



**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATES OF
THE SIXTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

BARBADOS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
INTEGRATION OF PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AMERICAS	2
POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND INEQUITY	7
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT	30
ACCESS TO AND USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	33
CITIZEN SECURITY AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME	34

INTRODUCTION

The Sixth Summit of the Americas was convened in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in April 2012 under the central theme of “Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity”. The leaders adopted a final outcome document which featured specific mandates in the following areas:

- Integration of Physical Infrastructure in the Americas
- Poverty, Inequality, and Inequity
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
- Access To and Use of Information and Communication Technologies
- Citizen Security and Transnational Organized Crime

The following national report highlights the efforts by Barbados to fulfil the mandates of the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

INTEGRATION OF PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AMERICAS

To promote and/or optimize electrical interconnection and foster the development of renewable energy generation in the Americas

The Government of Barbados is committed to promoting sustainable energy practices both on the supply side, mainly using renewable energy sources and on the demand side, by encouraging energy efficiency and energy conservation as a means to reduce the country's dependency on fossil fuels, enhance security and stability in energy supply, improve the economy's competitiveness and achieve greater environmental sustainability.

One of the major challenges faced by Barbados is its too high dependency on fossil fuels which risks undermining the country's competitiveness and its economic and social development. A significant percentage of the country's electricity generation is fossil-fuel based. Power generation represents the main use of fuel in the country (50%) followed by transport (33%). Barbados produces some oil through the state-owned Barbados National Oil Co., but domestic demand (10,000 barrels per day) greatly exceeds local supply (less than 800 barrels per day). During the period 2003-2013, Barbados' average annual fuel import bill stood at BBD\$542.306 million which was in excess of 7% of GDP. The importation of petroleum products therefore represents a significant expenditure and drain on Barbados' foreign exchange reserves.

The Government's energy policy therefore seeks to increase the share of economically viable renewable energy in Barbados' energy mix and to achieve savings in the country's consumption of electricity as well as efficiency in the use of non-electric energy use especially in transportation.

Structural reforms in the energy sector are being undertaken as part of a broader exercise within the Government's Barbados Growth and Development Strategy. It is also being done within the context of the country's effort to transition to a Green Economy. One of the driving forces in establishing a Green Economy is the Government's desire to reduce the importation of fossil fuels.

Barbados will attempt to replicate with other renewable energy systems what the country has achieved successfully with solar water heaters. Barbados has the fifth highest penetration of solar water heaters in the world of over 33%.

In an effort to support renewable energy and energy efficiency as one of the engines of the economy, the Government has established an extensive system of tax and other concessions. The Government is further seeking to restructure the economy, in part through the

development of new technical skills in this area with a view to creating hundreds of “green jobs”.

In a land scarce country fortunate to enjoy a tropical climate all year round, there has been the thrust to facilitate the erection of solar electricity systems on the roofs of commercial and government buildings and houses. This initiative has resulted in a multitude of projects which will provide public buildings including schools, polyclinics, community centres, police stations and fire stations with solar photovoltaic systems. Some of these systems are intended to provide emergency power during disasters to assist the country in disaster risk management.

The Government has not limited itself to generating electricity from the sun alone, but is pursuing a diversified energy mix in the transformation to a green economy. The roadmap comprises projects which include the construction of a waste to energy plant as well as the conversion of biomass into electricity at a sugar factory.

Other projects and programmes currently in progress include the exploration of the use of ocean energy for power generation, the procurement of electric vehicles, the distribution of energy efficient lights for households, the retrofitting of Government buildings with LED lights in addition to the replacement of the over 25,000 streetlights with LED lights. A National Sustainable Energy Policy and Road Map for the energy sector will also be completed in 2016.

Furthermore, a new regulatory regime has been established in the form of the Electric Light and Power Act to facilitate the sale of electricity to the grid from renewable energy resources. The electric grid currently has an estimated cumulative installed capacity of approximately 9 Megawatts of intermittent renewable energy (mainly solar electricity systems) with another 11 Megawatts pending from independent power producers (IPPs). The utility is also in the process of establishing a 10 Megawatt solar photovoltaic farm.

In lending assistance to the private sector, Government has established a low interest fund to provide financial and technical support for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

These initiatives are all being undertaken within a comprehensive public awareness programme of the promotion of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation in the island.

Against this background, Barbados has established a new target of 50% of power generation to be derived from renewable energy by 2020 and a current target of 22% increase in energy efficiency by 2020.

To foster increased connection of telecommunication networks in general, including fiber optic and broadband, among the region's countries, as well as international connections, to improve connectivity, increase the dynamism of communications between the nations of the Americas, as well as reduce international data transmission costs, and, thus, promote access, connectivity, and convergent services to all social sectors in the Americas.

In the mid to late 1990s, it became evident to Government that in view of the rapid developments in the telecommunications industry, including Barbados' commitment in 1997 on telecommunications under the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services, Barbados had to reform its telecommunications legal and regulatory framework.

Consequently, in December 2000, the Government of Barbados, in its Green Paper on Telecommunications Sector Policy, identified the overall policy objectives as follows:

- providing access for customers to basic telecommunications services in accordance with Universal Service Obligations;
- establishing competitive telecommunications prices;
- promoting state-of-the-art telecommunications technology which facilitate the provision of services comparable to those offered in developed countries;
- encouraging continued investment by offering a reasonable rate of return to investors;
- providing a reasonable and equitable basis for new telecommunications service providers to be able to enter the market and in the long-term thus allowing competitive market forces to assist in price setting and regulation; and
- promoting a more efficient and responsive regulatory environment for communication services.

These policy objectives form the basis for the establishment of the (current) Telecommunications Act which replaced the 1991 Telecommunications Act. The current Telecommunications Act was established:

“to ensure inter alia

- (a) *the establishment of a framework for authorising the ownership and operation of telecommunications networks;*

- (b) *the provision of telecommunications services on a competitive basis allowing the widest possible access to those services at an affordable rate;*
- (c) *the prevention of unfair competitive practices by carriers and service providers in the management of telecommunications under this Act, the Fair Trading Commission Act and the Utilities Regulations Act; and*
- (d) *the overall development of telecommunications in the interest of the sustainable development of Barbados, taking into account the introduction of advanced telecommunications technologies and an increased range of services and the preservation of public interest and national security.”*

The establishment of the Telecommunications Act signalled the start of the implementation of the sector liberalization process, during which four (4) Mobile Telecommunications licences were issued, five (5) International Telecommunications licences, three (3) Domestic Telecommunications licences, seven (7) Internet Service Provider licences and many other smaller (value-added) categories. However, due to certain forces including market forces, the sector is going through a consolidation phase, which has accelerated in the last twenty months.

In approximately two years, the sector has seen the fixed (Domestic and International) telecommunications market effectively moving from five (5) competitors (LIME, Columbus, Telebarbados, Karib Cable and Digicel) to three (3) (LIME, Columbus and Digicel). However, following the acquisition of Columbus by Cable & Wireless Communications, the market now has two players, Cable & Wireless (Barbados) Ltd. and Digicel.

