



Department
for International
Development

Operational Plan 2011-2016

DFID Caribbean

Updated December 2014

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Introduction

In 2013 the UK became the first G7 country to meet the United Nations target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on international development. The Department for International Development (DFID) uses that investment to help countries to lift themselves out of poverty and leave poverty behind. Operational plans set out to the public how we plan to deliver results across policy areas and for every country we work in. These plans clearly explain why, and how, DFID is targeting its resources and what we expect to achieve; covering the period up until March 2016.

DFID is focused on spending in the right ways, on the right things, in the right places. The portfolio of our projects is already shifting to deliver a more coherent, focused and ambitious approach to economic development. We are helping to build strong and investable business environments in developing countries and improving access to finance for entrepreneurs.

Improving the prospects for girls and women in developing countries is a priority. Investing in girls and women is the right thing to do, as well as the right thing. By unleashing their potential, we see returns for girls and women themselves, their families and communities, and for their economies and countries. No country can successfully develop if it leaves half its population behind.

Life-saving humanitarian assistance remains one of DFID's most fundamental responsibilities. When disaster strikes or conflict erupts we are first on the ground to support the most vulnerable people. We are also increasing our efforts to help those countries that are at higher risk of natural disasters to become more resilient in the first place.

DFID continues to drive value for money in everything we do on behalf of the British taxpayer. We have improved our procurement and programme management, increased our internal audit oversight and we are ensuring that staff have the skills to deliver the Department's priorities.

On the international stage we are working hard to agree a new set of global development goals to replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire next year. We are determined to secure a clear and inspiring set of goals for the post 2015 development framework that leave no one behind.

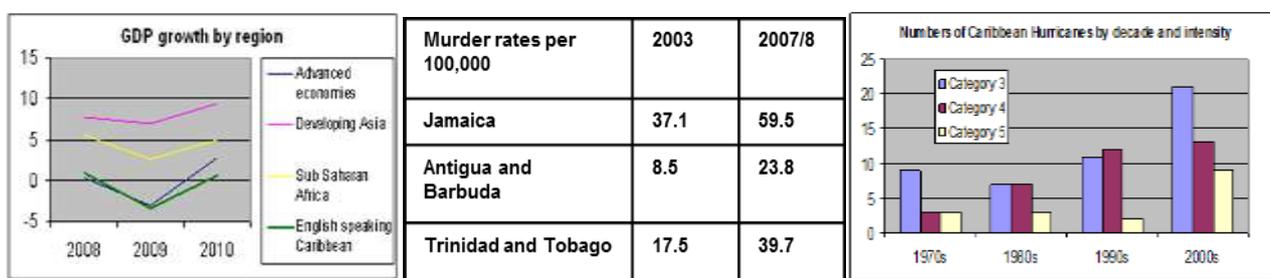
Increasingly we will take new and innovative approaches and we will work with new partners. This will include businesses who are increasingly major development players. During the Secretary of State's time as co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, DFID played a key role in encouraging different development actors to work together and use internationally agreed principles for aid and development effectiveness.

As our operational plans set out, our approach to international development is ambitious and innovative. We are determined to ensure that every pound DFID spends has the biggest possible impact on the ground. Ultimately by investing in developing countries, we can end aid dependency for good and build a better, more prosperous world for us all.

Context

The Caribbean matters to the UK. We have strong historical and cultural links, and 12 Caribbean countries are Commonwealth members. There is a large Caribbean diaspora in the UK with the Afro-Caribbean community accounting for at least 1% of the UK population. Up to 100,000 actual or potential UK passport holders live in Jamaica alone. UK census data suggest these figures may be twice as high for the English-speaking Caribbean as a whole.

All Caribbean countries, except one, (Haiti) have reached middle-income status and are on track to achieve the majority of the Millennium Development Goals (progress is slowest on Goal 3 - Promote Gender Equality & Empower Women and Goal 7 – Environmental Sustainability). However, the region remains particularly prone to economic shocks, high levels of violent and organised crime, natural disasters and climate change. Each of these areas is a significant threat to development advances made in the Caribbean. The key development agenda is to reduce the Caribbean's vulnerability, and our programme priorities are aligned with those of the Caribbean on economic growth, security and climate resilience, as well as with wider UK Government priorities.



