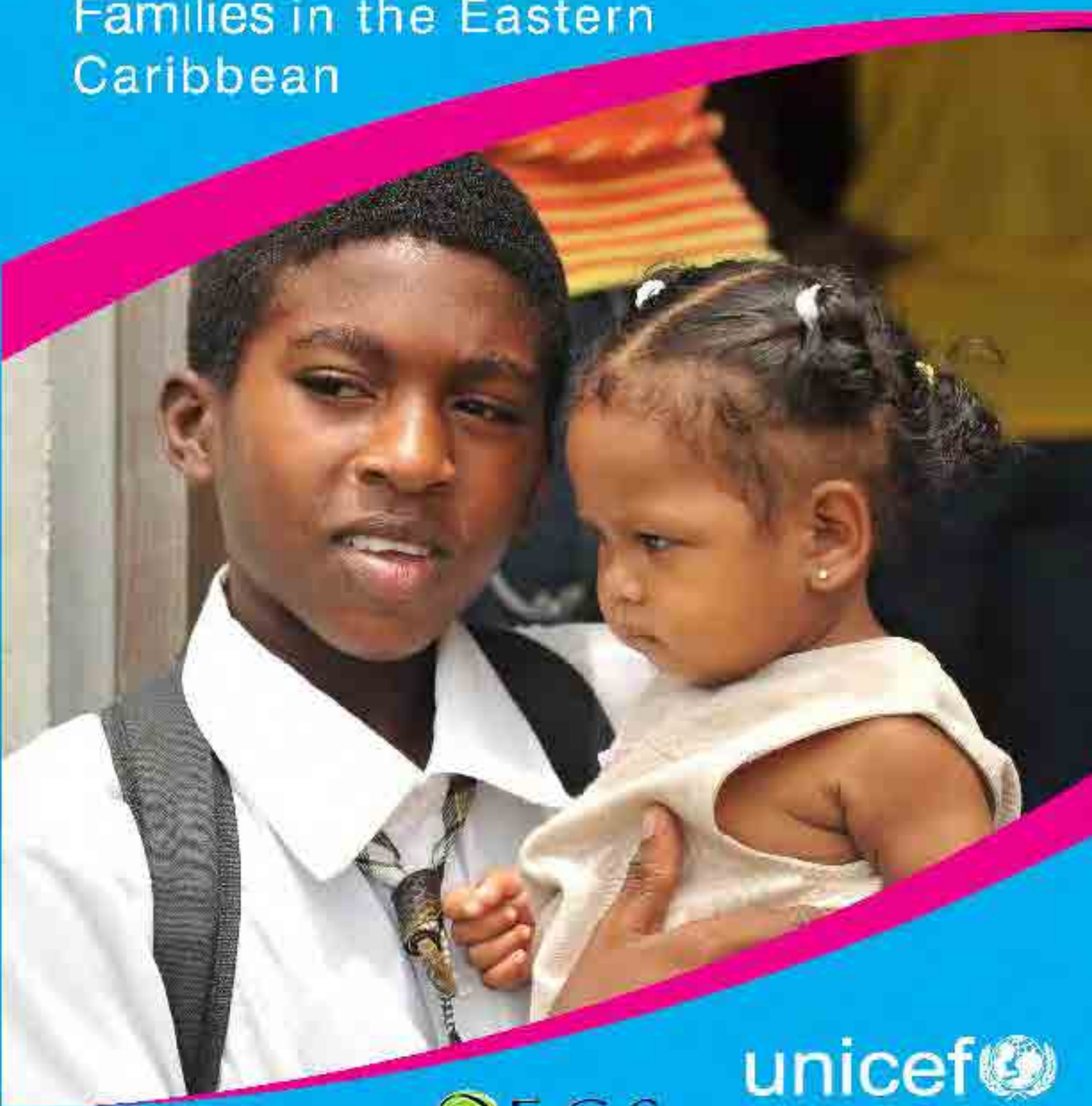


Situation Analysis

of Children and their
Families in the Eastern
Caribbean



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unite for children

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**SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES IN:**

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda,
Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica,
Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis,
St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
and Turks and Caicos Islands.

**UNICEF Office
for the Eastern Caribbean**

**Prepared by
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FOREWORD



The UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean is very pleased to present this updated Situation Analysis of children and their families in Barbados, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Evidence-based programming is a critical part of our Programmes of Cooperation with the 10 governments in the subregion and, notwithstanding some stark gaps in data availability, we see this study as an integral contribution to the enhancement of knowledge of children and their families in the Eastern Caribbean.

This Situation Analysis comes as part of the preparation for UNICEF's Multi-Country Programme for 2012-16. The programme will focus heavily on enhancing the availability of reliable disaggregated data and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for tracking the progress of all children as well as countries' compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Since our last report over four years ago, much has changed in the situations confronting children in the subregion. Chief among these has been the global financial crisis, which impacted Eastern Caribbean countries in a significant way, with no country in the subregion escaping the negative impacts of the prolonged economic downturn.

Additionally we have seen increased evidence of climate change; new patterns of migration, with growing evidence of some children being denied developmental and protection rights; educational systems struggling to keep abreast with technological advances and keep children, especially adolescent boys, connected to and in schools; as well as changing value systems.

Children typically bear the brunt of economic, social and environmental challenges and this Situation Analysis seeks to capture some of the impacts of these challenges on children and their families in the subregion.



However, even in the face of these challenges, and in the absence of critical data for some countries, it is evident that Eastern Caribbean countries have made laudable progress in securing the rights of their children.

Generally, most children living in Barbados, the OECS and the Turks and Caicos Islands are born healthy. They have access to basic social services – services such as health, universal primary, and in most cases secondary, education. Some countries have even extended their reach to quality early childhood education.

Progress toward the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals has been steady. Most countries are on track to achievement by the target date of 2015 even while acknowledging that factors such as environmental disasters, the prevailing HIV and AIDS situation and the fall-out from the economic situation could stall or even reverse some of these gains.

A thorough reading of this Situation Analysis highlights many areas in which the attainment of children's rights is challenged and where a determined effort must be made to secure an enabling environment for girls and boys in the subregion, particularly the most disadvantaged.

When we speak of the most disadvantaged in the Caribbean context we refer to an estimated 250,000 girls and boys from income poor families, as well as non-income poor children from rural areas and outlying islands within island states. This segment of the population includes those at risk of violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination - such as boys who have dropped out of school, street children, children in conflict with the law, children in institutions, children affected by migration, indigenous children in Dominica, children affected by HIV and AIDS and children with disabilities.

We are hopeful that this Situation Analysis will be used by all those interested in promoting child rights, including national governments; international, regional and national organisations; other UN agencies; donors; nongovernmental organisations; the media; and special interest groups and organisations whose mission is to join the campaign to create a better Caribbean for All Children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Olsen', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

TOM OLSEN
UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE
EASTERN CARIBBEAN



OECS WELCOME



Many countries have a complicated and chequered history with regards to public and private attitudes about children. Some of these historical attitudes still linger and are subtly manifested in a variety of actions that are taken (or not taken) both in public and in private.

Most of these historical attitudes can be captured or presented in one of two ways. The first is rooted in the notion of children being either the property of or extensions of their parents. The second is rooted in the perception of children as incomplete adults, or as beings in a state of weakness, ignorance or passivity who will eventually grow in strength, knowledge and capacity to act.

The first of these attitudes find continued manifestation when child sexual abusers make private “arrangements” and pay the parents of their child-victims for physical and emotional scarring that may last a lifetime, whilst the second is manifested in the persistence of the notion of “children are to be seen and not heard” and hence, not included in decision making matters.

It has become clear that not all adults are benevolent and act in the best interest of children. Countries have therefore signed on and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as they recognize that children need special protections and have to be vested with a full range of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Unfortunately, ratification of the CRC has not led to an automatic cure of all that ails children. In fact, ratification of the CRC has led to new challenges of understanding children’s interest and how these interests affect how the society must respond to children’s needs. As a region we have been responding and have already made significant strides in education and health, meeting and surpassing MDG targets. Nonetheless, we still have a long journey to be travelled before we can eliminate the vulnerabilities which threaten the well-being of children and their families. As economies around the globe currently grapple with escalating food and fuel prices, as



well as the stability of the financial architecture, we in the OECS region are supporting each other by deepening our integration, even as we remain concerned about the limited fiscal space available to Member States which threatens to erode their ability to undertake further investments in education, child health care, job training, employment creation and hazard mitigation.

In the face of these challenges, Member States have been called upon to make important decisions without the benefit of reliable, comprehensive data. In the absence of such comprehensive data it has been challenging to ensure that the difficult decisions confronting regional leaders are also the correct decisions.

It is against this background that this Situation Analysis is both timely and welcomed. It has compiled, analysed and presented data, which reaffirms the duty of care we all have to the more vulnerable members of our region. It identifies actions which the state, communities, and individuals can undertake to help correct some historical deficiencies and ensure we develop a truly inclusive Caribbean nation.

Dr. Len Ishmael
Director General
OECS Secretariat



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	-	Antigua and Barbuda	CDB	-	Caribbean Development Bank
ACP	-	African, Caribbean and Pacific	CEDAW	-	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	CDEMA	-	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
Bdos	-	Barbados	CFNI	-	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
BECO	-	Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Office	COHSOD	-	Council for Human and Social Development
BVI	-	British Virgin Islands	CRC	-	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CARICOM	-	Caribbean Community	CRSF	-	Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS
CARIFORUM	-	Caribbean Forum of African Caribbean and Pacific States	CSEC	-	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate
CCRIF	-	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility			



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CSME	-	CARICOM Single Market and Economy	PANCAP	-	Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV
CWIQ	-	Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire	PAHO	-	Pan American Health Organisation
Dom	-	The Commonwealth of Dominica	SIDS	-	Small Island Developing States
DYA	-	Department of Youth Affairs	SITAN	-	Situation Analysis of Women and Children
ECCB	-	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank	SKN	-	St. Kitts and Nevis
ECD	-	Early Childhood Development	SL	-	St. Lucia
ECLAC	-	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	STD	-	Sexually Transmitted Disease
EVI	-	Environmental Vulnerability Index	SVG	-	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
FDI	-	Foreign Direct Investment	UK	-	United Kingdom
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product	UN	-	United Nations
Gren	-	Grenada	UNAIDS	-	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
HDI	-	Human Development Index	UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
HFZ	-	Healthy Fitness Zone	UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNGASS	-	UN General Assembly Special Session
IDA	-	International Development Association	UNICEF	-	United Nations Children Fund
IDB	-	Inter-American Development Bank	UNIFEM	-	United Nations Development Fund for Women (now UNWOMEN)
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund	UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
IPCC	-	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	UNWOMEN	-	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
Km²	-	Square Kilometres	USA	-	United States of America
MD	-	Millennium Declaration	USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals	USD	-	United States Dollar
NOAA	-	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	WHO	-	World Health Organisation
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organisation			
NYC	-	National Youth Council			
OAS	-	Organisation of American States			
ODA	-	Overseas Development Assistance			
OECS	-	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States			
OECD	-	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development			





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Situation Analysis provides updated information and analysis of the situation of children and their families in 11 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Eastern Caribbean - Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Turks and Caicos Islands - and identifies a number of areas in which urgent action is needed in order to ensure that children's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

A major challenge in preparing the Situation Analysis was the availability and accessibility of social data, which was uneven from country to country. A critical issue for all countries is the lack of systematic up-to-date data with which to monitor implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN CONTEXT

The economic environment in the Eastern Caribbean is a very challenging one. Despite their middle to high income status and their favourable human development rankings by the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, these countries are characterized by high levels of poverty and inequality and significant levels of unemployment. Government responses are constrained by reliance on narrow economic bases that are highly susceptible to changes in the international sphere and by the need to service high levels of public debt - most of which exceed prudent guidelines.

The financial crisis, which began affecting the region in 2008, has exacerbated the inherent structural weaknesses in the economies and has brought additional stressors for many vulnerable children and their families. These include increased unemployment, reduction in household consumption and increased debt and delinquencies. These factors, among others, could lead to reduction in quality of health care, increases in domestic violence and increases in transactional sex, thereby increasing risks of exposure to HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

These countries are also vulnerable to a variety of hazards including tropical cyclones, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, droughts, floods and hazardous waste. These vulnerabilities are a result of a combination of factors including their size, geographic location and physical characteristics on the one hand, and the limited adaptive capacities of some segments of the population and the limited risk management capacities of the governments and populations on the other. These factors are all exacerbated by the additional threat of climate change and its potential negative consequences for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



The progress of Eastern Caribbean countries towards achievement of the children and women's rights stipulated in the CRC, CEDAW and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been mixed. Significant progress has been made in some areas, while many outstanding gaps remain in others. Many of the countries have not realigned their national policies and laws with the CRC, although OECS Model Family Legislation has been produced to assist countries with the harmonisation of national laws with the CRC. The majority of countries have also not signed, or ratified, the two Optional Protocols to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. In addition, some countries are not fully compliant with their reporting responsibilities under the Convention.

SURVIVAL RIGHTS

Child Health

The indicators for the survival rights of children are generally good in all the countries, except the British Virgin Islands. The main problems currently affecting the health status of children in the subregion are the low birth weight of babies, low incidences of exclusive breast feeding of babies less than six months old and nutritional deficiencies.

These problems have been caused mainly by the lack of an enabling environment to support early initiation of prenatal care for pregnant teenagers; socio economic policies and conditions which lead to the early return of mothers into the work force; and poverty and lack of knowledge which compromise good nutritional practices.

Maternal Health

Maternal indicators are also generally good, but there are other problems negatively affecting the health of women. These include diabetes, hypertension, obesity, HIV and AIDS, as well as domestic violence. Anecdotal evidence suggests the main contributing factors are poverty and lack of knowledge, which lead to poor lifestyle

choices and the historical social and economic dependence of women on men, increasing their vulnerability to sexual and physical abuse.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Early Childhood Development

There are significant gaps in the availability, access and quality of early childhood services across the Eastern Caribbean. These include early stimulation, development monitoring with early intervention and early childhood education. These gaps are mainly as a result of an absence of policy frameworks and initiatives to guide the development of the sector.

Primary Education

Primary education is universal throughout the region, thus attaining MDG 2. However, the lack of remedial teaching, early detection and specialized programmes for children with learning disabilities and the continued use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline are problems currently being encountered in the region.

The primary school education sector also lacks a comprehensive strategy to address the varying academic abilities and interests of all students, which could lead to underperformance.

Secondary Education

Access to secondary education has generally increased in the region over the past decade, with many countries providing universal access. Despite this achievement, there are weaknesses in secondary education which are reflected in the limited ability of the secondary schools to produce graduates who are capable of progressing to tertiary level education and who can be successfully integrated into the job market.

The main contributing factors are the absence of a comprehensive strategy to address the varying academic abilities and interests of all students and the lack of responsiveness of the education system to the dynamic environment in which students operate.



Tertiary Education

Access to tertiary education in the region is limited and enrolment is consequently low. This reflects the inability of the governments to finance tertiary education at the levels required.

Adolescents at Risk

Adolescents face many challenges growing up within the Eastern Caribbean. These challenges include early initiation of sexual activity and its consequences, male marginalization, mental health issues, obesity, alcohol and drug abuse, and migration.

The underpinning causes of these problems include a cultural norm of early initiation into sexual activity; lack of clear public policy on education for teenage mothers, girls and boys with disabilities and migrants; inability of stakeholders to develop and implement a successful strategy to address the issue of male marginalization; lack of systematic programmes aimed at identifying and assisting all children in crisis both in the short and long term; poverty; and the absence of a public policy on food and nutrition.

PROTECTION RIGHTS

A significant number of children in the region are exposed to various kinds of abuse and exploitation, including sexual abuse; neglect and abandonment; physical abuse as a means of discipline; child labour; and child trafficking. The juvenile justice system is also inadequate and mitigates against the possibility of rehabilitation of young offenders.

Factors contributing to these problems include a culture of acceptance of early initiation into sex; the weak administration of justice on sexually related matters which discourages reporting and prosecution of sex offenders; weak support systems for handling perpetrators and victims of child abuse; lack of an effective truancy policy to mitigate against children being out of school;

poverty; and the absence of a child-friendly policy on migrant children.

Attempts to reform the juvenile justice system to bring it in line with international norms and standards have not made much progress in recent years.

PARTICIPATION RIGHTS

Active participation of children in decisions affecting their personal lives is minimal. The use of Students' Councils and Activity Clubs in the school system has seen only limited participation from students and opportunities for participation of adolescents through Government Ministries/ Departments of Youth have not had widespread success.

This is primarily because of cultural norms which do not actively encourage participation in the early childhood years or during adolescence. Such norms are reflected in the inadequate administration of the school-level opportunities and a weak institutional and administrative base for coordinating youth work at the national level.

PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

The difficulties in accessing data from the countries point to a significant institutional weakness, which hampers efforts at coherent policy development and implementation. Priority has to be placed on developing the relevant data collection systems and in building the capacity for collation, analysis and use of the data to inform decision-making. This data will allow for evidence-based programming in the areas of: aligning legal and policy framework with the CRC and CEDAW; improvement of survival, development, protection and participation rights; and vulnerability reduction.



1. INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNTRIES

This Situation Analysis provides updated information and analysis of the situation of children and their families in 11 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Eastern Caribbean¹. These countries are all located in the tropics, between 10.0N and 22.0N latitude and 59.0W and 72.0W longitude and straddle the boundary between the western Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea - from the Turks and Caicos Islands in the north to Grenada in the south - Fig 1.

The islands share a number of common characteristics, which are summarised in Table 1.1, viz:

- Small land masses ranging in size from 102km² in Montserrat to 751km² in Dominica;
- Small populations ranging from 6,000 in Montserrat to 273,000 in Barbados (2010);
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that ranges from US\$28M in Montserrat to US\$3.59B in Barbados².
- A common history of colonisation by European powers that has left its mark in the existing governance systems - independent states with Westminster style parliamentary systems in six states³, independent republic in one⁴, and British/Overseas Territories in three others⁵.

Fig. 1.1 - Map of Eastern Caribbean



¹ Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos Islands.

² Excluding British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands

³ Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

⁴ The Commonwealth of Dominica, which has replaced the British monarch as Head of State and instituted a President

⁵ British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands



- Stable democracies, with open and competitive democratic systems and strong opposition parties.
- Participation in regional integration mechanisms - eight of the 10 are members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and all have membership within the

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) - either as full Members or Associate Members. Both of these regional mechanisms have a strong focus on social development and programme in a number of areas that are compatible with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) priorities.

TABLE 1.1 - OVERVIEW OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Countries	Political Status	CARICOM Membership	OECS Membership	Land Area	Population	GDP (US\$M)	GDP/ Capita
Antigua and Barbuda	Independent State	Member	Member	442 km	89,000	1132	12,920
Barbados	Independent State	Member	-	431 km	257,000	3,595	14,050
British Virgin Islands	UK Overseas Territory	Associate Member	Member	151 km	28,213	857,001	41,193
Commonwealth of Dominica	Independent State	Member	Member	750 km	67,000	377	5,132
Grenada	Independent State	Member	Member	345 km	104,000	637	6,029
Montserrat	British Dependency	Member	Member	103 km	6,000	28	5,721
St. Kitts and Nevis	Independent State	Member	Member	269 km	52,000	545	10,988
St. Lucia	Independent State	Member	Member	616 km	174,000	946	5,496
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Independent State	Member	Member	389 km	109,000	583	5,335
Turks and Caicos Islands	UK Overseas Territory	Associate Member	-	430 km	36,605	632,052	17,263



2. OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Situation Analysis (SITAN) establishes the circumstance of children and their families at a given point of time with regard to the Millennium Declaration (MD), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It relates these to earlier situations to determine progress towards achieving the rights, identifies facilitating factors to build on and establishes constraints that need to be addressed to ensure progressive realization of the rights of children and women. Drawing on these, the SITAN assesses and identifies opportunities and strategies for future action, including allocation of scarce resources of Governments for effective coordination and optimization of budgets. It also serves as the baseline against which future progress (or otherwise) will be assessed.

This SITAN presents information on a set of indicators related to survival, development, protection and participation, which have been selected to highlight the condition of children (and of women) in the 11 countries covered by this report. It also provides an assessment of the status of each indicator and its impact on the realization of the rights of children and women.

A rights-based framework guided the assessment of these indicators. This framework, derived from the CRC and the CEDAW, views children and women as rights-holders. Under the overall umbrella of the MDGs and its progress and challenges, the SITAN provides a framework for understanding the latest information on the realization of the rights of children to survival, development, protection and participation.

3. METHODOLOGY & DATA

The methodology for the analysis involved the review and synthesis of existing quantitative and qualitative data. Completion of the SITAN required collection of a substantial quantity of data across the 11 countries. The availability

of statistical data was uneven from country to country. A critical issue for all countries is the lack of systematic up-to-date data with which to monitor implementation of the CRC and CEDAW. As a result, a primary source for data was the on-line databases of international agencies, including UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. This information was supplemented with available 2000 census data, poverty and welfare assessments, country reports on the status of implementation of the CRC and other reports and publications from relevant organisations and agencies.

The collection of economic statistics is often more institutionalized than social data. The lack of social data limits both assessment documents (such as the SITAN) as well as evidence-based social policy formation. The lack of standardized, credible, reliable and timely data in the subregion is due to the lack of structure in data collection processes and human resources. According to CARICOM/UNDP data deficiencies are related to¹⁰:

- a) Limited regular and consistent surveys;
- b) Limited technical capacity for data collection, analysis and primary research; and
- c) Limited financial and other resources to undertake regular surveys and poverty assessments.

The issue of standardization of a definition is a significant issue in the subregion, as it reduces country and regional comparability and limits trend analysis. There have, however, been steps towards the standardization of definitions by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) with the use of common methodologies and by the OECS for its member States in areas such as national accounts, balance payments, census, etc¹¹.

¹⁰ CARICOM/UNDP (2006) "Multi-Donor Programme to Support the Collection of Social Data for Poverty Assessment, Monitoring, and the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean through the Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean" p.6-7

¹¹ UN ECLAC (2005) "The Statistical Infrastructure of Caribbean Countries" p.25

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN CONTEXT





3. THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic environment of the Eastern Caribbean states has been heavily influenced by the negative consequences of the global financial crisis during the 2008 -2010 period. This has exacerbated the inherent structural weaknesses of these island economies, with resultant negative impacts on their economic performance and on the social and economic well-being of the children and families living in these countries.

The structural profile of these island economies is inter alia one of:

- Small, open economies, highly sensitive to developments in the global economy;
- High dependence on a single sector as the primary source of economic activity;
- High external debt burdens; and
- Dependence on overseas development assistance and foreign direct investment to underpin economic growth.

These structural characteristics have combined to create an economic environment of which the dominant features are:

- Annual national GDP and per capita GDP levels that qualify these countries for classification within the United Nations as “Middle Income” to “High Income” countries;
- Relatively slow rates of annual GDP growth;
- Inflation rates and trends that are influenced by developments in the developed world;
- High levels of income inequalities;
- High levels of poverty and indigence;
- High levels of unemployment;
- Dependence on remittances from nationals living in the developed world; and
- Significant migration.



3.1. STRUCTURAL PROFILE

3.1.1. *Small Open Economies*

Eastern Caribbean islands all have small, open economies with a high dependence on interaction with the external world to provide both critical inputs (including food) and markets for exports of goods and services. This makes them very susceptible to developments in these external markets, including those in the United States, Canada and Europe.

3.1.2. *High Dependence on Single Sector*

All the islands have a narrow resource base and rely heavily on a limited number of economic sectors as the main drivers of the economy. These sectors vary among the islands. Some examples of prevalent sectors in the subregion are: tourism in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis; agricultural exports in Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; financial services and tourism in the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands. With any global economic change, the severity of the effects on these countries will differ based on the extent of their dependence on the affected sectors.

3.1.3. *High Debt Burden*

All of the countries have significant levels of external debt. In 2008, the debt to GDP ratio in the OECS was an average of 90 per cent, with some islands being significantly higher¹². The IMF estimated that the debt to GDP ratio of St. Kitts and Nevis was 178 per cent - among the highest in the world.

This average represents an increase from 2006, when the total debt to GDP ratio in the OECS ranged from 40.4 per cent in St. Lucia to 108 per

cent in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada was 93.8 per cent and Dominica was 84.4 per cent¹³. The recommended benchmark set by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank is 60 per cent.

Outside of the OECS, the debt to GDP ratio in Barbados in 2008 was 98.7 per cent. The government projected that it would have increased to 102.3 per cent by the end of 2010¹⁴.

3.1.4. *Small Risk Averse Private Sector*

The Private Sector in the countries is relatively small and risk averse. Economic activities are focused primarily on service-oriented activities including tourism, banking, wholesale and retail trade. Involvement in social investment is limited and restricted to the largest of these entities.

3.1.5. *Reliance on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)*

Net inflows from foreign direct investment are important contributing factors to economic growth. These inflows have declined significantly in the majority of the Eastern Caribbean countries between 2007 and 2009¹⁵ - Table 3.1.

Another form of foreign reliance within the subregion is overseas development assistance. Governments rely on this foreign aid for both capital and recurrent expenditures, with the degree of reliance varying between countries. For example, Montserrat depends on foreign aid for approximately 80 per cent of its recurrent budget and 10 per cent of its capital expenditure, and Dominica depends on assistance for 75 per cent of its capital budget. In several cases, the availability of this assistance determines the parameters of service delivery within countries.

¹² World Bank Indicators (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/IDA/Resources/IDA-OECS.pdf>

¹³ World Bank Database (1999, 2005, and 2007) "World Bank Country At-A-Glance"

¹⁴ Government of Barbados' 2009/10 Budget Presentation

¹⁵ World Bank Database (1999, 2005, and 2007) "World Bank Country At-A-Glance"



TABLE 3.1 - NET FDI INFLOWS (US\$M)¹⁸

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009
Antigua and Barbuda	358.8	338.2	172.4	129.5
Barbados	604.8	233.2	286.1	289.5
Dominica	25.9	10.5	56.5	50.3
Grenada	89.8	51.6	143.2	90.9
St. Kitts and Nevis	10.7	134.5	177.9	133.6
St. Lucia	213.9	271.9	161.2	156.5
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	09.1	130.5	158.2	170.1

3.2. ECONOMIC POLICY

The approach to economic management in all of the islands is based on a model that separates control over fiscal and monetary policy. Monetary policy is controlled by Central Banks - a subregional Central Bank in the case of the OECS countries and a national Central Bank in the case of Barbados - while fiscal policy is the domain of the government.

The governments rely heavily on tax revenues and other fiscal measures to finance government operations, incentivise economic activity and provide infrastructure and other social services. This has proven to be a very challenging task and many governments have resorted to debt financing to maintain targeted levels of economic activity, while providing incentives to foreign investors to boost investment activity.

3.2.1. Investment in Social Services

In 1995, the governments of the Eastern Caribbean agreed upon the 20/20 Initiative, which

stipulated that 20 per cent of the government budget and 20 per cent of overseas development assistance from donor countries should be spent on basic social services. The level of commitment to this agreement varies across the countries.

3.2.1.1. Education

Public expenditure on education as a percentage of total government expenditure ranged from 11.76 per cent in TCI to 16.97 per cent Barbados - Table 3.2. As a percentage of GDP, Dominica contributed the most to education, while BVI contributed the least.

Health care expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure varies noticeably within the region from 16.49 per cent (Barbados) to 5.18 per cent (St. Kitts and Nevis) - Table 3.3.