Ever since full liberalization of the telecommunications sector, Barbados has witnessed dramatic growth in its telecommunications and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services sector. Indeed in the recently published International Telecommunications Union’s (ITU) 2015 edition of the “Measuring the Information Society” report, which publishes the annual ICT Development Index (IDI), Barbados is ranked 3rd behind the USA and Canada in the Americas and 29th in the World. Also, it should be noted that Barbados has significantly improved its IDI score from 6.04 in 2010 to 7.57 in 2015. Below are some key indicators that reflect the status of the Barbados Telecommunications/ICT landscape and status.

- Island-wide 4G Mobile networks with plans to establish LTE networks in the coming months.
- Fiber Optic Network(s) that practically cover the entire island.
- 327,090 mobile subscribers (greater than 100% penetration).
- 77,158 Broadband subscribers.
- 135,775 Landlines.
- 16 FM radio stations.

- 1 AM radio station.
- 4 Internet Service providers.

In addition to the above, the new Barbados Internet Exchange Point has been fully installed and will be formally launched in January, 2016. Also, Barbados has started work in collaboration with several international agencies in the establishment of a National Cyber Security Framework and strategy and the establishment of a National Cyber Security Incidence Response Centre.

POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND INEQUITY

Early childhood care, education, and development

The provision of high quality pre-primary education for all children at the Early Childhood Education (ECE) level continues to be a top priority for the Government of Barbados. To this end, access to ECE for all children has been improved and expanded over the last decade. The policy of provision of public ECE has ensured that no child from a vulnerable group or no disadvantaged child would be excluded from receiving quality early childhood care and education in Barbados.

Currently, there are ten public nursery schools that cater to students in the 3 – 4 years age category. Six of these pre-primary schools were established in the ECE Expansion Project which was started in 2005. In addition, pre-primary education is offered in all public primary schools as well. While the Government of Barbados provides the general financing for this expansion programme, the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation has established a partnership with the Maria Holder Foundation to facilitate the financing of the construction and establishment of three new Nursery schools in the 2015-2017 period.

Protecting children from economic exploitation and from any tasks that may interfere with their education and integral development, according to the principle of the effective abolition of child labour, which is contained in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998); as well as preventing and eradicating the worst forms of child labour according to Convention 182 of the ILO (1999)

Barbados has embarked on a programme of sensitization of the national community on the issue of child labour and related matters. This initiative commenced in November 2014 with a Government Information Service radio interview with the Chief Labour Officer addressing the issue. A series of public service announcements are planned for release on radio and television.

Raising awareness about the adverse effects of adolescent pregnancies on the integral development of the adolescent and their offspring, as well as fostering their health and well-being

The matter of Adolescent Health is currently addressed by the Ministries of Health; Culture, Sports and Youth; and Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (METI) and the Barbados Family Planning Association.

The Ministry of Health is in the process of finalizing the Draft National Adolescent Health Policy of Barbados which is designed to provide a blueprint for comprehensive plans, programmes and services for the adolescent population. The draft policy recognises that investment in adolescent health is essential for attaining and maintaining a favourable national health profile, and its goals are outlined as follows:

- Collect appropriate data to inform the development and revision of relevant policies, laws and programmes;
- Ensure adolescents have access to appropriate information and comprehensive education and skills training to adequately prepare them for a healthy transition into adulthood;
- Train adolescents, healthcare workers, teachers and other key stakeholders to promote and administer appropriate healthcare for adolescents;
- Foster multi-sectoral partnerships among relevant stakeholders to address adolescent needs;
- Provide health care services that are affordable, acceptable and accessible to all adolescents; and
- Create a safe and supportive environment to facilitate the implementation of health programmes to benefit all male and female adolescents.

The National Youth Policy, approved by the Cabinet of Barbados in February 2012, outlines a framework for action on youth development and identifies key strategy areas including the family, core values and lifestyle diseases. One of the goals of the policy is to ‘enable young people to tackle lifestyle diseases, especially HIV/AIDS’.

However, there is an inherent conflict in accessing healthcare services. The age at which adolescents can legally consent to sexual intercourse is 16 years, but the legal age at which reproductive health services and commodities can be accessed is 18 years. This gap in accessing quality sexual and reproductive health services presents a barrier to comprehensive healthcare and the Youth Policy seeks to address this discrepancy by recommending the amendment of relevant legislation to align the age of consent with the age of access so that young persons, from age 16, have the right to obtain sexual reproductive services and to get tested for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) without their parent’s consent.

School-based sexual and reproductive health education is provided at primary and secondary

schools through the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum, and jointly delivered by the Ministries of Health and Education.

The Barbados Family Planning Association also provides adolescent services through a Youth Advocacy Movement and a Youth Drop-in Centre. These programmes allow adolescents to participate in peer counselling, educational outreach, and advocacy. Youth are therefore offered tools to assist them in making informed decisions and thus improve their quality of life. The Council for the Disabled focuses on providing Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services through its 'SRH WINDOW', ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to counselling, referrals and medical services.

To combat poverty, extreme poverty, hunger, inequality, inequity, and social exclusion through public policies that promote decent, dignified, and productive work; sustained economic growth; income growth; and access to comprehensive and quality education, health care, and housing, in order to achieve sustainable development with social justice in the Americas

Decent, Dignified and Productive Work

The Government of Barbados has developed and amended enabling legislation to ensure that its workforce enjoys decent, dignified and productive work and that those in the informal sector enjoy basic rights and conditions.

Such legislation includes:

- The Employment Rights Act which seeks to confer on persons new employment rights. For employees, the right to be consulted before they are laid off or placed on short time; the right, if dismissed for redundancy or laid off, to priority rehiring in certain circumstances; the right, where employment has ended, to a certificate giving particulars of the employment including, where the employment ended by dismissal (should the employee so wish), a statement of the reasons why he was dismissed; the right not to be unfairly dismissed; the right to register a complaint of unfair dismissal and for the Employment Rights Tribunal, which has been established to determine issues relating to employment rights, to make a determination on such matters.
- The Shops Act and the Holiday with Pay Act have been amended to address the issue of working conditions.
- Amendments have also been made to the Safety and Health at Work Act, and new legislation in the form of the Anti-discrimination Bill and the Sexual Harassment Bill

are currently being formulated.

- The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development (MLSD) continues to oversee the implementation of provisions related to those International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions which have been ratified by Barbados. MLSD also works closely with the competent authorities of the various conventions to monitor activities related to these instruments and to ensure that the country remains compliant.

Quality of Education

Barbados continues to place considerable emphasis on human and social capital development through significant investments in education and related services. The Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation and educational institutions at all levels, strive to provide conducive learning environments to ensure the inculcation of appropriate knowledge, skills, and competencies among all learners. Major areas of focus are the expansion of Early Childhood Education (ECE), the integration of Information Communication Technology in education, the enhancement of the quality of education at the primary and secondary levels, technical and vocational education and skills development, teacher training and teacher preparation and the expansion of access to tertiary education.

Over the period 2000-2015, Barbados continued to provide significant investment in educational, social and other support services to ensure that all children from birth to age 16 have equal access to education. These include free textbooks at the primary level, a subsidized textbook loan scheme at the secondary level, free travel on state-owned buses, a subsidized school feeding programme, a school uniform grant, free health care and subventions and bursaries to Government-Assisted private schools.

