



**United Nations Trust Fund  
for Human Security**

# Eastern Caribbean

## Promoting a Human Security Approach to Disaster Displacement and Environmental Migration Policies Integrating the COVID- 19 Pandemic Response in the Eastern Caribbean

### Background information

Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including those in the Eastern Caribbean, face are highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters – experiencing damage up to six times greater compared to developed countries. These recurring shocks, compounded by other socio-economic challenges, significantly hinder development progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these vulnerabilities, making SDG attainment even more difficult. Border closures and social distancing measures implemented in response to the pandemic severely disrupted economies across the Eastern Caribbean SIDS, deepening existing challenges and threatening long-term resilience.

### Goals and objectives

The key objectives of the programme are to: (i) improve policy coherence at the national level in the Eastern Caribbean SIDS on the intersection between natural disasters and environmental displacement, and in the current COVID-19 environment; and (ii) develop and adopt a human security regional framework to address cross-border climate-related migration in the Eastern Caribbean.



#### DURATION

December 2021 — March 2024



#### UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

IOM, United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate Change  
(UNFCCC)



#### OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Organization of Eastern Caribbean  
States (OECS) Commission,  
Platform on Disaster Displacement  
(PDD)



#### BENEFICIARIES

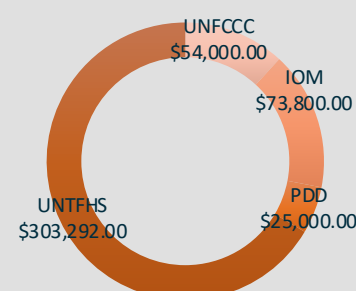
9 Eastern Caribbean countries and  
territories



#### TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 456,092

#### POOLING OF RESOURCES



# Beneficiaries

The programme directly benefits the national governments and people of the Eastern Caribbean countries and territories: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

## Applying the Human Security approach

The programme promotes the human security approach to disaster displacement and environmental migration, integrating the COVID-19 response in the Eastern Caribbean through enhanced policy coherence and regional coordination. By focusing on outreach and advocacy, the programme seeks to promote the integration of the human security approach in national and regional policies and programmes and offers an opportunity to address the intersection of climate change, displacement and the SDGs.

The programme was designed by drawing on the expertise and resources of a wide range of actors from different sectors including migration and human mobility, climate and disaster risk management, and emergency preparedness and response. Based on its multisectoral focus, the programme embodies the comprehensive nature of human security, addressing the full range of human insecurities faced by communities, as well as their interdependencies. With its emphasis on people, the programme places the rights and needs of displaced persons, environmental migrants, and those most vulnerable at the center of its response.

Programme activities are tailored to the specific circumstances of each individual country and territory, as well as the Eastern Caribbean region as a whole, thereby achieving a context-specific yet comprehensive response to the challenges faced at the national and regional levels. The programme also allows for the exchange and sharing of information and lessons learned between the countries and territories in the region, as well with other countries and regions facing similar challenges.

## Achievements

- A major milestone was the development and official endorsement of the OECS Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change, signed by seven OECS Member States. This landmark agreement harmonizes national policies on migration, environmental degradation, and disaster displacement, strengthening the region's commitment to human security, regional cooperation, and sustainable development. By fostering a unified approach, the declaration enhances collective resilience against climate-related threats.
- The programme forged strong partnerships across governance levels, aligning regional strategies with national priorities to enhance collective capacity in addressing climate and migration challenges. By uniting key regional bodies, including CDEMA, CARICOM IMPACS, and OECS, the programme established critical regional frameworks, such as the Cross-Border Evacuation Protocol for Countries of the Eastern Caribbean in the Context of Disasters. Developed in close collaboration with local, national, and regional stakeholders, this protocol ensures safe and dignified movement during pandemics and natural disasters, recognizing the needs of people and the capacities of governments.
- The programme also advanced the integration of human mobility into national frameworks through context-specific assessments. The Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement, and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool introduced standardized indicators to identify policy gaps, strengths, and opportunities, ensuring national legal frameworks align with international commitments while addressing each country's unique environmental, social, and economic realities. Additionally, the Human Security Assessment Tool was applied across the region, leading to nine country-specific assessment reports that provide tailored policy recommendations. This approach ensures that policy revisions are not only country-relevant but also contribute to a coordinated regional response to climate and migration challenges.



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