¹⁸ UNDP (2009) "Social Implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the Findings of Seven Country Studies"



TABLE 3.2 - PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION¹⁹

Country	Public Expenditure on Education as % of GDP	Public Expenditure on Education as % of Total Government Expenditure
Barbados (2009)	4.66	16.97
British Virgin Islands (2009)	1.87	15.20
Dominica	5.12	n/a
Grenada (2009)	2.47	16.28
Montserrat	3.35	n/a
St. Kitts and Nevis (2009)	4.63	13.38
St. Lucia (2009)	3.43	13.78
St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2009)	4.11	16.32
Turks and Caicos Islands	n/a	11.76

TABLE 3.3 - PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH CARE²⁰

Country	Public Expenditure on Health as % of GDP
Antigua and Barbuda (2006)	10.40
Barbados (2009)	6.49
British Virgin Islands (2009)	6.33
Dominica (2006)	7.80
Grenada (2006)	9.00
St. Kitts and Nevis (2009)	5.18
St. Lucia (2009)	10.9
St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2009)	9.54

TABLE 3.4 - GDP GROWTH RATES (PER CENT)²¹

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Antigua and Barbuda	4.2	13.3	9.1	0.2	3.5
Dominica	3.4	6.3	4.9	3.5	0.8
Grenada	22.0	1.9	4.5	0.9	-6.8
St. Kitts and Nevis	5.6	5.5	2.0	4.6	3.0
St. Lucia	4.3	5.9	2.2	0.8	5.8
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2.1	9.5	3.4	1.1	-1.8



3.3. THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

The global financial crisis, which started in 2008, was characterized by the longest recession since the Great Depression of 1929-1932. This began with the collapse of the sub-prime mortgage market in the US and then developed into a financial crisis which affected financial institutions worldwide. This resulted in substantial deterioration in equity, income losses, and bankruptcies in the private sector, as well as a collapse of commodity prices and a decline in global trade. It was estimated that global economic activity contracted by approximately one per cent in 2009²².

There was reduced economic activity in the developed world, with high unemployment and reduced demand. The USA suffered extensively from financial strains and the decline of the housing sector.

There were indications that most of the developed countries were beginning to see signs of positive growth at the end of 2010. However, the recovery was not as smooth as expected, as growth remained sluggish, consumer demand remained weak in the United States and European governments were faced with high levels of sovereign debt.

3.3.1. *Economic Impact in the Eastern Caribbean*

In 2008, the crisis began to affect developing countries. In the Caribbean the effect was transmitted in three main ways - decline in tourist arrivals and expenditure, decline in foreign direct

investment and reduction in remittances from families abroad.

On a macro level, this resulted in contraction of GDP, reduced revenues, reduction in government spending, lower sales and bankruptcies within the private sector²³. On a household level, this resulted in reduced employment and income.

The region lags behind the US by between 18 and 24 months in responding to economic events. Recovery will therefore be slow, as the US and Europe struggle to regain consistent economic growth.

3.4. ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

3.4.1. *GDP Growth Rates*

The World Bank has classified Eastern Caribbean countries as middle to high-income countries²⁴, with six of them in the upper middle-income grouping²⁵ and two in the high-income grouping²⁶.

Most of the economies reflected modest growth between 2005 and 2007. The financial crisis negatively affected the economic performance resulting in declines in GDP growth rates, which deteriorated into negative growth in 2009 - Table 3.4.

The economies of the OECS currency union as a group contracted by 7.4 per cent in 2009 and are projected to contract by 2.4 per cent in 2010. Government revenues fell by 10.3 per cent during the same period²⁷.

¹⁷ UNICEF (last accessed 10 October 2011) http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/pub_implement2020_en.pdf

¹⁸ World Bank Indicators (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.KLT.DINV.CD.WD>

¹⁹ UNICEF (2009) "Status of Social Investment in Children in the Eastern Caribbean," Barbados

²⁰ IBID

²¹ ECCB Annual Report (2009/2010) - Annual GDP Growth Rate at market price based on constant local currency.

²² Caribbean Development Bank (2010) "Highlights of CDB's activities in 2009 and economic background and prospects"

²³ UNDP (2009) "Social Implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the Findings of 7 countries studies" p.18

²⁴ Economies are divided according to 2009 GNI per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method. The groups are: low income, \$995 or less; lower middle income, \$996 - \$3,945; upper middle income, \$3,946 - \$12,195; and high income, \$12,196 or more.

²⁵ Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

²⁶ Barbados and Turks and Caicos Islands

²⁷ Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (2011) "Annual Report 2009/2010"



3.4.2. Merchandise Trade

Merchandise trade, which is a major indicator of economic activity, recorded consistent declines during the period 2008 - 2009 - Table 3.5. This is consistent with decreased demand both in the USA and United Kingdom markets.

3.4.3. Inflation

Inflation rates in the region tend to fluctuate based on developments in the international markets. There were significant increases in 2008 over 2007 as a result of the increases in the price of food on the international market. In 2009, declines were recorded as a result of falling food and commodity prices - Table 3.6.

3.4.4. High Debt Servicing Requirements

The high debt burdens severely constrain the resources that governments have available for spending in other areas of the economy and create serious problems in meeting both capital and recurrent expenditure commitments. This was reiterated by the IMF report on St. Kitts and Nevis which stated that "interest payment alone represented 24 per cent of total government revenue in 2008, crowding out social and other development related spending and leaving little room for manoeuvre to respond to adverse shocks [...] interest payments are expected to swell from about eight per cent of GDP in 2007 to 15 per cent in 2014"²⁸.

TABLE 3.5 - MERCHANDISE TRADE (PER CENT OF GDP)²⁹

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Antigua and Barbuda	67.9	68.9	69.6	68.4	64.0
Barbados	65.4	64.9	64.1	63.8	64.1
Dominica	69.2	68.0	67.8	72.7	66.2
Grenada	64.2	67.5	65.4	67.5	47.8
St. Kitts and Nevis	55.8	59.4	60.5	65.25	45.5
St. Lucia	64.1	73.7	75.1	83.1	69.1
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	62.9	62.1	67.6	73.1	68.0

TABLE 3.6 - ANNUAL INFLATION RATES (PER CENT)³⁰

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Antigua and Barbuda	2.4	0.00	5.2	0.7	2.4
Barbados	6.1	7.3	8.0	8.1	3.6
Dominica	1.7	2.6	3.2	6.3	0.1
Grenada	6.2	1.7	7.4	5.2	-2.4
St. Kitts and Nevis	6.0	7.9	2.1	7.6	-0.7
St. Lucia	3.9	2.3	5.1	8.2	1.0
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	3.9	4.8	8.3	8.7	-1.6

²⁸ Excerpted from CARICOM Statement (April 12, 2010) to the Informal Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

²⁹ World Bank (last accessed 10 October 2011) <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/TG.VAL.TOTL.GD.ZS>

³⁰ World Bank (last accessed 10 October 2011) <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG>



3.4.5. Unemployment

Unemployment levels in the region have been relatively high as illustrated in Table 3.7. This has been exacerbated by the decline in tourist arrivals and foreign direct investment brought on by the financial crisis.

In the tourism sector, stay over arrivals declined, with double digit falls recorded by most destinations amid weak source markets and reduced airlift³¹ - Table 3.8. Hotel occupancy rates for St. Kitts and Nevis averaged 30 per cent for 2009, while in St. Vincent and the Grenadines the average was 45 per cent for the same period³². Table 3.8 - Change in Tourist Arrivals 2007-2009. Workers in Antigua and Barbuda had their hours reduced as occupancy levels declined.

There was also persistent weakness in FDI inflows for tourism related projects, which impacted negatively on construction activity

throughout the region³³. For example, the Four Seasons Hotel in Barbados suspended construction resulting in the loss of jobs for approximately 700 workers. In Grenada, a number of tourism-related projects were halted. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a number of telemarketing firms have had to shed staff resulting in the loss of 60 jobs. In St. Kitts and Nevis, electrical fixture manufacturing companies lost their contracts as the housing sector in the US declined.

This translated not only into higher levels of under and unemployment for families, but a general decline in economic activity based on sectoral linkages. For example, in Grenada and Barbados, unemployment increased to 37 per cent and 10.1 per cent respectively. In St. Lucia, Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis, unemployment rates were higher among women, in the context where a large percentage of households in the subregion are female-headed³⁶. However, in at least

TABLE 3.7 - UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS³⁴

Country	Unemployment (% Labour Force)
Antigua and Barbuda	7.0
Barbados	9.1
Dominica	25.0
Grenada	21.3
St. Kitts and Nevis	5.1
St. Lucia	13.2
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	18.8
Turks and Caicos Islands	5.1

TABLE 3.8 - CHANGE IN TOURIST ARRIVALS 2007-2009³⁵

Country	2007	2008	2009
Anguilla	6.4	-12.1	-21.4
Antigua and Barbuda	3.2	1.5	-27.9
Barbados	1.4	-0.8	-8.5
Dominica	-8.8	-2.6	-13.5
Grenada	9.0	-4.1	-4.0
Montserrat	-2.7	-5.0	-15.3
St. Kitts and Nevis	-7.4	-13.6	n.a
St. Lucia	-5.0	-2.5	-9.4
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	-8.0	-6.2	-8.1

³¹ Caribbean Development Bank (2010) "Highlights of Activities in 2009 and Economic Background and Prospects"

³² UNDP (2009) "Social Implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the Findings of 7 Country Studies," pg.21

³³ Caribbean Development Bank (2010) "Highlights of Activities in 2009 and Economic Background and Prospects"

³⁴ Sources: Country Poverty Assessments various years; St. Lucia Department of Statistics, 2009; OECS Country Assistance Report, September 2005; Lorraine Blank (2005) Situation Assessment of Children and Women in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Turks and Caicos Islands, UNICEF, Barbados. Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Turks and Caicos Islands Government (2007). Barbados Statistical Service (2009)

³⁵ Caribbean Development Bank (2010) "Highlights of Activities in 2009 and Economic Background and Prospects"

³⁶ UNDP (2009) "Social Implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the Findings of 7 Country Studies"



two of the countries, Barbados and St. Lucia, unemployment is increasing at a faster rate among men. This trend indicates that the effects of the recession, especially the drop in real estate and construction activity, are more disadvantageous for men, even though unemployment rates were higher among women.

Youth unemployment has also increased at a faster rate than average³⁷.

3.4.6. High Food Import Bill

The region imports the majority of its food supply and consequently has to deal with fluctuating prices in the international markets. In 2009, the food import bill for the CARICOM region was estimated at US\$2B³⁸. The sharp price increase in food prices from 2007 to 2008 was reflected in higher consumer prices both for consumption and for agricultural inputs forcing governments to increase subsidies. This places additional pressure on governments to maintain their balance of payments as well as additional pressure on families to provide affordable nutritional meals. This high cost of importing food affects women in female-headed households and their children disproportionately in the subregion.

3.4.7. High Energy Costs

The Eastern Caribbean region spends a

significant portion of scarce foreign exchange to import liquid petroleum fuels to provide energy services. All Eastern Caribbean countries import petroleum products for more than 90 per cent of commercial energy consumption.

The cost of fuel imports increased from US\$6.5 billion in 2004, to US\$12 billion in 2007, representing 16 per cent and 21 per cent of GDP, respectively³⁹. This places additional burden on families to pay for consumption needs, especially on low to middle-income families with already strained financial budgets.

3.4.8. Human Development Status

The countries in the Eastern Caribbean have received relatively high rankings on the 2010 UNDP Human Development Index (HDI), which is principally based on 2007 data. Barbados was ranked in the Very High category, St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Medium category and the remainder in the High category. No country was ranked in the Low category - Table 3.9.

These high rankings, however, mask a number of social challenges which adversely impact the estimated 923,000 people living in these countries and on the region's developmental potential - challenges of poverty and significant income inequalities.

TABLE 3.9 - 2010 HDI RANKINGS⁴⁰

Very High	High	Medium
Barbados - 642	Antigua and Barbuda - 647	St. Vincent and the Grenadines - 691
	St. Kitts and Nevis - 662	
	St. Lucia - 669	
	Dominica - 673	
	Grenada - 674	

³⁷ UNDP (2009) "Social Implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the Findings of 7 countries studies" p.18

³⁸ Statement By Dr. The Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines To The Meeting Of The Caribbean Forum Of ACP States (CARIFORUM) And The European Union (EU)

³⁹ Working Document for the Third Meeting of the Regional Task Force On Climate Change And Development, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad And Tobago, 23-24 January 2010

⁴⁰ UNDP (2010) "Human Development Report"



TABLE 3.10 - POVERTY IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN⁴¹

Country	Year Conducted	Percentage Below Poverty Line	Percentage Indigence Line	Poverty Gap	Poverty Severity	Poverty Line USD	Indigence Line USD
Antigua and Barbuda	2006	18.4	5.0	6.0	3.8	2,566	917
Barbados	1997	15.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,751	1,478
British Virgin Islands	2002	22.0	40.5	4.1	1.7	6,500	1,700
Dominica	2002	39.0	15.0	10.2	4.8	1,260	740
Grenada	1999	32.1	12.8	15.3	9.9	1,208	550
Grenada	2008	37.7	2.4	n.a.	n.a.	2,164	837
St. Kitts	2000	30.5	11.0	2.5	0.9	1,244	791
St. Kitts	2007	25.7	1.4	6.41	2.59	2,714	961
Nevis	2000	32.0	17.0	2.8	1.0	1,460	908
Nevis	2007	15.9	0	2.72	0.72	3,675	1,056
St. Lucia	1996	25.1	7.1	8.6	4.4	691	371
St. Lucia	2006	28.8	1.6	n.a.	n.a.	1,905	558
St. Vincent	1996	37.5	25.7	12.6	6.9	250	393
Grenadines							
St. Vincent	2008	30.2	2.9	7.5	3.0	2,046	906
Grenadines							
Turks and Caicos Islands	1999	25.9	5.7	5.7	2.6	2,474	580
Islands							

3.4.9. Poverty and Indigence

Poverty rates across the Eastern Caribbean remain high. Indigent rates have generally declined, reflecting a shift of the indigent into the poor category. The only country (Grenada) to have completed a Poverty Survey since the start of the financial crisis shows an increase in the poverty rate from 32.1 per cent to 37.7 per cent - Table 3.10.

Historically, many of the poor are: in rural areas; female-headed households; and live in areas where there is poor infrastructure - such as inadequate access to basic services, limited employment opportunities, poor housing quality and low levels of returns mainly from agricultural activity. It is important to note that presently most populations within the Eastern Caribbean States are still living in rural areas, with the exception of the Turks and Caicos Islands, which has 95 per

cent of its population living in urban areas.

Children usually account for a disproportionate share of the income poor; this remains true for the subregion. For instance, in Grenada about 53 per cent of all income poor persons (17,000) are children⁴². In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, children account for about 36 per cent of all income poor even though they represent only 31 per cent of the population. In St. Kitts and Nevis, children (4,000) account for about 40 per cent of all income poor⁴³, while in St. Lucia, over 50 per cent of the income poor are under the age of 20,

⁴¹ Caribbean Development Bank (1996-2008) "National Country Poverty Assessments"

⁴² UNICEF (2011) "Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Programme Document 2012-2016"

⁴³ IBID



with higher incidences among children⁴⁴. This is linked to the income levels of the children's families, which heightens the vulnerability of girls and boys in the subregion.

3.4.10. Income Inequality

The high poverty rates, in the face of the relatively high HDI rankings, indicate the existence of significant inequalities in income distribution within these societies. This is borne out by the Gini coefficients for these countries, which range from 0.23 to 0.56 - Table 3.11.

To put this data in a global perspective, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries' Gini coefficients vary between 0.22 and 0.47⁴⁶.

3.4.11. Migration

Migration is a central part of life in the Eastern Caribbean. The World Bank estimates that an average of 30 per cent of the labour force lives abroad. In the British Virgin Islands and Dominica, about 50 per cent of households have at least one member who has migrated. For children affected by migration, such as a child who has a parent working abroad, this can result in a loss or reduction of parental support. Additionally, if the child is the one migrating, there can be challenges to access to services and adaptation issues in their home.

Migration is mainly to the US, Canada and the United Kingdom. Also within the Eastern Caribbean⁴⁷. Migration which commonly takes on four forms⁴⁸:

Seasonal Migration: Parents migrating to a host country for up to six months for work.

Serial Migration: One or both of the parents will migrate with the intention to "send for" the rest of the family at a later date.

Parental Migration: Parents migrate permanently, or for an assigned period, but have no intention of their children joining them.

Family Migration: Parents and family migrate.

TABLE 3.11 - EASTERN CARIBBEAN GINI INDEX 2008⁴⁵

Country	Year Conducted	Gini Coefficient
Antigua and Barbuda	n.a.	n.a.
British Virgin Islands	2002	0.23
Barbados	1997	0.39
Dominica	2002	0.35
Grenada	1999	0.45
Grenada	2008	0.37
St. Kitts and Nevis	2000	0.38
St. Lucia	1995	0.50
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1995	0.56
Turks and Caicos Islands	1999	0.37

3.4.12. Dependence on Remittances

Remittances as a result of migration are an important component of a household's survival strategy, especially among vulnerable families. The level of remittances sent to the region declined in the wake of the financial crisis following job losses and reduced incomes among migrants⁴⁹. This resulted in a reduction in the overall household income of persons who depended on such remittances, placing vulnerable girls and boys at even greater risk.

3.5. ECONOMIC RESPONSE MEASURES

The contraction in the economies of the Eastern Caribbean resulted in reduction in government revenues. The responses by the governments were two fold, viz:

⁴⁴ "National Social Safety Net Assessments" World Bank/UNIFEM/ UNICEF (2009)

⁴⁵ Caribbean Development Bank (2002) "Inequality and Poverty in the Eastern Caribbean"

⁴⁶ IBID

⁴⁷ UNICEF (2009) "Children and their Families in Transition"

⁴⁸ Pottinger, A.M and Williams-Brown, S (2006) "Understanding the Impact of Parental Migration on Children: Implications for Counselling Families from the Caribbean" pg.2

⁴⁹ Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (2011) "Annual Report 2009/2010"



- Source external financial assistance to improve fiscal and debt sustainability⁵⁰; and

- Increase regional cooperation.

The governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada have accessed International Monetary Fund (IMF) Emergency Assistance. Antigua and Barbuda also received budgetary support from the Government of Venezuela through the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas Fund.

The OECS governments took a regional approach with the development of an Eight-Point Stabilization and Growth Programme⁵¹, which is designed to ensure stability and sustained economic growth and development for member countries.

3.6. IMPACT OF FINANCIAL CRISIS ON FAMILIES

3.6.1. Households Impacted

The extent of the impact of the financial crisis on families in the region differed depending on their pre-existing socio-economic status. Those that were significantly impacted included⁵²:

- Poor and vulnerable households that have few assets, live near subsistence level, and are therefore at greater risk from external shocks.
- Persons with disabilities;
- Recently unemployed households that have family to support and do not have an alternative income source (pension, business, savings, extended family members);
- Households not eligible for social support;
- Households without tenure to land;
- Households relying on social assistance, especially in cases where sources of income have been reduced and individuals have seen their purchasing power lowered;
- Youth, especially those seeking employment,

find fewer job opportunities and therefore may be more susceptible to negative practices;

- Unskilled and unqualified persons who face increased competition in the job market; and

- Farmers who experienced increased cost of inputs in conjunction with the additional burden of meeting new and changing standards for accessing markets, for example, being Fair Trade compliant.

According to the UNDP, focus groups across the region pointed to a number of negative impacts of the crisis on their lives. These included, *inter alia*, reduction in household consumption, reduction in disposable income for the purchase of school supplies, reduction in child support and allowance, increasing debt and delinquencies and increased incidence of transactional sex - See Appendix 1.

It is important to note that many of these negative impacts increase the vulnerability of children, especially those in poor households, as they translate into negative childhood experiences within the households.

3.6.2. Impact on Children

The impacts on children included:

- **Reduction in Household Consumption**

This resulted in the reduction of choices for families regarding the composition of their food basket. It is important that the nutritional needs of growing children are adequately met on a daily basis to facilitate both physical and mental development. Any reduction compromises the health and well-being of children, especially those at high risk based on their pre-existing physical condition. Poor children were therefore placed at increased risk for the health and developmental problems associated with inadequate nutrition.

⁵⁰ Caribbean Development Bank (2010) "Highlights of Activities in 2009 and Economic Background and Prospects".

⁵¹ Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (2010) "The 2009 Eastern Caribbean Currency Union Economic Review "

⁵² UNDP (2009) "Social Implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the Findings of 7 Country Studies"



■ Reduction in Health Care

The inability of poor children to obtain required medical attention due to the financial constraints of their parents or care givers had serious negative implications on their survival and development rights. In St. Kitts and Nevis, for example, some state run pharmacies were unable to provide medications due to budget constraints. These medications were available at private pharmacies but could not be afforded by the poor⁵³. In Montserrat, the budget for health was reduced, making it more difficult for persons to obtain medical procedures not offered on the island. In Barbuda, many people could no longer travel to Antigua for healthcare and chose to ignore symptoms until the situation became a medical emergency⁵⁴. These are just a few of many examples of the real health threat confronting children and their families, the consequences of which can be devastating.

■ Participation in Education

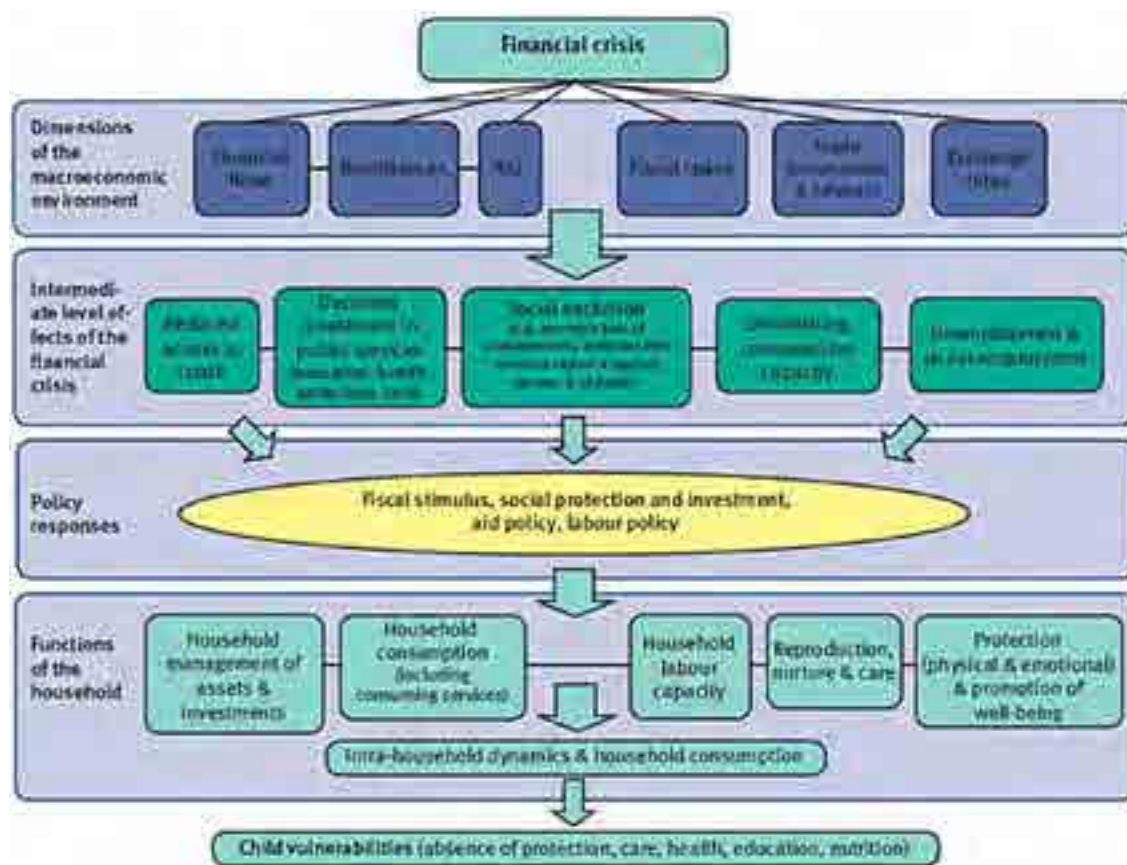
The financial constraints of the families of poor children, who are required to purchase books and supplies for school, can negatively impact on the quality of the children's educational attainment both in the short and long term.

■ Negative Social Behaviour

Reductions in financial support and allowances to children further exacerbated all the aforementioned problems, which ultimately resulted in dangerous negative social behaviour. This exposed them to an additional range of health problems both physical and psychological.⁵⁵

Figure 3.1 summarises the effects of the financial crisis on children's vulnerabilities.

FIG. 3.1 IMPACT OF FINANCIAL CRISIS ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN⁵⁶



⁵³ UNDP (2009) "Social Implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the Findings of 7 Country Studies"

⁵⁴ IBID

⁵⁵ IBID

⁵⁶ Overseas Development Institute (2009), 'Children at Times of Economic Crisis: Past Lessons and Future Policies,' pg.2



3.7. SOCIAL RESPONSE BY GOVERNMENTS

The wide range of socio-economic problems confronting families required adequate responses from governments, especially in terms of reducing the levels of vulnerability of the most at risk groups - poor women and children. The response from governments in the provision of additional social protection measures has been weak, against a background of reduced public spending by the majority of governments in the Eastern Caribbean over the last decade - Table 3.12.

The main responses to the economic crisis to date have been the following⁵⁸:

- Increase in the income tax thresholds;
- Increase in the level of assistance;
- Promotion of increased agricultural production through land grants and other forms of support to farmers; and
- Reduction in public expenditures necessary to deliver and support child rights - Table 3.12. For example in Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis, there were actual cut backs in social protection programmes⁵⁹.

3.8. SUMMARY

The economic environment in the Eastern Caribbean is a very challenging one. High levels of poverty and inequality and significant levels of unemployment characterize the subregion, despite the seemingly strong economic indicators placing the subregion in middle to high-income category and the favourable human development rankings. Government responses are constrained by reliance on narrow economic bases that are susceptible to developments in the international sphere and by the need to service high levels of public debt - most of which exceed prudent guidelines.

The financial crisis of 2008/09 has negatively affected these economies and has brought additional stressors to many of these vulnerable children and their families including reduction in

TABLE 3.12 - TREND IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE SPENDING⁵⁷

Country	Public Expenditure Ratio 1991-1994	Public Expenditure Ratio 2005-2009
Antigua and Barbuda	24.90%	19.60%
Dominica	32.90%	25.21%
St. Kitts and Nevis	36.00%	34.62%
St. Lucia	30%	24.91%
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	39.0%	25.21%

household consumption and increasing debt and delinquencies, with attendant consequences for reduction in quality of health care, increases in domestic violence and increases in transactional sex.

4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITY

Vulnerability is the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse impacts from hazards. It is a function of the character and magnitude of the impact to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity and its adaptive capacity⁶⁰.

A hazard is a natural or human phenomenon that may cause physical damage, economic loss or threaten human life and well-being⁶¹.

⁵⁷ UNICEF (2009) "Status of Social Investment in the Eastern Caribbean" pg.12

⁵⁸ UNDP (2009) "Social Implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the Findings of 7 Country Studies"

⁵⁹ IBID

⁶⁰ Adapted from IPCC Climate Change 2007, WGII contribution to the Fourth Assessment Report

⁶¹ Action Aid International (last accessed 10 October 2011)
http://www.actionaid.org.uk/doc_lib/108_1_participatory_vulnerability_analysis_guide.pdf



TABLE 4.1 - ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITY INDEX⁶² (2010)

Country	EVI	Data (%)	Status
Barbados	403	70	Extremely Vulnerable
St. Lucia	383	58	Extremely Vulnerable
British Virgin Islands	377	44	Extremely Vulnerable
St. Kitts and Nevis	359	54	Highly Vulnerable
Montserrat	342	48	Highly Vulnerable
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	337	54	Highly Vulnerable
Grenada	316	62	Highly Vulnerable
Antigua and Barbuda	307	56	Vulnerable
Turks and Caicos Islands	292	52	Vulnerable

4.1. EXPOSURE TO HAZARDS

The SIDS of the Eastern Caribbean are vulnerable to a variety of hazards. These include tropical cyclones, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, droughts, floods and hazardous waste. The total levels of vulnerability to natural hazards vary across the islands - from vulnerable to extremely vulnerable - Table 4.1.

4.2. DRIVERS OF VULNERABILITY

The vulnerability status is based on the size, geographic location and physical characteristics of the islands, together with the limited adaptive capacities of some segments of the population and the limited risk management capacities of the governments and populations. This section will address the physical and location aspects of vulnerability and the adaptive capacities of the vulnerable populations. The risk management capacities will be addressed in Section 4.5.