Growth rates have slowed dramatically, falling from 4.3% in the 1970s to just 0.9% since 2000. Adjusting to the loss of historical trade preferences has been painful with the region losing ground in an increasingly competitive global economy. Growth prospects are impaired by public debt which is higher than in any other region, averaging over 80% of GDP in the Eastern Caribbean and 140% in Jamaica. Half of the Governments in the region sought International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance after the financial crisis and, with many economies dependent on tourism and financial services, the recovery has been slower than elsewhere.

The Caribbean is a transshipment point for drugs to the UK, elsewhere Europe and the US. Organised crime and gang violence have resulted in the highest regional murder rate in the world. The murder rate in some Jamaican inner city communities is more than 65 times higher than the UK's. Links between criminals, politicians and the police threatens security. For example, in Jamaica in 2010 these interdependencies resulted in an unprecedented national crisis. Drug-related crime damages Jamaica and the islands of the Eastern Caribbean: high rates of crime reduce the ability of these tourism-dependent countries to attract international tourists; and foreign and domestic investment is depressed due to higher security costs and higher perceived risks.

The Caribbean is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The IMF suggests that since the early 1960s, the Caribbean has experienced losses equivalent to about 1% of GDP on average in damages each year – itself a figure that has risen from 0.9% of GDP in the 1980s and 1990s to 1.3 % of GDP in the 2000s. This averaging also masks the devastating impact extreme events have had on individual economies in the region. For example, estimates suggest Hurricane Ivan in 2004 was responsible for \$889 million (over 200% of GDP) of damages as well as 39 deaths in Grenada and \$1.8 billion of damages in the Cayman Islands. It is widely agreed that climate change will increase the level of risk and pose significant challenges in the years ahead without adequate preparation and significant adjustments to patterns of development..

DFID Caribbean (DFID C)'s Operational Plan is built on close cross-UK Government working relationships on programme delivery, as well as administration. We work closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on climate change, security and corruption in particular. In Jamaica and Guyana, our staff are based within the British High Commissions. Our Barbados office was co-located with the High Commission in August 2011.

Vision

We will deliver programmes directly focused on the region's main vulnerabilities, with our three focus pillars creating a 'virtuous circle'. Our impact will be maximised by working with effective regional institutions and pooling resources with other donors and, towards the end of the OP period, by gradually increasing our bilateral presence in five key ODA eligible islands in the Eastern Caribbean. We will maintain and strengthen our co-operation with other UK Government departments, particularly on security, corruption and climate change.

Through this Operational Plan, we will contribute to DFID's business plan g by:

- Boosting wealth creation – by supporting over 45 business environment reforms to reduce the cost of doing business and providing matching grants to firms that help them develop innovative products and services to strengthen regional exports. This should create 20 significant new export opportunities and 10,000 jobs.
- Strengthening governance and security - by tackling violent crime, drug trafficking and corruption in Jamaica whilst improving opportunities for marginalised, at risk youth in 50 of the most violent, volatile inner city communities.
- Combating climate change - by supporting 230,000 people to be better able to cope with effects of climate change.

Our wealth creation activities will support the region's efforts to raise growth rates, by accessing global markets, including through implementing the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Europe, improving the business environment across the region, and diversifying economies. We will work with the private sector to encourage innovation through 40 new innovative business models, and improve competitiveness, with a demonstrable effect on job creation and export volumes (to be demonstrated through improvements in the Export Concentration Index). We will support women entrepreneurs, with 15 business environment reforms targeted specifically at women. We will also support efforts to improve the fiscal and debt position of governments across the region, freeing up savings for more productive investments such as skills and infrastructure. We will support the development of relevant skills for Caribbean citizens, especially disadvantaged groups, so more people can earn incomes and contribute to economic growth. We have chosen activities that address the core problems preventing growth in the region, and to provide new livelihood opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

Through our governance and security programme, we will reach the most vulnerable people (mainly at risk male youth) in Jamaica, living in some of the world's most violent communities and offer them an alternative to criminal gangs. Much of the work in violent communities will be targeted at young men and boys who are overwhelmingly the main perpetrators and victims of violence. We will help the government root out the corruption in the Jamaica police force that has undermined its effectiveness for decades and will help an independent commission stamp out extra-judicial killings perpetrated by the police. We will work in support of the Jamaican Minister of National Security to attempt to break the links between politicians and organised crime. We will extend our pioneering partnership with law enforcement agencies working to seize the assets of organised criminals through 200 new confiscation cases supported by the Caribbean Criminal Assets Recovery Programme. We have chosen to focus approximately 80% of our governance and security portfolio in Jamaica, where crime is most acute.

