

MIGRATION, INTEGRATION, AND DIASPORA
ENGAGEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN:

A POLICY REVIEW

June 14, 2023



Joint publication by the Inter-American Development
Bank (IDB) and the Migration Policy Institute (MPI)

Authors: Valerie Lacarte, Jordi Amaral, Diego Chaves-
González, Ana María Sáiz and Jeremy Harris

Primary Countries of Study



Belize



Bahamas



Barbados



Dominican Republic



Guyana



Haiti

Countries in the greater Caribbean are discussed as relevant



Jamaica



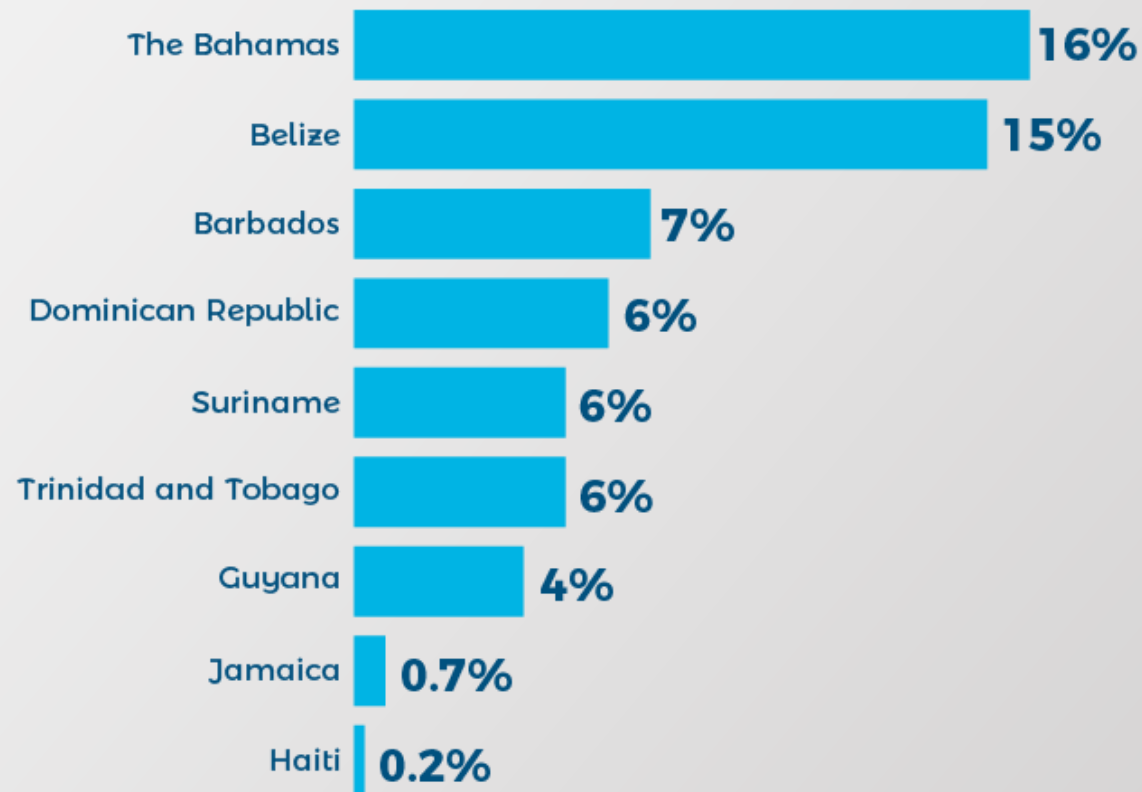
Trinidad and Tobago



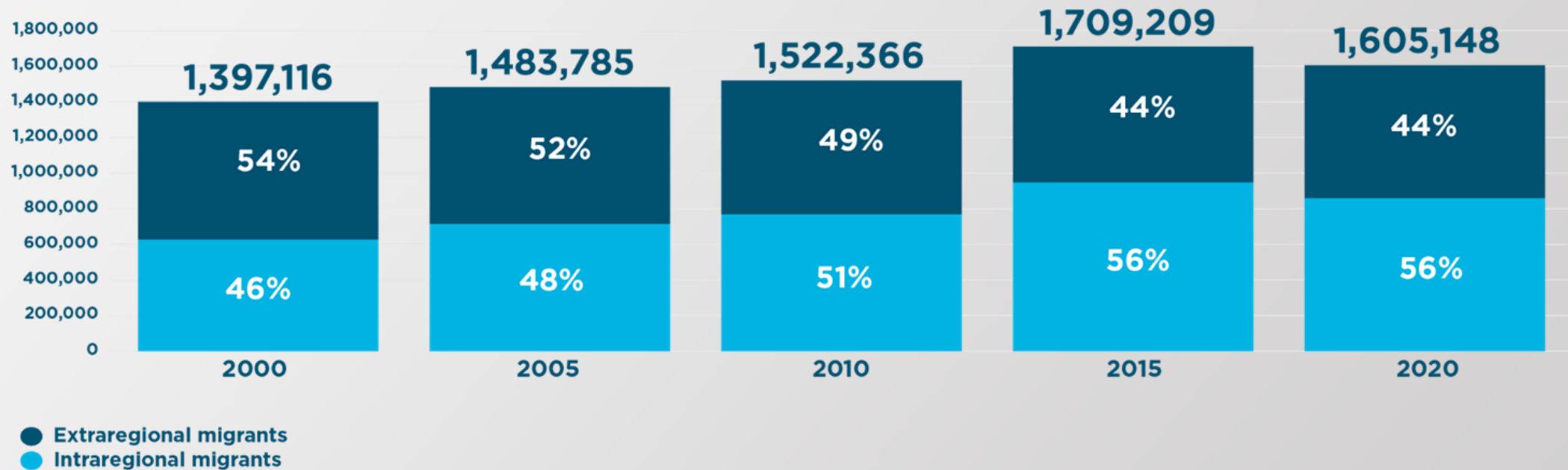
Suriname

The immigrant population represents between 1% and 16% of the total population in the 9 primary countries