4.2.1. Size

The small size of the islands makes them vulnerable to disasters of a national scale. This means that their ability to evacuate residents to safe areas before and after a disaster is restricted and damages resulting from a disaster can be island-wide. This makes the management of the recovery more difficult, especially as there are limited infrastructure redundancies in most of the islands.

4.2.2. Geographic Location

All the islands are at risk during the Atlantic hurricane season that runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. Grenada is located at the southern end of the island chain and was once considered to be outside of the hurricane belt. However, Grenada has experienced tropical cyclones, with Hurricanes Ivan in 2004 and Emily in 2005, causing significant damage and destruction.

Since 2005, hurricane activity has been higher than normal and 2010 has been the 11th above-normal season since 1995⁶³. The previous above normal period lasted 20 years (1950 - 1970), and this heightened activity is expected to continue into the immediate future⁶⁴.

The damage wrought by hurricanes across the region is significant. A 2010 study by the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility put the historical average annual damage from hurricanes at up to six per cent of the national GDP in some countries⁶⁵. Individual cyclones inflict more damage, as was the case in Grenada in 2004, where the damage from Hurricane Ivan was in excess of 200 per cent of GDP.

In 2010 alone, most of the islands suffered significant damage as a result of tropical cyclone activities, with St. Lucia suffering damages in excess of 50 per cent GDP as a result of the impact of Hurricane Tomas. Other islands impacted during 2010 include Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where Tropical Storm Otto caused the worst flooding in the history of these islands.

⁶² UNEP (last accessed 15 October 2011) http://www.vulnerabilityindex.net/EVI_Country_Profiles.htm

⁶³ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2010) "Updated Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook"

⁶⁴ IBID

⁶⁵ CCRIF's Economics of Climate Adaptation (2010) "Initiative: An informational brochure highlighting the preliminary results of the ECA Study"



Floods are a common feature in the region resulting from heavy rains mainly during the hurricane season. These floods sometimes result in landslides and prompt evacuation of homes and communities.

The physical location also makes these islands susceptible to seismic activity related to movement of the Caribbean Plate⁶⁶. In 2004, a 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck Dominica damaging scores of buildings, creating landslides and cutting off telephone communications to rural communities⁶⁷. In 2007, Antigua and Barbuda was rattled by a 5.1 magnitude earthquake, and during 2010 there have been at least three earthquakes in Dominica and two in St. Lucia, with three others in close proximity of St. Lucia. One of the largest events in the Caribbean was in November 2007 when a 7.3 earthquake off the coast of Martinique was felt in several islands in the chain.

4.2.3. Physical Characteristics

Many of the islands are volcanic in origin and have active volcanoes, while others have simmering signs of volcanic activity. For example, there are ongoing volcanic eruptions in Montserrat, which impact negatively on the economy and social life of the citizens. Of the other islands, Dominica has one of the highest concentrations of potentially active volcanoes in the world⁶⁸; Grenada has a submarine volcano, which has the potential to create a regional tsunami; and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines La Soufrière volcano has a history of eruptions.

4.2.4. Climate Change

The islands are susceptible to climate change - a phenomenon that aggravates existing vulnerabilities and create new ones.

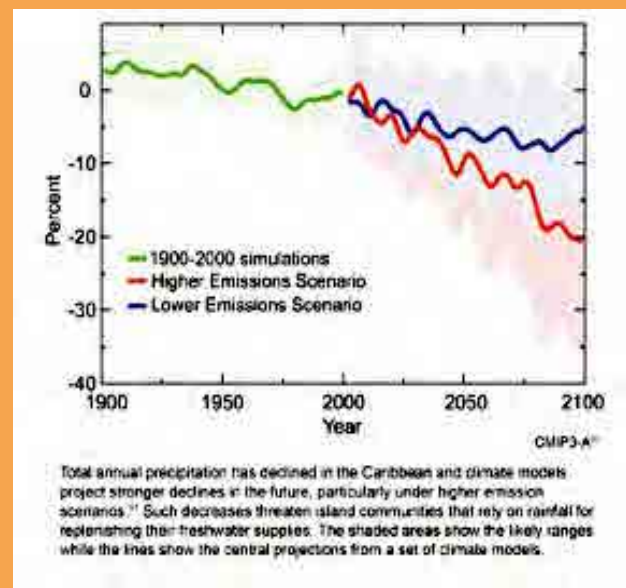
The Caribbean Region has been listed by the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as being among the most vulnerable regions in the world.

It lists stronger hurricane activity, storm surges, sea level rise, saline intrusion and the resultant coastal erosion, water shortages and threats to food security as challenges that these countries have to contend with as a result of climate change⁷⁰.

Overall rainfall in the Eastern Caribbean has decreased every year, having strong implications for freshwater catchments and agriculture while at the same time sporadic and heavy downpours have increased⁷¹.

Projections by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) indicate further reductions in rainfall by the middle of the century - of the order of 25 per cent or greater - Fig. 4.1.

FIG. 4.1 - CARIBBEAN PRECIPITATION CHANGE: MODELLED ANNUAL TOTAL, 1900 TO 2100⁶⁹



⁶⁶ Paul A Bisek, Eleanor B. Jones, Conrad Ornstein (2001) "A Strategy and results Framework for Comprehensive Disaster Management in the Caribbean"

⁶⁷ The Dominican (Last Accessed 18 October 2011) <http://www.thedominican.net/quake.htm>

⁶⁸ Pan American Health Organization, (last accessed 10 October 2011) http://new.paho.org/disasters/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=0&Itemid=915

⁶⁹ IBID

⁷⁰ IPCC, Climate Change (2007) "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability"

⁷¹ United States Global Change Research Program (last accessed 8 October 2011) <http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/regional-climate-change-impacts/islands>



In 2010, the islands experienced the most severe drought in decades, which required the introduction of restrictions on water use. Agriculture is particularly sensitive to climatic variability and this poses strong implications for the livelihoods and economies of many of the islands.

4.2.5. Human Activity

In addition to these natural hazards, the islands are also prone to manmade hazards such as oil spills, industrial accidents, hazardous waste and their disposal. Illegal solid waste dumping threatens to contaminate water sources, the pollution of coastal waters by waste disposals from ships, and the potential for oil spills are all factors that can create additional disasters in the region.

4.2.6. Limited Adaptive Capacities

The existing socio-economic system in the subregion allocates risks differently across the population. The segments of the population most at risk will be those that have limited economic and material resources, limited human or personal resources, limited family and social resource and limited political resource - power and autonomy⁷².

4.2.6.1. Limited Economic and Material Resource

Families living in poverty and low-income families are often constrained in their ability to adequately prepare for an impending hazard and to recover in its aftermath. They lack financial reserves for purchasing supplies before the event and for buying services and materials after the event had occurred⁷³.

They tend to live in poorly constructed houses, which are not built to be resistant to hazards. Additionally, these houses are usually constructed in vulnerable areas such as close to the coastline, or on hillsides. In the Eastern Caribbean, 50 per cent of the population live within 1.5 km from the coastlines⁷⁴ and thus are vulnerable to threats from the sea including storm surge, sea level rise and saline intrusion.

If families are employed, it is usually in unstable jobs, which can be very easily lost after a disaster, thus increasing their vulnerability. Domestic service jobs like yard cleaning, house cleaning and child

care can be lost if employers lose their homes or migrate after the disaster.

As a result, the impact of natural disasters affects the poor disproportionately both in terms of mortality rates⁷⁵ and housing damage. Usually poor households recover more slowly and some never fully regain pre-impact levels, thus increasing their vulnerability to future hazards⁷⁶.

The high poverty levels discussed in the chapter on the economic environment is indicative of the low adaptive capacities within these countries and the consequent high levels of vulnerability.

4.2.6.2. Limited Human Capabilities

The level of human resources available in the households will affect the level of its vulnerability. Households possess different human resources such as health, physical ability, relevant experience, education, time and skills⁷⁷. This affects vulnerability in a variety of ways, viz:

- Persons' nutritional, health and HIV status prior to a disaster is indicative of their capacity to cope with illness, or injury resulting from a hazard⁷⁸. Persons suffering from poor nutrition and poor health face increased vulnerability. Interruption in access to ART medication may lead to drug resistance resulting in increased viral loads. Additionally, the absence of adequate condom supplies and use can contribute to increase risk of HIV transmission.
- Persons with physical and mental disabilities are more vulnerable both before and after a hazard as they are very dependent on others.

⁷² Betty Hearn Morrow (2000) "Identifying and Mapping Community Vulnerability"

⁷³ IBID

⁷⁴ UNICEF BECO (2009) "Gap Analysis: Children and Climate Change in the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) of the Eastern Caribbean" Pg.5

⁷⁵ Piers Blaikie, Terry Cannon, Ian Davis, Ben Wisner (1994) "At risk Natural Hazards, People's vulnerability, and Disasters"

⁷⁶ Betty Hearn Morrow (2000) "Identifying and Mapping Community Vulnerability"

⁷⁷ IBID

⁷⁸ Terry Cannon (2000) "Vulnerability Analysis and Disasters"



■ Families with many dependants - children, disabled, or elderly members - encounter greater obstacles when responding to an emergency⁷⁹. Although the vulnerability of the elderly varies based on their individual circumstances, as a group, older citizens are more prone to lack physical ability, suffer health related consequences and be slower to recover.

■ Persons who are illiterate and ill informed find it more difficult to navigate the process to achieve help, making it more difficult for them to cope and increasing their vulnerability.

4.2.6.3. *Lack of Family and Social Resource*

Families or individuals who are isolated with no family networks to activate before or after a disaster are at increased risk. Similarly, recent immigrants may lack connections to the larger community and may not wish to seek assistance from outside of their immediate ethnic group⁸⁰.

4.2.6.4. *Limited Political Resource - Power and Autonomy*

The extent of resilience depends on the level of power or control an individual has over his/her circumstances. Persons who are renting homes, for example, cannot control the degree to which the buildings are structurally sound, insured, or will be repaired. Persons who are excluded from decision-making on issues which affect their communities - including cleaning of drains, location of disaster shelters, location of medical facilities and the like - are vulnerable to the consequences of those decisions.

Communities and groups which are not deemed politically important, especially rural communities, may be marginalized during the recovery effort and hence their recovery may be slower than in other areas where political expediency takes precedence.

4.3. VULNERABILITY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women and children are among the most vulnerable groups in society and are impacted disproportionately during a disaster and its aftermath.

4.3.1. *Women*

Vulnerability is differentiated by gender. Women experience vulnerability in ways different to men because of socially constructed roles and power relations⁸¹, viz:

a) Women are generally more vulnerable to disasters because of the roles which society expects them to play⁸². Women's role focuses extensively on meeting the daily needs of their family members, especially dependent children, the disabled and elders. In the context of a disaster, these responsibilities become much more difficult and sometimes impossible to fulfil, yet that responsibility in most cases cannot be shifted away from the woman.

b) Women-headed households typically lack the necessary competencies, skills, and resources necessary for resilience. These households are usually characterized by the following⁸³:

- ◆ A woman and children, frequently fathered by different men whose child-support activities are usually limited at best, or non-existent;
- ◆ Limited access to and completion of secondary level education;
- ◆ High levels of poverty; and
- ◆ Employment in low-paying or under-paid jobs, with little security and no benefits - like health care and union representation; or in the informal economy. For example, in Grenada it is estimated that 60-70 per cent of the labour force in the informal sector is female⁸⁴. These sectors are usually most impacted after a disaster; therefore there are higher levels of unemployment among these women.

⁷⁹ Betty Hearn Morrow (2000) "Identifying and Mapping Community Vulnerability"

⁸⁰ IBID

⁸¹ Pan American Health Organization (2001) "Gender and Natural Disasters"

⁸² IBID

⁸³ Pat Ellis (2003) "Women, Gender and Development in the Caribbean, Reflections and Projections"

⁸⁴ UNECLAC, UNDP, UNDFN (2010) "Grenada: A Gender Impact Assessment of Hurricane Ivan-making the invisible visible"



c) Women who would have lost their homes face additional difficulties in caring for their families. They are sometimes forced to send their children to other family members, or to move into shelters. Inadequate facilities at shelters for cooking and sanitation increase the domestic burden and make it more difficult for women to look for alternative sources of income⁸⁵. Additionally, there have been reports of sexual exploitation of women within shelters⁸⁶.

d) Women and girls who are pregnant, and mothers with young infants are especially vulnerable. The former have limited mobility and are dependent on support from other family members. During disasters, family disruption occurs and support mechanisms may disappear⁸⁷. This can lead both to physical and emotional problems, which in turn increase the likelihood of producing both physically and mentally undeveloped infants⁸⁸. Lactating mothers need good nutrition to feed their babies and those babies that are bottle-fed need clean water; however, this may not be forthcoming in the aftermath of a disaster, placing the health of the baby at risk.

e) Finding employment after the disaster remains more difficult for women. In the aftermath of a natural disaster, there is heavy emphasis on reconstruction. Traditionally women have been excluded from training or work opportunities in this sector, thus lacking the skills to transit easily into the sector. Additionally anecdotal evidence suggests that due to the cultural role of primary caregiver, women cannot migrate as easily as men to find jobs.

These factors, which negatively affect women, not only compromise their rights but also compromise their abilities to effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities as individuals, and if they are mothers, their role as caregivers to their children.

4.3.2. Children

Children are very vulnerable to both the physical and psychological impacts of disasters. The psychological response will vary with each child, based on factors such as the personal experience of the child, the parental reaction and the child's developmental competency at the time of the disaster. Children who are raised in poverty or in

low-income families are more disadvantaged because of the constraints of their socio-economic condition.

4.3.2.1. Physical Vulnerabilities

Children are physically vulnerable to disasters in a number of ways, viz:

a) Children are at greater risk of injury and death during natural disasters, based on their age, physical ability and cognitive development⁸⁹.

b) The health of children can be compromised in the aftermath of a disaster. Poor nutrition and lack of clean water for domestic use can result in diseases such as diarrhoea, which is a major cause of child death. Poor sanitation can lead to an increase in vector-borne diseases such as the West Nile virus and dengue fever. Although dengue fever affects all ages, children are usually most affected and display higher rates of mortality as a result⁹⁰. These problems are magnified when access to medical services is restricted or is inaccessible due to damaged infrastructure.

Natural Disasters compromise the rights of the children to survival, and to develop to their fullest potential

c) Children suffering from pre-existing medical conditions are more vulnerable. Children afflicted by HIV, AIDS, asthma, physical and mental disabilities, among others, are also more vulnerable in the aftermath of a disaster, particularly in terms of availability of medication and special care. The Caribbean region has among the highest incidences of asthma for children between the ages of 12 and 15 worldwide⁹¹, while approximately 2 per cent of

⁸⁵ Pan American Health Organization, Gender and Natural Disasters

⁸⁶ UNICEF (2007) "Workshop for Developing Capacities to Plan and Respond to Children's Needs During Emergencies"

⁸⁷ UNDP (2010) "Gender and disasters"

⁸⁸ IBID

⁸⁹ David Hutton (2010) "Vulnerability of Children: More Than a Question of Age"

⁹⁰ Yoko Akachi, Donna Goodman, David Parker (2009) "Global Climate Change and Child Health: A review of pathways impacts and measures to improve the evidence base"

⁹¹ UNICEF (2009) "Children and Climate Change in the Small Island Development States (SIDS) of the Eastern Caribbean"



cent of children in the four Caribbean countries studied have some sort of disability⁹².

4.3.2.2. *Psychological Vulnerabilities*

Children also suffer from many psychological impacts as a result of disasters. These include:

a) The traumatic impact of natural disasters. The effects on children who witness violent natural disasters, the devastation of their familiar environment e.g. homes or schools and the loss of family members can be lasting and distressing⁹³. For example, in Montserrat key informants have stated that children exhibit fear of living and coping with the ongoing activity of the volcano. In Grenada, following Hurricane Ivan many children were afraid of rain and bad weather.

According to the Responding to Natural Disasters: Helping Children and Families document, these children may develop new behaviour patterns based on their ages, viz:

- ◆ Preschoolers - Thumb-sucking, bedwetting, clinging to parents, sleep disturbance, loss of appetite, fear of the dark, regression in behaviour and withdrawal from friends and routines.
- ◆ Elementary School Children - Irritability, aggressiveness, clinginess, nightmares, school avoidance, poor concentration and withdrawal from activities and friends.
- ◆ Adolescents - Sleeping and eating disturbances, agitation, and increase in conflicts, physical complaints, delinquent behaviour and poor concentration⁹⁴.

b) Children are also negatively affected when schools and other education facilities are destroyed. This deprives them not only of their right to education in a comfortable environment, but also of the sense of routine that is essential to the recovery process.

c) Children who are separated from their families

in the aftermath of a disaster may suffer from separation anxiety and may not be given the adequate level of supervision and care required. In addition, in the aftermath of a disaster, there may not be detection mechanisms or the facilities readily available to support children said anxiety issues.

Table 4.2 summarises the Global Environmental Risk Factors for Children and assesses the status for children in the Eastern Caribbean. It shows that children in the islands that have been assessed are at high risk from diarrhoeal diseases and physical injury resulting from natural hazards. They are also at risk - in varying levels - from other risk factors including hazardous waste and disease-carrying vectors.

4.4. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CHILDREN

The Summary for Policy Makers of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report states that “some people (such as the poor, young children and the elderly) can be particularly at risk” from climate change⁹⁵.

The Summary for Policy Makers from the IPCCs Working Group II is even more specific and states, “Projected climate change-related exposures are likely to affect the health status of millions of people, particularly those with low adaptive capacity, through increases in malnutrition and consequent disorders, with implications for child growth and development”⁹⁶.

Climate change is therefore expected to have negative consequences for children in vulnerable countries, including malnutrition and the general delay of child growth and development.

In the Caribbean, specifically, it has been shown that under all modelled climate scenarios, some islands would experience severe water stress and increasing malnutrition and hunger as crop yields decline due to rising temperatures and reduction in precipitation.

⁹² UN ECLAC (2008) “Disability in the Caribbean. A Study of Four Countries: A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Disabled” p.64

⁹³ Phillip J Lazarus, Shane R. Jimerson, Stephen E. Brock (2003) “Responding to Natural Disasters: Helping Children and Families”

⁹⁴ IBID

⁹⁵ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007) “Synthesis Report Summary for Policy Makers” Pg. 11

⁹⁶ IBID



TABLE 4.2 - GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS FOR CHILDREN: CORRELATED HEALTH CONCERNS, RISK LEVELS AND STATUS REPORT

Risk Factors	*Perinatal Diseases	*Respiratory Diseases	*Diarrhoeal Diseases	*Insect-Borne Diseases	*Physical Injuries	SIDS Reporting On Risk Factors
Housing and shelter	+++	++	++	+++	++	Not assessed
Water supply and quality	+	+	+++	++	+++	ANT, BAR, DOM, MON, SKN, SLU, SVG, TCI
Food safety and security of supply	++	++	+++	++	+++	Not assessed
Sanitation and hygiene	+	+	+++	+++	++	ANT, BAR, DOM, MON, SKN, SLU, SVG, TCI
Solid wastes	++	++	+++	+++	++	None
Outdoor air pollution	++	++	+	+	+	None
Indoor air pollution	+++	++	+	+	+	None
Hazardous wastes	+++	+	+	+	+++	BAR, GRE, SLU
Accidents	++	++	++	+	+++	N/A
Natural hazards (disasters)	++	++	++	+++	+++	DOM, SLU, TCI (1960-2005)
Disease carrying vectors	+	+	++	+		DOM, SLU, SVG (2007)
Social/work environment	+++	++	+++	++	++	N/A

Key: * refers to health concerns correlated with risk factors; high risk +++, medium risk ++, low risk +; ANU(Antigua and Barbuda), BAR (Barbados), DOM (Dominica), GRE (Grenada), MON (Montserrat), SKN (St. Kitts and Nevis), SLU (St. Lucia), SVG (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), TCI (Turks and Caicos Islands).

Risks from poor health and sanitation will therefore increase. In addition, children are also very vulnerable to many of the other projected impacts of climate change, including increased extreme weather events, which may result in natural disasters and emergencies. This will increase the likelihood of: children's susceptibility to health and physical injury; disruption of schools and other vital infrastructure catering to children; economic dislocation; and disruption and/or displacement of families and communities. Additionally, there is expected to be greater incidences of environmental health related diseases including respiratory, vector-borne and food-borne diseases.

The negative impacts on children and their families in the Eastern Caribbean can therefore be seen *inter alia* in terms of⁹⁷:

- Lost/reduced earnings for families from losses in the agricultural, fishing and tourism sectors;
- Threatened environmental displacement;
- Increased vector and water-borne diseases;
- Family separation due to migration because of challenges in some countries; and
- Loss of school/teaching time for children due to emergencies during stormy seasons.

⁹⁷ UNICEF BECO (2009) "Gap Analysis: Children and Climate Change in the Small Islands Development States (SIDS) of the Eastern Caribbean" p.5



Climate change can therefore stall or reverse progress made in the attainment of the MDGs. Failure to adequately address climate change and its impact on children will have strong implications for the lives of children and their families in both the long and short term. As one climate change expert notes, “if climate change continues unchecked, money that could be used for poverty alleviation and other social services, or for economic development, will instead be diverted to disaster recovery”⁹⁸.

4.5. NATIONAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

It is the role of governments, as duty bearers, to develop disaster risk management and climate change adaptation strategies that will enable citizens to reduce the risk of and recover from natural disasters. Efforts by governments in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, especially in the OECS, have been limited at best. Poor planning, limited financial resources and limited economic diversity have compromised the extent of effectiveness.

All the countries involved in the SITAN are part of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), which is the umbrella body for disaster risk management in the subregion and wider CARICOM region. Under its mandate, all the countries operate local disaster management organizations, which, among other functions, are responsible for the planning, training, education, coordination and advocacy in preparation for and recovery from a disaster.

The islands are also part of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), which offers parametric insurance policies to provide short-term financial liquidity protection from the economic effects of destructive hurricanes and/or earthquakes.

In May 2010, the OECS member states launched the Vulnerability Benchmarking Tool, a new project focused on mainstreaming disaster management in the OECS, which was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). According to the OECS Secretariat, the goal is to improve the ability of public and private sectors

and civil society to plan and implement effective actions that would reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters and improve their economic resilience. The Benchmarking Tool could also allow the region to measure deficiencies and progress towards disaster risk mitigation⁹⁹.

Despite these initiatives, there are ongoing problems with developing effective disaster risk management strategies. According to Dr. James Fletcher, Director of the Social and Sustainable Development Division of the OECS Secretariat, “The governments of the OECS lack the required organizational, financial and human resource and legislative capabilities to achieve the desired results associated with disaster risk management.” The OECS Director General, Dr. Len Ishmael, reinforced this by stating, “Poor planning and investment decisions contribute to vulnerability and increases the risk of future disasters.”¹⁰⁰

The small economies and the limited resource bases of the islands force governments to compromise developmental projects aimed at improving the lives of citizens, for rebuilding efforts in the wake of disasters. These decisions further amplify the vulnerability of citizens, especially the most marginalized. Dr Ishmael reiterated this stating, “[...] with increasing frequency, Member States are facing situations in which scarce resources that were earmarked for development projects have to be diverted to relief and reconstruction following disasters, thus setting back economic growth”¹⁰¹. According to the OECS, the governments are therefore challenged to integrate risk reduction strategies (and climate change adaptation strategies) into every sector of their economies, so that all levels of the society become more resilient, thus enhancing their coping mechanisms.

⁹⁸ Organisation for Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat (2009) Statement for Earth Day http://www.caricom.org/jsp/oecs_news/earth_day_2009.jsp

⁹⁹ CDEMA (2010) article from News Centre, March 10, 2010

¹⁰⁰ CDEMA (last accessed 10 October 2011) http://www.cdera.org/cunews/saint_lucia/article_2069.php

¹⁰¹ IBID



4.6. POLICY GUIDELINES ON CHILD SURVIVAL IN NATURAL DISASTERS

Policy guidelines and supporting programmes and services catering to the care and protection of children exist to varying degrees in the Eastern Caribbean. A total of 16 international agreements/declarations relevant to the care and protection of children were found to be under implementation or operation in each of the countries in the Eastern Caribbean. Three of these agreements/declarations contain specific provisions for the care and protection of children in disasters and other emergencies, viz¹⁰²:

- United Nations Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (1974);
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS; and
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

4.7. CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMMING

Programming for climate change at the wider CARICOM level is coordinated by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). The OECS Environmental and Sustainable Development Unit coordinate subregional issues within the OECS. These two entities are expected to collaborate in programme development and implementation.

In general, the governments of the targeted countries have not focused on programming to address climate change issues at the local level, although they have been very active in the international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In 2009, the CARICOM Heads of Government approved A Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change 2009-2015. During the November 2010 to March 2011 period, the CCCCC will be conducting regional consultations to develop an Implementation Plan for the region, based on this Regional Framework.

Programming for children is not considered in the Regional Framework and the development of the Implementation Plan provides an opportunity to introduce considerations for children into the regional climate change agenda.

4.8. SUMMARY

The islands under review will remain vulnerable to hazards, and more work needs to be done to reduce the levels of risk associated with these vulnerabilities. The limitations for disaster response in the subregion – such as economic resources, human capabilities and socio-political resources- perpetuate issues of vulnerability and stunt infrastructural growth.

Special attention must be paid to programming for children in emergencies at the policy level, so as to provide additional protection and support in the aftermath of disasters.

¹⁰²UNICEF BECO (2009) "Gap Analysis: Children and climate Change in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Eastern Caribbean" p.5



5. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

5.1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRC

Some Eastern Caribbean countries continue to lag behind most countries around the world in reporting on their progress on implementing the CRC to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. To date, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are behind in their reporting obligation. In addition, to date Barbados, Grenada, and St. Kitts and Nevis have not signed or ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, while Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis have not signed or ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Furthermore, the prevailing trend throughout the subregion has been a gradual, piece-meal approach

to law reform designed to give effect to the CRC. Therefore, while all countries can report having adopted some legislation to realign their national policies and laws with the CRC, the process of law reform has been distressingly slow, including the uptake of Model Legislation at the OECS level¹⁰³.

Fig 5.1 summarises the status of CRC compliance by the Eastern Caribbean states.

As noted in the 2007 SITAN, implementation of the CRC requires a multi-sector, multiple agency approach. However, mechanisms for coordination are either weak or non-existent and most countries lack comprehensive national agendas and strategies for the implementation of the CRC. As a result, institutional capacity to monitor implementation of the CRC (and CEDAW) needs to be strengthened and continued involvement of civil society will be critical for progress on implementation¹⁰⁵.

FIG. 5.1 - CRC COMPLIANCE¹⁰⁴

STATES	Convention on the Rights of the Child			Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child			
	Ratified	Due date of next State CRC Report	Status of CRC Report	Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict		Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	
				Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified
Antigua and Barbuda	07-04-01	1 st May 2005				01-04-01	06-04-00
Barbados	02-09-90	June 07					
Dominica	11-07-91	1 st September 2007			23-03-02 [9]		20-02-02 [2]
Grenada	07-01-90	02-06-10					
St. Kitts and Nevis	24-07-90	July 07					
St. Lucia	10-06-91	Under development	State Report submitted, awaiting review due	22-09-01		23-03-01	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	26-09-93	24 th November 2001			20-03-01 [3, 4]		15-05-05 [5]
Anguilla British Virgin Island Montserrat Turks and Caicos Islands	27-06-93	14 th January 2014		07-09-00	24-06-01	07-03-00	26-07-09

¹⁰³UNICEF (2006) "The Convention of the Rights of the Child Fifteen Years Later- The Caribbean"

¹⁰⁴UNICEF (2010) Eastern Caribbean Office, "Midterm Review Report"

¹⁰⁵UNICEF (2007) "Situation Analysis of Women and Children in the Eastern Caribbean"



5.2. THE LEGAL FOUNDATION

Most countries in the subregion have reviewed their family laws, and some revision and reforms have taken place in all countries. However, legislation in most countries still does not fully recognize social realities that impact children in the subregion, including children born out-of-wedlock. Additionally, child protection and domestic violence legislation are not sufficiently comprehensive and in some cases, are not enforced.