Our climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme will enhance regional and national efforts to build resilience to natural disasters and improve climate risk management and improve regional and national energy security through the development of renewable technology and energy efficiency. We will boost community adaptation and resilience, and help protect homes, livelihoods, investments and infrastructure.

What we will stop doing L Our work to reduce the stigma around HIV and AIDS has now been completed. Although the region has the second highest prevalence rate in the world, this sector is well served by other donors. Our community security work in Guyana was completed in late 2011, after which we have focused our governance and security support on Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean. Our debt relief programme to Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and St Kitts and Nevis should end by 2013/14. We will also exit from disaster risk reduction work in Haiti by March 2013, when DFID's commitment of £2 million following the 2010 earthquake will have been delivered.

Results 2011/12-2015/16

Headline results (those with a * directly attributable to DFID. In all other cases, DFID is contributing to the results)

Pillar/Strategic	Indicator	Baseline	Progress towards results (including year)	Expected (end year included)
Wealth Creation	Number of direct jobs created with DFID's support	0	Off Track: A total of 1,150 jobs were created in 2013/14 of which around 50% were women . In addition, it is estimated that 3,850 jobs will be created in 2014/15. It is estimated that a further 1,000 jobs will be created in 2015/16	10,000 (2015, of which at least 5,000 for women).
Wealth Creation	Average score of Caribbean countries in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index	0.514 (2010)	Off track: It was anticipated that this indicator would improve 20% over the OP period. The figures have in fact moved from 0.502 in 2010 to 0.529 in 2013, the latest for which data are available. This is a move of 5% in the wrong direction.	0.411 (20% improvement on 2010 score by 2015)
Governance and Security	Number of people supported to have choice and control over their own development and to hold decision makers to account	58,800 (29,400 male, 29,400 female) (2010)	On Track: 134,823 (2013/14) 67,411 (male) / 67,412 (female)	165,420 (82,710 male, 82,710 female) (2015)
Governance and Security	Number of people with trust and have confidence in the police (National Crime and Victimization Survey)	63% (2008) or 1,221,000 people (598,000 male, 623,000 female)	On track: 1,299,000 (636,250 male and 662,750 female) or 67% March by 2013, the latest year for which data is available.	74% (2015) or 1,434,000 people (704,000 male, 730,000 female)
Climate Change	Number of people better able to cope with the effects of climate change through support from DFID-funded programmes	0 (2010)	Target Exceeded: Total of 269,887 over the period 2011-13.	228,000 (2014-15) (112,200 male, 115,800 female)

Pillar/Strategic	Indicator	Baseline	Progress towards results (including year)	Expected (end year included)
Climate Change	Number of new private sector investments and developers providing affordable low carbon energy	0 (2011)	Marginally off- track: As at September 2014, 8 investments are being supported through the IDEAS competition. A further 4 are expected through the COMPETE programme.	14 (FY 2015) (tbc)
Climate Change	Number of regional, national and sectoral implementation plans using updated climatic risk data, gender analysis and result baselines	0 (2010)	On track: A total of 13 Regional and National Plans completed by 2013-14.	1 regional climate resilience implementation plan 12 National plans 4 Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) programmes (2015)

Delivery and Resources

This Operational Plan is a regional one. Initially our main partners will be effective regional institutions and like-minded donors. From mid 2014 we will work to develop targeted bilateral interventions in five ODA eligible islands of the Eastern Caribbean. We will continue to deliver bilateral security and corruption in Jamaica.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will be a key partner for us (private sector, community security and possibly also community climate resilience). We will partner with IDB in areas where they were judged in the Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) to be “highly innovative”, such as social and climate change, as well as their cross-region partnerships with Governments.

