

PROMOTING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CITIZEN SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CARIBBEAN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

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Situational Analysis

The achievements in the Caribbean:

- Human Development

- increases in life expectancy and a marked decline in infant mortality
- near universal access to secondary and tertiary education
- relatively stable democracies with high levels of political participation and low and declining levels of political violence (mainly related to electoral cycles)
- Internal and external migration which contributes to economic and emotional support provided through remittances



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Situational Analysis

The challenges in the Caribbean:

- Citizen Security

- severe security challenges such as organized crime; narco-trafficking; movement of small arms; juvenile crime; and youth gangs
- high incidence of gender based violence (GBV) in the region
- crime, violence and conflict instill fear and anxiety about personal security and hinder economic development by making the region unattractive for investment
- rising effects of social and economic deficiencies including: high levels of unemployment among the youth; under-representation of young boys in the education system; food insecurity; growth in urban poverty and new types of rural poverty



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The Response

- Caribbean countries provide an impressive range of social protection programmes to help the poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups to gain access to opportunities to break the transmission of disadvantage and exclusion between generations. Some of these are:
 - CCT Programme (Trinidad and Tobago)
 - PATH programme (Jamaica)
 - ISEE BRIDGE programme (pilot) (Barbados)



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Recommendations for the way forward

The following recommendations may be considered in enhancing a rights-based approach to sustainable development

- Incorporation of aspects of human rights in existing policies that addresses social, security, economic and environmental issues
- Equity in financial allocations need to be addressed in order to ensure that all citizens feel secure. The traditional practice of protecting citizens by maintaining military strength should be examined and attention paid to needs in the social sector
- Improved access to natural resources that are necessary to sustain livelihoods of citizens
- Participation of citizens in decision-making should be encouraged
- Preparations for adaptive and mitigative actions with respect to the rights of citizens to address vulnerabilities.
- Addressing the health concerns especially of the poor, elderly and handicapped
- Programmes that co-opt the skills of all citizens to address crime and violence need to be developed and include effective monitoring mechanisms for maintaining law and order.



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