

## OVERALL INSTRUCTIONS

1	All questions/sections must be responded to before submitting to the secretariat. Once the document is uploaded in the relevant folder (as per instruction below) please email the secretariat.
2	<p>To ensure <b>high quality results reports</b> please follow the next guidelines:</p> <p>a) The narratives should be a well written, succinct summary clarifying what was done during the reporting period and the results achieved. It should highlight the <b>JP achievements</b>. It should also <b>specify scope and beneficiaries</b>.</p> <p>b) Factual, evidence-based reporting against the outcome and output and corresponding indicators in the original project document;</p> <p>c) In case certain indicators are not longer relevant, an explanation for why they are not should be provided.</p> <p>d) Factual, evidence-based reporting against the outcome results and its <b>alignment with the overall SERP joint workplan</b>, and linkage to reporting on global-level SERP indicators.</p> <p>e) Indicate the relevant SERP monitoring framework global indicators that were contributed to as part of this project.</p> <p>f) An honest analysis of challenges faced, the responses to these challenges and the extent to which these responses were successful or not.</p> <p>g) Reflect on innovation. Avoid generic and standard descriptions. Rather, present well documented features of successful innovative solutions truly new for you and which could enable replication efforts.</p>
3	Please fill out all sections of the reporting template before submitting to the secretariat via email to: <a href="mailto:nina.andersen@undp.org">nina.andersen@undp.org</a> and cc.: <a href="mailto:maria.herrera@undp.org">maria.herrera@undp.org</a>
<b>B</b>	
	<b>DEADLINE: MARCH 31 ST, 2022</b>
1	ALL projects receiving funds in late 2020 and in 2021 must complete an <b>ANNUAL</b> report as per the end of the calendar year with a <b>reporting period : date of start until 31 December 2021</b> .
2	The joint programmes which completed their activities in 2021 should deliver a <b>FINAL report by March 31</b> at the latest and will not be obligated to provide an annual report.
3	The joint programmes completing activities in 2022 will be asked to submit a <b>FINAL report (by 31 August 2022)</b>
4	ALL projects must report number of direct beneficiaries.
5	ALL projects must provide an update on project indicators

Programme Title & Project Number	
Programme Title:	Social protection and employability promotion to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19
Programme Number (if applicable)	125459
MPTF Office Project Reference Number:	
Country	Antigua and Barbuda and British Virgin Islands (BVI)

Recipient UN Organizations	
Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme	UNICEF, ILO, WFP

Report Cleared By	
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Programme Duration	
Overall Duration (months)	13 months
Start Date (dd.mm.yyyy)	January 12 2021
Original End Date (dd.mm.yyyy)	November 15 2021
In case of NCE Current End date(dd.mm.yyyy)	February 28 2022

Implementing Partners	
National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations	Antigua and Barbuda: Ministry of of Public Safety, Legal Affairs and Labour Ministry of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy Social Protection Board UWI Open Campus National Training Agency BVI: Ministry of Labour Ministry of Health and Social Development Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration

The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY

The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

**If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here.** If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

#	Questions	Guidance to respondents	Responses
1	Executive Summary	Please succinctly capture the key activities and concrete/tangible results and any important developments that the COVID-19 MPTF-funded Programme in your country achieved during the reporting period. The Executive Summary should serve as an accessible, simply written, standalone summary of the Programme's results for this reporting period. It should show how implementation was carried out in the context of COVID-19 (up to 500 words).	<p>This Joint Programme effectively helped to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable families and persons, including women, through cash transfers via scaled up social protection systems to support over 400 households in Antigua and Barbuda and the British Virgin Islands. The Joint Programme also effectively strengthened the social protection systems to respond to future shocks, through the successful drafting of new Social Protection Policies that consider shock-responsiveness. More specifically in Antigua and Barbuda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Joint Programme supported the implementation of the new Social Protection Act, with technical support to establish the new governance institutions. This included support to transition from a paper-based data management system to a digitized one for more transparent and accountable delivery of assistance, with 381 former beneficiaries being re-registered and their information directly imported in the system.</li> <li>- The Joint Programme worked with the Government to develop, design, and administer a COVID-19 Relief Grant considering the differentiated needs of households. Technical support was provided along the project cycle, leveraging the new institutions and systems under the Social Protection Act to ensure the effective implementation of this programme to those affected by the impact of COVID-19. The programme reached 381 vulnerable households across Antigua and Barbuda.</li> <li>- Technical support has been provided and lessons learned from this programme have been generated to adapt the design of social assistance and ensure continued support to those affected by COVID-19 beyond the project period, in a way that considers the differentiated vulnerabilities of those in need of assistance year round and in times of shocks.</li> </ul> <p>In BVI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical support has been provided to the Ministry of Health and Social Development to strengthen social protection systems to meet increased demand and reach additional vulnerable individuals and families as part of its COVID-19 Income Support Programme efficiently and effectively. Support focused on technical assistance for the design and implementation of the data management system for applications. Capacity strengthening has been provided in the form of trainings to enumerators, the development of technical guidance documents for the use of digital registrations and the enrolment process. Trouble shooting for the technical and non-technical aspects of the registrations and the enrollment (including the communication campaigns, the implementation plan, the review of the scoring system and the enrolment process). Support also was provided for the delivery phase of the program: distribution of the cheques and reconciliation of information; as well as for the Post Distribution Monitoring. The MPTF Fund enabled to cover 87,5 Households (215 individuals) in 2021 and 2,5 Households (8 individuals) in 2022 with a one-off cash grant designed to cover basic needs for three months; as well as operational costs linked with the communication expenses. The Government of BVI is covering the cost to support the remaining households covered by the Income Support Programme (55 Households served as of March 1st 2022; anticipating another 300 Households to be served in the coming months).</li> </ul> <p>In both countries:</p> <p>The Joint Programme delivered the employability training course. The course was delivered using asynchronous delivery as the primary mode and synchronous delivery once per module by the course facilitator. The synchronous sessions were conducted utilizing blackboard collaborate within the UWI Open Campus' learning exchange. Post the training, participants were given the opportunity to be placed in internship of between 4-6 weeks.</p>
2	Purpose	Please describe the project general objective <b>specifying its link to COVID-19 response</b> .	The social and economic impact from COVID-19 severely affected the employment conditions and the well-being of families, women, men and children in the Eastern Caribbean countries and territories, including Antigua and Barbuda and the British Virgin Islands. The impact of COVID-19 included increases in un- and under-employment and school closures, which exacerbated conditions for vulnerable households, including single parent and female-headed households. To address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, cash-based assistance to vulnerable households and the provision of technical assistance for data management, redress systems, strengthening the shock responsiveness of government social protection systems, and entrepreneurship and employability training were provided.
3	Results: Outcome Level	Please include narratives describing the main project achievements against the project's overall goal (up to 300 words)	The Socio economic impact of COVID 19 on people (existing beneficiaries and newly unemployed) has been mitigated through the delivery of cash assistance to the most vulnerable and capacity building in entrepreneurship and employability of beneficiaries. The social protection systems is better able to prepare for and respond to shocks and trained persons have new skills that can be used to gain employment and participate in internship programs.

