

Summary of DFID's work in the Caribbean 2011-2015

May 2011

Why we work in the Caribbean

The Caribbean region matters to the UK. There are strong historical and cultural links and twelve Caribbean countries are Commonwealth members. Most Caribbean countries have reached middle-income status and are on track to achieve the majority of the Millennium Development Goals. However, the region remains vulnerable to economic shocks, high levels of violent and organised crime, natural disasters and climate change. In the next five years, the UK Government's development assistance to the Caribbean region will prioritise:

1. Supporting economic growth through private sector development to create business and job opportunities and increase exports to regional and global markets;
2. Working with Caribbean countries to reduce violent and organised crime and to create safer communities;
3. Improving the region's ability to deal with and recover from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.



A trainee carpenter helps refurbish the All Saints community centre in New Amsterdam, Guyana, along with other women workers as part of a vocational training course funded by DFID through UNDP's Enhancing Public Trust, Security and Inclusion programme.

What we expect to achieve

- Create 10,000 new jobs, 50% of them for women;
- Increase the number of people living in Jamaica with trust and confidence in the police by 11%;
- Enable 228,000 people in coastal communities, including small farmers, to better cope with the effects of climate change and natural disasters;
- Increase the average score of Caribbean countries in the World Bank 'Ease of Doing Business Index' by 20%;
- Empower communities to demand better services and greater accountability from decision makers.

What's our approach?

Our programme during 2011 - 2015 is focused on the region's main vulnerabilities with three main strategic priorities:

- The **wealth creation** programme will help create business opportunities and jobs by enabling the private sector to develop innovative products and services to strengthen regional exports. DFID will promote business environment reforms to improve competitiveness and reduce the cost of doing business in the region. We will help to implement trade agreements and improve competitiveness. We will also fund macroeconomic policy advice and training including establishing better debt management.

- The **security and governance** programme will support the Government of Jamaica in its fight against corruption and crime and help to restore good police/community relations. Our programmes will target the most vulnerable people (mainly young men) in Jamaica, living in some of the world's most violent communities and offer them an alternative to criminal gangs. DFID will also support Eastern Caribbean states to tackle organised crime by tracking and seizing the criminal profits.
- The **climate change** programme will help people in vulnerable, coastal communities (60% of the population lives within 1.5 km of the coast) prepare for and cope with the impact of natural disasters and climate change. DFID will support the development of affordable insurance products for small businesses and farmers to help preserve their incomes when a disaster strikes. We will provide protection measures, including effective warning, for homes, and livelihoods from flooding, storms and sea level rise. We will also provide support to strengthen the Caribbean's position in global negotiations and its access to resources from global funds.



A banana farmer in St Lucia making his way to town to sell his produce. In the Caribbean region, the income and livelihood of farmers are most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters.

With whom we will work

DFID Caribbean will work with other bilateral donors and Caribbean Governments to improve governance and security. Other key UK partners include the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the Metropolitan Police. Other bilateral partners include the Canadian International Development Agency and the US Agency for International Development.

Our wealth creation initiatives will be implemented through multilateral and regional partners, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

DFID will build on existing relationships with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency to deliver our support on climate change and disaster risk reduction. We will also continue to work with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

How we will work

In the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. We are determined to get value for money for every hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development in the Caribbean.

- **Value for money:** DFID Caribbean will develop a value for money strategy to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness throughout our programme.
- **Transparency:** DFID regards transparency as fundamental to improving its accountability to both UK and Caribbean citizens. We will publish clear, concise information about our programmes, providing the opportunity for those affected by our projects to provide feedback.

More information

For a detailed breakdown of DFID's Operational Plan for the Caribbean please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/caribbean.
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