In Barbados, the concept of quality of education articulated within the Dakar Framework for Action has been embraced. While quality is not framed and defined specifically in the national legislation, at the central administration level, emphasis has been placed on policies and programmes that focus on the characteristics and learning outcomes of students, the training and competence of teachers, the process of pedagogical delivery by teachers and their interaction and impact on learners, appropriate and relevant national curricula, effective school leadership and good governance and equitable and adequate resource allocation.

Since the goals of universal primary and secondary education have been achieved, a focus on the quality of the education system provides a better assessment of the provision of education services at all levels. Such areas include the following:

- Academic qualifications of teachers
- The proportion of professionally trained teachers in the teaching service - In the area of professional development, the Erdiston Teachers' Training College offered a range of In-service professional certificate courses over the period since 2000. Some of the courses included the Vocational Teachers' In-service Training, Early Childhood Education, Special Needs Education and Physical Education. Throughout the period, a pre-service Introductory Course for Novice teachers was also offered.
- Maintaining pupil-teacher ratios –Barbados can be regarded as having excelled in this performance indicator

To reaffirm our commitment to advance towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promote the financing of projects and programs to disseminate best practices in the communities that are most behind

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development designs and implements programmes and projects that address the following:

The National Assistance Programme

The National Assistance Programme is offered by the Welfare Department. This programme provides assistance to poor and vulnerable citizens who are unable to earn a living to support themselves and their dependents because of illness, injury or other special circumstance. The National Assistance programme has two components:

- i. Monetary Assistance/Cash Transfers: This allows poor and vulnerable individuals to meet their daily needs; and
- ii. Assistance-in-Kind: This comprises the provision of food vouchers, dentures, spectacles, clothing, hearing aids, prostheses, furniture, the facilitation of burials, the payment of house and land rents and utility bills – water and electricity.

The National Assistance Programme endeavours to provide an opportunity for needy citizens to meet their needs and improve their social condition through the provision of financial assistance and assistance in kind.

Poverty Reduction Empowerment Programme

The Poverty Reduction Empowerment Programme (PREP) provides skills training to clients of the welfare department to facilitate their personal development and give them an opportunity to utilize these marketable skills to elevate themselves from a status of dependency to independence through employment. This programme responds to the realization that it is not enough to simply provide the poor and vulnerable with hand-outs but it is also vital that they are provided with opportunities to develop and expand their capabilities and lift themselves out of poverty. PREP aims to enhance personal and social development; increase knowledge and skills; promote the transfer of learning; promote job retention; and enhance and developing self-efficacy.

Identification – Stabilization – Enablement – Empowerment (I.S.E.E.) Bridge Pilot Project

The Country Assessment of Living Conditions (CALC) is a national study which was conducted in 2010 using quantitative and qualitative research to assess the current conditions affecting the welfare of people living in Barbados. The study indicated that despite a large number of social services offered to reduce poverty many individuals have been unable to break the cycle of poverty and as a result there are large numbers of poor multi-generational households. The I.S.E.E. Bridge project aims to reduce intergenerational poverty, using the household as the focal point of intervention to improve the overall quality of life of poor and vulnerable household members. This programme represents a paradigm shift in the efforts to reduce poverty in Barbados and it moves away from the traditional emphasis of “stabilizing” to that of “empowering” the poor and the vulnerable. The intervention focusses on four critical areas:

- i. Identification/Assessment: Where the poor and vulnerable are identified and their needs assessed.
- ii. Stabilization: The immediate needs are addressed.
- iii. Enablement: Where skills to survive are imparted.
- iv. Empowerment: Where individuals are imbued with the capacity to succeed and excel in society.

The overall objective of the project is to Build a Road for Individual Development towards the Goal of Empowerment (BRIDGE).

The programme is built on seven pillars of intervention, namely; i) Personal Identification, Health Promotion, Education and Human Resource Development, Employment,

Income/Social Benefits, Housing Conditions and Family Dynamics. Minimum conditions are attached to each pillar which household members are required to meet before graduating from the programme. This process is supported by intense psycho-social support.

MDG 2 – Achieve universal primary education

Since the 1970s, Barbados attained universal access to primary education and this has been maintained. There have been consistently high levels of pupil participation by both sexes which has corresponded with high completion rates and high effective transition rates for pupils from primary education to secondary education.

MDG 3 – Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

The Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) is the national machinery responsible for the integration of gender in all national policies and programmes. The BGA functions to mainstream gender and to ensure the integration of gender and development into all areas of national development plans and policies so that women and men can benefit equally from existing opportunities.

Gender mainstreaming is an integral component of the Bureau's activities. A number of training and sensitisation programmes are implemented to expand gender awareness and promote social change at the community level which will remove barriers to the attainment of gender equality. Gender sensitivity programmes are also implemented within primary and secondary educational institutions to increase awareness of gender issues among children with a view to promoting harmonious future generations.

A major accomplishment of the Bureau of Gender Affairs is the National Policy on Gender, which will form the framework of the major work of the Bureau over the next five years. The development of the policy is in the final stages and the policy document should be completed by 2015. This policy will act as the guiding framework through which gender perspectives are being brought to the forefront of national planning, legislation, programmes and activities in order to advance development.

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

Antenatal and child-health services in the polyclinics and the Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care Units at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were instrumental in improving infant survival rates. Nurses received specialist training in neo-natal care to complement these

services.

Perinatal conditions and congenital abnormalities were the leading cause of death among children under 1 year old. Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (less than 1 year) was 10.7 in 2012 while neonatal (0 to 27 days) infant mortality rate was 8.3, and the post-neonatal (28 days to <1 year) infant mortality rate was 2.5.

The health of infants and children is dependent on controlling the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases and Barbados has been successful in meeting international targets in this area. In 2013, Barbados was awarded the Caribbean Public Health Agency shield for excellent surveillance for immunization diseases under the Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI). The country continues to maintain zero cases of polio, neonatal tetanus, measles, rubella, yellow fever and congenital rubella syndrome. Over the past two decades immunization coverage has been consistently high, between 90-93%.

New vaccines added to the EPI include Hepatitis B, Haemophilus Influenza, Pneumococcal and Varicella. The most recent of these, the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, was included in the immunization programme in January 2014. Initially girls eleven years and over in twenty-three (23) secondary schools were given the vaccine and preparation is now being made for the inoculation of a second cohort of girls.

The programme for the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) started in Barbados in 1995. Prior to its implementation, HIV transmission rates to infants exposed to HIV was 27.1%. However, by 2012, HIV transmission rates were reduced to less than 1%.

MDG 5: Improve maternal health

Barbados has maintained low maternal mortality rates with six maternal deaths recorded between 2007 and 2009 resulting in a maternal death rate of 0.8 per thousand live births. Enhanced continuity of care is being articulated in ongoing revisions of established antenatal guidelines. Protocols for identification of high risk pregnancies have also been developed and implemented. All pregnant women have access to ante-natal and post-natal care which is provided through the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, eight polyclinics and two out-patient clinics. All births and post-partum care for mother and child are attended by trained health professionals. There have been no reported cases of congenital syphilis in the last seven years. Barbados continues to provide technical assistance in Paediatric care to its Caribbean neighbours.