Although the general age of majority throughout the subregion is 18 years, legislative provisions sometime thwart efforts to protect children, by setting lower ages of majority. For example, the legislation of several countries still maintains a lower age of majority, usually 16 years, for criminal law. Further contradictions arise across various legislative provisions. For example, in Dominica, under the Education Act, school attendance is obligatory until the age of 16, but under the Labour Act, the minimum age for employment is 12 years, or 14 years for industrial undertakings¹⁰⁶.

5.2.1. OECS Model Family Legislation

In recognition of the need for governments

within the Eastern Caribbean to move the legislative reform agenda forward to better address legislative concerns over the treatment of children, the OECS, in 2001, initiated the development of Model Family Legislation in the areas of the i) Status of Children; (ii) Care and Adoption of Children; (iii) Child Justice; and (iv) Domestic Violence.

While this model legislation was seen as an important step forward in support of law reform efforts to the OECS member states, to date only Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Turks and Caicos Islands have reviewed and adapted any of the bills at national level.

5.3. NEW GLOBAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Since 2007, new global and regional treaties and frameworks, which are important to the advancement of child rights regionally and nationally, have been adopted at the political level.

Fig 5.2 contains a summary of these new frameworks.

In general, these new frameworks have not yet been incorporated into domestic policy and legislation within the Eastern Caribbean.

FIG 5.2 NEW GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TREATIES AND FRAMEWORKS

UN: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008); Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008); The UN Minimum Social Floor as a response to the global economic crisis; UN Common Approach to Juvenile Justice (2009); 10th Anniversary Optional Protocols; 20th Anniversary CRC; Declaration on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 2008); Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (10 December 2008); Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (9 July 2009).

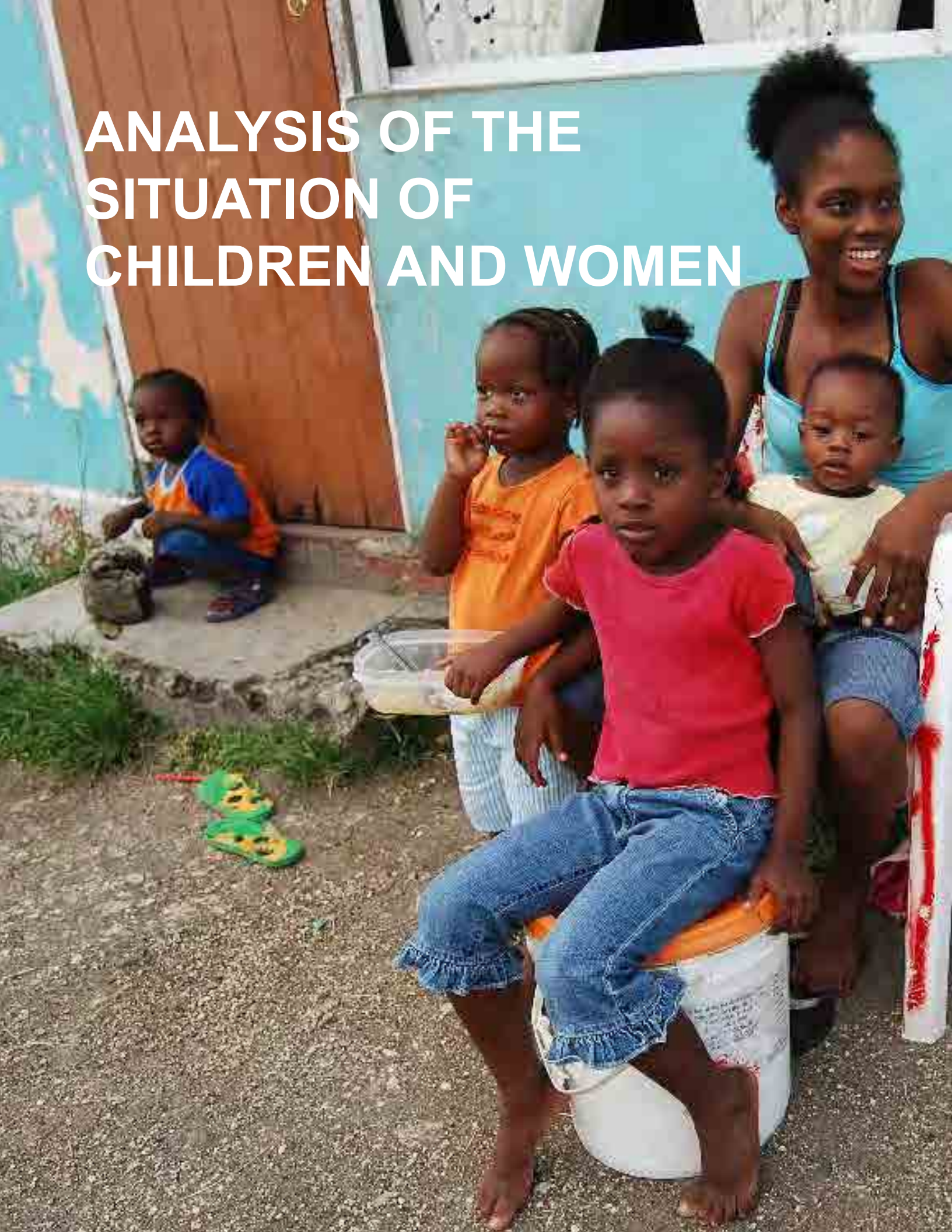
UNICEF: UNICEF Child Protection Strategy (2008) and the UNICEF Global Education Strategy (2009); UNICEF Pandemic Influenza Prevention and Response Programme Strategy (Sept. 2009 - Sept. 2011); UNICEF Global Fundraising Strategy (2006-2010); UNICEF (2009) Draft Concept Paper on Strengthening Humanitarian Action and Post-crisis Recovery 2009-2012; Core Commitment for Children in Humanitarian Action (2010).

Regional: Georgetown Declaration on Building a Region Fit for Children, CARICOM, 2005; Regional Action Plan for Children 2002-2015, CARICOM, 2008; Resolution on the "Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases", CARICOM, 2010; CARICOM Action for Children 2012-2015 and the Development of a M&E Framework in 2009; CARICOM Framework on Youth (2009); OECS Economic Union: CRC Committee feedback on British Overseas Territories CRC Report (2008).

¹⁰⁶Government of Dominica CRC Report



ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN





6. SURVIVAL RIGHTS

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that State Parties have an obligation to ensure the survival rights of the child. Specifically that¹⁰⁷:

- “State Parties shall seek to diminish infant mortality, make available primary health care, combat disease and malnutrition, provide pre-natal and post-natal care for mothers and provide education on the advantages of breastfeeding, sanitation and accident prevention; and
- Access to the health facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitative health should be provided.”

Additionally, MDGs 4 and 5 stipulate that there should be a reduction in child mortality and an improvement in maternal health.

It is thus the purpose of this section to examine the progress made and the challenges being encountered in achieving these survival rights of children.

6.1. MORTALITY

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is defined as the number of infant deaths (one year of age or younger) per 1000 live births. The IMR is generally low across the Eastern Caribbean, with the exception of the British Virgin Islands. The IMR rate in the subregion is a result of improved pre and post-natal care available to mothers and babies within the respective health care systems.

6.1.1. Reducing Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rates have continued to decline in most of the islands, with the exception of the British Virgin Islands - Appendix 2. The average infant mortality rate for the region decreased from 17.9 per 1000 live births in 1998 to 13.4 in 2008. However, in the British Virgin Islands, rates increased from 21.58 in 1998 to 25.09 in 2007¹⁰⁸.

6.1.2. Reducing Under-Five Mortality

Child mortality rates, defined as death within the first five years after birth, have declined in most of the islands, with the exception of the British Virgin Islands - Appendix 2. The rate decreased from an average of 20.52 per 1000 in 1998 to 15.42 in 2008. However, in the British Virgin Islands the under-five mortality rate increased from 21.58 in 1998 to 32.26 in 2007¹⁰⁹.

¹⁰⁷ Articles 6 and 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

¹⁰⁸ Ministry of Health and Social Development of the British Virgin Islands (2010)

¹⁰⁹ IBID



Information on the drivers of this increase was not available. The case of British Virgin Islands demonstrates the need for additional data and analysis on the drivers of trends, a recurring issue for many indicators in the subregion.

6.1.3. Low Birth Weight

Low birth rate is defined as the percentage of live births that weigh less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds out of the total of live births during the same time period¹¹⁰. In general, low birth weight babies have a greater mortality risk and those who survive can have impaired immune function and increased risk of developing diseases. They are also at an increased risk for low cognitive and physical development¹¹¹.

In developing countries, low birth weight is attributed mainly to poor maternal health, poor nutrition and health care during pregnancy, and teenage birth. The Chief Medical Officer in St. Lucia confirmed that there is a positive correlation between low birth weight and teenage pregnancy¹¹². In the Eastern Caribbean, on average, 9.3 per cent of infants were born below the normal weight¹¹³ during the period of 2004 – 2007.

Whereas primary health care facilities monitor the physical development of all babies in the initial months after birth, there is an absence of systematic programming to respond to the risks of low cognitive development.

TABLE 6.1 - IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE (PER CENT , 2008)¹¹⁴

Country	BCG	DPT1	DP13	HepB3	Hib3	MCV	Pol3
Antigua and Barbuda	n/a	99	99	99	99	99	99
Barbados	n/a	92	93	92	92	92	93
British Virgin Islands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dominica	98	99	96	96	96	99	95
Grenada	n/a	99	99	99	99	99	99
Montserrat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
St. Kitts and Nevis	95	92	99	98	97	99	98
St. Lucia	99	99	96	96	96	99	96
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
Turks and Caicos Islands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Key:

1. BCG is the Bacille Calmette-Guérin vaccine that provides protection against tuberculosis.
2. DPT is the combined diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccine and consists of three doses. The third dose being DPT3.
3. HepB3 refers to the third dose of the hepatitis B vaccine
4. Hib3 refers to the third dose of the haemophilus influenzae type B vaccine
5. MCV refers to Measles Containing Vaccine.
6. MMR refers to the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine.
7. Pentavalent refers to a vaccine that combines different vaccines in one injection.
8. Pol3 refers to the third dose of polio vaccine.

¹¹⁰ UNICEF/World Health Organization (last accessed 10 October 2011) Low Birth Weight, Country, Regional and Global Estimates http://www.childinfo.org/low_birthweight_table.php

¹¹¹ UNICEF (2007) "Monitoring the Situation of women and Children"

¹¹² UNICEF/UN ECLAC (2009) "Children and Families in Transition: Young Parents and Caretakers in the Eastern Caribbean", p.31

¹¹³ UNICEF (Last accessed 10 October 2011) "2004-2007 Health Situation in the Americas" http://www.childinfo.org/low_birthweight_table.php

¹¹⁴ UNICEF (Last accessed 10 October 2011) http://www.childinfo.org/immunization_countrydata.php. Data for the British Virgin Islands was supplied May 2010 by the Ministry of Health and Social Development, British Virgin Islands.



6.2. COMBATING DISEASE

6.2.1. Immunization

There is a comprehensive immunization programme in the region, which is a key contributing factor to the good health status of children. All the islands under review, for which there is data, show over 90 per cent coverage in all the major vaccines in 2008 - Table 6.1. Grenada has made significant improvement with coverage of 99 per cent on all vaccines, up from 74 per cent to 87 per cent coverage in 2004¹¹⁵.

6.2.2. Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources and Sanitation Facilities

Access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities is good for the majority

of residents of the islands for which data is available. Total access to improved drinking water sources and improved sanitation is over 95 per cent, with many of the islands at 100 per cent - Table 6.2. Such high level of access is an important achievement for the region in maintaining good health and combating illnesses.

The remaining five per cent of residents who are unable to access safe water or proper sanitation have historically been primarily poor, rural families. Recent data is unavailable, but in Grenada, for example, the 2005 UNDP Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) survey concluded that safe drinking water is more accessible to the non-poor than the poor. In addition lack of proper sanitation is a serious problem in poor areas¹¹⁶.

TABLE 6.2
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ESTIMATES ON WATER AND SANITATION

Country	Year	Total Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources (%)	Rural Areas: Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources (%)	Urban Areas: Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources (%)	Total Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (%)	Rural Areas: Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (%)	Urban Areas: Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (%)
Antigua and Barbuda	2006	n/a	n/a	95%	n/a	n/a	98%
Barbados	2006	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%
British Virgin Islands	2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dominica	2006	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grenada	2006	n/a	n/a	97%	97%	97%	96%
Montserrat	2006	100%	100%	100%	96%	96%	96%
St. Kitts and Nevis	2006	99%	99%	99%	96%	96%	96%
St. Lucia	2006	98%	98%	98%	n/a	n/a	n/a
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	96%	n/a
Turks and Caicos Islands	2006	100%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a	98%

Source: UNICEF / WHO (July 2008) *Country, Regional and Global Estimates on Water and Sanitation*. Accessed at: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/estimates.pdf

¹¹⁵UNICEF (2007) "State of the World's Children 2006"

¹¹⁶UNDP (2005) "Grenada Core Welfare Indicators, Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey"



6.3. NUTRITION

Malnutrition rates of children in the region are declining. This is due in part to school feeding programmes, which avoid micronutrient deficiencies and the availability of fortified foods¹¹⁷. There are however problematic areas that need attention.

6.3.1. Anaemia

Iron deficiency anaemia, based on poor diet among children, is a major public health concern. In Dominica, for example, 43 per cent of children in the early childhood age group were anaemic¹¹⁸. In response, the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), in collaboration with the Ministries of Health have developed a Regional Protocol for the Detection, Prevention

and Treatment of Anaemia in Maternal and Health Clinics in the Caribbean¹¹⁹.

6.3.2. Breastfeeding

Exclusive breastfeeding policies are promoted for children from birth to 6 months of age throughout the region. However, the available data show historically low incidences of breast-feeding. In 2000, 33.9 per cent were being exclusively breast fed in Dominica¹²⁰. In 2003, in St. Kitts and Nevis, 2.5 per cent of infants were being exclusively breast fed between 4-6 months. More recent data is needed for a thorough analysis to be done on the current incidences and their causes.

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, work is under way to develop an Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy¹²¹, while in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados,

TABLE 6.3 - MATERNAL HEALTH INDICATORS¹²²

Country	Contraceptive prevalence (%) 2000 – 2007*	Antenatal care coverage (%) 2000 – 2007*	Skilled attendant at delivery (%) 2000 – 2007*	Maternal mortality ratio (reported) 2000 – 2007*
Antigua and Barbuda	53	100	100	0
Barbados	55 x	100	100	0 x
British Virgin Islands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dominica	50 x	100	99	0
Grenada	54 x	100	100	0
Montserrat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
St. Kitts and Nevis	54 x	100	100	0
St. Lucia	47 x	99	100	0
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	48 x	95	100	0
Turks and Caicos Islands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* Data refers to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading.

X Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition or refer to only part of a country.

¹¹⁷CFNI (2009) "Annual Report"

¹¹⁸Gordon, G, Johnson, P, Morris, A and Henry, F (2002) "Iron and Vitamin A status in Five Caribbean Countries, in Micronutrient deficiencies in the Caribbean"

¹¹⁹CFNI (2009) "Annual Report"

¹²⁰Paula Trotter (2005) "Caribbean Food & Nutrition Institute"

¹²¹CFNI (2009) "Annual Report"

¹²²UNICEF (2009) "The Status of the World's Children: Maternal and Newborn Health", p.146-148



TABLE 6.4 - PRENATAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE¹²³

Country	Year	Prenatal Health Care By Trained Personnel (%)
Antigua and Barbuda	2009	100
Barbados	2009	100
Dominica	2009	100
Grenada	2008	100
Montserrat	2009	100
St. Kitts and Nevis	2007	100
St. Lucia	2009	99.2
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2009	99.5
Turks and Caicos Islands	2009	98.7

Dominica, Montserrat and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, progress is being made towards the implementation of the World Health Organization Child and Growth standards. This tool will be used to monitor the growth and development of all babies and to take remedial action where necessary.

6.4. MATERNAL HEALTH

6.4.1. Mortality Rates

Maternal health indicators are good and maternal mortality rates, where data is available for Eastern Caribbean countries, are zero. This is a result of widespread access to pre-natal care and care at time of delivery. The majority of countries have achieved 100 per cent access in both areas - Table 6.3 and Table 6.4.

6.4.2. Juvenile Access to Health Services and Contraceptives

The early initiation of sex continues to be an area of concern for adolescent girls due to its potentially adverse impact on their health and the troublesome levels of teen pregnancy. The need for parental consent to access health services whilst protective in concept, in practice is a significant barrier for juvenile access to important preventative and curative health care services. Embarrassment associated with the purchase or other procurement of condoms as well as poor negotiation skills remain major constraints to the consistent condom use.

6.4.3. Chronic Diseases

Although maternal health has improved, there are concerns over the general health of women as it relates to chronic diseases. Poor lifestyle choices, including poor diet and lack of exercise, are resulting in increased incidences of chronic diseases. Currently, the leading causes of death in the region are related to diabetes, hypertension and obesity.

Diabetes is a major public health issue in the subregion. According to the Caribbean Health Research Council, the prevalence of diabetes in woman is higher than their male counterparts, which correlates with higher levels of obesity. Additionally, there is evidence to suggest that the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes is increasing in children and adolescents, which is also likely to be due to an increasing prevalence of obesity in these groups¹²⁴. Childhood obesity and diabetes remain a focal concern, fuelled by poor food choices and dietary habits in combination with increasing sedentary recreational pursuits.

6.4.4. HIV and AIDS

The Caribbean region as a whole has the second highest rate of HIV infection in the world after sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2009, it was estimated that there were 260,000 persons living with HIV, 18,000 new HIV infections and 12,000 deaths as a result of AIDS. The number of new HIV infections and deaths as a result of AIDS

¹²³PAHO (2009) "Health Situation in the Americas: Basic Indicators – 2009"

¹²⁴CHRC (last accessed 24 October 2011) [http://www.chrc-caribbean.org/files/Guidelines/Diabetes per cent 20Guidelines.pdf](http://www.chrc-caribbean.org/files/Guidelines/Diabetes%20Guidelines.pdf)



is down from 2001 figures, estimated at 21,000 for each indicator¹²⁵. It was estimated that there are over 5,000 persons living with AIDS in the OECS¹²⁶. Estimated adult prevalence for the Caribbean region is 1.1 per cent¹²⁷, and for the Eastern Caribbean the calculated average prevalence is between 0.77 per cent and 1.4 per cent¹²⁸.

Whilst many countries report lack of data to properly determine HIV prevalence, estimates indicate that HIV prevalence in countries in this sub-region vary from that of a generalized epidemic in Barbados with a HIV prevalence of 1.4 per cent to concentrated, low prevalence in countries like St. Kitts (0.47%), Grenada (0.57%) and St. Lucia (0.28%) with the

cent of deaths, respectively. To put this into context, the second leading causes of death for the age group are: ischemic heart disease for males (10.2%) and diabetes for females (10.9%)¹³⁰.

Countries all report the existence of a finalized or draft National HIV Strategic Plans. However, with recent declines in international funding, many governments have had to relook their plans even as they aspire towards wider cross-sectoral responses which involve strengthening the capacity of line ministries and community-based organizations to be actively involved in HIV prevention. Table 6.6 outlines the type of plans within the region according to the PANCAP Annual General Meeting in 2010.

TABLE 6.5 - HIV PREVALENCE DATA

Country	Year and Source of Data	Prevalence
Antigua and Barbuda	2009; National AIDS Secretariat, Antigua and Barbuda	0.1%
Barbados	2011; UNAIDS	1.4% (in 15 – 49 year olds)
British Virgin Islands	2007; UNGASS Country Progress Report	2.3%
Dominica	2009; Ministry of Health	0.75%
Grenada	2011; UNAIDS	0.57%
Montserrat	2009; Ministry of Health	0.6%
St. Kitts and Nevis	2011; UNAIDS	0.47%
St. Lucia	UNAIDS	0.28%
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2006; UNGASS Country Progress Report	0.4%
Turks and Caicos Islands	2009; Ministry of Health	0.99%

majority of new cases in the 15-49 age group¹²⁹. HIV is largely transmitted through sexual intercourse with particularly high risk groups being identified as those persons involved in transactional sex, traditional sex work, sex for drugs as well as the largely still hidden group of men who have sex with men. While countries like St. Lucia and Barbados still report a higher incidence in males than females, there is the concern that the incidence in females is increasing and has the potential to surpass that in males - as has occurred in other Caribbean countries in the region.

AIDS is the leading cause of death for men and women aged 20-59 at 15.7 per cent and 14.5 per

¹²⁵UNAIDS (2011) "The voices of the Caribbean People"

¹²⁶The Global Fund (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://portfolio.theglobalfund.org/Grant/Index/MAE-305-G01-H?lang=en>

¹²⁷PAHO (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=1453&Itemid=1449. Accessed on 28 May 2010.

¹²⁸Calculated on the basis of UNGASS Country Progress Reports, and data obtained from respective countries. Variation exists because St. Lucia's prevalence is determined to be between 0.22 per cent and 1.8 per cent

¹²⁹UNAIDS (2011) "The voices of the Caribbean People"

¹³⁰IBID



TABLE 6.6 - PLANS WITHIN THE REGION¹³¹

Country	National AIDS Strategic Plan	National Strategic Plan with a Budget	National M&E Plan
Antigua and Barbuda	Draft	No	No
Barbados	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dominica	Draft	No	No
Grenada	Draft	No	No
St. Kitts and Nevis	Yes	Yes	Draft
St. Lucia	Draft	No	Draft
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Yes	Yes	No

Countries have focused on reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV by integrating services into the antenatal clinics. However, progress has been uneven. Additionally while there has been expanded testing, there is still inadequate access to needed drugs. An opt-out approach to HIV testing for pregnant women accessing antenatal services has resulted in the majority of pregnant women being tested for HIV. For example, in Barbados in 2009, 94.7 per cent of pregnant women were screened for HIV at their antenatal booking¹³². However, at the same time, there are uneven levels of access to anti-retroviral drugs across the region with the number of HIV positive women who received ARTs, varying, for example, from 50 per cent in St. Kitts and Nevis, 75 per cent in St. Lucia to 100 per cent Barbados¹³³. This has no doubt negatively affected the level of success in reducing the MTCT rates even as countries like Barbados intensify efforts to achieve a zero transmission level.

There is concern that the prevention programming lacks the needed depth to ensure greater effectiveness. Education has centred on information and knowledge on HIV transmission is high, however, the gap between knowledge and practice remains. Greater attention needs to be placed on addressing some of the contextual factors impacting on HIV transmission and empowering individuals to make positive decisions about their health and well-being. Within recent years there has been an increase in the use of HIV testing services, largely through the VCT programmes offered by the Ministries of Health. In 2009 in Barbados, males accounted for 50.2 per cent of the tests done in polyclinics - an increase of over 20 per cent from the previous year¹³⁴. Despite this progress, it is still strongly felt that there remains

some reluctance to access testing and other services for those needing them due to the high levels of HIV stigma and discrimination which persist.

6.5. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is prevalent across the subregion. All Caribbean islands have higher rates of sexual violence than the world average¹³⁵. For example, 30 per cent of adult women in Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados have experienced some form of domestic abuse¹³⁶.

Research has shown that violence against women has far-reaching consequences for the women involved, their children, and society as a whole. It is a violation of their right to life and to live without fear and violence. It also profoundly damages the physical, sexual, reproductive, emotional, mental and social well being of individuals and families. Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems, and their ability to earn a living and to participate in public life is diminished. Their children are significantly more at risk for health problems, poor school performance and disruptive behaviour¹³⁷.

¹³¹UNAIDS (2011) "The voices of the Caribbean People"

¹³²UNGASS (2010) "2008/2008 Country Reports"

¹³³IBID

¹³⁴IBID

¹³⁵UN WOMEN (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.unifemcar.org/ne_cfm?ID=77

¹³⁶IBID

¹³⁷IBID



Efforts have been made in the region to build awareness of the problem and to put policies in place to address it. State Parties have passed laws against domestic violence and organisations like UN Women continue to advocate against such abuse.

6.6. ACHIEVEMENT OF MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Progress toward the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been steady. However, the lack of data and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to correctly monitor progress remains a huge problem for the region.

The islands of the Eastern Caribbean have progressed towards achieving MDG 4 on all the indicators: Reducing Under-five Mortality, Reducing Infant Mortality and Immunization against measles. Barbados and Dominica have been listed as having already achieved this goal¹³⁸, while the British Virgin Islands has not been able to achieve a reduction in either of the indicators.

With regards to MDG 5, the islands have made progress, with achievement in all the countries where progress is tracked.

7. DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

The Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that State Parties must recognize the rights of the child to education and development to the fullest potential. Specifically, it states inter alia that¹³⁹:

- Education of the child shall be directed to the development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest potential;
- Primary education should be compulsory and free for all;
- Higher education should be accessible;
- School dropout rates should decrease;

- School discipline should be consistent with maintaining the dignity of the child;
- Children with disabilities should have effective access to and receive education and training in preparation for achieving social integration and individual development;
- Children have the right to get information that is important to their health and well-being; and
- Governments should encourage the mass media to desist from promoting harmful information to children.

The MDG 2 calls for achievement of universal primary education, whereby by 2015, boys and girls are able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

This section examines the progress made and the challenges being encountered in achieving these developmental rights of children.

7.1. Early Childhood Development

Early childhood refers to the period in a child's life between birth and eight years old. During this time the child goes through critical development stages, which must be adequately managed to enable the child to develop to her/his fullest potential. In addition to appropriate and adequate health interventions, the key interventions necessary to ensure positive development are early stimulation, development monitoring with early intervention and early childhood education. There are significant gaps in the availability, access and quality of these services across the Eastern Caribbean countries¹⁴⁰.

¹³⁸UNDP (last accessed 29 April 2010), MDG Monitor found at www.mdgmonitor.org

¹³⁹Articles 17, 23, 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

¹⁴⁰UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean (2010). Early Childhood Care and Education in the Caribbean Community. Report prepared for the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education, Moscow, 27-29 September 2010, based on regional survey of all CARICOM countries conducted in April 2010.



7.1.1. Early Stimulation

Early stimulation of children from birth to three years traditionally takes place in the home or in day care centres. The quality of early stimulation is therefore dependent on two factors i.e. parenting knowledge and expertise of the parent or caregiver in the home and/or the quality of service provided by the day care centres. In the Eastern Caribbean, organised programmes for delivering such stimulation are not widespread. This is due in part to the lack of information on the importance of such stimulation and the lack of knowledge of the required techniques for its delivery¹⁴¹. Many children therefore are not exposed to systematic stimulation as part of their early childhood experience.

7.1.2. Developmental Monitoring and Early Intervention

Developmental monitoring and early intervention services and supports are also severely lacking. There is an absence of sustainable systems to perform the necessary developmental screening and to provide adequate follow-up support. The net result is that children with developmental delays - physical, behavioural, social, emotional, sensory, communicative and cognitive - are not systematically identified until they are past five years old, many times as a consequence of poor primary school performance. In many cases, this is too late to make a meaningful intervention.

Barbados and St. Lucia are examples of two countries that have initiated programming aimed at strengthening this area¹⁴².

7.1.3. Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Early childhood development is delivered primarily in government and privately owned day care centres and pre-schools targeting the

TABLE 7.1 - ECD CENTRE OWNERSHIP IN OECS¹⁴³

Type of Owner	Total	%
- Government	144	18
- Private	501	64
- Faith-based	121	15
- NGO	13	2
- Community	9	1
Total	788	100

zero to two and three to five cohorts respectively. In the OECS, with the exception of Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis, the sector has developed in an *ad hoc* manner, with private operators responding to a demand from the public for facilities to take care of children while the parents are at work. As a result, only 18 per cent of the institutions are owned by Government; 64 per cent are owned by private operators and the remainder are owned or sponsored by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and faith-based organisations - Table 7.1.

Over the last 10 years, the governments of the Eastern Caribbean have initiated a process aimed at strengthening the early childhood sector. Within the OECS, governments of nine states have been developing policies that reflect the specific national picture of private and public actors and defining the roles that each plays. National Early Childhood policies have been approved at Cabinet level in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis and drafts have been developed in Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos Islands.

The model that has begun to emerge is one where the private operators remain dominant in the service delivery aspect of the sector, while the government provides a monitoring role, predicated

¹⁴¹UNESCO (2010) "Early Childhood Care and Education in the Caribbean Community" - Report prepared for the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education Moscow, 27-29 September 2010, based on regional survey of all CARICOM countries conducted in April 2010.