3.1 Results: Output Level	Please include narratives describing the main annual/ final results of each output included in the project document (up to 200 words)	<p>During the project period, the following has been achieved:</p> <p>In Antigua and Barbuda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effective technical assistance to establish the institutions required to implement the new Social Protection Act (Social Protection Board, Fund and Commission that will allow for a more efficient utilization of national resources and provide a foundation based on human rights and equity)</li> <li>- The successful digitization of the main social protection programme through the use of UNICEF MIS system - key staff were trained and 381 households were registered. This is the first time a digitised Management Information System is used throughout the programme cycle in Antigua and Barbuda with links to Grievance Redress Mechanisms and Verification.</li> <li>- A fully designed COVID-19 Relief Grant for top-ups with supporting tools on communications, distribution, M&amp;E, GRM, verifications</li> <li>- Payment to 381 households with the COVID-19 Relief Grant, with transfer values tailored to households size.</li> <li>- Preparedness for the recertification of beneficiaries under the old legal framework to support the transition from the COVID-19 Relief Grant onto longer term social assistance, with lessons learned being integrated from the Joint Programme ensuring the design is adapted to consider best practices.</li> <li>- Planned event on data systems with OECS with ANB Government colleagues participating</li> <li>- Support drafting social protection policies with consideration of shock responsiveness. ANB is pending final adoption of these policies incl. plan and MEL framework.</li> </ul> <p>In BVI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effective technical assistance to support the set up of the Income Support Program</li> <li>- The digitization of the registration process and data management system</li> <li>- Support to the enrollment process and distribution of assistance</li> <li>- Financial support to cover 90 Households (87,5 in 2021; 2,5 in 2022)</li> <li>- Financial support to cover communication needs</li> <li>- Support to capitalization: Lessons learnt document, operating procedures for all steps of the ISP</li> <li>- Support drafting social protection policies with consideration of shock responsiveness. BVI is pending finalisation</li> </ul> <p>In both countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The employability training programme was executed and provided an opportunity for those who lost their sources of income or are receiving cash-based assistance to acquire entrepreneurship and employability skills to find new employment or to consider self-employment as a viable option. The course was delivered in 8 modules using the Open Campus Online learning platform. Trainees could access on demand learning materials.</li> <li>- 67 trainees successfully completed the course and were issued a certificate of participation by The University of The West Indies, Open Campus in Antigua and Barbuda. Trainees in their testimonials indicated that the course helped them to start their own business or were able to gain employment.</li> <li>- Post training Internship was executed in which trainees were given the opportunity for internship. 6 trainees have already been placed in a minimum of 6 weeks internship in Antigua and Barbuda. Few trainees have also indicated their interest in the internship in the British Virgin Island, and the Department of Labour is working to secure placement for the trainees.</li> </ul>
3.2 Results: Gender	Please include project Gender results and its linkage with COVID- 19 response. If applicable, refer to the project's gender equality marker and any impacts they may have had on programming quality and results (up to 150 words).	<p>In the COVID 19 context, the project aimed to focus particularly on women and girls who are among the most vulnerable and women are over-represented in some of the worst affected sectors like tourism and retail as well as small and medium enterprises in informal, low wage economic activities. Registration and monitoring data included sex-disaggregation to enable nuanced insights on the different needs people face, challenges, livelihoods and the effectiveness of the support.</p> <p>In Antigua and Barbuda:</p> <p>A total of 514 females were direct beneficiaries of the COVID 19 Relief Grant</p> <p>In BVI:</p> <p>Registration and monitoring data included sex-disaggregation to enable nuanced insights on the different needs people face, challenges, livelihoods and the effectiveness of the support.</p> <p>The Post-Distribution Monitoring data showed that the decision making on Households expenditures was a common choice between men and women for 64%, while it was made by women only for 21%, and men only for 12% of the households surveyed. Similarly, the use of the assistance were decisions made commonly by both men and women for 53% of the Households surveyed, 29% by women and 15% by men.</p>

