedness and response to the needs of displaced persons facing multiple threats in disaster settings.
- Generally, national frameworks for disaster risk reduction and emergency response need to advance for better integration of human mobility issues.

This situation presents an opportunity to advance a human security focus to the prevention and the management of disaster displacement and environmental migration by bringing together all actors and enhancing a protection-oriented agenda.



# What is the Human Security Approach?

Human security is an approach to assist United Nation Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the **survival, livelihood** and **dignity** of their people. It is a multidimensional analytical framework that can assist the United Nations system to assess, develop and implement integrated responses to a broad range of issues that are complex and require the combined inputs of the United Nations system, in partnership with Governments, non-governmental entities and communities.

The application of the human security approach is guided by a common understanding that includes:

- The right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. All individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential.
- Human security calls for people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people and all communities.
- Human security recognizes the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights, and equally considers civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.



# Planned Outcomes

- Improved policy coherence at the national level in the Eastern Caribbean on the different forms of human mobility (migration, displacement and planned relocation) in contexts of disasters and climate change for a stronger integration of the human security approach including in relation to the COVID-19 response.
- The development and adoption of regional frameworks that are human-security-sensitive, to address cross-border displacement and evacuations in the Eastern Caribbean, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Joint Programme will be implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in partnership with the Commission of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECs Commission) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean (Multi-Country Office), with funding from the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS).