On wealth creation, we will predominantly be working through multilateral and regional partners, except where there is the need to focus bilaterally, for example on improving debt management in Jamaica. We will use the local knowledge and the legitimacy of the Caribbean Development Bank to support regional integration, the implementation of trade agreements and some private sector and financial sector work. We will work in partnership (to pool resources and expertise) with the IDB and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to deliver a programme helping improve the competitiveness of Caribbean exporters. We will also work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to fund macroeconomic advice and training, building on their clear expertise and established regional presence. In addition, we will draw on the World Bank’s strong technical resources to strengthen debt and financial management, promote growth and support better evidence-based policy-making. We will also contract expertise to support skills development for inclusive growth.

On governance and security, the acute governance and security challenges in Jamaica can only be tackled bilaterally. DFID’s engagement is part of a cross Whitehall strategy and we will work closely with other government departments including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the National Crime Agency and the Crown Prosecution Service. DFID has long established partnerships with the Ministry of National Security (MNS). We are planning a new programme to reduce violence in volatile urban communities. DFID intends to enter a new partnership with the IDB, Canada and the MNS to deliver a harmonised programme. We continue to support an independent parliamentary commission to tackle the high rate of extra-judicial killings perpetrated by the police. Our work to help the Government of Jamaica tackle major organised crime and corruption in the police and the public sector is implemented in partnership with US State Department. In the Eastern Caribbean, we have also developed a strong partnership with the NCA and the CPS on a programme to support law enforcement agencies seize the assets of organised criminals.

On climate change and disaster risk reduction, we will build on established partnerships with the Caribbean Development Bank on energy and continue our support to the regionally mandated Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) to strengthen their ability to represent the Caribbean in global negotiations, access resources from global funds and support members in developing adaptation plans. . Over the next year, our focus will be on programme development that builds on lessons and experience to date and ensures a greater geographical focus on the Eastern Caribbean. Energy security is a growing priority for the region and our approach in the region will respond to this by increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix of the Eastern Caribbean.

Extending the UK’s development influence in the region. The UK’s contribution to development assistance extends beyond the bilateral programme and DFID Caribbean works closely with key institutions to advance UK development objectives. The EU is the largest grant donor in the Caribbean with the European Development Fund 11th funding round allocating €1 billion to the region. The UK is a major contributor and DFID Caribbean will work closely with the EU to ensure the regional programme is delivered effectively. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is an important regional institution, and a partner for the UK on wealth creation and climate change. As a major shareholder, DFID will continue to work closely with CDB on its direction and performance, including the use of a performance based tranche for progress on results and gender.

Planned Programme Spend

Pillar/Strategic	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16 (provisional*)
	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Total Resource and Capital £000
Climate Change	4,288		4,237		1,762		1,400		
Education	1,925		1,750		1,524				
Global partnerships			89		34				
Governance and security	6,082		6,789		8,287		5,500		
Humanitarian	-4								
Poverty, hunger and vulnerability	1,391		762		600				
Wealth Creation	3,143		8,058		2,118		5,500		
Health	403		201						
Grand Total	17,229		21,886		14,325		12,400		9,500

*Expenditure figures for 2015/16 are indicative. DFID works in a variety of challenging environments, including fragile and conflict affected areas. Humanitarian work is often reactive and can be scaled up or down. An element of flexibility within funding allocations is necessary to ensure that we can balance the need for long term planning alongside the ability to respond where necessary to changing requirements

Planned Operating Costs

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 (provisional*)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Frontline Delivery Costs – Pay	1,057	1,459	1,373	1,288	
Frontline Delivery Costs – Non Pay	645	489	477	821	
Administrative costs - Pay	89	69	81	88	
Administrative costs – Non Pay	20	10	14	9	
GRAND TOTAL	1,811	2,027	1,946	2,206	2,075

*Expenditure figures for 2015/16 are indicative. DFID works in a variety of challenging environments, including fragile and conflict affected areas. Humanitarian work is often reactive and can be scaled up or down. An element of flexibility within funding allocations is necessary to ensure that we can balance the need for long term planning alongside the ability to respond where necessary to changing requirements

Delivering Value for Money

Cost levels are relatively high in the Caribbean compared to similar interventions in low income countries, but so too are the related benefits of the work. We recognise the need to improve the evidence we have on Value for Money (VfM) in our programme.