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

HIV/AIDS

Given its significant achievements, the Barbados HIV/AIDS programme is regarded as a model in the Caribbean region. This success is now augmented by the universal availability of antiretroviral treatment for individuals living with HIV, resulting in a significant reduction in mortality and improved quality of life for affected individuals and their families. Added to this is the reduction in mother-to-child transmission, with no reported cases since 2007. This success has been achieved in conjunction with international and regional cooperation.

Transmissions continue to trend downwards with 138 new HIV cases recorded in 2012. At the end of 2012 there were 2,024 people living with HIV, and the HIV prevalence in 15-49 year olds for 2012 was estimated at 1.2%. There has been a reduction of AIDS mortality rates from 50% to less than 10% and Barbados has achieved universal access to treatment. All donated blood is screened for HIV as part of the Blood Safety Programme at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

A National HIV Testing Policy was developed, launched and disseminated to all stakeholders in 2013. A Rapid Testing Pilot Project was implemented to expand access to HIV testing services in Barbados and the service is now being offered routinely at select polyclinics. In 2013, national guidelines were updated according to WHO global and regional guidelines.

An initiative to strengthen the health sector's response to HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) through integration of services and community involvement is slated to be implemented by 2017. This initiative, estimated at a total cost of \$ 20,651,320 is being funded through a Co-operative Agreement Project by the World Bank, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the United States Centre for Disease Control.

The National Strategic Plan for HIV Prevention and Control 2014-2020 was approved for implementation, and its major focus is the prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections. Activities under this Plan are carried out by the National HIV/AIDS Commission, and are designed to benefit key populations at higher risk, and people living with HIV (PLHIV). Under this programme, the Ladymeade Reference Unit (LRU) Laboratory was established as a fully developed functioning molecular suite providing clinical services including immunophenotyping for Leukemias and Lymphomas.

The LRU, a specialty facility offering outpatient medical care, was opened in June 2002 and comprises a multi-disciplinary clinic and laboratory. In keeping with international best practices, the clinic provides Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) for PLHIV.

The laboratory facilitates assessment and monitoring of PLHIV by measuring CD4 counts and HIV-1 RNA (or Viral Load) levels. Through the LRU, Barbados now has the capacity to act as a resource centre for the region in the treatment and control of HIV and other diseases.

The anti-retroviral therapy programme has been responsible for the decline in the AIDS case fatality rate, as well as the prevention of mother-to-child transmission in Barbados. Data from the case-based surveillance system positions Barbados to undertake the certification process to verify achievements, thereby placing us among the first English Speaking Caribbean countries to have achieved regional targets. Specifically, these achievements translate into the following milestones:

- Significant reduction in newly diagnosed HIV infections during the period 2001-2010.
- Significant expansion of HIV care and treatment services through decentralized testing.
- Referral to care, care and treatment expansion and sustained high coverage, currently estimated at 86% of those who need it.
- Reduction of AIDS mortality rates from 50% to less than 10%.
- Reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to 2% or less. Barbados has no reported cases of transmission of HIV from mother to her child in the last four years.
- Reduction of the incidence of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to 0.3 cases or less per 1000 live births.
- Reduction of the incidence of congenital syphilis to 0.5 cases or less per 1000 live births. Barbados has had no reported cases of congenital syphilis in the last seven years. Additionally, our programme includes Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) within family planning and STI and HIV prevention services.

Malaria

Malaria is not endemic in Barbados but active wetlands surveillance continues for the vector of this disease.

Other Diseases

Barbados' Tuberculosis Control programme has been designed and executed based on World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and WHO STOP TB partnerships global plan. The indicators and targets set for 2015 (incidence rate, prevalence rate, mortality rate and case detection rates) have been achieved, in addition to targets for the needed response to address the specific challenges of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and the TB/HIV co-epidemic. The TB control programme has also enhanced the surveillance activity at port of entries.

There were (4) four confirmed cases of TB in 2012, and (5) in 2013. Laboratory services and requisite training has also been enhanced.

Dengue fever is endemic in Barbados but there was a trend downwards for 2013 with 1,140 confirmed cases and an index below two. Vector control strategies, including source reduction and chemical control, remain a principal prevention strategy with continued inspections of premises, investigations of mosquito complaints and maintained surveillance at sites, including ports of entry and wetlands. At August 2014 there were 100 confirmed cases of dengue fever, representing a reduction of over 90% when compared with the 1,100 cases reported at August 2013.

MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development

In terms of health, Barbados has developed global partnerships with a number of organizations with the aim of strategically strengthening its health service system and enhancing delivery of programmes and services.

HIV/AIDS World Bank Project

In addition to the development of the HIV/AIDS programme, cooperation through the HIV/AIDS World Bank Project is also directed at developing health information systems (HIS) and services and bringing them in line with international standards, including the obligations to World Health Organization (WHO) regulations.

To date a health data dictionary (HDD) consultancy has been completed and the dictionary developed. A data governance structure has also been established and Cabinet has approved the use of World Bank procedures to acquire an electronic HIS. The Ministry is also currently investigating surveillance software in collaboration with PAHO.

Caribbean Public Health Agency

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is the new single regional public health agency for the Caribbean. It was legally established in July 2011 by an Inter-Governmental Agreement of which Caribbean Community Member States are parties. The agency began operation in January 2013.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems are critical components for the development of comprehensive national health sector strategic plans. To facilitate this development, Barbados has partnered with CARPHA to conduct M&E training for programme heads. Basic and

advanced training in M&E techniques has been delivered and CARPHA is currently working with specific departments in the design and implementation of M&E plans.

In addition, CARPHA is the repository for mortality surveillance in the region and the Ministry provides the organization with annual mortality reports for Barbados.

The Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS

The Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP) comprises CARICOM states as well as regional and international partners. The partnership aims to scale up the response to HIV/AIDS in the region.

The Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network

The Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network (CHART) was established in 2003 for the purpose of contributing to systematic capacity development among institutional and community-based health care workers. Healthcare workers in Barbados have been trained through this initiative.

Centre for Disease Control

Centre for Disease Control (CDC) of the United States of America has added value to the laboratory strengthening exercise now being undertaken in Barbados. A project to amalgamate the individual laboratories has been developed to achieve economies of scale and enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in the operations of services carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, the Leptospira Laboratory and the Ladymeade Reference Laboratory. The Government of Barbados has secured funding for this project from the State Department of the United States Government through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The CDC has also assisted with surveillance efforts in relation to identifying high risk groups and the management of infectious diseases.

To promote economic growth with equity and social inclusion by strengthening cooperatives, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, including cultural industries, in addition to grassroots economic initiatives and other production units, innovation, and competitiveness in the countries of the Americas

Barbados Human Resource Development (HRD) Strategy

The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development (MLSD) is collaborating with the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (METI) and the European Union (EU) to implement the Barbados Human Resource Development (HRD) Strategy 2011-2016. This strategy defines a comprehensive, multi-sector programme that seeks to harmonise HRD efforts and realize the vision of “an efficient, well-coordinated, effective, knowledge-led, and demand-driven HRD system responsive to global conditions and Barbadian aspirations”. Parliament approved the HRD strategy in 2010 and the implementation of the HRD Strategy officially began in January 2011 with the signing of the Financing Agreement between the Government of Barbados (GOB) and the European Union (EU).