¹⁴²IBID

¹⁴³UNICEF (2010) "ECCE in the Caribbean Community: Report prepared for the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE)"



	ANT	ANG	BVI	GRE	MONT	SKN	SLC
Gross Enrolment Ratio							
Entire Cohort	46	49	51	44	41	41	39
Birth - 2	28	17	41	18	26	15	18
Preschool	72	100	65	65	115	67	73
Gross Enrolment Ratio Male							
Entire Cohort	46	n.a	53	45	38	42	38
Birth - 2	28	n.a	43	19	25	16	18
Preschool	73	n.a	69	66	117	68	72
Gross Enrolment Ratio Female							
Entire Cohort	46	n.a	49	43	44	40	40
Birth - 2	28	n.a	40	17	26	15	19
Preschool	73	n.a	61	64	115	66	74

TABLE 7.2 - ENROLMENT RATIOS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE AGE COHORTS¹⁴⁴

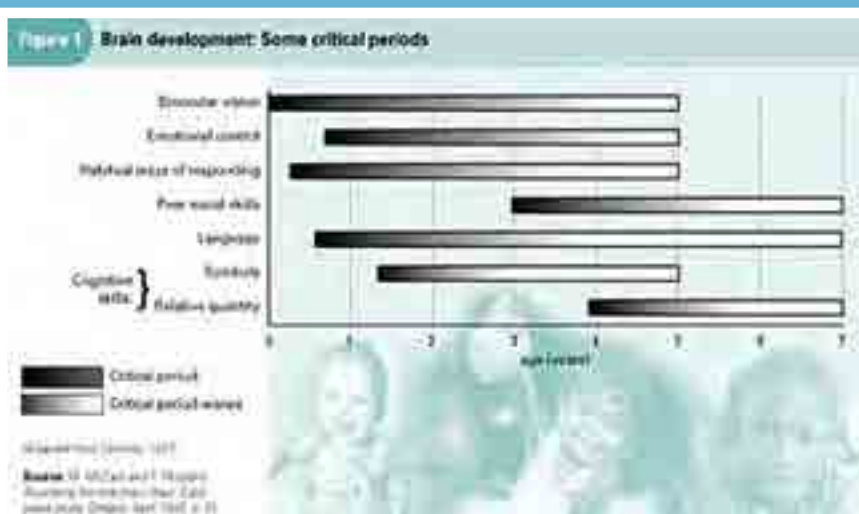


FIG. 7.1 - CRITICAL PERIODS FOR BRAIN DEVELOPMENT¹⁴⁶

on a strong legal framework that establishes minimum standards of service delivery.

7.1.3.1. Participation

Access to provision by the entire cohort of children from birth to five years of age in seven OECS countries ranges from 39 per cent in St. Lucia to 51 per cent in the British Virgin Islands¹⁴⁵- Table 2.

The data for seven countries show that significant proportions of the early childhood cohorts are not exposed to structured early childhood programming. For the birth to two cohorts, the

participation rates ranged between 17 per cent and 41 per cent for the entire cohort, while for the preschool cohorts, the participation rates ranges from 65 per cent to 100 per cent in two countries.

These low participation rates are cause for concern since the early years are the most critical

¹⁴⁴UNICEF (2010) "ECCE in the Caribbean Community: Report prepared for the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE)"

¹⁴⁵UNESCO (2010) Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines not included as data collected was incomplete

¹⁴⁶UNICEF (2001) "State of the World's Children"



period for brain development - Fig. 7.1 - including binocular vision, emotional control, language, some cognitive skills and habitual ways of responding¹⁴⁷. Among the causes advanced for the low participation were: inability to pay fees, insufficient and overcrowded facilities, and limited human capacity to support expansion¹⁴⁸.

In addition, States have not consciously planned to extend access to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. While some programmes exist in some countries, they are not at the scale needed to tackle the needs in these areas.

7.1.3.2. *Quality of Learning Environments*

The quality of the learning environment in the majority of the early childhood centres is below the minimum accepted standards. National surveys undertaken in Grenada in 2005, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis in 2007, and Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands in 2009, found that the majority of programmes were inadequate on a number of key indicators - support for language and reasoning, programme structure and children's activities, and provisions for parents and staff¹⁴⁹. The quality of early childhood centres varies greatly throughout the subregion. For example, in Antigua and Barbuda, 59 per cent of all early childhood centres were deemed inadequate, with only two per cent receiving a good rating¹⁵⁰, while in Montserrat, all except one centre were operating at the minimal standard or just below¹⁵¹.

This can be attributed to a lack of leadership and oversight within the ECD sector throughout the region, especially in the areas of policy, regulatory frameworks, health and safety standards, curricular interventions and teacher training¹⁵².

Response in addressing this issue remains a challenge due to an absence of minimum standards, the unavailability of trained and qualified personnel, and the lack of supervisory capacity to support the improvement of quality services¹⁵³.

7.1.4. *Provision for Vulnerable Groups*

Of particular concern is the lack of targeted provision for vulnerable groups. Girls and boys

with special needs, children of income-poor families, HIV orphans and vulnerable children, among other disadvantaged and at risk children continue to face challenges of vulnerability in the subregion.

Notable exceptions to specific provisions for vulnerable groups include the mainstreaming of special needs children in the British Virgin Islands, Grenada and Montserrat¹⁵⁴ and the Roving Care Givers Programmes in Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which support rural, unemployed parents in providing early stimulation to their children. Additionally, in St. Kitts and Nevis the Reaching the Unreached programme provides early childhood services to vulnerable families who are not able to participate in the formal day-care and pre-school programmes.

However, these programmes are all limited in reach. There is an urgent need for significant scaling up of these programmes as well as for a strategic approach to targeting vulnerable children to ensure that their early childhood development rights are fulfilled.

Underlying the lack of comprehensive and targeted services is the need to continue to strengthen policy frameworks, implement

¹⁴⁷UNICEF (2001) "State of the World's Children"

¹⁴⁸IBID

¹⁴⁹UNICEF (2010) "State of the World's Children"

¹⁵⁰CARICOM (2007) "Quality of Environments in Early Childhood Centres in Antigua and Barbuda report"

¹⁵¹CARICOM (2009) "Quality of Environments in Early Childhood Centres in Montserrat Report"

¹⁵²CARICOM (March 2008) Communiqué Issued at the Conclusion of the Twelfth Special Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Georgetown, GUYANA, 17-19 March 2008

¹⁵³UNESCO (2010) Early Childhood Care and Education in the Caribbean Community. Report prepared for the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education, Moscow, 27-29 September 2010

¹⁵⁴IBID



strong monitoring mechanisms and build human and technical capacity to deliver the services at the levels that are required. A coherent policy framework is necessary in order to address the needs of all children, and particularly those in poor and vulnerable populations, in a systematic manner.

7.1.5. Response Programming

In addition to efforts at supporting policy development and establishment of regulatory frameworks, efforts are also underway to improve service standards across the entire CARICOM region. To this end, an Early Childhood Minimum Service Standard was developed in consultation with all CARICOM countries and was endorsed by CARICOM's Council on Human and Social Development in 2008¹⁵⁵. Work has also been initiated in curriculum development to support the minimum service standard.

The Early Childhood Minimum Service Standard "is an essential requirement for achieving desired outcomes for children's development and well being"¹⁵⁶ and efforts are being made to implement it in all countries in the region. To this end, the OECS countries are working cooperatively with a common monitoring instrument for measuring progress towards achieving the Early Childhood Minimum Service Standard, while pursuing the finalisation and implementation of the necessary supporting national early childhood policies and regulatory frameworks.

The establishment and implementation of these standards are essential for ensuring that children have access to quality early childhood experiences that will prepare them not only for primary schooling, but also for leading productive and satisfying lives.

Two major constraints that have been identified in this regard are the availability of appropriately

trained and qualified personnel, with education and care-giving skills, and the strength of the supervisory capacity to support the improvement of quality in services.

There is therefore a need to continue efforts in critical areas, viz:

- a) Early childhood policy completion and approval;
- b) Monitoring of early childhood standards and support for the process of formal approval and gazetting of standards as regulations under education legislation;
- c) Supporting the development of national strategies for the extension of access of poor and vulnerable children to quality services;
- d) Supporting the development of a more structured approach to the birth to three cohorts; and
- e) Supporting the planning for the establishment of teacher training, and for extending access to it across member states, together with support for the professionalization of early childhood teachers e.g. salary structures, career paths, and the like.

7.1.6. Conclusion

The Early Childhood sectors in the subregion are far from achieving the goal of education for all¹⁵⁷. Service coverage is not comprehensive and vulnerable groups are in many cases face access barriers. Additionally, the quality of the programmes in many of the centres is deficient. However, useful work has been started on policy development, curriculum development and the implementation of standards and these advances need to be consolidated in any future programming.

¹⁵⁵CARICOM (2008) Regional Guidelines for Developing Policy, Regulation and Standards in Early Childhood Development Services, CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Guyana

¹⁵⁶IBID

¹⁵⁷UNESCO (2010) Early Childhood Care and Education in the Caribbean Community. Report prepared for the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education, Moscow, 27-29 September 2010



7.2. PRIMARY EDUCATION

Countries in the sub-region have achieved the goal of universal primary education well ahead of the 2015 MDG target. Boys and girls are equally able to access at least six years of primary school education starting latest at age five.

7.2.1. Enrolment

World Bank data from 2009 showed net primary enrollment rates which ranged from 88.3 per cent in Antigua and Barbuda to 94.6 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which suggests that there is still a small number of children not attending primary school. The reasons for this are not readily apparent and suggest the need for some focused research which would identify any remaining barriers to primary education so that these can be eliminated.

academically-able child who requires additional educational support including teachers with special competencies and skills to help them acquire the needed numeracy and literacy skills.

7.3. SECONDARY EDUCATION

In 1997, CARICOM Heads of Government set a target date of 2005 for the achievement of universal secondary education in the region. Since that time, many Member States have either achieved that target or have moved much closer to it. Unfortunately, in many instances, the move towards universal provision at this level has translated to provision of places in a secondary school without rethinking with regard to the necessary systemic changes to accommodate the wide range of aptitudes and abilities of students making the transition from primary to secondary schooling.

TABLE 6.5 - PRIMARY NET ENROLMENT (PER CENT)¹⁵⁸

	2007	2008	2009
World Average	87.2	87.9	87.8
Antigua and Barbuda	73.8	89.6	88.3
Dominica	89.3	94.0	93.3
St. Kitts and Nevis	87.9	81.4	90.7
St. Lucia	93.3	91.5	90.8
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	95.3	94.6	94.5

7.2.2. Completion

Transition to secondary schools is largely by means of a standardized test at age 11-12 years which focuses principally on mathematics, language arts and social studies. Students are mainly assigned to secondary schools based on this high stakes test which invariably leads to the high achievers being concentrated in the "elite" schools. Over the years, girls have generally outperformed boys. It is notable that an estimated 30 per cent of the students taking this test have not acquired the basic competencies to perform at secondary level, nevertheless they are still assigned to secondary schools.

This would suggest that primary school is therefore not meeting the needs of the less

7.3.1. Universal Access

Access to secondary education has generally increased in the subregion region over the past decade with many countries providing universal access. Barbados, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis have a long history of universal access with 100 per cent access at age 11-12; Dominica attained complete access at age 11-12 in 2006 and; St. Vincent and the Grenadines has attained universal access for the 11-12 age group. Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada were the only countries reporting access strictly by success at Common Entrance.

¹⁵⁸World Bank (last accessed 26 October 2011) <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTOECS/Resources/OECSReportSchoolandWorkNov5.pdf>



7.3.2. Enrolment

Despite the availability of universal access, net secondary enrolment is still short of 100 per cent. Available data indicates enrolment rates of 89.2 per cent in Dominica (2007), 79.6 per cent in St. Lucia (2008), 90.3 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2008), while in Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis, 88.0 per cent and 88.3 per cent of students enrolled in secondary education in 2009¹⁵⁹ - Appendix 4.

is an essential skill in an increasingly globalised world. Additionally, language is recognized as one of the characteristics of the Ideal Caribbean Person¹⁶², identified by youth as someone who is skilled in more than one language. It is thus disconcerting that there is said lack of proficiency in English, as it becomes even more formidable to operate in two or more languages.

In 2007, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



FIG. 7.2 - CSEC EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE 2009¹⁶⁰

7.3.3. Educational Outcomes

7.3.3.1. Examination Passes

Measured by CSEC examination passes, the performance of the subregion's children at the secondary level is poor. In 2009, only 21 per cent of students attained passes in at least five subjects - which is the acceptable performance for matriculation and entry level employment; 25 per cent received one pass, while 28 per cent received no passes - Fig 7.2.

This low pass rate exists despite the fact that education receives a relatively large share of national budgets equating to an average of 6.8 per cent of GDP in 2007 in the OECS¹⁶¹.

In addition, a large number of students lack general proficiency in mathematics, the foundation of logical thought and the sciences, while a significant number of the region's students lack proficiency in English. The lack of proficiency in English is an alarming trend, as it

(UNECLAC) concluded that the education system has failed to adequately prepare young persons for skilled jobs in the new global economy. Although youth may have received up to 11 years of formal education, school leavers frequently had no diploma or marketable skills and were taking a long time to find employment¹⁶³.

7.3.3.2. Employment Prospects

The private sector has difficulties identifying young persons who are "trainable" and qualified with

¹⁵⁹World Bank (last accessed 21 September 2011) <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTOECS/Resources/OECSReportSchoolandWorkNov5.pdf>

¹⁶⁰Caribbean Examinations Council (2009)

¹⁶¹OECS Secretariat (2009) "Towards a New OECS Education Development Agenda" p.10

¹⁶²CARICOM (2010) "Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development"

¹⁶³IBID



basic education and soft skills to fit entry-level positions¹⁶⁴. As a result, the employment options for graduates below the acceptable performance level are limited, while concurrently unemployment levels among the Caribbean's more educated youth are high. This must be analyzed in the context where the education system provides little guidance and assistance for students who are interested in finding jobs, or identifying the type of job in which they have aptitude and interest¹⁶⁵. The USAID study inferred that secondary education in the Eastern Caribbean is not responsive to the requirements of the labour market¹⁶⁶.

7.3.4. Contributing Factors

These poor outcomes at the secondary level are cause for concern; and reasons for this occurrence are the subject of much debate. Foremost among these is a perception that the environment in which learning takes place at both the primary and secondary level is generally not conducive to the needs of all the students. Additionally, out-dated teaching techniques and punitive disciplinary methods have also been advanced as factors that reduce the learning prospects of students.

7.3.4.1. Learning Environment

Focus group discussions held with students pointed to a number of factors existing in the school environment that hinder their progress. These include the following:

- Failure of the education system to provide a learning environment that is stimulating and encourages learning. Youth have described education as boring, limited and academic-focused and ultra-traditional¹⁶⁷;
- Lack of enthusiasm from the teachers who appeared to be often stressed and unable to deal effectively with students¹⁶⁸; and
- Failure of the education system to adequately cater to the different abilities and aptitudes of students.

This final point was reiterated by Roberta Clarke, Director of the UN Women Caribbean Office, who

noted that the education system is structured for teaching to the children who succeed. However, little attention is given to slower learners whose examination marks place them in poor performing schools¹⁶⁹.

7.3.4.2. Teaching Techniques

There appears to be disconnect between the digital age and the present “chalk and talk” teaching method in the school environment. Many students network via social media platforms, communicate with email, download content from the Internet, and are continually exposed to changing information. In this respect, the present education system is using data linear methods to educate children whose minds are operating in several parallel and hyperlinked dimensions¹⁷⁰. The CARICOM Commission on Youth Development has concluded that teachers are often ill-prepared to address the existing and emerging personal and societal challenges faced by youth¹⁷¹. Consequently, many students drop out of secondary school citing boredom and interest as reasons for the decision. Additional reasons for dropping out that have been identified are aptitude to succeed in the school structure, lack of funds, or encouragement to continue¹⁷².

7.3.4.3. Disciplinary Methods

Disciplinary methods in schools in the Eastern Caribbean subregion are generally aimed at inflicting physical punishment in an attempt to correct negative student behaviour as opposed

¹⁶⁴USAID (2008) “Rapid Youth Assessment in the Eastern Caribbean”

¹⁶⁵IBID

¹⁶⁶IBID

¹⁶⁷CARICOM (2010) “Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development”

¹⁶⁸St. Lucia focus group discussion 14th April 2010

¹⁶⁹USAID (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/pubs/Barbados_East_Caribbean_Gender_Assessment_2010.pdf

¹⁷⁰OECS Secretariat (2009) “Towards a New OECS Education Development Agenda” p.14-15

¹⁷¹CARICOM (2010) “Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development”

¹⁷²USAID (2008) Rapid Youth Assessment in the Eastern Caribbean.



to the use of more child-centred approaches that reinforce positive behaviour. Corporal punishment is used and is widely socially acceptable in the majority of islands¹⁷³.

The use of corporal punishment is in contravention to Article 28 of the CRC. UNICEF is spearheading efforts to encourage greater use of alternative methods of discipline in schools, with a focus on positive behavioural management. This initiative is supported by the Caribbean Teachers' Unions and national teachers unions.

7.4. TERTIARY EDUCATION

In 1997, the Conference of Heads of Government also set a target enrolment of 15 per cent of the post-secondary cohort in tertiary education by 2005. Despite this, access to tertiary education in the region is limited and is restricted mainly to the upper and middle class in many countries in the subregion¹⁷⁴. In 2008 in St. Lucia, for example, 14.8 per cent of students were enrolled; while in Dominica 3.8 per cent were enrolled¹⁷⁵. In the British Virgin Islands, enrolment was 7.4 per cent and in Barbados, 4.25 per cent¹⁷⁶. In 2009, enrolment rates were 16.0 per cent in St. Lucia (increasing by 1.2 per cent from the previous year), and 14.75 per cent in Antigua and Barbuda¹⁷⁷. It is significant to note that the overwhelming majority of students at this level are females, making the lower enrolment levels of males a cause for concern.

A number of reasons have been advanced for these low enrolment rates including high cost, limited space and limited degree offerings. In

St. Lucia, for example, the per capita cost of tertiary education is six times the cost of primary education and four times the cost of secondary level education¹⁷⁸. Many find the cost of tertiary education prohibitive.

7.5. ADOLESCENTS AT RISK

Adolescence, from age 10 to 19, represents the formative years of development for a child in terms of the social networks, competencies and life skills they will acquire and develop during this time¹⁷⁹. Like in any region, adolescents in the Eastern Caribbean face a variety of challenges, include early initiation of sexual activity and its consequences, male marginalization, mental health issues, obesity, alcohol and drug abuse, migration of parents and disability. Although the majority of adolescents are able to cope with these challenges within their social structure, significant numbers need additional support to enable them to develop to their fullest potential.

7.5.1. Adolescent Sexual Activity

7.5.1.1. Early Sexual Initiation

Sexual activity amongst adolescents is high and the initiation into sexual activity for girls can begin as early as the age of 10¹⁸⁰. Sexual activity among school children between the ages of 13 to 15 ranges from 26 per cent in Grenada and St. Lucia to 35.7 per cent in the British Virgin Islands¹⁸¹. Additionally, 44 per cent of sexually active youth had their first experience before the age of 15¹⁸².

¹⁷³UNICEF (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.unicef.org/barbados/children_103.htm

¹⁷⁴USAID (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/pubs/Barbados_East_Caribbean_Gender_Assessment_2010.pdf

¹⁷⁵World Bank (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTEDUC>

¹⁷⁶World Bank/OECS/UWI conference 22-24 March 2010

¹⁷⁷World Bank (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://web.worldbank.org/WEBSITE/EXTEDUCATION/EXTDATASTATISTICS/EXTEDSTATS/0,,content>

¹⁷⁸Dr. Didacus (2009) "An Alternate Vision for Tertiary Education Provision in Small Island States"

¹⁷⁹UNICEF TACRO (2009) "Final Revised Draft: UNICEF Latin America / Caribbean Well-Being Indicators UNICEF" p.6

¹⁸⁰UNICEF (Last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.unicef.org/Barbados/children_100.htm

¹⁸¹World Health Organization (2007-2009) "Global School-based Student Health" Anguilla (2009), Grenada (2008), BVI (2009), St. Lucia (2007), Dominica (2009), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2007)

¹⁸²Family Health International (2007) "Behavioral Surveillance Surveys in six OECS Countries: 2005-2006, USAID/CAREC/PAHO"



Although there are media campaigns focusing on the dangers of unprotected sex, there is a lack of consistency in the use of condoms among sexually active children. In St. Lucia, for example, 53.5 per cent of children used a condom the last time they had sexual encounter, while in the BVI, 71.6 per cent used a condom at the last sexual encounter¹⁸³. Generally the consistent use of contraceptives among adolescents is low, with 30 per cent of girls and 24 per cent of boys 18 years and younger reporting that they always use contraception¹⁸⁴. Consequently a high number of adolescents are being exposed to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and are at risk of teenage pregnancy.

7.5.1.2. Teenage Mothers

Adolescent fertility rates (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19), where data is available, range from 41.7 in Grenada to 61.7 in St. Lucia for the period 2006 - 2008. Declines in the rate were recorded in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while in Barbados and St. Lucia the rates remained fairly constant¹⁸⁵ - see Table 7.3.

As previously mentioned, although health care is widely available, confidential health care for adolescents is not available. In most countries, although the age of sexual consent is 16 years, the age of medical consent is 18 years. This means that pregnant teenagers under the age of 18 must obtain parental consent before obtaining pre-natal care. These challenges can delay the early onset of pre-natal care and can endanger the health of both the mother and child. In so doing, the right of the mother and child to medical care is denied.

TABLE 7.3 - ADOLESCENT FERTILITY RATE¹⁸⁶

Country	2006	2007	2008
Barbados	42.7	42.7	42.7
Grenada	45.0	43.3	41.7
St. Lucia	61.7	61.7	61.1
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	60.6	59.5	58.5

7.5.2. Access to Education by Teenage Mothers

The education system is not designed to facilitate the needs of teenage mothers; they are therefore disadvantaged within the system and are less likely to finish their education due to their pregnancy. Although there are no legal prohibitions that prevent teen mothers from accessing education, there remain no clear guidelines or policies geared at accommodating them within the school system¹⁸⁷. There are no allowances for appropriate alternative uniforms to be worn by pregnant teenagers; there is a lack of child care facilities within the schools and there are limited public assistance programmes aimed at providing financial support to pregnant teenagers, which would enable them to continue their education within the mainstream system. Additionally, public opinion is generally not supportive of the return of teen mothers into the mainstream education system¹⁸⁸.

In cases where they do return, they can face negative attitudes from staff and students and may be denied the opportunity to graduate with their class¹⁸⁹. Others are less likely to complete their education because of a lack of childcare facilities within schools, financial constraints, or the difficulty in juggling childcare with studying. As a result, the rights of the majority of teenage mothers to education as stipulated in the CRC are denied.

“Becoming a teen mother does not mean the end of the world as we know it. It just means that we have to look at it from a different perspective.”

- Teen mother speaking at the UNICEF Mid Term Review meeting, St. Kitts June 1-3, 2010

¹⁸³World Health Organization (2007-2009) “Global School-based Student Health” Anguilla (2009), Grenada (2008), BVI (2009), St. Lucia (2007), Dominica (2009), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2007)

¹⁸⁴25 Family Health International (2007) “Behavioural Surveillance Surveys in six OECS Countries :2005-2006, USAID, CAREC, PAHO”

¹⁸⁵World Bank (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT>

¹⁸⁶United Nations Population Division “World Population Prospects”

¹⁸⁷UNICEF / UN ECLAC / Blank, L (2008) “Children and Families in Transition: Young Parents and Caretakers in the Eastern Caribbean”, p.29

¹⁸⁸IBID

¹⁸⁹IBID



Poverty appears to be one predisposing factor to teenage pregnancies in the subregion, and the cycle of poverty and repeat pregnancies appears to be intergenerational¹⁹⁰.

7.5.3. Male Marginalisation

Adolescent males within the region are increasingly at risk of underachievement and underdevelopment in the education system. It is generally believed that males are more involved in negative practices, including early sexual activity, alcohol use and violence, however little statistical data is available to verify this trend. It is, however, evident in the justice system that adolescent males are more often in conflict with authorities than their female counterparts.

7.5.3.1. Educational Attainment

Males generally underperform compared to girls within the education system. This is reflected in the numbers of males compared to the number of females in the Eastern Caribbean who wrote the Caribbean Secondary School Certificate (CSEC) examinations, in a context where there is almost a 1:1 male/female ratio in the national populations, viz:

- In Antigua and Barbuda 6,162 females, compared to 3,453 males, were entered into the June 2009 CSEC examinations;
- In Barbados, 17,653 females entered, compared to 11,194 males;
- In St. Lucia, 10,380 females entered, compared to 6,595 males; and
- In the Turks and Caicos Islands, 1,210 female entered, compared to 1,009 males - Appendix 5.

These participation rates are mirrored in the subject selection where female entrants were more numerous than males in all the subject areas. In Biology, for example, over 80 per cent more females than males sat the examination - Appendix 5.

Students who underperform while at school and/or drop out of school have few educational and employment opportunities. Outside of the formal education system, there are limited opportunities to learn technical and professional skills¹⁹¹.

The gender inequities within the educational system are quite stark and the reasons for such male disadvantage are not fully understood. More needs to be done in terms of understanding the following¹⁹²:

- Gender stereotyping and misinformed gender roles as they impact on self-esteem, learning styles, inequities in subject selection, career development and employment possibilities;
- Issues of inferiority and superiority, inclusive and exclusive language, domestic violence, parental responsibility, and gender strengths and weaknesses; and
- Societal influences on the socialization of students.

7.5.3.2. Negative Social Behaviours

In 2009, the number of adolescent male students having sexual intercourse ranged from 39.5 per cent in Anguilla to 52.4 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while among female students it ranged from 12.6 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to 54.0 per cent in Dominica¹⁹³.

Consumption of alcohol to the point of intoxication by male students ranged from 15.4 per cent in St. Lucia, to 40.3 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The range for female students was 14.1 per cent in St. Lucia, to 30.0 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Similarly serious injury to male students as a result of violence ranged from 40.3 per cent in Anguilla to 55.0 per cent in St. Lucia, while the range for females was from 44.7 per cent in St. Vincent and the

¹⁹⁰UNICEF / UN ECLAC / Blank, L (2008) "Children and Families in Transition: Young Parents and Caretakers in the Eastern Caribbean"

¹⁹¹USAID (2008) "Rapid Youth Assessment in the Eastern Caribbean"

¹⁹²Hinds, H (2007) "Subregional Meeting on The Unspoken Gender: Boys and Education, OERU"

¹⁹³World Health Organization (2007-2009) "Global School-based Student Health" Anguilla (2009), Grenada (2008), BVI (2009), St. Lucia (2007), Dominica (2009), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2007)



Grenadines to 35.6 per cent in the British Virgin Islands¹⁹⁴.

In addition, male negative social behaviour comes to the attention of the authorities more frequently than their female counterparts¹⁹⁵. This, however, does not indicate that females are less likely to participate in practices associated with negative social behaviour.

7.5.3.3. Gangs

Gangs are also a major factor in the region. Studies in Grenada have found links to at least three known gangs - Ginger Crew, Crips and Bloods, and Saigon¹⁹⁶. Additionally, an Organization of American States (OAS) study done in 2008 revealed the existence of 39 different gangs in Antigua and Barbuda¹⁹⁷.

The gang culture, typified by macabre initiation rites, drug trafficking and use of violent criminal activity, poses a serious threat to social stability. Gang prevalence is thought to be fuelled by global media which often glorifies criminal activity.

Additionally, a number of factors have been identified as the reasons why gangs and crimes are attractive. These include poverty, social exclusion, corruption, large scale urbanization, unemployment and weak education systems that do not cater to boys¹⁹⁸.

A number of other interconnected factors have been advanced for the overall poor development of adolescent males. The framework in Table 7.4 below details causes and characteristics of male marginalization.