Our VfM Approach

We have developed a comprehensive VfM strategy in collaboration with key partners. This includes:

Building our own capacity for VfM delivery

- We have recruited a Results Adviser and established a Results and VfM Team, to support staff in embedding and delivering VfM.
- Continue to focus on improving core skills and individual skills deficits across the DFID C team.
- Started to deliver VfM training to all staff, tailored as appropriate according to role and skill gaps.
- Conduct an annual DFID C VfM review and forward look.

Strengthening our financial management:

- Ensure that staff continue to understand their role and responsibilities in financial management, take responsibility for it and this is reflected in personal appraisal objectives.
- Provide online introductory financial management training to staff where necessary.
- Harness Corporate and Divisional financial management strategies and tools to ensure we have the correct systems, procedures and practice in place to drive continued improvement in financial management.
- Improve the accuracy of our financial forecasting and profiling, including regular updates to forecasts.
- Monthly meetings with budget holders as well as with Division to identify and correct variances.

Strengthening VfM analysis in our programme cycle management

- Ensure that pillar teams are clear on the overall results chain (and underpinning issues) for each pillar and identify any evidence gaps.
- Continue to strengthen programme and project logframes, milestones and objectives.
- Identify appropriate VfM measures (particularly for not easily quantified outcomes) comparators and unit costs for all three pillars.
- Introduce a tailored DFID C approach to business case development which ensures that VfM is at the centre of project cycle management.
- All new projects to be reviewed by the Results and VfM team as part of their appraisal, before business case is submitted for approval.
- Encourage better identification of alternative pathways to the targeted outcomes and impacts. Identify minimum standards for approval.
- Ensure that VfM questions are a focal point of all project Annual Reviews.

Promoting VfM when working with others (multilaterals and regional institution/government partners)

- Support VfM improvement at project and institutional levels with our partners, building on the findings of their Multilateral Aid Review assessments.
- Involve VfM team in negotiating administration fees with partners for all new programming.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring

DFID Caribbean will embed a culture of monitoring, evaluation (M&E) and lesson-learning across our programme. We have developed an M&E strategy and building on this will now focus on deepening our evaluation skills across the office.

Building capacity on M&E

- A new Results Adviser post has been filled and the Adviser has started to work with staff across the office to build capacity.
- All DFID C staff have received Evaluation training to develop their awareness and skills .

Strengthening Monitoring in our programme cycle management

How: All programmes will have objectively measurable baselines, indicators and targets. We will increase the emphasis on strong quantitative evidence as well as the harder to measure qualitative information on issues such as confidence, safety, legitimacy and resilience. We will use this information to guide the future trajectory of the programmes. Specialised surveys will be conducted where appropriate as part of programme monitoring according to their own schedules (e.g. the Latin American Public Opinion survey).

What: All new programmes will have M&E clearly built into their design. In new programmes and thematic areas where the evidence base is weaker, we will ensure that our work includes support to strengthen this evidence base.

Who: DFID Caribbean lead advisers are responsible for the day to day M&E of their programmes. A newly created Programme Quality Board will ensure a consistent approach to M&E across the programmes.

When: We will rigorously track progress in all programmes against outputs as part of our programme management, as well as in mid-term and annual reviews. The DFID C results framework and operational plan will be reviewed annually.

Strengthening Evaluation in our programme cycle management

- We will ensure that provision is made in the budgets of novel or innovative programmes for independent evaluation.
- We will complete biennial standardised international assessments of investment climate and competitiveness to track impact and set priorities.
- We will encourage participatory monitoring and greater feedback in programmes we support.
- We will consider how best to learn from lessons in other DFID programmes, and how to communicate lessons learnt in our work.
- We will incorporate the outcomes from the Strategic Climate Review into our portfolio.

