



Voluntary National Review

*Creating a Sustainable Future
for Generations to Come*

BARBADOS
2023

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VOLUNTARY
NATIONAL REVIEW
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*“Creating a Sustainable Future for
Generations to Come”*

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2023

Barbados' Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals presented to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

June 2023

Prime Minister's Office
Government Headquarters
Bay Street
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Barbados, W.I.

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Acronyms/ abbreviations

1M TFSMI	One Million Tree Food Security and Mitigation Initiative
5Ps	People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership
BANGO	Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organisation
BAMP	Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners
BARSPIP	Barbados Social Protection Policy, Strategy, and Implementation Plan for a Rationalised National Social Protection System
BADMC	Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
BAMC	Barbados Agricultural Management Corporation
BARNUFO	Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organization
BCED	Barbados Customs and Excise Department
BDS \$	Barbados Dollars
BDS	Barbados Drug Service
BE	Blue Economy
BERT	Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation
BESF	Barbados Environmental Sustainability Fund
BEST	Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation
BGIC	Blue-Green Investment Corporation
BI	Bridgetown Initiative
BMS	Barbados Meteorological Service
BPW	Business and Professional Women’s Club
BWA	Barbados Water Authority
BWU	Barbados Workers’ Union

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CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARDI	Community Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARE	Community Agricultural Response and Empowerment
CBB	Central Bank of Barbados
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
CC	Climate Change
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCF	Contingent Credit Facility
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CEC	Caribbean Employers' Confederation
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management
CODI	Core Diagnostic Instrument
COP	Conference of Parties
CORRALL	Coral Reef Restoration Alliance
CORVI	Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index
COVID-19	Coronavirus 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CWP	Country Work Programme
CZMU	Coastal Zone Management Unit
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

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EE	Energy Efficiency
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFF	Extended Fund Facility
ESG	Environmental, Social Governance
EU	European Union
FADs	Fishing Aggregating Devices
FCIU	Family Conflict Intervention Unit
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FEED	Farmers Empowerment and Enfranchisement Drive
FSC	Financial Services Commission
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOB	Government of Barbados
HDI	Human Development Index
HDF	Hydrogène de France
HDR	Human Development Report
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
HOPE	Home Ownership Providing Energy
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFA	International Financial Architecture
IFC	Insight Finechem
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISLANDS	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
KW	Kilowatts
LBS	Land-Based Sources
LGBTQ	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security
MENB	Ministry of Environment, National Beautification, Blue and Green Economy
METVT	Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training
MFEAI	Ministry of Finance Economic Affairs and Investment
MHW	Ministry of Health and Wellness
MFADs	Moored Fishing Aggregating Devices
MLSP	Ministry of Labour, Social Partnership and Third Sector
MPEA	Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
MSP	Maine Spatial Plan
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease

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NCRIPP	National Coastal Risk Information and Planning Platform
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSP	National Strategic Plan
NTI	National Transformation Initiative
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organisations of Eastern Caribbean States
OETS	Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies
PAHO	Pan- American Health Organization
PCS	Barbados Port Community System
PFM	Public Financial Management
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PSSEP	Public Sector Smart Energy Programme
PFM	Public Financial Management
PV	Photovoltaic
PWD	Person with disability
QEH	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
R2RP	Roofs to Reefs Programme
RE	Renewable Energy
REEF	Residential Energy Efficiency Programme
RFID	Radio Frequency Identification
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
RST	Resilience and Sustainability Trust
RTRE	Right to Renewable Energy

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SME	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
SOE	State-Owned Enterprise
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPBMP	Schools' Positive Behaviour Management Programme
SRM	Sovereign Rating Model
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WBGI	World Bank Governance Indicators
WCR	Wide Caribbean Region
WEF	World Economic Forum

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WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WSRNS	Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability
WTE	Waste to Energy

Opening Statement

Barbados' efforts to achieve full national and sustainable development continue to bear fruit despite the triple threat, multiple and multiplier impacts posed by the Climate Crisis, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine. Our recovery to date, is the direct result of our pursuit of unified and strategic approaches to difficulty and crisis, which are typical of who we are as a people. Put simply, it is what we call, "the Bajan way."



Barbados is pursuing nationally developed policies and programmes intended to transform all three pillars of sustainable development - society, economy and environment.

Our social thrust is now encompassed in the *Declaration of Mission Barbados*, signed by the trades unions, private sector umbrella bodies and the government, on May 1, 2023. Its objective is to ensure that Barbados becomes a sustainable, prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society. *Declaration Mission Barbados* solidified our commitment to the elevation of our country by 2030, through collaboration with all national stakeholders and the promotion of Barbados as a champion and exemplar of sustainable development locally and globally.

Its six 'missions' will guide Barbados in establishing a dynamic approach to economic and social development that delivers value to our people and provides safety nets for the most vulnerable, whilst setting us on a path to more inclusive and sustainable growth with climate, health, social and cultural goals. As Prime Minister, I will lead in reimagining the role of the state as a market shaper and lever for growth, as we seek to build a fair and inclusive society where public health and safety are priority; a society in which no one is left behind.

There is no doubt that the climate crisis constitutes a grave development challenge requiring substantial capital for adaptation, mitigation and resilience building. At the level of the economy, The Bridgetown Initiative, our proposal to reform the International Financial Architecture (IFA), aims to overcome the challenges of mobilising climate finance for

vulnerable countries, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Further, the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Plan and its successor BERT 2.0, a series of structural reforms aimed at fiscal stabilisation, reduction of debt and promotion of sustainable growth, are giving new impetus to our economy and creating greater levels of economic empowerment. Through this economic reform we will generate domestic resources for sustainable development activities and fighting the climate crisis.

Conscious that recovery from exogenous shocks must have a significant environmental component and rest on promoting and building a resilient green and blue economy, Barbados is capitalising on being, not merely a small island developing state, but on maximising our resources and potential as a “large ocean state.” In that regard, Barbados has also crafted indigenous responses to counteract some of the devastating effects of climate change.

We recognise the value of the Roofs to Reefs Programme (R2RP), a sustainable development model that aligns to ten of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through the improvement of the social and environmental conditions of our people, while enhancing our resilience to the climate crisis. We are using renewable energy to meet both our targets to protect our natural and built environments, as well as our target of greater economic empowerment and intergeneration wealth for a larger number of Barbadians.

It is encouraging that in compiling this Voluntary National Review (VNR), consultations with public and private sector stakeholders, as well as members of our civil society, together with a comprehensive review of national SDG implementation and its mainstreaming into our policy, programming and planning frameworks, revealed that over 90% of our strategies and policies are indeed aligned with the SDGs. The national SDG theme of *Creating a Sustainable Future for Generations to Come*, highlights the importance of our children and youth, but urges adults to take a moment for introspection and consider the consequences of their current actions.

As Barbados presses forward with our objective of sustainable development by 2030, three clear imperatives emerge for us – we must remain committed to the 2030 agenda; we must be our brothers’ keepers, unifying against common threats; whatever the challenges, we must prioritise and accelerate our solutions to national development challenges. We must give to these imperatives, the urgency of now.

The Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, S.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Barbados

Highlights

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is grounded in the integrated, indivisible and balanced nature of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The Agenda envisages:

...a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all. A world in which consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources – from air to land, from rivers, lakes and aquifers to oceans and seas – are sustainable. One in which democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger. One in which development and the application of technology are climate-sensitive, respect biodiversity and are resilient. One in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected.






–Transforming Our World, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paragraph 9.

The Government and people of Barbados remain fully committed to this vision. Despite the challenges that confront us, our advancement in the achievement of the SDGs is underpinned by the deliberate implementation of national policies, programmes and initiatives aimed at fostering inclusive sustainable development. We commit to continuing to press forward, recognising that delivering on the SDGs also means that, as a government we deliver on our own explicit development agenda. This commitment is reinforced in our **Declaration Mission Barbados**. In this VNR, we will report on all seventeen (17) of the SDGs, highlighting where we have made significant progress but also identifying areas in need of acceleration.

Barbados' Progress in Achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

SDG in Focus	Progress toward the Goal
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>Barbados is making progress to eradicate extreme poverty and build resilience of the poor and those most vulnerable to multiple shocks and disasters in our society. Our social protection systems and measures are adequately structured and on target to provide comprehensive assistance to the poor and the vulnerable by 2030. Approximately 55.3% of the population was covered by at least 1 social protection benefit in 2021.</p>
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>Barbados is making meaningful progress towards achieving food security and meeting the nutritional needs of our people. Local food production has been enhanced and several initiatives are being implemented to ensure an adequate and healthy diet for all, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations. Barbados is committed to decreasing food imports by 25% by 2025.</p>
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>The health and wellbeing of citizens is of paramount importance and Barbados has advanced on many fronts in this regard. Our maternal, infant and child mortality rates are low and our life expectancy is higher than the regional average. In 2020, the current life expectancy was 80 years for females and 79 years for males. While non-communicable diseases continue to pose a challenge to the health of our people, we are making concerted efforts to address the risk factors. Access to health care is facilitated by our universal healthcare system and we continue to improve on our health financing to further strengthen our health care system.</p>
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>Barbados has a strong record in providing quality education and we have advanced in ensuring equal access to affordable and quality education for all. Barbados achieved a literacy rate of 99.9% and a gross enrolment rate of 98.33 % and 105.48% in primary and secondary education respectively, in 2021. Our ongoing education reform agenda is tailored to increase the number of youth and adults with relevant skills for decent jobs, entrepreneurship and national development. The agenda also allows us to enhance learning opportunities for persons with disabilities.</p>
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Women and girls are provided equal opportunities to fully participate in decision-making across all spheres of life. However, we realise that more needs to be done to achieve gender equality and parity, especially in female employment in senior and middle management and representation in national Parliament. In 2020, 20% of seats were held by women in Parliament. In addition, the female share of employment in senior and middle management positions was 48% in 2019. We are also making progress in addressing violence against women and girls and in recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work.</p>

SDG in Focus	Progress toward the Goal
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>We are well on track to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all of our citizens. As of 2020, 99% of the population have received access to safely managed drinking water services. We are also making progress in implementing integrated water resource management, including the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.</p>
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>Barbados has attained universal access to modern energy services, and we are on an ambitious plan to become the first 100% renewable energy island state in the world through the implementation of the Barbados National Energy Policy (BNEP) 2019-2035. In 2020, 100% of the population had access to electricity and access to clean fuels for cooking.</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>The Government of Barbados (GOB) continues to facilitate economic growth and productivity through its monetary and fiscal policies. After a decline occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen sustained per capita economic growth and increased productivity. In 2021 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita was Barbados Dollars (BDS) 34,452 and unemployment stood at 8.4% in 2022. The supportive policy environment has also fostered the creativity and innovation of our people and provided opportunities for productive employment and decent work, especially targeted at the youth.</p>
 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Considering the vulnerability of our infrastructure to extreme events and disasters, we are making efforts to build resilient infrastructure to sustain our industrialization. Our progress in upgrading infrastructure and retrofitting industries is notable, but more needs to be done to facilitate small- and medium-scale enterprises' access to financing. In 2021, 81.8% of the population had access to the internet and 122% mobile cellular penetration was reported.</p>
 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>Barbados is a champion of social, economic and political inclusion and has demonstrated this on the global scene. The policies of the government promote equality across all spheres and contribute to the empowerment of those most at risk of being left behind. These policies include fostering higher minimum wages for decent living and reduction of inequalities. In fact, the human capital index was 0.79, ranking Barbados at number 70 in the world.</p>
 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Provision of adequate, safe and affordable housing is essential to wellbeing and the Government of Barbados is making investment in this area. Complementary to this is government's investment in urban renewal/regeneration as part of our comprehensive Physical Development Plan (PDP) 2021 to enhance inclusive and sustained urbanization.</p>

SDG in Focus	Progress toward the Goal
 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>Government is facilitating the implementation of policies to assist with the adjustment of consumption patterns through updated legislative acts. We are making progress in attaining responsible consumption and production. Public-private partnerships such as the Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre (SBRC) assist with the reduction of the volume of waste which ends up at landfill sites. Strategies to make our consumption and production patterns sustainable are ongoing and are being aided by raising people’s awareness and consciousness of lifestyles that promote sustainable development.</p>
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Barbados’ national policies, strategies and programmes in the area of climate change action are robust. We are implementing integrated climate change measures in our policy frameworks. The Barbados 2021 Update of the First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) outlines the Government of Barbados’ updated plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030. Our citizens have a high level of awareness of climate change, and we continue to enhance our technical capacity in the area of climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning systems in order to strengthen our resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.</p>
 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>Barbados is at the forefront of promoting the economic benefit of the sustainable use of marine resources. To this end, we are making progress in preventing and reducing marine pollution and promoting responsible fishery practices, including those related to trade. In 2022, approximately 6,000 persons were employed in the fisheries sector and in 2019, fisheries contributed 0.15% to GDP.</p>
 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>The biodiversity of our ecosystem is paramount to our sustainable development and Barbados is making progress in promoting sustainable use of the terrestrial ecosystem. We have incorporated integrated ecosystem and biodiversity values in the national policy framework through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2020. With this plan, we are taking actions to preserve the environment and conserve our biodiversity.</p>
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>Barbados has strong institutions that promote a peaceful and inclusive society. We have equal access to justice and have built a culture of accountability in our people. We are committed to ending violence and modernising our justice systems. In 2021, the Homicide rate was 16.72 per 100,000 people. Additionally, in 2021, Barbados received a grade of 65 on the corruption perception index making Barbados the least corrupt in the Caribbean. Barbados continues to make progress in tackling trafficking of persons and illicit goods, including arms and illicit financial flows.</p>

SDG in Focus

Progress toward the Goal



Barbados is a global leader in advocating for a revitalised Global partnership for Sustainable Development. Through the [Bridgetown Initiative \(BI\)](#), we have proposed a revolutionary climate finance model which aims to overcome some of the main shortcomings of mobilizing climate finance for climate vulnerable countries with low ability to raise finance, and dependence on official development assistance (ODA) or remittances for economic development. Nonetheless, we continue to strengthen our domestic resource mobilization and attract foreign direct investment for sustainable development, including for the SDGs.

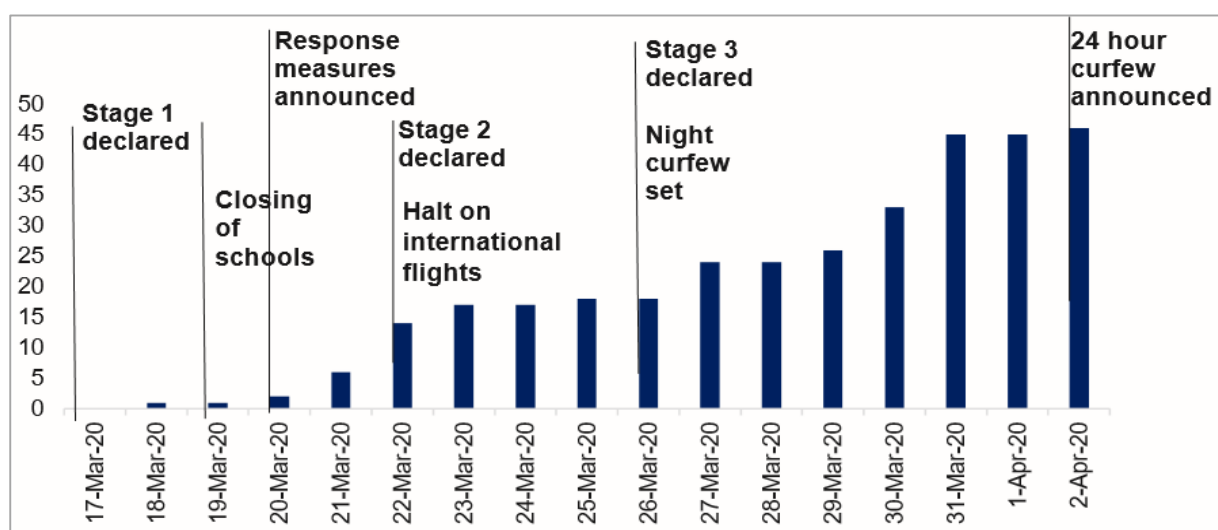
Our response to COVID-19

On March 17th, 2020, Barbados confronted the realities of the global COVID-19 pandemic as we recorded our first two cases of the virus. As of May 12th, 2023, more than three years later, Barbados has recorded 107,794 cases¹. It was through the assistance of the international community, regional partners, the Barbadian diaspora, and those resident in the country, that we were able to reach, and assist some of our most vulnerable on the island. Like many countries in the Caribbean, the COVID-19 pandemic not only caused a public health emergency such as we have never experienced before, but it also decimated our economy. The impact was particularly felt by micro and small enterprises which are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector. In responding to the challenge, the pandemic posed to our health, economic and social systems, the GOB prioritized the protection of the most vulnerable in society.

The aim of the GOB has been to facilitate macroeconomic stability and to build resilience to ensure that we are able to withstand future shocks and challenges. While, the pandemic had devastating effects on our nation, our response exemplified the understanding that the only way to get through the toughest of times is to take definitive and strategic decisions, and to be our brothers' keeper. It was through a strong national spirit, the support of regional partners and the assistance of the international community, the unwavering love of "home" demonstrated by the Barbadian diaspora, that we were able to reach, and assist those in need.

¹ <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/covid-19-statistics-for-april-29-to-may-12-2023/>

Figure 1 Timeline of COVID-19 responses- phases 1 – 3, Barbados (number of cases).



Source: Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Throughout our COVID-19 response, an inclusive and consultative approach by engagement with the social partnership and dialogue with the public of Barbados was adopted.

The Impact of The COVID-19 Pandemic On SDG Attainment

No doubt, the pandemic affected Barbados’ progress towards achieving the SDGs. Several projects and initiatives, either ongoing or scheduled for upcoming implementation, were paused, or delayed as we prioritized our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our financial system was also restructured, and funds previously allocated for specific programmes and projects were redirected to the health sector to address the impact of the pandemic. SDG acceleration will require decisive action. The GOB plans to achieve this through enhanced policy coherence, strengthened stakeholder relations, both in the public and private sectors, and improved monitoring and evaluation frameworks which adequately measure progress and facilitate adequate reporting on the Global Goals. The GOB remains committed to fostering an environment for realizing the SDGs and stimulating the necessary fiscal and economic transformation which are required to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

In 2020, Barbados’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was BDS \$9.2 billion, representing an 11.6% decline from 2019 and due to the COVID-19 impacts. Forecasts project a slow but gradual recovery, with pre-pandemic levels set to return fully by 2024. GDP growth is driven largely by

the tourism sector, particularly in the post COVID-19 period. Barbados' tax-to-GDP ratio stood at 35.2% in 2020, above the average for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (21.9 %). Between 2019 and 2020, our GDP ratio increased by 1.3 percent (from 33.9 % in 2019 to 35.2 % in 2020)². The BERT program aims to decrease the debt-to-GDP ratio.

	2017	2018	2019R	2020R	2021P
Agriculture					
Total	129.5	146.4	138.5	139.1	143.6
Sugar Cane	6.9	7.7	4	10.1	6.8
Total Non-Sugar Agriculture	122.6	138.7	134.5	129	136.9
Food Crops	24	36.5	37.5	38.1	36.8
Livestock	83.8	88.3	90.8	83	92.8
Other Cultivation	0	0	0	0	-
Fishing	14.8	13.9	6.1	7.9	7.3
Manufacturing					
Total	510.1	498.3	498.2	456.7	489.9
Sugar	9.1	14	11.8	12.1	13
Food, Beverages & Tobacco	272.5	263.4	263.1	243.8	270.5
Wood/Wood Products	14.7	13.1	13	12.2	14.5
Paper Products, Printing & Publishing	63.9	59.6	57.1	51.1	50.4
Chemicals, Oil & Non-Metallic Minerals	68.3	68.4	73.6	68.5	75.2
Metal Products & Assembled Goods	49.2	47.7	45.9	43.7	43.4
Other Manufacturing	32.3	32.2	33.6	25.3	22.8
Total Selected Sub-Industries	639.6	644.7	636.7	595.8	633.5
Gross Domestic Product at Basic Prices	9,963.2	10,194.60	10,648.50	9,343.6	9,687.6

Table 1 GDP by sub-industry 2017 – 2021.

Source: Barbados Statistical Service (BSS)

² Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean 2022 – Barbados. Available at: www.oecd.org/tax/tax-policy/revenue-statistics-latin-america-and-caribbean-barbados.pdf

Introduction

Barbadians have a strong sense of culture and national identity, and the building of social cohesion and social capital has been the priorities of successive governments. Emphasis has always been placed on sustainable development and in consequence, there is free universal health care, and education for all citizens from primary to tertiary levels, housing programmes provided by both the public and private sectors and social safety nets for the most vulnerable. The island is currently seeking to “reimagine” and transform its educational system to one that is more fair, inclusive, relevant, and modern (FIRM), the objective of which is to ensure “a bright future for every child.” It is proposed that the new approach to teaching, featuring customised lessons which match students’ learning styles, will be more grounded in technology. The country is aiming to produce citizens who are proud of national values and traditions but are equipped to compete in global theatres.

Barbados has transformed its economy from a traditional, agrarian-based economy at the time of Independence, to one that is modern and service-based, with the tourism and banking sectors contributing around 70% of GDP.³ With a GDP per capita of BDS \$37,964.20 (World Bank 2022),⁴ our island nation is considered a high-income country. Barbados is therefore largely unable to access concessionary loans or grant capital for climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives or for sustainable development programmes, although located within the hurricane belt and highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

A four-month period in 2021 is indicative of the kind of environmental and climate crises which jeopardise development gains and stymie planning and execution of programmes. On April 10, the La Soufriere Volcano⁵ in St. Vincent erupted and continued to erupt for weeks thereafter. The result was a thick ash plume which “turned day to night” in Barbados with devastating

³ <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/e408a7e21ba62d843bdd90dc37e61b57-0500032021/related/mpo-brb.pdf>

⁴ World Bank Indicators. Available at <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/e408a7e21ba62d843bdd90dc37e61b57-0500032021/related/mpo-brb.pdf>

⁵ <https://bb.usembassy.gov/natural-disaster-alert-volcanic-ash-in-barbados-u-s-embassy-barbados-and-the-eastern-caribbean/#:~:text=Event%3A%20The%20Barbados%20Meteorological%20Services,is%20currently%20affectin,g%20the%20island>

impacts for agriculture, the state of roads and buildings, human health, social activity, and resulting in the closure of the island's international airport. Then on June 17, there was a freak storm during which the Barbados Meteorological Service (BMS) registered 4700 lightning strikes in the space of an hour.⁶ That was followed three weeks later, by Elsa, a Category 1 Hurricane.⁷ The combined cost of cleanup, the repair of property and infrastructure resulting from Hurricane Elsa is currently BDS \$66 million and is expected to rise to BDS \$120 million as recovery efforts continue.

Within the last two decades, Barbados has made significant progress in achieving the SDGs, including the implementation of numerous policies and initiatives aimed at promoting resilience, which allows the country to better face shocks and disasters, and enables faster, more comprehensive responses and recovery. Some of the policies and initiatives on which the country's sustainable development agenda rests, which are aligned with the SDGs and contribute to Barbados' efforts to achieve the 17 Global Goals, include the BNEP, the Public Sector Smart Energy Project, Barbados Blue Economy Initial Action Plan, Barbados Growth and Development Strategy, BERT, the R2RP, Barbados National Green Economy and the Barbados Sustainable Development policies, as well as policies for sustainable agriculture, food security and water resources protection, all of which are of critical importance in a country that is water scarce and is heavily reliant on food imports.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the economy of Barbados. The country's tourism industry, which is a major source of revenue for the country⁸, was severely affected by the pandemic. The closure of borders and the implementation of travel restrictions resulted in a significant decline in tourist arrivals.⁹ As a result, many hotels and other tourism-related businesses were forced to close, leading to a loss of 40% of jobs in that sector and income for many Barbadians.

⁶ <https://barbados.loopnews.com/content/weather-expert-says-2021-freak-thunderstorm-could-reoccur-607091#:~:text=The%20Barbados%20Light%20and%20Power,their%20infrastructure%20%2D%20lines%20and%20hardware>

⁷ <https://today.caricom.org/2021/07/02/elsa-is-the-first-hurricane-to-hit-barbados-in-65-years-reports-of-damage-across-the-island/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9JYSyCMI5w>

⁸ Estimated some 31% of GDP <https://www.undp.org/barbados/first-impact-data>

⁹ Impact of the COVID-Pandemic on Barbados: Available at: <http://www.centralbank.org.bb/news/article/9880/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-the-barbados-economy> <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/covid-19-impact-could-lead-to-over-4-trillion-in-losses/>

In response to the pandemic, the GOB implemented a series of measures aimed at mitigating the impact on the economy and protecting the most vulnerable in society. These measures include the introduction of a stimulus package to support businesses and individuals affected by the pandemic, the implementation of a social safety net to provide support to vulnerable households and the provision of financial support to the healthcare system. These initiatives were financed through various loan facilities amounting to BDS \$1406 million, which resulted in an increase of public debt by 11% (Barbados Development Finance Assessment 2022).

A defining feature of SIDS such as Barbados is that they are far from the centres of global production and distribution. SIDS' small size makes them unattractive, low-volume customers whose distance results in high supply costs. The Global shutdowns which were caused by COVID-19, resulted in supply shortages and high costs for food, fuel and every commodity in between. These supply side challenges also drove inflationary prices. Supply-side shortages and high costs were greatly exacerbated by SIDS' defining characteristics of small size, low volumes, great distance and the high costs to reach markets. The GOB continued national support programmes for the vulnerable, through the provision of financial support for food and essentials to some thousands of families.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine war and the ever-hovering pall of the climate crisis, Barbados is recovering well. The Central Bank of Barbados (CBB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) both project growth^{10,11} of approximately 4% in 2023. In the following sections of this VNR, there will be a more detailed analysis of Barbados' policies, programmes and initiatives that are moving our country toward sustainable development. As we advance in our SDG implementation nationally, Barbados is also actively advocating for social, environmental and economic justice for other vulnerable SIDS and

¹⁰Outlook for the Barbados Economy. Available at:

<http://www.centralbank.org.bb/news/article/11257/outlook-for-the-barbados-economy#:~:text=The%20economy%20is%20expected%20to,further%20impetus%20to%20the%20economy>

¹¹ IMF Reaches Staff level Agreement. Available at:

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/05/12/pr23150-barbados-imf-reaches-staff-level-agreement-with-barbados-on-the-eff#:~:text=The%20economy%20grew%20strongly%20in,has%20already%20exceeded%202019%20levels.>

developing countries. The Prime Minister, the Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, S.C., M.P. was appointed in 2020 as co-chair of the World Bank's Development Committee along with Azucena Arbeleche, Minister of Economy and Finance of Uruguay. More recently, in April 2022 the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, appointed Prime Minister Mottley to co-chair the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates Group with the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.

Overall, Barbados is strongly committed to promoting sustainable development and following a low carbon development strategy. Our socio-economic and environmental policies and initiatives align with many SDGs and are designed to help us reduce our vulnerabilities to social, economic and environmental shocks, thereby achieving a more sustainable future, while always ensuring the provision of support to the most vulnerable members of our society. Our goal is a resilient economy; an environment which is protected for this and future generations; and a prosperous inclusive society with happy, self-actualised citizens.



The Dimensions of Sustainable Development, a Barbados Context

The three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic, are embedded in our approaches to development. On the environmental front, Barbados has implemented several policies and initiatives to protect our natural resources, such as the Blue Economy Roadmap, which oversees the management, conservation and development of the Blue Economy.

Barbados' social dimension is characterized by a relatively high Human Development Index (HDI), ranking number 70 out of 191¹² countries in the 2021 Human Development Report with a strong focus on universal education and healthcare¹³. The GOB has also implemented several programmes to support vulnerable populations such as the Poverty Alleviation and Reduction strategy. As a services-based economy, the tourism sector contributes significantly to the GDP. In 2019, according to the Central Bank of Barbados (CBB), 17.5% of our GDP was attributed to the tourism sector. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the contribution decreased sharply to as low as 2.8% in 2021 due to restrictions on travel and dampened demand. However, the country has been working to diversify its economy further and reduce its dependence on this sector through initiatives such as the Blue Green Economy Scoping Study and Initial Action Plan, which identifies opportunities and strategies for green growth. Overall, we recognize the interconnectedness of the three dimensions of sustainable development and are working to balance economic growth with environmental protection and social progress.

Our Social Context

Population dynamics

Barbados population, estimated at 281, 995 is relatively aged, with 16% of the population over the age of 65, 66% between 15 and 64 years old, and only 16% below the age of 15¹⁴. Between 2021 and 2022, our population grew at an annual average rate of 0.15%. Barbados has a fairly balanced population of males and females, with a slightly larger female population in most age groups, as seen in Figure 2¹⁵.

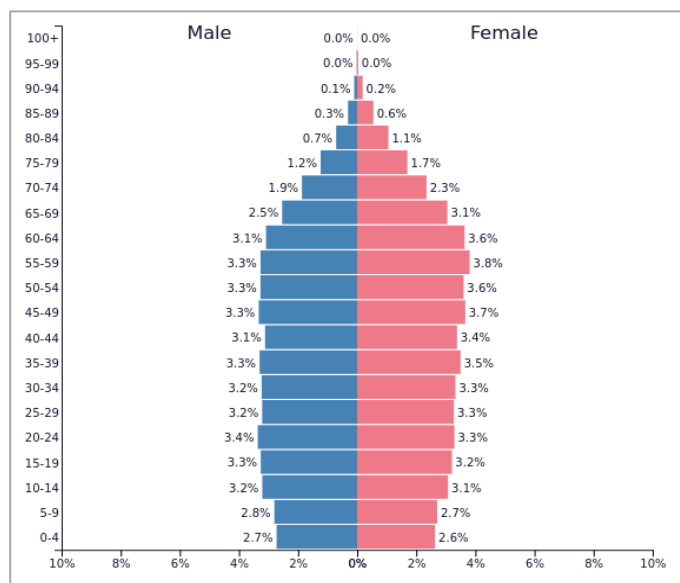
¹² <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights#/ranks>

¹³ <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI>

¹⁴ Trading Economics. Available at: <https://tradingeconomics.com/barbados/indicators-wb-data.html?g=health>

¹⁵ Population pyramid, Barbados. Available at: <https://www.populationpyramid.net/barbados/2021/>

Figure 2 Barbados Population Pyramid 2021



Year	End-of-Year Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Rate of Natural Increase	Rate of Infant Mortality	Rate of Population Growth
	('000 persons)	(Per 1000 pop.)	(Per 1000 pop.)	(Per 1000 pop.)	(Per 1000 births)	(%)
2010	276.3	12.2	8	4.2	10.1	0.2
2011	276.8	11.8	8.8	3	13.7	0.2
2012	277.7	11.5	8.7	2.8	11	0.1
2013	277.5	10.9	8.2	2.7	7.3	0.2
2014	276.9	10.5	9.3	1.2	10	-0.2
2015	276.3	10.4	9.2	1.2	8	-0.2
2016	275.4	9.2	9.4	-0.2	13.5	-0.3
2017	274.5	9.4	9.6	-0.2	8.9	-0.3
2018	273.5	8.8	9.3	-0.5	9.1	-0.4
2019	272.3	9.5	10.6	-1.1	7.3	-0.4
2020	270.9	8.7	10	-1.3	6.4	-0.5
2021	269.4	8.2	9.2	-2.5	11.3	-0.6

Table 2 Population and Demographic Statistics for Barbados 2010-2021

(Compiled from data obtained by the Barbados Statistical Service).

Barbados faces a challenge of its ageing population and declining fertility rates¹⁶ as shown in **Table 2**, which may affect our economic and social development in the future. The GOB has implemented various policies and programmes to address these challenges. In addition, the GOB has established the National Population Commission which has posited several recommendations including longer periods of maternity leave, establishing rights of fathers to take paternity leave and offering tax concessions for families with dependent children. Also included in those recommendations were measures to encourage repatriation of citizens in the diaspora through increased job opportunities and increased ease of doing business, and the continuity of the Barbados Network Programme which allows the tax-free importation of vehicles and other belongings by repatriated nationals¹⁷.

Human Development

Barbados has made notable progress in each of the HDI indicators, positioning us among the countries with high HDIs. Over the past decade, Barbados has made significant progress in increasing our HDI value from 0.764 in 2010 to 0.8 in 2021. Access to universal health care and education up to tertiary level have



been considered as priority for the GOB and has contributed to the progress being seen. Life expectancy at birth has also increased steadily over the past 20 years, with an average increase of 2.2 years between 2000 and 2020.

¹⁶ Trading Economics. Available at: <https://tradingeconomics.com/barbados/fertility-rate-total-births-per-woman-wb-data.html>

¹⁷ Draft Recommendations of the National Population Commission. Available at <https://barbadosdigital.com/news/draft-barbados-population-commission-report-published>

Education

Barbados has achieved Universal Education and has seen an increase in enrolment in the pre-primary level, from 57% in 2000 to 94% in 2020. At the secondary level, enrolment has been consistent at 98%, while at the tertiary level, it stood at 40% in 2020.



We boast of a well-developed education system that emphasizes lifelong learning, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As a government, our focus areas in education now include improving the quality of education, increasing access to tertiary education and promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education to support our long-term plans of developing a Blue Green Economy. Additionally, the country aims to bridge the gender gap by encouraging more women to pursue careers in STEAM fields. We also seek to improve the transition from education to employment, by enhancing vocational training programmes and aligning education curricula with the needs of the labour market.

Health

An important feature of our healthcare system is that from 2018, Barbados began upgrading its system of polyclinics to increase access to services and reduce wait times at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This system facilitated the 24-hour opening of some polyclinics. We have also made significant strides in improving our health indicators over the past few years. The average life expectancy in Barbados is 79 years, with females having a 5-year lead life expectancy at birth. Maternal health rates have also shown significant improvement, with 100% coverage on births attended by skilled staff. The mortality rate in Barbados is 12.6 per 1000 live births, under-5 mortality rate is 13.8 to 1000 live births. One out of four children (0-5 months) in Barbados are exclusively breastfed. The adolescent fertility rate (births per 1000 teenagers between the ages of 15-19) has decreased from 33.5 in 2017 to 26.29 in 2020.



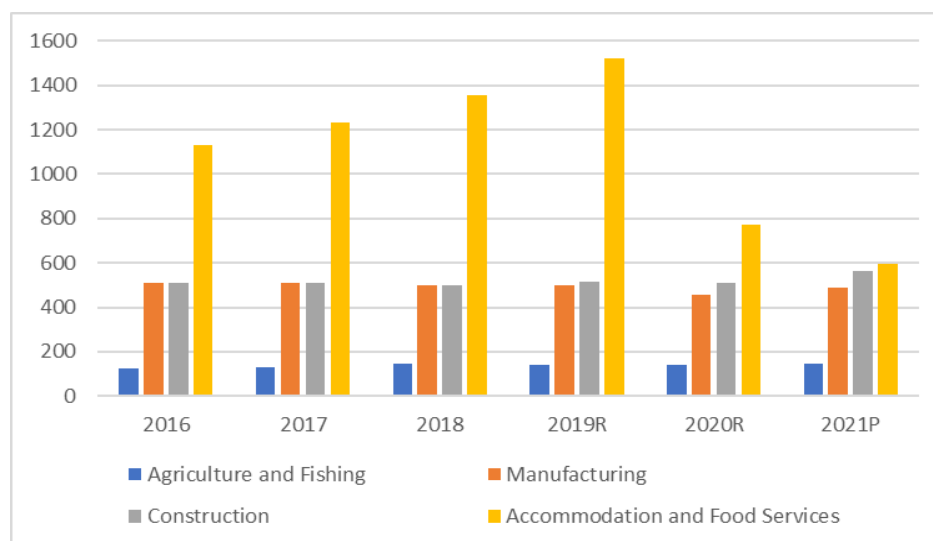
The GOB has implemented capacity-building policies and other interventions through the World Health Organization (WHO) to address morbidity and mortality rates in the country, and our adherence to regional health cooperation agreements has contributed to an improvement in the health sector. Despite progress in several aspects of our national health profile, we have seen persistent rates of obesity in children and adolescents and Diabetes Mellitus. One out of 10 children (10%) under 5 years old is overweight. There are also challenges with obesity and the prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in our adult population. It has been reported that one quarter of all adults in Barbados have a NCD, and these diseases are invariably responsible for 83% of all deaths in the country¹⁸. As a result, government has formulated a National NCD Commission to provide strategic guidance and oversight for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

¹⁸ There's Not Really Much Consideration Given to the Effect of the Climate on NCDs" —Exploration of Knowledge and Attitudes of Health Professionals on a Climate Change-NCD Connection in Barbados: Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6982231/#:~:text=One%20quarter%20of%20all%20adults,%2Dcommunicable%20disease%20%5B29%5D>.

Our Economic Context

Tourism is the largest income earner for Barbados, employing around 30% of the workforce (**Figure 3**). The industry is driven by our island’s natural beauty, warm climate and our rich cultural heritage. We have been successful at positioning our country as a premium, quality tourism destination, attracting visitors from around the world, particularly from the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Figure 3 Barbados GDP by select industries 2016 – 2021.



(Compiled from data obtained by the Barbados Statistical Service (BSS)¹⁹)

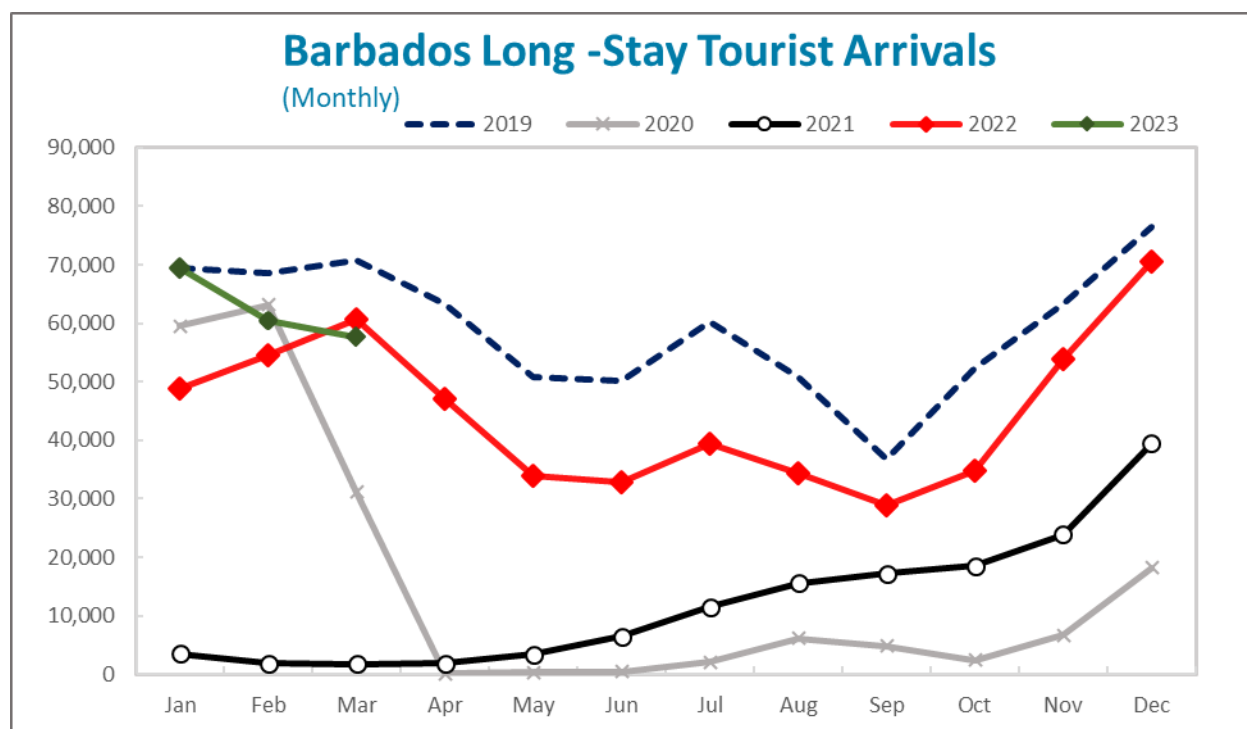
The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has had a significant impact on the tourism industry, with a sharp decline in international travel and ultimately in visitor arrivals and revenue as seen in **Figure 4**. An uncertain international economic environment had emerged, leading to volatile financial markets. Countries were forced to adopt various restrictive measures, including closing their borders temporarily to international travel. Long stay tourist arrivals saw a great decline in passenger arrivals of 71% from 692,658 in 2019 to 195,102 in 2020 and further to 144,833 in 2021. In 2019, Tourism contributed 17.5% to GDP with an estimated contribution of BDS \$1,409.9 million to the economy²⁰. The average contribution from tourism to GDP for 2020 was 6.2% and fell to 2.8% at the end of the year 2021. This reduction in arrivals contributed severely to an 18% contraction of the economy in 2020²¹.

¹⁹ <https://stats.gov.bb/subjects/economic-statistics/gross-domestic-product/gdp-by-sub-industry/>

²⁰ Barbados exchange rate to the US is approximately 2 to 1

²¹ https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/g431_e.pdf

Figure 4 Long-stay Tourist Arrivals Over a Four Year Period



Source: Central Bank of Barbados

To mitigate the impact of the pandemic, in 2021 the government launched several initiatives to support the tourism industry, including a travel bubble with select countries and a vaccine tourism programme. In July 2021, Barbados recorded over 10,000 air passenger arrivals after months of a slump caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Barbados economy is expected to see continued economic growth in 2023 due to the continued expansion in tourism and private sector investments, along with Government’s on-going public investment programme²².