**TABLE 7.4
- INTEGRATED
FRAMEWORK
OF THE CAUS-
ES OF MALE
MARGINALIZA-
TION¹⁹⁹**

Causality	Characteristics
<i>Individual Level</i>	- Low self-esteem. - Lack of literacy and numeracy skills. - Internal locus of control. - Temperamental children who show a fearless, impulsive temperament very early in life may have a predisposition for aggressive or violent behaviour. - Lack of life skills.
<i>Relationship Level</i>	- Family demographics—poor socioeconomic status of household. - Unstable family environment—breakdown of the family, high prevalence of female-headed households, absentee fathers, domestic violence. - Parent and sibling characteristics—semi-literate, antisocial personality, marital violence, parent or sibling involved in violent acts outside the criminal justice system and/or alcohol/drug use. - Parenting techniques—lack of monitoring, inconsistent discipline, harsh and continuing physical punishment, abuse, lack of care, nurture and upbringing of children.
<i>Community Level</i>	- School—poor school / community relationship, no, inadequate or inappropriate programmes for community engagement in children's development activities. - Neighbourhood—ready access to alcohol and drugs, lack of recreational facilities, lack of facilities to develop literacy / numeracy skills, lack of employment opportunities, lack of effective community role models. - Criminal justice issues—poor policing, perceived lack of justice.

¹⁹⁴World Health Organization (2007-2009) "Global School-based Student Health" Anguilla (2009), Grenada (2008), BVI (2009), St. Lucia (2007), Dominica (2009), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2007)

¹⁹⁵BID

¹⁹⁶USAID (2008) "Rapid Youth Assessment in the Eastern Caribbean"

¹⁹⁷USAID (2010) "Gender Assessment Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean"

¹⁹⁸BID

¹⁹⁹Moser, C and van Bronkhorst, B (1999) "Youth Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean: Costs, Causes, and Interventions World Bank" p.11 and World Bank / Commonwealth Secretariat, May 2009, Regional Caribbean Conference on Keeping Boys Out of Risk, p.11

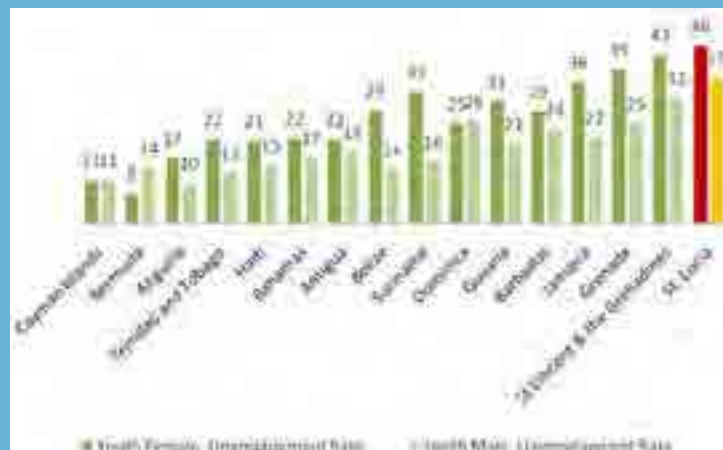


FIG. 7.3 - YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT BY GENDER (2006)²⁰⁰

Source: ILO

7.5.4. Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment levels for both sexes have been historically high²⁰¹. During the period of 1998 to 2005, average youth unemployment in the OECS was 32 per cent²⁰¹.

In 2006, unemployment was over 30 per cent in all the OECS countries for which data was available - Fig. 7.3. This graph also confirms higher female unemployment in all the countries except Dominica, where the rates are on par. St. Lucia recorded the highest level at 46 per cent.

Currently, the supply of young persons seeking jobs outstrips the demand²⁰³.

Among factors contributing to youth unemployment are the absence of an entrepreneurial culture and a lack of a supporting environment to aid in the development of such. In the Eastern Caribbean, young persons generally seek employment with already established businesses. In situations where persons would want to become entrepreneurs, there are few skills training or entrepreneurial development agencies that can facilitate the process. Additionally, stringent criteria for obtaining start-up loans to fund businesses automatically disqualify youth applicants²⁰⁴.

7.5.5. Mental Health

There is currently no comprehensive assessment for the development of mental health systems in

the subregion. Information gaps and unreliable data make the establishment of trends in mental health very challenging. According to PAHO, the main challenges to be addressed in concern to mental health within the subregion are:

- “The absence of a mental health and substance abuse unit (or focal person) within the ministries of health in the sub-region, may be an obstacle for the implementation of a national and sub-regional policies and plans.
- The limited number of human resources dedicated to mental health is of relevance in the sub-region; it becomes of paramount relevance for mental health to be integrated into primary care, with the necessary training to PHC staff.
- In many countries mental health services are still largely centralized in outdated mental hospitals, predominantly custodial. Processes of decentralizing those services are ongoing in some countries as well.

²⁰⁰CARICOM (2010) “Report on CARICOM Commission on Youth Development”

²⁰¹World Bank (2007) “School and Work: Does the Education System in the OECs Adequately Prepare Youth for the Global Economy?”

²⁰²USAID (2008) “Rapid Youth Assessment in the Eastern Caribbean”

²⁰³CARICOM (2010) “Report on CARICOM Commission on Youth Development”

²⁰⁴IBID



■ There is limited participation of consumers, relatives and the civil society in general in the area of mental health. A few countries count with local associations of users and/or relatives.

■ Epidemiological research on alcohol consumption and its impact, the awareness of the impacts of alcohol consumption on individuals and on the economy are lacking²⁰⁵.

7.5.6. Obesity and Physical Fitness

Obesity among children is a cause for concern in the region. The Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) suggests that overweight and obese children now account for 15 per cent of their population group in many countries throughout the Caribbean region²⁰⁶. In 2009, for example, the World Health Organization (WHO) found that 24.8 per cent of students between 13 and 15 years in Dominica were overweight, while 9.1 per cent were obese²⁰⁷. Obese and overweight children can suffer serious health problems leading to chronic conditions, which reduce their overall quality of life²⁰⁸.

A four-year study on 1,916 Form One students in Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines points to the fact that although children know the nutrient value of foods, they do not necessarily consume healthy foods. Only 33 per cent of the cohort studied was eating fruits and vegetables daily, while 39 per cent reported consuming carbonated beverages daily²⁰⁹. The high cost of nutrient-rich food has been cited as one of the reasons for this reality, as low and inconsistent income cannot support proper household nutrition²¹⁰.

The students in this study were also not physically fit and lacked knowledge about physical activity, with high failure rates when accessed using the Standard for Healthy Fitness Zone (HFZ). A total of 53 per cent of the females and 39 per cent of the males failed the flexibility test, while 63 per cent of females and 39 per cent of males failed the muscular strength test²¹¹.

There are on-going efforts by the CFNI to push governments to adopt and ratify Food and Nutrition Policies and Councils Acts in six of the islands being studied²¹².

7.5.7. Tobacco and Drug Abuse

There is a trend towards increasing use of tobacco among adolescents. In 2000, two per cent of the school aged population between the ages of 12 and 18 in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines habitually smoked cigarettes²¹³. In 2009, the number of adolescent students who smoked cigarettes on one or more days during the past 30 days ranged from 4.7 per cent in Grenada to 8.5 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines²¹⁴.

In 2009, the percentage of students who used drugs one or more times during their life ranged from 13.9 per cent in Grenada to 19.9 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines²¹⁵, however anecdotal evidence suggests that this is underreported.

7.5.8. Migration

Migration has serious psycho-social effects on the lives of children both from the perspective of those who have migrated and those who were left behind.

²⁰⁵PAHO (last accessed 27 October 2011) http://new.paho.org/ocpci/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=70&Itemid=1187

²⁰⁶CARICOM (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/pres194_07.jsp

²⁰⁷WHO (2009), Global School-Based Health Survey – Dominica 2009 Fact Sheet, p.1

²⁰⁸WHO (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/publications/facts/obesity/en/>. Accessed 27 May 2010.

²⁰⁹Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (2009) "Annual Report 2009"

²¹⁰UNESCO (2010) "Early Childhood Care and Education in the Caribbean Community" - Report prepared for the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education, Moscow, 27-29 September 2010

²¹¹Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (2009) "Annual Report 2009"

²¹²IBID

²¹³PAHO/ WHO (2001) "Tobacco use in the English Speaking Caribbean "

²¹⁴World Health Organization (2007-2009) "Global School-based Student Health" Anguilla (2009), Grenada (2008), BVI (2009), St. Lucia (2007), Dominica (2009), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2007)

²¹⁵IBID



7.5.8.1. Migrant Children

Migrant children face a number of difficulties, which hinder their academic development in the host country. Very often they have difficulties adjusting to the education system, especially if the language of instruction is not their mother tongue. They can also face ridicule and stigmatisation from native children, causing them to be disadvantaged within the system²¹⁶. This has been seen with children primarily from Haiti, Dominican Republic and Guyana, who have migrated with their families to the Eastern Caribbean.

Some of the migrant children may also not be accessing available services due to language barriers, lack of knowledge about available services, or the family's fear of deportation. This fear can deter them from accessing needed assistance from government agencies²¹⁷.

7.5.8.2. Children Whose Parents Have Migrated

The children whose parents have migrated encounter a number of challenges, which negatively impact their lives. The ability to successfully complete their education is compromised due to a number of factors. These include increased responsibilities at home, lack of affordability, lack of motivation and lack of parental support²¹⁸. Younger children who are transitioning from primary to secondary school seemed more likely to be engaged in disruptive behaviour including fights. Older children between the ages of 14 and 18 are at times forced to assume parental roles.

According to a study from 2007, the vulnerability to abuse significantly increases when a child loses the protection of a migrating parent or parents²¹⁹. This study also indicated that the gender of the migrating parent affects the child's security in different ways, which could be captured by gender roles in Caribbean society²²⁰. "When the mother migrates, abuse whether it is physical, emotional, sexual or neglect is more likely to occur. Male migration, on the other hand, often leaves the child better protected but can see households with smaller financial resources"²²¹.

Many children are also impacted on a psychological level. This can manifest itself in feelings of abandonment, low self-esteem, anger, depression, material obsession and violence²²².

7.5.9. Disability

Children identified with disabilities constitute a relatively small percentage of the population in the region. The percentage of children from 0-19 years identified with a disability is 2.8 per cent in Antigua and Barbuda, 2.4 per cent in Barbados, 3.8 per cent in St. Lucia have disabilities and 2.9 per cent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines²²³. The main types of disabilities reported include sight and hearing, as well as disability of the upper and lower limbs.

Children and their families who live with disabilities frequently experience many barriers to their inclusion into society and their education is often denied due to limited access²²⁴. In Dominica, for example, many children with disabilities who live outside of the capital do not have access to education²²⁵.

²¹⁶UNICEF (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.unicef.org/barbados/Impact_of_Migration_Paper.pdf

²¹⁷UNICEF (2010) "A Framework and Recommendation for Action on Children Affected by Migration in the Caribbean"

²¹⁸UNICEF (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.unicef.org/barbados/The_Impact_of_Migration_on_Children_in_the_Caribbean.pdf

²¹⁹D'emilio, Cordero, Bainvel, Skoog, Comini, Gough, Dias, Saab, Kilbande (2007), "The impact of International Migration: Children left behind in selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean", p.8

²²⁰IBID

²²¹IBID

²²²Caroline Bakker, Martina Elings-Pels, Michele Reis (2009) "The impact of Migration on Children and Their Families in the Caribbean"

²²³UNECLAC (June 2008) Disability in the Caribbean. A study of Four Countries: A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Disabled p.64

²²⁴UNICEF (last accessed 20 October 2011) http://www.unicef.org/lac/media_18236.htm

²²⁵CRIN Child Right Information Network (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=21861#aa>



In many cases, the mainstream education systems do not adequately support girls and boys with disabilities. This is seen in the inaccessibility of most educational institutions at the primary and secondary levels for children with physical disabilities. Some countries, however, do provide alternative educational services - see Appendix 6. In Grenada, for example, efforts are made to include some of the children with disabilities into the mainstream system.

Another example is in Barbados, where the national government has articulated a draft policy on special education, which fully encompasses inclusion²²⁶ and aims to equalize educational opportunities for girls and boys with disabilities and Special Educational needs.

Across the OECS region, however, there is a need for more financial resources, increased numbers of trained personnel to facilitate student assessment, placement and instruction, revised and modified curriculum to support optimum development and upgraded environments in order to improve the developmental and learning outcomes for girls and boys with special needs.

The lack of education negatively affects the employment levels of the persons with disabilities. In the region, 80-90 per cent of the persons with disabilities are unemployed²²⁷.

The majority of countries have not signed or ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica and the British Overseas Territories have signed and to date, only the latter two have ratified it. Countries require legislation to overtly combat discrimination against children with disabilities. In addition, greater social budgeting is required for this area of programming.

7.5.10. Indigenous Populations

The existence of indigenous populations is rare within the Eastern Caribbean, with Dominica being the exception, with a 1,700-member Kalinago population. The health, education and welfare of this population is well below national averages, facing concerns such as poor water supply and dangerous waste disposal practices²²⁸. Additionally, alleged incidences of incest and

elevated violence future perpetuate the vulnerability of Kalinago girls and boys.

7.5.11. Response Programming

The governments of the OECS have developed an Educational Reform Strategy, which has initiated a number of reforms aimed at correcting the deficiencies within the education sector. These include reforms targeted at all the key stages of the education system including early childhood education, primary education, secondary education, tertiary and adult education, and the management and administration of the education system.

With respect to adolescents at risk, the governments of the Eastern Caribbean countries have initiated programming in a number of areas, viz:

a) The Health and Family Life Education Programme

This programme, spearheaded by CARICOM with support from UNICEF, is a life-skills based education programme which focuses on: Self and Interpersonal Relationships; Sexuality and Sexual Health; Eating and Fitness; and Managing the Environment as a means of enhancing the potential of young persons to become productive and contributing adults. It targets children from pre-school to secondary level and fosters the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes for healthy living. It emphasizes the development of life-skills to enable students to deal effectively with the challenges of everyday life with a view to developing competencies that:

- ◆ Prevent the onset of drug abuse;
- ◆ Positive management of sexuality;
- ◆ Facilitate anger management and conflict resolution;
- ◆ Improve academic performance; and
- ◆ Promote positive social adjustment.

HFLE delivery in schools has been plagued by several problems many of which stem from the fact that it is not an examinable subject. Hence, in recent

²²⁶The Development of Education (2008) "National Report of Barbados"

²²⁷Senator Kerryann Ifill

²²⁸Christine Barrow & Martin Ince (2008) "Early Childhood in the Caribbean"



years timetabling as well as teacher selection, training and availability have been key factors impeding optimal adoption throughout the school system.

b) National Youth Programmes

All the countries in the Eastern Caribbean have youth-focused programmes aimed at assisting young people to make better life choices. These include job training, life skills training, entrepreneurial training and assistance, mentorship programmes and various social service clubs and activities.

These programmes however have not been sufficient to adequately address the problem of adolescent males in crisis. The need to address this issue separately has been realized by a number of stakeholders. In May 2009, the World Bank hosted a regional conference in Jamaica with participation from a number of countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia, in which strategies were developed to address these issues²²⁹.

c) Availability of School Counsellors

There are counsellors attached to schools to work with and assist students experiencing a variety of issues. However, reports from most countries indicate that the quantity and quality of school counsellors is also deficient and access is uneven²³⁰.

d) Social Investment in the Kalinago Territory

The Government of Dominica has committed to

investments aimed at improving the lives of the Kalinago. Currently, investments worth over EC\$20 million are underway in an attempt to improve the living conditions by enabling greater access to water and improved housing stock²³¹.

7.6. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The ability of children to obtain information which is relevant to their well being is dependant in part on their access to information communication technologies (ICTs), especially the Internet. This access varies throughout the region - Table 7.5. Children generally access ICTs through their cell phones, schools, community centres and the home. Access to information via internet has not been documented as an issue within the subregion.

7.7. MDG ATTAINMENT

The information in Table 6.6 on MDG attainment shows that, for the countries being monitored in the Eastern Caribbean, there has been progress in the achievement of MDG 2 - Barbados and Dominica have achieved universal primary education, while Antigua and Barbuda is on track to do so.

There is a need for more monitoring systems to provide more accurate and timely data from the nations for the purpose of MDG monitoring. There is a need for more reliable, accessible and timely data for numerous MDG indicators.

**TABLE 7.5
- INTERNET
PENETRATION²³²**

Country	Year	Number of Internet Users	% Penetration
Antigua and Barbuda	2009	65,000	75.9 %
Barbados	2010	142,000	49.7 %
British Virgin Islands	2010	14,620	58.6 %
Dominica	2009	27,500	30.5 %
Grenada	2010	27,160	25.2%
Montserrat	2009	1,200	23.4%
St. Kitts and Nevis	2010	17,580	35.2 %
St. Lucia	2010	142,000	88.8 %
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2010	76,000	72.9 %
Turks and Caicos Islands	2010	11,240	47.8

²²⁹World Bank/ Commonwealth Secretariat (2008) "Regional Caribbean Conference on Keeping Boys Out of Risk"

²³⁰IBID

²³¹Dominica Government (last accessed 20 October 2011) <http://www.dominica.gov.dm/cms/index.php?q=node/805> Government of Dominica

²³²Internet World Stats (last accessed 27 October 2011) <http://www.internetworldstats.com/carib.htm>





8. PROTECTION RIGHTS

The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the need for children to be properly cared for and protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation, cruelty and neglect.

Specifically the Convention provides that²³³:

- Both parents have the responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child;
- State Parties are obligated to ensure that there are the necessary legal, administrative, and social measures in place to guarantee protection of the child from all forms violence, abuse, exploitation, cruelty and neglect while in the care of parents, legal guardians or any other person who has care of the child;
- State Parties are obligated to ensure that the child is protected from all forms of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and trafficking;
- Children who are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation must be given the appropriate support to aid their physical and psychological recovery and social integration;
- State Parties must also recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation;
- Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help and fair treatment by a justice system that respects their special needs. Specifically, children in conflict with the law have the right to treatment that: promotes their sense of dignity and worth; takes into consideration their age; and is aimed at their reintegration into the society. Children should be placed in a closed facility only as a measure of last resort. Children under the age of 18 should not be given the death penalty or sentences of life imprisonment;
- States Parties shall recognize the right for every child to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law;

■ The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child; and

■ States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

This section examines the progress made and the challenges being encountered in achieving these protection rights of children.

8.1. CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

The majority of children born to parents within the Eastern Caribbean are wanted, loved and cared for within a family structure including one or both of their parents²³⁴. However, in some countries issues such as deficiencies in birth registration of some children, the living arrangements within families, the roles played by fathers and the shifting of children between households impact on the level of nurturing and support received by the children.

8.1.1. Birth Registration

Although the majority of children born in the Eastern Caribbean are formally registered at birth, there are significant numbers who are not and consequently do not have access to an official birth certificate which includes details of the date of birth, full Christian and surnames, parentage and place of birth. This problem exists among children born to both legal and illegal residents. From the perspective of the State, these children do not legally exist and have no formal identity²³⁵.

²³³ Articles 18, 19, 32, 34, 35, 37, 39 and 40 of the CRC

²³⁴ UNICEF (2005) "A study of Child Vulnerability in Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines"

²³⁵ Caroline Bakker, Martina Elings-Pels, Michele Reis (2009) "The impact of Migration on Children and Their Families in the Caribbean"



Across all of the countries, a birth certificate is a prerequisite for entry into the education system and participation in regional examinations. It is also a protection mechanism against a range of abuses. The lack of registration can potentially impact the rights of migrant children to education and health services in a negative way.

The Government of Dominica, in an attempt to address this problem among Haitian migrants, has granted full rights to birth registration, immunization and education to all children born of Haitian mothers²³⁶.

8.1.2. Living Arrangements

Within the region, the composition of the family extends beyond the traditional nuclear family to include a range of diverse unions including formal marriage, common law marriage, cohabiting unions, visiting unions and casual unions. As a result, a relatively high number of children do not live with their biological parents and the non-marital child bearing unions have contributed to a high number of female-headed households within the region.

In 2005, between 18 and 28 per cent of children in Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were cared for by alternative caretakers²³⁷. Migration has been cited as one reason for this phenomenon.

8.1.2.1. Role of Fathers

It is generally perceived that many fathers do not play as significant a role as mothers in the upbringing of their children, although their role has evolved over time from one of mainly providing financial support, authority and protection to their families, to one which now also includes providing emotional nurturing²³⁸.

8.1.2.2. 'Child Shifting'

The incidence of 'child shifting', where children are moved between parents and an array of other family members and friends, is a common feature of many childhood experiences in the region. In most cases, the child is 'shifted' not because the parent does not want the child, but because the parent lacks the means to adequately provide

for the child²³⁹. This can negatively impact the child as separation from parents can lead to feelings of instability, resulting in sadness, low self-esteem and difficulty developing stable relationships in the future²⁴⁰.

8.2. CHILD ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Children in the region are exposed to varying levels of abuse and exploitation based on their differing circumstances. These include sexual abuse, child neglect and abandonment and physical abuse.

8.2.1. Sexual Abuse

Sexual exploitation and abuse of children is widespread in the Eastern Caribbean and includes intra-family abuse, non-family abuse, transactional sexual abuse, cell phone and internet pornography and child sex tourism²⁴¹ - Appendix 7. A study of Child Sexual Abuse commissioned by UNICEF and completed in 2009 revealed an estimated prevalence rate of between 20 and 45 per cent across the Eastern Caribbean²⁴².

The data from the respective countries also indicates the prevalence of the abuse. For example, in St. Kitts and Nevis, between 2004 and 2008, an average of 18 cases of unlawful carnal knowledge was reported. In St. Lucia, between 2005 and 2008, an average of 14 cases of sexual intercourse with a minor under 12 years old and an average of 46

²³⁶Caroline Bakker, Martina Elings-Pels, Michele Reis (2009) "The impact of Migration on Children and Their Families in the Caribbean"

²³⁷UNICEF (2005) "A Study of Child Vulnerability in Barbados, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines"

²³⁸Caribbean Child Support Initiative (2008) "My Father Who Fathered Me: Research Tells Us About Caribbean Fathers, Bridgetown" ; UNICEF / UNECLAC (2009) "Children and Families in Transition: Young Parents and Caretakers in the Eastern Caribbean" p.20

²³⁹UNICEF / UNECLAC (2009) "Children and Families in Transition: Young Parents and Caretakers in the Eastern Caribbean"

²⁴⁰Caroline Bakker, Martina Elings-Pels, Michele Reis (2009) "The impact of Migration on Children and Their Families in the Caribbean"

²⁴¹IBID

²⁴²UNICEF/University of Huddersfield/Action for Children (2009) "Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean" p.10



cases of sexual intercourse with a child less than 16 years old were reported. During the period of January 1 to March 27, 2009, there were 22 reported cases of sexual offences against minors in St. Lucia. In Antigua and Barbuda, in 2008, there were eight reported cases of unlawful carnal knowledge with incidences occurring in six months out of the year - Appendix 8.

The main contributing factors facilitating the perpetuation of child sexual abuse included: poverty and social inequities, which led to overcrowding in the home and the inability of parents to provide material wants; children's lack of sexual education, which created a situation where they did not know enough to protect themselves; over-exposure to sex on television and internet, which normalised sexual activity within the society; and cultural acceptance of sexual activity with minors²⁴³.

There is a lack of disaggregated data on the incidences of sexual abuse among male and female children. This information is necessary to facilitate more targeted responses.

8.2.2. Child Neglect

Child neglect and abandonment have historically been a form of abuse in the region. For example, in St. Lucia during the period of 1999 and 2004, 34 per cent of all reported cases of abuse involved neglect and abandonment²⁴⁴. Children with disabilities are at a higher risk of being neglected or abandoned compared with other children. In Dominica the more prominent the disability a child has, the more likely she/he is hidden away and receives no assistance²⁴⁵. Neglect and negligence of child and adolescent needs are widespread forms of abuse in the region²⁴⁶.

8.2.3. Child-Headed Households

A number of households in the region are headed by children, which places them at increased risk for abuse and exploitation. Census data spanning the period 1999-2004 show a range of 0.2 per cent in Barbados to 1.6 per cent in St. Lucia of households being headed by adolescents²⁴⁷. Additionally, these households are relatively large. In Antigua and Barbuda, the average size of households headed by someone 15-19 years was 2.3 persons and

about one third of these households have three or more members. The risk of sexual abuse and exploitation is high in these households²⁴⁸.

8.2.4. Disciplinary Practices

Many children are exposed to physical and emotional abuse as a form of discipline within the family setting. Physical punishment including slapping and beating are common in many households even among the young²⁴⁹. The degree of punishment gets more severe over time as parents prepare their children for school²⁵⁰.

Physical punishment against children is a historical cultural norm and is generally supported by the public perception of older children as being problematic and involved in negative social behaviour including drugs and gangs. Parents believe that severe discipline is necessary to deter their children from such behaviour in the future²⁵¹. As a result, corporal punishment in the home and schools in the subregion is sanctioned by law in most countries.

Emotional abuse of children in the region, including verbal aggression and threats, is a common household practice by parents, especially mothers²⁵².

²⁴³UNICEF/University of Huddersfield/Action for Children (2009) "Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean" p.10

²⁴⁴Saint Lucia, Health in the Americas 2007 Volume 11 (last accessed 10 October 2011) [http://www.paho.org/hia/archivosvol2/paisesing/Saint per cent 20Lucia per cent 20English.pdf](http://www.paho.org/hia/archivosvol2/paisesing/Saint%20Lucia%20per%20cent%20English.pdf)

²⁴⁵Christine Barrow & Martin Ince (2008) "Early Childhood in the Caribbean"

²⁴⁶United Nations, ECLAC, UNICEF (2009) "Challenges: Child Abuse: A Family painful Reality Behind Closed Doors"

²⁴⁷UNICEF / UNECLAC (2009) "Children and Families in Transition: Young Parents and Caretakers in the Eastern Caribbean"

²⁴⁸IBID

²⁴⁹United Nations, ECLAC, UNICEF (2009) "Challenges: Child Abuse: A Family painful Reality Behind Closed Doors"

²⁵⁰Christine Barrow & Martin Ince (2008) "Early Childhood in the Caribbean"

²⁵¹IBID

²⁵²IBID



8.2.5. Child Labour

Child labour in the Eastern Caribbean occurs on a limited scale and is found mainly in the agricultural sector. For example, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines child labour occurs on banana plantations during harvest time and in family owned industries. Likewise, in St. Lucia child labour occurs mainly in rural areas especially during banana harvesting. Children also work in food stalls and as vendors. In Grenada, for example, child labour occurs on family farms. In Dominica, there is visible and anecdotal evidence of child labour, as elsewhere throughout the subregion.

8.2.6. Child Trafficking

Children in the region are exposed to child trafficking. Research done by the International Organization for Migration identified a number of countries, including St. Lucia, which had particular ties to the trafficking of children. Barbados was listed as a recipient of Guyanese women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation. St. Vincent and the Grenadines was cited as a potential source country for children trafficked in the region for sexual exploitation. There is also evidence within the Caribbean of young girls in sexual relations with older men, including tourists, for financial gain.

8.2.7. Response Programming

The governments and non-governmental organizations in the region have mechanisms in place to protect children from different forms of abuse, viz:

- There is legislation in all the countries which forbids sexual abuse of minors.
- The CARICOM Secretariat, at a meeting of the Council for Social and Human Development (COHSOD) in March 2008, endorsed recommendations for the development of harmonized and mandatory birth registration for the CARICOM region.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with governments of five countries, is working on an Action Plan to address the occurrences of child sexual abuse in the region.
- Various levels of counselling are provided to

victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.

- There is legislation which provides for children who are abandoned, neglected or severely physically abused to be removed to safe homes either through foster care, state-run, or privately-run homes, or adoption.
- The governments of the OECS have initiated an OECS Family Law Reform initiative aimed at modernising the laws dealing with family matters with a view to bringing them in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Alongside the modernization of the laws, this initiative will also strengthen the social service supports that are necessary for the effective implementation of these laws.

The initiative has prepared draft model legislation for the consideration of the OECS governments, and to date, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Turks and Caicos Islands have passed child protection bills.