Share of Foreign-Born Population out of Total Population, 2020



Although historically understood as a region of emigration, intraregional migration flows are gaining relevance in the region.



Haitians and Venezuelans represent the largest flows of migrants in the 9 primary countries

Haitians

53% of all immigrants

- 496,000 in DR
- 30,000 in The Bahamas
- Arrivals after 2010 earthquake, ongoing insecurity

Venezuelans

17% of all immigrants

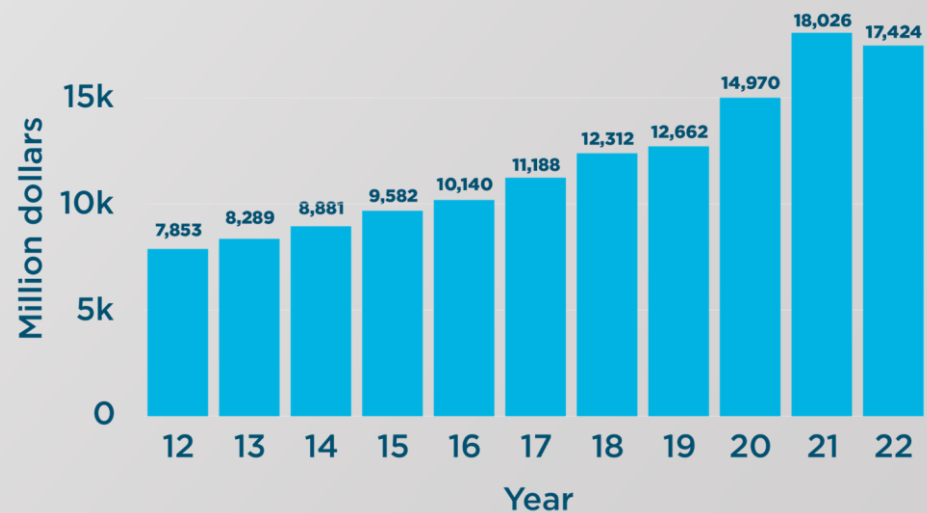
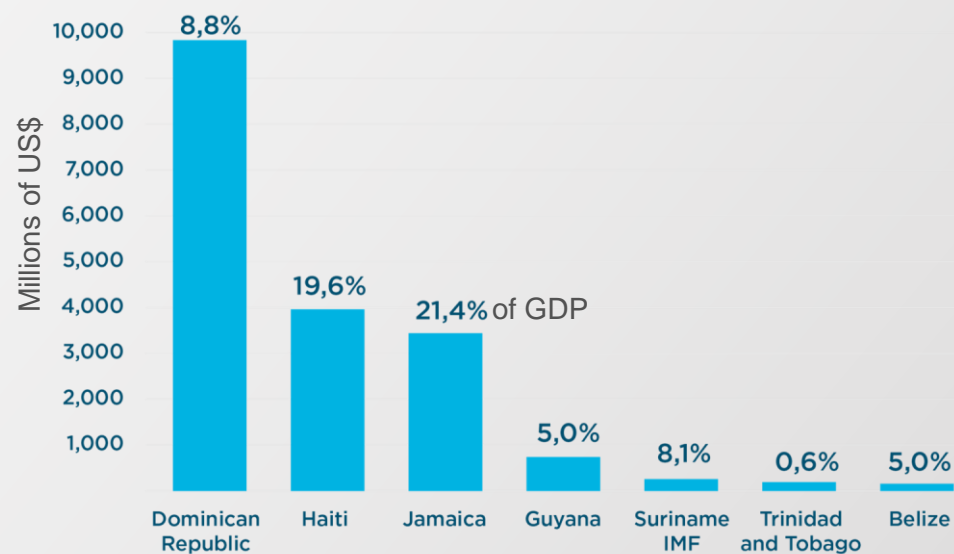
- 115,000 in DR
- 24,000 in Trinidad and Tobago
- 23,000 in Guyana
- Arrivals since 2014 political and economic turmoil

