

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI of the BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Agency: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Reporting period: January 2021-April 2022

PART A

VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN SIDS

A. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Thematic Area: ECLAC's Ex-ante interventions or proactive/preventive strategies that have been or are being implemented at national and/or sub-regional levels that aim specifically at reducing exposure to external shocks and improving resilience in the Caribbean SIDS

1. The Caribbean countries continue to face formidable challenges to achieve the SDG Goals of Agenda 2030 and the SAMOA Pathway. **The Fifth meeting of the Forum for the Countries for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) on Sustainable (San Jose, 7-9 March 2022)** underscored the need to grant special dispensation to the vulnerable countries of the region, with regard to the actions of credit rating agencies and the measures necessary to achieve debt sustainability and reduce the indebtedness of developing countries and, in this regard, welcome innovative financing mechanisms such as the steps by the Group of 20 to provide a time-bound suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries, the institution of the Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap initiative for the Caribbean, the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF), and the inclusion of hurricane and pandemic clauses as part of new borrowing arrangements. This meeting also reiterated that the Caribbean SIDS continue to face the adverse effects of climate change and disasters and, in this regard, recognize the economic challenges, including unsustainable debt levels, arising in part from extreme weather events and slow-onset events, and the need to build creative and innovative partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean for sustainable development regarding the environment, climate resilience and post-pandemic recovery.¹
2. **ECLAC Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap and CRF:**
 - i. **The ECLAC Debt for Climate Adaptation Initiative** is an ongoing Caribbean-wide subregional initiative, which seeks to substantively address the high and unsustainable level of debt of many Caribbean economies, which has compromised the growth trajectory of the subregion. The Initiative actively promotes consideration of a strategy to address the high debt-low growth dilemma of the Caribbean in a sustainable manner while fostering investment in climate adaptation

¹ See link at: https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2022/sites/foro2022/files/22-00131_fds.5_intergovernmentally_agreed_conclusions_and_recommendations.pdf

and resilience building. The main beneficiaries are Caribbean economies. The key actors of this SIDS initiatives are: ECLAC, Ministries of Finance of member states of the Caribbean Community, Debt Managers of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda, the Caribbean Community Secretariat, the OECS Commission, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the CARICOM Development Fund, and UN ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific).² The Initiative is planned to be launched in the first instance with the three Caribbean SIDS.

ii. **CRF:** Given the Caribbean economy's structural weaknesses and its susceptibility to natural events, fostering macroeconomic integrity, competitive economies and environmental resilience will be critical for building resilient economies. Funding will therefore be crucial. ECLAC has therefore proposed the establishment of a CRF, which is seen as the anchor of the Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap Initiative. The CRF proposes to:

- Facilitate debt swaps for adaptation to climate change
- By addressing debt and liquidity challenges, create more fiscal space for investment in growth
- Develop capacities to build climate resilience, including modernizing physical infrastructure
- Deepen capital markets, including insurance markets
- Incentivize investment in green and blue industries for economic restructuring and diversification
- By ultimately improving the credit ratings of the subregion's economies, reduce lending rates facilitating resilience building, growth and competitive, liquidity enhancement and debt reduction across the Caribbean SIDS. This initiative provides avenues for increased fiscal space, debt reduction, additional investment opportunities to build climate resilient infrastructure and productive activities, including green industries.³

3. **Capacity Building in the Applications of geospatial (GS) technologies** and use of GS data in disaster Risk Management (DRM): Two Caribbean Workshops were concluded supported the requirements of having GST/D as necessary tools for effective DRM. Key recommendations from this workshop were on the need for integrate further the use of geospatial technologies into DRM policies, legislation, institutional and human resources capacity development, financing, technology, data access, availability and reporting.
4. **Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters:** Vulnerability reduction is also addressed in the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, to which ECLAC serves as technical secretariat and which entered into in force in 22 April 2021 (ratified by 5 Caribbean SIDS and signed by 11 of them). This Regional Agreement mandates the establishment of environmental information systems, early warning systems and the dissemination of information in the case of an imminent threat to public health or the environment, to help taking measures to prevent or limit potential damage.

³ Proposal to establish a Caribbean Resilience Fund-A Segregated portfolio trust fund, Available at: LC/CAR/TS.2021/, available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47740-proposal-establish-caribbean-resilience-fund-segregated-portfolio-trust-fun>

5. **Agriculture Insurance:** ECLAC is providing technical and training support under a regional-Community of Practice on Agricultural Insurance with a Comprehensive Risk Management approach. The objective of this regional initiative is to strengthen national and regional technical capacity in the Central American Integration System (SICA)⁴ - countries. This includes supporting the implementation of public policies and Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy for the SICA region. At the regional level, this initiative promoted that the agricultural sector that is sustainable, inclusive, and adapted to climate change and that benefits small, rural producers and low-income consumers.