8.3. CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

The juvenile justice system and infrastructure in the Eastern Caribbean is regarded as weak and unable to significantly benefit children in conflict with the law²⁶¹. It has been described as a system that does not work well, either in the interest of the individual juvenile, or the society from which she/he comes and to which he/she will return²⁶². The application of juvenile justice in the region is inconsistent with international norms, with variations in practice between countries.

8.3.1. Age of Criminal Responsibility

There is no consistent minimum age of criminal responsibility within the region and the relevant statutes include ages from 7 to 12 years. However, it has been argued that children as young as seven years of age lack the level of

²⁶¹USAID (2008) "Rapid Youth Assessment in the Eastern Caribbean"

²⁶²Draft Child Justice Bill, Rev III, OECS Legal Unit, December 2007



maturity required to assume such responsibility and although the original CRC document does not stipulate a minimum age of criminal responsibility, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in its General Comment No. 10, 2007, recommended an absolute minimum age of 12 years, and urged states to undertake efforts to increase it over time.

Across the Eastern Caribbean countries, the practice varies, with the result that children between the ages of 7 and 12 years who have committed offences are liable to arrest and prosecution.

8.3.2. Treatment of Offenders

The question of whether juvenile offenders should be dealt with in a family court, or a criminal court, is a subject of debate within the targeted countries. One viewpoint is that if the offender was under the age of ability to reason (criminal responsibility), the matter should be dealt with in family court and if over the age of 18, it should be dealt with in regular criminal court. Others propose that all offenders under the age of 18 should be dealt with as children in the family court system. The OECS Legal Reform Project has made recommendations for the utilisation of a Family Court system in the OECS but this has not yet been implemented.

8.3.2.1. Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is an integral part of the juvenile justice system in the Eastern Caribbean. There is no consistency in the age limit at which flogging can be used and in the quantity of strokes that can be applied. For example, in Barbados juveniles as young as eight years can be flogged²⁶³. In Antigua and Barbuda, juvenile males under the age of 18 can be given 12 strokes, while in St. Vincent and the Grenadines the rule applies to children under 16 years²⁶⁴. The application of the strokes to perpetrators does not promote a sense of dignity and worth among offenders as stipulated in the CRC.

8.3.2.2. Detention Facilities

In most Eastern Caribbean countries there are no alternative places of safety to which juveniles who are in conflict with the law can be sent. Consequently, children under the age of 16 who

are arrested for serious offences are held in closed facilities including police stations, training schools, or a government industrial school as the first option. Once detained, they can be held up to 48 hours pending their parents' arrival. Children above 16 years are usually detained in state prison. Upon conviction, children in most cases are sent to adult prisons where there is the potential for them to intermingle with hardened criminals.

8.3.2.3. Sentencing and Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation process in the region is weak and fragmented and there is a lack of after-care services including counselling, rehabilitation and education of youth offenders thus increasing the potential for the creation of adult criminals.

This was noted in the OECS Draft Child Justice Bill which stated that there is poor assessment and management of the special needs of juveniles and unclear procedures for their rehabilitation. Consequently, they do not benefit from support systems which are necessary for dealing with their problems and preparing them to be reintegrated into the society. Additionally, there are limited diversion programmes which provide educational opportunities with a supportive infrastructure to aid the development of the juveniles. Where these do exist, there is a lack of coordination between existing services.

8.3.3. Response Programming

At the level of the OECS, a Draft Child Justice Model Bill has been prepared as part of the OECS Legal reform process. The draft Bill articulates an approach for combating child crime through strategies which are centred on:

- (a) Preventing offences by children;
- (b) Diverting children from court proceedings;
- (c) Diverting children from criminal sentencing; and
- (d) Punishment appropriate to the seriousness of the offence.

²⁶³Global Progress Report (last accessed 10 October 2011) <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/progress/reports/barbados.html>

²⁶⁴IBID



The draft also established a requirement for inter-ministerial partnerships to be established in combating child crime, recognizing causes and effects of drug and alcohol abuse, damage to health and disruption to education.

It provides for the role and responsibilities of probation officers to be explicitly stated and indicates the intervention measures which must be used with children and parents.

It proposes that the age of criminal responsibility be standardised at 12 years across the subregion²⁶⁵; and

It also proposes that children are tried in the Family Court and that sentencing options available in respect of children should be extended.

No member state has implemented this draft bill to date.

Some countries have also introduced the use of alternative sentencing - where the juveniles are sentenced to community work and other forms of community service, instead of being incarcerated into formal detention facilities.

A number of countries are also investing in special custodial facilities, where those juveniles for whom custodial sentences are deemed necessary can be placed, away from the adult criminals, while undergoing a period of rehabilitation.

8.4. SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

8.4.1. Social Safety Net Programmes

Social safety net programmes are widespread in the Eastern Caribbean and are aimed at providing support to poor and vulnerable households in coping with temporary or chronic poverty. Social protection is available for a wide range of purposes as illustrated in Appendix 9, with the ones most relevant to children being poverty alleviation, child protection, day care services, health care and student assistance²⁶⁶.

The main methods of delivery are cash transfers and non-cash transfers, with the latter being the preferred delivery method. In Antigua and Barbuda, for example, 75 per cent of benefits were delivered via this means. The majority of programmes are targeted at children and youth - Table 8.1.

TABLE 8.1 - SOCIAL SAFETY NET COVERAGE OF TARGET GROUPS²⁶⁷

Target Group	Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St. Kitts and Nevis	St. Lucia	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
Children	7	7	5	2	11	4	9	52
Disabled	3	2	3	1	4	2	1	16
Elderly	4	3	4	1	4	2	2	20
Farming Community	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	4
Fishing Community	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hospitality Sector Workers		1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Mentally Challenged		1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Poor Households	2	6	4	3	6	5	3	29
Single Mothers		1	3	0	3	1	2	10
Youth	7	5	3	1	13	7	11	57
Total	26	28	21	9	43	22	30	179

²⁶⁵Draft Child Justice Bill, Rev III, OECS Legal Unit, December 2007

²⁶⁶Kairi Consultants (2009) "Final Report: Situation Analysis of Social Protection and Social Safety Nets in the OECS Member States" p. 13

²⁶⁷Kairi Consultants (2009) "Final Report: Situation Analysis of Social Protection and Social Safety Nets in the OECS Member States" p. 12



TABLE 8.2 - EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME ON SPECIFIC TARGET GROUPS²⁶⁸

Challenge	Immediate Cause	Underlying Cause	Root Cause	Obligation	Role Pattern Analysis	Capacity Gap
Inadequate provisions for birth registration of migrants affect child's access to education and social services	Fear of deportation Lack of access to information	Illegal status of migrants	Lack of child friendly policy on migrant children	Parents State Parties	Failure of parents to legalise their status when settling in a new country Failure of State Parties to provide	Adequacy of information and processes for enabling migrants to achieve legal status - both temporary and long term

However, as reflected in Table 8.2, children and youth do not get the highest levels of budgetary allocations.

8.4.2. Service Delivery

The delivery of many of the safety net programmes in the region is generally inefficient and ineffective. Many of the programmes are limited in reach and unable to adequately meet the needs of the majority of the poor, viz:

- In Grenada, the Student Assistance Programmes reach only 10 per cent of the students who are poor;
- In St. Kitts, at current expenditure levels (and without changing benefits), the Food Voucher Programme could reach only about four per cent of the poor, while the uniform programme could reach less than a quarter of poor school aged children;
- In Nevis, public assistance has the capacity to reach about seven per cent of the poor and the uniform programme less than 10 per cent of poor children;

■ In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a large share of the target groups for student support schemes remains uncovered; and

■ In St. Lucia, a large share of the target group for public assistance remains uncovered, with less than two per cent of the poor in receipt of public assistance²⁶⁹.

Additionally, many of the programmes are not properly targeted at the poor resulting in benefits being diverted to the non-poor. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, for example, about 40 per cent of students from the poorest quintile participate in a school feeding programme, and a larger share of students from the wealthiest quintile (32 per cent) than from the poorest quintile (22 per cent) receives a free meal. Less than 30 per cent of students in the poorest quintile participate in the Book Loan Programme, while 22 per cent of students from the wealthiest quintile also participate. In St. Lucia, there appears to be considerable leakage to the non-poor, with an estimated 45 per cent of public assistance beneficiaries classified as non-poor²⁷⁰.

²⁶⁸UNICEF, United Nations Development Fund for Women, The World Bank (2011) "Compendium Report of Social Safety Net Assessment Covering Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados"

²⁶⁹IBID

²⁷⁰IBID



The structure of many of the programmes results in the further marginalization of poor women and children. Benefits are usually capped per household which places disproportionate burdens on larger households which are usually female headed. The smaller per capita support to larger families relative to smaller families discriminates against women, who typically support larger households²⁷¹.

There are also no well-targeted cash transfer programmes for female-headed households with children, which increases their vulnerability. Unmarried mothers are especially vulnerable. In Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis, for example, higher maintenance is granted to married mothers relative to unmarried mothers and Grenada, there is no targeted support given to single mothers who have the burden of care for children and are not receiving child support payments²⁷².

These problems are sustained by a chronic lack of data on the marginalized in many countries. This

information is a necessary foundation for accurate decision-making²⁷³.

8.4.3. Social Security

Social Insurance Schemes exist in all the islands and are contributory. These benefits include retirement, disability, maternity, and worker injury or compensation. Families living in poverty due to unemployment are unable to contribute to the scheme and thus cannot benefit. Many persons working in the informal sector generally do not contribute to the schemes and consequently are excluded from benefits.

8.4.4. Response Programming

Attempts are underway to develop a Regional Social Protection Framework among the OECS member states, which is aimed at addressing the weaknesses of the current system. Assistance is being given by a number of international agencies including UNICEF, UN Women, UNDP, CDB, the European Union and World Bank.

²⁷¹UNICEF, United Nations Development Fund for Women, The World Bank (2011) "Compendium Report of Social Safety Net Assessment Covering Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados"

²⁷²IBID

²⁷³OECS (last accessed 10 October 2011) www.oecs.org



9. PARTICIPATION RIGHTS

The Convention on the Rights of the Child encourages the participation of children in issues affecting their lives. Specifically, the Convention states that²⁷⁴:

- The views of the child must be freely expressed on all matters affecting them and be given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child; and

- Children have the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association.

This section examines the progress made and the challenges being encountered in achieving these participation rights of children.

9.1. PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN DECISION MAKING

9.1.1. *Children's Voices*

The right of children to participate in decisions affecting their own lives has not been fully developed in the Eastern Caribbean and the emergence of child rights in law and social policy has not transcended into the daily lives of families within communities²⁷⁵.

In the home, parents and care givers of young children, especially those under five years old, do not think that young children are capable of participating in decision-making. Consequently, the early years of childhood is dominated by adults passing on skills and behaviour patterns to children and not by children expressing their opinions or being listened to on matters affecting them, in keeping with their evolving capacities²⁷⁶. It has historically been a norm in Caribbean society that "children are to be seen and not heard".

9.1.2. *Adolescent Voices*

For many older children (aged 10-14) within the subregion, actively participating in matters which

affect them is restricted by a number of barriers²⁷⁷. These include a lack of access to government and other institutions, lack of respect for their opinions by parents, teachers and other adults who are guided by the notion that children should be "seen and not heard" and the inability to identify many institutions which are working on their behalf.

These barriers serve not only to restrict adolescent participation rights but also, in doing so, restrict their ability to access and enjoy other rights, for example the right to health and education²⁷⁸.

Therefore, opportunities for young persons to actively voice their opinions are restricted mainly to school-based and national/community level organisations.

9.2. IN-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

The school system provide a limited range of opportunities for the children's participation in decision-making and in schools where those opportunities exist, they are not readily embraced by students.

There is uneven access to structured opportunities for participation at both the primary and secondary school levels. Where opportunities do exist, they are mainly through participation in Students Councils and activity clubs.

²⁷⁴Articles 12, 13 and 15 of the CRC

²⁷⁵Christine Barrow, Martin Ince (2008) "Early Childhood in the Caribbean"

²⁷⁶Christine Barrow, Martin Ince (2008) "Early Childhood in the Caribbean"

²⁷⁷UNICEF (2009) "They Say I Have Rights: An Introductory Qualitative Analysis of Caribbean Adolescents Aged 10 – 14 Years" p.5-6

²⁷⁸UNICEF (last accessed 10 October 2011) "FACT SHEET: The Right To Participation" found at <http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Right-to-Participation.pdf>



9.2.1. Students' Councils

A 2008 study of student participation in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia showed that general participation in student-based organisations was low ranging 34 per cent with an even lower participation rate for boys 24 per cent - 36 per cent as compared to 47 per cent – 66 per cent of girls being active in at least one club²⁷⁹. This reluctance to become involved extended into the Student Councils where students felt it was important to have a Council but this did not translate into avid involvement in the Council. Generally girls undertook more leadership positions than boys as boys were reluctant to join for fear of being seen as “nerds”. Girls’ reluctance tended to stem from their concern that the student body did not take the Council seriously. Both groups felt that the school administration needed to play a greater role in providing an enabling environment for the effective operation of the Council²⁸⁰.

9.2.2. Activity Clubs

There are opportunities within the school system for participation in a number of clubs e.g. the Girl Guide movement, the Boy Scouts movement, the Cadet Corps and the Junior Achievers, among others. These clubs provide opportunities for leadership development and participation in decision-making through the internal club structures.

Participation in activity clubs is generally low, especially among male students. Research done in 2007 revealed participation levels among students in Barbados was 35 per cent, in St. Lucia 48 per cent and in Grenada 54 per cent²⁸¹. A number of reasons were advanced for this non-participation, including lack of interest, insufficient time and lack of knowledge about the existence of the clubs. In Antigua and Barbuda, 17 per cent of the sample of students cited lack of awareness of the existence of the activity clubs as their reason for non-participation - Appendix 11.

The low participation rates however are not indicative of a general lack of interest among all students in becoming involved in school-based activities. An average of 59 per cent of students in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and

St. Lucia indicated a desire to be more involved in such activities. This suggests that more needs to be done to structure activity clubs to make them more relevant to student’s needs. There is also a need for more effort in ensuring that students are aware of the existence of these clubs and the opportunities that they offer.

9.3. NATIONAL/COMMUNITY LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES

The governments of most of the countries have initiated youth programming coordinated by a government entity - in most cases, the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA).

These departments have been assigned specific responsibility for youth affairs and the development and oversight of youth policies. In all cases, the Youth Department is one of several units within a wider ministry, and is charged with the responsibility to provide leadership in policy design, evidence based programming and the coordination of the activities of community-based youth organisations. The Youth Departments are also charged with the responsibility to coordinate events related to regional and international youth strategies²⁸².

In reviewing the performance of these youth departments, the CARICOM Commission concluded that “despite pockets of creative developmental and evidence-based programming. There continues to be a preponderance of short-term; reactionary; ad hoc; sometimes high visibility and low-impact events focused on sports, culture, summer camps and skills training. Essentially, youth departments are preoccupied with planning and executing events with little evidence of effective evidence-based programming. The ability of DYAs across the region to perform their role effectively is

²⁷⁹ UNICEF/ Bailey, C (2008) “Report on Youth Participation in the Eastern Caribbean”

²⁸⁰ UNICEF/ Bailey, C (2008) “Report on Youth Participation in the Eastern Caribbean”

²⁸¹ UNICEF/ Bailey, C (2008) “Report on Youth Participation in the Eastern Caribbean”

²⁸² CARICOM (2010) “Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development”



constrained by overly bureaucratic procedures and by insufficient capacity to analyse and address changing value systems, as well as deliver information and programmes to differently able, disadvantaged, unattached and rural youth”²⁸³.

In all countries, the work of these departments are linked to the existence of a National Youth Council (NYC) which is comprised of representatives of community/parish level youth organisations, or similar national network of youth organisations. These youth organisations and the linkage with the NYC, provide another opportunity for the voices of youth to be heard at the national level. Opportunities provided through this avenue include:

- Appointment of youth representatives (drawn from the NYC) on national level bodies and committees charged with the responsibility for advising on government policy in specific areas;
- Periodic organization of Youth Parliaments: where the youth representatives are provided with the opportunity to discuss matters of national interest and to make recommendations to the national authorities.
- Participation in the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors’ Programme, which provides opportunities for youth input into the CARICOM decision-making process. This programme seeks to empower young people across the Caribbean to assert themselves within the regional community thereby maximizing the benefits of the CARICOM Single Market Economy (CSME). Their primary functions are to promote the CSME, interface with other youth across the region with a view to promoting healthy lifestyle management and reducing vulnerability and risk factors, and participate in the decision making processes of their countries at the highest level.

Youth Ambassadors are appointed nationally on an annual basis and serve CARICOM for approximately two years. They must be between the ages of 16 and 25 and be very active and influential in their home, community and country.

- Participation in the Commonwealth Youth Programme provides opportunities for youth

involvement in Commonwealth programming. This programme works in association with governments to engage and empower young people (15-19 years) to enhance their contribution to development. The Commonwealth Regional Centre located in Georgetown, Guyana is responsible for running programmes and activities throughout the region.

However, despite these opportunities, the CARICOM Commission concluded that “progress has been slow in translating regional and international “statements of philosophical principles and intent” into strategic and effective action” for youth.

9.3.1. Challenges faced by National Youth Departments

Challenges to the operations of the youth departments that were identified by the CARICOM Commission included²⁸⁴:

- **Out-dated/absent Youth Policies**
Most of the youth policies are over five years old and some of them are considerably older (developed in the late 1990s) and are in need of updating. The limited number of policies being enacted into appropriate national legislation is perhaps one of the principal challenges to the implementation process.
- **Weak Administrative and Institutional Base**
Entry requirements for public sector employment as a youth worker vary; salaries are non-competitive; and the majority of staff members are hired on a contractual basis without security or benefits. Institutional strengthening needs assessed included policy and legislative reform and programme harmonization; evidence based approaches to policy and programme formulation and evaluation; access to a regional best practice and best practice clearing house; reduced bureaucracy to facilitate rapid response to youth needs; sustainable mechanisms for sustained partnerships; networks and longer term rapid community based responses; and guidelines for supporting autonomous institutions.

²⁸³CARICOM (2010) “Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development”

²⁸⁴CARICOM (2010) “Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development”



■ Professionalization of Youth Work

The low priority accorded to the youth portfolio has given legitimacy to a general view of youth work as non-professional and largely a voluntary pursuit; and the consequent lack of financial and political investment is complemented by an inadequacy of human resource support.

■ Competition between Government

Departments and with Youth Organisations
While it is clear that youth policy and programming is not within the sole purview of a Youth Department or Ministry, many Departments find themselves unable or unwilling to forge the partnerships necessary to oversee, implement and monitor policy objectives.

Additional challenges that were identified at the level of the national networks and youth councils included:

■ Disconnect between Formal and Informal Youth Governance Structures

The relationship between formal governmental structures and youth networks is often weak.

■ Disrespect and Mistrust of Youth

This disconnect has resulted in a negative perception of youth organisations in relation

to transparency and accountability. While youth networks are cognisant of their limited capacity in respect to administrative project management, they feel that these weaknesses have encouraged youth departments in particular to ignore their right to be involved in decision-making.

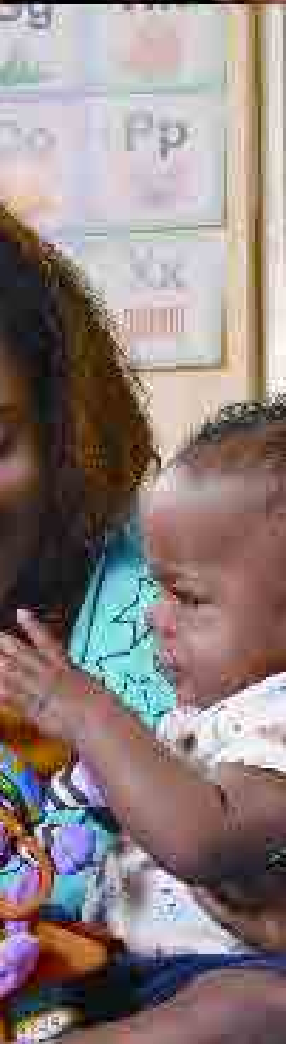
■ Party Politics and Youth

Young people have indicated that they feel their networks and organizations are often caught up in partisan political conflicts, when their organizations are mobilised by one party or another with promises of immediate financial and technical support, without a sustained political commitment to continuity and results in youth development.

The Commission concluded that “in spite of structural changes in the arrangements for youth development over the past four decades, Caribbean adolescents and youth continue to be seen only as beneficiaries of programmes and services, rather than a strategic partners and actor in policy development and implementation”.

²⁸⁵CARICOM (2010) “Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development”





10. PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

The Situation Analysis has identified a number of areas in which urgent action is needed in order to ensure that rights of girls and boys are protected, respected and realised. One major challenge in addressing these issues is the difficulty in accessing data at the national level. This hampers efforts at coherent policy development and implementation. Data is needed in all areas to better the effectiveness of programming.

However, the available data indicates future programming is needed targeting girls and boys in the Eastern Caribbean in the following areas:

10.1. Legal and Policy Framework

There is a need for all countries to update their legislation relating to children to make them consistent with the CRC and CEDAW. The OECS Family Law Reform Project has provided useful model legislation in this respect and priority has to be given to converting this model legislation into nationally appropriate legislation within all countries.

The countries which have not yet fulfilled their reporting requirements under the CRC, with the additional ratification of the two optional CRC protocols, should be encouraged to do so.

10.2. Survival Rights

The survival rights portion of the Situation Analysis focused on key UNICEF areas such as: mortality, combating disease, nutrition, maternal health (including chronic disease and HIV), and violence against women.

Significant progress has been made in this area and future programming should be targeted at consolidating the gains in immunization, access to water and sanitation, in addition to addressing areas where there is a need to intensify programming. These include:

- a) Development and strengthening of national policies for girls and boys;
- b) Promotion of healthy lifestyles for girls and boys, including but not limited to the promotion of healthy relationships; sexuality and sexual health; and nutrition and fitness;
- c) Programming to prevent HIV transmission; and
- d) Programming aimed at addressing violence against children and women.



10.3. Development Rights

This section focused on key areas such as: early childhood development; primary, secondary and tertiary education; access to services for girls and boys with disabilities; response programming; male marginalization; and access to information.

Early childhood programming should be targeted at five critical areas, viz:

- a) Early childhood policy completion and approval in the countries where the policies have not yet been approved;
- b) Monitoring of early childhood standards and support for the process of formal approval and gazetting of standards as regulations under Education legislation;
- c) Supporting the development of national strategies for the extension of access of poor and vulnerable children to quality services;
- d) Supporting the development of a more structured approach for the birth to three cohorts; and
- e) Supporting the planning for the establishment of teacher training, and for extending access to it across member states; together with support for the professionalisation of early childhood teachers e.g. salary structures, career paths, and the like.

At the primary and secondary education levels, there is a need for specific attention to be given to the systematic reform of various aspects of the education sector.

Key aspects of collaboration include:

- a) Research and evidence gathering to better inform policy makers;
- b) Promoting positive school environment through programming such as Child-Friendly Schools;
- c) Improving access and programming for girls and boys with disabilities;

- d) Second chance education; and
- e) The professionalisation of teachers.

In addition, education systems should seek to take responsibility for appropriate orientation and education of parents to be effective partners in the education and training of adolescents to enable them to address issues such as early sexual initiation, obesity and physical fitness.

10.4. Protection Rights

The protection rights section focused on areas such as: children and their families (including birth registration and family dynamics); child abuse and exploitation; children in conflict with the law; and social protection programmes.

As strong child protection systems form a barrier to the risks and vulnerabilities underlying many forms of harm, abuse and exploitation of children, in the context of the challenges identified, child protection programming should aim to ensure:

- a) Government decisions are influenced by increased awareness of child protection rights and improved data and analysis on child protection;
- b) Effective legislative and enforcement systems and improved protection and response capacity are built to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse;
- c) Better protection of children from the impact of humanitarian crises including natural disasters;
- d) Children are better served by justice systems that ensure greater protection for them as victims, witnesses and offenders; and
- e) Children and families identified as vulnerable are reached by key community and government services aimed at reducing their marginalization, including the guarantee of complete registration at birth.

Social protection systems can protect children from social and economic risks. Focus should be on:



- a) Ensuring social protection laws, policies and programs are child-sensitive and gender-friendly;
- b) Building national and regional capacity to implement consolidated social assistance transfer programmes to income-poor children, especially in times of crisis;
- c) Developing public education and sensitization for effective social protection reform and social protection services for the excluded;
- d) Strengthening monitoring and evaluation of social assistance schemes, including capacity to implement poverty and labour surveys and to monitor individual social protection programmes;
- e) Embracing south-south exchange and learning between countries on child-sensitive and gender-friendly social protection.

10.5. Participation Rights

There is a need to increase the participation of adolescents in the governance of their societies. Participation of children in the subregion in decision making, in-school participation, and in national/community level opportunities is strongly encouraged.

Some issues that need to be addressed to ensure that more meaningful youth participation is achieved include:

- a) More effective linkage of adolescent development to the national and regional development agenda;
- b) Elevation of the profile and status of departments responsible for youth affairs;
- c) Greater investment and commitment to establish youth work as a professional occupation;

- d) Strengthening of regional capacity to coordinate regional adolescent development; and
- e) Strengthening of student participation in Students' Councils and school activity clubs, which will provide a useful foundation for evolution into such national decision-making.

10.6. Natural Disaster Vulnerability Reduction

This section focused on important concerns such as exposure to hazards, drivers of vulnerability, differentiated vulnerability of women and children, climate change and natural disaster risk management systems. The high levels of vulnerability of these countries and the threats from climate change make programming in this area a very high priority.

There is a need for:

- a) Education at all levels on the threats from climate change, including its contribution to increasing climate-related emergencies;
- b) Programming to reduce vulnerabilities in schools, homes and other infrastructure used by children; and
- c) Policy level initiatives to provide protection and support to children in the aftermath of disasters, including incorporation of such measures into National Disaster Management Plans.

In conclusion, children's protection, social exclusion, inequity and violence, along with a lack of social data and access to quality learning, remain the key challenges for the Eastern Caribbean Area's fulfilment of children's rights, especially for the poor and disadvantaged.



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APPENDIX 1

*Specific Negative Impacts of the Economic Crisis on Children and Their Families:*²⁸⁶

Impact:	Group Most Commonly Associated With:
Emotional/Spiritual/Psychological:	
Increased levels of stress	
Feelings of inadequacy	Men
Feelings of embarrassment	Men
Rising domestic violence	Families
Family breakdown	Families
Depression	Adults
Parents expressing anger at children	Parents and children
Less socializing with friends	Youth
Hyperactive behaviour	Children
Employment:	
Employers taking advantage of employees-sexually	Employees
Employers taking advantage of employees – working them harder	Employees
More difficult to find work commensurate with experience and qualifications.	Skilled and educated workers
Taking on work atypical for gender.	Women
Anxiety of not finding work due to age	Older unemployed
Payment delays	Employees
Partial payment	Employees
Accepting lower status/skilled profession to remain employed	Job seekers
Education:	
Forgoing education in order to work, or because too expensive.	Youth
Not buying school books.	Children
More difficulty in getting loans.	Youth
Housing:	
Inability to pay mortgage	Homeowners
Health and diet:	
Inability to buy food or substitute for less nutritious options	
Fewer visits to the doctor	
Priorities basic needs over obtaining medical supplies and/or equipment	Disabled



APPENDIX 1

*Specific Negative Impacts of the Economic Crisis on Children and Their Families:*²⁸⁶

Illegal activity:	
Entering the drug trade	Young males
Rise in shoplifting	
Financial / budgeting issues:	
Needing extensions to credit	
Banks threatening to seize property	
Delinquencies on loans	
Decrease in savings	
Arrears on utility/telephone bills	
Bills not getting paid	
Drop in child support allowance	
Consumption / assets:	
Selling of assets	
Reduced allowance for school etc	Children and youth
Reduction in remittances	
Business:	
Lower sales	Entrepreneurs
Increased competition	Entrepreneurs
Taking losses	Entrepreneurs
Minimizing wholesale purchases	Entrepreneurs

²⁸⁶ Social implications of the Global Economic Crisis in Caribbean SIDS: Synthesis of the findings of 7 country studies UNDP 2009



APPENDIX 2

Basic Health Indicators for Children

Country	Infant Mortality Rate <1 year old ^a						Under-5 mortality rate ^a						% of infants with low birth weight ^b	% of children who are exclusively breastfed <6 months ^c	
	1998			2008			1998			2008					2004-2007
	Value	Min.	Max.	Value	Min.	Max.	Value	Min.	Max.	Value	Min.	Max.			
Antigua and Barbuda	18.74	18.18	19.28	11.02	9.55	12.68	21.7	21	22.40	12.30	10.6	14.3	5	n/a	
Barbados	13.40			10.10			15.10	n/a	n/a	11.30	n/a	n/a	14	n/a	
British Virgin Islands	21.58	n/a	n/a	25.09 (in 2007)	n/a	n/a	21.58	n/a	n/a	32.26 (in 2007)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Dominica	14.40	13.20	15.70	9.30	6.40	13.60	16.7	15.2	18.3	11.40	7.70	16.80	10	39	
Grenada	19.4	n/a	n/a	13.10	n/a	n/a	22.5	n/a	n/a	14.8	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	
Montserrat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
St. Kitts & Nevis	19.75	18.97	20.33	13.66	10.33	18.18	23	22	24	15.50	11.50	21	11	56	
St. Lucia	14.30	13.20	15.50	13.10	8.40	20.50	17.80	16.69	19.10	12.60	8.30	19.30	11	n/a	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	21.70	20.20	23.20	11.90	9.20	15.40	25.80	24.20	27.60	13.20	10.20	17	8	n/a	
Turks and Caicos Islands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	

³⁰⁰ Source: <http://www.childmortality.org/cmeMain.html>. *2008 statistics are estimates based on research by the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. The Inter-Agency Group consists of UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, United Nations Population Division. British Virgin Islands indicators supplied by the Ministry of Health and Social Development, British Virgin Islands May 2010.

³⁰¹ Ibid. British Virgin Islands indicators supplied by the Ministry of Health and Social Development, British Virgin Islands May 2010.

³⁰² 2004-2007 Health Situation in the Americas 2008 -- Basic Indicators, p. 8 found at http://www.childinfo.org/low_birthweight_table.php

³⁰³ 1998 statistic for both Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis found at http://www.childinfo.org/breastfeeding_itycf.php

APPENDIX 3

Data on Primary Education

APPENDIX 3A: TOTAL NET ENROLMENT RATIO IN PRIMARY EDUCATION, BOYS ³⁰⁴

Country	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Antigua and Barbuda									74.7
Barbados	94.1	93.6	94.8	93.1	93.9	93.8	93.7	96.5	96.5
British Virgin Islands	98.0		95.5	94.8	95.1	95.4	97.7	97.1	95.6
Dominica	97.5	98.1	86.7	98.5	96.8	93.0	85.6	78.9	
Grenada		91.7	96.2			87.0	86.2		79.4
St. Kitts and Nevis							93.0		89.1



APPENDIX 3B: TOTAL NET ENROLMENT RATIO IN PRIMARY EDUCATION, GIRLS ³⁰⁵

Country	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Antigua and Barbuda									73.4
Barbados	93.6	94.0	95.1	93.5	93.9	92.9	93.7	95.8	97.5
British Virgin Islands	98.5		96.1	93.7	93.8	95.5	97.4	97.5	98.5
Dominica	96.0	96.8	78.5	99.7	98.6	94.4	90.0	85.2	
Grenada		84.0	85.7			86.7	86.7		78.1
St. Kitts and Nevis							98.3		91.7

APPENDIX 3C: PRIMARY COMPLETION RATE, BOYS ³⁰⁶

Country	1991	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Antigua and Barbuda										96.6
Barbados		90.5	94.4	101.9	100.0	104.3	99.7	91.5	98.6	94.4
British Virgin Islands		109.0	112.3	109.0	98.4	96.2	102.7	93.2	92.3	78.6
Dominica		90.4	92.8	102.8	107.1	109.2	111.4	108.2	97.2	
Grenada			79.3	84.3	92.7	90.4		92.9		81.1
Montserrat					110.0	71.4	53.6	113.3	113.3	
St. Kitts and Nevis			111.4	111.0	128.4	119.2	112.9	110.0		97.2

APPENDIX 3D: PRIMARY COMPLETION RATE, GIRLS ³⁰⁷

Country	1991	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Antigua and Barbuda										97.9
Barbados		86.1	90.7	101.8	101.4	106.1	95.9	94.3	92.6	94.8
British Virgin Islands		103.0	102.9	101.1	113.1	99.5	105.9	104.8	106.3	88.7
Dominica		104.4	94.6	94.8	101.7	96.5	103.5	108.3	94.6	
Grenada			68.0	76.0	80.6	89.9		92.2		81.1
Montserrat					71.4	92.3	65.4	107.4	103.6	
St. Kitts and Nevis			127.4	124.9	117.8	95.8	115.7	108.3		94.5

³⁰⁴ United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Development Goal Indicators, found at <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>

³⁰⁵ Ibid

³⁰⁶ United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Development Goal Indicators, found at <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>

³⁰⁷ Ibid



APPENDIX 4

Secondary School Enrolment: ³⁰⁸

Country	Transition rate primary-secondary			Secondary School Enrolment Rate (2003-2008) Gross			Secondary School Enrolment Rate (2003-2008) Net		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	n/a	n/a	n/a ¹	107	103	105	n/a	n/a	n/a
Barbados	100	98.9	99.4 ²	102	105	103	88	93	90
British Virgin Islands ³	93.8	89.4	91.6 ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	81.6 (2005)	94.9 (2005)	88.2 (2005)
Dominica	99.3	98.4	98.9 ⁵	107	105	106	77	85	81
Grenada	n/a	n/a	n/a ⁶	99	98	99	78	80	79
Montserrat ⁷	96.4 (1999)	96.2 (1999)	96.3 (1999)	111 (2005)	122.5 (2005)	116.4 (2005)	90.4 (2004)	100 (2004)	95.8 (2004)
St. Kitts and Nevis	88.6	96.2	90.4 ⁸	95	93	94	87	85	86
St. Lucia	70.2	90.1	79.7 ⁹	88	99	94	69	84	76
St. Vincent and the Grenadines ¹⁰	79.3	87.9	84 ¹¹	67	83	75	57	71	64
Turks and Caicos	83.8	92	87.5 ¹²	n/a	n/a	n/a	71.7 (2005)	68.7 (2005)	70.2 (2005)

³⁰⁸ UNICEF Child Info found at http://www.childinfo.org/education_secondary.php

³⁰⁹ http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_Antigua_and_Barbuda.pdf

³¹⁰ 2004 statistic found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_Barbados.pdf

³¹¹ UNICEF Child Info / UNESCO Institute for Statistics found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_British_Virgin_Islands.pdf

³¹² 2004 statistic found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_British_Virgin_Islands.pdf

³¹³ 2004 statistic found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_Dominica.pdf

³¹⁴ http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_Grenada.pdf

³¹⁵ http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_Montserrat.pdf

³¹⁶ 2003 statistic found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_St_Kitts_and_Nevis.pdf

³¹⁷ 2005 statistic found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_St_Lucia.pdf

³¹⁸ http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_St_Vincent_and_the_Grenadines.pdf

³¹⁹ 2004 statistic found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_St_Vincent_and_the_Grenadines.pdf

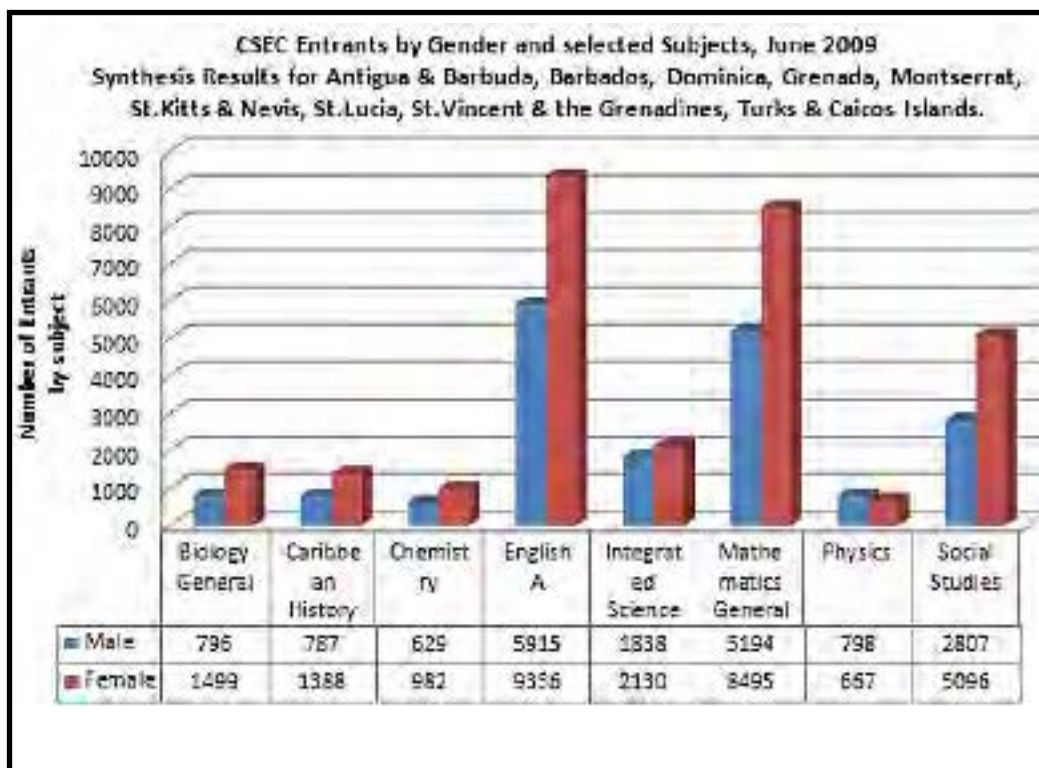
³²⁰ UNICEF Child Info / UNESCO Institute for Statistics found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_Turks_and_Caicos_Islands.pdf

³²¹ 2004 statistic found at http://www.childinfo.org/files/LAC_Turks_and_Caicos_Islands.pdf

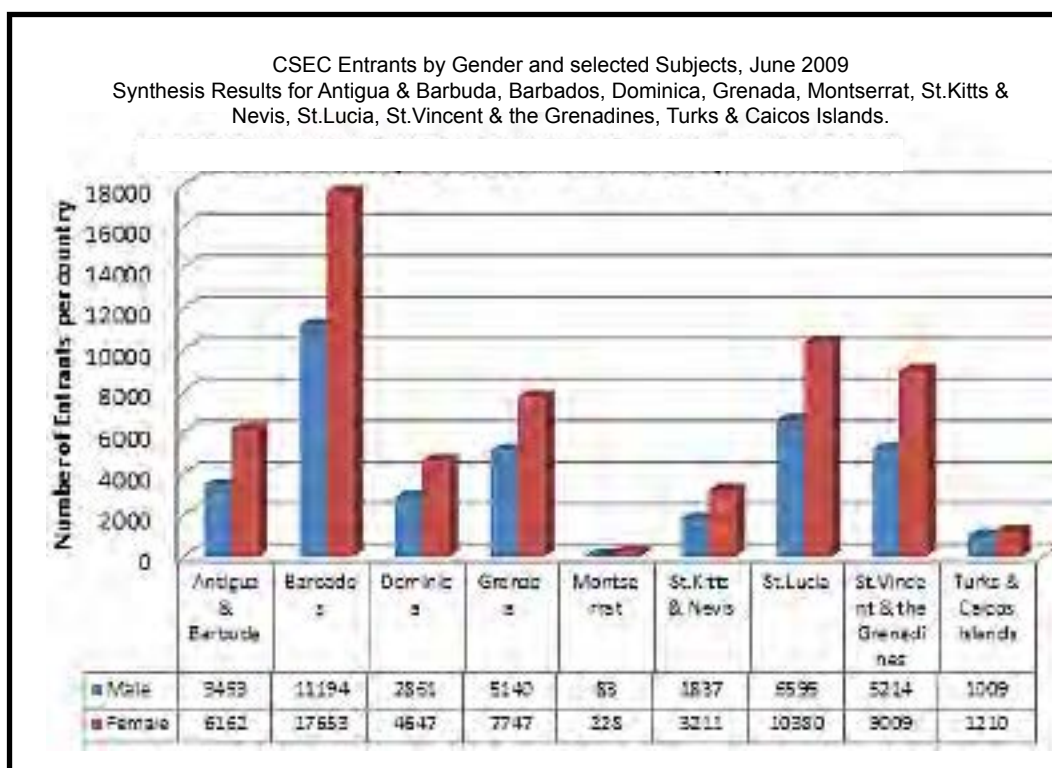


APPENDIX 5 CSEC Data

APPENDIX 5A: CSEC ENTRANTS BY GENDER AND SELECTED SUBJECTS



APPENDIX 5B: PRIMARY COMPLETION RATE, GIRLS



APPENDIX 6

Overview of Disability within the Eastern Caribbean:[1]

Country	Persons with Disabilities %	Government Ministry	Legislation	Programmes
Antigua and Barbuda	5.1%[2]	Ministry of Health, Sports and Youth Affairs	i) Constitution contains some anti-discrimination provisions but there are no specific laws protecting the disabled from discrimination. ii) Has signed but not ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Disabled	Atlede School is a school for children with down syndrome, autism, and other related forms of disability. - Visually and hearing impaired children attend a particular unit at the T N Kinson School (mainstream school) from 5 – 12 years. If they pass their common entrance then they go on to be mainstreamed in Secondary school.
Barbados	6%	Ministry of Social Transformation	- There are no laws specifically protecting the disabled from discrimination against persons with disabilities, other than constitutional provisions asserting equality for all. - A White Paper on Persons with Disabilities was approved by Parliament in 2002 and provides a foundation for future legislation. - In April of 2005, a National Advisory Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was established. Their mandate was to coordinate government efforts to fully integrate persons with disabilities into society. The committee has not yet held a meeting. - The Barbados Education Act does not require the provision of educational facilities for the disabled.	- In April of 2005, the government opened the Haranbee House, a resource and community centre for persons with disabilities. - The Irving Wilson School serves children with vision or hearing impairments. The Ann Hill School provides secondary level education to children with developmental delays. - Student Support Services Department of the Ministry of Education coordinates the provision of services for disabled children. Services are provided in specially equipped classrooms in 8 public primary schools. - Pre-schools examine children's basic skills to detect developmental delays. - National Disabilities Unit trains child care workers in the early detection and identification of disabilities. - Government community-based rehabilitation programme in collaboration with the Barbados Council for the Disabled for physiotherapy, speech and other therapeutic services. - National Assistance Grant Programme provides financial assistance and the Assistance in Kind Programme provides items and services. Both administered by government Ministry.

[1] Adapted from UNECLAC (June 2008) Disability in the Caribbean. A Study of Four Countries: A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Disabled Annex 2 p.63-66. Updated March 2010.

[2] UNECLAC (Dec 2009) A Further Study on Disability in the Caribbean: Rights, Commitment, Statistical Analysis p.19

[3] Figure represents number of households with disabled or individuals with long-term illnesses. Found in UNECLAC (June 2008) Disability in the Caribbean. A Study of Four Countries: A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Disabled p.64 cited from Halcrow Group Limited, Decision Economics, Williams and Shier, University College London, and the National Assessment Team of the British Virgin Islands "Country Poverty Assessment: British Virgin Islands, Vol.1" Caribbean Development Bank

[4] Found in UNECLAC (June 2008) Disability in the Caribbean. A Study of Four Countries: A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Disabled p.64 cited from Halcrow Group Limited, Decision Economics, Williams and Shier, University College London, and the National Assessment Team of the British Virgin Islands "Country Poverty Assessment: British Virgin Islands, Vol.1" Caribbean Development Bank

[5] Found in UNECLAC (June 2008) Disability in the Caribbean. A Study of Four Countries: A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Disabled p.64

[6] Ibid



Country	Persons with Disabilities %	Government Ministry	Legislation	Programmes
British Virgin Islands	4.0%[3]	Ministry of Health and Welfare		- Social Security is paid to the disabled who have a history of work.
Dominica	18.0%[4]		- Signed the Convention on the Rights of the Disabled - There are no laws specifically protecting the disabled from discrimination against persons with disabilities. - Labour laws permit employment of persons with disabilities for less than the minimum wage in order to increase employment opportunities for the disabled.	- Welfare and pension benefits are provided to the disabled. - School for Hearing Impaired in Roseau. Two students are registered and one regularly attends. (March 2010) - School for children with mental health difficulties The Alpha Centre - located in Roseau. Have 50 pupils, 4 pupils on a pre-school programme. They also conduct an outreach programme to visit children in their homes. (March 2010) - Family Nurse Practitioners assess Grades K1 (pre-primary) and 6 (primary) for vision, hearing, and other medical conditions.
Grenada	n/a		- There are no laws specifically protecting the disabled from discrimination against persons with disabilities	- The government has made provisions for disabled children in regular schools, but most parents have chosen to send their disabled children to one of Grenada's three special education schools
Montserrat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
St. Kitts and Nevis	n/a	Ministry of Social and Community Development and Gender Affairs	- Laws in St Kitts and Nevis prohibit discrimination, but they do not specifically mention discrimination against the disabled.	n/a
St. Lucia	5.1%[5]	n/a	- There are no laws specifically protecting the disabled from discrimination against persons with disabilities.	- The Ministry of Health operates a community based rehabilitation programme in residents' homes. - There are schools for the deaf and the blind up to the secondary level. - There also was a school for persons with mental disabilities.

Country	Persons with Disabilities %	Government Ministry	Legislation	Programmes
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1.4%[6]	Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, NGO Relations, Family, Gender Affairs and Persons with Disabilities	- Laws prohibit discrimination against persons with physical and mental disabilities.	- Three 'special needs' schools with a total of 96 students (March 2010). - One student in mainstream Secondary education that is wheelchair bound. (March 2010). - One student at Primary School has been mainstreamed with hearing aids. (March 2010) - Four nurses trained in audiology to test the hearing of hopefully all Primary School students in 2010. - It also supports a small rehabilitation centre which has the capacity to treat approximately five persons a day.
Turks and Caicos Islands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



APPENDIX 7

Forms of Child Sexual Abuse within the Eastern Caribbean³²²

- **Intra-familial abuser:**
 - Secretive, invisible, silenced
 - Often multiple victims, with several siblings involved.
 - May involve paedophile networks – cousins, brothers, uncles, grandparents – sometimes abusing the same child.
 - Fathers, step-fathers and mothers boyfriends are the main perpetrators of abuse.
- **Non-family abuse:**
 - Most children know their abuser. Abuse by strangers is considered rare.
 - The abuser is usually a trusted adult within the community – teacher, neighbour, shop keeper.
 - Some adolescent boys display predatory behaviours through targeting vulnerable girls, especially girls from households that lack parental supervision.
 - Some abuse is opportunistic and results out of a situation where the abuser takes advantage of the situation they find themselves in. For example, arriving at a home and finding a child unsupervised.
- **Transactional sexual abuse:**
 - Sometimes widely known about and is socially sanctioned.
 - Often carried out openly.
 - Primarily older men and teenage girls.
 - Boys are increasingly becoming involved.
 - Isolated cases of young women targeting young girls and boys.
 - High rates of transactional sex between young people. This makes young people more vulnerable to the predatory behaviours of adult men.
- **Use of cell phones and the internet:**
 - Cell phone pornography is reported to be a growing problem amongst children. Children are reported to take sexual images of themselves and friends and distribute them.
 - Social networking sites are increasingly being used by predators to target children.
 - Reports of pornographic images of school girls from the region being posted on the internet.
- **Child sex tourism:**
 - The Eastern Caribbean region is a growing market for child sex tourism.
- **Opportunistic abuse linked to natural disasters:**
 - Natural disasters with the region are frequent and increase the risks for children. During a natural disaster families are often relocated to temporary shelters where children have to share their living space with adults. This increases the risks of abuse taking place, especially if children are left unsupervised. Children are increasingly vulnerable during this time and are at increased risk of being sexually exploited for money.
- **Other trends:**
 - **Sexual aggression by girls:** There is growing evidence from a number of countries of girls engaging in sexually aggressive behaviour in which groups of girls sexually abuse individual boys.
 - **Transactional sex between children:** Across all countries young girls are agreeing to sex with teenage boys in exchange for material goods and money.

³²² UNICEF/University of Huddersfield/Action for Children (2009), Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean

APPENDIX 8

APPENDIX 8A: ANNUAL RETURN OF CRIMES REPORTED TO ST. JOHN'S POLICE STATION FOR 2008 (ANTIGUA)

Offences	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Rape	3	2	2	0	5	2	3	1	7	2	4	2	40
Art. Rape	2		2		1	1			1			1	8
Indecent Assault	1	1	2		2	1		1		1	3		12
Unlawful Carnal Knowledge	2	1	1			2			1	1			8



APPENDIX 8B: SEXUAL OFFENCES IN ST. LUCIA 2005-2008

Offence	2005	2006	2007	2008
Rape	51 [15]	67 [19]	86 [14]	48 [15]
Unlawful Sexual Connection	12 [5]	15 [7]	20 [4]	12 [5]
Incest by force	1	0	1 [1]	0
Sexual Intercourse under 12	8 [2]	15 [13]	11 [7]	40 [6]
Sexual Intercourse under 16	43 [19]	67 [28]	75 [30]	71 [20]
Sexual Intercourse with Adopted	1	1	0	1
Sexual Intercourse with Minor Employee	0	0	0	0
Indecency	56 [26]	71 [36]	77 [18]	56 [22]
Buggery	2	1 [2]	1	1 [3]
Unlawful retention for sex	0	2 [1]	0	0
Total	174 [67]	242 [106]	271 [74]	255 [79]

NB: [] indicates offences 'detected' i.e. identified and charged but not prosecuted.

APPENDIX 8C: ST. LUCIA SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST MINORS FROM JANUARY 1ST 2009 – MARCH 27 2009.

Country	Persons with Disabilities %	Government Ministry	Legislation	Programmes
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	3.45[6]	Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, NGO Relations, Family, Gender Affairs and Persons with Disabilities	- Laws prohibit discrimination against persons with physical and mental disabilities.	- Three 'special needs' schools with a total of 9% students (March 2010). - One student in mainstream Secondary education that is wheelchair bound. (March 2010). - One student at Primary School has been main-streamed with hearing aids. (March 2010) - Four nurses trained in audiology to test the hearing of hopefully all Primary School students in 2010. - It also supports a small rehabilitation centre which has the capacity to treat approximately five persons a day.
Turks and Caicos Islands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

APPENDIX 8D: THE ROYAL ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS POLICE FORCE COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Offences	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	Total	Solved	Juve's	Total	Solved	Juve's	Total	Solved	Juve's	Total	Solved	Juve's	Total	Solved	Juve's
Rape	9	4	0	11	7	0	10	9	1	7	6	1	14	10	1
Incest	5	5	0	1	1	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Unlawful Carnal Knowledge	26	25	1	19	17	1	11	11	1	21	18	6	22	18	4
Indecent Assault on Females	31	27	0	24	21	2	20	16	3	24	21	2	24	20	4
Other Crimes of a Sexual Nature	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total	64	58	1	46	40	3	37	33	4	46	40	8	59	51	8



APPENDIX 9

Areas of Social Protection in the OECS Subregion (includes Anguilla).³²³

Area of Protection	Number of Projects
Adolescent Parents	5
Child Day Care Services	4
Child Protection	14
Community Development	13
Disaster Risk Reduction	9
Elderly Support	13
Food Security	9
Health Care	13
Help for Disabled	7
Infrastructure Improvement	5
Juvenile Justice	6
Labour Market Support	14
Legal Aid	4
Macro Economic Support	4
Micro credit	6
Poverty alleviation	33
Public assistance	15
Scholarships	7
School feeding	7
Short term employment	8
Skills training	36
Social assistance	12
Social insurance	9
Student assistance	20
Youth at risk	34
Domestic Violence	1
Total:	289

³²³ Kairi Consultants (Aug 2009) Final Report: Situation Analysis of Social Protection and Social Safety Nets in the OECS Member States p.13



APPENDIX 10

Participation in Students' Councils

Country	# of Secondary Schools with Students' Councils	Positions Held with the Council:	Active Participation Amongst all Students	Reasons for Involvement in Students' Councils	Reasons for Non-Involvement in Students' Councils	Student Suggested Actions to Increase Participation
Antigua and Barbuda	None. Questions were asked to students on a hypothetical basis.	n/a	n/a	1) Make a difference. 2) Solve problems. 3) Enhance leadership skills. 4) Sharing ideas with other students is important.	1) Lack of Interest. 2) Too busy.	n/a
Barbados	All	Male: 71 % Female: 29 %	Male: 8 % Female: 7 %	1) Gave students a voice. 2) Provided a forum to express themselves. 3) Students were best placed to make decisions about the school. 4) Discuss issues that teachers may not deem important.	1) Waste of Time 2) Not enough votes. 3) Did not know of existence. 4) Students don't take seriously.	1) Need more fun activities. 2) Increase students understanding of benefits of joining. 3) Councils need to be better organised. 4) More encouragement required from school administration.
Grenada	All	Male: 36 % Female: 64 %	Male: 8 % Female: 12 %	1) Gave students a voice. 2) Discuss issues that teachers may not deem important. 3) Sharing ideas with other students is important.	1) Too busy with other things. 2) Not enough votes. 3) Waste of time. 4) School administration too difficult to talk to.	1) Need more fun activities. 2) Councils need to be better organised. 3) Increase students understanding of benefits of joining. 4) More encouragement required from school administration.
St. Lucia	All		Male: 4 % Females: 6 %	1) Gave students a voice. 2) Discuss issues that teachers may not deem important. 3) Students were best placed to make decisions about the school.	1) Did not know of existence. 2) Waste of time. 3) Students don't take it seriously 4) Not enough votes.	1) Need more fun activities. 2) Councils need to be better organised. 3) Increase students understanding of benefits of joining. 4) More encouragement required from school administration.

APPENDIX 11

School Activity Clubs³²⁴

Country	# of Public Secondary Schools	# of schools offering some form of activity club:	Legislation	Knowledge of opportunities for Participation in activity clubs:	Participation in Activity Clubs	Motivations for Becoming Involved:	Reasons for Non-Participation
Antigua and Barbuda	9	9	No.	Moderate. 88 % of respondents indicated knowledge	Low. 32 % involved in one or more activity. 75 % of those being female.	1) 61 % indicated a desire to be more involved in school activities. 2) 27 % joined clubs because their friends were joining. 3) 22 % felt it would look good on their report.	1) 36 % weren't interested. 2) 31 % indicated that they were too busy. 3) 17 % cited not knowing of the clubs existence.
Barbados	21	All. However the number of clubs varies widely from 1 club to 17 clubs.	Yes. Legislation mandates every public secondary institution to have a student's council.	Very High. All students interviewed had knowledge.	Low. Only 35 % of sample said they were involved.	1) 46 % indicated a desire to be more involved in school activities. 2) 16 % were encouraged by parents. 3) 16 % felt it would look good on their report. 4) 11 % joined clubs because their friends were joining.	1) 40 % indicated that they were too busy. 2) 34 % weren't interested. 3) 20 % felt that activities ended too late.
Grenada	16	16	No.	Very high. Only 5 students in pool indicated no knowledge.	Moderate. 54 % involved in one or more activity. Male participation low at 36 %	1) 65 % indicated a desire to be more involved in school activities. 2) 20 % were encouraged by parents. 3) 14 % joined clubs because their friends were joining.	1) 34 % weren't interested. 2) 32 % indicated that they were too busy. 3) 17 % felt that activities ended too late.
St. Lucia	23	17 (although 2 schools could not be included in the survey because they provided no information)	No.	Very high. 98% of respondents indicated knowledge.	Low. 48% involved in one or more activity. Male participation extremely low at 24 %.	1) 63 % indicated a desire to be more involved in school activities. 2) 28 % joined clubs because their friends were joining.	1) 68 % weren't interested. 2) 32 % indicated that they were too busy.

³²⁴ Synthesis of information from Bailey, C (Nov 2008), Report on Youth Participation in the Eastern Caribbean, UNICEF



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