The HRD Strategy adopts a holistic approach to human resource development which facilitates strategic linkages among stakeholders and defines the policy and programme interventions, outputs, outcomes, and indicators for the following five (5) broad strategic pillars:

1. Creation of an enabling environment for human resource development through institutional strengthening and capacity building;
2. Development of an internationally-recognised national qualifications framework;
3. Development of a demand-driven professional development and training services;
4. Rationalisation of knowledge management systems and improved information access;
and
5. Enhancement of research to improve innovation, entrepreneurship, and development capacity.

A significant element of Pillar 5 is the improvement of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through the creation of policies and programmes which would enable them to contribute in a more meaningful way to economic development. To this end, the Government is working with the small business sector in its efforts to build capacity and develop and implement mechanisms which would allow prospective entrepreneurs and existing business owners access to micro-financing. An analysis of best practices in SME development in other jurisdictions is also being undertaken.

It is expected that with the successful realization of these goals, Barbados will achieve increased international competitiveness, sustainable growth and reduced poverty. The

Barbados HRD Strategy will also assist in addressing the current symptoms of the downturn in the economy while mitigating the risk of longer term impacts by providing a stronger, more flexible and responsive infrastructure for human resource and skills development and improving employability and overall productivity.

Given the multifaceted and integrated approach to HRD under the strategy, the programme's delivery will be spread across multiple organizations. To support the necessary coordination of the programme, the HRD Programme Implementation Unit has been set up under the MLSD and it is headed by a Programme Coordinator. A Programme Steering Committee was established to provide technical support and oversight throughout the life of the programme.

Conset Bay Pilot (Fisheries) Project

The Ministry of Environment and Drainage, through the Policy Research, Planning and Information Unit and the Cabinet Approved Conset Bay Pilot Project Governance Committee, continues to make a case for on-going work under the Conset Bay Pilot Project, Phase II. There is scope for collaboration between the Organisation of American States, the community-based Conset Bay Advocacy Group and Barbados National Union of Fisher-folk Organisations (BARNUFO), in further enhancing an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries and terrestrial resources management at the community level within this water-shed.

It should be noted that the community has already developed and promulgated its own Local Sustainable Fisheries Code to promote responsible fisheries development and management. Opportunities for the enhancement of economic diversification through traditional and non-traditional fisheries and water-shed management initiatives have been identified, and would benefit from financial and technical support going forward.

Cultural Industries Development Act

The Cultural Industries Development Act was proclaimed by the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Hon. Stephen Lashley, M.P. on February 1, 2015. The Act recognizes the vital contribution of the cultural industries to sustainable development and seeks to promote the cultural industries through the provision of incentives for cultural workers. Specifically it provides for the establishment of a regulatory framework to facilitate and encourage the sustainable growth and development of the cultural industries, funding for cultural projects and duty-free concessions and income tax benefits in respect of cultural projects and related matters.

To strengthen public-private partnerships, and partnerships with all stakeholders, to promote the reduction of poverty and inequality as well as the economic and social development of the communities in which they operate

Constituency Empowerment Programme

The Constituency Councils are facilitated through the Constituency Empowerment Programme (CEP). The Constituency Councils operate in thirty (30) constituencies across the island as delineated by the Electoral Boundaries Commission. The CEP aims to enhance the capacity of citizens to participate in the development agenda and contribute to positive change in their lives and community. Therefore, this programme ensures a ‘bottom-up’/participatory approach to development and provides a platform for socio-economic upliftment and advancement.

The programme strengthens civil society and the economy by empowering communities to negotiate with government and influence public policy, providing a check on the power of government. Also, through its contribution to participatory development this programme contributes to the effectiveness and efficiency of Government’s social development programmes and ensures sustainability. The Constituency Councils act as direct links between the local community and central government and allow citizens to have direct involvement in activities which will foster their personal development and contribute to the country’s development.

Community Development Programme

The purpose of the Community Development Programme is to mobilize and sensitize community members to the resources, skills and opportunities in their community and assist them in taking necessary actions to improve their socio-economic conditions. The projects and programmes offered at community centres across the island seek to expand the skills and capacities of the poor and vulnerable, enhancing their capability to earn a living and improve their social conditions. The programme also promotes the development and empowerment of communities, community-based and non-governmental organizations and serves as a catalyst for national development.

The programme offers a variety of skills training courses at community centres across the island to develop a spirit of self-reliance, entrepreneurship and enterprise development, leading to sustainable development and the reduction of poverty. An additional component of this programme is the Community Technology Programme (CTP). In this highly technological era, the CTP makes computer training and internet access readily available to

the citizens of Barbados to improve technological literacy.

Cultural Industries Development Authority

The Cultural Industries Development Act which was proclaimed in February 2015, makes provision for the establishment of a Cultural Industries Development Authority. The Authority is responsible for promoting, assisting and facilitating the efficient development of the cultural industries and designing and implementing suitable marketing strategies for the effective promotion of the cultural industries.

The Act also encourages public-private sector partnerships and partnership with all stakeholders through the establishment of the Cultural Industries Development Fund which is managed by the Authority. The purposes of the Fund are to:

- 1) finance cultural projects and programmes that are designed to develop the cultural industries sector and train cultural entrepreneurs, cultural practitioners, cultural administrators and cultural workers;
- 2) provide cultural entrepreneurs with non-repayable grants to enable them to participate in local and overseas events, workshops and seminars and allow for training, marketing and export, and product development; and
- 3) provide repayable grants and loans for cultural projects and provide equity financing to allow investors to inject funds into cultural businesses and in return to take an equity share in the capital of such businesses.

To reaffirm our support for the objectives set out in the Declaration of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) and its Plan of Action, by promoting equal opportunity for, and non-discrimination of, persons with disabilities through their participation in our countries' social, political, economic, and cultural development processes, in order to ensure their well-being and the full enjoyment and exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms

In 2013, the Government of Barbados ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Since ratification, a committee has been established to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the UNCRPD, demonstrating the commitment of the Government to ensure that the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are met.

The National Disabilities Unit (NDU) provides a wide range of services and programmes which

seek to create supportive environments, promote equal opportunities and empower PWDs. The NDU provides PWDs with assistive/mobility devices; recreational activities, transportation services and infrastructural adjustments which allow for better accessibility in their homes.

To advance in strengthening the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons through promotion of public policies, programs, and services, thus safeguarding their dignity, their physical, mental and social well-being, and their quality of life, bearing in mind efforts underway at the inter-American level to draft a legally binding instrument for the protection of the rights of older persons and consideration of the issue at the international level

Barbados has a population of 280,000 people and the highest percentage of persons aged 65 and over within the English Speaking Caribbean. According to the Barbados Statistical Service, the percentage of the population over 65 in 2010 was 11.3% and the projected population of older persons over 65 in the year 2025 will be 18%. Hence there is a need to develop, implement and strengthen active and healthy ageing policies and programmes which would allow older persons to remain in good health and “maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies”.