Promoting M&E when working with others

Much of our portfolio is delivered through others. DFID C has a strong track record of helping build the M&E capacity of partners. A significant proportion of the monitoring will continue to be shared (e.g. a single comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to be shared across a multi-donor programme) or led by our partners (e.g. United Nations Development Programme's monitoring framework for community security). We will work with partners to develop capacity on monitoring and evaluation if this does not already exist, including by offering technical assistance and training where needed. In particular, we will:

- help agencies tackling major organised crime and corruption develop a feedback mechanism through periodic perception surveys.
- help strengthen the Caribbean Development Bank's ability to track impact and disseminate lessons learnt on Aid for Trade support.
- continue to support regional institutions and Governments to develop systems for monitoring and assessing the impact of climate change and disaster risk reduction programmes, for example the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management and Climate Resilience Development Frameworks.

Transparency

Transparency is one of the top priorities for the UK Government. It helps people see where money is going and for what purpose. It helps improve value for money and makes governments everywhere more accountable to their citizens. DFID is a world leader in aid transparency and has an ambitious vision for both DFID and its partners. We will ensure that we play our part in continuing to work towards that vision – set out in a suite of commitments the Aid Transparency Guarantee (ATG), Aid Transparency Challenge (ATC) and DFID's Open Data Strategy.

Actions to ensure DFID meets its commitments in the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee

We will

- publish this Operational Plan on the GOV.UK website. We will inform other donors, recipient Governments, civil society and regional organisations of the Operational Plan.
- regularly check that our programme and personal data remains correct, so information available is reliable.
- publish detailed information about all new DFID Caribbean projects and programmes on the GOV.UK website, and all payments over the £500 threshold (except where this is not possible for security reasons). Annual project performance reporting and end of project evaluations will also be published.
- ensure that all information in the public domain is comprehensive (plain English), accessible, comparable, accurate and timely. Projects co-funded by DFID will be encouraged and assisted to meet similar standards.
- where relevant, consider translating information into French and Spanish to broaden the accessibility of our information to the non-Anglophone Caribbean. In Haiti, DFID funded projects' information resources are already available in French and/or Creole, and DFID funded staff speak at least French and English.
- work with FCO colleagues to improve local knowledge of our programmes and their key messages, including by proactive updates through High Commission press releases, media briefings, Facebook pages and the website.
- meet the standards set out in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), and encourage our partners in civil society, multilateral organisations and other donors to do the same. As part of this, we will encourage and directly support efforts by our partners to improve the participatory monitoring and evaluation of their work. Governments with which we work will also be encouraged to be fully transparent about their budgets, as well as adjustments and reforms needed as part of debt re-scheduling and other economic reforms.
- increase opportunities for feedback from those benefiting from DFID programmes, and take these views into account wherever possible. In Jamaica in particular, we will improve the accountability of regional and national Government by mobilising alienated communities to monitor services received and press for improvements.

Annex A: Changes to Operational Plan

Page Number	Change made to operational Plan	Reason for change
4	Various changes to text in Context	Updating and factual corrections
5	Various changes to text in Vision	Updating and factual corrections
9	Changes to text	Changes which more accurately reflect implementation of programmes.
11	Change to text in 'promoting M&E when working with others'	Factual revision.

Annex B: UK Human Rights Assessment

HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

Scope: This assessment is a composite picture based on 13 countries which the DFID Caribbean regional programme covers (all the independent Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries except Haiti).

Economic and Social Rights

- The region has good levels of human development, with all countries but one rated as high human development, and with HDI rankings ranging from 51-121 (HDR 2014).
- There is no international poverty headcount data for these countries, but based on available national information, poverty rates range from 9.3-63.1%, and indigence rates (more extreme) range from 1-20%, with most under 10%.
- Education and health indicators are fairly good in most countries, with child mortality ranging from 10-35 and gross primary enrolment from 80-121 (HDR 2014).
- Most MDGs are on track with the exception of some health and environmental goals.
- The UNDP Human Development Report on Human Security reports that some indigenous groups and descendants of Maroon populations continue to face infringements on cultural rights, loss of protection of property and inadequate access to services.

Civil and Political Rights

- The region consists largely of stable democracies with high levels of political participation and democratic stability. Elections are peaceful and free and fair.
- All the countries are assessed as “free” by Freedom House (2014 Report), based on ratings for political rights and civil liberties. On the 1-7 scale with 1 being most free, all countries rate 1 or 2 for political rights and 1, 2 or 3 for civil liberties. Freedom of assembly and association are generally respected in practice, and the press is largely free. Core international human rights instruments have been ratified.

Non-discrimination

- **Gender Equality:** There are few legal or constitutional barriers to gender equality; there is reasonable political representation of women, and good access to education and reproductive health care, though there is some concern over the high rate of maternal mortality in some countries, and gender-based violence (see below). Maternal mortality rates are generally low, ranging from 24 to 53, with the exception of Jamaica (110), Suriname (130), Guyana (280).
- The Gender Inequality Index (GII) from the 2014 UNDP Human Development report indicates the relative position of the region. For the 7 countries where full data is available, the ranked Caribbean countries (out of 151) are Bahamas (53, GII 0.316), Trinidad & Tobago (56, GII 0.321), Barbados (66, GII 0.350), Belize (84, GII 0.435), Jamaica (88, GII 0.457), Suriname (95, GII 0.463), and Guyana (113, GII 0.524). While these rates are around or below the world average of 0.450, Belize, Jamaica and Suriname show higher levels of gender inequality than the average for their high human development group (0.315).
- **Violence against Women and Girls:** Sexual violence against women is high across the Caribbean, with all CARICOM countries showing higher than the global average per capita rates (UNIFEM 2010). The legal framework for addressing sexual offences is uneven across the region and generally inadequate to meet the imperative of increasing state accountability and addressing impunity (UNIFEM 2010).
- **Sexual Minorities:** Homosexuality remains illegal in much of the region and laws against buggery criminalise relationships between men who have sex with men. Opposition to homosexuality remains. While not widespread, there have been some incidents of serious violence against

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities (LGBT) in some parts of the region. Homophobia and prejudice against HIV are seen as contributing factors to the prevalence of AIDS and have prevented access to treatment and support.

Crime/Justice

- The region has high rates of violent crime; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Report cites the Caribbean as having the highest homicide rate of any region of the world. The UN Human Development Report on Citizen Security in the Caribbean cites high rates of extra-judicial killings by security forces in some countries, prison overcrowding, and a backlogged court system as key challenges.
- All countries retain the death penalty for murder, and the last execution was carried out in 2008.

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

- **Social and Economic Rights:** The Caribbean has generally maintained reasonable levels on the Human Development Index. Based on available data, the direction of travel is stable. The trends on poverty are mixed, increasing, stable or decreasing in various countries. On maternal mortality, the direction of travel in Jamaica, Suriname and Guyana is an *increase*.
- **Civil and Political Rights:** The Freedom House ratings in this area have been relatively stable and in the few cases where they have changed in recent years, it has generally been an improvement.
- Limited data is available to assess the direction of travel on discrimination and other human rights issues.
- **Discrimination Against Sexual Minorities:** Discrimination is being challenged by local and international agencies working on HIV who maintain that prejudice continues to fuel the epidemic. There has also been some increasing visibility of, and advocacy from, LGBT groups. Public opposition to legal reform remains strong, yet in some contexts, some limited political space appears to be opening for regional leaders to engage in national dialogue on the issue.
- **Crime/Justice:** Legal reform of the **death penalty** generally continues to be resisted by political leaders and the public, in spite of lobbying from international agencies such as Amnesty International. Whilst there are some signs of a new openness, increasing concern over violent crime in the region fuels support for its retention. **Abuses by the police and security forces**, including the shooting of citizens in some jurisdictions, have led to demands from human rights organisations for greater accountability.

UK GOVERNMENT APPROACH

The UK promotes social, economic, civil and political rights through diplomatic activity and its development programmes:

- Promoting transparency and accountability of the police and a reduction of extra-judicial killings – particularly in Jamaica through the Jamaica Constabulary Force Accountability Programme (which supports the country's Independent Commission of Investigations).
- Supporting citizen empowerment to demand access to basic social services and hold government agencies to account through the recently concluded Citizen Security and Justice Programme Phase 2.
- Supporting access to justice and freedom from violence especially for the poorest and most marginalised communities in Jamaica through the pipeline Citizen Security and Justice Programme Phase 3, which will also include some elements tackling VAWG.
- Seeking to integrate gender equality issues better into our programme and policy work.

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