The GOB has announced a plan to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030. To achieve energy efficiency, the GOB has been investing in solar and wind power, as well as other measures such as retrofitting buildings. This is expected to generate savings in the importation costs of fossil fuels, while also advancing our climate goals.

²² <http://www.centralbank.org.bb/news/article/11257/outlook-for-the-barbados-economy#:~:text=The%20economy%20is%20expected%20to,further%20impetus%20to%20the%20economy>.

The renewable energy drive is aligned with Goal 7 of the SDGs, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all citizens. By transitioning to renewable energy, we are promoting energy security, climate resilience and economic growth.

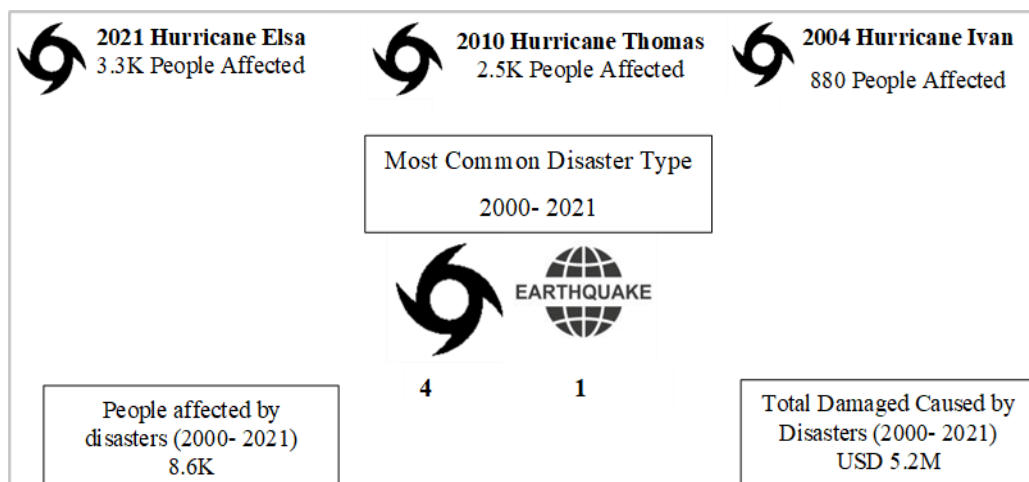


Solar Farm in Trents, St. Lucy, Barbados

Our Environmental Context

As a SIDS, we are particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. More specifically, our island faces several environmental challenges, including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and extreme weather events such as hurricanes and tropical storms. These challenges threaten our infrastructure, coastal ecosystems, and the livelihoods of our people, particularly those in the tourism and fisheries sectors. During the period 2000 to 2021, over 8,000 people were affected by disasters and the financial impact was in excess of BDS \$10.4 million (See Figure 5).

Figure 5 Disaster Mapping in Barbados (2010 – 2021).



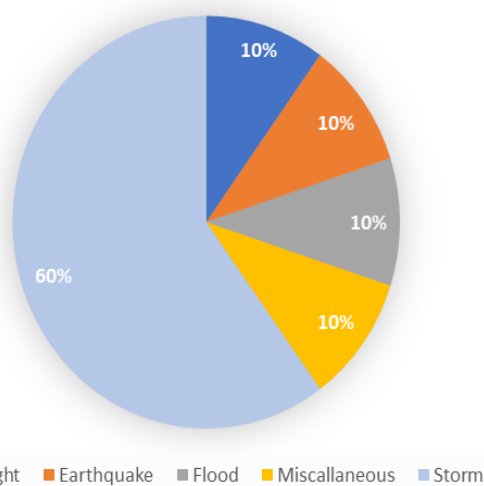
Source: Adapted from: OCHA Barbados Country Profile, May 2022.

In Barbados, Hurricane Elsa in 2021 affected more than 3,000 people and caused extensive damage to infrastructure, costing the government over BDS \$66 million in repairs thus far and expecting to rise to BDS \$120 million. The 2021 La Soufriere's volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent

and the Grenadines also negatively impacted Barbados. Across the island, volcanic ash fall disrupted day-to-day activities for almost two weeks and resulted in large-scale clean-up efforts. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment (MFEAI) estimated the initial cost of the ash fall to the economy at approximately BDS \$87.1 million²³ with the construction, wholesale and retail, accommodation, food services and transportation sectors facing the brunt of the economic fallout²⁴.

According to global experts, there has been increased tropical cyclone activity in the North Atlantic region and this can be directly related to climate change. At 13° N, 59° W, our location

Figure 6 Average annual natural hazard occurrence for 1980 – 2020



at the southern end of the hurricane belt makes us susceptible to severe impacts of these storms during the annual Hurricane Season (June 1 – November 30). We are not only susceptible to storms and hurricanes but also other natural hazards including earthquakes and drought as seen in **Figure 6**²⁵.

As a result of our experiences, we recognize the importance of sustainable development. As such, our national policies and programmes reflect a position of reducing our vulnerability to risks while promoting economic growth coupled with social and environmental responsibility. The GOB has developed many policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development and protecting the environment.

²³ Approximately US 44 million

²⁴ Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Plan, 2022.

²⁵ Climate Knowledge Portal. Available at: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/barbados/vulnerability#:~:text=Related%20effects%20of%20storms%20and,is%20located%20on%20the%20coast.>

Two key policies are:

- The National Sustainable Development Policy – providing a framework for sustainable development with a focus on promoting economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability; and
- The National Climate Change Policy – aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The GOB is also implementing sustainable land use practices, which will diversify our economy, to include agroforestry and sustainable agriculture, in line with SDG 15 (Life on Land). Additionally, we are promoting sustainable tourism practices, such as ecotourism and responsible tourism, in line with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

We remain fully committed to achieving the SDGs as we implement our national development priorities, which are articulated in **Declaration Mission Barbados**.

Declaration Mission Barbados

On 1 May 2023, the Social Partnership comprising government, workers and employers, signed the Declaration of Mission Barbados which has a vision to collectively transform the country into a sustainable, prosperous, inclusive and resilient society by the year 2030. While acknowledging the development challenges of global and national scope that the country is faced with, chiefly categorized as: an unhealthy planet in crisis; a constantly changing value system, which threatens social cohesion; food and water insecurity; deteriorating physical and mental health and pockets of social instability; development deficit that has spawned financial marginalization and worker vulnerability; and inequitable digital access and slow technological conversion, the Declaration challenges Barbadians to shift mindsets towards engaging as citizens and stakeholders in collaborating, innovating, and investing to shape Barbados' future.

To address these challenges and much in alignment with the tenets of the 2030 Agenda, the Social Partners agree to implement Mission Barbados by pursuing the following objectives:






- I. By 2030, become a clean and beautiful large-ocean state, championing sustainable development locally and globally – with the goal of all domestic activities becoming 100% sustainable by 2035.
- II. By 2030, transform Barbados into a country of active, involved citizens. All Barbadians will feel empowered and engaged in the social, economic, and cultural development of the country as confident, creative, compassionate and entrepreneurial citizens.
- III. By 2030, ensure that every Barbadian has equitable and reliable access to clean water and nutritious food that are affordable.
- IV. By 2030, create a society that prioritizes wellness and happiness. Improve public health and safety, leading to a 50% reduction in new cases of non-communicable diseases and a 50% reduction in crime.
- V. By 2030, empower and enfranchise all Barbadian workers and families by creating opportunities for ownership and wealth creation that enable Barbadians to take better care of themselves and each other and reduce the rate of poverty by 50%.
- VI. By 2030, transform Barbados to be a high-functioning, resilient society with seamless access to services and meaningful digital inclusion for all Barbadians.







The Policy and Enabling Environment

Since adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the GOB has worked diligently to incorporate the principles of Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs into its national policies and programmes. These include policies at the national level, sector-specific policies, cross-sectoral programmes and sector-specific initiatives which benefit the national community. This indicates a robust policy and enabling environment which is key in advancing progress under the Global Goals. Here, we highlight some of our keystone national policies which articulate our efforts to integrate the SDGs into national development objectives.

The Roof to Reefs programme (R2RP) and the Barbados Economic and Recovery Transformation Plan (BERT) are two stellar initiatives that are currently being implemented by the GOB to assist with the achievement of the SDGs. Many of these initiatives cannot be positioned neatly under one SDG and have cross-cutting elements related to the areas of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, advancing economic prosperity as well as financing the SDGs. We have taken deliberate steps to effectively integrate economic, social, and environmental issues across several initiatives in pursuit of more sustainable development outcomes and within the context of leaving no one behind in the development space.

SDGs	Policies, Plans Initiatives, Programmes and Projects
<p>SDG 1: No Poverty</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barbados Social Protection System 2. Barbados Social Protection Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan for a Rationalised National Social Protection System (BARSPIP) 2021 – 2024 3. Barbados COVID-19 Response and COVID Related Budget Support 4. The Adopt Our Families Programme 5. E-Training Programme on Social Protection and Quantitative Techniques to support the Implementation of CODI (Core Diagnostic Instruments – related to Social Protection) in Barbados
<p>SDG 2: Zero Hunger</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The Barbados One Million Trees Food Security and Mitigation Initiative 7. St. Barnabas Accord 8. The Barbados/ Guyana Food Terminal (Logistics Food Hub) 9. CARE (Community Agricultural Response and Empowerment) Project 10. Farmers Empowerment and Enfranchisement Drive (FEED) 11. HOPE Agricultural Training Project 12. Increasing Access to Climate Smart Agriculture
<p>SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. National Strategic Plan for Health 2017 – 2022 14. National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2020 – 2025 15. New Health Financing Model 16. State of the Art Facility for School Meals Programme 17. Barbados National Action Plan on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022
<p>Goal 4: Quality Education</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Education Reform Agenda: Reimagining Education 19. National Transformation Initiative 20. 21st Century Educators’ Hub... Lifelong Learning in Action 21. Code Caribbean: Promoting STEAM for Innovation in the Caribbean’ Initiative 22. Introduction of Coding in Nursery. Primary, Special and Secondary Schools... Key to Building Human Capital
<p>Goal 5: Gender Equality</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. National Committee of Gender-based Violence 24. Project On Gender-Based Workplace Violence 25. Gender Based Violence (GBV) Referral Pathways 26. Online Initiative to Enhance Career Opportunities with an Emphasis on Women Participation
<p>Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27. Green Paper on 2020 Water Protection and Land Use Zoning Policy 28. National Water Reuse Policy 29. Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability in Barbados (WSRN S-Barbados) 30. Roofs to Reef Programme (R2RP) – Water Component 31. Modernization of Water Supply Infrastructure and Wastewater Treatment Equipment Project

SDGs	Policies, Plans Initiatives, Programmes and Projects
	32. South Coast Water Reclaim and Water Reduce Project 33. National Erosion Control and Aquifer Recharge Programme on Sugar Plantation Lands
Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy 	34. Barbados Energy Policy 2019 – 2030 35. Public Sector Smart Energy Programme (PSSEP) 36. Sustainable Energy Investment Programme (Phase II)/ Energy Smart Fund II 37. Residential Energy Efficiency Programme (REEF) 38. Barbados Energy Local Content Project 39. Home Ownership Providing Energy (HOPE) Project
Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth 	40. Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Plan 2022: Fiscal Year 2022/23-Fiscal Year 2026/27 41. Disaster Risk Financing Initiatives - 42. Financial Resilience in the Central Bank of Barbados 43. Financial Resilience of the Insurance Sector and Stress-Testing of Insurance Corporations to Climate Change Effects 44. Ratification of the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention
Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 	45. Strategic Platform to Promote Sustainable Energy Technology Innovation, Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship in Barbados 46. BLOOM – Caribbean’s First Cleantech Cluster 47. Barbados Port Community System (PCS) Project 48. Barbados Building Standards Authority
Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities 	49. The Charter of Barbados 50. The Spirit of Speightstown: From Inequality and Vulnerability to Prosperity for All and the Bridgetown Covenant 51. Recreational and Rehabilitative Facility for Persons with Disabilities
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities 	52. The 2021 Physical Development Plan Amendment 53. R2RP Shelter Component 54. Housing Assessment – Operation Seek and Secure Project 55. National Fruit Orchard 56. Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan 57. Policy, Regulatory Framework and Technical Guidelines for Solid Waste Management Facilities 58. Gully Ecosystem and Restoration Project 59. Waste-to-Energy Assessment 60. Waste Management - Moving Waste Collection from Manual to Efficient and Safer Mechanical Operation
Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	61. Barbados Port Development Infrastructure Waste-to Energy Project 62. Production of Bio Energy (Bio-gas and Hydrogen) to enhance Natural Gas Supply Resilience

SDGs	Policies, Plans Initiatives, Programmes and Projects
	<p>63. National Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Response Plan 64. Pesticide Container Management Scheme 65. Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (Islands) Project</p>
<p>Goal 13: Climate Action</p> 	<p>66. 2nd National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – Barbados National Determined Contributions 67. The Barbados Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Country Work Programme (CWP) 2019 – 2023 68. Regional Logistics Hub to Strengthen Emergency Preparedness and Response 69. Green Climate Finance Bank 70. R2RP</p>
<p>Goal 14: Life Below Water</p> 	<p>71. Blue Economy (BE) Roadmap 72. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan 73. Ratification of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities 74. Barbados Blue Bond Project for Ocean Conservation... Turning Debt into Ocean Conservation 75. The Barbados National Coastal Risk Information and Planning Platform 76. R2RP – Ecosystems Component 77. New Fisheries Regulations 78. CORVI (Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index) for Barbados 79. Coral Replanting Initiative</p>
<p>Goal 15: Life on Land</p> 	<p>80. Ecosystems Based Adaptation and Nature Based Solutions 81. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020 82. Renovation of the National Botanical Gardens 83. The Clean and Green Initiative - National Beautification Project 84. Soil Care Project 85. Community Empowerment & Environmental Project – Environmental Action and Community Empowerment</p>
<p>Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</p> 	<p>86. Modernization of the Public Sector 87. Digital Transformation of the Public Sector</p>
<p>Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals</p> 	<p>88. The Bridgetown Initiative for Climate Financing and Sustainable Development 89. The IMF’s Resilience and Sustainability Trust</p>

Our commitment to achieving the SDGs is also highlighted by our efforts to monitor and track progress at a national level. The Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) and the National SDG Report, both completed in April 2023, point to substantial progress in the attainment of all 17 SDGs. The findings of the RIA, which mapped SDG targets against more than 25 policy documents, report a 92% percent SDG target alignment (**see Table 3**).

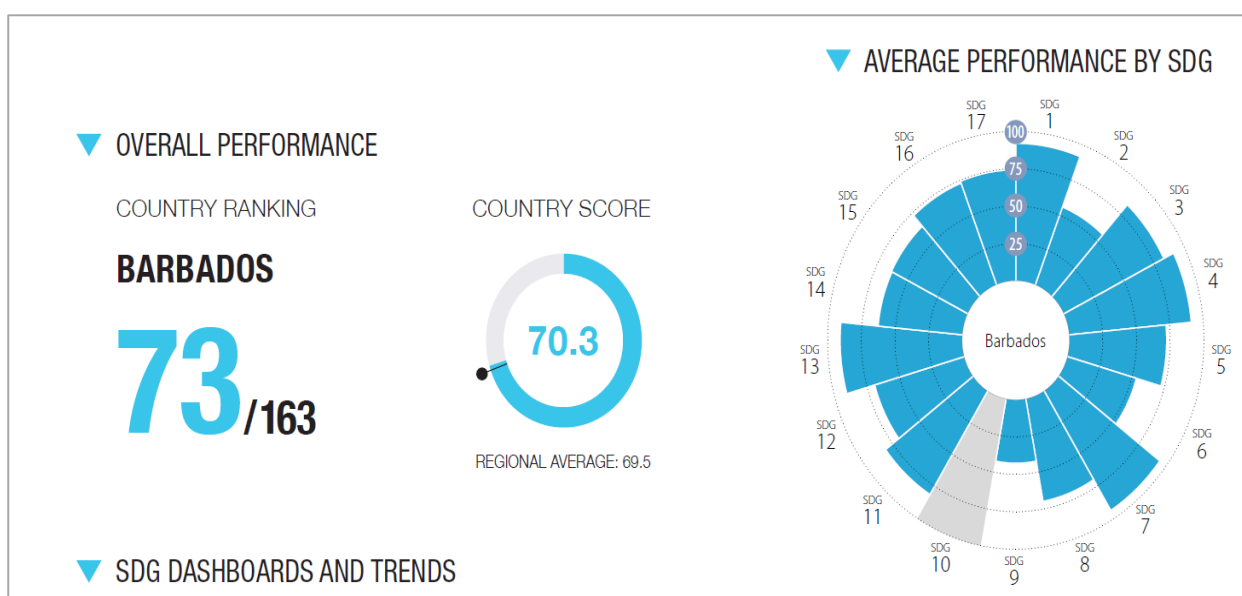
SDG	Alignment							
	Full	%	Partial	%	None	%	Full & Partial	Total %
1: No Poverty	3	75	1	25	0	0	4	100
2: Zero Hunger	3	60	2	40	0	0	5	100
3: Good Health and Well-being	3	38	3	38	2	25	6	75
4: Quality Education	7	100	0	0	0	0	7	100
5: Gender Equality	3	60	1	20	1	20	4	80
6: Clean Water and Sanitation	2	33	3	50	1	17	5	83
7: Affordable and Clean Energy	3	100	0	0	0	0	3	100
8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	4	40	6	60	0	0	10	100
9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	0	0	4	80	1	20	4	80
10: Reduced Inequality	3	60	2	40	0	0	5	100
11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	6	86	1	14	0	0	7	100
12: Responsible Consumption and Production	5	63	3	38	0	0	8	100
13: Climate Action	3	100	0	0	0	0	3	100
14: Life Below Water	5	71	2	29	0	0	7	100
15: Life on Land	5	63	3	38	0	0	8	100
16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	2	22	5	56	2	22	7	78
17: Partnerships for the Goals	3	27	6	55	2	18	9	82
All SDGs	60	54	42	38	9	8	102	92

Table 3 SDG target alignment (partial and total) from Barbados' policy documents.

Source: Adapted from the RIA Report, 2023.

Barbados’ progress, as captured in the Sustainable Development Report 2022, ranks us at #73 out of 163 countries, with a score of 70.3, well above the regional average of 69.5 (Figure 7). The GOB remains steadfast in involving our citizens in the process of national policies and programmes formulation. This inclusive, multi-sectoral and robust policy framework and enabling environment will ensure our continued success in advancing progress towards the Global Goals.

Figure 7 Barbados’ overall SDG performance, 2022.



(Source: Sustainable Development Report, 2022; From Crisis to Sustainable Development: the SDGs as Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond).

Engagement with the SDGs

The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) of Barbados has embarked on a data-driven approach to measuring progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. In consultation with key technical personnel from each Ministry, the 17 SDGs have been carefully mapped and aligned to Ministries, with several SDGs falling under the remit of two or more Ministries. Furthermore, the PMO in collaboration with all state Ministries have adopted core SDG Indicators for reporting in a concerted effort to enhance our data collection and analysis systems as we monitor our progress on the SDGs.

Yet, the GOB remains mindful of the challenges that hinder adequate data collection for measuring our progress in achieving the Global Goals. Recognising these challenges, the GOB

remains committed to refining and improving data collection mechanisms and statistical ecosystem in general.

VNR Methodology and Process

In anticipation of Barbados' second VNR ²⁶, the GOB undertook several key actions. We recognized that multi-sectoral cooperation is required to advance the SDGs and in April 2021, an SDG Working Group was commissioned. This Working Group is tasked with the responsibility to localize the SDGs, and develop and refine methods for inter-agency collaboration, SDG monitoring and reporting systems.

The Working Group commissioned the RIA study in 2023, which measured the alignment of our national policies and other supporting documents to the SDGs. The RIA Report, coordinated by the United Nations System Team for Barbados, was completed in April 2023. Additionally, through the support of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, a National SDG Report was commissioned in late 2022 and this report detailed our progress on all 17 SDGs. Building on the findings of the RIA and National SDG Report, the GOB received technical assistance in April 2023 from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the conduct of the VNR. A critical component of the VNR process was the stakeholder consultations held with members of our public and private sectors as well as civil society organizations. These engagements enriched the process and have informed our VNR report. The timeline of VNR activities is highlighted in **Figure 8**.

²⁶ Barbados made its first VNR presentation to the UN High-level Political Forum in July 2020. Since this presentation was in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Barbados virtually presented a Ministerial statement.

Figure 8 Timeline of VNR activities in Barbados.

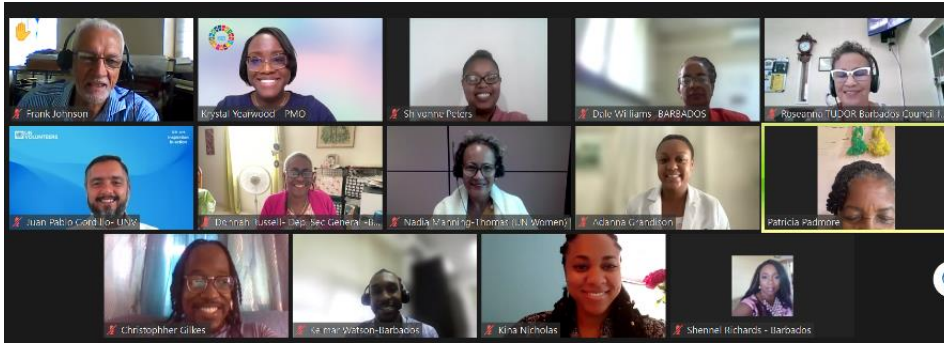


Stakeholder engagement

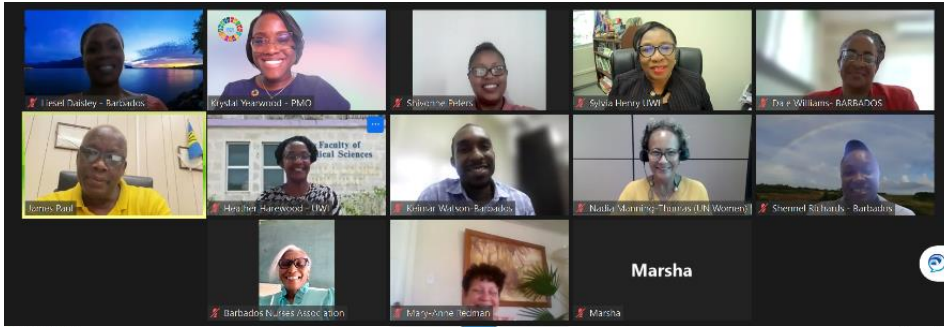
Under the leadership of the PMO, the GOB conducted its second round of consultations on the SDGs. Consultations for the preparation of the VNR report commenced in May 2023 with personnel from government ministries. Six preliminary stakeholder engagement sessions were conducted with our civil society partners including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), ecclesiastical organisations, research institutions and community groups. The consultations were developed around the 5P's: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. A national consultation on the SDGs was held on June 5, 2023, to engage Barbadians on progress towards the SDGs. These consultations helped to:

- **Foster ownership of the SDGs in Barbados** – raise awareness of the SDGs and stakeholders' roles in achieving them as well as facilitating long-term investment in the SDGs. The sessions also allowed stakeholders to review the VNR report.
- **Identify and gather data** – Utilize engagement sessions to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the activities of stakeholders contributing to the achievement of the SDGs; and
- **Create opportunities for collaboration** – Provide groups involved in implementing the SDGs the chance to share challenges and solutions, while identifying policy and implementation gaps.

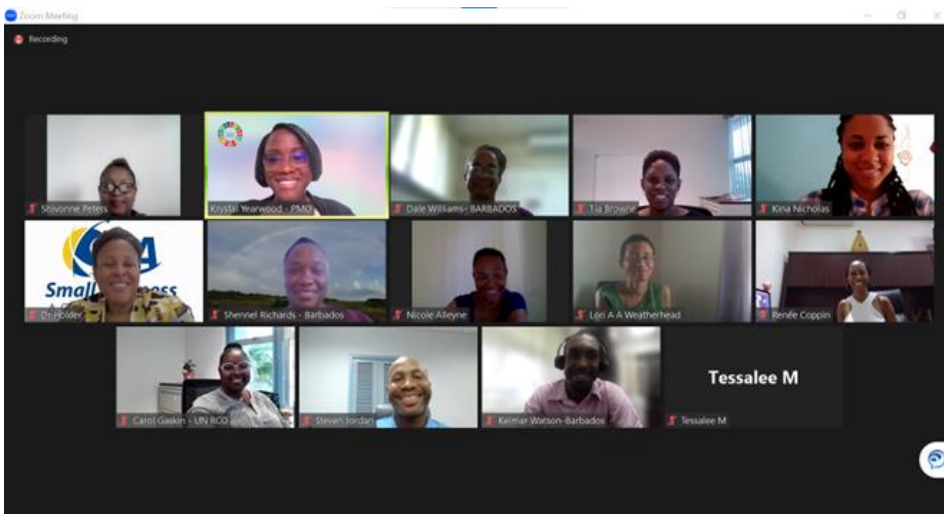
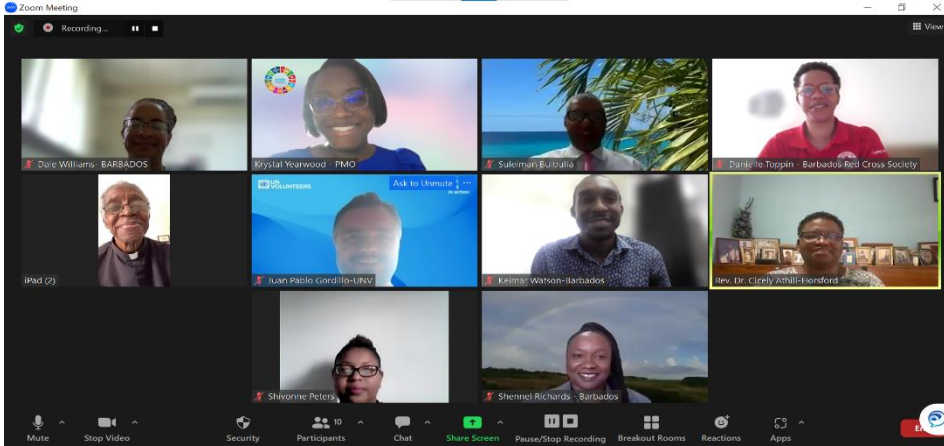
Barbados Voluntary National Review 2023



Stakeholder Consultations (virtual) with stakeholders under the 'People' theme held on May 17, 2023.

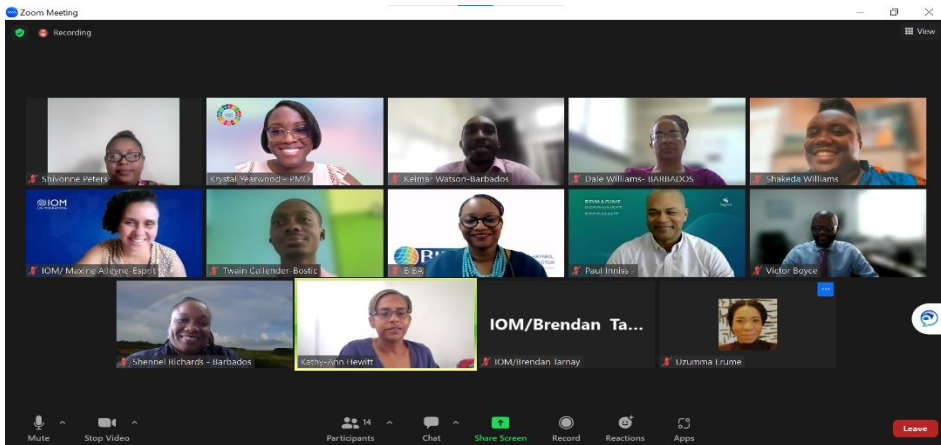


Stakeholder Consultations (virtual) with stakeholders under the 'Prosperity' theme held on May 18, 2023.





Stakeholder Consultations (virtual) with stakeholders under the 'Peace and Partnerships' and 'planet' themes held on May 19, 2023.



National Stakeholder Consultations 5 June, 2023.



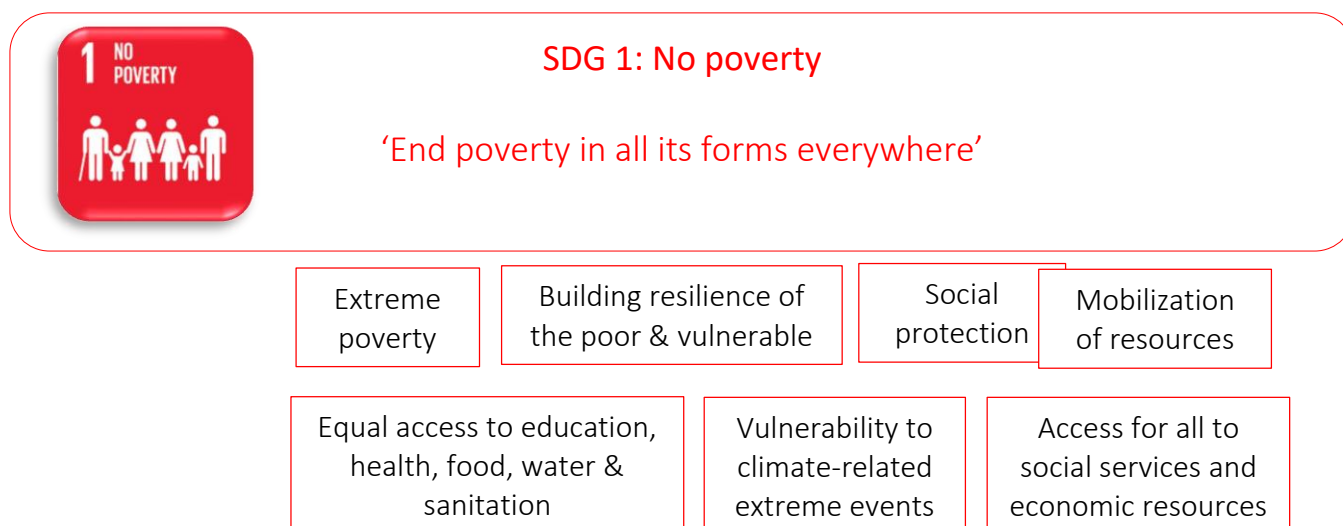


Voluntary National Review 2023

People

END POVERTY AND HUNGER, AND ENSURE DIGNITY AND EQUALITY IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT





Overview of SDG 1

At the core of Barbados’ development model is a deep commitment to social cohesion which is predicated on tackling the systemic challenges impacting economic and social enfranchisement. Our policies and programmes are deliberately designed to foster poverty eradication, reduce inequality and protect vulnerable communities. Despite the fiscal constraints brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic, the GOB deliberately chose to spend approximately BDS \$77 million shielding Barbadian families from the impact of the pandemic and climate change. This included BDS \$31 million for the Welfare Department and over BDS \$20 million to support vulnerable households. This was buttressed by the expansion and introduction of new NIS benefits where government supported the scheme to pay out more than BDS \$150 million in unemployment benefits.

The GOB responded to the effects of COVID-19 with a range of measures, including:

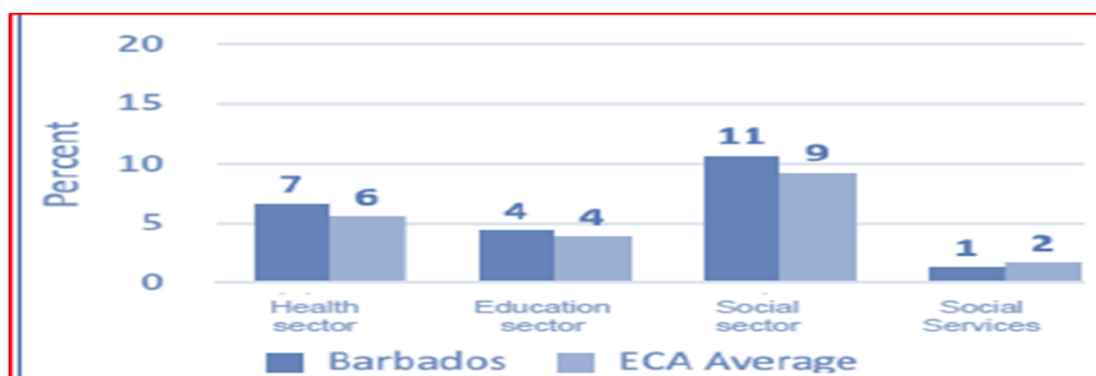
- a Household Survival Programme for 1,500 households who had no income due to COVID. This BDS \$20 million programme provided up to BDS \$600 per month for six months and was extended once the individual’s circumstances did not improve or remained the same;
- a 40 per cent increase in all social assistance rates and fees paid, for a total cost of BDS \$10 million. Over 18,000 Barbadians applied for assistance;
- employers’ social security contributions were deferred for 3 months for those keeping at least 2/3 of their employees;

- a BDS \$20 million Small Business Wage Fund was also set up to contribute to workers' wages;
- unemployment benefits were extended to the self-employed, paying BDS \$1,500 for the months of April and May 2020;
- the Shelter for Abused Women being defined as an essential service allowing persons in abusive relationships to access the services of the Shelter;
- accessible medical services were provided to the homeless with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MHW);
- mental health support services were provided to the vulnerable populations through the national hotline by a support team and; and
- the Barbados Family Planning Association was allowed to remain open as an essential service. The organisation used curb side pickup for contraceptives as well as telemedicine for persons who wanted information on sexual and reproductive health. It allowed its clients to access services via social media such as WhatsApp.

Post recovery, the GOB continues to focus on the most vulnerable in the society. At the policy level, this focus is clearly articulated in the Barbados Social Protection Policy, Strategy, and Implementation Plan (BARSPIP) 2021- 2024. The R2RP also highlights our holistic approach to supporting the vulnerable. While public financing varies across sectors - education, social protection, and social services - public expenditure as a percentage of GDP is higher in Barbados for three out of four areas than the average of other regional countries. For example, coverage of essential health services in Barbados is the highest of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) states and the second highest in the Caribbean, behind only Cuba²⁷. See **Figure 9** below.

²⁷ World Health Organization. "UHC Service Coverage Index (SDG 3.8.1)". Available at: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/4834#:~:text=Rationale%3A,medicines%20and%20vaccines%20for%20all%E2%80%9D>

Figure 9 public expenditure across several sectors



Barbados, like other Caribbean countries, has embarked on the reform of its social protection programmes to build a universal, shock responsive, social protection system that is inclusive. The World Social Protection Report 2020 – 2022 identifies the effective social protection coverage (including SDG indicators 1.3.1 and 3.8.1), (percentage of the relevant population group) for Barbados as follows:

People protected by social protection systems including floors (%)							
	SDG Indicator 1.3.1 – Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (excluding health)	Persons with severe disabilities	Unemployed	Older Persons	Workers in case of work injury	Vulnerable persons covered by social assistance	Labour force covered by pension scheme
Barbados	55.3	45.7	88.0	63.5	65	9.6	73.6
The Bahamas	49.1	51.0	26.9	89.6	67.4	2.1	67.4
Dominica	46.8	9.7	0	60.3	68.3	28.2	70.6
Jamaica	30.8	31.1	0	40.3	N/A	14.3	31.6
Trinidad & Tobago	55.2	68.1	0	91.1	67.8	24.8	67.8
High Income Countries (World)	85.4	85.6	52.2	97.5	81.2	62.8	89.8

Table 4 Showing the Percentage of People Protected by Social Protection Systems

In 2020, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that 2.5% of the population of Barbados (or 7,000 people) is multidimensionally poor, while an additional 0.5% is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (1,000 people in 2020). Recognizing the complexity of multidimensional poverty, the GOB is applying a multi-pronged approach to addressing the systemic and structural challenges which perpetuate poverty. One of the GOB's Mission Objectives focuses specifically on empowering and enfranchising Barbadian workers and families through the creation of opportunities for ownership and wealth creation, allowing for the reduction in the rate of poverty by 50% by 2030. To this end, our focus remains resolute on bolstering economic growth, creating jobs, improving livelihoods, reducing vulnerabilities to climate change and ensuring that no one is left behind. This will be reflected in our policy mix. See **Figure 10** below.

Figure 10 Government's Multi-Pronged Approach To Addressing The Systemic And Structural Challenges Which Perpetuate Poverty.



Institutionally, the Government is currently engaged in the strengthening of its Social Protection System which falls under the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs (MPEA). The institutional strengthening of the social protection system is being designed to protect the poorest and most vulnerable from adverse socioeconomic shocks and risks and is

being undertaken within the context of the implementation of the BERT Programme 2022: Fiscal Year 2022/23-Fiscal Year 2026/27.

The GOB also launched in 2022, the One Family programme based on the principle of “Each One Reach One” which is intended to create a full ecosystem of support for the poorest and most vulnerable. The programme will seek to address the psychosocial, financial and other needs of participants through a whole of government approach and the deployment of a range of services intended to provide families with the necessary tools and opportunities to enable personal development which can foster social inclusion, improve family relationships in an effort to foster improved social community spirit, and strengthen community and family relations through holistic service delivery.

Snapshot of Barbados’ progress towards achieving SDG 1

Poverty headcount ratio at 1.90/ day (%) (2022)	2.7
Poverty headcount ratio at 3.20/day (%) (2022)	7.1
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (excluding health) (2021)	55.3 ²⁸
Persons with severe disabilities covered by social protection systems (%)	45.7
Unemployed covered by social protection systems (%)	88.0
Workers in case of work injury covered by social protection systems (%)	65
Vulnerable persons covered by social assistance (%)	9.6
Working-age population covered by pension scheme (active contributors) (%)	48.2 ²⁹

²⁸ Compiled from the ILO Social Protection Report, 2022 and the SDG Annual Report, 2022.

²⁹Compiled from the ILO Social Protection Report, 2022 and the SDG Annual Report, 2022.

Policies

Barbados Social Protection Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan for a Rationalised National Social Protection System (BARSPIP) 2021 – 2024

The BARSPIP 2021 – 2024, ‘adopts a rights-based approach, which seeks to ensure that the most vulnerable citizens receive the necessary services to break cycles of poverty across generations and ultimately transform their lives’. Furthermore, the Plan facilitates a responsive framework, which will facilitate the improvement and expansion of existing social protection policies thereby ensuring that social protection systems are adequate and efficient.



BARSPIP is guided by 7 principles which include:

- universality;
- community participation;
- gender responsiveness;
- sustainability;
- a rights-based approach;
- multi-dimensional poverty reduction; and
- an integrated approach.

The four strategic objectives of BARSPIP and the associated seven outputs are shown in **Table 5**.

Strategic Objective 1: Robust Social Protection System	Output 1: Rationalisation of Social Protection System Output 2: Operationalisation of a Monitoring and Evaluation System for Social Protection
Strategic Objective 2: Income Security for Households	Output 3: Operationalisation of a Household Mitigation Unit
Strategic Objective 3: Income Security for Persons in Active Age	Output 4: Ensuring of a Minimum Income Output 5: Development of a Retooling and Empowering, Retraining and Enfranchising (ReRe) Programme Output 6: Increased Access to Tertiary Education
Strategic Objective 4: Income Security for Older Persons	Output 7: Increased Pensions

Table 5 Strategic Objectives and Outputs of BARSPIP 2021- 2024.

One of the most important outputs of the BARSPIP with respect to access to services by the population is the establishment of a single new entity through which social services will be accessed. This output was identified as critical to ensuring that social protection access is people-centred and decentralized. The plan offers a multidimensional approach to reducing and eradicating poverty and vulnerability within Barbados buttressed by a robust social safety net. The overall framework considers the complexity of poverty and the dynamic ways in which it affects various groups. At the same time, the strategy provides support to livelihood enhancement through the provision of skills development, educational and vocational training designed to promote job creation and self-employment opportunities within communities.

Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

COVID-19 Response Programmes

The Government of Barbados, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, implemented several response programmes to provide aid to those most affected including the Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) and the Adopt Our Families Programme.

The Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST)

The BEST programme was aimed at safeguarding jobs in the tourism sector, minimizing bankruptcies, and strengthening the competitiveness of the sector. Under the programme, financing for green initiatives, digitisation of processes and systems for lower cost and improved service, as well as investment in local suppliers of food, furniture and other supplies were also provided (Bobb and Worrell, 2022). The programme also offered free training with approximately five hundred and thirty-three (533) persons trained.

The Adopt Our Families Programme

This programme started as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and was designed to support families that were hardest hit by the pandemic. The programme relied on funds from both private and government sources with corporate partners donating BDS \$2.5 million and the Government contributing BDS \$5 million as of March 2021. This programme demonstrates the 'all-of-country' approach to providing support for the most vulnerable.

Increase in the Minimum Wage

In an effort to provide equitable and fair pay for workers, the GOB instituted a new minimum wage which came into effect from April 1, 2021. The GOB recognized that under the previous wage rates, many persons in our society were unable to adequately afford food, transportation and other household needs. The minimum wage stands at BDS \$8.50, with a sectoral minimum wage (for security guards only) of BDS \$9.50. Prior to this increase, employees in the hotel, agriculture and public sectors were paid above the minimum wage, however, the GOB recognized that persons working in the retail sector, at gas stations and as domestic workers also needed to be considered. This increase in minimum wage will further advance SDG 1 and also has direct linkages to SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 8:

Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.



