Building Back Better:
Reckoning with Size in Pursuit of Resilience

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Objective: Resilient Development

• Resilience is defined as “the capacity of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of function and structure.” (Hyogo Framework)

• Achieving resilience therefore implies enhancing recovery capacity through the identification and reduction of risk by:
  • Territorial planning
  • Strengthened infrastructure
  • Financial protection
  • Technological application
Size Matters

In assessing disaster risk, **small size**:

- **heightens** risk of exposure
- **amplifies** the impact of hazards
- **undermines** national capacity to recover.
The Caribbean is the second most hazard-prone region in the world. Disaster-related costs are expected to escalate in the face of population growth, rapid urbanization, increased exposure of assets to climate change related phenomena.


Caribbean urban population

In 2018, 70% of the Caribbean population resided in urban areas.

Concentration of population and activities in low-elevation coastal zones
Extreme risk and adaptive capacity in the case of Belize
Turks and Caicos Islands
British Virgin Islands
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The Bahamas
Weak economic growth

The Caribbean (15 countries): Average GDP growth rate (percentage)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.

aAnguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.
Declining exports

The World and selected groupings: merchandise exports, 2005-2015
(Average annual growth rates)

Declining overseas development assistance


a Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago
Falling foreign direct investments

The Caribbean (15 countries):\textsuperscript{a} foreign direct investment inflows

(Percentages of GDP)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures

\textsuperscript{a} Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

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High debt burden

The Caribbean (15 countries): average total public debt for goods and service producers

(Per cent of GDP)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.

a Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

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Indebtedness and Vulnerability

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2018 database and South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission Environmental Vulnerability Index 2004

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External challenges affecting the Caribbean

- Reduction in global growth expectations
- Weakening of multilateralism
- Graduation of Middle Income SIDS
- Declining FDI
- Blacklisting: Caribbean countries black and grey listed by EU for failure to meet OECD tax compliance standards
- De-risking

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Fiscally constrained to meet social Challenges

Addressing Poverty and inequality
Advancing women’s empowerment and their autonomy
Investing for quality in human capital
- Resources
- Delinquency
High levels of unemployment particularly for youth and migration of skilled persons
Low social protection and ageing of the population
Addressing NCDs and access to quality education for persons with disabilities

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Building resilience from the ground up

- **Participatory, community-driven approaches**: improve planning methodologies to integrate more collaborative democratic participatory approaches, working at different levels to promote more sustainable cities and territories.

- **Evidence-based planning**: ensure availability and access to information and data for better decision-making, improve capacities in statistics and technical capacities to incorporate DRM into public investment projects.

- **Sustainable financing**:
  - design and implement policies for financial protection to the risk of disasters;
  - estimate the annual resource needs to cover the response, rehabilitation and reconstruction processes for different types of events;
  - have budget allocations for DRM activities;
  - establish a structure for the retention and transfer of disaster risk in the country;
  - ecosystems-based approach: adequate investment in ecological infrastructure, for example, will play an important role in reducing the vulnerability of populations to future environmental and socio-economic crises.

- **Communication and outreach**: A significant change in the region's social and economic outlook towards greater sustainability will require stronger governance and the implementation of policies capable of taking into account future risks and uncertainties, as well as increased behaviour and social actions that seek to protect and value the natural capital.

- **International cooperation**: recommended to explore the options for bilateral and regional cooperation, including technical assistance and the exchange of information in specialized fora.

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Incorporating the concept of resilience into development planning

**Planning**
- the integration of resilience strategies in territorial planning and in land-use planning

**Implementation**
- the incorporation of DRR into the national public investment systems

**Compliance**
- upgrading and guaranteeing compliance with building codes

Critical areas for resilient sustainable development
- governance framework for disaster risk management
- quality information for disaster risk management decision-making
- integration of the DRM strategies into the preparation and evaluation cycle of the project
- territorial approach
- sectoral approach
- macroeconomic policies
- integrating disaster risk management into development policies and other instruments

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The way forward

Valuation of Natural resources; Increased Environment Data and Statistics to support Evidence Based Decision making

Improved access to finance; Pursue resilient investment; Expand insurance schemes

New technologies to identify and communicate on coming hazards; sensitize population with early warning systems

Implement DRM Strategy; Include disaster prep in national planning

Strengthen partnership with the private sector, global partners

Enhance resilience through mitigation and adaptation; physical planning; building code inspection

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Partnerships for SIDS Sustainable Development

New partnership for International Cooperation

Address debt reduction through the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative

Public-Private Partnerships

Collaboration between State-Private sector-Civil society

South-South, SIDS-SIDS and Triangular Cooperation

Strengthen regional integration

Promote international advocacy and solidarity on SIDS issues

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Small is beautiful!

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