- 3.3 **Results: Direct Beneficiaries**
- Please include total number of **DIRECT BENEFICIARIES** disaggregated by gender, age, location (rural, urban, any other location). Please avoid duplicating beneficiaries ensuring the disaggregated data adds to the total presented.
- In ANB - 2022 TOTAL 381 households, 1235 individuals Disaggregated by population group and age range (Female: 514 Male: 341 Children: 183 (female) 197 (male) Elder: 368 (elderly categorised as over 55); People living with disabilities: 112  
In BVI : verified direct beneficiaries (Household members) who received cash-grants through the Income Support Program 2021: TOTAL 215 (Female: 112 Male: 103 ; Children: 38 - Youth: 10 - Adults: 155 - Elder: 12 ; People living with a disability:10  
Disaggregated by Location: Urban: 215  
2022: TOTAL: 8 (Female: 3 Male: 5 ; Children: 4 - Youth: 0 - Adults: 4 - Elder: 0 ; People living with a disability:0 Disaggregated by Location: Urban: 8  
In both countries:  
A total of 137 trainees, comprised of 114 female and 23 males (Chorhot Group 1) enrolled and the course commenced on 13 August 2021 and ended 18 October 2021  
47 trainees, comprised of 37 females and 10 males (Chorhot Group 2) enrolled and the course commenced 10 November 2021 and ended 8 December 2021.  
A total of 67 (62 females and 5 males) successfully completed the course. Several factors account for the more than 50% attrition rate including trainees being employed as the COVID-19 situation improved, and some of the trainees not readily adjusting to on-line
- 3.4 **Results: Indirect Beneficiaries**
- Please include total number of **INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES**. **Please clarify if these are estimated and/or verified. If possible**, disaggregate beneficiaries by gender.
- In Antigua and Barbuda:  
Indirect beneficiaries: 31 staff from the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Social Protection Board have been trained on data collection and 21 on end to end use of the management information system: data collection, targeting, payments, reconciliations and grievances. This knowledge gained has since been applied and used as part of the COVID-19 Relief Grant.  
Through the COVID-19 Relief Grant, the roles and responsibilities and standards operating procedures amongst the newly established Social Protection Board and the Social Policy Department have been established.  
In BVI:  
Indirect beneficiaries: 18 staff from Social Development Department have been trained on end to end use of the management information system set-up: data collection, targeting, verification, enrollment, payments, reconciliations.  
4 staff from Central Statistics Office have been trained on Post-Distribution Monitoring.
- 3.5 **Do not Harm**
- Please reflect on use of the “Do no harm” approach to avoid exacerbating inequalities and vulnerability as a result of the intervention. ( up to 100 words)
- The principle of 'do not harm' was integrated through the project design. For example in Antigua and Barbuda the intervention considered the differentiated needs of households by ensuring that the cash support was tailored to the households size, as per global best practice. This was the first time that this shift from individual payments to household payments that consider the individual vulnerabilities in line with the new Social Protection Act. In addition, different grievance and complaint channels were effectively put in place to ensure accountability to affected populations, considering accessibility challenges of the target population. In BVI, support to the government focused on identifying vulnerable persons impacted by COVID-19 and programming processes that considered people's different risks and vulnerabilities in order to mitigate and not exacerbate these.

3.6 **Results:  
Challenges/Difficulties Encountered  
and Measures Taken**

Please briefly describe, if applicable, any difficulties encountered, concrete measures taken to overcome them and changes introduced (any course corrections that were undertaken to achieve the expected results) Further, please draw on the Risk Management Matrix that was included as part of the approved ProDoc (regardless of whether challenges encountered were originally envisioned as risks or not), and highlight which risks materialized and how they were addressed, in very concrete terms(use up to 150 words).

Difficulties faced during the project period included:

- COVID-19 new waves in both countries slowed project progress this resulted in two NCEs to extend implementation timelines by 3 months.

In Antigua and Barbuda:

The containment measures contributed to support being delivered or conducted remotely. The joint programme team traveled in country as soon as it was possible (with quarantine).

Difficulties encountered at programmatic level include:

-The ongoing reforms in Antigua and Barbuda in the social protection sector also contributed to delays in the response as the new institutions and systems need to be in place to implement the support. The systemic change created some resistance to change as well as additional unanticipated procedures that would be required in order to complete the recertification processes. To address this, the programme complemented its support under the Fund with capacity building and communication on the new Act, and also shifted the programme design slightly, to ensure that the COVID-19 Relief Grant could be dispersed and then feed into and inform the final design of the recertification process.

- Insufficient staff in Antigua and Barbuda to support the preparatory activities for the recertification and delivery of the cash transfers, with the Ministry focal point being out of office on sick leave for more than half of the reporting period. The Minister appointed additional support from other departments, with experience in data collection to fill the gap.

- The emergency response to the volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent contributed to stretch UN staff resources. To mitigate the impact, additional support was onboarded.

BVI:

Given external factors, the dramatic increase of Covid cases, and preparations for the upcoming start of the hurricane season, the initial registration process in BVI for the Income Support Program was deferred to the next quarter. The verification process to validate the applications proved more time-consuming than anticipated, namely due to the high number of documentation requested, and some eligibility criteria lacking relevance considering the delay, that required tweaking. Therefore, it was decided to regroup the 3 monthly intallments into a one-off grant to enable Households to directly benefit from entire grant and address their increased needs; and Households got served into consecutive batches as they were being validated, rather than in a single batch payment, to avoid delaying further support to Households with complete files.

In both countries:

Prior to the delivery of the course, the students demonstrated varying levels of computer literacy or skill which could affect their pace and quality of learning. Considering this, the Open Campus administered a computer competency survey to determine time and cost associated with participant orientation dependent on participants' technical aptitude. Applicable self-paced guide to navigate the LE by the LSS and local site tech were provided to the participants to help navigate the platform

Additionally, internet connectivity or bandwidth levels varied from country to country as well as location within countries. The Ministry of Labour in Antigua and Barbuda made available access to materials available in PDF format for participants' convenience.

