



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

# FOCUS

Magazine of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

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**ABOUT ECLAC/CDCC**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was established in 1948 to support Latin American governments in the economic and social development of that region. Subsequently, in 1966, the Commission (ECLA, at that time) established the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain to serve all countries of the insular Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname, making it the largest United Nations body in the subregion.

At its sixteenth session in 1975, the Commission agreed to create the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body, which would function within the ECLA structure to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. Secretariat services to the CDCC would be provided by the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. Nine years later, the Commission's widened role was officially acknowledged when the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) modified its title to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Key Areas of Activity

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean (ECLAC/CDCC secretariat) functions as a subregional think-tank and facilitates increased contact and cooperation among its membership. Complementing the ECLAC/CDCC work programme framework, are the broader directives issued by the United Nations General Assembly when in session, which constitute the Organisation's mandate. At present, the overarching articulation of this mandate is the Millennium Declaration, which outlines the Millennium Development Goals.

Towards meeting these objectives, the Secretariat conducts research; provides technical advice to governments, upon request; organizes intergovernmental and expert group meetings; helps to formulate and articulate a regional perspective within global forums; and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels.

Areas of specialization include trade, statistics, social development, science and technology, and sustainable development, while actual operational activities extend to economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, assessment of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters, climate change, data collection and analysis, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean also functions as the Secretariat for coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The scope of ECLAC/CDCC activities is documented in the wide range of publications produced by the subregional headquarters in Port of Spain.

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Director's Desk:

## GROWTH, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY IN THE CARIBBEAN



Caribbean economies have been subjected to economic and environmental shocks, presenting major problems for development planning...

Despite these challenges, the Caribbean has made progress with most countries attaining middle-income status, based mainly on levels of per capita income.

Nevertheless, the region continues to be affected by relatively low and unstable growth, high levels of poverty and inequality and has been unable to overcome the structural and dynamic constraints that contribute to these development challenges.

### Recent Trends in Growth, Poverty and Inequality in the Caribbean

In the last two decades, the Caribbean's growth performance has been poor as real per capita income grew on average by 1.4 percent from 1991-2000 and 2.2 percent per year from 2001-2007. Growth in the Caribbean has been affected by a reduction in productivity, brought about by a slowdown in labour and total factor productivity in the region. Further, there has been little structural change in the direction of producing higher value-added products and services for export.

The modest growth in per capita income in the region in the last decades has contributed to a reduction in extreme poverty or indigence, especially in Trinidad and Tobago and Eastern Caribbean countries. As a result, headcount poverty averaged in excess of 25 percent of the population. Countries have had varying experiences in reducing poverty, with Nevis registering the largest decline owing to strong growth in quality employment in tourism and improved social programmes.

In Guyana poverty declined from 43 percent in 1993 to 36 percent in 2006 due to the revival of growth



*Ms. Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean*

stemming from macroeconomic reforms and the benefits of debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. In Jamaica, poverty fell from 23.4 percent in 1992-1999 to 15.5 percent from 2008-2010, due to improved systems of income distribution, including the PATH programme and remittance inflows. Belize registered the largest increase in poverty from 34 percent to 41 percent between 2002 and 2009. This stemmed in part from high public debt that constrained social spending, which was compounded by the fall-out from the global financial crisis after 2008.

Inequality remains a major challenge to socio-economic progress in the Caribbean, as compared to Latin American, where inequality has declined in recent decades.

### Determinants of Poverty and Inequality in the Caribbean

Economic growth and improved income distribution are central to poverty alleviation and the reduction of inequality in the Caribbean. Moderate to high levels of economic growth provides a larger economic pie, while improved income distribution benefit the poor more than any other

group. The evidence suggests that a major cause of poverty and inequality in the region is the high level of unemployment and underemployment, contributing to insufficient income to maintain adequate levels of consumption and welfare.

High unemployment is endemic in the Caribbean. The average unemployment rate (for seven countries with data) was 10.7 percent from 2001-2008 increasing to 11.7 percent during the last four years, owing to the fall-out from the global crisis. Furthermore, unemployment tends to be higher among vulnerable groups including young persons and women.

Unemployment is aggravated by low pay for many poor households, which is related to low educational attainment and skills sets. Consequently, some households fall into a cycle of poverty, that prevents adequate investment in human capital. Furthermore, a growing informal sector and the casualization of employment in some sectors also contribute to poverty. The income of informal sector workers tends to be lower than that for formal sector workers and they are often not covered by social security systems. Therefore countries such as Belize, Dominica and Jamaica, with relatively large informal sectors, tend to have higher levels of poverty.

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**“As inequalities widen, the social fabric of our societies is both stretched and strained.”**

*- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon*

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Wage income is the most important component for most persons. Therefore, the level, nature and quality of employment opportunities are key determinants of the ability of Caribbean economies to reduce poverty.

The Caribbean confronts an education and skills premium which rewards education and training and is reflected in higher paid jobs and better terms of employment. Bourne (2008) noted that 83 percent of the highest paid workers in Trinidad and Tobago were university graduates, while these graduates were not represented in the four lowest paid categories of workers. The inability of the poor to invest in human capital development through education and training is thus a major contributor to their poverty.

Poverty in the region is also strongly linked to high adolescent fertility. Larger families tend to be poorer, especially single parent families led by young women who were unable to complete their education and training.

The implementation of a major strategy for reducing regional poverty and inequality should be supported by a programme for reigniting broad-based and equitable growth. This requires the upgrading and restructuring of traditional areas of economic activity including tourism, agriculture and mineral production. Emphasis should be placed on increasing value added in these sectors so that the region could enter other segments of their value chain, thereby providing better employment.

Given that the skill premium to educated labour is expected to intensify, policy makers should strengthen investment in human capital to deliver more decent jobs. A major revamping of tertiary and vocational education and training is required to provide a better match between the knowledge and skills required in the workplace and the curriculum of these institutions.

Improvements in the distribution of income and wealth to include the strengthening of social protection systems access to essential health care, basic income security, including

liveable minimum wages and conditional cash transfers and other measures are required to assist the poor in building capability to exit poverty. Countries that could afford it should consider implementing a basic unemployment benefit system to provide protection for the unemployed and help them transition to new jobs.

Vocational and business development training for young people should be enhanced to address intergenerational poverty. Poor families should be provided with land titles for use as collateral to access credit. Adolescent pregnancy should be addressed by better sexuality education in schools and communities and improved access to reproductive health services.

In conclusion, it is recommended that policy makers implement a balance of measures to reignite sustained moderate to high growth levels, provide decent jobs and address the unequal distribution of income. These are important prerequisites for the creation of balanced and equitable societies. ■

Photo of a slum in Costa Rica courtesy cihoy.com



## NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: A GROWING EPIDEMIC



Photo: Courtesy World Bank

The Caribbean faces a growing epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Across Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, deaths from non-communicable diseases are forecast to increase by 42 percent\* between 2015 and 2030.

The increasing number of deaths from NCDs is to some extent an inevitable consequence of ageing populations but sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy eating, among other factors, are also major contributory factors. If this looming threat is not addressed, NCDs will have a major impact not only upon the health and wellbeing of the population, but also on Caribbean economies.

Caribbean countries already suffer from relatively high rates of NCDs compared with other countries. Among persons aged 60 and over, rates of mortality due to NCDs are over one third greater than the corresponding rates for either Latin America or developing countries. This is mainly due to higher mortality caused by heart disease and diabetes. Given that NCDs are more prevalent in older age groups, population ageing, now a significant trend in the Caribbean, will lead to increases in the number of persons suffering from NCDs. This will have increasing implications for the demands on health services and the kind of services and treatments that member States will be obliged to provide.

Common NCDs can lead to early death, disability and reduced quality of life. Persons suffering from NCDs can also face significant out-of-pocket costs for treatment and medication even where treatment is supposed to be freely available. This

can place a heavy strain on household budgets or even prevent people from accessing treatment with potentially dire consequences. Meanwhile, studies have shown that the cost of treating diabetes and hypertension alone amounts to several percentage points of GDP.

### NCDs: Preventable diseases

*A large percentage of deaths from NCDs are preventable and common risk factors underlie most NCDs. These include unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, obesity, tobacco and alcohol use and inadequate utilization of preventive health services. Among these risk factors, obesity and lack of physical activity are clearly becoming more common in the Caribbean.*

Well designed preventative health strategies which reduce the prevalence of these risk factors could yield both significant health benefits and long term cost savings. The World Health Organization has proposed a range of treatments and policy interventions aimed at reducing risk factors which potentially offer significant public health benefits. These policies have been described as 'best buys' and include things like increased taxation of tobacco and alcohol, reducing salt intake, public education and immunisation against hepatitis B at birth.

### Caribbean governments take the lead in addressing NCDs

Caribbean governments have been seeking to develop a coordinated response to this threat and have played a key role in putting this issue on the global agenda. The Port of Spain Declaration of CARICOM on CNCNDs (chronic non-communicable diseases) was agreed in 2007 followed by the Declaration of the Commonwealth Heads of Government on CNCNDs in 2009. Then in 2011, Caribbean governments participated in a High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Non-Communicable Diseases which agreed on the need for global targets to monitor these diseases and their risk factors.

\*WHO (World Health Organization) (2013), "Global health estimates summary tables: projection of deaths by cause, age and sex, by United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) region", July Geneva, Switzerland

*(continued on page 10)*



Photo: Courtesy World Bank

## POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR AN AGEING POPULATION



Perhaps the most significant demographic challenge facing the Caribbean is an ageing population. ECLAC has been working to facilitate international cooperation in this area (FOCUS, Issue 4, Oct-Dec 2012).

Recent activities have included the coordination of a programme of national reviews on population ageing for 11 Caribbean countries in preparation for the Third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Costa Rica in 2012. More recently, population ageing was addressed prominently at the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development held in Guyana in July 2013. The forum reviewed the progress that had been made in areas such as social security, health care, and social inclusion, and identified priority areas for the expansion and strengthening of programmes for older persons.

### Health and Social Care

To ensure equitable access to health care for older persons, public expenditure on health will need to be increased as a proportion of GDP. As discussed elsewhere in this issue, health care systems will need to deal with a growing epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCDS) which will demand not only greater investment in treatment and care, but will also need to be addressed through policy interventions to reduce the prevalence of key risk factors.

Many Caribbean countries have developed programmes providing home care services, day care and respite care for older persons although there is a need to expand and improve the quality of these schemes. Monitoring and regulation

of public and private nursing homes must also be strengthened and there should be enforcement mechanisms such as inspections and punishment for non-compliance. Other living arrangements such as assisted living facilities should also be considered.

### Economic security

In order to ensure economic security for older persons, social security coverage must be widened by expanding the number of contributors, and strengthening non-contributory pensions for those older persons who lack adequate means of support. Appropriate indexation of pensions should also be considered. Measures should be taken to make it easier for older people to work if they wish, and retirement ages may need to change in response to increased life expectancy. Public information, pension reform, flexible working arrangements and training could all be used to encourage older persons to remain in, or return to, the workforce.

### Social participation and involvement in decision making

In countries where there is no well-established mechanism for the involvement of older persons in decision-making, governments should make this a priority. Older persons should be involved in policy development, monitoring and evaluation. To encourage wider social participation, public services such as community education should target older persons, and efforts

should be made to raise public awareness about the actual and potential contribution of older people to society. While some countries have national policies on ageing, the rights of older people as a minority group are not generally enshrined in legislation. Equal opportunities and anti-discrimination legislation should be used to protect older persons against discrimination, abuse and violence.

Population ageing is often seen as a threat, due to the looming burden that caring for larger numbers of older persons will place on societies. While the challenges are real, indeed, it should be remembered that population ageing itself is a hugely positive development which is an inherent part of the social and economic development of the subregion. Population ageing can be addressed by working towards the progressive realisation of rights, such as the right to social security, to health and to social participation.

This will demand a renegotiated settlement between the generations, which should seek to strengthen principles of inter-generational solidarity and sharing of risks, in order to meet the needs, not only of the current generation of older persons, but future generations as well. Rising to meet these challenges will require planning, democratic consultation and debate, and commitment to action, but the challenges are by no means insurmountable. ■

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV IN THE CARIBBEAN



The protection and exercise of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights throughout the life cycle – free from discrimination are embodied in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The protection and exercise of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights throughout the life cycle – free from discrimination are embodied in the Programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The ICPD Programme determines that SRH rights include the: ‘right of both men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth, and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant’.

Sexual and Reproductive rights should be an extension of human rights that are already enshrined within national laws. This includes the right of access to culturally relevant and comprehensive sexual education with a gender focus for adolescents. It also includes the right of access to care for human immune-deficiency virus/acquired immune-deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), its prevention, diagnosis and free treatment, and the conduct of ongoing campaigns to promote the use of both male and female condoms.

The right to safe abortion services, and ensuring that the SRH needs of adolescents are met, including the reduction of adolescent pregnancies

are also important rights promoted by the ICPD.

The long term social and economic development benefits of assisting women and adolescents in avoiding unplanned pregnancies, through access to reliable and safe contraception to enable them to plan whether and when to have children, has been well documented. These benefits include higher educational attainment and participation in the labour market amongst women, leading to increased economic empowerment and autonomy, and to reductions in the gender pay gaps and poverty.

### The Caribbean Situation

The recent report of Caribbean progress with implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action shows that all countries have increased women’s access to sexual and reproductive health services including information, counselling, educational and awareness programmes. Some have developed National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies, which provide the legal framework, norms and protocols for the delivery of SRH services. Other factors which prevent women and adolescent girls from accessing services include economic and religious reasons, lack of information, legal barriers, and/or social and cultural norms.

One of the most important reasons for promotion of SRH services is to reduce the number of unsafe abortions. In many Caribbean countries abortion services are only

provided legally in cases where the health of the mother is at risk.

Guyana provides abortion on request and Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines allow for abortion under a relatively wide range of circumstances. However, abortions are available privately and are carried out in significant numbers, sometimes in unsafe circumstances with potentially life threatening risks. Protocols for safe abortions and treating unsafe abortions are needed in the Caribbean.

### Trends in Fertility

The Caribbean progress report records a considerable reduction in fertility, which has taken place more quickly than was expected. Reasons for this fall in fertility include the increased educational attainment, labour market participation, and general empowerment of women, and crucially, increased availability of family planning services and access to contraception. The adolescent fertility rate has also been steadily declining in recent years. This reduction in teenage pregnancy was attributed to a combination of factors, including postponed births, contraceptive use, migration and the pursuit of a professional career. In the Caribbean as a whole around 15 percent of births are to teenage mothers.

### HIV and AIDS

The nexus between HIV and AIDS and SRH is now widely recognized, since the majority of HIV infections are sexually transmitted or linked with pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.

*(continued on page 10)*

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



In the past two decades both international and intra-regional migration have had an increasing influence on demographic and socio-economic trends in the countries and territories of the Caribbean.

As the economies of the region confront new challenges, policy makers have had to re-examine how migration processes might help to promote sustainable economic and social development. This change in attitude has occurred as it has become increasingly clear that migration helps to alleviate poverty by widening people's choices and opportunities. This article discusses trends in Caribbean migration, and policies which can help to promote better win-win situations as a result of migration.\*

### Trends in International and Intra-regional Migration

The Caribbean now has one of the largest Diasporas in the world in proportion to its population, with an estimated 6.7 million people from the Caribbean living outside the region in 2010. There are 5.3 million migrants from the Caribbean living in the United States, 756,000 in Europe, 472,000 in Canada while 743,000 have migrated within the region. The total emigrant population was equivalent to 17 percent of the domestic Caribbean population.

Many of the people who leave the Caribbean do so to pursue higher education or employment opportunities and a higher standard of living. In 2000, seven Caribbean countries had emigration rates of greater than 75 percent among persons with tertiary education, and a further six countries had rates of greater than 60 percent. In other words, the majority of the most

highly educated segment of these countries' populations have left their home country. Emigration rates for tertiary educated persons in the Caribbean are amongst the highest in the world.

Turning to intra-regional migration, the largest immigrant populations living in the Caribbean are found in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Some of the non-self governing territories also have populations of which migrants form a very substantial proportion. In the Cayman Islands, immigrants account for 63 percent of the total population and in the United States Virgin Islands, 57 percent. Immigrants also form a high proportion of the total population in Anguilla, The British Virgin Islands, Aruba and Bermuda. Among Caribbean member States, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, and Barbados all have immigrant populations which make up more than 10 percent of total population.

Within the Caribbean, migrants have generally moved from lower income to higher income countries.\*\* A substantial proportion of intra-Caribbean migration is undocumented. Most commonly, this means persons entering a country legally and then overstaying, although there is irregular migration either via boats or unpatrolled land borders (particularly involving Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas and Belize, Guyana and Suriname).

A study carried out by CARICOM in 2010 showed that some territories had been more willing than others to accept migrants from other CARICOM countries, and that there was a tendency for wealthier countries to deny or limit the right of free movement to citizens of less prosperous countries. The study found that there was still a need for greater harmonization of legislation and processes relating to free movement within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Issues related to migration also include human trafficking. In the Caribbean, this takes the form of forced labour, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation. Trafficking involves the recruitment and assisted migration of persons for exploitative work.

\*The information is taken from a comprehensive study by ECLAC for the regional ICPD review.

\*\*The major sending countries have been Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica, Cuba and selected OECS countries (Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Dominica). Receiving countries have included the Dominican Republic from Haiti; The Bahamas from Haiti and Jamaica; The Netherlands Antilles have received migrants from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Guyana; the United States Virgin Islands from across the Eastern Caribbean; while Trinidad & Tobago and also Barbados receive migrants from the Eastern Caribbean and Guyana.

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## GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



### International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD) offers a renewed commitment to a holistic approach on gender-based violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) presents serious challenges to the empowerment of women and girls. The International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) calls for the achievement of equality and equity between women and men, as well as, the elimination of violence against women. Although most Caribbean countries have signed or ratified many of the important conventions on gender based violence\* and have implemented targeted programmes, there is still a lack of available data, as well as proper coordination among services that deal with victims of GBV.

#### Caribbean initiatives

Within the Caribbean, violence against women is high, with all CARICOM countries surpassing the global average per capita rates. Many women are reluctant to report the incidents of violence due to shame, humiliation or lack of confidence in policing agencies, making data capture difficult. Apart from police action shortcomings, the legal framework for addressing sexual offences is uneven across the region and generally inadequate to meet the imperative of increasing state accountability and addressing impunity. However, as a result of these deficits, conviction rates are uniformly low across the region; as low as one percent of reported cases in countries where data is available (UNWomen).

Given these issues, UNWomen has conducted training programmes for police officers on more effective procedures for domestic violence intervention, under the project “Strengthening State Accountability and Community Action for Ending Gender-Based Violence in the Caribbean” (2011). The training involved the management of sexual offences and intimate partner assault, legal issues affecting domestic violence and victim support; with expected results that the law enforcement response to GBV reports will be strengthened for several countries. Countries that participated were Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

ECLAC has also developed a domestic violence protocol that has so far been implemented in Belize with a view to developing a reliable data collection system for consideration by governments in the Caribbean. The protocol helps to obtain a profile of victims and perpetrators, develop an understanding of the frequency and incidence of domestic violence, identify the groups at risk, develop intervention programmes, and monitor the effectiveness of violence prevention and intervention activities.

Furthermore, ECLAC hosted subregional meetings which increased technical capacity and

encouraged new inter-institutional alliances on data in the region. The meeting entitled “Enhancing Capacity of Caribbean Countries to Eradicate Violence against Women” (2010) was attended by representatives from 20 countries and territories, plus delegates from PAHO, UNFPA and UNWomen. Participants from national statistical offices and women’s ministries reviewed the types and sources of violence against women data that was collected, the agencies best suited for data collection, where and in what format data are published, and the needs of the end users of this data. Further implementation of the domestic violence protocol across other Caribbean countries was recommended to address the absence of a central registry.

The Caribbean Seminar to Strengthen the Use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence against Women (2010) reviewed administrative sources of data and institutional arrangements between producers and users of statistical information.

\*The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; Beijing Declaration; and the Platform for Action on Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women otherwise known as the Convention of Belém Do Pará.

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CARICOM countries have developed a Strategic Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases for countries of the Caribbean Community 2011-2015. The plan covers risk factor reduction, screening and treatment, health information systems, health promotion, advocacy and communications. Measures aimed at

risk factor reduction include smoke free public places; regulation of food and cigarette labelling and advertising; provision of recreational facilities; health promotion and public education.

More integrated treatment is proposed with the introduction of evidence-based guidelines, supported by training of primary health care

personnel, and shared tertiary treatment services. Countries will be expected to report at least annually on NCDs (risk factors, morbidity, mortality determinants, health systems performance, including private sector data) using standardised methodologies by the end of 2014. Fully implemented, these measures will go a long way to mitigating the projected epidemic. ■

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Further, SRH ill-health and HIV share similar root causes, including poverty, gender inequality and social marginalization. The ICPD Programme of Action recognizes that girls, adolescents and women are especially vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, because of their disadvantaged social and economic position, their exposure to the high-risk sexual behavior of their partners and their biological vulnerability. Key objectives are to prevent, reduce the incidence of, and provide treatment for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, with special attention to girls and women; and to provide psychological and emotional support and counseling, as part of all sexual health services. Countries are also mandated to provide specialized training for health care providers; promote responsible sexual behavior, and ensure the reliable

supply and distribution of high-quality condoms.

The Caribbean recorded the sharpest decline in the number of people acquiring HIV infection. Approximately 13,000 adults and children were newly infected with HIV during 2011. This represents 9,000 averted new infections when compared with 2001, when 22,000 new infections occurred. New HIV infections among the adult population (15-49 years old) have been halved in a number of countries.

Although there is increasing emphasis on testing for HIV and since 2004, significantly more people have been tested, new infections have reduced. HIV tests are performed in the voluntary testing and counselling programmes in many countries either through existing community-based

health services, health fairs, mobile clinics or work place settings.

The HIV epidemic is closely tied to poverty, developmental and socio-cultural issues including the slow rate of economic growth, high levels of unemployment, early sexual debut, culture of multiple partnerships, and an informal drug and commercial sex sector.

Stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV and most at risk populations, such as men that have sex with men, sex workers and people who inject drugs, hinders the design and implementation of enabling policies to ensure impact and sustainability of the HIV response. Many challenges remain in the Caribbean with respect to the elimination of travel restrictions and criminalizing laws. ■

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To advance more comprehensive and uniform mapping of denunciations of violence, independent of their point of entry to the institutional circuit, participants recommended greater clarification on institutional roles and increased efforts to promote central data registries in their home countries.

Other common measures that have been adopted by the Caribbean to end GBV, include hotlines to assist victims of GBV and programmes focusing on public awareness campaigns about GBV and campaigns about knowing one's rights. Countries also offer

shelters for abused victims, though most are unable to provide accommodation for more than 30 days.

### The Way Forward

The Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development which was held from 9 to 10 July 2013 in Georgetown, Guyana offered member States of the Caribbean an opportunity to assess how far the subregion has come in meeting the objectives articulated in the POA. It was determined that in order to respond to

GBV, countries need to better plan, establish interventions and coordinate these amongst the various providers of services in order to reach survivors and victims. Key priorities identified by countries for the next five to ten years relate to: improved data collection systems; improved coordination amongst domestic violence service providers; assessment and monitoring; better protection including access to legal systems and revised legislation; shelters and human resources including gender mainstreaming and education. ■

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Trafficked migrants – men, women, and children – are often deceived and coerced. Males, for example, are trafficked for forced labour in construction, agriculture, and fishing industries. Domestic servitude tends to consist mainly of female victims of trafficking. The most commonly known form of trafficking in the Caribbean is undertaken for the sexual exploitation of young women and girls at bars, clubs, and private residences in the Caribbean. There are accounts across the Caribbean of the deception of migrant women and girls who were offered work as beauticians, waitresses, cashiers, bartenders, dancers, sales clerks or masseuses, only to be forced into prostitution upon arrival at the destination point.

### Policies to Leverage Migration For Development

In order to ensure that migration brings positive gains, attention should be paid to facilitating remittance flows and maximising their economic benefits. Remittances can be encouraged by ensuring competition among service providers to reduce costs, making it easier for remittances to be sent through official channels, offering innovative products and promoting the use of new technologies.

Programmes can be created to facilitate the diaspora's investment of human capital through the

transfer of skills, for example through visits to the home country to train citizens in their area of expertise.

There has been progress towards liberalisation of movement for persons within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy although for the time being at least, moves towards further liberalisation are on hold. The original vision of the CSME, and the potential benefits for the Caribbean and its citizens, are yet to be fully realised. Many intra-Caribbean migrants continue to live and work on an undocumented basis with all the risks that this poses.

There is undoubtedly a need to build capacity to manage borders, to address undocumented migration, and to deal with threats such as trafficking in persons. A number of countries have passed anti-trafficking legislation in recent years but more resources must be provided to address this problem.

International migration will continue to be an important feature of life in the Caribbean for the foreseeable future. Therefore the focus of policy should be on international cooperation to maximise the benefits of emigration and immigration. Migration should be seen not as a problem but as a potential contributor to the wider national social and economic development goals. ■

### LIST of Recent ECLAC Documents and Publications

Listed by Symbol Number, Date and Title

<b>No.L.395</b>	<b>April/2013</b>
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<b>No.L.403</b>	<b>May/2013</b>
Report of the meeting on new technologies with respect to development and greenhouse gas emissions reduction in the Caribbean: Fiscal and regulatory barriers to implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies in Belize, Curaçao and Guyana	
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The carbon footprint of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean: Moving towards a climate neutral strategy	
<b>No.L.405</b>	<b>June/2013</b>
Policy brief: An assessment of the economic and social impacts of climate change on the tourism sector in the Caribbean	

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**2-4 July 2013**

Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. Kingston, Jamaica.

**12-15 August 2013**

First Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Montevideo, Uruguay.

**10 September 2013**

Launch of the report Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy. Port of Spain, Trinidad.

**16 September 2013**

Expert group meeting on the information society and knowledge economy. Port of Spain, Trinidad.



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