The National Policy on Ageing for Barbados was approved in Parliament in June 2013. The policy is grounded in a philosophy “that embraces the principles of opportunity, equal access, inclusion and active ageing”. The Policy is guided by the International Principles emanating from a number of conventions, especially the Madrid Political Declaration and International Plan of Action adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing by the United Nations in 2002. In the Madrid Political Declaration and International Plan of Action, the three priority areas of consideration are: Older Persons and Development; Advancing Health and Well Being; and Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environments.

The Barbados National Policy on Ageing has as its priority directions: Financial and Economic Security for Older Persons, Health, Mental Health and Health Care, The Physical and Built Environment, the Social Environment, Legislation, Research and Institutional Arrangements.

The National Policy also outlines urgent, short, medium and long term recommendations and the agencies and stakeholders that are slated to address these priority areas. In May 2014, the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development established a Committee with its relevant stakeholders to monitor the National Policy on Ageing and to advise the Government on relevant matters relating to this policy. The Committee is also responsible for formulating a Plan of Action to implement the urgent, short, medium and long term recommendations of this policy.

Inherent in this responsibility, is the Committee's role of examining the status of older persons in Barbados, with the view to removing, in a phased series of actions over the next ten years, existing barriers in critical areas that may hinder the full participation of older persons in mainstream society.

Policy Initiatives

The following policy initiatives provide for and protect the Rights of the Elderly:

National Assistance Board

The National Assistance Board provides a range of programmes for the enhancement of well-being and the empowerment of the growing elderly population. Among some of the programmes provided are the Home Care Programme and the Seniors' Recreational Activities Programme. The Home Care Programme is a non-paying service that ensures the elderly are assisted with daily living skills such as cooking, washing, cleaning, grooming and shopping. Participation in social activities and the promotion of active ageing is met through the Seniors' Recreational Activities Programme which offers opportunities for elderly citizens to engage in arts and crafts, exercise, travel, picnics and other social activities.

Alzheimer's Disease

In the area of health, Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of Dementia that affects many older persons in Barbados and across the world, and there is still no cure. In Barbados, with the current ageing of the population, the number of persons with Alzheimer's is rapidly increasing along with its impact on society. The Barbados Alzheimer's Association, National Assistance Board and the National Committee on Ageing continue to collaborate and sponsor relevant seminars and activities in an effort to raise public awareness of the disease.

HIV and the Elderly

Worldwide to date, there has been very little written about the impact of HIV on the older adult population. However, a more recent examination of this issue has revealed that older persons are increasingly affected by HIV, either directly on a personal level, and a much larger number are affected indirectly, through knowledge of, and interaction with family or loved ones.

The Government of Barbados is dedicated to giving the highest priority to addressing the issues of HIV. The raising of public awareness is done through conducting seminars and workshops geared at disseminating information, minimizing at-risk behaviour through the changing of attitudes and practices.

In September 2013, during Senior Citizens' month, The Barbados Senior HIV Drama Group launched a production entitled, "Take Warning: Granny's Say on HIV and Sex". This drama group is made up of cast members, ages 50-92 who take the message of the impact of HIV and the Elderly across Barbados.

Elder Abuse

The Government of Barbados has joined the international response by observing June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is in support of the United Nations International Plan of Action acknowledging the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.

Research has shown that elder abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation are issues facing older persons around the world. World Health Organization data suggests that 4 to 6 % of older persons suffer from some form of abuse, however a large percentage goes unreported. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, it is believed that for every case reported, twenty three (23) cases go unreported.

In Barbados, a draft Elder Abuse Protocol is in place to sensitize the public to the issue of elder abuse and conditions which are conducive to this phenomenon. Currently, a Committee made up of relevant stakeholders is developing a plan of action for this Protocol.

Conferences

Since 2002, the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development and the National Assistance Board have been active participants in the following intergovernmental conferences:

- Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, December 2007 in Brasilia, Brazil;
- Economic Commission for Latin America follow-up meeting of the Brasilia Declaration, "For the Rights of Older Persons", October, 2009 in Santiago, Chile;
- Third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the

Caribbean, May, 2012 in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The Government of Barbados will make every effort to participate fully in the strategic review process under the Madrid Political Declaration and International Plan of Action Adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing by the United Nations in 2002 and attend meetings, conference and work groups related to this plan.

Despite the many contributions in society that older persons have made, there still exists discrimination, abuse, violence and marginalization. All relevant stakeholders in Barbados will need to continue to work together to respond to the challenges facing older persons in our society. The Government of Barbados is committed to playing a role in addressing these challenges in a comprehensive and collaborative manner for the benefits of all older persons in Barbados and by extension, all Barbadians.

To promote the gradual formalization of the informal economy, recognizing its heterogeneous and multidimensional nature, through policies such as registration and information systems to facilitate formalization and access to credit, social protection mechanisms, improvement of occupational health and safety, strengthening of labour inspection, and effective enforcement of labour laws

The informal economy may be described as that part of the economy that operates outside structures of taxation, social security, the collection of statistical information and labour standards as well as regulation. Establishments which operate in the informal economy usually adhere to most laws and are not engaged in major criminal activity.

Barbados recognises informality as both a product of the market system we operate and a driver of the market system. The informal sector can be seen as an element of the economy that is rich in potential, to spawn, incubate and nurture businesses enabling them to develop and grow into the more formal structures.

Mechanisms for transfer into the formal economy

A policy approach of support and assistance to persons in the informal sector has been adopted. While it is recognised that the informal sector will always be with us, we are unfailing and steadfast in continuing efforts to promote the formalization of those in the informal sector to ensure that persons in that group are able to enjoy decent work and access the same benefits of persons employed in the formal sector. In that regard the following mechanisms are in place to assist those in the informal economy to transfer into the formal economy:

Social Security

All self-employed persons are required by law to be insured under the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme. Self-employed persons are entitled to Sickness, Maternity, Funeral, Invalidity, Old Age and Survivors' Benefits.

Business Incorporation

To officially establish a business name, one completes a one page form and pays a small fee. A limited liability company can be established with relative ease.

Entrepreneurship business training and development - Small businesses are encouraged to become involved in relevant organisations, namely the Small Business Association and the Barbados Association of Vendors (BARVEN). The Government provides technical assistance to young business persons through its Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme which facilitates the development of businesses in areas such as business planning, marketing and budgeting.

Enterprise Growth Fund

Medium-sized enterprises can access financial resources through the Enterprise Growth Fund, which also manages sectorial funds such as the:

- Agricultural Development Fund
- Energy Smart Fund
- Industrial, Investment & Employment Fund
- Innovation Fund
- Small Hotels Investment Fund
- Tourism Loan Fund
- Fund Access

Raising Operating Standards

Health authorities in Barbados work continuously with persons in the informal sector to raise the standards of their operations. The aim is to attain and maintain certain basic standards that ensure the maintenance of good public health, and engenders confidence in

the quality of products offered by small operators, particularly those in the food and catering industry.