Given participants competing demands, the training modules can be accessed on demand at any time, convenient to the participants. This allowed for flexibility to access in time management and availability of learning materials online.

3.7 **Results:  
Qualitative  
Assessment and  
Learning**

Please include any specific policy, programmatic and/or operational lessons or findings from the programme that could inform similar responses at country or global levels. Please focus on knowledge generated by the project that is truly new and likely to inform other interventions (in country or beyond) (up to 250 words)

Social protection systems have proven to be a cost-efficient and effective way to provide additional support to the most vulnerable in times of crisis, and an opportunity to strengthen the underlying systems for improved delivery year-round.

Shifting to digitised management information systems provides a way for more transparent and accountable delivery of assistance, including in times of crisis.

Understanding the policy cycles that are ongoing in the target countries is critical to understand as preparedness activities that may have taken place may need to be reviewed following a legislative change.

Cash transfers provides flexible support for people impacted by crisis including COVID-19.

Capacity building initiatives are enhanced with methodologies and technical tools (namely the registration forms and the data management system)

Key findings:

- Eligibility criteria must be quantifiable, verifiable and easy to communicate
- Methodology for the verification/enrollment of applications must be clearly developed
- Simplification of the documentation requested to support the applications is crucial
- Duplication of efforts between agencies must be avoided. Cross-checking with other agencies through the development of a data-sharing agreement with other agencies (namely Social Security Board) etc would simplify this process.
- A data repository of the experience and findings is essential to serve as the basis for the effort of improving and digitalizing the routine Social Protection methodology and data-management; to ensure its shock-responsiveness.
- The mode of delivery of the course (synchronous and Asynchronous)worked for those who were able to complete the course.
- Creation of opportunities for student-instructor communication- The instructor plays a central role in student support and provide immediate feedback on questions related to course material.
- Automation of reminders- this would assist participants with attendance. Some participants requested weekly reminders of synchronous sessions. Automation is the most efficient way to achieve this objective.
- Prioritize the use of a UWI Assigned subject matter expert (SME) and course developer CD) - The burden of course development for this course was placed on the curriculum development specialists. There could have been greater efficiency in course development if in-house SME and CD were assigned.

Three Agencies have partnered for the execution of this Joint Programme: UNICEF, ILO and WFP. Work with a number of key national partners have been ongoing.

Antigua and Barbuda:

Ministry of Social Transformation and Blue Economy (Department of Social Policy and Protection) and Social Protection Board

Ministry of Legal Affairs, Public Safety and Labour

BVI:

Ministry of Health and Social Development

Partnerships and collaboration have been vital to the project and have contributed significantly to achieving project results. Given the pandemic, new partnerships are difficult to establish due to travel and meeting restrictions, however, coordinating committees have been established in both countries.

In Antigua and Barbuda, The committee members include officials from the

(a)Antigua & Barbuda National Training Agency, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

(b)Ministry of Legal Affairs, Public Safety and Labour,

(c)Department of Social Policy, Research and Planning, Ministry of Social Transformation; and

(d)The University of the West Indies, Open Campus

British Virgin Island

(a)Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration,

(b)Hamilton Lavitty Stoult Community College

(c)Social Development

3.8 **Results:  
Partnerships**

Please explain how the programme has worked with partners and developed new partnerships and if any catalytic financial or programmatic outcomes have been achieved in this regard. Please focus on new, innovative and/or very practical ways in which these partnerships delivered impact/results and how the financial support from the fund helped, if applicable, to foster these partnerships. And explain if and how the intervention complemented activities funded by other global instruments such as the GHRP, WHO SPRP, and any national level response plans (up to 250 words)



3.9	Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)	Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken (up to 200 words).	<p>A rapid bottleneck analysis of existing grievance mechanisms was developed, ready for discussions on how to enact the recommendations.</p> <p>Post-Distribution Monitoring Report</p> <p>BVI: Post-Distribution Monitoring was done to evaluate the satisfaction of the first batches of beneficiaries of the ISP (receiving support between October 2021 and January 2022) of the ISP. 34 Households were interviewed out of the 140 Households served during the period, by WFP and The BVI Government's budgets. The main benefits cited of the cash transfers were improved food consumption (76%), debt repayment (42%) and better ability to meet other households needs (39%). The top expenditure cited by 61% of respondents was food, followed by utilities (38%). All interviewed beneficiaries showed an acceptable food consumption at the time of the survey (two weeks after having redeemed their cash grant), indicating that the assistance they received might have prevented them from falling into negative food consumption patterns. Moore details in the full report in Annex.</p>
4	Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)	Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs that took place (Up to 100 words).	<p>In Antigua and Barbuda,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNICEF deployed its global Management and Information System for Humanitarian Cash Transfers- HOPE, to improve collection, storage and management of social assistance beneficiary information and limit any fraud and misappropriation. The UNICEF MIS will provide a ready to use solution for the ministry for emergency programmes while a localized national MIS solution is being developed with support of UNICEF.</li> <li>- After the passing of the social protection act, the plan was to provide top-ups to newly recertified households as well as other households newly affected by COVID-19. However firstly, due to legislative change it was not possible to complete all the processes for recertification within the project period, and secondly, after a mapping with partners, other programmes had been established in order to reach newly affected households. As such, the team adapted to this context and developed a design focusing on those that had been reregistered onto the newly digitised social protection system, in order to best ensure that both those most vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 and those who had overwhelmingly not been provided with support to date would be provided with temporary cash assistance to manage the impacts of COVID-19.</li> </ul> <p>BVI: While the cash transfers supported by WFP covered 90 households, WFP technical support was for the overall income support programme, for which the Government also had a budget of 950,000USD.</p>
5	Resources (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide any information on financial management, procurement and human resources.</li> <li>• Indicate if the Programme mobilized any additional resources or interventions from other partners.</li> </ul>	

Please include ALL indicators in the project document. Include the indicators and Baseline, Planned Target and Actuals for *both* OUTCOME and OUTPUT levels. "Actuals" refer to the total figures achieved for each indicator. Include separate actuals for 2021 and for 2022 (if applicable). Explain if targets were not achieved. Include means of verification. Use as many outputs cells as needed to present all project indicators.