6. **Guyana:** ECLAC was invited by the Government of Guyana to conduct a Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) following on the impacts of Mar-June 2021 National Floods. The sectors studies were: agriculture, mining, tourism, manufacturing, industry and commerce, education, and infrastructure. In conducting the DaLA, ECLAC engaged with such national agencies as: The Environmental Protection Agency, Protected Areas Commission, Iwokrama, Guyana Revenue Authority, National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, Guyana Water Incorporated, and the Guyana Livestock and Development Association, Regional Democratic Councils, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Works amongst other stakeholders.⁵

7. **Haiti:** Following on 2021 August earthquake, ECLAC in its role as a member of the UN team supporting the preparation of the post disaster needs assessment (PDNA). ECLAC provided support on the Macroeconomic and Tourism sectorial evaluation. According to the PDNA,⁶ the impacts of this earthquake and its aftermath underlines this country's developmental needs was estimated at US\$2 billion (US\$1.978 billion). Supporting resilience building, the PDNA recommended the need for an ex-ante resilience building strategy, including at the macroeconomic level and integrating DRM financing into long-term national development plan.⁷ At the request of Haitian counterparts, ECLAC offered systematic support in matters of Social Protection analysis and in the framework of the preparation of the country's national policy on social protection and promotion. For reporting year 2021, ECLAC supported in the preparation of reports on policy costing exercises (cash transfers and non-monetary mechanisms), but also -an ongoing process of identifying potential sources of financing for National Policy on Social Protection and Promotion⁸ and its implementation through the corresponding action plans. This vital area has been registered as one of the four strategic axes of the Southern Peninsula Integrated Recovery Plan action plan. An interagency agreement

⁴ Caribbean SIDS countries as members of SICA are – Belize and the Dominican Republic as Associated Member State, reference: <https://www.sica.int/sica>; cited May 25, 2022

⁵ United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) conducting Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) of the May-June 2021 National Flood, see link at: <https://dpi.gov.gy/united-nations-economic-commission-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-un-eclac-conducting-damage-and-loss-assessment-dala-of-the-may-june-2021-national-flood/>, cited May 25, 2022

⁶ Haiti-post disaster needs assessment (PDNA) see link at: <https://www1.undp.org/content/dam/rblac/docs/Research%20and%20Publications/DRR%20and%20Recovery/DIPECHO%202020/PDNA%20HAITI%202021%20EXSUM%20English%20FINAL.pdf?download>

⁷ Haiti, ECLAC was informed that Haiti- Plan Stratégique de Développement d'Haiti, PSDH, 2011 is currently under revision.

⁸ Estimates of the cost of cash transfers under the National Policy on Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS) in Haiti see link at: Estimation du coût des transferts monétaires de la politique nationale de protection et de promotion sociales (PNPPS) in Haiti. <https://www.cepal.org/fr/publicaciones/45928-estimation-du-cout-des-transferts-monetaires-la-politique-nationale-protection> and "Estimation du coût des paquets de services essentiels de santé, des programmes de graduation et cantines scolaires proposés dans la politique nationale de protection et de promotion sociales (PNPPS) en Haïti" https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47428/3/S2100685_fr.pdf

established between ECLAC, and World Food Program-Haiti (S1-32BTS-000146) signed in June 2019 has been extended to December 31, 2022.

8. **Dominican Republic (DR):** Ministries of the DR with responsible for the National Public Investment System participate in a regional project co-executed between ECLAC and the Council of Ministers of Finance/Treasury of the Central America Integration System aimed at strengthening the integration of disaster risk reduction, sustainable and inclusive adaptation to climate change in public investment projects. This included the development of a geographic information system supporting project formulation and evaluation.

**B. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for Caribbean SIDS –
Thematic Area: Planned and ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more
tailored development support to the Caribbean SIDS**

ECLAC services to the Caribbean SIDS in the period of review maintained focused, programmatic and institutionalized services supporting the national and regional sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean SIDS. ECLAC also continued to engage and actively support the sustainable development aspirations of the Non-Self-Governing countries and other Territories in the Caribbean as associate members of the Commission.