The Roofs to Reefs Programme (R2RP)

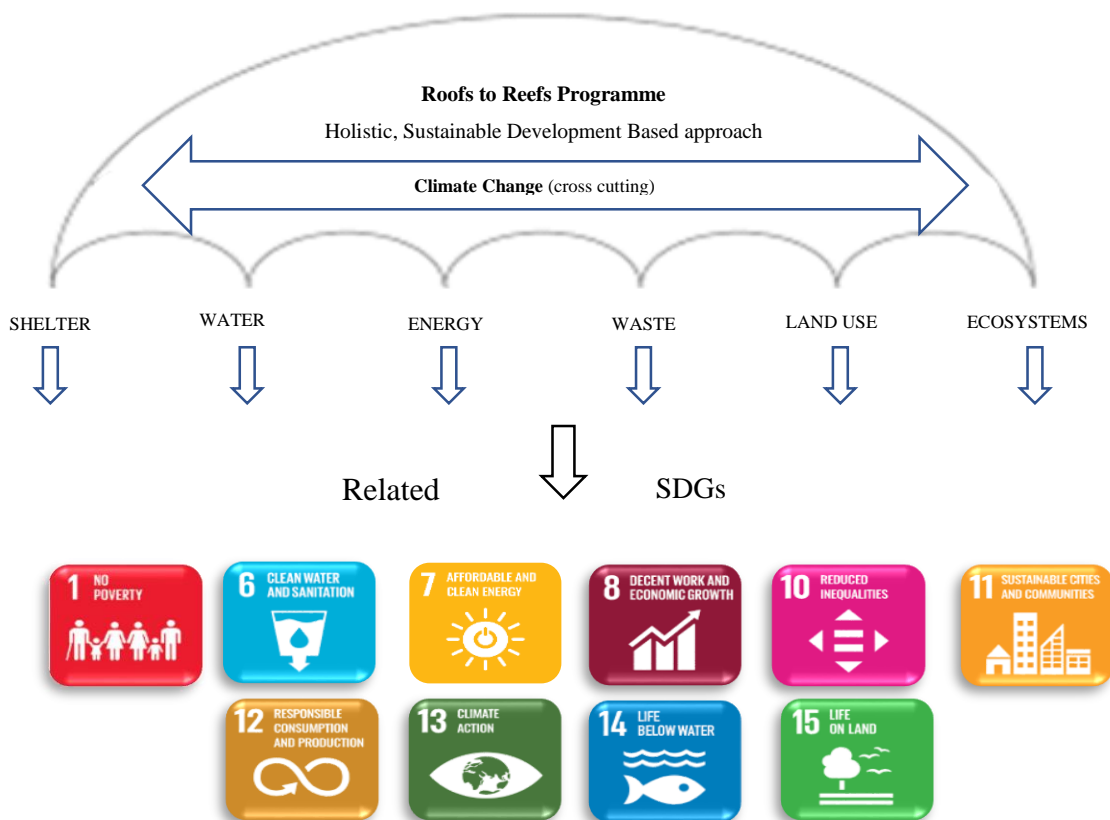
The R2RP is a 100% homegrown Bajan programme which acts as the Government's sustainable development model. R2RP takes into account our specific challenges including dense population, a large marine space but exposed to high wave energy, unique hydrology and geology, as well a highly modified natural environment. The R2RP is 1) a development model for the next decade, 2) designed with an integrated whole-of-country approach, 3) a homegrown national initiative for sustainable and resilient development, 4) a further development on the ridge to reef concept, 5) the vehicle for operationalising national development and adaptation planning and 6) a public and private investment programme. Additionally, the main objectives of the programme are as follows:

- to make low- and middle-income homes more resilient to extreme weather events and their impacts, such as possible loss of access to electricity and potable water distribution system;
- to increase freshwater storage capacity and water use efficiency and reduce emissions through the deployment of distributed renewable energy generation;
- to decrease land-based sources of marine pollution through more sustainable land use practices;

- to make critical utilities such as water and sanitation and road infrastructure climate resilient;
- to restore vulnerable coral reef ecosystems, particularly on the west and south coasts of the island; and
- to reduce carbon emissions through the deployment of distributed renewable energy generation.

The Roofs to Reefs concept and associated SDGs are represented in **Figure 11**.

Figure 11 The Roofs to Reefs Concept and associated SDGs.



Source: Adapted from Cepal.org.

Strengthening Human and Social Development Programme (SHSD)

The SHSD, under the MPEA, was developed to reduce extreme poverty and unemployment in Barbados. The program, which was launched in September 2017 and ended in March 2023, was financed jointly by the Inter-American Development Bank Ordinary Capital, BDS \$10 million and the China Co-financing Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean BDS \$10 million.

The objective of the program was to contribute to the reduction of extreme poverty and unemployment in Barbados. The SHSD programme aimed to promote the social inclusion of the extreme poor, the accumulation of human capital among the moderate poor and vulnerable with the aim of achieving their productive labour market insertion. It provided the poorest families with a) access to psychosocial support and monetary subsidies, b) preferential access to state programs, and c) employment support. Under the programme, four (4) areas of critical interventions are addressed, aimed at breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty and improving quality of life:

- Identification/Assessment: The poor and vulnerable are identified and their needs assessed;
- Stabilization: Immediate needs are addressed;
- Enablement: Skills to survive are imparted; and
- Empowerment Individuals are imbued with the capacity to succeed and excel in society.

The National Assistance Programme and the Household Survival Programme

The Welfare Department is a Government social service agency responsible for providing a national safety net for the poor and vulnerable persons in society. The mandate focuses on poverty reduction and empowerment through the offering of various forms of assistance, inclusive of financial assistance and in-kind assistance in the form of counseling services. The Department fulfills its mandate to assist vulnerable citizens through the National Assistance and Family Services Programmes.

The National Assistance Programme includes providing beneficiaries with cash grants and in-kind assistance. Assistance-in-Kind refers to assistance granted with respect to items such as food, clothing, purchase of spectacles, hearing aids, and dentures. It also includes the payment

of utilities (electricity and water), the payment of rent and the cost of burial of destitute persons. Food continues to be the highest category of assistance-in-kind granted.







In 2020, the Welfare Department introduced the **Household Survival Programme**. The Programme was implemented to support a 40% increase in cash transfer benefits by the Welfare Department and expanded the number of persons receiving a government transfer. The Household Survival Programme was premised on mitigating the negative impact of the health and economic crisis on the most vulnerable groups in Barbados. During the period, job loss was on the increase and many citizens expressed difficulty in meeting their daily survival needs. The 40% increase in welfare cash grants across all categories allowed vulnerable individuals to improve their spending power. The increase in allocation also allowed additional persons to benefit from social assistance such as cash and food grants, rent and utility payments. The programme targeted those individuals below the poverty line of BDS \$642.52 monthly, with eligibility confirmed via assessment and means testing.






Civil Society and NGO initiatives

Business and Professional Women’s Club (BPW) – The BPW conducts an annual Financial Literacy Series of Seminars for Women, especially those who are unemployed or have low income. The workshops teach the basics of finance, debt management, loans, insurance and mortgages and aim to reduce prevailing factors creating vulnerabilities in the world of work and family life. The BPW introduced a free six-week course on Financial Planning, titled “Improving your money management skills in Challenging times” for Women at the lower economic level - covering areas such as: understanding money and living within your means, budgeting, savings, understanding debt such as use of credit cards, and entrepreneurship and money. Over the two years 2022-2023, the Workshops have catered to 113 women with 3 attending from the CARICOM region.

SDG Targets under Goal 1 and Barbados' Progress

Our progress with respect to the achievement of the targets under SDG 1 is highlight in the following dashboard:

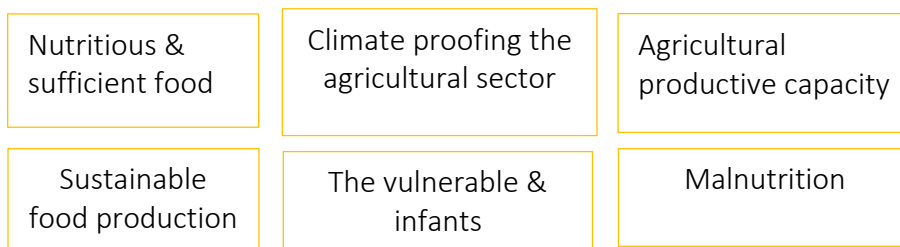
 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 1 - End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than 1.25 a day.	
By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.	
Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.	
By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.	
By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

‘End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture’



Overview of SDG 2

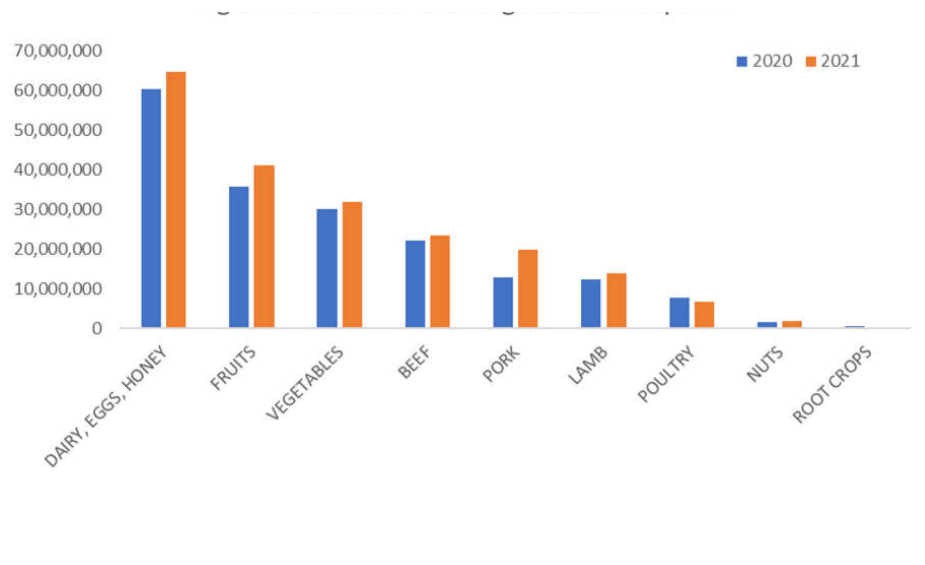
Food security and the advancement of sustainable agriculture are critical focus areas for the GOB, the private sector and our citizens. In this effort the government is seeking to transform and re-position the agriculture sector to be technology-driven and competitive.

The 2021 food import bill had a value of BDS \$709.12 million of which 67% were manufactured goods (54% processed goods, 13% are beverages including water and alcoholic drinks) while only 33% were agricultural and fish products, **Figure 12**. This composition has

remained fairly consistent when compared to data from the 1980s. To address this at the regional level, Barbados has signed on to the CARICOM “25 x 2025” Agri-Food Systems initiative which is meant to reduce foreign food imports into CARICOM countries by 25% by 2025.



Figure 12 Value of Agricultural Imports in 2020 and 2021

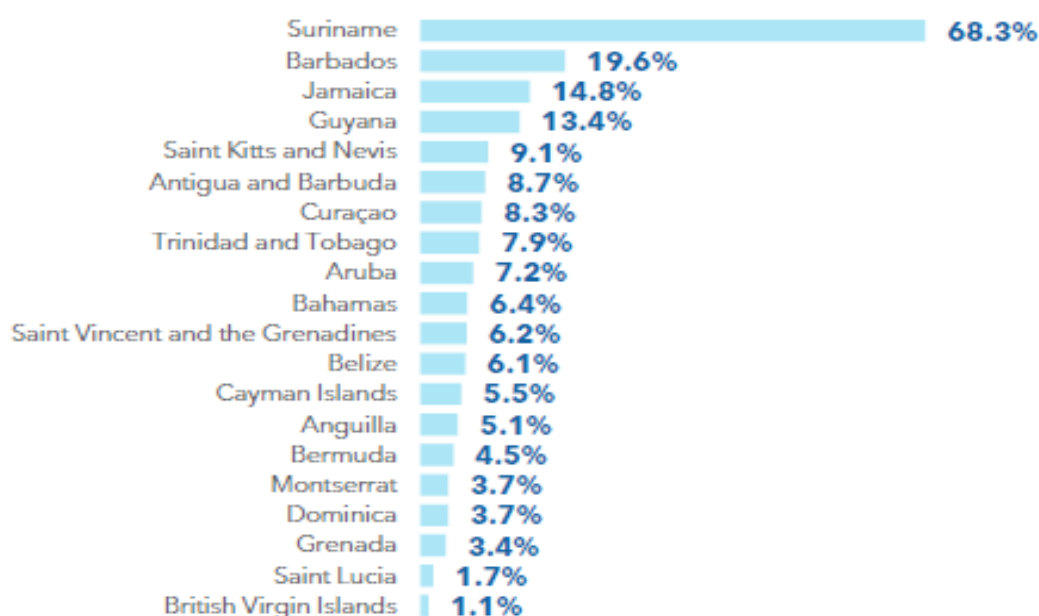


Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security (2022)

Even as government attempts to reduce its dependence on imports, current global food prices present a constraint to access. Global food prices have risen sharply due to the war in Ukraine, with a knock-on effect on the local retail market thus impacting on people’s access to affordable food, **Figure 13**. In response, the GOB in 2022 worked with local retailers to maintain an agreed markup, on critical food items.



Figure 13 Food inflation in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean (2022)



Source: Regional Report (2022) Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey Impacts of COVID 19 and the Cost of Living Crisis

Because Barbados does not have that luxury of natural resources, ample land, water and climate to replace the 67% of manufactured goods and beverage imports, Barbados' food security strategy is one of self-reliance where a country relies on some level of domestic food production but imports a significant amount of its food. Thus, the food security strategy for Barbados takes a three (3) -fold approach using explicit and competitive policies to:

- Maintain some of its own food supplies by:
 - Maximizing its Domestic Production Capability;
- Safeguard its external food supplies by:
 - Encouraging firms to grow food for Barbados in overseas territories that share strong ties with Barbados and mutual values on food security;
- Import Diversification:
 - Diversifying its imported food supplies by sourcing from countries with large surpluses over domestic consumption, to offset/avoid inevitable supplier disruptions.

The food security strategy's effectiveness must be underscored by a food stockpiles plan that maintains a threshold of several weeks of local and imported food supplies, in the same manner that there is a fiscal plan for ensuring the local earning of foreign exchange, to maintain

the exchange reserves above a certain threshold. To support this, the Barbados-Guyana Food Terminal which will be a building complex with a National Packhouse and a Food Terminal are being established with planning permission approved for construction to begin. A state-of-the-art Abattoir has also been agreed on to support the butchering and storage of meat.

Agriculture development has a multi-dimensional role which becomes increasingly evident as a country develops and is integral to both economic and social development and consequently to the SDG goals.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security (MAFS) has set out a new vision and mission and strategic objectives that reflect this understanding. The new vision is to become a food and nutritionally secure country and the leader in sustainable tropical food and agriculture solutions in CARICOM by 2024, in the Americas by 2026 and internationally by 2028. The mission is uniting and optimizing the many dimensions of agriculture to enhance the food and nutrition security and food systems of the nation.

While hunger in Barbados is below 5%, over-nutrition is at near crisis levels with 52.4% of adults and one (1) in every three (3) children overweight or obese. Obesity is due, mainly, to the over-consumption of “ultra-processed”, “energy-dense” foods and especially “empty-calorie” foods, which are generally low-cost; but also to other major factors, such as insufficient exercise and genetics. Furthermore, more than one (1) in every three (3) adults suffered from hypertension; one (1) in every five (5) adults has diabetes and eight (8) out of every ten (10) deaths in Barbados are caused by NCDs. Nutrition plays a significant role in preventing and reversing these diseases. Consequently, nutritional security to ensure the health of the nation is a national priority for Barbados.

The agricultural sector’s intervention and strategy on nutrition security focuses on the nutritional quality resulting from how food is grown and processed, to ensure that foods provided to its citizens are of high intrinsic quality. Our agricultural sector is supported by regional partners including the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), which provides technical (and other) support in genetic mapping, germplasm and disease reduction. Further, we have adopted a partnership approach and have signed regional

agreements with two of our CARICOM neighbours including: The Agreement for a Strategic Dialogue and Cooperation Platform between Barbados and Suriname and the St. Barnabas Accord between Barbados and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Many of these initiatives are interwoven and intended to increase the incomes of farmers as well as introduce climate smart agricultural practices to reduce losses due to climate change.

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 2

Prevalence of undernourishment (%) (2019)	4.1
Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥30 (% of adult population) (2016)	23.1
Human trophic level (best 2, 3 – worst) (2017)	3
Cereal yield (tonnes per hectare of harvested land) (2018)	2.9
Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index (best – 0, 1.41 worst) (2015)	1.2
Exports of hazardous pesticides (tonnes per million population) (2019)	0.0
Percentage of arable land equipped for irrigation (2018)	77.1 ³⁰

Policies

Barbados Herbs, Spices and Condiments Industry Development Plan 2015 – 2022

The goal of the Development Plan is to map a pathway towards real growth, competitiveness and sustainability of the Herbs, Spice and Condiments industry in Barbados. The Plan focuses on select herbs, spices and condiments namely, onions, hot peppers, thyme, marjoram, parsley, ginger, chives, celery, coriander and basil. It includes a review of the international, regional and local situations as they relate to production, trade, and price trends for herbs, spices and condiments. The Plan also provides



³⁰ <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/faostat-food-security-indicators-for-barbados>

a review of past and present initiatives which support the advancement of the sector as well as an Action Plan for the further advancement of the industry.

Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

The National Tree Planting Programme- The Barbados One Million Trees Food Security and Mitigation Initiative (1M TFSMI)

The Barbados One Million Trees Food Security and Mitigation Initiative is a project that focuses on soil conservation and reducing soil erosion, while also promoting food security and climate change mitigation. The project involves the planting and maintenance of plants (for food) and medicinal herbs, which will increase local food production and reduce the country's food import bill. The project also seeks to restore Barbados' natural fruit tree populations through the planting of species such as dunks, ackees, guavas, plums and golden apples, as well as fruits from other Caribbean countries, including Suriname's dragon fruit and rambutan. To date, over 430,000 trees have been planted under the initiative.



This initiative aims to create significant jobs in the agricultural sector and raise public awareness of the importance of planting and maintaining trees to combat climate change. In addition, the initiative supports several SDGs, such as reducing net greenhouse gas emissions (Goal 13: Climate Action), increasing food security, and creating jobs and supporting economic growth in Barbados (Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth). Overall, the Barbados One

Million Trees Food Security and Mitigation Initiative represents a vital step towards building a sustainable and resilient food-secure future for Barbados.

Community Agricultural Response and Empowerment Project (CARE)

The CARE Project in Barbados is an initiative aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and food security among vulnerable communities. It enables these communities to plant their own food. This initiative is in response to the food insecurity challenges posed by the COVID 19 Pandemic and the Russia/Ukraine War.



The project is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Barbados Agricultural Society, in collaboration with several community-based organizations.

The CARE Project focuses on providing training opportunities for small-scale farmers, with an emphasis on agro-ecology and climate-smart agricultural practices. It also seeks to address issues of food waste and food insecurity by promoting healthy local food production, distribution and consumption.

One of the key components of the CARE Project is the establishment of community gardens, where residents can grow their own fresh produce and learn about sustainable agriculture practices. The project also provides training on value-added processing and marketing, which will assist small under – employed farmers to increase their income and contribute to local food systems. Apart from Goal 2, the CARE Project is contributing to the achievement of several other SDGs, including, SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production). By promoting sustainable agriculture and local food systems, the project is helping to build resilience and reduce poverty among vulnerable communities in Barbados.

Farmers Empowerment and Enfranchisement Drive (FEED)

FEED is one of a suite of similar agricultural empowerment programmes aimed at reducing agricultural imports and increasing food security, especially to vulnerable populations in Barbados. The programme is meant to provide employment to the under – and/or unemployed who wish to create a livelihood in a range of agricultural pursuits and therefore reduce our reliance on food imports. Some of the key components of the programme are that farmers will have access to land and irrigation at subsidized rates and a three (3) month training course is a prerequisite in the areas of budgeting, farm management, technology in agriculture to name a few. **Table 6** shows production data, **Table 7** identified the land allocated to farmers under the FEED programme.

Total production from FEED program 2021 and 2022				
Year	Acreage	Forecasted Yield (lbs)	Projected avg value (wholesale)	Projected avg value (Retail)
2021	9.875	217,544	\$590,803.64	\$878,889.23
2022	116.14	2,389,918	\$4,996,970.63	\$7,649,296.98

Table 6 Total Production from the FEED Program in 2021 and 2022

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

FEED Allocations (Acres and # of farmers)				
	Farming District	Parish	# of farmers placed	# of acres allocated
1	Mount Poyer	St. Lucy	117	92.5
2	Fairy Valley	Christ Church	28	27
3	Graeme Hall	Christ Church	18	19
4	Spencer's Plantation	Christ Church	28	27
5	Bath Plantation*	St. John	6	63
6	Wakefield	St. John	28	25
7	River Plantation**	St. Philip	16	24
8	Bawdens**	St. Andrew	6	11
9	Greenland**	St. Andrew	3	9.5
10	Turner's Hall**	St. Andrew	16	34.7
11	Sedge Pond	St. Andrew	1	2.5
12	Pine Basin**	St. Michael	7	7
13	Spring Hall	St. Lucy	1	1
			275	343.2

Table 7 the Placement of Farmers and the Allocated Acreage

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

Hope Agricultural Training Project

This project involves the construction of a facility in the northern part of Barbados which offers training in both crop production and animal husbandry. The project will support practical training in agriculture to tertiary-level as well as primary and secondary level students.

Climate Smart Aquaponics Project

Five Caribbean countries, namely, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and St. Lucia are partnering with the CDB to increase access to climate smart agriculture. The project builds the capacity of small-scale farmers (mainly in aquaponics farming) which not only provides a financial incentive to these farmers but also builds climate resilience in line with several UN SDG Goals. The project supports innovative solutions, which are especially needed as regional economies face a variety of climate-driven events.



The St. Barnabas Accord

The St. Barnabas Accord is a bilateral agreement signed between Barbados and Guyana. The agreement aims to enhance cooperation in various areas by leveraging each country's comparative advantage. Some areas of cooperation being considered include manufacturing, agriculture and energy. In the agricultural sector, the Accord focuses on increasing agricultural productivity and promoting food security through south-south cooperation. The agreement outlines several measures, such as the creation of a joint working group on food and nutritional security, the export of various agricultural products from Guyana to Barbados, the lease of land in Guyana to Barbados for animal husbandry and crop production, and the establishment of a food terminal in both countries for local use and export.



Aspects of the animal husbandry production are already underway as the GOB continues to work closely with Guyana to achieve the goal of having a million Barbados Black Belly sheep within the next five years. This initiative is also expected to yield a new crossbreed between Barbados' Blackbelly Sheep and Guyana's local sheep, to develop a regional brand of sheep to reduce the importation of lamb and mutton products into the region. In fact, in August 2022, Guyana received 132 Blackbelly sheep from Barbados and more tranches are expected in the coming months. This programme will benefit local sheep farmers, including women, the youth and differently abled persons.

The Accord also aims to promote aquaculture training and establish a youth exchange program at agriculture ministries. Additionally, the agreement includes provisions for Barbados to become a center for the processing of meat and fish products for the Eastern Caribbean and for the production of eucalyptus trees and cane grass for use in a biomass plant. It also targets the SDG Goal 2, by promoting sustainability mainly in the agricultural sector³¹

³¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Barbados. Available at: <https://www.foreign.gov.bb/saint-barnabus-accord-for-cooperation-signed/>



The Barbados / Guyana Food Terminal

The Barbados/Guyana Food Terminal is a joint initiative between the two countries aimed at enhancing food security and promoting agricultural trade in the region. The project is an initiative of the St. Barnabas Accord and involves the establishment of a food terminal with operational plants and facilities in both Barbados and Guyana. The terminal will serve both local markets and export markets in the Caribbean and beyond, offering a range of agricultural products such as beef, poultry, fruits, vegetables, and coconut products. When completed, the Terminal will be able to store over 40 containers of food and will be equipped with a processing and packaging plant as well as cold storage facilities for seafood packing and processing.

The facility is to be built according to state-of-the-art specifications and is scheduled to be constructed in 2023. It will serve as a food logistic hub, aimed at addressing the CARICOM Regional import substitution initiative “25 BY 2025”. This initiative is meant to reduce foreign imports into the Caribbean by 25% by 2025 and the Hub will feature processing and packaging facilities for meat and fish products, aimed at positioning Barbados as a center for this processing in the Eastern Caribbean. Furthermore, Barbados and Guyana's agriculture ministries will establish a youth exchange program for aquaculture training.



The Barbados/Guyana Food Terminal project will improve food security, promote regional agricultural trade and provide healthy(ier) food options for vulnerable citizens in the region. The construction of the facility will lead to lower transportation costs, lower storage and distribution fees. This initiative will support several other UN SDGs including Goal 8 (Decent work and Economic growth) for both countries, Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production).

The Tissue Culture Lab

The MAFS is embarking on a program to expand the tissue culture lab. The new facility will make available to farmers a wider range of clean planting materials as well as serve as a germplasm bank for crops. It is expected that the availability of clean material will result in increased production through the achievement of higher yields. The facility is also expected to be a ready source of planting materials for the country's export program.

The School Meals Department

The Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training (METVT) is responsible for the school feeding programme across the island. School feeding has long been globally recognised as an integral tool in the facilitation of learning and as a much-needed safety net for a nation's poor and disadvantaged families. It is indisputable that the school aged child needs a healthy diet to grow, develop and have the energy to study, learn, and be physically active. Taking these factors into account, a school meals programme must not only aim to feed children but must nourish their bodies while encouraging them to develop healthy eating habits. In so doing, the programme must act as an instrument to stimulate the development of our children and to complement broader health and nutrition education goals both nationally and in the school environment, while inculcating healthy eating habits from an early age. This is of particular importance in addressing prevalent issues such as childhood obesity and the increased development of NCDs in children. It is this insight that drives the long term goal of the School Meals Department to revamp the feeding programme into one that not only aims to provide the school aged child with a meal at lunch time, but one that recognises its social responsibility to the health and well-being of our children and of our nation by extension, by increasing its focus

on the purpose and value of the meals that it provides. This is a goal that must be approached from several points in order to be achieved, and will require a multisectoral approach to the provision of school meals. Currently, four school meals

#ActOnFacts – The Food in Schools Matters

This campaign encourages public and policymaker support for the introduction of policies limiting the sale and marketing of foods full of sugar, fats and salt in and around schools, while increasing the availability of healthy foods and drinking water.

Spearheaded by the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC), the campaign brings together a raft of partners: UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados (HSFB), the Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ), the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN), with the technical collaboration of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

centres provide thousands of lunches to students and in times of disaster, the School Meals Department assists with providing lunches to the hospital and the prison.

In recognizing this SDG goal, the METVT is currently constructing a new state-of-the-art modern facility capable of preparing 12,000 to 15,000 meals per day, and catering to emergency situations in the event of a national disaster.

Civil Society and NGO initiatives

The Barbados Organisation of Parents of the Disabled







The Barbados Organisation of Parents of the Disabled hosts events for persons with disabilities to network and gain support, form partnerships and access services to better help persons with disabilities and their caregivers. The Organisation's 'Eat What You Grow' project encourages households to supplement their grocery bills with food grown in their backyard. The project also sources food vouchers for families caring for persons with disabilities and hopes to provide these vouchers on a monthly basis in the future as a means to address SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being and SDG 1: No Hunger.






The Barbados Red Cross Society

The Barbados Red Cross Society's 'Meals On Wheels' programme aims to reduce hunger in the needy population in Barbados. The Red Cross Society works alongside the National Assistance Board to identify beneficiaries and the programme provides meals to 56 recipients weekly. Needy persons can also make direct requests for assistance. Future improvements under the project include the establishment of a kitchen garden which will serve a dual purpose: to offset costs associated with meal preparation and provide healthier meals for those in need.

SDG Targets under Goal 2 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.

 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 2 – End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	
By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older people.	
By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.	
By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	
By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels.	



SDG 3: Good health and well-being

‘Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’

Reduce maternal mortality

End preventable deaths of children & new-borns

Epidemics- AIDS & communicable diseases

Universal health coverage

Overview of SDG 3

The GOB has undertaken major steps over the years to institute comprehensive, equitable, efficient and quality health care service. Good health and well-being is the cornerstone of a productive society. Our health care system comprises both public (accounting for 65 percent) and private (accounting for 30 percent) institutions. The public health care system is based on two components: access to free health services and access to free medicine (for certain chronic conditions). Free medical care at public hospitals and polyclinics and this includes a wide range of benefits and services including maternity, HIV/ AIDS treatment, geriatric care, nutrition services and emergency care.

Maternal health rates have shown significant improvement, with almost 100% coverage on births attended by skilled staff. The mortality rate in Barbados is 12.6 per 1000 live births, under 5 mortality rate is 13.8 to 1000 live births. One out of four children (0-5 months) in Barbados are exclusively breastfed. The adolescent fertility rate (births per 1000 teenagers between the ages of 15-19) has decreased from 33.5 in 2017 to 26.29 in 2020. Barbados also boasts of a consistent childhood immunization and vaccination programmes. In the context of COVID-19, over 55% of the population has received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. The government’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic was lauded as a best practice given its ability to quickly mobilise multisectoral support for the effort and establish sound management protocols. We leveraged this support to quickly establish a specialized facility at Harrison’s Point in the north of the island to provide care and support for COVID 19 positive patients, allowing our main hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) to continue to provide other critical care.

The QEH, which is a public institution, has over 600 beds and provides specialized care in areas such as pediatrics, obstetrics, plastic surgery and radiology. There are also five (5) district hospitals for care of the elderly. To support the existing complement of district hospitals, construction has begun on a new four hundred (400) bed facility which will cost over BDS \$100 million. The hospital has been focused on improving its service delivery across several departments. Five hundred (500) cataract surgeries were performed by the Ophthalmology Department over an eight-month period after they commenced a programme to clear the backlog of cases. After a hiatus of 10 years, the Orthopedic department restarted knee and hip replacement surgeries in 2022. We have also seen a decrease in readmission of vulnerable patients and launched a pre-anesthesia clinic to help with cancelation of surgeries.

One of the more significant epidemiological trends in Barbados has been the increase in NCDs and an increased prevalence of overweight and obesity in the population. NCDs are the leading cause of death in Barbados and approximately 5% of deaths from NCDs are in those less than 70 years old.³² They also consume 65% of the budget allocated to the QEH, and 60% of the budget of the Barbados Drug Service is allocated to pharmaceuticals used in the management of chronic diseases. In fiscal year 2017-2018, the Barbados Drug Service Special Benefit Service which provides formulary medicines free of cost to children under 16 years of age, persons over age 65, and persons diagnosed with diabetes, cancer, hypertension, glaucoma, asthma, and/or epilepsy, spent 49.8% of its total expenditure on prescriptions for hypertension; 32.4% on diabetes; 8.6% on glaucoma; 7.4% on asthma; and 1.9% on cancer. These human and economic costs are not sustainable, especially in light of the inherent social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.³³

³² WHO/PAHO. 2017. Available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/272540>

³³ Ministry of Health and Wellness National Strategic Plan for the Prevention of NCDs

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 3

Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) (2017)	27
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) (2020)	8.1
Mortality rate, under 5 (per 1,000 live births) (2020)	12.2
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population) (2020)	2.4
New HIV infections (per 1,000 uninfected population) (2020)	1.0
Prevalence of HIV: total % of population aged 15-49 (2021)	0.90
Age-standardized death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease in adults aged 30 – 70 years (%) (2019)	16.0
Age-standardized death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population) (2016)	31
Traffic deaths (per 100,000 population) (2019)	8.2
Life expectancy at birth: total (years) (2020)	79.30
Life expectancy at birth: female (years) (2020)	80.57
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19) (2020)	29.29
Births attend to by skilled personnel (%) (2016)	99.1
Surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%) (2020)	85
Universal Health Coverage (UHC) index of service coverage (worst 0 – 100 best) (2019) ³⁴	74
Prevalence of diabetes in adults aged 18 and over-female (2019)	15.8
Prevalence of obesity in adults aged 18 and over-female (2019)	34.7
Prevalence of diabetes in adults aged 18 and over-male (2019)	12.2
Prevalence of obesity in adults aged 18 and over-male (2019)	17.1 ³⁵

³⁴ World Health Organization. "UHC Service Coverage Index (SDG 3.8.1)," <https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/4834#:~:text=Rationale%3A,medicines%20and%20vaccines%20for%20all%E2%80%9D>

³⁵ Compiled from Global Nutrition Report 2021. Country Profile Barbados. Available at: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/latin-america-and-caribbean/caribbean/barbados/> and the Annual SDG Report, 2022.

Several factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, led to a reduction in the number of persons seeking rehabilitative care for NCDs.³⁶ Despite the challenges faced with NCDs and the financial burden on the healthcare system, this sector remains a top priority. The GOB remains committed to providing healthcare service that ensures the population achieves optimum physical, mental and social wellbeing, giving credence to the belief that health is a right for all Barbadians.

Policies

National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2020 – 2025 (NSP-NCD)

The goal of the Barbados National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2020-2025 is to reduce mortality, morbidity, and disability due to the major NCDs. The intended impact of the Plan is i) a reduction in the main NCD risk factors and ii) strengthening



the management of the major NCDs by focusing on the first level of care. The NSP-NCD 20-25 was developed through a participatory and iterative process that sought input and feedback from key stakeholders including government, civil society, and the private sector. It provides a blueprint for action and reflects multi-sectoral, whole-of-government, whole-of-society, health-in-all-policies approaches that are essential to address NCD and their risk factors, as well as their social, economic, environmental, commercial, and other determinants.

New Health Financing Model

The Government is developing a new health financing model, underpinned by four key principles to ensure universal health coverage:

³⁶ Cardiovascular Disease Annual report 2022. Available at: <http://www.bnr.org.bb/cms/remository/func-startdown/72/>

- strengthening of the public health and primary health care system;
- higher levels of efficiency in the provision of health care and the efficient use of scarce resources;
- a health care system that is resilient and can respond to potential natural disasters and pandemics; and
- partnerships and a whole-of-government approach to health delivery.

The Barbados School Nutrition Policy

With the technical and administrative support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the MHW in collaboration with the METVT spearheaded a consultative process for the development of a national School Nutrition Policy for Barbados. This Policy, which came into effect in April 2023, will significantly advance SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being among the school-aged population in Barbados.

Barbados National Action Plan on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022 for Human and Animal Health

The strategic vision of the National Action Plan is 'Integrated health care systems in Barbados that by 2027, work to prevent, detect, and control illness and death related to infections caused by antimicrobial resistance through



shared responsibility whilst ensuring sustainable medical care'. The National Action Plan provides the roadmap for Barbados in the effort to address the urgent and serious threat of antimicrobial resistance. The Plan comprises of three (3) goals as follows:

- Goal 1: Slow/Reduce the emergence of resistant bacteria and prevent the spread of resistant infections;
- Goal 2: Strengthen national "One-Health" surveillance efforts to combat resistance; and

- Goal 3: Improve international collaboration and capacities for antimicrobial resistance prevention, surveillance, control and antibiotic research and development.

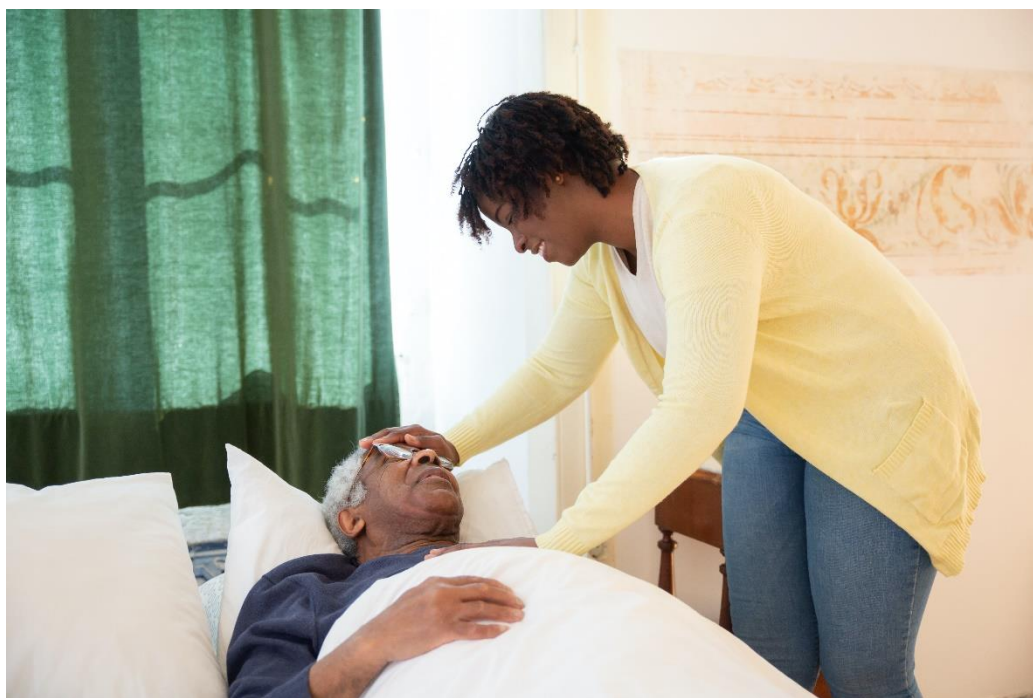
The Plan also includes four (4) strategic objectives as follows:

- strengthen, coordinate and institutionalise interdisciplinary efforts through National and Health Establishment level governance structures;
- optimize surveillance and early detection of antimicrobial resistance to enable reporting of local, regional and national resistance patterns to optimize empiric and targeted antibiotic choice;
- enhance infection prevention and control the spread of resistant microbes to patients in healthcare settings, focusing on improvement in hand hygiene and the identification and isolation of patients with resistant organisms. Community measures include preventing infection through wide reaching vaccination programmes and improvements in water and sanitation; and
- promote appropriate use of antimicrobials in human and animal health through antimicrobial stewardship.

The National Task Force on Physical Activity and Exercise

The Physical Activity Guidelines for Barbados were developed as a key component in support of the mandate of the Task Force on Physical Activity and Exercise. It helps Barbadians at all stages of the life cycle to increase their physical activity levels through active play, leisure activities and sports. The guidelines provide a listing of sporting associations, councils and recreational facilities in Barbados.





Ministry of Health and Wellness Initiatives

The Geriatric and the District Hospitals introduced therapeutic dietary services in January 2021. Therapeutic dietary services aim to enhance the health of elderly clients who easily become frail and weak through poor dietary intake, and to improve the management of nutrition-related medical conditions. Additionally, refurbishments at the Geriatric Hospital in 2018 and the completion of outstanding repairs at the St. Philip District Hospital resulted in increased total bed capacity of 408. These actions will further enhance the rehabilitative services and promote the independence, dignity and well-being of all clients. The construction of a new Geriatric Hospital with the first phase of construction costing over BDS \$100 million is expected to be completed in eighteen (18) months.

Civil Society and NGO initiatives

Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP)

The Better Health Radio Show focuses on a wide range of health topics and serves as a knowledge platform to disseminate information to the public. In 2023, the focus has been on NCDs under the theme ‘trying my best’ to encourage the public to maintain healthy lifestyles. Additionally, the BAMP has a range of preventative healthcare activities which are targeted at NCDs as this is a significant issue in Barbados and ultimately places a financial burden on the healthcare system. In June 2023, BAMP will be launching a project aimed at increasing awareness of cancer as a means of preventative care. The BAMP has partnered with the Heart and Stroke Foundation (HSFB) to increase awareness of childhood obesity and provide continuous education to the public.

The Barbados Trailway:

The Barbados Trailway project aims to repurpose approximately twenty-four (24) old train lines in Barbados into a multi-use recreational area. The project involves clearing the land to create safe spaces for locals and tourists to engage in activities such as cycling, walking, and hiking away from main roads. The train lines pass through significant historic and cultural areas, including plantations. While tourism is a potential aspect, the primary focus is to provide a safe environment for recreation. As part of the project, five thousand (5,000) fruit trees will be planted along the Trailway, serving as carbon offsets and providing free fruit to trail users. The project has the potential to extend the Trailway all the way to Bridgetown, offering additional benefits along the entire length of the space such as creating safe spaces, with reduced vehicle emissions, and promoting public health by combating non-communicable diseases.

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus (UWI)

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill Campus has provided expertise to assist not only Barbados, but also the wider Caribbean communities to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. UWI Cave Hill established a UWI COVID-19 Task Force and published several works related to testing regimes, psychological vulnerabilities, non-pharmaceutical interventions and produced a COVID in the islands e-book entitled “COVID-19 in the Caribbean and Pacific Island Regions”.

Business and Professional Women's Club







BPW engages in policy implementation in collaboration with the GOB on universal health coverage. BPW has hosted several lectures and discussions on areas such as Nutrition and Diet as an increase in NCDs is being fueled by Fast Food and reduction in consumption of vegetables and fruits as well as inactivity. In 2022 these discussions reached 30 women.










The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados

The HSF is a key entity in the fight against non-communicable diseases in Barbados, with a focus on cardiovascular diseases and strokes. The organization offers cardiac rehabilitation service and professional certifications in First Aid and Basic Life Support. HSF has facilitated some of the major advocacy campaigns such as those linked to preventing childhood obesity, the banning of sweet and unhealthy foods in schools and the "Know Your Numbers" campaign which encourages persons to monitor their blood pressure.

SDG Targets under Goal 3 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 3 – Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being For All At All Ages	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	
By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	
By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	
By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	
By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	
Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	
By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	
Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.	



SDG 4: Quality Education

‘Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’

Equal access for vulnerable, differently-abled & indigenous

Gender disparities

Literacy & numeracy

Development assistance for scholarships

Free, equitable & quality primary & secondary

Overview of SDG 4

The GOB continues to prioritize an education system that provides equality of access and quality of delivery. Free education is institutionalized in Barbados and other support systems are provided, including a school meals programme at the primary level, a textbook loan scheme, free transportation to and from school, a uniform grant and scholarship grants.