[illegible]



1. Impact Stories from the Field

Please submit one impactful story showing how your work has met critical needs in the context of the pandemic and supporting progress towards the SDGs, especially for vulnerable people. Ideally, this story will feature testimonials from the targeted groups. Please also take a moment to highlight any specific results on gender equality and LNOB, as relevant.

The INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM in the BVI supported the Social Development Department to develop the Covid 19 Income Support Program: a shock-responsive social protection program aiming at supporting financially vulnerable individuals who suffered from a loss of income due to the Covid 19 crisis and received no support from the other programs developed. The program successfully enabled households to meet their most pressing critical needs, as was the case with a 26 year old women benefitting from the Income Support Program, indicated: "When the pandemic was declared, I was laid-off, that was in March 2020. I still had my rent, food and other needs to cover, but no income to support. So I actually spent all my saving just to cover my needs since the pandemic. I found a few cleaning jobs around, to try to keep a little earning, sometimes I was able to make 500 USD. But as of today, my debts have been piling up and I have 4000 USD to reimburse my landlord, and I can't always afford food. I have been looking for a food bank, but did not find one. I already applied to different job, and I am hopeful I will get one soon; but so far, I did not get any response yet. I am so grateful for the program, I received 2700 USD, I will use 2000 USD to reimburse my rent, and will keep the 700 for my food needs. This is extremely helpful, you can't imagine! "

Another beneficiary, a 43 year old gentleman, is a self-employed construction worker who arrived in the BVI 15 years ago. When the lockdown was declared, his working opportunities stopped. He started doing some small daily jobs as a gardener and doing some small mechanics to try to keep some income. Mr. X was able to make a few hundred a month, barely enough to cover for the food needs of his wife and two kids. His rent and other bills kept piling up. Since the situation started to go back to normal, his wife found a job, and he was able to work a bit more. He also applied to jobs within companies hoping for some more regularity, but the two promising opportunities he had did not work-out in the end; the companies still being too fragile because of the economic impact of Covid. Mr. X and his wife still have over 4000 USD to pay back for the rent, and other bills that are running late. While his wife's salary can now cover the food needs of his family, Mr. X is grateful for the help, that he will use as a priority to reimburse the rent, and for the fees associated with his kids education and the other bills late.

The Employability training in Antigua and Barbuda and the BVI supported capacity building for beneficiaries that lost their jobs due to COVID 19. The training increased employability and entrepreneurship opportunities as evident from the testimonial of Sheryl Inigo Joseph of Liberta Village, owner of a small cottage industry business. "I was dithering at a crossroad on whether or not it was the right time for me to become an entrepreneur. A close friend, who is confident of my abilities encouraged me to register for the entrepreneurship and employability skills training 10 weeks course. I did, and has not regretted the decision. I learned a lot during that course on topics such as the independence and unhindered position an entrepreneur holds which will affect his/her life and others. Also, the importance of doing market research before deciding on the products or services offered, and most importantly, of time management and customer satisfaction. It opened my eyes in ways I didn't think possible. At the end of the course when I realized I had the ability to create my own business plan I was excited. I gained the confidence and stepped into my destiny after the way the presenter Mr. Hassan Dahi explained his points; and the brilliance of the speakers who he chose to encourage us in our endeavours especially Tahirah Banks, who made running your own business sound easy while explaining the challenges one can face, in a way, which makes them insignificant to all we can accomplish. I have now registered my business, UNFETTERED, which provides locally made small craft items such as rope bowls, baskets, coasters etc. also bags such as quilted totes, backpacks etc. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity and now I will spread my wings. I am UNFETTERED. I am free to soar. I take this opportunity to encourage anyone whether an unemployed person or budding entrepreneur to enroll in this course, it definitely made a positive, lasting impact on me."

The Employability Training Program provided exceptional content for those who want to endeavor in entrepreneurial activities as well as, those who have begun and are in need of creating structure for their entrepreneurial business. This is so, as the coursework was quite insightful. It provided sufficient information on the topics discussed and the topics discussed where those that are key components of a successful entrepreneurship venture. Not only this, but the weekly classes with Mr Hassin provided open discussions for the topics to be explored. With that being said, I would definitely recommend a friend, family member and even a stranger to enroll in this program. I believe that the information within the course will give adequate guidance for those who wish to endeavor in entrepreneurial activities. The classes, slides, handouts and additional coursework will provide them with the confidence they need to turn their idea into a reality. I am truly appreciative of the Employability Training Program as it has equipped me with the tools needed to pursue entrepreneurial and employment ventures.

Sincerely,  
Zephianne Kentish

2. Upload here: Communications and Visibility (OPTIONAL)

Please include highlights of communications and visibility efforts supported by the Programme during the project implementation, if relevant. (up to 500 words)

To share the video as well as picture material please make sure you include all credits and share them in high resolution.

Submit photographs. Please provide with captions and in high resolution, photographs that capture the programme in action. Strong photographs will be considered for inclusion in the COVID-19 MPTF publications and social media.