Physical Facilities

The Government provides physical facilities and amenities at strategic locations throughout the country, to facilitate the operations of small scale operators.

Labour Standards

Labour standards are applicable to persons engaged in employment regardless of the size of the organization. It is recognized however, that the oversight of labour standards in the informal sector presents particular challenges. On-going public education activities, administered by the Labour Department, contribute significantly to reaching persons in the informal sector as it relates to labour standards.

To take action on the conditions that negatively impact the health of our people taking into account the 2011 World Conference on the Social Determinants of Health

The World Health Assembly resolution WHA62.14 identified the following three overarching recommendations of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health:

- 1) To improve daily living conditions
- 2) To tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources; and
- 3) To measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action

The Conference further reaffirmed the political will to make health equity a national, regional and global goal and to address current challenges including eradicating hunger and poverty; ensuring food and nutritional security, access to affordable, safe, efficacious and quality medicines as well as to safe drinking-water and sanitation, employment and decent work and social protection; and protecting environments and delivering equitable economic growth through resolute action on social determinants of health across all sectors and at all levels.

Specific commitment was made to:

- Adopt better governance for health and development
- Promote participation in implementation and development
- Further reorient the health sector towards reducing health inequities

- Strengthen global governance and collaboration
- Monitor progress and increase accountability

These tenets agreed on at the 2011 World Conference on the Social Determinants of Health are being actively incorporated in policies, plans, programmes and services delivered by the Government of Barbados.

To develop and strengthen, as appropriate, strategies and policies on youth employment, as well as to promote technical and vocational education and training opportunities in order to improve and increase the entry of young people into the labour market, the quality and stability of their jobs, as well as their social protection

Youth Mainstreaming Programme

The Youth Mainstreaming Programme is one of four programming channels of the Division of Youth in the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth. The programme was launched in June 2008, and is a special project that was approved by the Cabinet of Barbados. The programme seeks among other things, to empower Barbadian young men and women to realizing their fullest potential, while promoting the building of social capital. This involves the development of the human resources necessary to function in a knowledge based service economy and the creation of appropriate family, community and society values. It calls for a firm commitment to developing the institutional framework and facilitating those aspects of social interaction that will unlock the potential of all Barbadian young people.

The Youth Mainstreaming Programme partners with recognized educational institutes to facilitate the training and development needs of Barbadian youth including Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Barbados Community College - Hospitality Institute, University of the West Indies – Errol Barrow Centre, Barbados Vocational Training Board and the Digital Media Programme.

Endless Possibilities: Job Attachment and Mentoring Programme

Endless Possibilities is a developmental programme conducted in three phases and focuses on offering young people ages 16-24 an opportunity to: gain meaningful work experience and training needed to prepare them to function effectively and efficiently in the work place, create the right type of work ethics among unattached or disengaged youth, offering them a second chance in some instances and offer psychosocial support from a team of trained counsellors throughout the period of the programme.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

To reaffirm that disaster risk management is a priority within our national public policies and development strategies

The Government of Barbados has established the institutional mechanism for the supervision of the emergency management system. The Emergency Management Advisory Council, chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs, recommends policies, programmes and activities to enhance the emergency management programme.

The Government of Barbados through its Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) is currently engaged in the Coastal Risk Assessment and Management Program (CRMP), which is aimed at building resilience to coastal hazards (including those associated with climate change) through enhanced conservation, and management of the coastal zone. The CRMP's overall objective is to build capacity in integrated coastal risk management in Barbados, incorporating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in development planning, control and monitoring of the coastal zone.

In addition, the CZMU through the Technical Steering Committee on Coastal Hazards is engaged in the following:

- The development of an Early Warning System - contributing to the regional network of sea level and seismic detection;
- The investment in and development of public warning systems;
- The development of models for tsunami inundation and coastal flooding from other hazards.

Barbados has been hosting the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC) since its establishment in September 2013. Through the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the CTIC coordinates capacity building activities for the entire Caribbean region in developing and operating interoperable end-to-end tsunami warning and mitigation systems.

To date, Barbados as well as some of the other countries of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CaribeEWS) has benefitted from a number of programmatic activities of the institution. The regional grouping (ICG/CaribeEWS) continues to be a critical and important resource for all 48 countries and territories within the Caribbean and Atlantic basins. Barbados was the Chair of the organization until 2015.

The Technical Standing Committee on Coastal Hazards is continuing its work in ensuring the

implementation of a National Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Programme which focuses on developing an End-to-End system which comprises hazard assessment, monitoring and detection, warning communication and dissemination as well as public awareness and education for the tsunami and other coastal hazards.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) of the MED leads the implementation of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan which was approved by Cabinet in January 2013 along with the Dispersant Use Policy. The Plan establishes a national preparedness and response system for oil spills at sea and on land and aims to prevent, mitigate or minimize adverse environmental impacts of oil pollution. In addition to the plan, the National Oil Spill Response team has had several training sessions and Environmental Sensitivity Maps have been developed for the island. These activities have been achieved due to the strong partnership between government regulatory agencies and oil industry stakeholders.

The EPD has also developed a Cabinet-Approved Chemicals Emergency Response Plan. Under this initiative, 18 individuals from EPD, Ministry of Health and the Barbados Fire Service, have recently received training in Emergency Response, with two Fire Officers being trained to Instructor Level.

In relation to the International Health Regulations of 2005, the Government of Barbados has developed an Action Plan to ensure compliance with these regulations. The plan covers Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear health threats, and is led by the Ministry of Health with significant input from the EPD.

To work with subregional, regional, and international financial institutions with the aim to strengthen financing mechanisms for adaptation to climate change, mitigation, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, with a view to reducing and managing disaster risk and strengthening the resilience of communities and nations that are vulnerable to or affected by disasters

The Climate Change Program of the MED, in collaboration with key stakeholders has initiated the process of enhancing national governance mechanisms in relation to access international climate finance by way of the following:

- The Adaptation Fund: Barbados has identified a Designated Authority in the person of the Permanent Secretary of the MED, whose role is to endorse accreditations and applications of national and regional implementing entities as well as proposals for adaptation projects in Barbados.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF): A National Designated Authority (NDA) has been

established for Barbados. The Director of Finance Mr. Martin Cox is the NDA, while Dr. Louis Woodroffe, Permanent Secretary of Economic Affairs, is the Focal Point for this Fund. Under the GCF, Barbados has requested assistance in accessing and utilizing the fund in the following areas:

- The creation of a strategic framework for interaction with the fund; and
 - The development of an initial pipeline of projects and programme proposals.
- The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB): the CDB has developed a Disaster and Climate Change Programme and has allocated funds from the European Investment Bank, to provide low interest rate loans for Private Sector investment in Renewable Energy initiatives.

ACCESS TO AND USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

To promote the more intensive application of ICTs in health, with a view to improving the efficiency of our countries' health information systems, including accurate record keeping, and of sub-regional and regional alert systems for public health events of international concern; the expansion of continuing education programs for health workers and the population; and access to information on health services in those centres and communities that need it the most

The Government is upgrading the Health Information System (HIS) with support from the World Bank. An upgraded HIS will facilitate improved evidence-based decision making, policy development and research.