Diaspora and remittances

Remittances to the Caribbean fell in 2022 after historic growth in 2021

Remittances

U\$ million and % of GDP

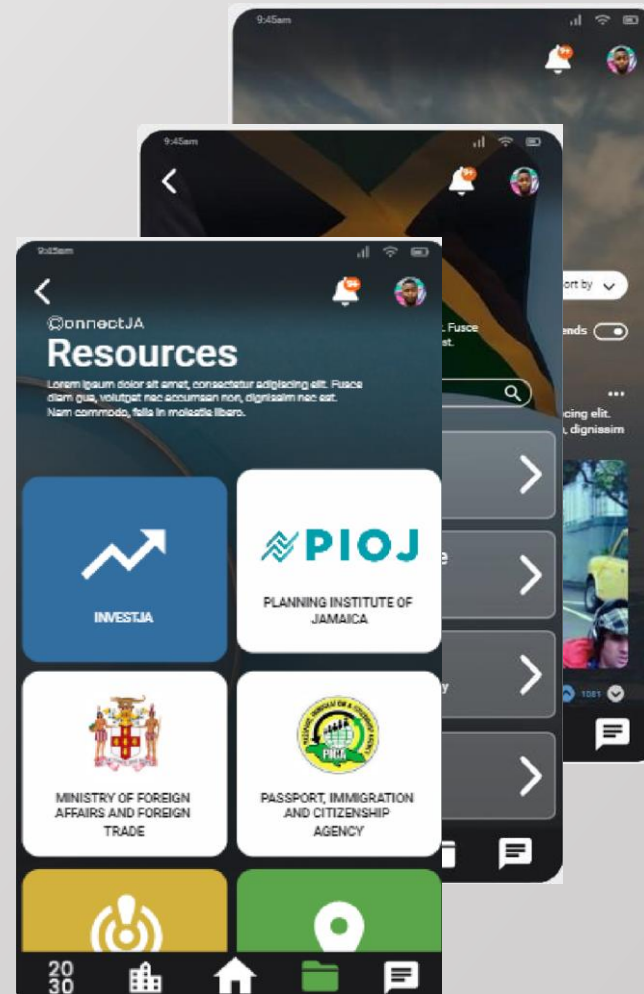


Tools to connect with the diaspora

Counterparts: PIOJ y MFAFT Communication and registration diaspora

Allows identification and survey diaspora members most interested in collaborating.

Informs the diaspora about key projects and opportunities for the government's strategy.



All primary countries but DR are members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

CARICOM

- Free mobility regimes and increasing regional integration
- 15 Member States

CARICOM's Single Market and Economy (CSME)

- 6-month visa-free stays in other Member States
- The Bahamas is not a member
- Implementation not complete in Belize and Haiti

6-month visa-free stay but no work authorization

May be restricted due to national security concerns or if a CARICOM national could become “a charge on the public funds”

Uneven implementation across countries = ease of movement varies by nationality

CSME Free Mobility Regime (2017)

Most **Registered Outflows** of Nationals to other CSME Member States

1. Trinidad and Tobago
2. Guyana
3. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
4. Jamaica
5. Barbados

Most **Registered Inflows** of Nationals from other CSME Member States

1. Barbados
2. Trinidad and Tobago
3. Guyana
4. Antigua and Barbuda
5. Jamaica

Specific categories of **skilled workers** can get a certificate that allow them free movement and work authorization:

Original categories: university graduates, artists, musicians, media workers, sportspersons

Newer categories: teachers, nurses, people with an associate degree or equivalent, artisans with a CVQ , household domestic workers with a CVQ

Not yet in practice: agricultural workers and security guards



Other regional agreements with mobility provisions

Central American Agreement for Free Mobility (CA-4) excludes Belize and DR

Central American Integration Systems (SICA)

- Belize
- Dominican Republic
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras, Nicaragua
- Panama

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Montserrat
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Economic Union (ECEU): Free movement including work authorization

The Caribbean is one of the world regions most affected by climate change and natural disasters, leading to significant displacement

Hurricanes
Earthquakes
Tropical storms
Flooding
Drought
Volcanic eruptions



Examples of ad-hoc regional response to climate migrants from Haiti and Dominica

2010 earthquake in Haiti

2017 Hurricane Maria in Dominica

Pre-defined arrangements for responses to disaster-related displacement would accelerate response times and provide better predictability of impacts.

DR extended special protection and humanitarian visas, suspended deportations

The Bahamas, Jamaica, and Turks and Caicos suspended deportations

Dominica extended all Haitians' stay for 6 months

Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines accepted Dominicans through the CSME 6-month stay



THANK YOU