Please provide links to any videos that have been produced during implementation.

Please produce and share a social media card(s). See an example below and visit our Trello Board.

See - Fund's Trello Board



United Nations



**Social Protection and Employability Promotion to Mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19**

**Background**

The social and economic impact from COVID-19 severely affects employment conditions and well-being of families, women and children in Eastern Caribbean countries and territories, including Antigua and Barbuda and the British Virgin Islands. To this end, a joint programme was developed among three agencies to assist the Governments of these territories using a three-prong approach: Cash Transfers, Technical and Policy Support and Employability Training.




**Agencies:**







January 15 to November 15, 2021



**PRESS RELEASE**

**“Additional temporary COVID-19 support to Social Protection Beneficiaries”**

The Social Protection Board within the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy will be providing a COVID-19 Relief Grant to its social protection beneficiaries, that is, poor and vulnerable families who were re-registered last year with the Social Protection Board.

The COVID-19 Relief Grant aims to provide financial support to persons who were already vulnerable before COVID-19 and who have fallen further into economic hardships as a result of the pandemic.

This grant has been made possible through a joint programme of the United Nations Response and Recovery Fund by the governments of Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Finland, New Zealand, Croatia, Iceland, Thailand, Slovak Republic and Cambodia, together with additional financial and technical assistance from UNICEF. It complements other support already provided through the Board / Ministry to other people impacted by COVID-19.

The assistance will be distributed the last week of February 2022 (February 21-25) as a one-time payment to cover the essential needs of the beneficiaries for three months.

All eligible households will be contacted by the Social Protection Board during the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>, as to the specific dates and times for the distribution of grant payments, and the

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is the COVID-19 Relief Grant?**

The COVID-19 Relief Grant aims to provide financial support for the most vulnerable who are more likely to fall further into poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2. How do individuals and households qualify for the programme?**

The target group are households who were re-registered for the Social Protection Board.
- 3. How long is the assistance for?**

The assistance covers a three-month period, to be paid in one payment; during the week of February 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- 4. How is the assistance provided?**

The assistance is provided by cheque to the household. It would be collected by the person specified in the registration process, either the head of the household or the designated specified person (i.e. guardian, caretaker etc.).
- 5. How is this grant being funded?**

The COVID-19 Relief Grant is funded through a joint programme which is possible thanks to the contributions to the UN Response and Recovery Fund by the governments of Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Finland, New Zealand, Croatia, Iceland, Thailand, Slovak Republic and Cambodia, together with additional financial and technical assistance from UNICEF.

Dozens of Antiguan and Barbudans benefit from online entrepreneurial programme

By Carlena Knight  
Carlena.knight@antiguaobserver.com

The free online 10-week Covid-19 relief initiative was put on by the Labour Department in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, World Food Programme, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, the UWI Open Campus, the National Training Agency and the Department of Social Policy and Research and Planning. Participants, who also included persons from the



### Objectives

- Promote Social Protection and Employability
- Address socio-economic impacts of COVID 19

### Key Outcomes

- The socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on people is mitigated via cash transfers and entrepreneurship/employability training
- The social protection system is better able to prepare for and respond to shocks

### Target Audience

Current beneficiaries of existing Social Protection Systems as well as those newly unemployed/ underemployed due to COVID-19

### Impact

- Hardship Alleviation from Cash Transfers
- Knowledge Increase from Training Programs
- Improved Social Protection Systems from Technical Assistance



**FREE!**  
**Employability**



**FREE!**  
**Training**

### COVID RELIEF EMPLOYABILITY ONLINE ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda presents a **FREE 10 Weeks self-led online COVID Relief Employability Training Program** focused on Employability and Entrepreneurial skills.

### THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF PERSONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM

- Persons who were displaced by the pandemic
- Persons aged 18-35 and over 55
- Women who head single-parent households
- Displaced hospitality and aviation sector workers
- Persons unemployed for at least 3 months
- Persons currently receiving a social benefit
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons in overlapping categories will have a greater chance of selection.

### HOW TO APPLY

- Application forms are available from the One Stop Employment Center (OSEC) located on 3rd Floor, Aflak Building, Redcliffe Street, St. John's.
- Completed forms should be returned to OSEC with the passports or birth certificates of the applicant along with Medical Benefits and Social Security cards.
- Deadline for the submission of applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021.
- Please note that a limited number of persons may qualify for modest assistance towards attending training upon demonstration of need.

Tel: 562 0533/4/5

## Employability and Entrepreneurial Training Course

**Free**  
**10-Weeks Online**  
**Training**

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the University of the West Indies, are pleased to present another cycle of the online Employability/Entrepreneurship Course.

### THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF PERSONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM

- Persons who were displaced by the pandemic
- Persons aged 18-35 and over 55
- Women who head single-parent households
- Displaced hospitality and aviation sector workers
- Persons unemployed for at least 3 months
- Persons with disabilities

**Register NOW!**

Limited Space Available

### HOW TO APPLY

- Application forms are available from the One Stop Employment Centre (OSEC) located on 3rd Floor, Aflak Building, Redcliffe Street
- Completed forms should be returned to OSEC in person, with passport/ birth certificates, Medical and Social Security cards

Deadline for registration is

Antigua and Barbuda  
British Virgin Islands

Total Funds: USD 727,474

SDGs 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 5.4, 5.5, 8.5

### Contact Information:

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office  
United Nations House • Marine Gardens •  
Christ Church • Barbados  
T +1 246 467-6102  
Website: easterncaribbean.un.org  
IG @unbarbadosandoc  
FB UN Barbados and OCEC  
TW @UNBdosandOCEC

head of household or designated person (guardian, caretaker) is advised to collect the cheque on the assigned specific dates.

