

UNDRR Inputs

2022 Report of the Secretary-General on Sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

UNDRR supports Caribbean countries to implement a multi-sector, multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. During the reporting period, UNDRR supported the development of disaster risk reduction plans in 10 Caribbean countries and territories¹, including the integration of biological hazards and lessons learnt from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Towards strengthening the knowledge base to support this work, UNDRR's 2021 Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and Caribbean contained a special section devoted to the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean.² In partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute, UNDRR conducted a study on the degree of coherence between disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA) and SDG plans and policies in 16 Caribbean countries.³ The study identified key lessons for national governments and regional actors and forms the basis for future work in supporting coherent SDG-DRR-CCA approaches in the Caribbean.⁴ To further promote coherence between CCA and DRR in the Caribbean, UNDRR trained representatives from six countries on integrating DRR considerations in National Adaptations Plans and CCA considerations on national strategies for DRR (Country Work Programmes).⁵

UNDRR is also working to increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and support a transition to Impact-based Forecasting based on historical disaster risk data in the Caribbean through the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative, in cooperation with the World Bank and World Meteorological Organization. Towards Impact-based early warning systems, UNDRR has worked with national and local governments in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago to establish loss and damage databases that include historical information and, based on these findings, develop studies on the future impacts of hazards.

At the local level, UNDRR is providing assistance to governments in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago through the Making Cities Resilient 2030 Initiative, including providing support to develop and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies.⁶ In 2021, the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, held under the theme "Building Resilient Economies," was held in Jamaica, the first Caribbean country to host a regional platform. The Ministerial Declaration from the Regional Platform recognizes the specific challenges facing Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean region, requiring a concerted integration of disaster risk reduction into recovery plans and development planning.⁷ Lastly, the implementation of the Caribbean Safe Schools initiative was advanced

¹ Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

² <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-roamc-regional-assessment-report-disaster-risk-latin-america-and-caribbean-rar>

³ Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

⁴ A link to this document can be provided in June.

⁵ Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago

⁶ <https://mcr2030.undrr.org/>

⁷ https://rp-americas.undrr.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Ministerial%20Declaration_EN.pdf

in the Third Caribbean Ministerial School Safety Forum, held from 28 to 30 June 2022 and hosted by the Government of Sint Maarten, which provided an opportunity to reflect on challenges and provide forward-looking policy guidance to ensure all schools in the region are disaster-resilient.⁸

⁸ UNDRR will provide a reference to relevant documents, as well as forward-looking policy recommendations from this meeting, when they are available in June.