To date a health data dictionary consultancy has been completed and the dictionary developed to provide the framework for a comprehensive HIS. A legislative review has been conducted to strengthen the regulatory framework. Similarly, an assessment of training needs has been conducted.

Barbados introduced the new Health Information System – MedData, in 2014, which will strengthen the capability for management of patient records, clinician order entry, supply chain management, appointments and discharges, and the generation of health statistics. While MedData is being rolled out at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and at two of eight polyclinics, there is a mandate for its expansion to the remainder of the public healthcare system by June 2016.

CITIZEN SECURITY AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

To continue implementing comprehensive policies, strategies, and actions that seek to prevent crime and insecurity, taking into account links between security and development, as well as to address all causes of violence and promote peaceful coexistence and resolution of disputes among citizens, with special attention to youth and other vulnerable groups

Since 2008, the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit (formerly the National Task Force on Crime Prevention) has strengthened its crime prevention campaign in schools and communities. Information garnered from research is used to develop crime prevention programmes targeting at risk populations. Several partnerships were established with the Royal Barbados Police Force, judiciary, schools, churches and international organisations to build the capacity of the department as well as to share best practices for crime prevention. The programmes developed include:

- 11+ programme - targets children who sat the Common Entrance Examination and are transitioning to secondary school;
- Dispute Resolution and Conflict Mediation programme - targets at risk students in Secondary school;
- No Witness, No Justice programme - targets children in Secondary School;
- Girls talk and Boyz to men - target teenagers with gender relevant information on crime and sexuality;
- Art Competition - primary and secondary school students are encouraged to depict through art crime prevention strategies that could be implemented in schools and communities.

In November 2014, the United Nations Children’s Fund collaborated with the National Task Force on Crime Prevention and co- sponsored a one-day workshop for 300 secondary school students on the topic of cyber-crimes.

Addressing the behavioural challenges presented by students across secondary schools, especially, those that have been deemed to be “at-risk” continues to be a priority for the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. In recent years, there has emerged a growing trend of students who have developed very dysfunctional behaviours that significantly challenge regular schools and that require more long-term intervention and rehabilitation approaches. In this regard, the Horizon Academy Alternative Day School was opened in January 2015 for students of compulsory school attendance age who are either expelled from school or by virtue of their deviant behaviours cannot be retained in the regular school setting. The school offers an alternative curriculum which is based on the national curriculum. The emphasis in the programme is to teach students the types of skills they need to become productive members of society while engaging in meaningful life practices.

To implement policies containing measures to prevent, investigate, punish, penalize, and eradicate sexual and gender based violence

The Government of Barbados has embarked on a number of measures to protect women from the scourge of domestic violence. One such measure has been the review of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act 1992. This review has led to a number of proposed amendments to the Act which seek to strengthen its relevance to the growing incidences of domestic violence.

In addition to a review of the Act, Government has also sought to strengthen the institutional response to domestic violence. With this objective in mind, the Government has established the Family Conflict Unit within the Royal Barbados Police Force in 2013. This initiative has served to create a greater impetus for domestic violence interventions among the (constabulary) police officers.

Since 2012, Barbados has implemented the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme, a sixteen-session curriculum for men designed to encourage and support them in achieving a violence-free lifestyle. It is premised on the principles of victim safety and perpetrator accountability. The PfP programme asserts that violence is intentional and that abusive behaviours are chosen methods for gaining control of persons and situations. The programme uses a psycho-educational approach in order to convey that violence is unacceptable and that violent habits can be broken. The key message is that violence is a choice, that participants are responsible for their choices, and that they alone are accountable for the consequences of the actions they take.

To strengthen the system of hemispheric cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, taking into consideration the economic purpose associated with this phenomenon, through mechanisms that support the strengthening of the necessary national capacities, as appropriate, to confront these threats in a concerted manner, taking advantage of experiences and available resources from existing networks, bodies, and mechanisms, in accordance with international and domestic law

United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime

Barbados ratified the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and three supplementary protocols in October 2014, namely the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children; the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

The Convention provides a framework to effectively prevent and combat transnational organised crime. States Parties are legally bound to implement provisions such as the obligation to criminalise participation in an organised criminal group, money laundering, corruption and the obstruction of justice. The Convention also outlines measures to be implemented by States Parties to prevent, investigate and prosecute these crimes.

The three Protocols contain specific provisions aimed at preventing, combating and punishing trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition.

Barbados signed the instruments to become a State Party to the Convention and its Protocols in September 2001.

Arms Trade Treaty

Barbados became a signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on September 26, 2013 and is currently taking the necessary steps to ratify this legally binding instrument which is intended, inter alia, to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.¹

To strengthen the administration of public security by governmental agencies through promotion of citizen and community participation, institutional coordination, and training and education of civilian and police personnel, with full respect for the rule of law, domestic law, gender equality, and human rights

Various training opportunities have been provided to the Royal Barbados Police Force through the Government of the United States and Canada in areas such as forensics, polygraph examinations, and crisis negotiation.

To promote and strengthen citizen and community participation in the promotion and sustainability of citizen security policies and programs

Although community policing and the Neighbourhood Watch Programme continue to be at the fore-front of crime prevention initiatives, a range of specific crime prevention strategies are currently in use by the Force as a counter to increase criminality. Most of these measures fall under the rubric of situational crime prevention and include initiatives such as target hardening, high police visibility, property marking, environmental design, security audits and education.

¹ Barbados ratified the Arms Trade Treaty on May 21, 2015.

To strengthen our efforts to prevent and fight the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons, particularly of women, children and adolescents, and to promote cooperation among states to that end, respecting and fully protecting their human rights

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Barbados might be a destination country for the exploitation of workers from other countries within the region, with exploitation being in the form of prostitution or work in the night entertainment sector.

The National Task Force for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons was established in February 2012. The Task Force is directed by the Barbados Operations Guidelines for the Identification and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking and the Protection of Victims of Traffickers. The guidelines are linked to the United Nations Protocol and the objectives include the following:

- To provide guidance to all stakeholders in responding to suspected cases of human trafficking;
- To facilitate the successful investigation and prosecution of cases of human trafficking;
- To protect and assist the victims of such trafficking with full respect for their human rights;
- To promote cooperation among all stake holders in order to meet these objectives; and
- To encourage and facilitate the maintenance of a victim-centred approach by all stakeholders in the performance of their duties.

For many years, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) collaborated with partners in Barbados to counter human trafficking. The IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they refugees, displaced persons or other uprooted people. IOM also assists governments in the development and implementation of migration policies, legislation and administrative mechanisms.

In 2013, the IOM focused on a series of training courses aimed at building capacity of technical stakeholders in the Caribbean region to identify and assist victims of trafficking, and improve criminal justice efforts. More recently, in April 2014, the IOM sponsored a sensitization session for judiciary officials. Additionally, in June and November 2014, the IOM held two workshops aimed at strengthening institutional mechanisms for criminal justice. The workshops focussed on national plans of action and tools required to collect and analyse data. It also focussed on public awareness and memoranda of understanding as components of a national plan. These activities are part of a three-year regional capacity building project to combat human trafficking.