Beneficiaries are asked to wait for the call from the Board. For any other question or information, you can contact the Social Protection Board at 268-562-7515/562-7516 or email: social.protectionboard@ab.gov.ag.

### 6. If there are any issues with the grant assistance, who/how can I report this?

Please contact 562-7508 to register your comment, suggestion, or concern. There will also be a box at the Social Protection Board should you wish to record your comment anonymously. For more information on the grant payments and collection dates, contact the Social Protection Board at 268-562-7515/562-7516 or email: social.protectionboard@ab.gov.ag.



Photo Caption: Certificates of Employability Training Course

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Founded March 1, 2010

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You are here: Virgin Islands News Online » News » Internships sought for 'Employability Skills Training' graduates

### Internships sought for 'Employability Skills Training' graduates

March 19th, 2022 | Tags: Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour, Internship, Job training, Employability Skills Training Programme

Email this Article Tweet Like 0

ROAD TOWN, Tortola, VI – Several persons are now better equipped to enter the job market after they have completed the Government's Employability Skills Training Programme and are now seeking internships.



The Programme's Closing Ceremony and announcement of graduates was held virtually on Tuesday, March 15 at 5:30 p.m. The Certificates will be presented to the graduates by the Minister for Natural Resources Labour and Immigration, Hon. Vincent O. Wheatley at a formal ceremony to be held during the upcoming week.

16 of the 21 persons who successfully completed either of the two cohort programme are being assisted by the Department of Labour and Workforce Development and the British Virgin Islands Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association to gain internships.

"We are soliciting the assistance of business owners who are willing to provide a three to six weeks internship experience for 16 of the participants. They can reach out by contacting Mrs. Keivia Jackson-George, Executive Director of the BVI

The training exercise was sponsored by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and was a collaboration between the Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration; the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the H. Laverty Stoutt Community College. Photo: GIS

Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association at (284) 345-3513 or info@bviccha.org or myself at (284) 468-9578 or kcupid-braithwaite@gov.vg to make this venture a success," said Workforce Development Manager Mrs. Kishann Cupid Braithwaite.

The objectives of the eight-module programme included: Developing positive attitudes towards sustainable enterprises and social entrepreneurship; Creating awareness about working in enterprises and about self-employment as a career option; Providing knowledge about the desirable attributes for starting and operating a successful enterprise and Preparing individuals to become better employees through improved understanding of business and stronger positive and adaptive behavioural attitudes.

Topics covered under the eight modules included: What is Entrepreneurship, How Do I Run a Business, Assessing the Feasibility of the Business Plan and How to Develop a Business Plan.

The Department of Labour and Workforce Development's continues to promote good management practices at workplaces to ensure stable and harmonious labour relations between employers and employees, to improve the utilisation of human resources by providing a range of employment services to meet wages, working conditions, safety, health and welfare of workers, both in the private and public sectors, through enforcement of the British Virgin Islands Labour Laws.

The training exercise was sponsored by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and was a collaboration between the Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration; the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the H. Laverty Stoutt Community College.



Government is seeking internships for the recent graduates. Photo: GIS

Thursday, March 17, 2022

THE DAILY Observer

ways I didn't think possible and at the end of the course when I realised I had the ability to open my own business I was excited and did just that," Joseph added.

Female heads of single

parent households, persons who are currently receiving a social benefit, displaced hospitality and aviation workers, persons aged 18-35, unemployed people over 55, as these

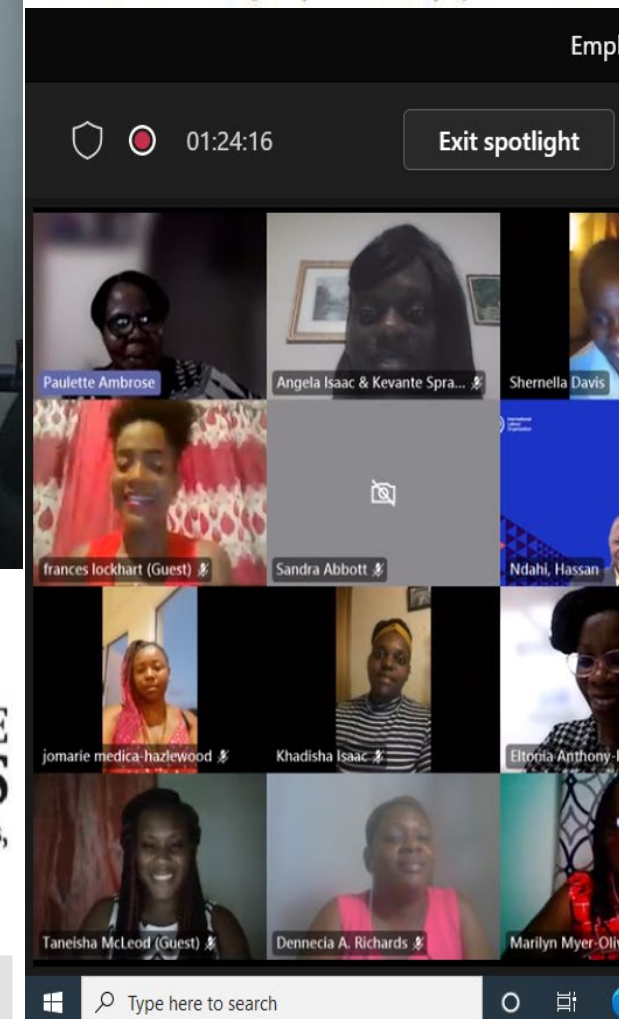


Photo Caption: Employability Training Program

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## Locals displaced from online training

By Carlena Knight  
Carlena.knight@antiguaobserver.com

Selected persons in Antigua and Barbuda who have been displaced by the Covid pandemic will be able to benefit from an employability and entrepreneurial training programme.