Education at the primary level begins at age 4 and continues until age 11, when students sit the Barbados Secondary School Entrance Examination (BSSEE) and transition to secondary school. Secondary

The Barbados School System

Government:

- 68 Primary Schools
- 4 Special Schools
- 21 Secondary Schools
- 12 Nursery Schools

Private:

- 27 Primary Schools
- 5 Special Schools
- 10 Secondary Schools
- 16 Nursery Schools

education is provided for children ages 11 to 16 years, and at age 16, theoretically, students write the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) examinations Caribbean Secondary Entrance Certificate (CSEC) - the equivalent of General Certificate of Education (GCE) O-Levels. At about age 18, those students who continue at school for post-secondary non-tertiary education can sit the CXC- Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Certificate (CAPE) A-Level. Alternatively, students may pursue competency-based certification from CXC and other international examination bodies. Free tuition is provided at the following institutions: The Erdiston Teachers' Training College (ETTC), Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology (SJPI), Barbados Community College (BCC), and UWI.

In 2022, the Government spent 5.9% of its GDP on the education sector, a 0.9 percent increase from 2021. The enrolment rate for girls is slightly higher at the secondary level (at 106.84% in 2021) than boys (104.17%) while the effective transition rate from primary to lower secondary general education stood at 99.7% (2020)³⁷. As a result of our concerted efforts over several decades, Barbados boasts a literacy rate of approximately 99.9% (percentage of population aged 15 to 24)³⁸, this rate is currently being reassessed. Despite our successes in the education sector, the GOB is setting its sights higher as we reform this foundational element of our society. The island is currently seeking to “reimagine” and transform its educational system to one that is “FIRM” the objective of which is to ensure “a bright future for every child.” It is proposed that a new approach to teaching featuring customised lessons which match students learning styles will be more grounded in technology. The country is aiming to produce citizens who are proud of national values and traditions but are equipped to compete in global theatres.



One of the Government’s most exemplary initiatives is the National Transformation Initiative (NTI). The NTI was established as part of BERT (2018) to ensure a comprehensive retraining of the Barbadian workforce. Over the period 2020-2022, NTI implemented the BEST programme,

³⁷ UNESCO- Barbados statistics. Available at: <https://uis.unesco.org/en/country/bb>

³⁸ The GOV is currently reassessing in light of the impact of COVID 19

targeted at upskilling employees within the tourism sector to offer customised courses in areas such as management language and vocation training. A total of three thousand and eighty-three (3083) workers were trained from fifty-seven (57) properties as a result of this important initiative which helped to buffer the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for hospitality workers.

The focus of the NTI is to build competencies rather than focus on course completions, through the creation of an approach which provides on-demand access to learning, flexible deadlines that match learners' availability, as well as the provision of feedback and multiple attempts as learning is mastered.

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 4

Literacy rate (% of population aged 15 to 24) (2014)	99.9
Gross Enrolment Rate (Primary Education) (2021)	98.33
Gross Enrolment Rate (Primary Education) – Female (2021)	96.89
Gross Enrolment Rate (Primary Education) – Male (2021)	99.72
Net Enrolment Rate (Primary Education) (2021)	95.4
Gross Enrolment Rate (Secondary Education) (2021)	105.48
Gross Enrolment Rate (Secondary Education) – Female (2021)	106.84
Gross Enrolment Rate (Secondary Education) – Male (2021)	104.17
Government Expenditure on Education as a % of GDP (2021)	6.5
Government Expenditure on Education as a % of total Government Expenditure	16.6

Policies

Education Reform Agenda: Re-imagining Education

Barbados is undergoing an education reform agenda that aims to make the national curriculum relevant to emerging technological and global trends, the labor market, and the country's developmental needs. This reform agenda aims to build and implement robust lifelong learning policies and systems, create a well-oiled education system that adapts to evolving skill demands including digital technology and the green economy. This agenda provides multiple pathways for certification and access to post-secondary education. The reform agenda also incorporates several opportunities for equitable provision of education to students with special educational needs, including in-class support at the primary and secondary levels. In addition, lifelong learning opportunities for tertiary level and further education for persons with disabilities are provided. The education sector also plans to promote inclusivity and equity by providing a more diverse curriculum, increasing access to appropriate education for students with special educational needs, and setting out a policy framework governing the education and employment of persons with disabilities. Apart from SDG 4 (quality education), this education reform agenda aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals including SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).

Best Practice: The National Transformation Initiative

The National Transformation Initiative (NTI) (2021) was launched by Barbados, as a part of the BERT (2018) programme to retrain, empower, and enfranchise every Barbadian worker through providing training courses. By the end of 2022, almost 60, 000 Barbadians had received online or face to face training throughout that period.

The NTI, in partnership with the Coursera learning platform, offers free online courses to help individuals improve their knowledge and skills in various areas, providing citizens with the opportunity to compete for jobs locally, regionally, and internationally. The courses, which include personal financial management, occupational safety and health, self-transformation, citizenship and many others, have been designed to teach the basics of key subject areas. Among the top skill competencies gained were leadership and management, entrepreneurship, communication in business; computer graphics, computer programming and theoretical computer science.

NTI's key areas of focus central to national transformation include:

- i) Active Citizenship and modeling Barbadian identity & Excellence
- ii) Highlighting the need for upskilling and embracing opportunities for continuous personal and professional development
- iii) Highlighting the critical need for inclusion for equality on behalf of and in support of the community of Persons with Disabilities (PWD)
- iv) Showcasing the central role of creatives in shaping national identity
- v) Highlighting the value and future forward trajectory of online learning
- vi) Coursera's internationally accredited courses
- vii) BEST training initiatives for the Tourism Sector

The 21st Century Educators' Hub

The 21st Century Educators' Hub is a training platform developed in partnership with the NTI, Coursera, the METVT, the IADB, and ETTTC. Its purpose is to provide professional development courses for educators and education leaders to improve the quality of education in Barbados. The courses are accredited and certified by global institutions, universities, and organizations. Many educators have already taken courses in Performance Assessment in the Virtual Classroom and Socio-emotional Learning for Students: A Path to Social and Emotional Wellbeing. The platform is part of the government's commitment to lifelong learning.

Introduction to Coding in Nursery, Primary, Special and Secondary Schools

This coding and robotics programme has been introduced at all levels of the education system from preschool to tertiary. It will give citizens an opportunity to become competitive and be better prepared for the future in this era of digitisation. Code Caribbean is an initiative aimed at promoting STEAM education in the Caribbean to drive innovation and economic growth in the region. In Barbados, the pilot project began in 2022 and continues into 2024. The program is a partnership between the GOB, the CDB, and the UWI Cave Hill Campus, among other stakeholders.

The Literacy Diagnostic Assessment and Early Intervention Centre is utilized as a tool by the METVT to facilitate the assessment of students and the development of remedial work plans. This measure ensures that no student is left behind. The Centre also instituted the Postgraduate Diploma in Special Education.

Code Caribbean labs in schools across the island provide students with hands-on learning experiences in areas such as robotics, coding, and 3D printing. The issue of gender parity is also being addressed through the programme as female students are being encouraged to participate, while male participants are encouraged to extend the programme through to entrepreneurship. Additionally, the program has provided training and support for teachers to enhance their capacity to deliver STEAM education.

Code Caribbean has also facilitated various competitions and hackathons to encourage students to use their STEAM skills to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems. These events provide opportunities for students to showcase their creativity and ingenuity and receive recognition for their work. The government has built partnerships with the private sector ensuring that job opportunities exist in areas of the programme. Overall, the Code Caribbean initiative in Barbados aims to equip students and educators with the necessary skills to compete in a rapidly changing global economy and to promote the development of a vibrant technology industry in the Caribbean region.

The METVT's Schools' Positive Behaviour Management Programme (SPBMP)

The METVT, in collaboration with United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), embarked on a multi-sectoral approach to transform the school climate at primary and secondary schools. The climate (at the time) at some schools was such that students were being sent in large numbers to the principal for behavioural issues. The students were unsettled and not performing tasks in the classrooms and teachers were

having difficulty teaching the students without stopping the lessons to respond to behavioural issues. To this end, the Initiative at that time was entitled "Changing the Classroom Climate". Results from this initiative showed that successes were noted in the overall behaviours of the students and that they were more susceptible to

Solar Energy Instruction at Schools

The METVT also incorporated instruction Solar Energy into the Electronics programme with the investment of solar panels and the requisite additional equipment to set up a demonstration model for the students. These initiatives were made possible by donors to the school including Co Operators General Insurance, Barbados National Oil Co. Ltd., The Sandy Lane Trust, The European Union Delegation, Massy Distribution and Emera.

the teaching and learning process. This initiative was then rolled out in 2009 in eleven schools; ten primary and one secondary. Since the inception, the initiative is now integrated in all 105 public nursery, primary, special and secondary schools in Barbados.

The objectives of the SPBMP include:

- building on the positive practices that already exist in schools;
- the creation of orderly and effective learning environments;
- making discipline fair, consistent and transparent;
- greater involvement of parents and the community in developing effective schools;
- the teaching of life-skills through the Health and Family Life Education Curriculum; and
- creating a culture of student governance and participation, through the establishment of student councils.

The Barbados Community College

In 2022, the Barbados Community College (BCC) launched the Virtual Centre for Teaching Excellence. The Virtual Centre for Teaching Excellence provides teaching staff with resources relating to best practices for classroom instruction, to improve the quality of delivery. Resources include training videos for online tuition, which would also assist new tutors.

The BCC is also undertaking the Refurbishment and Upgrades of Computer labs campus-wide (2020-present). The refurbished and upgraded computer labs provide students with access to state-of-the-art facilities and are also available to students who do not have access to internet or suitable devices. The smart classrooms initiative is part of the Community College's drive to develop a smart campus and allow for diversification of instruction as well as integration of technology in classroom instruction. This initiative was facilitated by the GOB who provided funding in the sum of BDS \$26,264.00.

The Barbados Vocational Training Board

The Board facilitates apprenticeship programmes (typically 3 years in duration) where apprentices receive work-based practical training with employers to whom they are contractually linked. Additionally, the Skills Training Programmes is offered over one (1) or two (2) semesters and trainees are placed on job attachments after completing the training. The Skills Training Programme comprises both evening courses and in-plant courses.

The Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council

The TVET Council is a statutory organisation set up to make Barbados more competitive through the development of its workforce. TVET has received funding from the IADB and the GOB. TVET's objectives include:

- to support employer-driven education and training. Specifically, to facilitate alignment of the supply of training with market demand and to equip employees with up-to-date skills required by industry;
- to support the Government's Human Resource Development Strategy with emphasis on improving the quality and relevance of Secondary Education and the effectiveness of TVET;

- to provide financing for employers, business associations as well as public and private institutions to train employees and members, inclusive of general public; and
- to provide individuals with new or additional knowledge, skills for personal, social and professional development, continuously.

Civil Society Initiatives

The Barbados Workers Union (BWU)

The BWU is committed to creating a society that supports hearing impaired individuals and fosters inclusive workspaces. In this regard, the BWU has partnered with the Deaf Heart Project to promote education and inclusivity for hearing impaired individuals. The project aims to teach sign language and create an inclusive working environment where effective communication is possible. This unique approach involves having deaf individuals teach sign language to the hearing population. The project will provide certification to individuals who successfully complete sign language courses, enabling them to communicate effectively in sign language and enable the deaf and hearing to effectively perform their duties effectively in any work environment.

The My Inclusive School Project

This project was launched during the Day for persons with disabilities and is currently running in 5 schools (inclusive of primary and secondary schools) and aims to foster a sense of empathy for persons with disabilities among students in the school system. Additionally, the programme also facilitates a DAD Ambassador who is selected from each school (of the 5 schools under the project). This annual project aims to impact an estimated 60,000 school children and supports the METVT's training's drive to make the nation's schools more inclusive.

SDG Targets under Goal 4 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

<p>■ Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress</p> <p>■ Fair progress but acceleration is needed</p> <p>■ Limited or no progress</p>	<p>■ Moving away from target/ deterioration</p> <p>■ No trend data available</p> <p>■ Insufficient data/ not applicable</p>
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Targets - SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	■
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	■
By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.	■
By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.	■
By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	■
By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.	■
Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.	■



SDG 5: Gender Equality

‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’

Universal access
to sexual &
reproductive
health

Violence against
women & girls

Women’s
participation in
decision-making

End all forms
of
discrimination

Overview of SDG 5

The GOB is committed to ensuring gender equality at all levels within our society. We believe that if women and girls are unable to achieve their full potential due to gender-based and domestic violence, it will pose a threat to the overall development of Barbados’ economy and society. Gender equality allows for both sexes to have access to opportunities and are not disadvantaged on the basis of whether they are male or female.

The GOB, through the Bureau of Gender Affairs, continues to work towards gender equality and to bring about the empowerment of women, through policy, programs and strategies. The Government nevertheless recognizes that the achievement of gender equality cannot be realized without the need to create significant and meaningful partnerships. This being the case, the Government welcomes and is committed to working with the non-governmental organizations and civil society in this regard.

The issue of domestic violence and GBV remains a focal area for the Government, especially during the heightened COVID-19 period which saw a 38% increase in domestic violence reports during the early stages of the 2020, which represented an increase from 2018 numbers.

The current legal frameworks promote, enforce and monitor gender equality, with a focus on violence against women, covering 83.3% of the relevant SDG indicators³⁹. Reports of domestic violence between July 2020 and July 2021 are as follows⁴⁰:

³⁹ UN Women- Barbados. Available at:

<https://data.unwomen.org/country/barbados#:~:text=In%20Barbados%2C%2083.3%25%20of%20legal,planning%20satisfied%20with%20modern%20methods.>

⁴⁰ Family Conflict Intervention Unit, Royal Barbados Police Force

Barbados continues to engage in the fight against gender-based violence through several strategies and programmes. The Family Conflict Intervention Unit (FCIU) of the Barbados Police Service (BPS) works with a high degree of confidentiality with perpetrators, victims, and the wider community, to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence. The FCIU has found that since they can issue emergency protection orders and warnings to the perpetrators, victims appear to appreciate that the issue is being taken more seriously. **Table 8** shows select statistics collected by the FCIU, as they relate to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Statistics are supplied for the year 2020, unless otherwise stated.

July 2020–July 2021	Number
Women aged 15-49 years subjected to physical violence by an intimate partner	138
Women aged 15-49 years subjected to physical violence by other	37
Women aged 15-49 years subjected to sexual violence by an intimate partner	6
Women aged 15-49 years subjected to sexual violence by other	5

Table 8 Women aged 15–49 Subjected to Physical Violence

Source: Family Conflict Intervention Unit

MONTH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
JANUARY	32	2	34
FEBRUARY	28	1	29
MARCH	24	0	24
APRIL	19	3	22
MAY	46	3	49
JUNE	18	1	19
JULY	39	5	44
AUGUST	41	5	46
SEPTEMBER	24	4	28
OCTOBER	30	3	33
NOVEMBER	25	3	28
DECEMBER	28	5	33
TOTAL	354	35	389

Table 9 Sex of Suspected Aggressors Within Domestic Violence Reported Cases

Source: Family Conflict Intervention Unit

Based on the data collected from the FCIU, both women and men are victims of domestic abuse in Barbados. In 2020, it was reported that out of a total of four hundred and thirty-six (436) cases, in 20.6% of cases men were considered as victims of domestic violence, while women were victims in the remaining 79.4% of cases. Women remain the prime victims of gender-based violence, while men remain the primary perpetrators of these acts.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs, cognisant of the need to include men and boys in the fight against gender-based violence, has adopted a Masculinity programme and one aspect of this programme is to work with young males from secondary schools across the island. During the past years the Bureau has held workshops on the issue of gender-based violence and the link with masculinity. These workshops have been held with students from the Lester Vaughn Secondary School, the Parkinson Memorial Secondary School and most recently in 2021, via virtual platform with students at the Princess Margaret Secondary School.

The GOB has sought to not only address the victims of gender-based violence / domestic violence but has also provided an avenue for the perpetrators of GBV to receive support and counselling, through the Partnership for Peace programme, which was launched in 2012 within the then Ministry of Social Care. The programme is psycho- educational and the perpetrators are exposed to several topics, with the goal of teaching them an alternative to violent behaviour. Since its inception, approximately one hundred and twenty (120) males have been through the programme, and many have expressed the view that the programme has been beneficial. The programme now resides in the Bureau of Gender Affairs and efforts are ongoing to start the first cohort of applicants within the next few months.

The National Committee on GBV has been established, which comprises several government agencies and non-governmental agencies, with a mandate to develop a national action plan to combat GBV. An initiative to address GBV in the workplace has also been launched by the Ministry of Labour, Social Partnership, and the Third Sector (MLSP).

Women's right to equal participation and freedom of assembly and association are guaranteed under the Constitution of Barbados which clearly outlines 'equity regardless of gender' principles. There are no legal impediments regarding the participation of women in the election process or with respect to women holding office or other leadership positions. In May 2018, the Honourable Mia Amor Mottley S.C; M.P was sworn in as the country's first female Prime Minister and for a second time in 2022. In 2021, Her Excellency the Most Honorable Dame Sandra Prunella Mason, FB, GCMG, D.A, Q.C., LLD, become our first female President. Additionally, two of our former Governors General (prior to Barbados becoming a Republic) were women. Presently, 26.67% of seats in Parliament are held by women. Thirty parliamentarians (24 males and 6 females) were elected to the lower house by adult suffrage on the first past-the-post system. Since then, a by-election was held in 2020, there are now twenty-three males and seven females or 23 %. Twenty-one senators were appointed to the upper house, 43 % of whom are women. Statistics on women participating in the voting process are provided in the below tables.

Year	Number of Women Registered Voters	Number of Male Registered Voters	Proportion of Women Registered Voters	Total Registered Voters
2003	115,789	104,034	0.526	220,093
2008	123,348	123,348	0.524	235,510
2013	129,903	119,121	0.521	249,024
2018	134,750	124,151	0.520	258,901

Table 10 Women Registered Voters over four national elections
Source: Report on the Barbados General Election 2013, 2018⁴¹

Year	Number of Women	Proportion of Women
2003	9	0.145
2008	10	0.145
2013	12	0.176
2018	37	0.276

Table 11 Trends in women candidates over the past four national elections
Source: Report on the Barbados General Election 2013, 2018⁴²

There was a more than 200 % increase in women candidates from 2013 to 2018. It should be noted that, apart from the traditional two political parties contesting the elections, an additional seven parties fielded women candidates in 2018.

Number and Proportion of Judges and Prosecutors who are Women

At 2021, there were seven female High Court judges and seven males. Within the Court of Appeal, there were two females and three males. (See Table 12 below).

⁴¹ <http://www.caribbeanelections.com/bb>

⁴² <http://www.caribbeanelections.com/bb>

Positions	Total	Males	Females
Elected Members of Parliament	30	23	7
Members of Cabinet	26	19	7
Senators	21	13	8
Permanent Secretaries (2020)	27	8	19
Judges of High Court	14	7	7
Magistrates	10	5	5
Judges of Appeal	5	3	2

Table 12 Select decision-making positions by sex for 2021

Source: Bureau of Gender Affairs

Women Appointed to Sit on Boards of Management

The disparity between men and women sitting on the boards of management of various public and private entities continued to be an issue of concern. An Evaluation of Board Diversity in Barbados was conducted in 2020 on behalf of the Barbados Branch of the International Women’s Forum. The results of the online survey, which included the private sector (72 %), non-governmental organisations (6 %) and public service/statutory organisations revealed that only approximately 29 % of the board members were female.

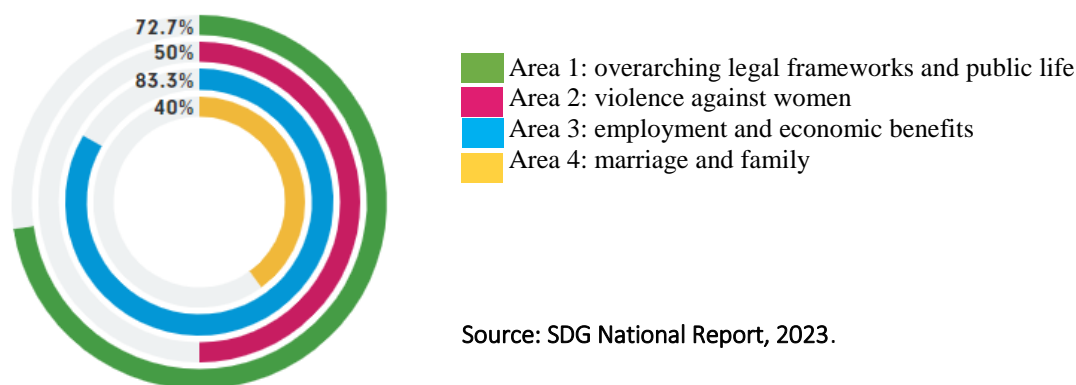
The GOB recognises that additional work is required to advance SDG 5, particularly with respect to adolescent births and unpaid care work. The adolescent birth rate stood at 49.7 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 in 2007, up from 45.8 per 1,000 in 2006. Other areas requiring focus for additional data gathering include unpaid work and domestic care. Barbados obtained an overall score of 0.83 in the Gender Gap Index in the area of economic participation and opportunity in Barbados in 2022 (by category). This indicated economic disparities between women and men in Barbados. Closing these gender gaps is essential for achieving gender-related SDG commitments in Barbados. Below is a snapshot of Barbados’ progress towards achieving SDG 5.

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 5

Ratio of female-to-male mean years of education received (%) (2019)	106.8
Women Business and the Law Index Score ⁴³ (scale 1- 100) (2021)	76.9
Ratio of female-to-male labour force participation rate (%) (2020)	87.6
Seats held by women in national parliament (%) (2020)	20.0
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%) (2019)	48
Gender Equity Index score (2019)	0.25
Gender Inequality Index (country rank) ⁴⁴	64
Global Gender Gap Index Rank ⁴⁵	30
% Female-Headed Households	47.5 ⁴⁶

SDG 5.1.1 focuses on the legal frameworks in a country that promote, enforce, and monitor general equality. Barbados' status in four key areas is highlighted in **Figure 14**.

Figure 14 Political participation, accountability and gender-responsiveness



Source: SDG National Report, 2023.

⁴³ Women, Business and the Law (WBL) provides policy makers with actionable benchmarks on women's economic opportunity and further evidence of the relationship between legal gender equality and economic outcomes. In economies where women face less discrimination under the law, greater progress has been made in closing the gender gap in women's employment and entrepreneurship, among other outcomes.

⁴⁴ The Gender Inequality Index is a composite measure reflecting inequality between women and men in three different dimensions: reproductive health (maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rate), empowerment (share of parliamentary seats held by women and share of population with at least some secondary education), and labour market participation (labour force participation rate). Source: United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2021/2022.

⁴⁵ The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health criteria. Source: World Economic Forum, the Global Gender Gap Report 2022.

⁴⁶ Data sources also included the Sustainable Development Report, 2022 and the Barbados National SDG Report.

Projects & Initiatives

The National Committee for Gender-Based Violence

In 2019, the GOB approved the establishment of a National Committee for Gender-based Violence charged with the overall responsibility to develop strategies, initiatives and programmes aimed at reducing gender-based violence in all its forms.

Partnership for Peace

Efforts to address SDG 5 also target the men in our society. Through the Partnership for Peace, our men are encouraged and supported in achieving a violence-free lifestyle. The Partnership for Peace, an initiative of UN Women, is a psycho-educational programme designed to encourage offenders to take responsibility for their violent actions and equip them with skills to end that behaviour.

It is deemed "as a new beginning and not a punitive measure for the men, as they will be afforded an opportunity to turn their lives around and embark on a life-changing journey that could reap significant long-term benefits". Following several successful outcomes of the initiative, a recommendation was made for women to be included as the target audience for the programme.

The Caribbean Policy for Gender-Based Violence in the Workplace

The policy gives clear, practical guidelines on creating a safe environment for the confidential and appropriate handling of reports of GBV incidents, in addition to providing a framework for addressing challenges faced by survivors of GBV in the



workplace. This joint initiative between the Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC) and the Caribbean Confederation of Labour (CCL), is supported by the United Nations Population Fund

(UNFPA) and ILO under the Spotlight Initiative, with generous funding from the EU to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the world of work.

The gender-based violence in the workplace project

This project followed a Memorandum of Understanding between UN Women and the Ministry of Labour, Social Partnership and the Third Sector in an effort to heighten awareness of this type of violence in the workplace.

The Spotlight Initiative

The Regional Spotlight Initiative entitled: “Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Prevent and Respond to Family Violence in the Caribbean” is being jointly implemented by four UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, and UNFPA). The Spotlight Initiative has a 6-tiered approach: (1) reforming legal procedures, (2) improving the capacity of national institutions for evidence-based violence prevention programmes, (3) expanding programmes that prevent family violence, (4) supporting improved service delivery to survivors of family violence, (5) enhancing data collection, analysis, monitoring on violence against women and girls, and (6) improving the capacity of national civil society organisations to design, implement and monitor violence prevention programmes.

Online Initiative to Enhance Career Opportunities with an Emphasis on Women Participation

With the partnership between the government and Coursera, Barbadians can gain significant benefits that can also enhance their digital competencies and expand their range of career opportunities. The partnership between Coursera, one of the world’s leading online learning platforms, and Government’s NTI, is designed to equip Barbadians with the knowledge, skills and values to be citizens of good character and competence in a digital world.

The success and impact of this initiative has paved the way for a long-term partnership, marking NTI and Coursera’s joint commitment to helping Barbadians prepare for a digital future. As part of the initiative, Coursera and Google, a Coursera industry partner, are providing 20,000 scholarships to Barbadian women across the country.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) Referral Pathways

Barbados is one of seven Caribbean countries and territories that has launched GBV Referral pathways with the support of UNFPA Barbados. GBV Referral pathways facilitate primary duty bearers and actors with information on how to respond to GBV cases and provides guidance for survivors of GBV on where to seek assistance and what services are available at different referral points. GBV Pathways can include any of the following: Case Management, Health, Psychosocial, Security and Protection, Legal/Justice, and/or Economic support.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs

The Bureau of Gender Affairs, under the MPEA, is continuing its efforts to promote gender equality and eliminate gender-based violence. Through an Act of Parliament, a National Committee on Gender Based Violence was established in 2015. The Committee was established with a view to providing a more holistic and collaborative approach to the efforts at tackling gender-based violence. The Committee has a mandate to develop a National Action Plan against gender-based violence.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs has also targeted young males from the secondary schools in efforts to address gender-related issues in Barbados. The annual workshops for young male students were designed to introduce young males to the concepts of gender, masculinity, and gender-based violence. These workshops were further intended to provide these students with an understanding of how gender and masculinity impact behaviour and can lead to acts of gender-based violence.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs also recognised the need for gender discourses within the MPEA. Therefore, the Bureau in collaboration with the UNDP, organised training sessions with MPEA Heads of Sections, to sensitise key decision-makers on the concepts of gender and gender inequality, particularly in relation to programme design and delivery. Such training sessions will continue to impact the ability of men and women to avail themselves of the basic human right to engage equally in all areas of their lives and endeavours.

Civil Society and NGO initiatives

The Barbados Association of Muslim Ladies

The Barbados Association of Muslim Ladies, an associate organisation of the Barbados Muslim Association, has undertaken several programs for women and girls. These programs have facilitated seminars and workshops targeted at empowerment. The Association has also worked with other agencies in Barbados, including Institute for Gender Studies, to build out better opportunities for young girls and women within the Muslim community and the wider society.

SAVE Foundation

The SAVE Foundation raises awareness of domestic violence through community outreach programmes and sensitizes Barbadians to their rights under the Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act and provides training for stakeholders and collaborates with agencies to address domestic violence, record and monitor incidents of domestic violence in Barbados and advocates for the adoption of conventions on domestic violence.

Projects include the sensitization of domestic violence survivors to their rights. The Foundation also offers free mental health counseling for victims of domestic violence (including children) and free legal advice. 6-week workshops targeted at livelihood skills and financial management are also offered to survivors. Since 2009, an estimated forty-nine thousand (49,000) persons were impacted by the work of the SAVE Foundation.

Barbados International Business Association – BIBA

BIBA, the Association of Global Business service companies in Barbados is focused on operationalizing and actualizing the SDGs within the private sector. The organization is involved in several projects and initiatives related to sustainable development and corporate responsibility. One recent initiative undertaken by the organization, in collaboration with Open for Business, is focused on SDG 5 (Gender Equality). A workshop was conducted with the financial sector to address the needs of Lesbian Gays Bisexual Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) clients and develop internal policies that respect client identities.

The Barbados Workers Union

The BWU addresses SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through its Gender Committee, which is actively involved in reducing inequality in Barbados and the wider Caribbean. This Committee works on promoting female empowerment, and gender equality, and also works to address pay and compensation imbalances. The committee organizes panel discussions and collaborates with organizations including the UWI, to educate members on topics related to gender equality. The Committee also focuses on addressing ingrained cultural norms related to sexual harassment through a series of education and awareness-raising initiatives.

The BWU engages in policy discussions, particularly in relation to issues faced by the LGBTQ community, in an effort to support workers that have faced discrimination based on their sexual preferences or gender identity. The BWU focuses on educating the public and finding solutions to challenges within the workplace and respecting individual rights. The union also emphasizes decent work and economic growth, advocating for equality and equity to benefit workers.

Business and Professional Women's Club

BPW's overriding mandate of equal rights, social justice and empowerment of women are the mainstay of all its projects. The BPW executes several projects aimed at implementation of SDG 5. The BPW has conducted a self-development programme for over three hundred (300) women over the past 5 years. Their projects/programmes include a crisis centre and hotline which handles, rape, sexual assault, Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Violence and Suicide which began in 1986 and runs daily. The hotline provides counselling and is a gateway to the BPW Shelter. The crisis centre is also an information and educational arm to all the sectors dealing with these areas including the judicial, police, social workers, medical fraternity etc. The crisis centre has handled over twenty-thousand 20,000 calls since it started. BPW operates the shelter for abused women and their children which was started in 1999. The shelter has housed over twenty-three hundred (2,300) women since it started operation.

The BPW visits schools and tertiary education institutions to discuss with students various aspects of becoming a young lady/gentleman and providing information and awareness of Teen Education & Dating Violence, gender base violence, anger management, conflict







resolution and introducing human rights to the youth. They have visited over fifteen (15) primary and secondary schools and two (2) tertiary institutions in the past five (5) years.








I am a Girl Barbados

The “I am a Girl” is a Leading Non-Profit Community in Support of Girls. This non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young girls and giving them opportunities to lead and create positive change. The organization provides capacity building, mentorship, and guidance to girls aged five (5) to eighteen (18), with the goal of making a long-term difference in their lives and promoting positive and long-term change in their community. Private sessions, events, and school outreach programs are all part of the group's work, and they employ engaging and interactive methods such as drama therapy and experiential learning.

SDG Targets under Goal 5 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Barbados' Progress
End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.	
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.	
Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	
Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.	
Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.	
Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

‘Ensure access availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all’

Access to safe & affordable drinking water

Equitable sanitation

Efficient water- use

Support for developing countries

Management of integrated water

Protection of water-related ecosystems

Overview of SDG 6

For several decades, Barbados has had its sights on the design and implementation of large-scale water management systems. Rated in the top fifteen (15) most water scarce countries of the world and especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, Barbados recognizes the importance of enhancing the island’s water sources. In recent years, we have experienced saline intrusion, the decreasing recharge rates of our aquifers and drastically decreasing ground water levels. In this regard, serious and sustained intervention is needed.

With almost 98% of the groundwater resources fully developed and with the more frequent occurrences of drought, the island has started to experience some water supply issues in the high elevation areas of the island as well as a rise in salinity levels in the coastal aquifers.

Recognizing these threats and the island’s vulnerability, we have undertaken several actions aimed at mitigation, adaptation and building resilience of water and wastewater systems. Therefore, we have put the following measures in place:

- augmentation of the water supply through desalination of brackish and seawater (23%). Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement;
- strategic mains replacement programme to replace and rehabilitate the ageing infrastructure to reduce the level of non-revenue water (averaging at 40%), frequency of bursts and disruptions in service;
- planned upgrades of the two existing municipal wastewater treatment plants to tertiary level with the intention of reusing the reclaimed water for irrigation and

groundwater recharge. This has been facilitated through approval of a Water Reuse Policy and the recently passed Water Reuse Act. A BDS \$78 million grant has been received from the Global Climate Fund (GCF) to upgrade one of the plants; and

- a Greening Initiative has been conceptualized to increase the resilience and stability of the water supply systems to the impacts of climate change, while maintaining the required service deliver standard that increases resilience at the household level.

Over 80% of our drinking water resources are related to a shallow coastal aquifer that is heavily influenced by the sea and is very responsive to sea level rise and drought. Despite the challenges we face, Barbados has been making significant advances under SDG 6. We have achieved over 99% access to safe drinking water and access to sanitation services. Our progress on SDG 6 is also linked to SDG 2- Zero Hunger, SDG 5- Gender Equality, SDG 13- Climate Action, SDG 14- Life below water and SDG 15- Life on Land.

The GOB is committed to creating a sustainable, resilient water supply for the country by implementing renewable energy solutions, increasing water capacity through rainwater harvesting and water storage, supporting adaptation funding, and raising awareness about climate change and the water cycle.

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 6

Population using safely managed drinking water services (%) (2020)	99
Population using safely managed sanitation services (%) (2020)	100
Freshwater withdrawal (% of available freshwater resources) (2018)	87.5
Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%) (2018)	1.2 ⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Compiled from IDB Caribbean Water Study and Sustainable Development Report, 2022

Policies, Plans and Supporting Studies

Green Paper on 2020 Water Protection and Land Use Zoning Policy

The Green Paper on the 2020 Water Protection and Land Use Zoning Policy describes the existing groundwater protection zoning policy, outlines its strengths and shortcomings and proposes a new integrated approach to protection of all the island's water resources, including coastal waters. The new proposed water protection and land use policy is guided, inter alia, by the following principles:

- prevention is better than cure,
- systematic approaches are more effective than ad hoc, and
- policy should be guided by the best science.

The Green Paper is an integrated approach which addresses sources of pollution, uses the best technology and practices, strengthens capacity and creates the appropriate regulatory and legislative structure. It also proposes a re-zoning scheme with Zones A to E, where various activities and measures would be prescribed. Once approved, the new policy will result in:

- stricter control of chemical usage and disposal;
- sewerage of communities around the Belle public supply well which is responsible for almost one third of our drinking water;
- reduction in the use of suck wells as the primary method of domestic wastewater disposal; and
- new measures for developers and proposed developments must incorporate groundwater protection mechanisms⁴⁸.

National Water Reuse Policy

The GOB promulgated the National Water Reuse Policy in 2023. The Reuse Policy is supported by the PDP and the Water Protection and Land Use Zoning Policy, which call for the treatment of all wastewater discharges.

⁴⁸ Ministry of Energy. Available at: <https://energy.gov.bb/our-projects/2020-water-protection-and-land-use-zoning-policy/#:~:text=land%20use%20zoning-,The%20Green%20Paper%20on%20the%202020%20Water%20Protection%20and%20Land,water%20resources%2C%20including%20coastal%20waters.>

Programmes, Projects and Initiatives

Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability in Barbados (WSRN S-Barbados)

The Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability in Barbados (WSRN-S) project is fulfilling its objectives of creating a sustainable, resilient water supply for Barbados.⁴⁹ The project, which also incorporates other areas including energy and infrastructure, is due for completion in April 2024. Utilizing renewable energy technologies, WSRN S-Barbados will increase water security via the installation of solar PV (photovoltaic) and backup natural gas power for pumping stations. Additionally, the project will also implement climate resilience actions in the water sector, including enhanced filtration and enhanced water management systems. A public awareness component will encourage more sustainable water use throughout communities in Barbados. The WSRN-S project was the island's first GCF country project.



3R-CReWS- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for Climate Resilience Wastewater Systems in Barbados

The GCF is also supporting the implementation of the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for Climate Resilience Wastewater Systems in Barbados (3R-CReWS) Project. The overall objective of this project is to reduce the stress on internal renewable water resources with treated wastewater to increase water and food security. Additionally, it will facilitate the enhancement of the health, well-being and productivity of Barbadians through the use of carbon-neutral and climate-resilient water and energy management technologies and strategies that ensures water is protected, managed, recycled, reused, and conserved⁵⁰.

⁴⁹ GCF <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp060>

⁵⁰ GCF -3R-CREWS. Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/r-s-reduce-reuse-and-recycle-climate-resilience-wastewater-systems-barbados-3r-crews>

Personal Tank Programme

The Personal Water Tank Programme, managed by the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) and launched in 2017, has provided water conservation facilities for people in Barbados. Under this new phase of the programme, financed by the GCF, water storage capacity on the island will be significantly improved by the introduction of some two thousand, four hundred and eighty-nine (2,489) tank systems. The programme, which falls under the authority’s WSNR-S project, is being executed in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC).

National Erosion Control and Aquifer Recharge Programme on Sugar Plantation Lands

The Barbados Agricultural Management Company (BAMC) commenced a project in 2021 aimed at combatting erosion and enhancing water resources for the sugar industry. The National Erosion and Aquifer Recharge Programme has two components: erosion mitigation and aquifer recharge. The programme’s objectives are as follows:

- mitigate and control erosion using natural methods – such as the planting of Vetiver (Khus Khus) Grass and Lemon Grass;
- control erosion within acres of sugarcane and other agricultural lands, especially within natural watercourses, headlands and sloping or hilly areas, to arrest soil movement and loss;
- capture surface water through a system of linked suck wells to recharge aquifers; and
- replenish groundwater reservoirs through the removal of silt and the general cleaning and refurbishment of wells.

WSRN-S Outputs		
220.2k Tonnes of emissions avoided	474k beneficiaries	4 Result areas: Energy, Food & waters security, Infrastructure, Livelihoods

Noteworthy successes of this project include the more than seven (7) miles of grass which was planted to halt soil movement, reduction of flooding in St. Lucy and St. John and the increase in water for farmers from 1 million gallons to 6 million gallons over a two-year period.

The Barbados Agricultural Developmental Management Cooperation (BADMC) is also engaged in a pilot aquaculture programme aimed at enhancing the resilience of the agriculture sector to climate change impacts (related to water scarcity) and reducing reliance on fertilizers.

The South Coast Water Reclamation and Water Reduce Project

The GOB is implementing a large-scale water reclaim and reuse project on the south coast. This sustainable water initiative will transform the existing South Coast Sewage Plant (and the Bridgetown plant) into a futuristic Water Resource Recovery Facility by adding approximately two hundred thousand (200,000) additional gallons per day to this island's scarce drinking water supply.

The project will facilitate the reuse of 10 percent of the 1.98 million gallons of potable water (which is pumped through the wastewater system). The project will also:

- augment existing water supplies;
- mitigate climate change effects;
- reduce seawater intrusion and sea level rise;
- diversify potable water sources;
- enhance water supply resiliency; and
- reduce the impact of treated effluent on marine life and the natural environment.

The project will also lead to the development of a new secondary station to transport the effluent from one building to a new and more advanced treatment plant nearby. This secondary treatment will include a biological nutrient removal plant that will remove nitrogen and phosphorous. This is of critical importance as it ensures that our water is not polluted by agricultural runoff which often leads to eutrophication.

Modernization of Water Supply Infrastructure and Wastewater Treatment Equipment Project

The Modernization of Water Supply Infrastructure and Wastewater Treatment Equipment Project has been designed to improve water supply across the country and will allow the BWA to rehabilitate the island's drinking water distribution network by improving efficiency, service quality and resilience to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. Investments will also lead to improvements to the deteriorated wastewater treatment facilities. The project has a

strong focus on the rehabilitation of aged and deteriorated leaking infrastructure, pipes, and reservoirs. Under the project, Barbados will replace 16km of aged pipes, reservoirs, and pumping stations. The project also will construct a wastewater treatment plant and related sewerage network and revitalize some key pieces of infrastructure in the environmental sector. Additional benefits to be gained include substantial energy savings, reducing water losses (non-revenue water) in networks and an improvement in wastewater treatment operations. The project is backed by the European Union with resources from the European Investment Bank.

The Pit Toilet Eradication Programme

The Pit Toilet Eradication Programme was launched by the GOB in March 2019, and specifically addresses Target 6.2: *by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations*. This programme also incorporates elements of climate-resiliency, particularly within the vulnerable members of our society.

The main goal of this programme was to eradicate pit latrines from the urban landscape and replace these by waterborne facilities. The three (3) objectives of the programme were to:

- identify 100% of the urban residents who have pit latrines by 2030;
- reduce by 90% the number of identified pit latrines throughout the urban area for those homeowners who own the lands on which they live by 2030; and
- provide impetus for legislative change and policy reform through the provision of information and identification of needs for clients who do not have landowner permission or where the landlord cannot be identified.

The implementation of the program has revealed several challenges including land ownership issues, poor property construction, unfavorable locations of properties, inadequate supervisory resources and lack of private sector/charitable group/community group assistance. Despite these challenges, the Pit Toilet Eradication Programme has been largely successful in advancing progress under SDG 6. The Government has completed a total of three hundred and three (303) projects from 2019 to 2023 under the Pit Eradication programme with an additional five hundred and seventy-one projects (571) to be started.

Civil Society and NGO Initiatives

BANGO and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre







The Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (BANGO) is an umbrella organisation for NGOs in Barbados. This national network facilitates training in advocacy, capacity building, compliance and grant writing. The organisation is also working on a project with the CCCCC which allows their membership to learn about water-related issues including water availability and water conservation techniques (for example rainwater harvesting) through several workshops. This project will be extended in the future to the communities and schools across the island.








Barbados Muslim Association

The Water Fountains in Schools project is an initiative in collaboration with the HSFBS and the Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition that started following a survey conducted in schools. Ninety (90) percent of the respondents felt as though they were not having the access to clean drinking water in the public schools. As such, the Barbados Muslim Association sought to raise funds to purchase equipment to provide clean drinking water and to date, twenty (20) schools (both secondary and primary government schools) have installed water fountains.