1. The ECLAC's 2021 programme of work for the Caribbean SIDS gave focus on issues in economic, social, climate change impacts, statistics, knowledge management and other sustainable development priorities. The 2021 activities provided particular attention to supporting the continued progress of Caribbean countries in achieving the SIDS sustainable development agenda. The work programme of ECLAC were adjusted into providing new levels of support which became necessary due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the economics of the Caribbean SIDS and their sustainable development efforts. Specific services delivered from the ECLAC Caribbean Sub-regional Headquarters were:
 - i. Provision of technical support to countries to establish national SDG-institutional frameworks. To date ECLAC has supported 10 Caribbean countries in preparation of their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). In the provision of these services, policymakers in the sub-region acknowledged the need to strengthen infrastructure and expand capacity for data collection and analysis on increasingly critical issues such as migration rates and remittance flows, the informal economy, persons living with disabilities and gender.
 - A Joint Programme titled: Integrated National Financial Framework for SDGs in Cuba 2020 – 2022) led by ECLAC, in close coordination with UNDP and RCO, assisted the Cuban government to evaluate and design a policy framework for SDG financing (SDG Fund). This project focused on estimating the financing needs of the national development plan, mapping public policies that affect financing for development and other exercises of institutional diagnosis and review of best international practices. As part of the project, training and dissemination workshops were held, reports and policy notes were prepared, and new methodological tools were designed and transferred to the Cuba government
 - i. ECLAC Sub-regional headquarters in Mexico and Port of Spain have contributed to the regional

LAC reports, particularly with relevant information (economic, environmental and social) on the Caribbean SIDS. This included continued monitoring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures that were implemented to deal with it. With emphasis on countercyclical measures through social or fiscal programs. In addition to the shocks related to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 -in sectors such as tourism- it should be noted that the international context of 2021 showed a rebound in fuel, food and commodities prices, breakdown of supply chains, significant increases in logistics costs, which have influenced inflationary processes. These impacts very particularly affected the small Caribbean SIDS economies.

ii. Capacity Building: Regional workshops were delivered on the following:

- Application of Geospatial technologies and data management as necessary tool for effective DRM.
- 2020 round of Population and censuses creation of maps to display census and small area statistics using REDATAM and QGIS.
- Defining Caribbean investment in ICT and related developmental programmes
- International Trade Chart System, Research and Analysis (SIGCI). The online webinar introduced the main functions of the SIGCI as a query tool.

2. **Green/Blue Economy:** UN-ECLAC has supported Green/Blue Economy efforts in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in a post-COVID-19 context. The OECS 8th Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability (May 2021), recognised the opportunity of the COVID-19 pandemic impacts to refocus development programming to pursue new, innovative and sustainable initiatives to build a transformative, diversified Green/Blue economy in the OECS. ECLAC provided support to implement the Green-Blue Economy strategy in the OECS and noted the Financing and Implementation Plan (FIP) as an approach to advance the Green Blue Economy (G-BE). The OECS has further requested UNECLAC to continue its collaboration toward advancing the G-BE and the FIP, including: (i) designing and implementing a comprehensive communication and engagement strategy, and (ii) a deeper-dive of the agreed priority sector/area towards advancing implementation readiness and actions and resource mobilisation.
3. The Intergovernmental Agreed Conclusions and Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of LAC On Sustainable Development (March, 2022)⁹ recognised the synergies of the SAMOA Pathway as integral to the 2030 Agenda and other relevant instruments, in particular of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation. This meeting also noted the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by all developing countries, including countries in special situations, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. This meeting also applauded the “**Caribbean first**” initiative advanced by ECLAC and in giving focus on challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean.

⁹ See link at: LC/FDS.5/4

4. **Dominican Republic:** ECLAC has a technical cooperation programme with the DR on the development of proposal for a Coffee Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action “Plus” (adding Adaptation and Value Chain Approach). This is being conducted with the National Coffee Institute and the National Commission on Climate Change and Cleaner Development Mechanism and in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture.
5. **Haiti:** ECLAC continues with the monitoring of the macroeconomic evolution and social issues of Haiti. This service included the periodic monitoring of the Haitian economy and the social development challenges of poverty and inequality. This work is further integrated into the analysis of broader Latin America and the Caribbean sustainable development priorities.
 - i. **Input-output matrix for Haiti.** Building of an Input-Output Matrix for Haiti and a subregional input-output matrix linkages to Central America, Dominican Republic and Mexico’s regional matrixes. This 2021 exercise is part of a Mexico’s ECLAC subregional office project with the International Funds for Agricultural Development. It is part of a subregional input-output matrix linkages to Central America, Dominican Republic and Mexico’s regional input-output matrixes.

6. Research and Analysis. The following publications were issued and with subjects specifically addressing the Caribbean SIDS-Sustainable Development priorities:

- LC/CAR/TS.2021/8 Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2021
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47193-economic-survey-latin-america-and-caribbean-2021-labour-dynamics-and-employment>
- LC/CAR/TS.2021/7 Selected online learning experiences in the Caribbean during COVID-19
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46907-selected-online-learning-experiences-caribbean-during-covid-19-policy-brief>
- LC/CAR/TS.2021/6 Education during the COVID-19 pandemic: access, inclusion, and psychosocial support - Leaving no Caribbean child behind
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47741-education-during-covid-19-pandemic-access-inclusion-and-psychosocial-support>
- LC/CAR/TS.2021/5 Proposal to establish a Caribbean Resilience Fund: a segregated portfolio trust fund
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47740-proposal-establish-caribbean-resilience-fund-segregated-portfolio-trust-fund>
- LC/CAR/TS.2021/4 Synthesis of policy interventions responding to integrated water resources management challenges in the Caribbean SIDS
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47739-synthesis-policy-interventions-responding-integrated-water-resources-management>
- LC/CAR/TS.2021/3/Rev.1 Navigating transfer pricing risk in the oil and gas sector: essential elements of a policy framework for Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46813-navigating-transfer-pricing-risk-oil-and-gas-sector-essential-elements-policy>
- LC/CAR/TS.2021/2 Addressing the adverse impacts of non-communicable diseases on the sustainable development of Caribbean countries
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46642-addressing-adverse-impacts-non-communicable-diseases-sustainable-development>
- LC/CAR/TS.2021/1 Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2020: facing the challenge of COVID-19
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46714-economic-survey-caribbean-2020-facing-challenge-covid-19>
- LC/CAR/TS.2020/8 Advancing gender equality in environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46737-advancing-gender-equality-environmental-migration-and-disaster-displacement>

LC/CAR/TS.2020/7	The case for financing: Caribbean resilience building in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46629-case-financing-caribbean-resilience-building-face-covid-19-pandemic
LC/CAR/TS.2020/6	Statistical disclosure control for Caribbean census tables: a proposal to expand the availability of disaggregated census data https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46628-statistical-disclosure-control-caribbean-census-tables-proposal-expand
LC/CAR/TS.2020/5	Economic implications of the ban on single-use plastics in the Caribbean A case study of Trinidad and Tobago https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46280-economic-implications-ban-single-use-plastics-caribbean-case-study-trinidad-and
LC/CAR/TS.2020/4	Creating an enabling environment for e-government and the protection of privacy rights in the Caribbean - A review of data protection legislation for alignment with the General Data Protection Regulation https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46277-creating-enabling-environment-government-and-protection-privacy-rights-caribbean
LC/CAR/TS.2020/3	The use of technology and innovative approaches in disaster and risk management: a characterization of Caribbean countries' experience https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45990-use-technology-and-innovative-approaches-disaster-and-risk-management
LC/CAR/TS.2020/2	Preliminary overview of the economies of the Caribbean 2019–2020 https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45729-preliminary-overview-economies-caribbean-2019-2020
LC/CAR/TS.2020/1	Caribbean synthesis report on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on youth policies and programmes https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/45112-caribbean-synthesis-report-implementation-lisbon-declaration-youth-policies-and
LC/CAR/TS.2019/13	Proposal for a revitalized Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee – Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development (CDCC-RCM) https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45109-proposal-revitalized-caribbean-development-and-cooperation-committee-regional
LC/CAR/TS.2019/12	Promoting debt sustainability to facilitate financing sustainable development in selected Caribbean countries: a scenario analysis of ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative

	https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45108/1/S1901211_en.pdf
LC/CAR/TS.2019/11	A preliminary review of policy responses to enhance SME access to trade financing in the Caribbean https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45101-preliminary-review-policy-responses-enhance-sme-access-trade-financing-caribbean
LC/CAR/TS.2019/10	Gender mainstreaming in national sustainable development planning in the Caribbean https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45086-gender-mainstreaming-national-sustainable-development-planning-caribbean
LC/CAR/TS.2019/9	A review of Caribbean national statistical legislation against the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45100-review-caribbean-national-statistical-legislation-relation-united-nations
LC/CAR/TS.2019/8	Industrial upgrading and diversification to address the competitiveness challenges in the Caribbean: the case of tourism https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45099-industrial-upgrading-and-diversification-address-competitiveness-challenges
LC/CAR/TS.2019/7	The enhancement of resilience to disasters and climate change in the Caribbean through the modernization of the energy sector https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45098-enhancement-resilience-disasters-and-climate-change-caribbean-through
LC/CAR/TS.2019/6	Synthesis of the Caribbean subregion midterm review report of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45066-synthesis-caribbean-subregion-midterm-review-report-small-island-developing
LC/CAR/TS.2019/5	Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2019 https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45065-economic-survey-caribbean-2019
LC/CAR/TS.2019/4	Strengthening ICT and knowledge management capacity in support of the sustainable development of multi-island Caribbean SIDS https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45064/1/S1901146_en.pdf
LC/CAR/TS.2019/3	Preliminary overview of the Caribbean 2018–2019

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44914-preliminary-overview-economies-caribbean-2018-2019-economic-restructuring-and>

LC/CAR/TS.2019/2

Using Universal Service Funds to increase access to technology for persons with disabilities in the Caribbean

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44913-using-universal-service-funds-increase-access-technology-persons-disabilities>

LC/CAR/TS.2019/1

An economic analysis of flooding in the Caribbean – the case of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44877-economic-analysis-flooding-caribbean-case-jamaica-and-trinidad-and-tobago>