The free online Covid-19 relief Employability Entrepreneurial Training programme is an initiative put on by the Labour Department in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), UWI Open Campus, the National Training Agency and the Department of Social Policy and Research

Female heads of single parent households, persons who are currently receiving a social benefit, displaced hospitality and aviation workers, persons aged 18-35 and those over 55 years are unemployed, persons unemployed for at least three months and persons with disabilities are among the selected few a part of this programme.

It is an historic event this is the first time that United Nations Agencies collaborating with Antigua and Barbuda to execute a programme.

A brief opening held virtually to commemorate the momentous occasion yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony was Acting Labour Commissioner Pascal



## BENEFITS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Households producing more and increasing their ability to withstand shocks means they can contribute more to society and are less likely to need state funds
- Makes our people more productive
- Increases school enrolment and leads to a more educated population
- Leads to a reduction in domestic violence and less crime – which may lead to more tourist dollars
- Creates a happier and more satisfied nation

268-562-7515 / 562-7516  
social.protectionboard@ab.gov.ag | f



### Myth or Fact about Social Protection

Children face a higher risk of poverty and vulnerabilities than adults

Release Date:  
Monday, 14 March 2022 - 4:43pm



- What is Entrepreneurship?
- How Do I Run a Business?
- Assessing the Feasibility of the Business Plan
- How to Develop a Business Plan?

The Department of Labour and Workforce Development's continues to promote good labour/management practices at workplaces to ensure stable and harmonious labour relations between employers and employees, to improve the utilisation of human resources by providing a range of employment services to meet wages, working conditions, safety, health and welfare of workers, both in the private and public sectors, through enforcement of the British Virgin Islands Labour Laws.

Photo 1: Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration Logo

Photo 2: Ministry of Health and Social Development Logo

## Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy

### Press Release

#### Launch of Social Protection Awareness Campaign

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda - August 11, 2021

The Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy has launched a Public Relations campaign to highlight significant changes to the Government's Social Protection legislation. The purpose of this campaign is to sensitize the public and persons in need, of the updated Social Protection Act 2020. This campaign is meant to highlight the critical elements of the Act. A series of information sharing and public education activities aimed to build awareness of social protection and related policy agenda will begin today. These include various activities on Radio, TV, Newspaper and social media along with community-based activations to target low-income persons. Minister responsible for the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy, the Hon. Dean Jonas cites this as a major achievement, "Changes in the act were made to protect the vulnerable and indigent. It is very critical that our society understands and appreciates the protection needed."

Since 1961, Social Protection policies and programmes in Antigua and Barbuda have been governed by the Poor Relief Act. The Poor Relief Act focused primarily on individuals, with minimal investment in contributory schemes and providing limited Social Assistance such as doling out cash to the most impoverished persons to meet their basic needs. However, vulnerability is much more than the lack of money.

Over the past 60 years, Social Protection policies and programmes have drastically changed. For this reason, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda with technical assistance from UNICEF has replaced the Poor Relief Act 1961 with the Social Protection Act in September of 2020. The new Act represents what Social Protection policies and programmes should be: an inclusive approach where everyone is covered.

The Department of Labour and Workforce Development and the British Virgin Islands Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association are partnering to source employers for persons who have completed the Employability Skills Training Programme.

21 of the 69 persons registered in the two-part programme launched in August last year successfully completed all eight modules of the training. The training exercise was sponsored by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and was a collaboration between the Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration; the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College.

A virtual closing ceremony will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at 5:30 p.m. The public can view the occasion by logging on the link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8u6jzk>.

Workforce Development Manager Mrs. Kishann Cupid Braithwaite said, "We are soliciting the assistance of business owners who are willing to provide a three to six weeks internship experience for 16 of the participants. They can reach out by contacting Mrs. Keiyia Jackson-George, Executive Director of the BVI Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association at (284) 345-3513 or [info@bviccha.org](mailto:info@bviccha.org) or myself at (284) 468-9578 or [kcupid-braithwaite@gov.vg](mailto:kcupid-braithwaite@gov.vg) to make this venture a success."

The objectives of the eight-module programme included:

- Developing positive attitudes towards sustainable enterprises and social entrepreneurship;
- Creating awareness about working in enterprises and about self-employment as a career option;
- Providing knowledge about the desirable attributes for starting and operating a successful enterprise and
- Preparing individuals to become better employees through improved understanding of business and stronger positive and adaptive behavioural attitudes.

Topics covered under the eight modules included:

## SOCIAL PROTECTION ACT 2020

### A SOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Read more at <https://cutt.ly/rQ9ruds>

268-562-7515 / 562-7516 | social.protectionboard@ab.gov.ag | f @

and Planning will be launching the programme. tish who showed his g tude for such an event



**Social Protection: 7**

LIVE ON **ABS** **AUGUST 11TH, 2021**  
**8:30PM**





adults

**Fact!**

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social.protectionboard@ab.gov.ag



 **unicef**  
for every child

**THEN** **NOW**

### Poor Relief Act 1961

-  Deciding eligibility based on how little money people have.
-  A focus only on individuals, not families.
-  People continue to benefit from Social Protection even though they no longer need it.

### Social Protection Act 2020

-  Seeing beneficiaries as people living in families with multiple needs – not just a need for money.
-  Supporting individuals and families to deal with vulnerabilities from the moment they're born to when they die.
-  Social programmes designed to empower vulnerable persons to become self reliant.