SDG Targets under Goal 6 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

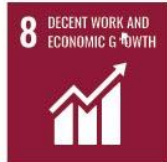
Targets - SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	
By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	
By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.	
By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.	
By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels.	
By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.	
Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.	



Voluntary National Review 2023

Prosperity

ENSURE PROSPEROUS FULFILLING LIVES





SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

‘Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all’

Access to sustainable and modern energy

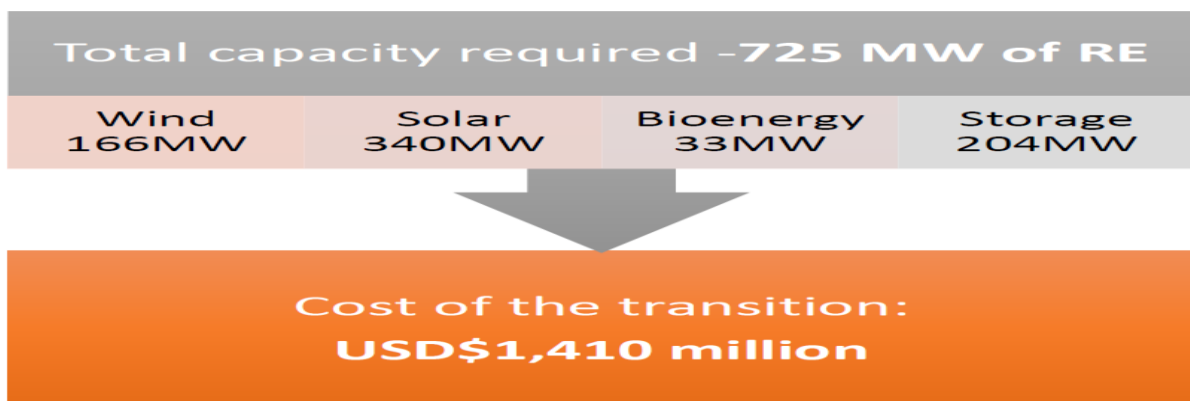
Increasing renewable energy

Improving energy efficiency

Overview of SDG 7

The GOB stands steadfast in its resolve to transform its energy industry even as we grapple with supply side constraints and high oil prices occasioned by the conflict in Ukraine. Additionally, the impacts of climate change and our specific vulnerabilities as a SIDS means that we must reduce our dependency on fossil fuels. Fuel and oil imports account for 7.10 percent of GDP and annual energy use per capita is 3,142kWh. The current cost of transition to fully renewable is estimated at approximately BDS \$2,820 million.

Figure 15 Estimate of Costs to Transition to Fully Renewable Energy



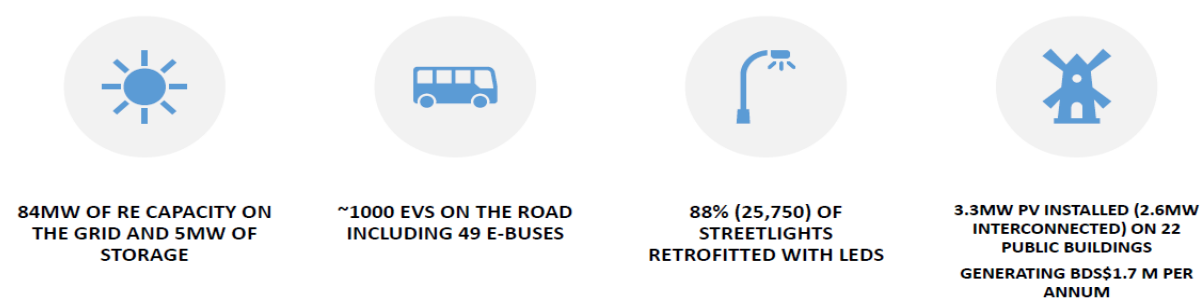
Source: Ministry of Energy and Business

Barbados is considered as one of the primary leaders in renewable energy in the wider Caribbean region. Recognising the changes and recent advances in the green energy technologies, we have undertaken, in recent times, a series of legislative changes and introduced regulatory provisions to allow us to reach our energy goals. The rapid growth and success of solar water heating in Barbados reflects our thrust to support renewable energy

through fiscal measures. Solar energy is now the most popular source of water heating in Barbados.⁵¹

In 2016 Barbados welcomed its first utility scale solar farm in Trents, St. Lucy, located in the north of the island. Today, approximately half of the households in Barbados use solar powered water heaters and PV energy is used throughout the commercial, tourism and agricultural sectors. Our use of renewable energy is not limited to solar as the Government is committed to exploring the feasibility of other sources including wind, ocean /wave energy and biomass as part of our energy mix. In 2020, we were the first country in the region to introduce a fleet of forty-nine (49) electric buses to our public transportation system. The current state of our energy transition is detailed below.

Figure 16 Current State of Barbados Energy Transition



Source: Ministry of Energy and Business

⁵¹ National Energy Efficiency Monitoring Report for Barbados, 2017, available at: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45053/1/S1900970_en.pdf

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 7

Share of population (%) with access to electricity (2020)	100
Share of population (%) with access to clean fuels for cooking (2020)	100
Energy use per person (kWh) (2019)	25,135
CO ₂ emissions from fuel combustion per total electricity output (MtCO ₂ /TWh) (2018)	1.16
Primary energy consumption/ yer (TWh) (2019)	7
Annual change (%) in primary energy consumption (2019)	0.17
Share of energy production (%) from fossil fuels (2021)	95.52
Share of electricity (%) from low carbon sources (2021)	7.48
Share of electricity production from renewables (2021)	7.48 ⁵²

Policies, Plans and Supporting Studies

At the policy level, Barbados has established a clear path toward the transformation of the island's energy sector. These bold approaches will positively impact all aspects of life in Barbados and drive our progress toward the global goal of 'affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all'.

The Barbados National Energy Policy 2019 – 2030

“Energy security and affordability through diversity and collaboration: Establishing and maintaining a sustainable energy sector for Barbados.”

The Barbados National Energy Policy (BNEP) (2019-2035) is a comprehensive document that outlines our government's plans to transform Barbados' energy sector from one that is highly dependent on imported fossil fuels to establishing Barbados as the first fully sustainable island state in the world. The policy demonstrates the GOB's commitment to UN SDG 7, to 'ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all'. Additionally, the BNEP seeks to create a more resilient energy system that will better withstand natural disasters and

⁵² Barbados: Energy Country Profile - Our World in Data. Available from: Barbados: Energy Country Profile - Our World in Data

other disruptions, and therefore aligns with the goals of SDG 13 “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.

The Policy addresses six (6) main goals including:

- provision of reliable, safe, affordable, sustainable, modern and climate friendly energy services to all residents and visitors;
- zero domestic consumption of fossil fuels economy wide;
- export of all hydrocarbons produced both on land and offshore;
- maximising local participation (individual and corporate) in distributed renewable energy (RE) generation and storage (democratisation of energy);
- minimise the outflow of foreign exchange; and
- creating a regional centre of excellence in RE research and development.

<u>BNEP Targets</u>			
49%	100%	52%	100%
Fossil fuel reduction by 2023	Fossil fuel reduction by 2030	Increase in renewable energy by 2023	Increase in renewable energy by 2030

By reducing our country’s dependence on imported fossil fuels and increasing the use of renewable energy sources with combinations of Solar PV, solar thermal, wind, biogas, and biofuels sources, the BNEP supports global efforts to mitigate climate change. Moreover, by prioritizing conservation through energy efficiency, we will reduce energy costs for households and businesses, thereby promoting increased social and economic sustainability.

The BNEP was created by utilising a collaborative approach that included wide and varied consultation among the energy stakeholders in Barbados. A Multi-Criteria Approach (MCA) was used, where the impacts of the policies chosen were taken from as wide-ranging a perspective as possible, ensuring that cross-cutting issues related to finance, economics, the natural environment, technology, and social development were considered to prepare the document.

The Policy outcomes include i) reduced importation, consumption, and dependence on fossil fuels, ii) efficient energy-producing technologies and iii) preservation of Barbados’ natural environment. Sites for renewable energy development are also identified in the Policy along

with an Implementation Plan which highlights indicators, targets, specific programmes, and responsibilities.

Our National Energy Policy, and its three (3) pronged approach to energy conservation and security: energy ownership, energy investments and renewable energy, indicates total alignment to SDG 7. Moreover, this Policy illustrates our commitment to ‘ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all’ and establish Barbados as the first 100% renewable energy and carbon-neutral island state in the world.

The Right to Renewable Energy Policy (RTRE)

In keeping with the GOB’s drive towards renewable energy and to ensure safe, reliable energy for all, we have operationalized the householders’ Right to RTRE. This Policy allows for waivers for previously required licenses for homeowners to install domestic renewable energy systems up to 10 kilowatts (kW). Under this Policy, householders will also now have space reserved on the electric grid for their RE system, until they are ready to invest. Our RTRE Policy also represents our diligent efforts to assist our citizens who will now benefit financially from investing in renewable energy and contribute to the Global Goals. We are indeed proud that our country’s householders’ RTRE Policy received an award for the Best Climate Policy/Program at the fifth annual Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum’s (CREF) Industry Awards earlier this year⁵³.

Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

The Public Sector Smart Energy Programme

The Government of Barbados through the Ministry of Energy and Business, Project Executing Unit launched the Public Sector Smart Energy Programme (PSSEP) in 2019. The main objective of the programme is to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels by supporting RE and energy efficiency (EE) efforts of the GOB. This programme supports the goals and objectives of the BNEP (2019 – 2030) by implementing specific targets of this policy. The programme has several Components:

⁵³ Barbados wins again at CREF Industry awards. Available at: <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/barbados-wins-again-at-cref-industry-awards/>

- Reducing the energy cost throughout the public sector with these specific targets:
 - Retrofitting specific government buildings with RE and EE Technologies
 - Installation of PV Systems on thirteen (13) public buildings. These systems produce 1.14MegaWatts of energy
 - Replacing public lights with EE options (88% of the public lights in Barbados were replaced); and
- Promoting the use of renewable energy sources in line with government policy.
 - Pilot projects and other studies have been initiated to expand the public sector electric fleet and develop strategies for EV waste. Ocean energy development is also being actively pursued by the GOB as another source of energy supply.

Since 2019, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of various components of this programme have been undertaken. These M&E exercises have allowed the GOB to track the progress toward the targets and identify areas where further action may be needed. By regularly reviewing and updating this implementation plan we aim to ensure that Barbados remains on track to achieve its 100% renewable energy goal by 2030 and contribute to the global effort to combat climate change.

The Barbados PSSEP aligns with the BNEP and several of the UN SDGs, including SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). By promoting EE and reducing energy consumption, this programme will contribute to our national and global efforts to mitigate climate change. Additionally, by reducing the energy costs of public sector buildings, the programme can help to free up financial resources for other government priorities and programmes.

The Sustainable Energy Investment Programme (SMART FUND I & II)

The Smart Fund is a BDS \$20M loan received by the Government from the IADB. The Fund' focus is on preparing the citizenry for RE & EE Technologies by providing grants to support small and medium businesses, the general public, and employees in the public sector. The Fund seeks to:

- increase the use of viable RE and EE technologies in Barbados,

- decrease energy costs of the population;
- increase the country's energy security by reducing its dependency on imported fossil fuels; and
- increase local and global environmental sustainability by reducing emissions of polluting substances, particulate matter, and carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHG).

The fund will be used to support economic development by assisting beneficiaries in understanding technical and other components of smart energy buildings. This fund supports the development of energy management systems, the demonstration of the system (from data collection to commissioning, operation and maintenance); capacity building of relevant stakeholders, institutional strengthening; public awareness programmes and business model development.

The Residential Energy Efficiency Programme (REEF)

The second phase of the Programme will engage a three-pronged approach targeted at the residential, business/private and public sectors that encourages the use of alternative sources of renewable energy; promotes energy conservation, reduces the oil import bill and preserves the environment. The business/private and public sectors would be targeted under Energy Smart Fund II and the residential sector to be targeted specifically under this REEF Programme.

The Home Ownership Providing Energy Inc. (HOPE) Programme

The GOB has committed to providing affordable housing to its citizens through the HOPE which specifically caters to low-income earners.

Under this initiative, first-time homeowners, who under normal circumstances would not be eligible for a mortgage, now have lower-than-market price mortgage instalments. This visionary approach to addressing housing needs in



Barbados also boasts of aspects of climate resilience and EE. Houses can withstand the impacts of a category 3 hurricane and are fully outfitted with rooftop PV. Under the project, land is

provided at no cost to the buyer, allowing persons to qualify for a mortgage, with the land as collateral. HOPE will recover its cost for developing the land through PV systems over a period of 15 to 20 years. At the end timeframe, HOPE will give the homeowner the PV system⁵⁴.

Private Sector Initiatives

Renewstable Barbados

In line with Barbados' ambitious renewable energy targets Insight Finechem (IFC) and the IADB Invest are working with Hydrogène de France (HDF) and Rubis to support the development of Renewstable Barbados, a 50 MW solar generation facility with green hydrogen and lithium-ion battery storage that will provide firm and clean electricity to the Barbadian grid. This project is currently awaiting the necessary approvals and is slated to commence in the 1st quarter of 2024. In addition, Renewstable Barbados is designed to host the largest sheep farm on the island, contributing to both energy and food security of Barbados.

Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)

The BCCI goal is to enable a thriving business environment in Barbados. The Chamber is currently engaged in several projects that are aimed at supporting the GOB's green energy initiatives. These include:

- assisting businesses transitioning from fossil fuel energy;
- providing opportunities for promoting equality and inclusion;
- addressing bottlenecks to overcome financing challenges, specifically in Solar PV and Wind Energy Projects;
- working with financial institutions who are actively enhancing their sustainability agenda through Environmental, Social Governance (ESG) Reporting; and
- working with NGOs to provide support (sustainable financing) for further work on SDG-related projects.

⁵⁴ HOPE has its first homeowners. Available at: <https://barbadostoday.bb/2022/06/26/hope-has-its-first-homeowners/>

SDG Targets under Goal 7 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

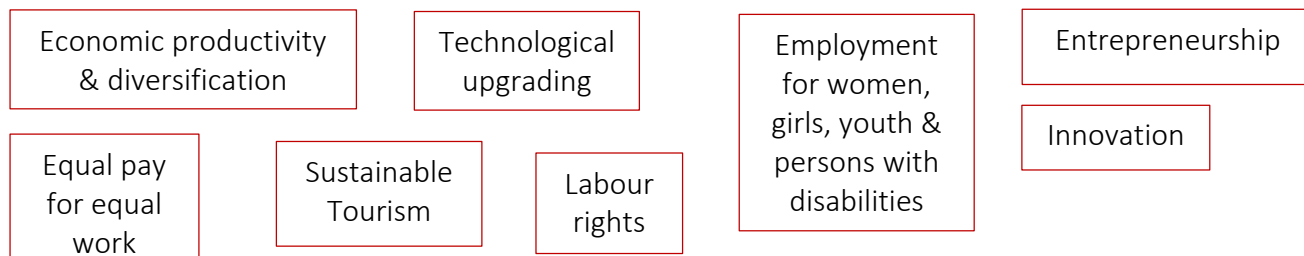
Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	Moving away from target/ deterioration
Fair progress but acceleration is needed	No trend data available
Limited or no progress	Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	
By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	
By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic growth

‘Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all’



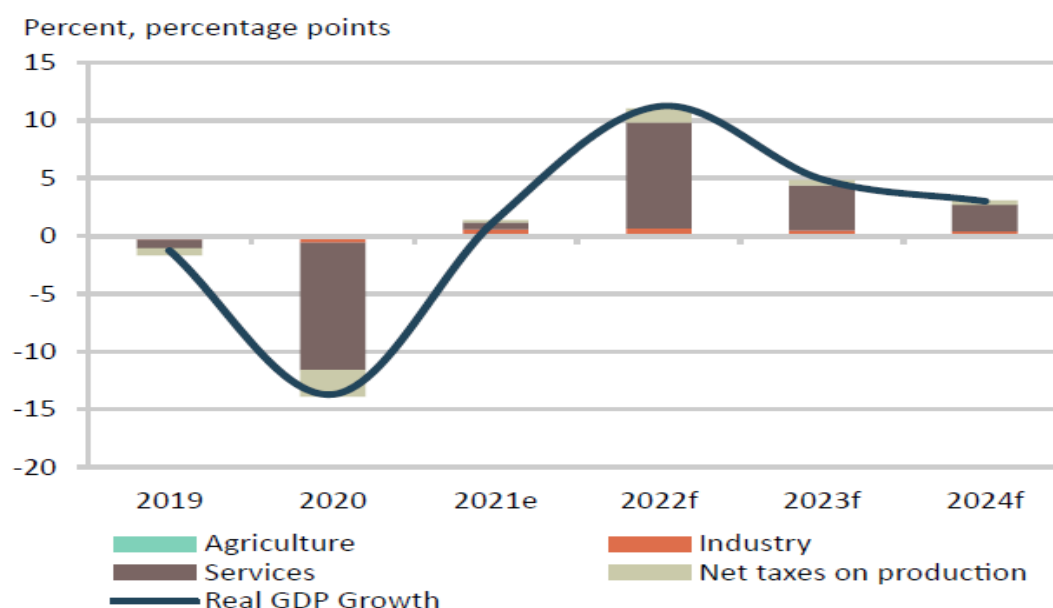
Overview of SDG 8

The economy of Barbados continues to show positive signs of rebound after previous years of economic decline and the impact of the containment measures associated with the pandemic. This is due to well-managed economic recovery and transformational Plans (BERT 2018 & 2022), which are supported through resources from the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability, fiscal consolidation and structural reforms which help to safeguard the financial and social sectors. In 2022, Barbados became the first country to access the IMF Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), which provided a long term, low interest loan of BDS \$378 million designed to build resilience against climate change. Reforms under the RSF include the mainstreaming of climate tagging in the budget; the introduction of ‘Green Public Financial Management including Sustainable Green Procurement’; and adoption of measures that would incentivize private sector investments in climate resilient infrastructure and renewable energy projects.

Despite the ongoing challenges to economic recovery including the fall out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict (which led to higher global commodity prices and rising inflation) and the financial fallout from natural disasters, namely Hurricane Elsa and the La Soufriere volcanic eruption, the GOB has made significant efforts to gradually reduce the debt burden; debt is expected to reach 60 percent of GDP by FY 2035/36. As of November 2022,

Standard and Poor’s assigned Barbados a B- rating with stable outlook⁵⁵. In the first 9 months of this same year, we experienced a 10.1 percent growth in our economy and a 9.8 percent growth between July and September. GDP in Barbados is expected to reach BDS \$11.44 Billion by the end of 2023⁵⁶, **Figure 17**.

Figure 17 Barbados Real GDP Growth And Contributions To Real GDP Growth



Sources : Government of Barbados; IMF and World Bank staff estimates⁵⁷.

Policy and legislative frameworks support the advancement of SDG 8. The GOB has set out an ambitious growth agenda in its BERT Programme 2022 which will ensure macroeconomic sustainability. Our BERT Plan combines eight (8) interwoven pillars to propel economic activity. Additionally, we have advocated for disaster risk financing initiatives to strengthen fiscal resilience in the face of disasters.

Tourism continues to drive economic recovery as it contributed an estimated BDS \$1016.4 million in the first nine months of 2022. Tourism arrivals up to September 2022 reached 302 863, some 58% of 2019 levels. Our hotel occupancy levels averaged 59% for the first 9 months

⁵⁵ CB Bonds. Available at: <https://cbonds.com/news/2062738/>

⁵⁶ Trading Economics. Available at: [https://tradingeconomics.com/barbados/gdp#:~:text=GDP%20in%20Barbados%20is%20expected,macro%20models%20and%20analysts%20expectations.&text=The%20gross%20domestic%20product%20\(GDP\)%20measures%20of%20national%20income%20and,for%20a%20given%20country's%20economy](https://tradingeconomics.com/barbados/gdp#:~:text=GDP%20in%20Barbados%20is%20expected,macro%20models%20and%20analysts%20expectations.&text=The%20gross%20domestic%20product%20(GDP)%20measures%20of%20national%20income%20and,for%20a%20given%20country's%20economy)

⁵⁷ Taken from World Bank (2022) Macro Poverty Outlook for Barbados

of 2022 and was 9.5% less than the same 2019 figures. The GOB is mindful of the vulnerabilities of the tourism sector and, as a measure to ensure financial sustainability, is continuing to diversify the economy to ensure that any one industry does not contribute more than 15 percent to GDP. In addition to tourism, it is expected that other investments (for instance infrastructure) have the potential to enhance the country's productive capacity and create positive spillover effects for small and medium businesses in Barbados.

As we look toward diversifying our economy the GOB led by the MLSP, has been undertaking analysis of the labour market in order to estimate and plan strategically for the further job market. In 2022, a study funded by the IADB highlighted key labour market trends that will inform government's strategies for job creation and investment. Current, labour market trends indicate that there has been some decrease in the overall labour participation rate which can be attributed particularly for the period 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic. Women continue to participate at a lower rate than males in labour market activity as shown in **Table 13**. Initiatives to improve the participation of women continue to be ongoing.

Year	Male Labour Force ('000)	Female Labour Force ('000)	Total Labour Force ('000)	Male Participation Rate (%)	Female Participation Rate (%)	Overall Participation Rate (%)
1995	69.1	67.6	136.8	74.5	62.7	68.2
2000	73.4	68.9	142.3	74.9	63.0	68.6
2005	75.0	71.8	146.8	75.2	64.5	69.6
2010	72.5	69.8	142.2	71.8	62.0	66.6
2015	72.9	71.6	144.6	68.7	61.7	65.1
2019	71.2	68.4	139.6	68.1	59.9	63.8
2020+	67.4	64.6	132.0	64.9	56.7	60.6
2021*	67.9	65.1	133.0	65.5	57.3	61.2

Table 13 Labour Force and Labour Force Participation Rate by Sex for Selected Years 1995-2021

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Partnership and Third Sector. An assessment of the Labour Market and Skills development system in Barbados, Downes (2022)

As part of the study, engagement with stakeholders was undertaken to identify the strategic and high growth sectors in an effort to assess the current and projected demand for labour and the current supply of labour with emphasis on education and skills. The report highlighted the expected impact of these strategic sectors on the selected variables listed below, which were ranked based on responses. Table 14 presents this analysis.

Table 14 Strategic Growth Sectors and their Impact on key Economic Variables

i. Economic Growth	Tourism	ICT	Manufacturing	Energy
ii. Job Creation	Tourism	ICT	Manufacturing	Energy
iii. Foreign Exchange Generation	Tourism	Manufacturing	Agriculture	ICT
iv. Linkages with other areas	ICT	Agriculture	Energy	Tourism
v. Domestic Investment	Energy	ICT	Agriculture	Fishing & Maritime Activity
vi. Foreign Investment	Tourism	ICT	Manufacturing	Agriculture

To cushion the ongoing impact of COVID 19 on workers and families as well as generally improve the conditions of labour, the government introduced a number of policy measures and legislation to give effect to this intent. These include the following:

- establishment of a new national minimum wage in (2021) in the midst COVID 19;⁵⁸
- public sector wage increases to reflect the cost of living;
- MLSP and MPEA to unlock employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through the First Jobs Initiative;
- introduction of a Pathways Employability programme intending to build capacity amongst young persons to enter the job market; and
- Passage of the Safety and Health at Work (Amendment) Bill 2022 (SHaW).

⁵⁸ <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/download/minimum-wage-national-and-sectoral-minimum-wage-order-2021/>

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 8

GDP per capita (2021)	BDS \$34,452 ⁵⁹
Victims of modern-day slavery (per 1,000 population) (2018)	2.7
Unemployment rate (%of total labour force) (2022)	9.8
Fundamental labour rights are effectively guaranteed (worst 0, 1 best) (2020)	0.7
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (per 100,000) of population (2015)	0.6
Inflation (2022)	7.8%
Unemployment (2022)	8.4 ⁶⁰ %
Gross public sector debt (2022)	126.6% ⁶¹

Policies

Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) 2022 Programme

The BERT Programme (2022) is a comprehensive economic policy launched by our government in 2018 to address the country's economic challenges. The Programme is built around a series of structural reforms aimed at fiscal stabilization of the economy, reducing debt and promoting sustainable growth. The plan is designed to achieve these objectives through a combination of fiscal consolidation measures, structural reforms and implementing a series of social programmes.

The key points of the BERT Programme include reducing government spending, increasing revenue, restructuring public debt with a debt to GDP path that converges at 60% by 2035/36. Moreover, the plan includes inter alia i) public investment to GDP ratio of 4.2 percent of GDP in the 2022/23 and 5 percent in the medium term, and ii) improving the business environment and promoting social protection programmes. In addition, the plan includes measures to boost investment and promote sustainable development in the country. The two innovative ideas

⁵⁹ GDP Per Capita. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=BB>

⁶⁰ Barbados Statistical Service. Labour Market Statistics 2022. Available at: https://stats.gov.bb/subjects/social-demographic-statistics/labour-market-statistics/lfs_unemployment-rate-and-activity-rates-by-sex-annual-2022/

⁶¹ Data compiled from CARICOM Today. December 29, 2022. Available at: <https://today.caricom.org/2022/10/31/barbados-grows-by-10-1-earns-508-2m-from-tourism-caricom-business/>
USAID. Available at <https://idea.usaid.gov/cd/barbados?comparisonGroup=region>
SDG Annual Report, 2022.

being considered which combine all of these strategies are issuing Blue Bonds and trading debt-for-nature in the Barbados space. The overarching goal of the plan is to put Barbados on a sustainable path to growth and development. The GOB will ensure the success of this plan by implementing several macroeconomic, fiscal and social policies. The BERT programme aligns with several of the UN SDGs (see Table 15).

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the plan are all related to supporting the UN SDGs and include:

- the eradication of poverty;
- reducing inequality;
- protecting vulnerable communities;
- reducing crime and addressing discrimination;
- capacity building of both the public and the private sector in support of the ‘whole-of-government’ approach;
- increasing private sector participation; and
- increases in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), changes in several GDP ratios.

BERT Accomplishments (up to 2020)					
Fiscal and debt sustainability restored	1,481M Gross foreign reserves	Public debt reduced to 117.4% of GDP	Free tertiary education restored	Minimum pension & welfare payments increased	Investments in health, public transportation & sanitation

The BERT programme addresses environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development as the fiscal strategies are meant to encourage private sector led growth specifically in the blue and green economies. The programme involves job creation in these sectors, investment in climate financing, renewable energy and other sustainable industries, access to affordable housing (increasing its stock by 10,000 in the next 5 years). The programme also includes other items of social protection for the less vulnerable in society.

Overall, the BERT programme represents a ‘whole-of-government’ approach by the GOB to address the country’s economic challenges and promote sustainable development. While the

plan faces significant challenges and obstacles including a heavy reliance on private sector participation and not anticipating any shocks on the scale of the COVID-19 Pandemic; it provides a roadmap for putting Barbados on a sustainable path to growth and development and demonstrates government’s commitment to promoting a more equitable and sustainable future for its citizens.

BERT Pillars	Related SDGs
#1: Incentivizing the green transition and building climate-resilient infrastructure	    
#2: Incentivizing low and middle-income housing	  
#3: Investing in skills training and education	  
#4: Preserving financial stability and mobilising domestic savings for local investment	  
#5: Making government an enabler to improving productivity, boosting competitiveness and exports, and enhancing service excellence	 
#6: Establishing Barbados as a logistics hub	  
#7: Promoting diversification through new niche economic activities centered around a new, high-skilled, knowledge-based economy that is more technologically advanced, carbon-neutral and marine conscious.	      
#8: Adopting open labour market policies to support stronger, resilient growth together with expanding the population base and improving productivity and competitiveness.	  

Table 15 BERT Pillars and Alignment with the SDGs
(Source: adapted from National SDG Report, 2023)

Plans & Initiatives

Disaster Risk Financing Initiatives

Barbados has taken significant steps to strengthen its fiscal resilience in the face of natural disasters and climate change. The GOB has implemented measures to address loss and damage, including disaster risk financing instruments, to financially protect its economy. These costs include providing emergency assistance to affected populations, support for repair or reconstruction of affected homes and buildings, and rehabilitation, replacement, and reconstruction of public assets. The GOB has focused on strategies that address loss and damage to strengthen the country's fiscal sustainability targets and its reform agenda.

In the 2018 IMF-facilitated debt restructuring exercise, Barbados introduced a "disaster-linked clause" in its debt instruments. This clause allows for an extension of debt service in the event of a disaster. Fitch rated the country's 2019 foreign currency external bond, which includes a "natural disaster clause" that can suspend principal and interest payments for up to two years if certain measurable natural disasters occur. The clause can be triggered up to three times but no later than 2027 to maintain the final maturity. Barbados is the first country to include a "natural disaster" clause in its sovereign debt through a re-papering of its domestic and foreign sovereign debt terms.

Barbados is a member of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) and purchases parametric insurance coverage for tropical cyclones, earthquakes, and excess rainfall. Since its inception in 2007, CCRIF has paid out a total of BDS \$272.6 million in claims, with Barbados receiving 38.6 million⁶². In 2020, Barbados joined a Contingent Credit Facility (CCF) for Natural Disaster Emergencies set up by the IADB to develop effective strategies for natural disaster financial risk management, sized at 1% of GDP.

⁶² CCRIF Makes Payout. Available at: https://www.ccrif.org/node/12013?language_content_entity=en

Financial Resilience in the Central Bank of Barbados

Due to our status as a SIDS and the climate change and natural disaster risks associated with this designation, the CCB has integrated climate change risks in its financial stability assessments. As part of this effort the CBB has joined with the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFs) and has taken steps to enhance its technical capacity to undertake climate change related financial assessments.

Financial Resilience of the Insurance Sector and Stress Testing of Insurance Corporations to Climate Change Effects

The GOB has implemented measures to strengthen the financial resilience of its insurance sector by requiring all licensed institutions (licensed under Section 25 of the Financial Services Commission (FSC) Act (2010-2021) to comply with the FSC's guidelines on natural disaster stress testing. The stress test is expected to provide a baseline position for insurance companies, followed by post-shock results on their balance sheets and income statements. In January 2021, the FSC issued guidelines to 14 insurance companies operating in Barbados. As of June 2021, there were no significant objections or concerns regarding the companies' ability to comply with the stress testing requirements set out in the FSC guideline. The GOB has also made it clear that failure to comply with these guidelines could result in revocation of a company's license.

Tourism-related Projects

The GOB has established a dedicated Tourism Academy which provides free access to a range of training programmes in varied areas directly and indirectly related to tourism. The programmes are designed in collaboration with Coursera and have distinct local inputs.

The Job Start Plus Project

This Project under the MLSP started in December 2019 and assists young persons to find jobs. The programme also offers a world-of-work training- programme which targets 16–24-year-olds and the project allows for employer feedback and permanent employment for youth who successfully complete the program. This programme facilitates inclusiveness and allows for participation from youths from lower-income households.

Civil Society and NGO Initiatives

Business and Professional Women's Club



The BPW has worked to educate all Barbadians in the area of Human Trafficking and other types of exploitation and how to eradicate such scourges. They have provided 12 women over three occasions who were victims of Human Trafficking with safe accommodation; assistance with immigration; health and medical access and travel arrangements to their homeland. The BPW sits on the Human Trafficking Taskforce to ensure eradication of these areas and to input into achievement of productive employment and decent work.

SDG Targets under Goal 8 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	Moving away from target/ deterioration
Fair progress but acceleration is needed	No trend data available
Limited or no progress	Insufficient data/ not applicable

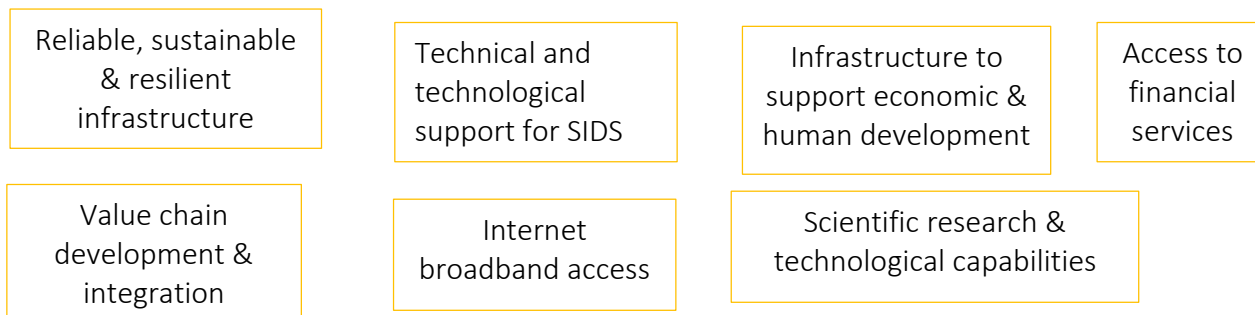
Targets - SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Barbados' Progress
Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.	
Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labor-intensive sectors	
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro- small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	
Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation	
By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and people living with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	
By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	
Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	

Targets - SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	
Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.	



SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

‘Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation’



Overview of SDG 9

With respect to our physical infrastructure, in 2022 Barbados was the leader in the Caribbean region ranking 30th out of 138 countries in the quality of infrastructure index. In spite of, the age of our infrastructure, it is largely of good quality. However, we remain vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather events as a large proportion of infrastructure is located near the coast. Our tourism sector infrastructure is particularly vulnerable in this regard as an estimated 90 percent of the 6,000 plus hotel rooms are built along low-lying coastal areas⁶³.

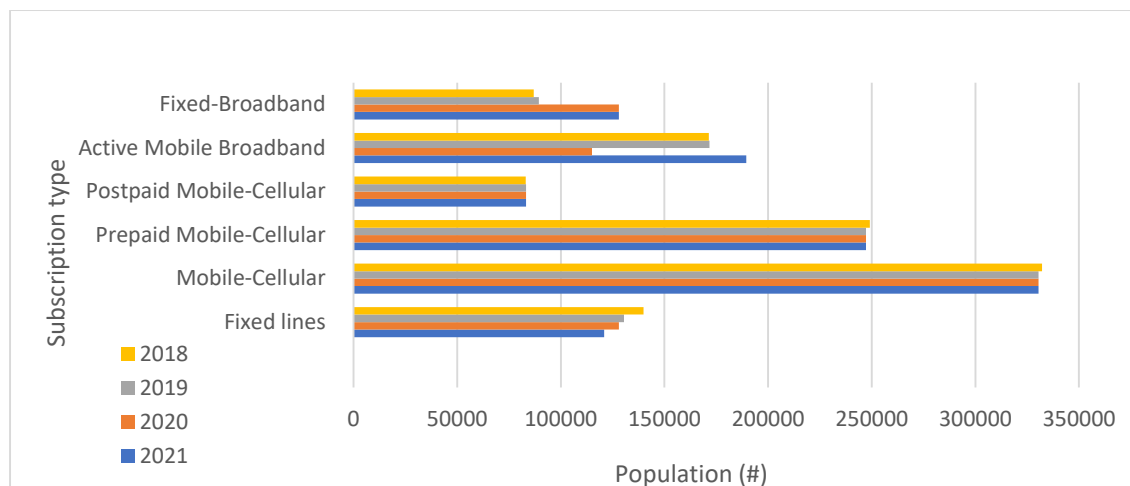
Our digital infrastructure networks have advanced in recent times (**Figure 18** provides ICT data for 2018- 2021). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the GOB pivoted to e-learning platforms to deliver the education curriculum and several services such as the renewal of drivers’ licences, were facilitated on online platforms. Barbados is also a leader in the region regarding the use of EE technologies.

We continue to advance renewable technologies at home in our housing and infrastructural projects, and in the wider Caribbean region. We acknowledge some constraints in this sector as the unit cost for RE and EV (Electric Vehicle) technologies, for example, is higher than

⁶³ Barbados Country Profile. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/barbados/barbados-country-profile-may-2022#:~:text=Barbados%20tops%20the%20Caribbean%20region,the%20quality%20of%20infrastructure%20in dex.>

countries such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) due to economies of scale.

Figure 18 ICT Data for Barbados 2018- 2021



Source: Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, Government of Barbados.

The GOB is on a mission to boost the island’s export strength, such that the number of businesses exporting goods and services increases, and the revenue generated from those businesses reaches BDS \$2 billion by 2030. Export Barbados (BIDC) has been charged with leading this mission over the next seven years. Reaching this target will require increased activity in traditional areas as well as expansion into new and innovative markets which have a global reach. The export sector proved resilient throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, while tourism dropped by as much as 80 percent at the height of the pandemic, exports proved to be sustainable, falling only by eight percent⁶⁴. **Table 16** provides an overview of Barbados’s export performance.

⁶⁴ Export Barbados

Year	Exports Value (BDS)	Imports Value (BDS)	Trade Balance Value (BDS)
2013	534,550,722	3,538,420,935	-3,003,870,213
2014	554,605,874	3,478,265,472	-2,923,659,598
2015	506,030,022	3,236,184,146	-2,730,154,124
2016	524,085,223	3,243,076,337	-2,718,991,114
2017	509,838,427	3,200,326,643	-2,690,488,216
2018	510,688,063	3,200,238,686	-2,689,550,623
2019	511,439,722	3,160,730,404	-2,649,290,682
2020	449,451,794	3,003,427,759	-2,553,975,965
2021	447,041,029	3,347,241,734	-2,900,200,705
2022	502,259,303	4,302,702,731	-3,800,443,428

Table 16 Barbados' Trade Relation With The World 2013-2022

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

Rank	2000	2010	2015-2019	2020	2021	2022
1	CARICOM - CSME	CARICOM- CSME	CARICOM - CSME	CARICOM - CSME	CARICOM - CSME	CARICOM - CSME
2	United States	United Kingdom	United States	United States	United States	United States
3	United Kingdom	United States	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada
4	Canada	Canada	Hong Kong SAR, China	France	France	France
5	Italy	The Netherlands	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	China, Peo.Rep.	United Kingdom

Table 17 Barbados' Main Exporting Countries

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

Barbados' export markets have remained relatively consistent over the years. In the last five years the countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) appear to have become a more significant market in the CARICOM Region when compared to previous years. Exports to Hong Kong SAR, China have increased over the past five years and this may be an indication of their growing prominence within the global trade arena.

Through BIDC, the GOB has recently launched its life sciences and biotech industry. A 23-acre life sciences park will be created in the South of the island, which it hopes to populate with leading scientists and manufacturers from across the globe. It is further anticipated that the life sciences park will attract such manufacturers as pharmaceutical manufacturers and companies undertaking medical technology manufacturing and drug development. The over

200,000 square feet of clean scientific space will also give the hundreds of scientists graduating from The University of the West Indies annually a place where they can hone their skills, working alongside some of the best minds in the world.

While basic financial inclusion in Barbados is high, and most Barbadians have access to various instruments to facilitate borrowing, there remains key areas of challenge including:

- access to credit for micro and small businesses in the commercial sector remains stagnant and a key barrier for these business;
- high bank fees across the commercial banking sector; and
- de- risking of customers making it difficult for customers to open bank accounts.

Importantly, Barbados is on the cusp of the creation of a new pharmaceutical industry, the first of its kind for the region. In collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and several partners that have pledged their support to the initiative, we intend to establish an industry that will focus on creating cancer treatment medications, vaccines, and drugs for women’s reproductive health care issues and the creation of over 4,000 jobs for Barbadians over the next five years. The GOB is currently in the process of creating the necessary regulatory framework.

Snapshot of Barbados’ progress towards achieving SDG 9

Fixed telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (2020)	44.4
Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (2020)	122.6
Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (2020)	34.1
Mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (2020)	44.2
Households with computer (5) (2020)	72.5
Individuals using the internet (5) (2020)	81.8
Fixed line penetration (% of population) (2021)	45
Fixed broadband penetration (% of population) (2021)	47
Mobile cellular penetration (% of population) (2021)	122 ⁶⁵

⁶⁵ Compiled from International Telecommunications Union 2020 and Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, Government of Barbados.

Articles published in academic journals (per 100 population) (2020)	0.5 ⁶⁶
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Plans, Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

Strategic Platform to Accelerate Sustainable Energy Technology Innovation, Industry Development and Entrepreneurship in Barbados

In 2018, the then Ministry of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development (MIICS), the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) commended the development of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Project “Strategic Platform to Accelerate Sustainable Energy Technology Innovation, Industry Development and Entrepreneurship in Barbados”. The overall objective of the project is to promote technology innovation and entrepreneurship by strengthening domestic value creation along the different segments of the renewable energy and energy efficiency value chain. These segments include i) manufacturing and distribution, ii) project planning and development, iii) construction and installation, iv) operation and maintenance and v) decommissioning and recycling⁶⁷.

Barbados BLOOM Clean Tech Cluster

Since 2018, UNIDO, with funding from the GEF, began implementing the project “Strategic Platform to promote sustainable energy technology innovation, industrial development and entrepreneurship” in Barbados, SIDS in the Caribbean’. Under a public- private partnership, the project established BLOOM, the first cleantech cluster within the Caribbean Community. It is hosted by BIDC under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology (MIST)⁶⁸. The cluster, which has 20 members (including state agencies, tertiary

⁶⁶ Sustainable Development Report, 2022.

⁶⁷ CARICOM. Project “Strategic Platform to Accelerate Sustainable Energy Technology Innovation, Industry Development and Entrepreneurship In Barbados”
CCREEE Barbados BLOOM Clean Tech Cluster presented as role model for a global program. Available at: <https://caricom.org/projects/project-strategic-platform-to-accelerate-sustainable-energy-technology-innovation-industry-development-and-entrepreneurship-in-barbados/>

⁶⁸ Available at: <https://www.ccreee.org/news/barbados-bloom-clean-tech-cluster-presented-as-role-model-for-a-global-program/>

institutions, and private companies) provides shared resources and services for members to undertake joint projects.

The creation of the BitEgreen Market web platform and app by Caribbean Environmental Management Bureau (CEMBI) NGO, is considered among the early successes of this initiative. This web platform facilitates the increased use of recycled materials. The cluster in Barbados is an important pilot for the wider BLOOM Regional Cluster Program to be rolled out by UNIDO under the GN-SEC in various middle and lower-income countries over the next years.












The Barbados Port Community System (PCS) Project

This online system will transform operations at the Port of Bridgetown leading to increased efficiency and enhanced trade systems among other benefits. The PCS will utilize technology build a secure, intelligent, paperless, digital solution for use at the Port. This paperless system will be accessible to public and private stakeholders processing cargo at the port. Additional benefits of this project due to be completed in late 2023 include:

- improving the efficiency at all stages of the process - vessel discharge and loading, customs clearance, port health formalities and delivery in and out of the terminal;
- enabling the electronic processing of cargo and storage of data;
- minimising delays associated with clearance of cargo;
- providing real time access to information for control, tracking and tracing through the logistics chain;
- accommodating the electronic processing of dangerous goods;
- improving administration, recording, monitoring, reporting, analysis of data using the platform; and
- contributing to sustainable transport logistics and support global carbon reduction requirements.⁶⁹

⁶⁹ Project Factsheet. Available at: <https://www.caribank.org/sites/default/files/publication-resources/The%20Establishment%20of%20a%20Barbados%20Port%20Community%20System%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

SDG Targets under Goal 9 and Barbados' Progress

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p> Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress</p> <p> Fair progress but acceleration is needed</p> <p> Limited or no progress</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p> Moving away from target/ deterioration</p> <p> No trend data available</p> <p> Insufficient data/ not applicable</p> </div> </div>	
Targets - SDG 9 - Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation	Barbados' Progress
Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	
Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries	
Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets	
By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities	
Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending	



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

‘Reduce inequality within and among countries’

Policies for fiscal, wage & social protection

Sustain income growth

Encourage foreign direct investment

Equal opportunity

Safe migration

Social, economic & political inclusion of all

Reducing inequality

Overview of SDG 10

SDG 10 advocates for a reduction in inequalities, both within and between countries, by 2030 to ensure that no one is left behind in the process to achieve sustainable development. The Government of Barbados understands that reducing inequalities will have multiplier effects, including increased productivity, better quality life for our citizens and reduced social disparities. As such, we have taken measures to reduce inequalities such as the creation of new jobs, improving the education sector, diversifying the economy, and enhancing our resilience.

Through our R2RP, social, economic, and environmental inequalities will be substantially reduced by focusing on lower-income households. Additionally, the social support systems in Barbados are designed to address the needs of the less fortunate, the youth, single mothers, persons with disabilities and the unemployed. Barbados’ people centred approach is also captured in the Charter of Barbados which promotes active citizenship. The BERT Programme focuses on advancing macroeconomic stability while the PDP is designed to foster sustainable growth. We have also developed a National Policy on Ageing and a National Policy to improve the lives of Persons with Disabilities to provide protection for the vulnerable sectors within our society. All our policies and programmes, including those of our civil society partners, considers the needs of our citizens while advancing the country’s developmental agenda.

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 10

Poverty rate (2016)	17.2
Human capital index (2020)	0.86
Government expenditure on education % of GDP (2020)	4
Government expenditure on the social sector % of GDP (2020)	11
Government expenditure on health	7

Plans, Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

The new Charter of Barbados

The new Charter of Barbados, while not legally binding our part of the Constitution, outlines citizens' rights and responsibilities. The Charter promotes the concept of active citizenship and is a guide for how people should treat each other and the country. The Charter of Barbados is premised on five articles, the first of which states that all Barbadians are born free and are equal in human dignity and rights regardless of age, race, ethnicity, faith, class, cultural and educational background, ability, sex, gender or sexual orientation. Article II states that "Everyone in Barbados has a duty to care for each other and to ensure that our relationships are at all times characterised by courtesy, civility and mutual respect. We remain conscious that every generation is indebted to those generations that preceded it and is morally obligated to the one that follows." Article III states: "Every Barbadian has the right and a duty to participate in the economic, political, and social life of Barbados as an expression of active citizenship. Every Barbadian has the right to vote and seek public office in accordance with the laws of this country." Article IV: notes that "Everyone has the right to live in a healthy and balanced environment, and has a duty to participate in its preservation, conservation, enhancement, and regeneration. We appreciate the defining importance of our land and sea to our identity and way of life, and therefore also pledge to protect the free and unrestricted access to all our beaches and public spaces, which is an inalienable right of every Barbadian." Finally, Article V: states that "Barbados is part of a global community and strong international relations with other states is vital to national development. As a small island state, we must

exist harmoniously with others and work collaboratively to preserve global public goods. We will honour our international obligations while championing the causes that are important to safeguarding the future prosperity and stability of Barbados and the Caribbean. The Charter of Barbados therefore focuses on human rights, equitable development, democracy, environmental sustainability, and regionalism.

The Spirit of Speightstown

The Spirit of Speightstown addresses the main challenges impacting states with meeting their developmental agendas, particularly the most vulnerable countries. Building on the theme *“From Inequality And Vulnerability: To Prosperity For All”*, the Spirit of Speightstown declares, our vision for achieving the transformations necessary to build resilience, and to achieve our coveted sustainable development agenda. In order to advance development, several priorities are to be addressed and these include revitalized multilateralism, reducing inequalities within and between countries, the vulnerabilities of developing countries and the digital divide. Other resulting declarations following the UNCTAD Conference included the Bridgetown Covenant, the Ministerial Declaration of the group of SIDS and the St. Barnabas Accord.

Recreational and Rehabilitative Facility for Persons with Disabilities

The National Disabilities Unit (NDU) Recreational and Rehabilitation Facility at Lower Collymore Rock was opened in 2021. This recreational facility is designed specifically for persons with disabilities and will contribute to the attainment of several Articles in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, such as Article 30, which speaks to “participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport”.

The facility is being designed for multi-purposes and will include for example a marketplace for entrepreneurs within the disabled community to share their goods and services with the public in a safe space. The GOB is also exploring the feasibility of using the site as an assembly point for students with special needs, while they await transportation to their respective schools in the mornings, and collection by their parents and guardians in the evenings.

The Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs

In 2022 the MPEA began the process of developing several social protection policies and legislations aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable groups in Barbados. These policies and legislations are all in various stages of completion, with several already completed and others due for completion by December 2023. The Policies include:

- the National Policy on Ageing (completed);
- National Policy to Improve the Lives of Persons with Disabilities (completed);
- Child Protection Legislation (completed);
- Ageing Legislation; and
- Disability Legislation.

Civil Society Initiatives

Barbados Council for the Disabled

The Barbados Council for the Disabled was established in 1976 and its mission states: “Barbados Council for the Disabled is the non-governmental umbrella body partnering with all sectors of the community and International Agencies to effect change and champion the rights of all persons with disabilities, ensuring their full and effective integration into society”. At present, there are seventeen (17) organizations and four (4) associates affiliated to the Council. These organizations cover a wide cross-section of persons, both disabled and non-disabled. One organization such as the Albert Cecil Graham Development Centre (Formerly the Children’s Development Centre) represents individuals from birth to eighteen (18) years old. Other entities represent adults with disabilities of all ages and other persons working on behalf of persons with disabilities.

In 2022, the Council launched the ‘Calypso Project’⁷⁰ which is a ground-breaking music and arts project designed to unite and empower the Deaf community in Barbados. The Calypso Project 2022 was a collaboration of six (6) partner organisations and includes four (4) elements:

- Concert: a concert to culminate the project where deaf children performed a series of pieces that represent the sound and spirit of the Caribbean;

⁷⁰ <https://www.thecalypsoproject.com/>

- Workshops: a series of workshops delivered across the island. These workshops touched on the lived experience of deaf residents and directly influenced the work produced, and exhibited, at Frank Collymore Hall;
- Exhibition: the project featured leading Barbadian Deaf photographers to create a ground-breaking exhibition where local photographers showcased their work. The exhibition captured the true spirit of the island and its people and culture and demonstrated the wealth of artistic talent present within the island's Deaf community; and
- Music Video: music videos were recorded, and local deaf residents were involved in the production. This element also included a series of training sessions, for local deaf residents to provide insight into the industry.

The Basic Life Skills Programme

The Basic Life Skills Training Programme is targeted at all persons on the autism spectrum from young persons to adults (30 plus years) and teaches them skills to care for themselves. The programme also assists parents and other caregivers in caring for autistic persons. It facilitates teaching by demonstration to impart skills needed for autistic persons to care for themselves. The Basic Life Skills Programme has been in operation for more than ten (10) years. The Council is currently finalising the establishment of a headquarters for persons with disabilities. The Basic Life Skills Programme will be undertaken at the Center.

SDG Targets under Goal 10 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries.

Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	Moving away from target/ deterioration
Fair progress but acceleration is needed	No trend data available
Limited or no progress	Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 10 – Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	
By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	
Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	
Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	



Voluntary National Review 2023

Planet

PROTECT THE PLANET AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE





SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’

Safe, affordable housing

Accessible & sustainable transportation systems

Human settlement planning & management

Reduce deaths & persons affected by disaster

Disaster risk reduction frameworks

Air quality & municipal waste management

Cultural & natural heritage. Green spaces

Overview of SDG 11

Housing the population has always been an important plank of Barbados’ development thrust and some 70% of homes have remained consistently owner occupied⁷¹. The GOB’s housing solutions and related services have been particularly targeted at the poor and vulnerable, and at increasing access to housing and other related services. It is now also recognised that given the climate crisis, housing and infrastructure must be more resilient and able to withstand frequent extreme weather events at greater intensity.

In this regard, the GOB is committed to ensuring the provision of safe and resilient communities for our citizens. We are continuously refining our climate change adaptation strategies to include resilience-strengthening measures at the community level. Housing projects are developed with frameworks for disaster risk reduction through appropriate building codes as well as underground utility lines and services both of which reduce the number of persons who may be affected by natural disasters.

In 2022, the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance (MHLM) undertook Operation Seek and Secure. This project involved an audit to assess the level of resilience of Barbados’ housing stock. The data provided from this assessment determined the level of risk of the house to the natural hazards most commonly experienced in Barbados. This audit also showcases our scientific approach to disaster risk management as it provides a data-driven approach to

⁷¹ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/635384>

assigning financial resources for public expenditure on housing sector projects. While about two thirds of the housing stock, or 48,647 houses, assessed during the survey were in good condition, only a fifth of the housing stock, or 14,692 of the houses assessed, had roof straps (see Figure 19 below), with Bridgetown (one of the populous urban areas) recording the lowest percentage of roof straps (4.6%). Additionally, less than 5% of the housing stock assessed (2,706 houses) had hurricane shutters (see Figure 20). Bridgetown (1%) had the lowest percentage of hurricane shutters

Figure 19 Percentage of Housing Stock With Roof Straps

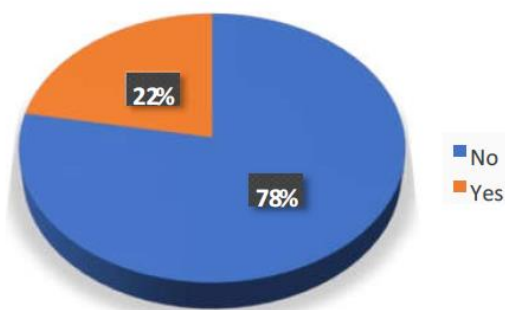
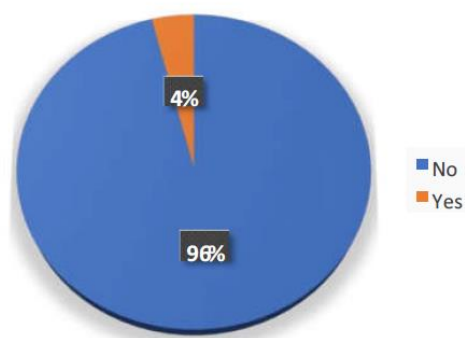


Figure 20 Percentage Of Housing Stock With Hurricane Shutters



This has informed government's policy to provide and install for the most vulnerable households across the island over three thousand (3000) hurricane straps. Additionally, the GOB is committed to a programme of urban renewal. Our PDP provides a framework for the creation of green spaces and several new housing solutions are intentionally designed to embody this value, particularly for inner-city and urban development.

National policy incorporates environmental features into property construction. Since the 1970s, Barbados has had an indigenous solar water heater industry^{72,73} which has saved considerable foreign exchange expenditure on fossil fuels and positioned Barbados as the country with the fourth highest per capita penetration of solar water heaters in the world. More recently, the government of Barbados introduced Project HOPE⁷⁴ which provides hurricane resistant homes with solar panels on the roof which feed energy into the national grid. The idea is that the energy savings from the renewable energy generated, first benefits government for an agreed period and then reverts to the homeowner. The project is the first of its kind to be so structured in the Caribbean and is consistent with government's policy to transition the country to renewable energy platforms



Public transport is an activity with intensive consumption of fossil fuels and high carbon generation. The GOB is also committed to transitioning our public transportation systems from traditional diesel and gasoline, ensuring provision for wheel accessibility for the differently-abled within our society. Incentives have also been given to vehicle and fleet owners to shift toward electric vehicles. This significantly advanced our efforts to provide accessible and sustainable transportation systems.

An average one thousand (1000) tonnes of solid waste is generated daily in Barbados. The country is committed to reducing waste generation, using public education and legislative frameworks to reduce our ecological footprint, and encouraging the sustainable use of our natural resources, through the implementation of its Integrated Solid Waste Management

⁷² Seizing the sunshine - Barbados' thriving solar water heater industry. Available at <https://cdkn.org/resource/cdkn-inside-story-seizing-the-sunshine-barbados-thriving-solar-water-heater-industry>

⁷³ Evaluation of Renewable Energy Incentives. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228457001_Evaluation_Of_Renewable_Energy_Incentives_The_Barbados_Solar_Water_Heating_Experience

⁷⁴ <https://www.hopebarbados.com>

Plan⁷⁵. The GOB will continue to partner with all national stakeholders to ensure sustainable practices in our waste management. Importantly, the GOB has taken steps to safeguard our natural and cultural heritage. Barbados is home to the UNESCO inscribed historic Bridgetown and its Garrison and the ongoing safeguarding of our heritage is managed on one hand by a multisectoral World Heritage Committee and an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Committee under the Division of Culture (DOC) Prime Minister’s Office. The DOC is working to complete a disaster risk management plan for cultural assets across the island.

Snapshot of Barbados’ progress towards achieving SDG 11

Proportion of the population living in urban areas (2021)	31
Proportion of the population living in rural areas (2021)	69
Proportion of population living in the capital city	40%
# of homes damaged by Hurricanes (Elsa)	1300
# of deaths as a result of hurricanes (Elsa)	0
Annual mean concentration of particular matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) (µg/m3) (2019)	21.6 ⁷⁶

Legislative Frameworks

The Physical Development Plan 2021

Our PDP (2021)⁷⁷ presents a “vision for sustainable growth and development of the nation by setting out policies to guide relationships among land uses, built form, mobility, community facilities and physical infrastructure. It is also intended to be a framework to facilitate and guide investment, both public and private, in Barbados to the year 2035 to advance a healthy, prosperous and resilient nation.” It promotes sustainable growth and development in several key areas, including settlement patterns, land use, food production, infrastructure, mobility,

⁷⁵ <https://solid.gov.bb>

⁷⁶ Data compiled from: <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/BRB/barbados/urban-population> and the Sustainable Development Report, 2022.

⁷⁷ Barbados Physical Development Plan. Available at: <http://townplanning.gov.bb/physical-development-plan/> <http://townplanning.gov.bb/physical-development-plan/pdp-resources/>

environmental and land use management. With a land mass of a mere 166 square miles or 430 square kilometres, there will always be competing interests for land use. The key is managing these interests so as not to jeopardise Barbados' environmental patrimony and services from which we derive economic gain, while still ensuring green open spaces for people to enjoy.

The PDP attempts to change the traditional growth paradigm and introduce transformational and foundational policy directions that can guide more sustainable investment, land use and infrastructure decisions in Barbados. Of particular importance, this Plan focuses on our vulnerabilities as a SIDS regarding the impacts of climate change which must now be central to national long-term planning. The Plan also provides a framework for decision-making at the GOB level regarding key areas of development. Essentially, the PDP prepares the path toward a green economy, incorporating elements such as food security and self-sufficiency, green tourism, and sustainable infrastructure.

The Barbados System of Parks and Open Space (Physical Development Plan 2021)

The Barbados System of Parks and Open Space recognises existing parks and open spaces which promote landscape preservation, ensure the conservation of the Natural Heritage System, meet the active and passive recreation needs of residents of Barbados and enhance amenities and the overall landscape of Barbados for residents and tourists alike. The Barbados National Parks System⁷⁸ is approximately 17% of the island's terrestrial space. The System of Parks and Open Spaces, includes the following categories of open spaces:

- The Barbados National Park: International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – World Conservation Union (IUCN) Category 5 Protected Landscape/Seascape;
- Natural Heritage Conservation Areas;
- Coastal Landscape Protection Zone;
- Public Parks and Open Spaces;
- National Attractions;
- Barbados National Forest Candidate Sites; and

⁷⁸ Barbados System of Parks and Open Spaces. Available at: http://www.townplanning.gov.bb/pdp/Downloads/files/pdp/A-04_System%20of%20Parks%20and%20Open%20Spaces.pdf

- Shore Access Points.

This framework is intended to guide the conservation, management and restoration of key public and natural spaces in Barbados and thus contribute to natural resource conservation and protection and the sustainable, holistic, and inclusive development of our cities and communities.

Plans, Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

Roofs to Reefs Project (Housing Component)

This cross-sectoral national resilience programme addresses the disaster resilience component of SDG 11. Under this component, the GOB will undertake a retrofitting programme utilising international best practices to make vulnerable homes more resilient to tropical cyclones. Focus also will be placed on technical aspects such as roof pitch and foundation type with the aim of minimising the risks of overturning, uplifting, or sliding due to strong winds or water currents. In addition to its focus on the housing stock, this component also focuses on building infrastructure in coastal areas including the Parliament building, Government Headquarters and other Government buildings as well as hotels and other tourism-related infrastructure. It is to be noted that all critical infrastructure from police stations and hospitals to major government offices and telecommunications centres are within 3 kilometres of the island's coastlines.

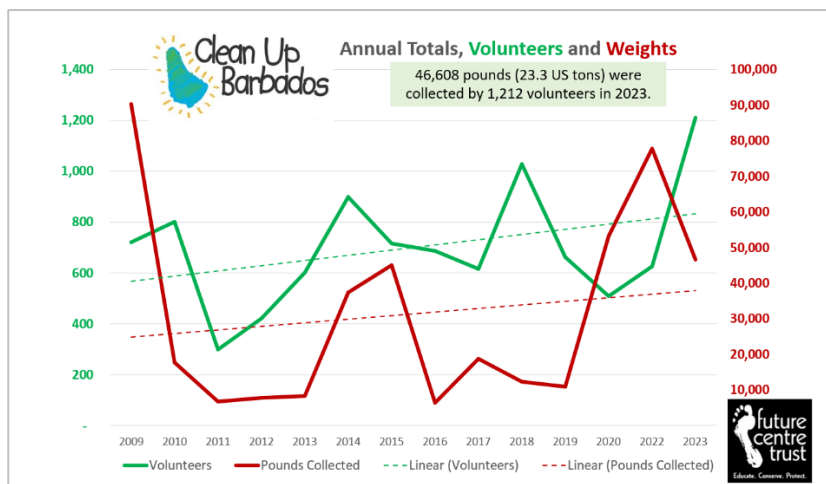
Civil Society and NGO Projects & Initiatives

Clean Up Barbados

This project is undertaken annually by the Future Centre Trust and aims to address waste management and promote proper waste disposal practices in Barbados. The Future Centre Trust coordinates volunteers and organizes cleanup events in different locations around the island. In recent years, the project has gained momentum, with a large number of first-time volunteers joining the cleanup efforts. The project focuses on raising awareness about waste management and directly advances several SDG themes including promoting sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, underwater conservation and maintaining terrestrial ecosystems.







The project also has positive social impacts as community members participate in the event and are able to see tangible benefits reflected in clean and aesthetically pleasing surroundings. The 2023 Clean Up Barbados project involved forty-three (43) groups that cleaned twenty-six (26) locations on the island, including beaches, illegal dump sites, inland and underwater areas. A total of forty-six thousand, six hundred and eight (46,608) pounds of garbage was collected by One thousand, two hundred and twelve (1,212) volunteers from various sites including schools, government agencies, churches and the private sector (Figure 21). This project demonstrates civil society’s commitment to advancing the SDGs in Barbados.









Figure 19. Impact of Clean Up Barbados. 2023



(Source: Future Centre Trust)

SDG Targets under Goal 11 and Barbados' Progress

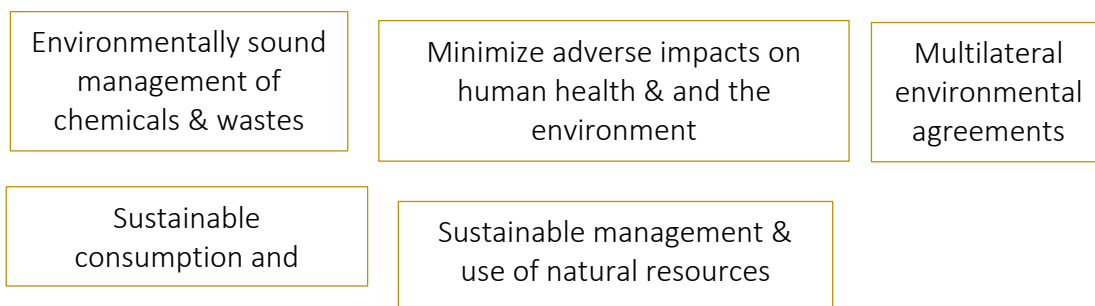
 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	
By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, people living with disabilities and older people	
By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	
Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	
By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	
By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	
By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older people and people living with disabilities	
By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters	



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

'Ensure sustainable consumption and production'

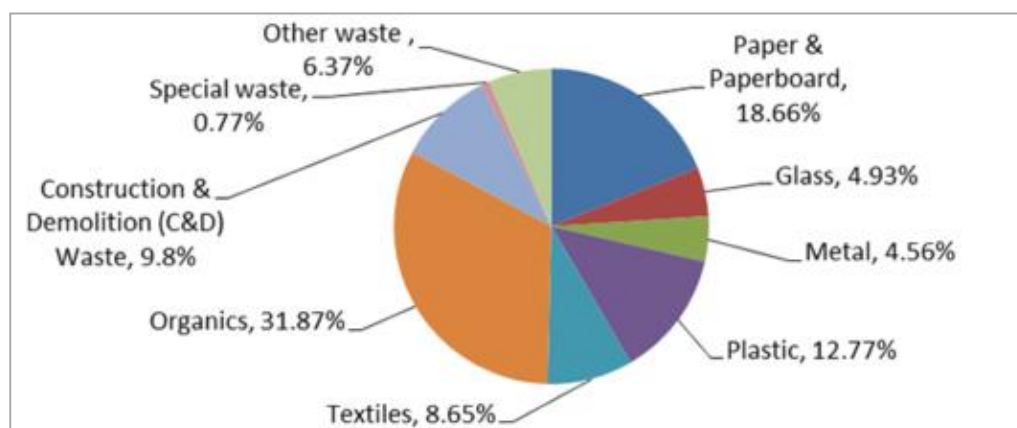


Overview of SDG 12

Barbados continues to strengthen its environmental policies. Since 2008, it developed one of the first National Green Economy policies in the world. This provided a strong umbrella framework for sustainable initiatives across the development spectrum. Adding to this approach, in early 2019, the GOB placed a ban on the importation of specific petroleum-based single-use plastics. This was followed by a ban on the retail and use of single-use plastic items. This approach is consistent with good practice as waste generation continues to be a serious issue. In many SIDS, collected waste is disposed of through improper methods that threaten other resources including groundwater and coastal and marine areas. Improper waste disposal also threatens human well-being.

Since 1990, Barbados has taken a structured approach to the management of solid waste on the island. The Integrated Solid Waste Management Programme (ISWMP) utilises the 4R's approach: (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover) to effectively manage all solid waste streams in Barbados. Furthermore, public-private partnerships for waste management exist. One of the largest national recyclers is the SBRC, which processes and ultimately, reduces the volume of waste which ends up at landfill sites. The Barbados waste stream is comprised predominantly of organics (37%), paper and paperboard (18.6%) and plastics (12.7%) (Figure 22).

Figure 20 Solid Waste By Category Generated In Barbados (2015)



(Source: Waste Characterization Study (2015), Barbados Solid Waste Management Programme)

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is the agency responsible for regulating solid waste management in Barbados. The Department's functions include:

- monitoring and regulating the 5 waste disposal sites operated by the Sanitation Service Authority;
- regulating the disposal of commercial and industrial waste which is not routinely accepted at local disposal sites; and
- developing and providing advice on solid waste management policies for Barbados in conjunction with other government agencies involved in solid waste management⁷⁹.

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 12

Municipal solid waste (kg/ capita/ day) (2011)	1.7
Electronic waste (kg/ capita) (2019)	12.7
Production-based nitrogen emissions (kg/ capita) (2015)	5.6
Nitrogen imports embodied in imports (kg/ capita) (2015)	8.7
Exports of plastic waste (kg/ capita) (2021)	4.2

⁷⁹ Solid Waste Management Barbados. Available at: <http://epd.gov.bb/What-We-Do/Waste-Management/>

Legislative Frameworks & Conventions

The National Sustainable Development Policy covers several areas related to SDG 12. Waste disposal in Barbados is governed by the following pieces of legislation, which will need to be modernized:

- The Health Services Act (Cap. 44), 1969;
- Health Services (Nuisances) Regulations, 1969; and
- Health Services (Disposal of Offensive Matter) Regulations, 1969.

Barbados is signatory to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. This comprehensive international legal instrument is designed to protect human health and the environment and aims to achieve environmentally sound management across the entire waste management hierarchy (prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery and disposal). Barbados is also signatory to other international conventions concerning the management of chemicals. These include:

- The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
- The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer;
- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer;
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM); and
- The International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Plans, Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

The National Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Contingency Plan

The GOB is in the process of implementing a CBRN contingency plan aimed at reducing threats related to chemical, biological and nuclear hazards (among others). The objective of this Plan is to craft a set of emergency procedures to protect the people of Barbados and the environment in the unfortunate event of a CBNR threat.

The specific aims include:

- to establish guidelines to effectively respond to any CBRN hazard or emergency;
- to identify the roles and responsibilities of key response agencies and establish command and control guidelines;
- to establish a communication policy and procedures for informing the general population;
- to develop effective public education and awareness programmes;
- to identify the response resource requirements for each CBRN hazard type; and
- to ensure that appropriate training, orientation and equipment are provided to the relevant agencies and departments.

The training of the staffs from various national agencies in CBRN hazard response has been undertaken.

Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) programme

The ISLANDS Initiative, launched in 2019, addresses chemical and waste management in SIDS globally, with a focus on countries in the Caribbean, and the Pacific and Indian Oceans⁸⁰. In the Caribbean region, this five-year (5) programme will foster stakeholder collaboration, and include government agencies and civil society organisations, with the aim of developing and implementing regional legislation on chemicals and waste management. Some areas of focus include the elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), highly hazardous pesticides, and the sound management of e-waste and end-of-life vehicles. Amongst other things, it will improve control on the import of products; support the design of sanitary engineered landfills and sustainable food production systems; and promote sustainable consumption through circular economy approaches. The program also aims to eliminate over nine thousand (9,000) metric tons of contaminated material and more than one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) metric tons of marine litter in the Caribbean region. This project aligns with several SDGs including SDG 2- Zero Hunger, SDG 3- Good Health and Well-being, SDG 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 14- Life below Water and SDG17- Partnerships for the Goals.

⁸⁰ IISD/ SDG Knowledge Hub. Available at: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/sids-launch-initiative-to-tackle-chemical-and-waste-management/>

The Pesticides Container Management Scheme

Several countries in the Caribbean are formalising plans to govern the disposal of pesticide containers. The Pesticide Container Management Scheme is part of a larger regional project entitled Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides including POPs, Promotion of Alternatives and Strengthening Pesticides Management in the Caribbean. The objective of the programme is to eliminate the indiscriminate disposal of empty pesticide containers as this practice poses threats to human well-being and the environment. The Scheme's slogan is *Read, Rinse, Return* which emphasises the need for reading labels, rinsing empty containers and discarding containers in specially provided trailers. Recycling of empty containers will also be considered in subsequent phases of the initiative

Private Sector, Civil Society and P-P-P Initiatives

The Residential Waste Improvement Project

The Residential Waste Improvement Project, a collaboration between the Sanitation Service Authority (state body) and the privately-owned Prosource Limited, was launched in 2021 to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in the landfill and improve working conditions for sanitation workers (by reducing the hazards associated with lifting and emptying garbage receptacles). Under this project, households are provided with roll-out carts and recycling bins. Additionally, the project encourages sustainable waste practices in communities and provides an avenue for income generation through the export of recyclables.

Best Practices- Public- Private Partnerships Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre, Inc. (SBRC) & the Government

Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre, Inc. (SBRC) was formed in early 2008, following the successful formation of a contract with the Government of Barbados. The 20-year contract is operated under a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer agreement. The SBRC provides a centralized location for the handling of all the waste on the island. Specific activities which take place include:

- measuring waste quantities
- utilising environmentally sound disposal methods including composting (which also provides additional revenue)

SBRC's objective is to improve the island's environment by minimizing the volume of waste going to landfills and maximizing the use of recovered waste by processing it into new products.

SDG Targets under Goal 12 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	Moving away from target/ deterioration
Fair progress but acceleration is needed	No trend data available
Limited or no progress	Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 12 - Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns	Barbados' Progress
Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	
By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	
By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	
Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	
Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	
By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	



SDG 13: Climate Action

‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’

Resilience & adaptive capacity

Climate- related hazards

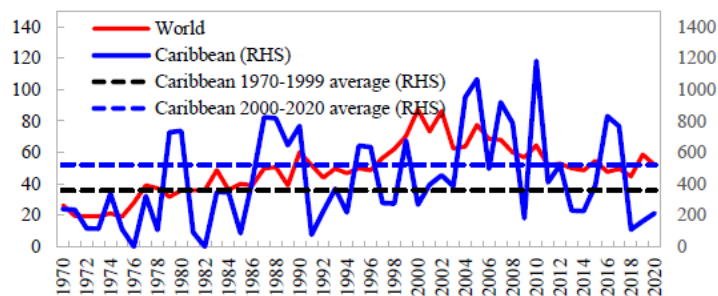
Integrating climate change into national policies

Education & awareness

Overview of SDG 13

Numerous impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise, temperature increases, erosion, changes in the amount and seasonality of rainfall and extreme weather events, are expected to pose significant difficulties for Barbados. In fact, analysis suggest that Barbados’ climate - related risks have been increasing⁸¹. **Figure 23** shows that the region’s disaster frequency is estimated at approximately ten (10) times the world average while the economic impact relative to GDP size can be around twenty (20) times higher than the world average in recent decades⁸².

Figure 21 Caribbean Region's Disaster Frequency



Source: IMF Working Papers (2022)

Barbados’ location within the hurricane belt makes us especially vulnerable to associated impacts with our last major hurricane, Hurricane Elsa making landfall in 2021. In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Elsa, the government earmarked an initial BDS \$54.5 million to repair and rebuild housing stock for the most vulnerable. The overall estimated impact of this hurricane was 1 percent of GDP⁸³.

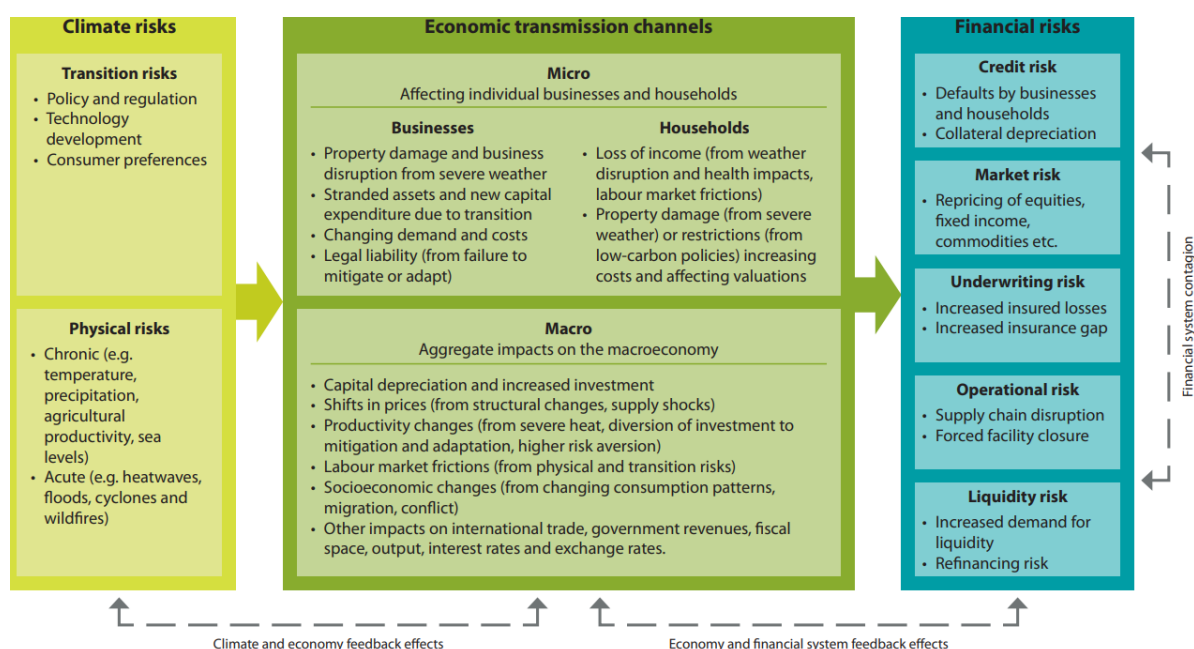
⁸¹ IMF Country Report No 22/377

⁸² IMF Work Papers (2022) Natural Disasters and Scarring Effects

⁸³ IMF Country Report No 22/377

Due to our low-lying and densely populated land space, and our interconnected industries (for instance tourism, agriculture and energy) we must advance the global efforts to combat the climate crisis. Climate vulnerability has a negative effect on our efforts to maintain financial stability as the impacts are reflected throughout the economic system (financial institutions, businesses, households). Cognizant of our vulnerabilities, Barbados has developed numerous adaptation measures over the years including those targeted at coastal areas, water resources, agriculture and housing.

Figure 22 Climate Change Risks to Financial Stability



Source: G20 Data Gaps Initiative 3 Workplan Prepared by IMF Staff in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics

Barbados is listed among the top 10 most water-stressed countries in the world due to the limited availability of surface water. The country is almost entirely dependent on groundwater from aquifer sources and has, in recent years, experienced unusual weather patterns such as reduced rainfall; in 2020 the country experienced its worst dry season in 50 years.⁸⁴ Changes to weather patterns affect all sectors on the island including agriculture and tourism services which require significant water resources. We also face challenges due to wildfires which are

⁸⁴ Commonwealth Secretariat. Available at: worst dry season in 50 years

common during the dry season. The government is embarking on a number of adaptation projects including the recent passage of the Water Re-Use Bill which will create a framework for the use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes. Upgrades to ageing infrastructure, reforms of the BWA and household conservation measures are other important interventions aimed at helping the government address the severity of its water scarcity challenge.

Our approach to enhancing our resilience to climate change is evident in our national policies, plans and cross-sectoral projects. The GOB has made a concerted effort to align our policies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. The Framework on Disaster Reduction outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks. After Barbados ratified the Sendai Framework, the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) was designated as the lead agency for the implementation of the framework. However, even before this, the GOB had previously established a National Emergency Management System which comprises a multisectoral committee that includes stakeholders from all sectors in an effort to promote disaster risk reduction in a holistic way.

Like many other activities, progress under the Sendai Framework has been affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. Currently, the greatest barrier to the implementation of the Sendai Framework is the availability of financing to:

- operationalise existing strategies and plans;
- acquire technical capacities to develop and sustain initiatives;
- invest in risk reduction rather than in post-disaster financing; and
- and risk transfer mechanisms.⁸⁵

⁸⁵ The Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Voluntary National Report – Barbados. 2023.

Nevertheless, Barbados remains a committed champion of the cause to strengthen countries of the global south in their capacity to fund climate resilience projects. Below is a snapshot of Barbados' progress to achieving SDG 13.

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 13

CO ₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production (tCO ₂ / capita) (2020)	3.8
CO ₂ emissions embodied in fossil fuel exports (kg/ capita) (2021)	304.1
Climate change EPI (Environmental Performance Indicator) (2022)	5

Policies

The Barbados National Climate Change Policy 2012

The Barbados National Climate Change Policy of 2012 established a national process for adaptation to climate change, with specific focus on reducing the country's greenhouse gases emissions, designing appropriate mechanisms to respond to climate change, and supporting the transition towards renewable energy. The primary goal of the policy is to establish a national process for adapting to climate change in a manner that is coordinated and consistent with the country's broader sustainable development aspirations. Integral aspects of the policy include the mechanisms to respond to climate challenges, including planning and response mechanisms and facilitating regional and international climate change negotiations. The policy also promotes mechanisms through which we can improve our national capacity for disaster risk and response management.

Legislative Frameworks & Conventions

Barbados is a signatory to two international treaties which specifically address climate change. The UNFCCC seeks to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system. The Kyoto Protocol operationalises the UNFCCC and sets binding emission target reductions for

industrialized countries and economies in transition. Barbados became a signatory to the UNFCCC on March 23, 1994, and the Kyoto Protocol on August 7, 2000. Barbados also signed and ratified the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016. Since signing these treaties, Barbados has undertaken several initiatives intended to establish compliance with its international obligations, and generally to develop its national capacity to facilitate adequate adaptation and mitigation to climate change and its impacts. This includes the presentation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC which are ambitious in nature and stick closely to the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) target of 1.5.

Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

Barbados Update on Nationally Determined Contributions

The Barbados 2021 Update of the First NDC outlines the GOB's updated plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030 (compared to 2008 baseline levels) and adapting to the impacts of climate change. We acknowledge both of these as imperative, as we strive towards a more resilient small island developing state where sustainability forms the nexus of our development planning. The main objective of the document is to demonstrate Barbados' commitment to addressing climate change and contribute to the worldwide effort to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, in line with the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The document sets out Barbados' updated targets for reducing emissions, and the measures to be taken to achieve these targets.

The Barbados 2021 Update aligns with several of the SDGs, including SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). We recognise the importance of social, economic and environmental sustainability in achieving our climate-related goals. Barbados' NDC identifies measures to ensure that the transition to a low-carbon economy is socially and economically inclusive and that the benefits derived are shared equitably among the national population. The NDC report also recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing Barbados' natural ecosystems which provide critical ecological services such as coastal protection and tourism. Our development plans target reducing our reliance on fossil fuels by increasing the use of renewable energy and promoting energy efficiency to support our blue and green economies.

To measure the progress of its plans, Barbados will be strengthening its transparency framework through the design and implementation of a fully functioning Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for the effective implementation of its nationally determined contribution. The MRV system will track greenhouse gas emissions and provide information and monitoring of climate change mitigation, adaptation activities and technology transfer elements as indices of resilience building, as well as track climate financing in Barbados.

Green Climate Fund – Blue Green Bank

Initially conceptualized by Prime Minister Mottley, the Blue Green Bank seeks to assist Caribbean countries to meet targets for their NDC and achieve a climate-resilient low-emission future. A Project preparation Facility was approved, and the Funding Proposal for the Blue Green Bank will go to the Board of the GCF in July 2023. Initially, the Blue Green Bank will finance several private and public initiatives in Barbados including housing, energy generation, water conservation, food security and low carbon transport. The financing vehicle will be able to target high impact sectors through the financing of green bonds and other capital market instruments. The Blue Green Bank will strengthen financing capacity and infrastructure to attract other financial players, including banks, credit unions, pension funds, and insurance companies, and will build awareness of a more resilient and sustainable Caribbean.⁸⁶

Logistics Hub and Training Centre

To strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities of the Caribbean Islands, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), through a partnership with the Government of Barbados and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), will build a logistics hub and training centre in Barbados. The hub, once operationalised, will support air and sea operations, serving as a prepositioning and response centre as well as a trans-shipment point for relief items. Equipment along with trained staff at the hub will be rapidly deployed as needed to support operations in case of an emergency.

⁸⁶ Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/gcf-approves-project-preparation-facility-grant-establish-barbados-green-bank>

Cross Sectoral Projects

The Government and people of Barbados also benefit from several cross-sectoral projects which address climate change as one of their components. These projects include:

- the Water Resources Management Project in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development Eastern and Southern Caribbean Mission (USAID/ESC). Under this project, BWA was awarded a grant of BDS \$700,000 to modernise its groundwater monitoring equipment. The program will facilitate the introduction of twenty (20) additional groundwater monitoring stations which will significantly improve BWA's ability to monitor groundwater flows and will assist with the overall management of water service to the citizens of Barbados;
- the R2RP which supports climate-conscious initiatives and strengthens resilience to climate change impacts while protecting the most vulnerable;
- the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for Climate Resilience Wastewater Systems in Barbados (3R-CReWS) project aims to make more water accessible through investment in the circular economy by using carbon neutral and climate-resilient water and energy management technologies that ensure water is protected, managed, recycled, reused, and conserved. The total project value is BDS \$100 million inclusive of a Green Climate Fund (GCF) grant of BDS \$78.8 million; and
- WSRN S-Barbados project will increase water security via the installation of photovoltaic solar and backup natural gas power for pumping stations, while implementing climate resilience actions in the water sector, including through a water sector master plan, enhancing infiltration, and by reducing non-revenue water and improving overall water management. An adaptation fund, set up with operational cost savings from implementing the renewable energy activities, will provide credit lines to implement water conservation actions, whilst other activities will build public awareness to achieve more sustainable water usage. The project has an estimated lifespan of 30 years. The total project value is BDS \$90.4 million inclusive of a GCF grant of BDS \$55.2 million.

The Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs Initiatives

The MPEA will undertake two (2) critical initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and natural disasters.

- **Implementation of a Management Information System (MIS): Enhancing Institutional Capacity through a Management Information System (BDS2.70 million) (IADB)**

To strengthen the coordination, monitoring and accountability capacities of social protection systems, the MPEA will develop a MIS. This inter-institutional MIS will be able to centralise data, process information and disseminate the outputs among stakeholders and has the added benefit of producing an electronic database of vulnerable persons who can be more effectively targeted if a disaster response is required. The MIS will store qualitative and quantitative information for each program implemented by MPEA and their related entities, thereby facilitating the flow of information and data between related institutions and ultimately improving monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

- **The Geo-Spatial Mapping Exercise**

The aim of this exercise is to contribute to the reduction of extreme poverty and unemployment in Barbados through the promotion of social inclusion and the accumulation of human capital among the extreme poor and vulnerable.

This interactive tool will facilitate geospatial plotting and will allow for the geotagging of locations of those who are vulnerable, beneficiaries of social services and disabled as well as the collection of key sociodemographic information. This solution will then be integrated with the MIS that will connect programmes executed by the MPEA, associated to the MLSP, and related institutions.

The reports and dashboards provided will aid in the decision making of social programme organisers and policy makers. The solution will combine geospatial technology and spatial demographic characteristics to facilitate the identification of unemployment and poor and/or vulnerable persons across the islands and get a better understanding of what is needed for which area or subset of persons.







Furthermore, the Geospatial Mapping Solution will:




- allow the MPEA to identify hotspots of vulnerable households and their demographic characteristics and social benefits and services they access;
- map the locations of vulnerable households in relation to flood prone areas, areas of high elevation and social and community facilities to inform disaster planning and decision-making;
- map and display information related to persons who access social benefits or services provided by various agencies, and their demographic characteristics; and
- map and display information related to persons living with disabilities, along with their demographics and other characteristics.

These initiatives demonstrate the Government's proactive approach to disaster response and protection of the vulnerable in our society.

SDG Targets under Goal 13 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

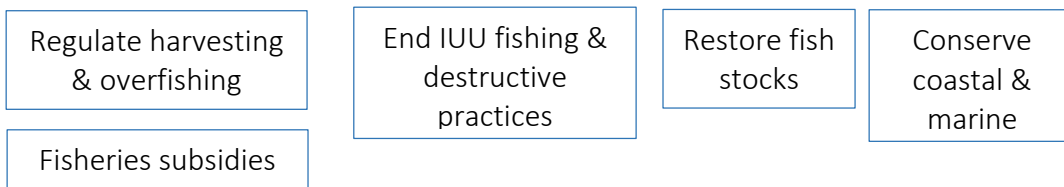
 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 13 - Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts	Barbados' Progress
Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	
Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	
Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	



SDG 14: Life below Water

‘Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development’



Overview of SDG 14

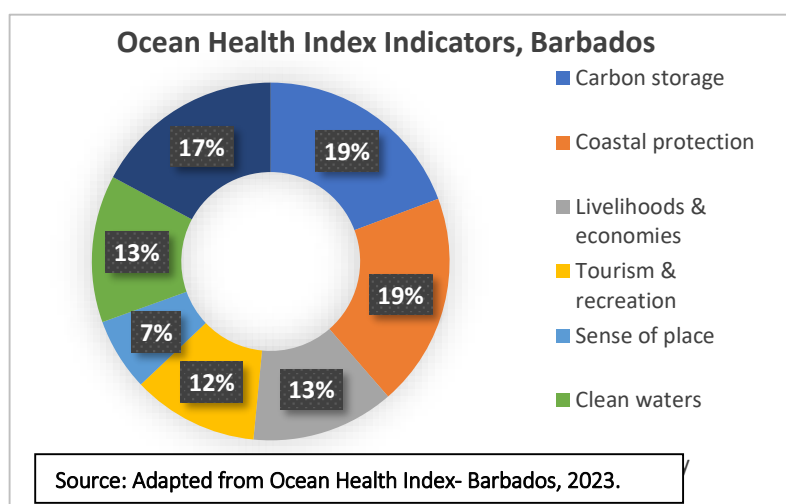
In 2018, Barbados gave strategic priority to the Blue Economy by creating a new Ministry dedicated to both protecting and maximising the exploitation of this natural asset. Given the tremendous potential of the blue economy as a development tool and to ensure sustainable marine resources and livelihoods, great emphasis is placed on holistic and sustainable development. The marine environment supports several key economic sectors in Barbados including tourism (water sports, the cruise ship, dive, and yachting industries), fishing (commercial, subsistence and recreation) and the shipping industry (international shipping and trade).



The tourism sector represents 17.5 % of the country’s GDP⁸⁷ (2019) and in the first 9 months of 2022, this sector earned BDS \$1016.4 million⁸⁸. It is also estimated that this sector employs over 12% of our country’s labour force. The island’s fishing sector contributes 0.15% of the GDP (2017) and the value of marine capture fish production was BDS \$15.6 million (2016)⁸⁹. The fisheries sector is economically important with some reports indicating that over eight thousand, eight hundred (8,800) people are employed in the sector.⁹⁰

Marine resources are also key components of the island’s resilience to the impacts of climate change and the provision of numerous ecosystem services including shoreline protection, ecosystem and species maintenance as well as aesthetic benefits. With an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) more than four hundred and thirty-four (434) times larger than our land mass, we also recognize that advancements towards SDG 14 will have a positive ripple effect on other SDGs including SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 13: Climate action and SDG 15: Life on land. Sustainable management of our coastal and marine resources therefore supports meeting other national and global developmental targets.

Figure 23 Ocean Health Index Indicators, Barbados.



Barbados has an overall Ocean Health Index score (which measures the state of the world’s oceans) of 68 and is ranked 113 out of 220 countries and territories⁹¹. The Ocean Health Index is determined by an assessment of 10 Indices and our scores on 7 of these

⁸⁷ IADB Inter -American Development Bank ‘Barbados Caribbean Economies in the time of Coronavirus’. Available at: <https://flagships.iadb.org/en/caribbean-region-quarterly-bulletin-2020-q1/barbados#:~:text=Tourism%20is%20the%20main%20driver,percent%20of%20the%20labor%20force.>

⁸⁸ Caricom Business Newsletter, Vol. 5 No. 44. Available at <https://today.caricom.org/2022/10/31/barbados-grows-by-10-1-earns-508-2m-from-tourism-caricom-business/>

⁸⁹ Barbados Economic and Social Report 2017. Available at: CRFM Statistics Report, 2020. Available at: <https://www.barbadosparliament.com/uploads/sittings/attachments/3850f70a81346e8882a9bc6079633231.pdf>

⁹⁰ https://www.crfm.int/images/documents/CRFM%20Statistics%20and%20Information%20Report%202020_Final_Published.pdf

⁹¹ Ocean Health Index Barbados. Available at: <https://oceanhealthindex.org/regions/barbados/>

are highlighted in **Figure 25**.

Specific sectors within our Blue Economy show tremendous potential for further development. For instance, proposed improvements to our large pelagic longline fishery can increase gross revenue over the next seven years by BDS \$15 million and result in incredible value for our local stakeholders.⁹² The GOB is currently exploring new and emerging sub-sectors including marine renewable energy sources, aquaculture and blue biotechnology and is actively working to encourage investment in these sectors as financing remains a significant challenge. The GOB remains committed to advancing progress under SDG 14 as we navigate the impacts of disasters, particularly hurricanes and climate-change impacts including sargassum influxes, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

⁹² Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies (OETS) Project Barbados UNCTAD–DOALOS in cooperation with FAO Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy: Barbados large pelagic longline fishery. Available at: <https://unctad.org/publication/oceans-economy-and-trade-strategy-barbados-large-pelagic-longline-fishery>

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 14

Contribution of fisheries to GDP (2019)	0.15%
Land area (sq km)	423
Coastline (km)	97
Exclusive Economic Zone (sq km)	186,898
Inshore fishing area (sq km)	342
Fisheries contribution to GDP (2019)	0.15%
Total fisheries production (metric tons) (2020)	1,542
Aquaculture production (metric production) (2020)	26
Capture fisheries production (metric tons) (2020)	1,517
# of persons employed in fishing sector (2022)	6,000
% of total catch within the EEZ (2018)	39.29
% of fish caught by trawling and dredging (2018)	0
% of fish caught that are then discarded (2018)	0
Ocean health Index (OHI)	68
Tropical Coral Reefs (sq, km)	100
Marine Protected Areas	<1% ⁹³

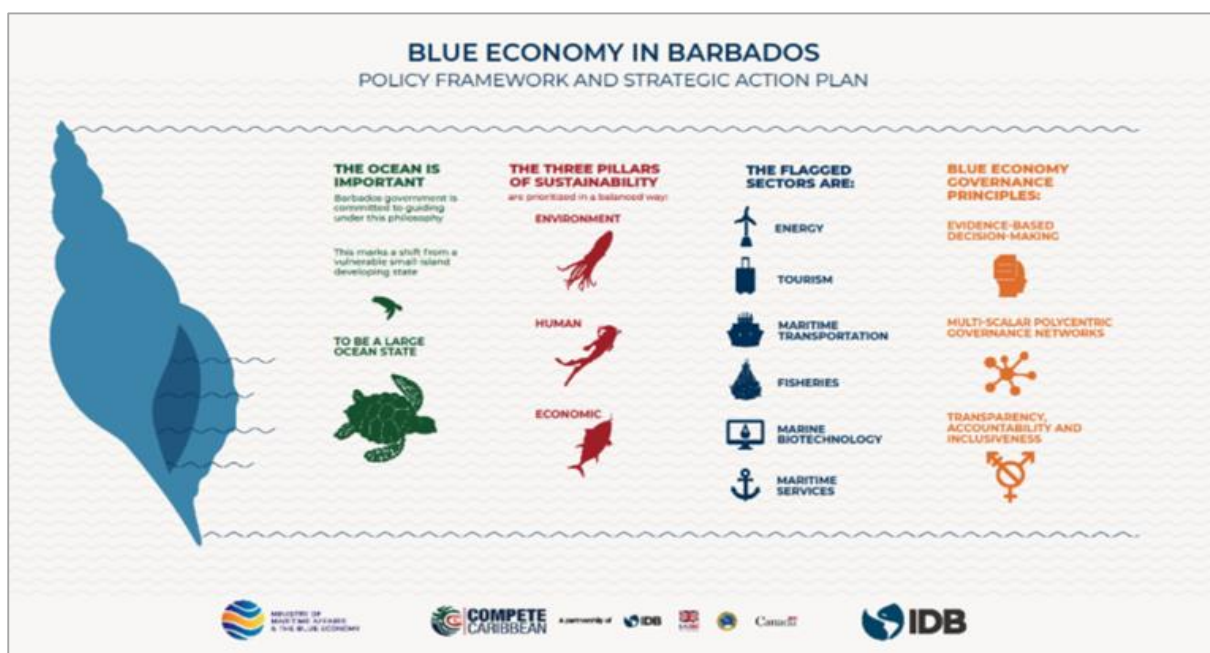
Policies, Plans and Supporting Studies

At the policy level, Barbados has made significant changes and tangible progress in the development and sustainable management of its marine and coastal resources. This new approach to the blue economy will facilitate a sustainable path towards economic growth, not only for Barbados but for the wider Caribbean region. Our policy direction is supported by International Conventions and Treaties as well as scientific research and scoping studies.

⁹³ Data extracted from the Blue Economy Scoping Study Synthesis Report, Ocean Health Index, SDG Index- Barbados and Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy Barbados.

The Blue Economy Roadmap

The Blue Economy Roadmap ‘lays out the metaphorical footprints in the beach sand that show the steps the country should follow towards the attainment of a sustainable and resilient Blue Economy.’ The Roadmap is based on the three pillars of sustainability (*environment, social and economic*), all interwoven and equally considered to result in balanced outcomes. The principle of inclusive and distributive economic growth within the limits of ocean and marine ecosystems is the primary overarching factor. It identifies priority sectors for development – marine energy, tourism, maritime transportation, fisheries, marine biotechnology, and maritime services.



The Blue Economy in Barbados.

The Roadmap was developed based on established Blue Economy Principles which include science-based decision-making; multi-scalar polycentric governance networks; transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness.

The Barbados Blue Economy Scoping Study

Synthesis Report outlines the opportunities available for the Government of Barbados to develop, nurture and expand the economic value of our marine sector. The study includes several objectives including:

- assessing the current state of the marine environment in Barbados;

- identifying the potential economic opportunities associated with the sustainable use of marine resources;
- identifying and analysing opportunities for the development of a blue economy; and
- providing a basis for the development of a Blue Economy roadmap to be used for future development planning by our Government.

This scoping study aligns with several SDGs, including SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). SDG 14 aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine life for sustainable development. The study states that “the development of the blue economy sits within the broader national framework for economic development.” Hence, it is essential that both goals be considered whenever there is discussion about the Blue Economy in our country. Goal 13 (Climate Action) requires that nations take urgent action to combat climate change and is also relevant to the blue economy as the study states that the blue economy integrates sustainable development and green growth. The scoping study concludes that Barbados has already undertaken or has included in our planning, a range of activities that complement each other in fostering ‘inclusive, environmentally sustainable economic growth’, much of which is taking place in the blue economy space.

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan 2020- 2030

In late 2020, the Coastal Zone Management Unit, under the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Blue and Green Economy (MENB), concluded the scientific, technical, internal review and public consultation processes for the updating of the ICZM Plan for Barbados. Our ICZM Plan is designed to build coastal resilience and inform decision-making thereby facilitating sustainable coastal economic development for coastal communities and businesses. The Plan uses two key concepts or principles: 1) the principle of Island System Management, which integrates the management of both coastal and terrestrial resources and 2) the Reef to Ridge concept coined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature which aims to provide a holistic intervention for protecting coastal areas.

The Plan is comprised of two volumes:

- Volume 1: ICZM – The Barbados Policy Framework outlines ICZM policy outcomes and goals; and
- Volume 2: ICZM- The Barbados ICZM Plan details guidelines on general themes relevant to the Coastal Zone Management Area (CZMA) at both the national and sub-area levels. This supports and advises on ways in which specific sectors and the wider society can achieve climate and disaster risk compatible development.

Through the efforts of our CZMU, we have made substantial progress in several areas including coastal erosion control, coastal resource conservation, institutional strengthening and capacity building. These benefits are particularly important for us as our unique coastal characteristics are strongly influenced by prevailing coastal dynamics.

Legislative Frameworks & Conventions

Legislative Frameworks

The GOB recognises the need for updated fisheries regulations to ensure greater legal protections for our fishing sector. Plans are in train for the introduction of new Fisheries Management Regulations. These regulations, once approved, will enhance the fishing industry by regulating methods of fishing, types of gears used; enact size and weight regulations for catches of specific species; set parameters for the open and closed fishing seasons, as well as designate prohibited areas for fishing. The new regulations will also reduce environmental impacts, for instance with respect to net sizes used in our flying fish industry. Another important aspect of the Fisheries Management Regulations is the licensing of fish pots, and the mandatory registering of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and other types of fishing equipment with the Fisheries Department. These measures will allow the GOB to protect critical resources including fish stocks, nursery areas and coral reefs, while facilitating and enhancing the livelihoods for hundreds of our citizens employed in the fishing sector.

These regulations will be subsumed under the proposed Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development suite of laws presented to Cabinet in May 2023. The suite aims to maximise the highest potential of Barbados' fisheries sector and chart the way forward to sustainable development. Realising this potential necessitates:



- a holistic and integrated approach to fisheries management and development;
- effective implementation of regional and international fisheries instruments and standards recognised by Barbados;
- creation of an enabling environment that facilitates the efficient and effective use of livelihood assets used by fisherfolk;
- mitigates, promotes adaptation to, and builds resilience to climate change, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and other natural and human-induced vulnerabilities faced by the fisheries sector;
- responsible conduct of persons engaged in fisheries from pre-harvest to post-harvest;
- stakeholder involvement at various stages of fisheries management and development processes and activities; and
- new approaches to fisheries management, protection and development, including the integration of digital technologies.

The Cartagena Convention

The GOB is a signatory to several International Conventions aimed at protection of marine resources. The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) or Cartagena Convention, is a regional legal agreement for the protection of the Caribbean Sea and sets out regional priorities to address marine pollution. The Convention is supported by three technical agreements or Protocols on Oil Spills, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and Land Based Sources (LBS) of Marine Pollution. The

GOB ratified the Cartagena Convention and Oil Spills Protocol in 1985, the SPAW Protocol in 2002 and the LBS Protocol in 2019.⁹⁴ Barbados has been a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) since 1993, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since 2006 and a member of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

More recently, at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the CBD in 2022, countries of the world adopted the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The GBF aims to address biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems, and protect indigenous rights. It also includes concrete measures to halt and reverse nature loss, including putting 30 per cent of the planet and 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030.⁹⁵ These landmark agreements will allow Barbados to further accelerate progress under Goal 14 as it relates to the restoration of our terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems.

Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

Roofs to Reefs Programme

The GOB has signalled its commitment to the restoration of vulnerable coral reef ecosystems, particularly on the heavy tourism and residential belts of the west and south coasts of the island, through the R2RP. This programme encompasses several key areas of multiple SDGs. One objective of the project under the ecosystem component is to restore vulnerable coral reef ecosystems on the island, particularly on the west and south coasts. Another anticipated benefit of this programme is the increased resilience to the impacts of climate change and other natural disasters.



⁹⁴ The Cartagena Convention. Available at: <https://www.unep.org/cep/who-we-are/cartagena-convention>

⁹⁵ COP 15 ends with landmark biodiversity agreement. Available at: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/cop15-ends-landmark-biodiversity-agreement#:~:text=The%20GBF%20aims%20to%20address,ecosystems%20under%20protection%20by%202030.>

The Barbados National Coastal Risk Information and Planning Platform

The National Coastal Risk Information and Planning Platform (NCRIPP) project (funded by the Inter-American Development Bank IDB) assessed coastal and island-wide hazards in Barbados. The hazard assessment examined climate change, hurricanes, storm surge, rainfall induced flooding, landslides, shoreline erosion, earthquakes, tsunamis, and oil spills. This study developed a software platform to investigate hazards, vulnerability, and risk. The resulting NCRIPP software is an enterprise-level Geographic Information System (GIS) and Geodatabase that is now used by the Government to increase national resilience in vulnerable areas. The risk assessment also determined total financial losses resulting from a range of hazards. Barbados now benefits from a Coastal Risk Atlas which was developed under the project with the capability of creating customized Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk maps within the NCRIPP software⁹⁶.

Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index (CORVI) for Barbados

In 2022, the GOB partnered with the Stimson Centre and Commonwealth Secretariat through the Commonwealth Blue Charter programme, to conduct a rapid assessment of climate and ocean risks with the aim of identifying options to address these risks in the southern and western coastal urban corridor of Barbados. CORVI is a tool which compares various ecological, political, and financial risks under several categories and utilises indicators to produce a climate risk summary report. The CORVI Rapid Assessment in Barbados ‘identified significant ecological and financial risk, reflecting the urban corridor’s reliance on coastal and marine activities that are increasingly under threat from climate change.’⁹⁷

The report made three priority recommendations:

- to build resilience in marine ecosystems;
 - to diversify the Barbadian economy to reduce reliance on sun, sea and sand tourism;
- and

⁹⁶ National Coastal Risk Information and Planning Platform (NCRIPP). Available at: [https://www.baird.com/case-studies/national-coastal-risk-information-and-planning-platform-ncripp/#:~:text=The%20NCRIPP%20project%20\(completed%20for,investigate%20hazards%2C%20vulnerability%20and%20risk](https://www.baird.com/case-studies/national-coastal-risk-information-and-planning-platform-ncripp/#:~:text=The%20NCRIPP%20project%20(completed%20for,investigate%20hazards%2C%20vulnerability%20and%20risk)

⁹⁷ Climate risk assessment of southern and western coastal urban corridor of Barbados finds significant ecological and financial risk. Available at: <https://thecommonwealth.org/news/climate-risk-assessment-southern-and-western-coastal-urban-corridor-barbados>

- to develop marine heatwave response measures.

This critically important study will assist Barbados in not only determining our vulnerabilities, but also in decision-making with respect to prioritising our investments in a manner that protects coastal communities

Coral Replanting Initiatives

The GOB, through the CZMU under the MENB, is working alongside the Blue Green Initiative and the Global Coral Reef Alliance to restore coral reefs along the islands West Coast. This pilot project, once initiated, will utilise Biorock technology, now utilised in

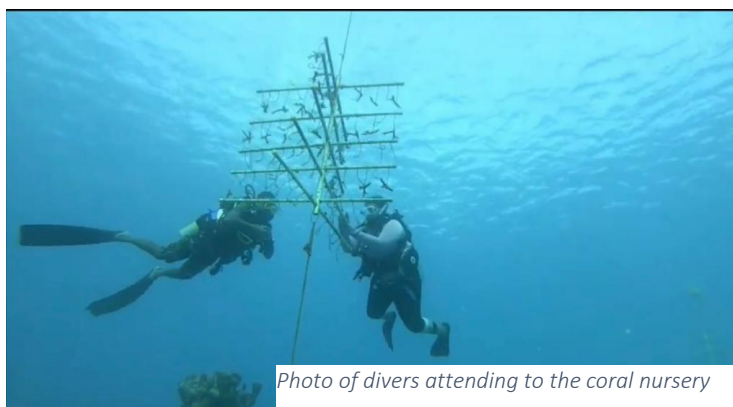


Photo of divers attending to the coral nursery

more than twenty (20) countries around the world. The technology is capable of growing solid limestone out of seawater, accelerating coral growth, and creating fish habitats. The project is expected to have numerous benefits for Barbados, including increasing reef habitats, decreasing wave action thus reducing erosion and enhancing the resilience of our marine habitats to the impacts of climate change. This first-of-its-kind project in Barbados requires no more than 6 volts of electricity (similar to a flashlight) and produces natural building materials that grow, increase in strength with time and are self-repairing.⁹⁸

The GOB is working collaboratively with the private sector, specifically the Barbados Blue Dive Shop and the NGO Coral Reefs Restoration Alliance (CORALL), to restore coral reefs along the island's west coast. The former is using Rebar Wire Frames, while the latter is using PVC Coral Trees to create a coral nursery to grow out Staghorn corals (*Acropora*



⁹⁸Biorock Technology to Boost Coral Regeneration. Available at: <https://barbadosenvironment.org/grants/biorock-technology-to-boost-coral-regeneration/>

cervicornis sp). These 2 initiatives have been very successful in the nursery creation stage which has led to the out planting of over three hundred (300) coral fragments in their designated locations since the start of the project. This initiative has been effective in providing continued hatchery growth stock, preventing the need to repeatedly return to the wild for the collection of “fragments of opportunity.”

As part of the Coastal Risk Assessment and Management Programme, we have been able to pilot test a coral nursery laboratory to investigate the use of fragmentation techniques for different coral species to look at their viability and rate of growth in laboratory conditions, leading to the out planting of the fragments. This project provided useful information and is currently being considered for upgraded development.

The Marine Spatial Planning Process

With assistance from the IADB, the GOB launched a planning process to set the foundations for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) initiatives. This builds on our decades of best practices by the CZMU and national work related to environmental governance and marine ecosystem management and planning. The initial stages of the MSP process entail the creation of institutional, financial, legal and policy frameworks. The GOB intends to initiate several projects related to MSP this year including:

- improvement of existing GIS data, methods, and results;
- drafting of an Ocean Policy which will include a Marine Physical Development Master Plan to sustain the health and functionality of Barbados’ coastal, near shore, and marine ecosystems; and
- development of a Natural Capital Assessment to value the economic, social, and environmental aspects of our ocean ecosystems.

This MSP process signals Barbados' full commitment to achieving a balance between social and economic objectives while alleviating pressures on our ocean resources. The MSP process is also part of our commitment under the debt conversion for nature transaction under the Barbados Blue Bonds project

The Barbados Blue Bond

Barbados is utilising [Blue Bonds for Ocean Conservation](#) as a debt conversion tool to finance our ambitious conservation commitments. Through the Bond, Barbados will leverage BDS \$100 million in funding to help protect our nation’s marine and terrestrial biodiversity reserves, maintain their ecosystems for the valued services they provide, and support the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway. Over and above providing financing for the preparation of the Marine Spatial Plan for Barbados’ Exclusive Economic Zone, this facility has enabled the establishment of the Barbados Environmental Sustainability Fund (BESF) that, through its grant making, will enable the engagement of the Public and Private Sector agencies and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the pursuit of desired policy goals that support the national sustainable development aspirations.

This financing arrangement was crafted by the GOB, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the IADB, with Credit Suisse and CIBC First Caribbean Bank as joint partners and facilitators. Prime Minister M. A. Mottley, S.C., M.P., is quoted as saying, “This Blue Bonds project is a bold step towards protecting and securing our marine environment that is critical to our continued survival as a people.”

Moored Fish Aggregating Devices (MFADs) Pilot Programme

A programme involving the installation of MFADs to enhance the catching of pelagic fish for coastal fishers around the island commenced in late 2021. To date 13 of the 17 proposed MFADs have been installed at various points around the island including one on the East Coast. The MFADs were fitted with satellite buoys to monitor key



oceanographic parameters and fish assemblages at the FADs. The satellite buoys will be used to track the FADs to facilitate their recovery if they break away from the mooring. The deployment of two private MFADs were also reported to the Fisheries Division.

DigiFish Initiative

‘Promoting the use of Digital technologies and innovative data analytical methods to support the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in Barbados.’

The Fisheries Division is collaborating with the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) and Blue Shell Productions, in the implementation of the DigiFish initiative. Phase 1 has piloted the installation of 30 Pelagic Data Systems vessel tracking devices in 2022 on small-scale boats in Barbados to illustrate how fishing effort changes through space and time. The pilot seeks to demonstrate how vessel tracking systems can be used to make informed decisions about how fisheries can be best managed to balance diverse societal and environmental objectives while improving livelihoods. It also aims to foster productive partnerships between BARNUFO, the Fisheries Division, the CZMU and Barbados Coast Guard in applying integrated data solutions to support MSP, blue economy development and fisheries management. Funding for Phase 1 of this initiative was provided by Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust.

Phase 2 aims to address the fragmentation of seafood value chains and promote traceability by advancing the use of digital technologies and innovative data analytical methods. This phase seeks to pilot the installation of forty (40) Remora Vessel Monitoring Devices aboard Longline Fishing Vessels and station two Remora Smart Scales in the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex. The data intelligence and visualisation platform will compile the data collected using the Remora hardware to determine catch location, calculate fishing effort, analyse landings, generate predictive models, and begin the traceability certification process. Funding for this phase is being provided by Export Barbados and Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility under the Ocean and Innovation Challenge 2022.

These phases build the foundation for the development of a comprehensive Fisheries Information System to provide data-driven solutions that inform decision making. Next steps include significant database upgrades, and the automation of reports powered by artificial intelligence and deep machine learning. Funding and support are being provided by the UNDP Accelerator Lab under their [BlueDIGITAL](#) pilot experiment.

Longline Fishery Value Chain

The Fisheries Division supported the implementation of activities under the “Evidence-based and policy coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies” (OETS) projects, supporting SIDS in obtaining economic benefits from trade in sustainable fishery products. Published reports under this project include “The Legal and Institutional Framework Governing Ocean-Based Economic Sectors in Barbados” and “A Preliminary assessment of the Longline fishery.” The latter made recommendations on the enhanced management of this fishery, through “A Comprehensive Fishery Improvement Plan” (C-FIP). Some of the management measures are addressed in the 2023 Fisheries Management Regulations.

Elements of the C-FIP are being addressed in follow-up studies including: exploration of both local and export market potential for Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*); an experimental fishing exercise to identify the best fishing techniques and associated costs for Swordfish harvesting; an assessment of the impact of circle hooks on catch composition and a comparison of the rate of live vs. dead capture of all large pelagic species at haul-back taken by local longline gear; training of fishers in the use of equipment to release protected species from fishing gear; and an update the 2008-2010 study “Economic Valuation of the Barbados Longline Fishery-Landings, Costs, Net Profit and Return on Investment.” The Swordfish Market Analysis report has been published and is available at the following link: <https://unctad.org/publication/swordfish-market-analysis-report-barbados>

Private Sector & Civil Society Initiatives

CORALL Barbados

The CORALL is a local NGO, established in 2016, which aims to “foster the Conservation and Restoration of Coral Reef Ecosystems in Barbados for the well-being of all.” This organisation has a monitoring, education and volunteering component and is currently engaged in coral regeneration and education and awareness. CORALL installed a successful Staghorn Coral Nursery at Vauxhall Reef within the recreational area of the marine reserve. The next phase of this project will be the identification of sites to plant growing fragments. This NGO has identified as a project for 2023, the development of a Nature Interpretive Area within the

Folkestone Marine Reserve. Additionally, CORALL will continue to practice their 'Ridge to Reef' approach by participating in events and activities that are aimed towards increasing awareness of coral reefs among members of the public, and on building effective partnerships.

Barbados Blue Dive Shop

Barbados Blue is a local dive company which conducts underwater diving and snorkelling tours in Barbados' marine waters. The company has installed coral nurseries on Barbados' West and South coasts. They employ scientific methods applying the PADI Coral First Aid course approach and are using coral fragments grown in the nurseries to repopulate approved nearby reef locations.

Noteworthy Initiatives

Export Barbados (BIDC) and the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility have partnered to launch the **Ocean Innovation Challenge 2022** – an initiative to provide technical and financial support to Barbadian companies that are operating in sectors within the blue economy. Under the Challenge, technical assistance is provided in the areas of research and development, product development and marketing. 'The **Ocean Innovation Challenge 2022** is specifically targeting firms that wish to export their products and/or services, as well as those using new technologies or solutions to foster the long-term sustainability of the blue economy in Barbados. This initiative also directly advances priority areas of Barbados' blue economy.

SDG Targets under Goal 14 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 14: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	Moving away from target/ deterioration
Fair progress but acceleration is needed	No trend data available
Limited or no progress	Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 14 – Conserve and Sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development	Barbados' Progress
By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.	
By 2030, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.	
By 2030, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognising that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.	
By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.	



SDG 15: Life on Land

‘Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss’

Conservation, restoration & sustainable use of terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems

Forests & wetlands

International agreements

Prevent extinction of threatened species

Halt biodiversity loss

Overview of SDG 15

The terrestrial biodiversity of Barbados is characterised by over seven hundred (700) species of flora, with two (2) endemic species of plants, two hundred and sixty-one (261) species of birds, comprising migratory and native species and several species of mammals and reptiles. Of the Seven hundred (700) flowering plant species on the island including trees, eight (8) are endangered and twenty-three (23) species have been identified for extinction. Of particular importance, thirty-eight (38) species of natural fibers and eleven (11) seeds which are of tremendous economic value for the national crafts sector, were identified under the 2015 Natural Fibers Project. Our biodiversity systems also contribute numerous ecosystem services that promote human wellbeing and contribute to economic activity in Barbados. However, Barbados has lost most of its indigenous forests, including mangrove forests, due to agricultural and tourism development. This has led to the local extinction of *Acrostichum aureum* and *Avicennia schaueriana*. The only remaining significant mangrove stand occurs in Graeme Hall Swamp in the south of the island, which is a nature reserve and a Ramsar Wetland.

Management oversight for our biodiversity falls under several Ministries, however, the overarching responsibility for coordinating biodiversity conservation and management lies with the Biodiversity and Conservation Management Section of the MENB. Barbados has made significant progress in mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into our national and sectoral policies and plans. The National Strategic Plan 2006 – 2025, the Barbados Sustainable Development Policy, the Barbados Growth and Development Strategy 2013 – 2020 and the Physical Development Plan all consider measures to reduce pressures on biodiversity and

promote the sustainable use of natural resources⁹⁹. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), makes provision for placing at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water and 10% of coastal and marine areas under protection by 2030.

With respect to our rating on environmental performance (using the Yale framework), Barbados ranked 77 out of 180 countries and with an overall score of 45.6 on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI). This index rates performance on 32 indicators related to environmental conditions. Our ratings on several key indicators are as follows:

- air quality EPI score 32;
- sanitation and drinking water EPI score 78;
- biodiversity EPI score 177;
- terrestrial biomes (national) EPI score 174; and
- biodiversity Habitat Index EPI score 168.¹⁰⁰

Our country continues to achieve progress under Goal 15 through various initiatives which aim to protect, conserve and sustainably manage our terrestrial (and other related) resources. ‘By 2035 Barbados’ terrestrial and marine biodiversity is valued by all, resilient, and at the centre of our development goals, demonstrating that all Barbadians share in understanding and reaping the benefits of, and are actively involved in, sustainable practices for its conservation for present and future generations’

Snapshot of Barbados’ progress towards achieving SDG 15

Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (5) (2020)	1.8
Red List Index of species survival (worst – 0, best – 1) (2021)	0.9
Permanent deforestation (% of forest area, 5 year average) (2020)	0.3
Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity threats embodied in imports (per million population) (2018)	0.6
EPI (Environmental Performance Indicator) score (2020)	45.6

⁹⁹ The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2020)

¹⁰⁰ Yale University. Environmental Performance Index 2020. Available at: <https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2020/country/brb>

Policies & Plans

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2020)

Barbados has been a Party, by ratification, to the United Nations CBD since March 10th, 1994 and is therefore committed to ensuring that the country maintains compliance with its obligations under the Convention. As part of this compliance, the first NBSAP was submitted to the CBD Secretariat on December 6th, 2002, and five (5) subsequent National Reports have been submitted to date.

This second NBSAP, following the first strategy which was completed in 2002, outlines the countries' biodiversity targets. The NBSAP is supported by Goal 4 of the NSP (2006 – 2025): building a green economy, strengthening the physical infrastructure and preserving the environment. Under the NBSAP, the priorities strategies for biodiversity conservation include a cache of strategic objectives and actions which will drive policy implementation. The NBSAP's twelve (12) targets include:

- by 2030, make Barbadians aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably;
- by 2030, the GOB, businesses and stakeholders at all levels will have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits;
- by 2035, the rate of loss of all of Barbados' natural habitats, including forests, will be decreased;
- by 2030, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity;
- by 2030, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity;
- by 2030, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority established species are managed and measures put in place to prevent the introduction and establishment of new invasive alien species;

- by 2030, sources of endogenous anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs (e.g. excess nutrients, anchor damage, overfishing, inter alia) are identified and effects minimised to maintain the integrity and functioning of coral reefs;
- by 2030, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are designated within connected systems of protected areas, and plans for effective area-based conservation measures are being developed;
- by 2030, pressures on known threatened species have been identified and mitigated, and conservation status has been improved;
- by 2030, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimising genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity;
- by 2030, document all traditional and scientific knowledge and technology relating to biodiversity so that it is improved, widely and equitably shared, transferred and applied; and
- by 2025, at the latest, financial resources to conduct projects and research in the area of biodiversity should increase substantially.

The NBSAP Action Plan also outlines indicators, means of verification, risks/constraints and the agency responsible for each Target.

Legislative Frameworks & Conventions

Barbados is signatory to several regional and international conventions targeted at the protection of terrestrial resources. These include:

- The Convention on biological diversity (CBD);
- The UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); and
- The International Plant Protection Convention.

Additionally, Barbados continues to meet its obligations under these Conventions. To date, we have submitted six national reports to the CBD with our Sixth National Report focusing on the use of spatial data to report on implementation of biodiversity targets in country.¹⁰¹

Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

Nature Based Adaptation

As a SIDS that is especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, we place emphasis on combining mitigation and adaptation strategies, including the use of nature, to strengthen our resilience. Through the use of nature-based adaptation strategies, we will restore vulnerable terrestrial and coral reef ecosystems. Our R2RP, in addition to addressing marine concerns, also aims to decrease land-based sources of pollution and increase freshwater storage capacity.

“The Government of Barbados (GOB) will ensure a protected environment, a stable society and a sustainable and resilient economy”.

Soil Care Project

Barbados intends to implement the Caribbean Soil Care project.¹⁰² This joint venture by the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) and The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), aims to provide SIDS with supports to implement monitor and report on progress towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. This project will not only enhance food security in Barbados but also foster sustainable land use practices, restore degraded lands and sustain ecosystem function. The project is being implemented in eight (8) Caribbean countries that will benefit from training and technical capacity skills targeted toward sustainable land management and ultimately advance SDG 15 on a regional scale.

¹⁰¹ Barbados Sixth National Report. Available at: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/bb-nr-06-en.pdf

¹⁰² Soilcare Projects. Available at: <http://pislmsids.org/soil-care/>

Community Empowerment & Environmental Project

We are actively engaging communities in our drive towards sustainable development. In 2022, the Government partnered with the UNDP on the Community Empowerment and Environmental project. This project enables communities from every parish to submit a proposal for an innovative, community-driven project to be funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP). The project links two focal areas: youth and community empowerment and is intended to drive environmental sustainability starting at a grassroots level¹⁰³.

Barbados National Botanical Gardens

A Project for Our Future Generations

The renovation of the National Botanical Gardens was undertaken as part of the country's environmental sustainability efforts. The overall goal of the National Botanical Gardens is to conserve the island's natural wonders and to demonstrate the importance of the protection of flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems for residents and visitors to Barbados. In addition to reflecting the flora of Barbados, this space is an international garden with flowers and trees planted by dignitaries from around the world including Argentina, Suriname, Kenya, and Ghana. The property covers over 250 acres, much of which is open green space.

The Clean and Green Project

Making Barbados the cleanest country in the Western Hemisphere

The Clean and Green Project is an initiative of the MENB and features two main components: the 'green' aspect and the 'clean' aspect. Some features of the project include a bulk waste collection exercise, community engagement sessions, de-bushing and beautifying of unsightly areas in various parishes. Clean and Green aims to improve the landscape of Barbados by removing unsightly garbage from areas where waste is accumulated and replacing with beautiful gardens.

¹⁰³ GIS Barbados: Community empowerment and environmental project launched. Available at: <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/community-empowerment-environmental-project-launched/>

Management of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Through national training initiatives under the *'Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House'* (BCH-III) project, implementation of the National Biosafety Framework contributes to SDG Target 12.8, *"Improving national awareness, intersectoral coordination and institutional expertise in registering and retrieving Biosafety related data in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for decision makers, key stakeholders and the public."* and Target 15.8, *"Assist countries to take scientifically sound decisions regarding the introduction of Living Modified Organisms in their agricultural systems and environment through the effective exchange of information via the BCH."*

Management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

Through a regional GEF-funded project entitled *'Preventing the Costs of Invasive Alien Species in Barbados and the Countries of the OECS,'* Barbados has embarked on numerous actions to combat IAS in Barbados. Some activities included the development of a draft National IAS Policy in collaboration with national experts and other stakeholders to identify gaps in policy and frameworks related to IAS, creating a multisectoral policy for IAS control. This document aims to provide guidance on coordinated actions to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss through preventing the introduction and spread of IAS. A critical review of the current practices at ports of entry was carried out to identify gaps in surveillance activities and develop an action plan for upgrading infrastructure, human capacity, and adopting international best practices for biosecurity at ports of entry. This improved biosecurity is envisioned to facilitate greater trade while reducing the risks of accidental introduction of IAS. Additionally, two conservation pilots were initiated. The Bath pilot and Barbados leaf-toed gecko projects.

Marine Turtle Protection

The Bath Pilot project in the parish of St John, aims to experimentally trial in situ predator control methods to protect Critically Endangered Hawksbill Sea turtle nests from predation at a vulnerable rookery through capture and euthanasia of invasive mammalian predators. Predation of sea turtle nests at the Bath Beach focal site by mongooses was 40% prior to control measures in 2020. This rate is corroborated by earlier data by Leighton (2010). Through targeted trapping efforts, the predation rate by mongooses on sea turtle nests at Bath Beach was reduced by nearly 75%. Noting that the methodology used is replicable, capacity building

through training workshops is scheduled to enhance national capacity to implement control measures at Bath Beach and elsewhere for the protection of sea turtles beyond the project lifetime. The Biodiversity Conservation and Management Section, Vector Control Unit and National Conservation Commission were the recipients of this training.

Protection of the Endemic Leaf-Toed Gecko

The objective of the Barbados leaf-toed gecko project is to establish a 1.4-hectare pest-proof bio-secure area to protect at least one sub-population of the Critically Endangered Barbados leaf-toed gecko from the threat of invasive predators. Since re-discovery in 2011, population estimates have ranged from as low as 200-1,000 individuals by Daltry et al in 2014 to as many as 12,000 by Williams (2015). This estimate was significantly reduced to 6,000 based on studies by Blades (2020) and, following ash fall from the eruption of La Soufrière, fell further to 4,000 (Blades 2021). These populations are highly fragmented due to habitat loss as uncontrolled coastal development continues. The leaf-toed gecko is therefore highly vulnerable to extinction, listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN, and in need of urgent action. A pest-proof fence design and habitat augmentation manual were developed for the creation and enclosure of suitable gecko habitat at a bio-secure site at Paragon, St. Philip. The GOB is partnering with Walker's Institute for Regeneration Research Education Design (WIRRED) to undertake habitat augmentation, and Pacific Rim Conservation and Wildlife Management International Ltd. to erect the pest-proof fence. A detailed site management plan has been developed to ensure the biosecurity of the area. This bio secure area is expected to support 200-500 individuals, representing a 5-12.5% increase in population size.

Together, these pilot projects directly contribute towards SDG Target 15.5, *“Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species”*, and Target 15.8, *“By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species”*.

Integrated Gully Ecosystem Management Programme

The GOB is proceeding with an Integrated Gullies Ecosystem Management Programme (IGEMP) to improve the overall well-being of gully ecosystems. This programme addresses

issues that are known to impact gullies, and include the threats of deforestation, invasive alien species, and the prevalence of illegal dumping of solid and liquid waste. It is envisaged that through stakeholder engagement, public awareness and community engagement, the project will protect, restore, and conserve these ecosystems with implementation of sustainable uses. The IGEMP is intended to produce comprehensive solid waste and management plans to sustain and improve the status of gully ecosystems and develop their heritage eco-tourism potential.

The IGEMP will contribute to SDG Target 15.1, *“By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements”* and Target 15.5, *“Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species”*.

Wetlands for the Future Initiative

Barbados’ Wetlands Inventory

Barbados secured funding to produce an inventory of the island’s wetlands and a management plan for the Long Pond wetland to guide wise use of the area. This project was initiated nationally in 2021 and activities are completed.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Barbados participated in the “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region” regional ABS project in 2017-2018 which prepared Barbados to be a Party to the Nagoya Protocol. Under this project, the GOB produced a draft ABS policy, underwent a legislative review, and built capacity nationally through participation in training workshops.

Since the regional ABS project, the Biodiversity Conservation and Management Section initiated the Biodiversity Enabling Activities (BEA) project. Under the BEA project, focus group sessions were held with key governmental and non-governmental agencies to generate key messages for the national ABS communication strategy. Through the development of national communication strategy to improve public awareness of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol,

Barbados has progressed in SDG Target 15.6, *“Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed”*.

Private Sector & Civil Society Initiatives







Walkers Institute for Regeneration Research Education and Design Inc.



WIRRED is a registered non-profit company. WIRRED was established to restore and rehabilitate the Walkers Sand Quarry in Barbados through regenerative agroforestry and utilization of permaculture design principles. Since 1968 the quarry’s extracted silica sand has been used in nearly every building project across Barbados. But as the construction industry exhausts the sand supply, a new story is emerging — one of biodiversity, ecological health, and regeneration. Ongoing research, education and community partnerships allow WIRRED to utilize regenerative species that increase biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services, and improve the well-being of individuals and communities.



SDG Targets under Goal 15 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 15: – Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss.

 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 15 – Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss	Barbados' Progress
Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	
By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	



Voluntary National Review 2023

Peace

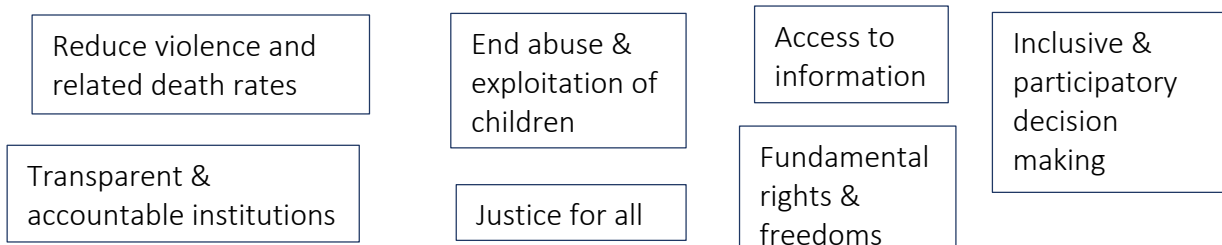
FOSTER PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’



Overview of SDG 16

Our governance framework is characterized by strong democratic traditions and our citizens enjoy basic rights such as freedom of speech, movement and worship. Our strong record of peaceful and stable political systems is proven by our World Bank Governance Indicators (WBI) ESG Relevance Scores:

- ‘5[+] for Rule of Law, institutional and regulatory quality and control of corruption;
- ‘4[+] for human rights and political freedoms; and
- ‘4[+] for creditor rights as willingness to service and repay debt.¹⁰⁴

Reducing the level of crime and violence in the country is a major focus for the Government of Barbados. While Barbados, has lower crime rates than some of the other countries in the region, there is still work to be done in order to ensure the safety of all citizens and visitors to our shores.

In 2016, alone, three hundred (300) juvenile-committed crimes were reported to the Barbados Police Service. Forty-five per cent were committed by 16–18-year-olds and the remainder by the 11–15-year age group. Between 80 and 90 per cent of juvenile crimes were committed by males. The types of crime varied by age group, with 45 per cent of them committed by 11–15-year-olds (consisting of assaults) compared to 30 per cent for the older age group. Further to this, thirty per cent of the crimes committed by this group involved drug possession and thefts or burglaries. In addition, young adults (18–24 years) are disproportionately represented

¹⁰⁴ Fitch assigns Barbados ‘B’ IDR: Outlook stable. Available at: <https://www.fitchratings.com/research/sovereigns/fitch-assigns-barbados-b-idr-outlook-stable-20-10-2022>

amongst both victims and perpetrators of murders. This group, which comprises around 12 per cent of the population, accounted for around a quarter of murder victims and almost 60 per cent of perpetrators. Recently, there has been an upsurge in firearm related crime which has been usual for our country, while there has been some moderate decrease in 2020 compared to 2022 figures for the same period, every effort is being made to reduce further escalation. (See Table 17 below)

FIREARMS ENABLED CRIMES						
	JAN -DEC			DECEMBER		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
MURDER	26	17	33	4	4	3
ROBBERY	111	54	54	11	3	8
ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO ROB	2	5	5	0	0	2
AGGRAVATED BURGLARY	41	46	32	3	6	1
ENDANGERING LIFE / SHOOTING WITH INTENT	62	39	40	1	0	0
OTHER CRIMES (committed with use of firearm)	139	87	86	7	8	6
TOTAL	381	248	250	26	21	20

Table 18 The Number Of Firearms Enabled Crime
Source: Barbados Police Service

To assist with recent surges in violence, the government appointed a Minister of State with responsibility for Crime Prevention in October 2022. The immediate action plan aims to address spikes in homicides, particularly those linked to gang rivalries while the medium to long term plan aims to address crime by introducing and scaling up programs for parents, youth and high-risk individuals. In addition, the Barbados Police Service, under Operation Restore Order will perform joint patrols with support from the Barbados Defense Force, PRIMIS and CariSecure. One of the challenges encountered in the lack of available standardized data to inform decision making. The GOB has launched an initiative to build the capacity of the Barbados Police Service to collect and share data across multiple departments, thereby allowing for overlapping points of analysis.

The project intends to achieve the following objectives:

- improving the quality, comparability and reliability of data and information and youth crime and violence;
- regional collaboration and networking on youth crime and violence strengthened;
- a comprehensive and secure program database, consistent with national infrastructure and capacity requirements of CariSECURE, based on pre-determined indicators and reporting requirements; and
- full standard procedures and guidelines for maintaining the database, and the integrated system.

The GOB has taken a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and has passed or is in the process of developing legislation to demonstrate its commitment to addressing this challenge decisively. In 2021, the country passed the Prevention of Corruption Act, whistleblower protection; and new public procurement legislation, which attempts to ensure that there's transparency in all procurement processes. Additionally, a special agency to deal with anti-corruption issues was established.

Overall, positive trends have been cited with respect to the general public's perspective on the rule of law in Barbados, including positive perceptions of fundamental freedoms, increasing levels of trust in institutions, and positive perceptions of personal safety¹⁰⁵. Independent reports indicate that Barbadians feel confident that the criminal justice system ensures equal treatment for victims and the accused (both 81%) but were not as confident in the timeliness of the criminal justice system (41%). Perceptions of adherence to equal treatment of the accused in Barbados' criminal justice system improved the most between 2018 and 2022, with an increase of 20 percentage points¹⁰⁶.

¹⁰⁵ The Rule of Law Barbados. Available at: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/rule-of-law/barbados-2022#AboutThisReport>

¹⁰⁶ The Rule of Law Barbados. Available at: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/rule-of-law/barbados-2022#AboutThisReport>

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 16

Property rights (worst 1- 7 best) (2020)	4.8
Birth registrations with civil authority (% Of children under age 5) (2020)	98.7
Foreign direct investment, net flows % of GDP (2021)	4.9
Corruption perception index (worst – 0, best – 100) (2021)	65
Children involved in child labour (% of population aged 5 to 14) (2019)	1.4
Exports of major conventional weapons (TIV constant million USD per 100,000 population) (2020)	0
Access to affordable justice (worst – 0, best – 1) (2020)	0.7
Homicide rate per 100,000 people (2019)	16.72
Rule of Law (0 – 1, higher indicative of stronger rule of law) (2022)	0.54
Government effectiveness and efficiency (-2.5 – 2.5, higher is considered better) (2022)	0.54
Varieties of Democracy: Core civil society index, model estimates (0- 1, higher indicates stronger electoral principles of democracy)	0.89 ¹⁰⁷

Reviews, Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

Barbados National Report Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council

This report is submitted in fulfillment of our Government's obligations under the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council. It outlines the key developments taken to promote and protect human rights since the last review. It also provides a status update of the recommendations from the previous review. It highlights the challenges and constraints faced by our country in implementing important targets of the Human Rights Council.

The report includes several measures taken over the reporting period to promote and protect human rights in Barbados. These measures include:

- strengthening legal frameworks;

¹⁰⁷ USAID. Available at: <https://idea.usaid.gov/cd/barbados/democracy-human-rights-and-governance>

- enhancing access to justice;
- promoting public awareness and education; and
- increasing collaboration with civil society organisations.

Improvements in the Justice System

The GOB is in the advance stages of consultation on a Child Protection and a Child Justice Bill which seeks to modernise the protection of the rights of children in society, as they engage with the justice system. Both pieces of legislation, will transform child rights by creating a whole of society approach, to ensure that all avenues to ensure the systemic challenges facing children in society are mediated. Some of the proposed innovations in the planned legislation include:

- the option for children to be sent to a secure treatment facility by a magistrate or judge to avoid contact with the child justice system. The facility will also allow children to continue their education within the secure facility.

Digital Transformation of the Public Sector

Deconstruct to reconstruct

Barbados is committed to the digital transformation of public sector administration through the implementation of an updated e-government strategy. This digital transformation drive is supported through a BDS \$80 million loan approved by the IADB¹⁰⁸. This project will allow for greater use of digital channels both by individuals and companies who wish to access public services. Additionally, the program will also strengthen the Ministry of Industry, Innovation, Science and Smart Technology (MIST) and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment (MFEAI) to lead this transformational process. A cybersecurity strategy, supported by the establishment of a Security Operations Center (SOC) are also components of this project.

Presently, digital transformation allows for public services including renewal of drivers' licenses, filing tax returns and paying taxes, and obtaining a police certificate of character.

¹⁰⁸ IDB: Barbados will invest in the modernization of the public sector with IDB support. Available at: <https://www.iadb.org/en/news/barbados-will-invest-modernization-public-sector-idb-support>

The Barbados Probation Service

The mission of the Barbados Probation Service is to ‘provide reliable social advice to the Justice System; to assist in the rehabilitation of offenders and to support and educate our communities through cost-effective programmes that would reduce the incidence and impact of delinquency and crime’. In this regard, several initiatives have advanced progress under SDG 16. Examples of these initiatives are:

- the Strong Families Initiative which provides assistance to youth and adults and assist families in maintaining stability; and
- the Safe Community Initiative which reinforces the importance of offender accountability and facilitates evidence-based treatment services to reduce recidivism.

Computerization of the Barbados Probation Service and implementation of a comprehensive case management system.

This initiative was facilitated by a BDS \$34,000 grant from UNICEF. The objective of this initiative was to equip the Barbados Probation Service with technology that would:

- motivate and monitor compliance;
- provide critical information via access to services, tools, and resources for rehabilitation;
- encourage reflection and insight towards desistance;
- promote communication and engagement; and
- risk management and control.

This initiative has been successful in providing comprehensive and robust programming based upon diagnosis of clients utilizing validated risk and needs assessment tools and societal realities. It also developed an integrated data system comprising of key stakeholder agencies, social service agencies and strategic partners in relation to supervision, treatment, and collaborative strategies

The Community Pillars Mentorship Programme

The Community Pillars Mentorship Programme seeks to facilitate the grounding of today's youth to be the pillars of tomorrow's society. The objectives of the programme include:

- to monitor and promote the prosocial development of individuals with associated risk factors for criminogenic behaviour;
- to assist/guide individuals into education, training and employment opportunities;
- to encourage the adoption of safe, more socially acceptable and more economically productive lifestyles; by extension reduce social costs related to unemployment, physical and mental health deficits, domestic instability and criminality;
- to reduce conflict with family members, teachers and other authority figures;
- to reduce conflict with peers; and
- to enable community leaders and citizens to engage with and become involved in solving a range of social problems through volunteerism.

Community Pillars Mentorship Programme for the previously incarcerated – 'A new beginning with a strong foundation'.

The objective of this programme is to provide individual coaching as a means of support for persons leaving prison. This 12-month programme comprises three stages as follows:

Stage One – Establishing foundations and building rapport

- Occurs 3 to 6 months before release
- Mentor visits mentee at the prison and begins to build a relationship to increase the likelihood of sustainability once the mentee is released

Stage Two – Developing the relationship and goal setting

- Middle stage of the mentoring relationship that should be used to review achievements thus far and to plan for the next stage
- Mentor and mentee should review what they feel they have both gained from the relationship so far and to acknowledge successes and failures

Stage Three – Mentoring with focused objectives and outcomes.

- Stage during which most happens, some of the goals which were identified become realized (or attempted) and celebrated.
- Planning for the end of the relationship.

Best Practice: Modernization of the Barbados Customs and Excise Department (BCED)

The Barbados Customs and Excise Department (BCED) has committed to structural reforms that will modernize its legislative framework, policies, procedures, and operations with the view of aligning them with the modern, efficient and effective international best practices as identified by the IMF, the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and World Trade Organisation (WTO). BCED's modernization thrust is focused on developing and implementing several operational policies, procedures and automation activities, as a means of reducing processing release times, improving monitoring and accountability capabilities, and enhancing risk management. The overall objective is to shift Customs operations from pre-release to post-release activities by incorporating risk management, undertaking post-release verifications and utilizing field audits. Additionally, accountability, professionalism, cargo traceability and targeting, faster goods clearance and monitoring suspense regime activities are critical areas that are being revamped or implemented to align the Department's process with internationally accepted best practices. BCED is also now pursuing an aggressive risk-based approach to border management. These initiatives have already realized positive outcomes such as reducing the number of physical inspections, enabling the organization to focus resources on high-risk transactions, improving clearance times and augmenting the delivery of enhanced trade facilitation.

The BCED has identified five goals, which will guide its modernization efforts. The goals are:

- Traveler and Trade Facilitation
- Revenue Mobilization
- Organisational Administration
- Management and Governance
- Compliance and Enforcement.

The goals are supported by twelve objectives and forty-four key strategies. The combination of the objectives and strategies addresses the key challenges and opportunities on which BCED will focus its efforts and resources to transform its vision into reality¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ The Barbados Customs and Excise Strategic Plan, 2020-2023

The Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training initiatives

The METVT has signed on to the Safe Zone Reporting App, where students have the capacity to report incidents of bullying anonymously. To promote inclusive schools and to advance SDG 3, the METVT has also embarked on the development of a School Pantry where our most vulnerable students are provided with food hampers. This initiative has now been expanded with our partnership with the St. Matthias Anglican Church and its priest, Reverend Hugh Sandiford. This partnership will now realise the provision of 150 food hampers per month for 1 year in the first instance.







Ecclesiastical & Civil Society Initiatives










The Barbados Christian Council

The Barbados Christian Council provides social support mechanisms for persons in the community including seniors. Additionally, the Council also established a Justice and Peace Team that is directly responsible for addressing social issues in the country and provides decision-making support to the GOB in the areas of education and constitution reform.

SDG Targets under Goal 16 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 16 – Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels	Barbados' Progress
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	
Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	
By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	
Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	
Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	
Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	
By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	
Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.	



Voluntary National Review 2023

Partnerships

IMPLEMENT THE AGENDA THROUGH A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP





SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development'



Overview of SDG 17

The current design of the international financial architecture (IFA) remains a significant barrier to our ability to finance our sustainable development efforts. Designed at a time when the current pressing global challenges of developing countries including the climate crisis, and increasing social inequality were not seen as part of the preeminent development concerns, the architecture remains unsuitable to deliver the necessary equitable and inclusive global governance framework.

Like many other SIDS, our inability to access concessional finance given our standing as a high-income country¹¹⁰, high interest rates on loans, lagging Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments including poor implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)¹¹¹ and the Paris Agreement¹¹², creates a restrictive environment for achievement of the SDGs. As a small open economy financial instruments to respond in a sufficient manner particularly to external economic shocks is limited by the availability of domestic resources and market access to required capital. Countries are therefore forced to face a large fiscal deficit in the aftermath of a shock. The need to finance the SDGs, and address climate related shocks means that

¹¹⁰ New World Bank Country Classifications by Income Level. Available at: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/new-world-bank-country-classifications-income-level-2022-2023>

¹¹¹ Addis Ababa Action Agenda 2015. Available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA_Outcome.pdf

¹¹²

many small economies like Barbados find themselves highly indebted or debt stressed. UNCTAD (2020)¹¹³ analysis of the impact of multiple disasters and debt sustainability on SIDS showed that during the financial crisis there was a disproportionate negative impact for SIDS on GDP growth compared to other developing countries. The GOB has been championing the Bridgetown Initiative (BI) calling for a restructuring of the IFA to create a fairer and more balanced playing field for the access to resources for developing countries.

Despite this challenging global environment, and a series of other potentially destabilising economic and climate related shocks, the GOB continues to be committed to achieving inclusive and sustainable growth. Prior to the onset of the of the COVID 19 pandemic in Barbados, the GOB made significant progress in stabilising the economy. By March 2020, fiscal and debt sustainability had been restored due to successful implementation of our home-grown restructuring programme BERT (2018). Government's fiscal operations recorded a primary surplus of 3.5 percent of GDP in 2018/19 (the first surplus in 10 years), then a primary surplus of 6 percent of GDP for FY 2019/2020, gross foreign reserves increased to 1, 481 million or 18.6 weeks of import cover thus protecting the exchange rate peg, while public debt was reduced to 117.4 percent of GDP in FY 2019/20 from 176.3 percent in FY 2017/18. **Table 19** presents the extent of government expenditure to address the impact of COVID 19.

Estimates of COVID-related expenditures in FY20/21, FY21/22 and FY22/23			
(In percent of GDP)			
	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23
COVID-related expenditure	2.3	2.5	1.8
Health related	0.9	0.8	0.3
Support to households	0.5	0.4	0.1
Support to businesses	0.3	0.4	0.0
Transfers to SOEs	0.5	0.3	0.7
Education	0.1	0.0	0.1
Other ¹	0.0	0.6	0.7

¹ Other COVID-19 spending includes the recapitalization of the Unemployment Benefit Fund

Table 19 The Estimates of COVID-19 Related Expenditure Over Three Financial Years

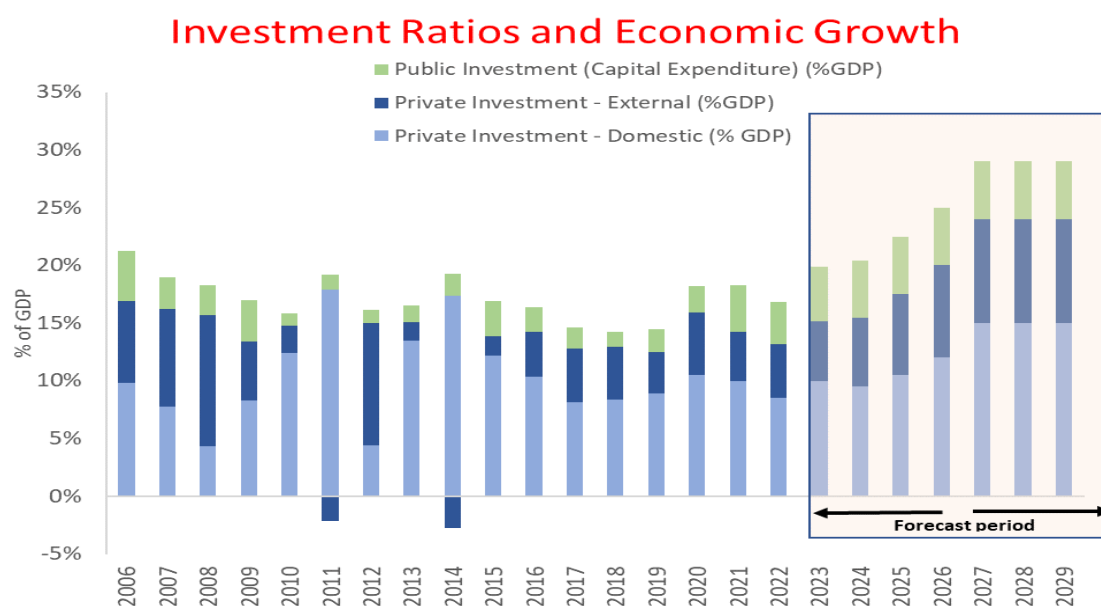
¹¹³ UNCTAD Research Paper No. 55 UNCTAD/SER.RP/2020/14

During the period 2018-2020, the government implemented some thirty-five (35) different structural reforms aimed at reinforcing fiscal sustainability and strengthening oversight. Measures were taken to build capacity to monitor the financial performance of SOEs by identifying key fiscal risks and reform policies and improving the business climate and competitiveness to support economic growth. These measures have reaped much success. Since January 2022, reserves averaged just over 3 billion, an historic 38 weeks of import cover. The government is therefore on track to reach its long-term target of 60 per cent of GDP by FY 2035/36 foreign reserves continue to be well in excess of projected external debt service.

The Government's flagship BERT plan 2022 is aimed at maintaining and preserving the previous gains achieved in 2018-2020 and advancing reforms which were delayed due to pandemic. The eight pillars of BERT are aligned with 12 of the 17 SDGs – 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. These strategies will be underpinned by institutional frameworks including the creation of public private Growth Council and Fiscal Council.

BERT (2022) targets a public investment to GDP ratio of 4.2 percent of GDP in FY 2022/23 and 5 percent over the medium term which amounts to an average of BDS \$500 million per year highest on record. Importantly, the government is working with the private sector to raise its investment ratio from the current 8.5 percent of GDP to 15 percent of GDP an annual average of 1.9 billion by 2027, in support of targeted growth. Similarly, foreign direct investment (FDI) stands currently at approximately 4.2 per cent of GDP and is projected to move to 9.0 percent over the next four years. See **Figure 26**.

Figure 24 Investment Ratios and Economic Growth



The efforts to build economic and social resilience will continue to be highly dependent on the external environment. The war between Russian and Ukraine has brought disruption in supply chains and a concomitant increase in commodities like food and energy. Prices for energy, grains and metals have more than doubled since the onset of the conflict. Crude oils prices continue to rise indiscriminately in the wake of the recent decision by Arab nations to cut production. As a net importer of food and fossil fuels as well as a tourism dependent nation we can only brace for the impact of these developments. Exclusion from access to affordable finance and debt servicing initiatives effectively creates a debt trap for so defined high income SID countries like Barbados and forces critical choices about where limited financial resources should be prioritized.

Snapshot of Barbados' progress towards achieving SDG 17

Government spending on health and education (% of GDP) (2020)	7.1
Tax to GDP ratio % (2020)	35.2
Foreign direct investment, net flows % of GDP (2021)	4.9
Corporate tax haven score (best 0, worst 100) (2019) ¹¹⁴	0.0

Programmes, Projects & Initiatives

The Bridgetown Initiative

The BI seeks to build a new financial system that adequately responds to the climate and development crises in SIDS. The Initiative aims to overcome some of the main shortcomings of mobilizing climate finance for SIDS. These shortcomings include:

- high climate vulnerability;
- low ability to raise finance; and
- dependence on Official Development Assistance (ODA) or remittances for economic development.

[The BI encompasses five proposals](#) that are aimed at addressing the liquidity challenges faced by SIDS through a novel financial system. These proposals include:

Provide immediate liquidity support

UN Member States to:

- Fast track the re-channeling of 100 billion of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the Resilience & Sustainability Trust.

The IMF to:

- Immediately suspend surcharges for two to three years.
- Restore the enhanced access limits established during the pandemic for the Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instruments.

¹¹⁴ Data compiled from Sustainable Development Report, 2022.

Restore debt sustainability

G20 Creditor Countries, (either through the Common Framework for Debt Treatments or otherwise) to:

- Redesign the Common Framework, including by speeding up debt relief and cancellation with reliable timelines, debt service standstills, and 'most favoured creditor clauses', and allow debt-distressed middle-income countries to make use of the Common Framework.

The IMF to:

- Encourage the restructuring of unsustainable private debt through IMF programs that are consistent across countries and have more locally driven fiscal sustainability plans.
- Refine the Debt Sustainability Analysis, including adopting changes that enable investments that create future savings to have a lower weighting than other debt.

Public, multilateral, and private creditors to:

- Adopt zero-cost, net-present-value neutral natural disaster clauses in all lending instruments to make them more shock-absorbing.
- Refinance high-interest and short-term debt with credit guarantees and longer maturities.

UN Member States to:

- Agree new international resources (whether taxes, charges, or other sources) to fund the UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund to 100 billion per year.

Mobilize private sector investment to over 1.5 trillion per year for green and just transformations

IMF and MDBs to:

- Cut the excessive macro-risk premia on developing countries with 100 billion per year of foreign exchange guarantees for just green transition investments.
- Expand project preparation support, risk reduction instruments, blended finance, and viability gap funding in order to strengthen the pipeline of bankable development and climate projects.

Increase official sector development lending for SDGs to 500 billion per year

The G20, shareholders of the World Bank, Multilateral Development Banks and IMF to:

- Fully implement the CAF Review recommendations, including on callable capital and SDRs.
- Put an additional 100 billion of paid-in capital contributions into MDBs and re-channel SDRs to the MDBs, leading with the African Development Bank by September 2023.
- Increase the leveraging of the IDA balance sheet, fully fund the Crisis Response Window (6 billion) by the end of 2023, and implement a phased scale up of IDA to 279bn in IDA 22.
- Raise the access limits for the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the Resilience & Sustainability Trust.
- Move 'beyond GDP per capita' to capture vulnerability in funding eligibility criteria and provide low-cost, 50-year loans for vulnerable countries to invest in climate resilience, anti-fragility, pandemic preparedness, food and water security, renewable energy access, and bridging the digital divide and other forms of greater resilience.
- Streamline and harmonize loan procedures across MDBs and IFIs, increase front-line support to countries accessing loans, and finance country-led national resilient development plans and multi-country programs that protect the global commons.

Ensure that the multilateral trading system supports the green and just transformation

WTO, ILO, UNCTAD, and major trading partners to:

- Work with governments to ensure supply chains become resilient, benefit raw materials producing nations and protect the vulnerable.

Reform the governance and operations of International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

Shareholders of IFIs to:

- Update the 1945-based institutions to be more inclusive and equitable, including issues of governance, voice, representation, and access to finance.

Invest Barbados







Invest Barbados, takes a holistic approach to attracting and facilitating foreign direct investment in Barbados. Supported under the Barbados International Business Promotion Act (2005), the Tourism Development Act (2005), and the Companies Act, Invest Barbados strengthens the country as a global hub for business. Investment proposals are carefully reviewed by the Invest Barbados team to ensure that proposed projects are aligned to national areas of interest and will provide significant economic benefits to the country.

Debt for Nature Swap

In September 2022, the GOB engaged in a debt for nature swap to improve its debt profile and support marine conservation. The Agreement between the government the IADB and Nature conservancy will see guarantees provided by AAA and AA plus rated entities. The new loan enjoys low interest rates which generates savings amounting to around BDS \$40 million over time. These savings flow into a conservation fund to enhance marine protection including a new marine spatial plan. The programme includes both a natural disaster clause and pandemic clause providing additional safeguards for fiscal sustainability.

SDG Targets under Goal 17 and Barbados' Progress

This dashboard highlights Barbados' progress with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable

Targets - SDG 17	Barbados' Progress
- Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	
Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	
Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	
Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	
By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries	

Accelerating Progress on the SDGs: The Way Forward

With only seven years left to 2030, if we are to achieve the goals, partnership is necessary to advance together. In the Declaration of Mission Barbados, the GOB, along with the private sector and the unions, have recommitted to being champions of sustainable development locally and globally.

The signing of the Declaration of Mission Barbados on 1 May 2023, with a vision to transform Barbados into a sustainable, prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society, solidified our commitment to the elevation of our country by 2030 through collaboration. The six missions will guide Barbados in establishing a dynamic approach to economic and social development that delivers value to our people whilst setting us on a path for more inclusive and sustainable growth with climate, health, social and cultural goals. The obligations of each Social Partner in delivering on the Missions are currently being discussed and expected to be signed by May 1, 2024.

In addition to the measures mentioned locally, on the global front the BI is considered as a financial plan to save the planet. The plan is aimed at providing climate finance for climate vulnerable states and those who are unable to access the finance needed at affordable rates. As a champion for reform of the global financial system, plans such as this are critical to ensuring that no one is left behind and that developing countries are equally given a chance to build resilience to a crisis that they did not create.

The GOB also recognizes that additional work is required to accelerate progress under Goal 17. Presently, we do not have a national Statistical Plan, yet we understand the role of data collection and statistical systems in monitoring our progress towards the SDGs. We have also recently completed our population and household census 2021, however, this data was not included in this VNR report. The GOB commits to advancing the national systems required to keep track of and monitor our progress and also develop the statistical capacity of the country.

Stakeholders across the public, private, and civil society sectors of Barbados have demonstrated strong commitment to the sustainable development of the country and their coordinated engagement in accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is a critical success factor for the 2030 Agenda. The SDG stakeholder engagement process revealed that the private sector and civil society organisations were

undertaking numerous projects and activities that contribute to the SDGs. Given the enabling environment that national ownership of the Global Goal provides the Government will intensify efforts to enhance its SDG coordinating mechanism to ensure that these non-governmental activities that contribute to the SDGs can be scaled up to have multiplier effects in other communities or other areas of livelihood. Key to that is adequate and timely dissemination of best practices, which will also contribute to national awareness and promote ownership of the Global Goals.

Closely related to the need to enhance our SDG national coordinating mechanism is the need to improve our national data ecosystem. Although we identified progress on many SDGs while conducting this VNR we have been challenged in quantifying them. Our official statistics are not sufficiently current and unofficial data are not standardised such that they could be used to report on the SDG indicators. Given the importance of quality, disaggregated and timely data in measuring our progress on the Global Goal, the GOB will accelerate its modernisation of the national statistical system to provide adequate, quality data for national sustainable development, including to enhance the production of data for the implementation, review and reporting on the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

Adequate legislation promotes sustainable development, and the Parliament has passed several legislation and amendments to ensure that our laws remain current. The Cabinet is also considering draft national policies that when approved will enhance our pursuit of sustainable development. The Government considers this as part of the means of accelerating our progress towards the SDGs and efforts will be dedicated to ensure that draft policies are finalized for implementation.

While not unique to the SDGs, adequate financing is a challenge in implementing programmes and projects that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. By continuing to prioritize people-centered investments and activities in its budget allocation, and diligently implementing Mission Barbados with our Social Partners, the GOB will incentivize economic opportunities for all and unlock new sources of financing for private and public investment, which will contribute to accelerating sustainable development in Barbados.

As we reach the halfway mark of the agreed time frame for achieving the SDGs further progress will require bold and transformative action globally, regionally and nationally. As a country, while we have made steady progress towards achieving the SDGs, with some 43 of the 95 targets having either been met or slated to be met by 2023, we are keenly aware that acceleration of implementation is required.

We remain committed to propelling the transformative action that is required to meet the Global Goals, but we are also acutely aware that our achievement of the 2030 target will be closely tied to our ability to further build resilience and inclusive growth. Further, the achievement of the 2030 sustainable development agenda must also be supported by enhanced implementation of frameworks under the AAAA of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are committed to meeting the challenges of acceleration through the following channels:

A Focused Institutional Framework

The GOB will continue to build out its SDG Implementation through the establishment of the SDG Implementation Unit within the Prime Minister's Office. This Unit will be charged with the responsibility of monitoring of our progress and coordinating with Ministries and Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other non-governmental stakeholders. This Unit will work with our multi-stakeholder SDG Working Group which is tasked with the responsibility to provide recommendations for identifying mitigation strategies to the challenge of implementation.

Scaling Efforts to Accurately Measure Progress

Data collection particularly of disaggregated data continues to be a challenge to accurately measuring progress. Moreover, efforts are ongoing to ensure better coherence in data collection across MDAs to enhance coordination and analysis to data. The GOB is intending to develop a Data Analytics Department which will bring all the data collection agencies within Government under one tool buttressed by enhanced software and capacities.

Mobilizing Resources for Implementation

The GOB will continue to mobilise domestic resources to propel implementation as we continue to implement many of the transformative programmes including the reform of our education system, our efforts to further catapult our green transition, our housing revolution, reform of public service and the enhancement of peace and security of our citizens. Concomitantly, we will continue to engage and mobilise our global partners in the call for an inclusive and equitable global economic governance framework. The BI along with the SDG Stimulus, can accelerate progress towards the SDGs and the Paris Agreement by unlocking billions of dollars in accessible financing for SIDS.

Unlocking Collective Action

We are mindful that advancing progress on the 2030 Agenda requires a whole of government and whole of society approach. It is for this reason that the GOB in announcing its Mission Economy did so in the context of its Social Partnership, ensuring the full support and consensus of the six missions which are aligned to the SDGs. As we continue to drive transformation through our national flagship programmes and policies including, the PDP (2021), the NSP of Barbados 2005-2025 and overarching projects, namely the R2RP, the NSDP 2020- 2035 and BERT 2022 we will continue to engage our stakeholders as well our people in this effort. The Government recognizes that additional work is required to advance SDG 5 and that efforts in mainstreaming gender across all MDAs, as well as the private sector is critical.

While emphasis has been placed on women's political participation, inequality of pay and gender-based violence, there are new emerging areas for which data is needed such as unpaid work and domestic care. Barbados obtained an overall score of 0.83 in the Gender Gap Index in economic participation and opportunity in Barbados in 2022 (by category). Closing these gender gaps is therefore essential for achieving gender-related SDG commitments in Barbados. The GOB is firmly committed to the achievement of gender equality and recognises the need for a policy framework, which will guide the attainment of this goal. The MPEA, through the Bureau of Gender Affairs, continues to work to finalize the draft National Policy on Gender and to this end, a consultation with key stakeholders and other gender experts is scheduled to be held in August 2023.

Conclusion

The Government and people of Barbados remain committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as we near 2030. This second Voluntary National Review has demonstrated that Barbados has progressed significantly in several of the SDGs. Key areas of progress have been noted with respect to our efforts to transform our energy industry and become the first carbon-neutral island state. Additionally, our efforts in the Blue Economy have yielded tremendous potential for further advancement. At the Government level, our social protection systems have reduced poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion while our civil society partners have also advanced progress in this regard.

We are continually mindful of our vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change and measures to enhance our resilience are underpinned in our national development models. As a country, Barbados continues to develop and implement innovative financing frameworks which will not only benefit our country, but SIDS throughout our region. Furthermore, our achievement of the SDGs has been highlighted by our commitment to ensure that we provide an extra level of care to the most vulnerable in our society.







We recognize the need for enhanced strengthening of several key areas including data collection, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and institutional mechanisms to accelerate progress as we near 2030. In this regard, the Government commits to bolstering these areas and also strengthening partnerships with our private sector and civil society partners as we apply a whole-of-society approach to advancing our progress on the Global Goals. Barbados will continue to utilize the Global Goals as a framework for our national policies, projects and initiatives as we commit to creating a sustainable future for generations to come.











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Appendix I- Progress on SDG Targets in Barbados— 2023













 Target met or likely to be met by 2030/ substantial progress	 Moving away from target/ deterioration
 Fair progress but acceleration is needed	 No trend data available
 Limited or no progress	 Insufficient data/ not applicable















Targets - SDG 1 - End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than 1.25 a day.	
By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.	
Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.	
By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.	
By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	
Targets - SDG 2 – End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	
By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older people.	
By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.	
By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	
By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels.	













Targets - SDG 3 – Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being For All At All Ages	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	
By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	
By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	
By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	
By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	
Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	
By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	
Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States	
Targets - SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	
By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.	
By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.	
By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	
By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.	
Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.	

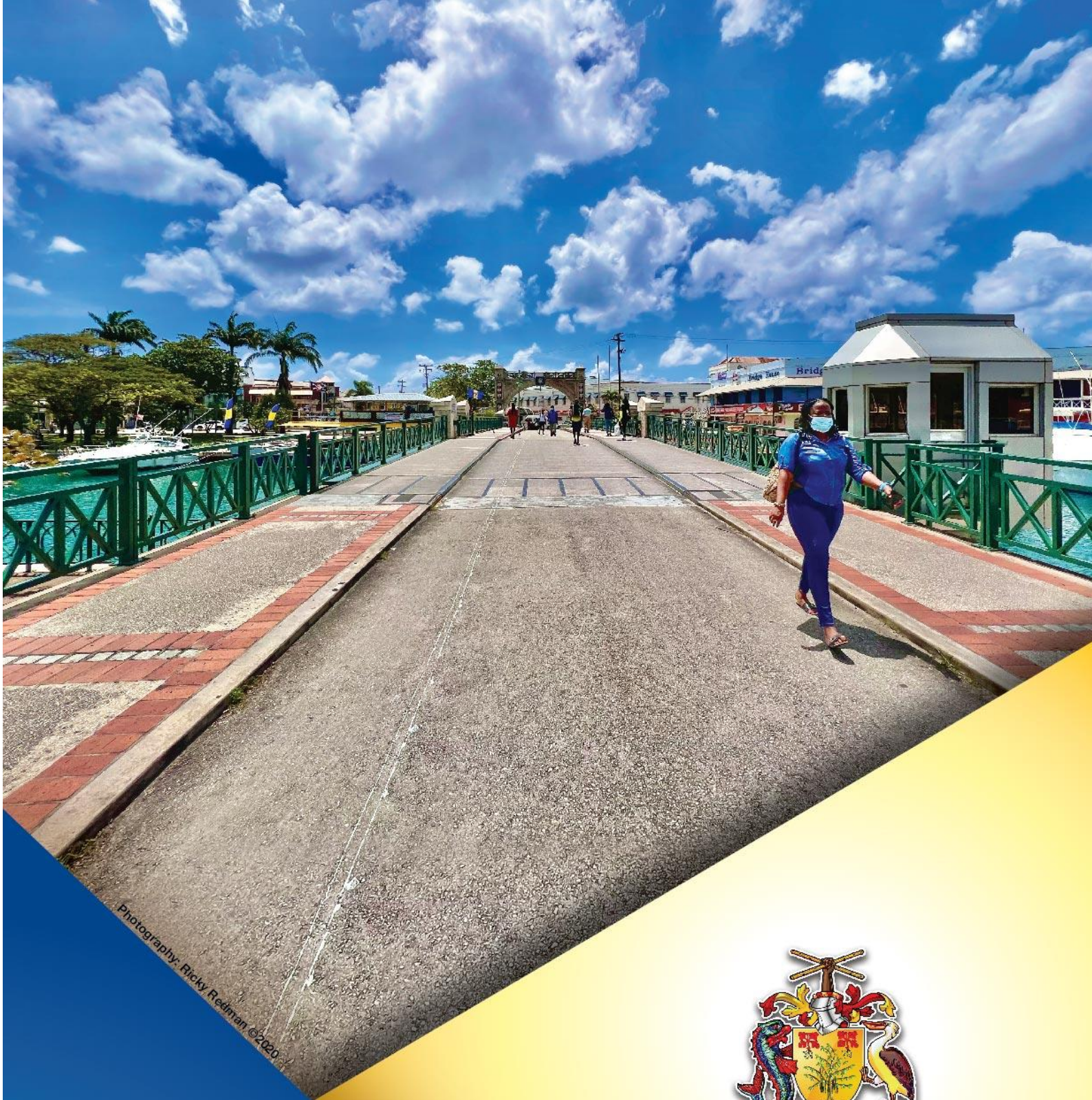
Targets - SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Barbados' Progress
End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.	
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.	
Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	
Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.	
Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.	
Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	
Targets - SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	
By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	
By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.	
By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.	
By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels.	
By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.	
Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.	
Targets - SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	

By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	
By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	
Targets - SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Barbados' Progress
Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.	
Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labor-intensive sectors	
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro- small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	
Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation	
By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and people living with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	
By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	
Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	
By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	
Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.	
Targets - SDG 9 - Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation	Barbados' Progress
Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	
Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries	
Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets	
By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally	

sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities	
Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending	
Targets - SDG 10 – Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	
By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	
Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	
Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	
Targets - SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Barbados' Progress
By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	
By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, people living with disabilities and older people	
By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	
Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	
By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable Situations	
By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	
By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older people and people living with disabilities	

By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters	
Targets - SDG 12 - Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns	Barbados' Progress
Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	
By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	
By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	
Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	
Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	
By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	
Targets - SDG 13 - Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts	Barbados' Progress
Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	
Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	
Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	
Targets - SDG 14 – Conserve and Sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development	Barbados' Progress
By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.	
By 2030, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.	
By 2030, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.	
By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.	

Targets - SDG 15 – Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss	Barbados' Progress
Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	
By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	
Targets - SDG 16 – Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels	Barbados' Progress
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	
Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	
By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	
Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	
Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	
Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	
By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	
Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.	
Targets - SDG 17 - Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Barbados' Progress
Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	
Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	
Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	
By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.	



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**Barbados' Voluntary
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Sustainable Development**

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