



## Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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#### Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Barbados and Montserrat

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2022

**JP title:** Advancing Innovative Financing Solutions in the Eastern Caribbean

**Stakeholder partner:** National Government; Civil Society Organizations;

**Thematic SDG Areas:** Decent jobs & universal social protection; SDG localization;

**PUNOs:** UNFPA, UN Women

**Total estimated expenditures:** US\$ 1.0

**Total estimated commitments** (including expenditures): US\$ 129,000.0

**Gender Marker:** Gender-transformative (for example, the JP explicitly aimed to address the structural and root causes of gender inequality, such as by combining social protection with community dialogues and economic empowerment activities that aim to shift gender social norms and power relations)

**Resident Coordinator:** Trebucq, Didier

**Resident Coordinator Email:** didier.trebucq@un.org

#### Executive Summary

During the reporting period, the Joint Programme was launched on November 25, 2022 where the governments of Barbados and Montserrat, along with UN representatives, donors and partners witnessed the event both physically and virtually. It represented the kickstart to the project that aims to strengthen data and policy solutions, and to support right-based population policies and programmes in both countries.

Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in Barbados, the Hon. Ryan Straughn, welcomed the initiative and expressed that the joint programme will be a critical part of the Government's programme in Barbados to revamp the way that they viewed statistics, in terms of real-time capacity to bring meaningful change to decision making. Premier and Minister of Finance in Montserrat, the Hon. Joseph Farrell, opined that small states like Montserrat were disadvantaged by the absence of clean, quality, disaggregated data. He anticipates strengthening data systems for development efforts to ensure that no one is left behind.

Furthermore, bilateral meetings were convened with the focal point ministries in both countries towards the establishment of the Country Coordinating Committees and the Joint Steering Committees.

Implementation of the JP activities were delayed in the reporting period (2022). However, the focus would be acceleration of activities in 2023 working in close collaboration with the key counterparts.

In addition, the JP commenced the recruitment of a technical assistance team to pilot the measurement of SDG indicator 5.4.1 Labour Force Surveys of Barbados and Montserrat..

## Annual Progress

### Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

Not satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not achieved; over 3 months delay in implementation)

### Overall progress against 3 key results

- Launch of the Joint Programme on November 25, 2022 with high-level commitment to advancing the implementation of the programme through effective collaboration and coherence with the Resident Coordinator's Office, PUNOs and participating countries.

- The Terms of Reference for the JP Programme Coordinator was developed in collaboration with the Project Coordinating Team and the Governments' focal points. The post was advertised in the last quarter of 2022 for suitable candidates residing in Barbados. However, no applications for the position were received for the position as at December 31, 2022. UNFPA is in the process of relaunching same and to widen the pool by inviting candidates from the OECS.

In addition, the JP commenced the recruitment of a technical assistance team to pilot the measurement of SDG indicator 5.4.1 Labour Force Surveys of Barbados and Montserrat.

### SDG Acceleration progress towards the SDGs, focusing on the main SDG targets

- The Joint Programme aims to contribute to the acceleration of several Sustainable Development Goals. One of the SDGs directly impacted is SDG3 (target 3.7), geared towards ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning.

- SDG5 (specifically targets 5.4 and 5.6) is also directly impacted as it seeks to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls with focus on recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through improvements in social protection and services, shared responsibility in the household and family and enhanced sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- Accelerating progress will be achieved through partnerships; human rights-based and gender transformative approaches, commitment to leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first; data and evidence; and innovation, digitalization and learning. This Joint Programme is framed by these essential principles and approaches.

### Constraints that were encountered and any adjustments that were made to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

- Lack of communication and slow responses from the Country Coordination Committees delayed the kickstart and launch of the Joint Programme.

- Delay in the submission of stakeholders to comprise the Country Coordination Committees to enable the planning and implementation of the JP activities.

- The recruitment of the JP Coordinator targeting candidates based in Barbados was not successful. This operational level position is to provide programme management and coordination support to Barbados and Montserrat. Moving forward, the candidates pool would be widened to include candidates from the OECS.

### Lessons Learnt:

- Establish communication protocol between the Coordination Unit and Country Coordination Committees
- Ensure physical presence and support in each participating country

### Next steps, scaling and sustainability [up to half a page]

All the planned activities under the Joint Programme will commence in 2023 with a view to accelerate implementation working closely with all key partners and stakeholders.

The national coordinating committees for Barbados and Montserrat have been established and planning/coordinating meetings were held to jointly review the workplan and approaches. Technical guidance was also provided to the countries on the activities and modalities to fast track programme execution.

In the next calendar year, key results that will be achieved include availability of multi-sectoral population policies to accelerate scope and scale of SDG progress in Barbados and Montserrat, SDG baseline studies, real time monitoring survey tools on key SDG indicators, population data outputs and SDG 5.4.1 measured in the Labour Force Surveys and public sensitization on unpaid care work in both countries.

The JP is addressing issues of critical concern to Barbados and Montserrat and there is strong political and technical commitment at the highest levels to ensure successful completion in recognition of its invaluable contribution to accelerating SDG achievement. Resource mobilization, fostering strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, and capacity building of government and civil society counterparts are key strategies that will be pursued to ensure sustainability and scale up the results after the end of the JP.

The JP is leveraging past investments by the UN SDG Fund Joint “Universal adaptive social protection in the Eastern Caribbean” which ended in May 2022 that funded the pilot of the measurement of SDG indicator 5.4.1 in the Grenada Labour Force Survey. This pilot, is now being extended to Barbados and Montserrat with support from this JP; and Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent with support from the Government of Canada in another ongoing joint programme (Build Back Equal) also implemented by UN Women and UNFPA. All these investments aim to eventually inform a regionally-agreed cost-effective and methodologically rigorous approach for measuring SDG indicator 5.4.1 in the Labour Force Survey.

## **Programmatic Survey**

**Total number of people benefited from the JP in 2022: 0**

**Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number: 1**

**Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number:1**

**Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number:1**

**Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number:1**

**Explain how people benefited from the joint programme.**

Upon successful implementation of the JP, national data and information systems would be strengthened to map and effectively monitor structural inequalities and inform socio-economic policies to ensure that fewer people will be at risk of being left behind in development efforts.

In addition, there will be a better balance in responsibilities for unpaid care work between men and women, and increased labour and economic productivity of women.

## **Priority Cross-cutting Issues**

### **Cross-cutting results/issues**

- The Joint Programme SDG targets 3.7, 5.4 and 5.6 are mutually reinforcing and catalytic for the achievement of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment, including for the most vulnerable groups.
  - Transformation of unequal gender power structures in societies is key to accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action.
  - The JP will allow for collecting the required sex-disaggregated and gender sensitive data to inform the development and review of relevant gender and social policies and programmes.
- Central to the programme are the human rights-based (HRB), gender sensitive, Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and results-based management approaches seeking to ensure that those sub-populations that are left behind or at risk of being left behind in development efforts are identified and reached.

**How did the JP apply the Gender Marker**

The JP is Gender-transformative (for example, the JP explicitly aimed to address the structural and root causes of gender inequality, such as by combining social protection with community dialogues and economic empowerment activities that aim to shift gender social norms and power relations). N/A;

**JP address the below cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind**

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
No	No	No	No

**Key meetings and events organized in 2022**

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event	Kick-off meeting
No, but planned in 2023	No, but planned in 2023	Yes, in 2022

**Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events.**

**Contribution to enhancing SDG Financing**

Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	No	No	No	No	No

**How JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing**