

the Humming Bird



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND UNITED NATIONS SIGN

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2022-
2026

UN FELLOWSHIP ON FIREARMS CONTROL

LAUNCHED WITH CARIBBEAN
COHORT

ONE YEAR AFTER BERYL:

STORIES OF RECOVERY,
RESILIENCE, AND REBUILDING
LIVES



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

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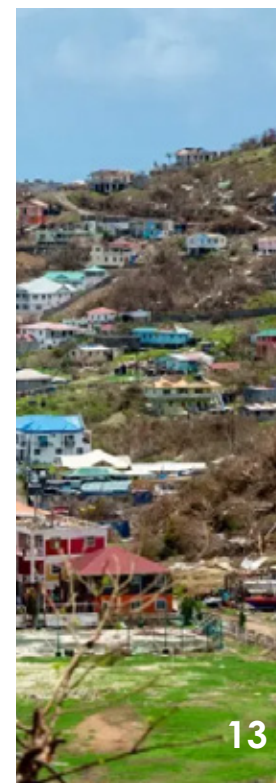
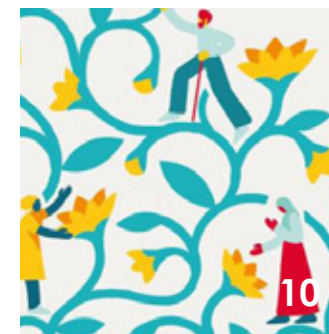
ABOUT US

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

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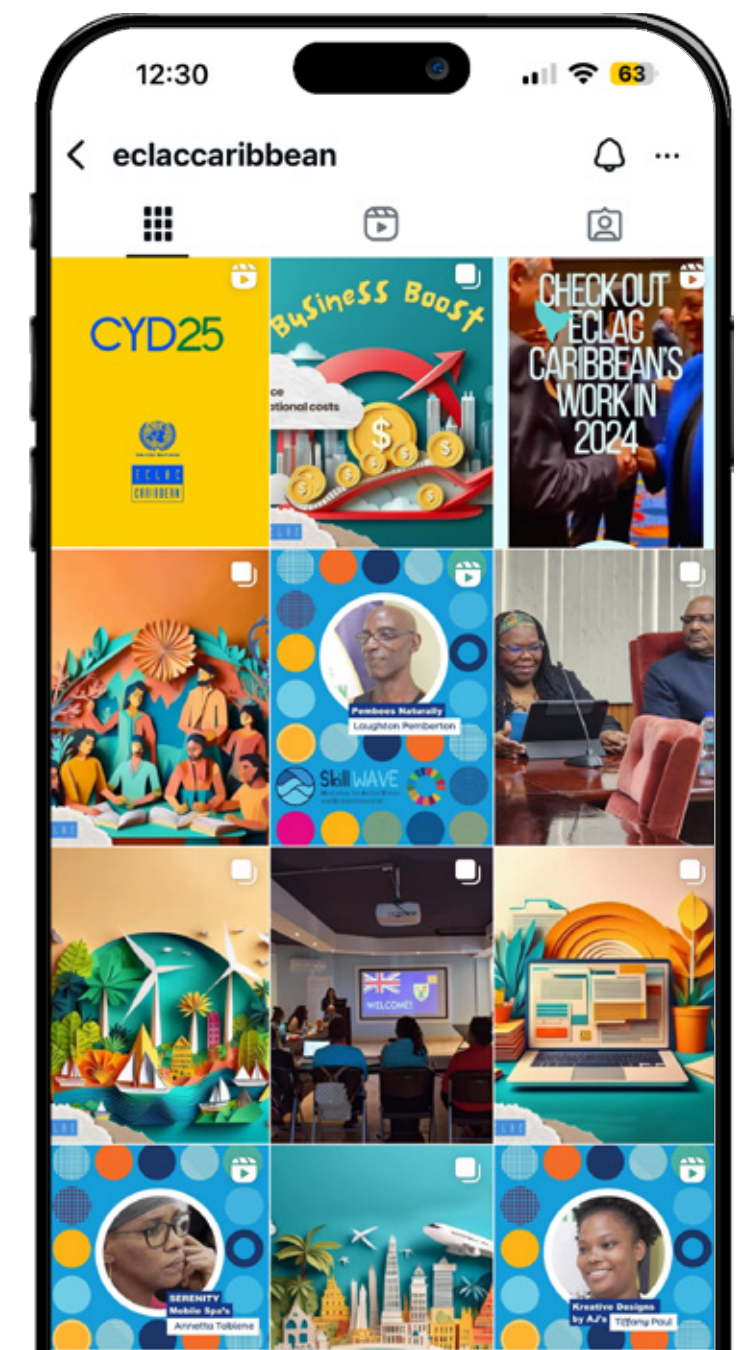
INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- 30 July**
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
- 9 August**
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12 August**
International Youth Day
- 19 August**
World Humanitarian Day

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 12 - 15 AUGUST 2025**
XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 12 - 15 AUGUST 2025**
XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 06 - 07 AUGUST AUGUST 2025**
II Parliamentary Summit on Climate Change and Just Transition of Latin America and the Caribbean

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UN FELLOWSHIP ON FIREARMS CONTROL LAUNCHED

WITH CARIBBEAN COHORT



Caribbean officials undergo UN training to tackle illicit firearms and gun violence.

28 July 2025— Amid rising gun violence and weapons trafficking across the region, fifteen officials from across the Caribbean began a three-week intensive training under the United Nations Small Arms and Light Weapons Fellowship Programme, hosted for the first time in the region.

The Fellowship—established by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly—was developed to strengthen the technical and operational capacity of states, particularly in developing

regions, to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Participants from law enforcement, defence, border control, research and diplomacy will receive advanced training in arms control measures including weapons marking and tracing, stockpile management, border security, destruction protocols and disarmament processes.

The Caribbean cohort is the first of three global groups participating in this year's rollout, ahead of upcoming sessions in Africa and Asia. It builds on the region's leadership in adopting the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap—the second such roadmap globally,

after the Western Balkans.

Speaking at the opening ceremony in Cumuto, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and UNDP Resident Representative, Ugo Blanco, emphasised the stakes:

“If the only path to power for a young person is through a weapon, we are solving only half the problem. This Fellowship is not just about tools—it is about transformation.”

The programme aligns with the UN Secretary-General's New Agenda

for Peace, launched in 2023, which calls for a renewed global approach to conflict prevention—one that balances strong control measures with social investment in education, youth empowerment, mental health, and community resilience.

The training is organised by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in partnership with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Homeland Security, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It follows a foundational online module and will be delivered in-person over three weeks.

Mr. Blanco also highlighted the important role of UNLIREC, the UN's regional disarmament centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, in strengthening national firearms legislation, building forensic capacity, and guiding implementation of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap.

As Mr. Blanco told participants, their work is critical in translating international frameworks like the Programme of Action on SALW and the International Tracing Instrument into results on the ground. “Your presence here represents a moment of determination,” he said. “You

are the stewards of this region's next chapter in arms control and violence prevention.”



A Hummingbird
FEATURE

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND UNITED NATIONS SIGN

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2022-2026

A milestone moment for T&T's sustainable development journey!
[Port of Spain, 9 July 2025](#) – Trinidad and Tobago has taken an important step forward in its sustainable development journey with the formal signing of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND UNITED NATIONS SIGN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2022-2026

At a ceremony held at the Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development, Senator Dr. The Honourable Kennedy Swaratsingh and UN Resident Coordinator in Trinidad and Tobago, Joanna Kazana, signed the Framework, reaffirming a shared commitment to sustainable, inclusive development and closer collaboration across sectors.

Representatives of United Nations system agencies attended the

milestone event, underscoring the joint priorities identified for cooperation with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. These priorities include:

- **Strengthening the education system** and ensuring access to education for all children, particularly migrants and refugees;
- **Preventing violence and crime** through community-based interventions;
- **Harnessing digitalization and artificial intelligence** to improve public administration, service delivery, statistical systems, and financial governance;



- **Promoting health, nutrition, and food security** as integral parts of national resilience and well-being strategies; and
- **Revitalizing social dialogue** and fortifying institutions that uphold labour rights and decent work.

Looking ahead, the United Nations in Trinidad and Tobago plans to intensify its support in key areas such as digital inclusion, financial literacy, and building resilient food systems. Efforts will also continue to bolster national capacities in health, environmental protection,

climate adaptation, and social protection.

The UN remains dedicated to advancing justice reform, child protection, women's rights, anti-trafficking initiatives, and cybersecurity, all aligned with the New Agenda for Peace and the country's vision for prevention-focused, people-centred governance.

Minister Swaratsingh and Ms. Kazana both highlighted the critical role of strong partnerships in achieving sustainable development and

pledged continued, coordinated collaboration to build a more resilient, inclusive, and equitable future for Trinidad and Tobago.

Ms. Kazana also presented a copy of the UN Country Team's 2024 Annual Results Report.

The signing of the UNSDCF represents a significant milestone in the partnership between the United Nations and Trinidad and Tobago, charting a path toward sustainable development that leaves no one behind.



CARIBBEAN LEADS THE WORLD

IN REDUCING AIDS-RELATED DEATHS GLOBALLY, BUT PROGRESS ON REDUCING NEW INFECTIONS SLOW

The newly launched **Global AIDS Update 2025** report by UNAIDS contains a regional chapter profiling the Caribbean.

Kingston, July 10, 2025—Data from the latest Global AIDS Update Report, released by UNAIDS, shows the Caribbean recorded a 62% reduction in AIDS-related deaths, between 2010 and 2024, the steepest decline among eight regions globally.

According to the report—*AIDS, Crisis and the Power to Transform*, over the last fifteen years, there has been a

54% decline in AIDS-related deaths globally. The Caribbean is well above the global average at 62%. The report credits the widespread availability of anti-retroviral treatment (ART) for the progress made since 2010. Reductions have also been recorded in West & Central Africa (60%), Eastern & Southern Africa (59%), Asia & the Pacific (53%), Western & Central Europe and North America (48%), Latin America (31%) and the Middle East & North Africa (6%) while Eastern Europe & Central Asia reported a 48% increase over the same period.

UNAIDS commended governments, communities of people living with and most affected by HIV, and key partners, including PEPFAR and The Global Fund, among others for the progress made across the region. “The Caribbean’s stellar performance and achievements are commendable. It shows the resilience of a region constrained by a myriad of social, economic and other challenges such as high debt, declining external funding, and natural disasters and how critical political leadership is to safeguard people’s health without distinction,” Dr Richard Amenyah, the Director of UNAIDS Multi-Country Office in the Caribbean said. “Despite the ongoing challenges, the Caribbean continues to show that great things can be achieved when governments and all stakeholders, including people living with HIV and key populations, work together to protect and promote good health and

well-being,” Amenyah said.

In 2010, only 53,000 people living with HIV were on treatment in the Caribbean. 13,000 adults and children lost their lives due to AIDS-related conditions that year. However, by 2024, this number climbed to 250,000 people on treatment—with 50,000 of them added between 2020 and 2024. Today, 85% of people living with HIV in the Caribbean know their status, 74% are on treatment, and 66% are virally suppressed (up from 33% in 2017). Last year, deaths declined to 4,800 deaths (down from 6,100 people in 2020).

While the organisation applauds stakeholders for the progress in reducing AIDS-related deaths, UNAIDS said it is concerned about the rate of decline in new infections across the region. Noting that the progress is insufficient to reach the targets to end AIDS, UNAIDS urged political leaders, healthcare workers and other stakeholders to do more to prevent new HIV infections. Globally, new HIV infections have been reduced by 40% since 2010 but only 21% of new infections have been reduced in the Caribbean. In 2024, there were 15,000 new infections with Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Jamaica accounting for 90% (Haiti contributed 38%) and young people (15–24 years) account for 25% of new infections overall.

UNAIDS’ new report emphasizes integrating HIV into broader health systems, strengthening partnerships with CSOs and communities, and addressing social determinants like stigma and discrimination to prevent new HIV infections, especially among young people and key populations and prevent treatment interruptions. Caribbean governments are also being encouraged to take greater ownership to navigate geopolitical funding shifts, ensuring financial and programmatic sustainability to achieve the 2030 goal of ending AIDS.

Noting that domestic funding for the HIV response moved from 30% in 2023 to 38% in 2024, UNAIDS said more needs to be done to achieve the internationally agreed targets to end AIDS as a public health threat. “Governments must continue to prioritize increasing domestic resources, integrate HIV into broader health systems, innovate to keep people living with HIV on treatment toward achieving viral suppression and ensure equitable access for young people and key populations to prevent new infections. Only through sustained partnership and greater country ownership can we end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 in the region,” Amenyah said.

[Get more information on the region by accessing the Global AIDS Update 2025: Regional profile for the Caribbean](#)

ONE YEAR AFTER BERYL:

STORIES OF RECOVERY, RESILIENCE, AND REBUILDING LIVES

"After the hurricane, when I saw the island, it was like a strange place to me. It looked strange because everything had just disappeared." - Jady Forde, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

When Hurricane Beryl tore through the Caribbean in July 2024, it left behind a trail of destruction that changed lives overnight. Homes were flattened, roads washed away, and communities disconnected from the rest of the world. But perhaps even more devastating than the physical destruction was the emotional weight that settled in its wake especially for families who lost not only their shelter but their sense of safety.

For Jady Forde, a mother in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the hurricane turned her familiar neighbourhood into something unrecognizable. "It looked like a strange place," she recalls. Yet amid the destruction, there was a spark of hope: a food kit from the World Food Programme (WFP). Inside were basic items macaroni, canned fish, rice. Enough to cook her family's first meal since the storm.

"The kitchen had flooded, and our feet were sore and wrinkled from standing in the water," she said, describing how she waded through to prepare

dinner. "But we were happy. We were eating together again."

Within days of the storm, WFP had mobilized 5,000 food kits for the hardest-hit families, with support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and in partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and national authorities. Temporary storage units were set up on Union Island, Saint Vincent, and Carriacou, Grenada to safely store and distribute food and other relief items. These mobile logistics hubs provided a lifeline during the most critical moments.

But recovery was never just about supplies, it was also about healing.

In Carriacou, Grenada, the trauma ran deep, particularly for women and girls. The Ministry of Carriacou & Petite Martinique Affairs, with support from UN Women through the Global Affairs Canada-funded Build Back Equal Project, launched the Safe Space Initiative to respond to the emotional aftermath. Designed for women and girls between the ages of 7 and 17, and 18 and older, the programme offered something invaluable: a safe



place to talk, to cry, to create, and to begin to heal.

"We needed a space for our girls and women to process what they were going through" explained Nadina Williams, Programme Manager at the Ministry. "By providing a supportive and secure environment, we aimed to empower them to help them feel seen again."

Over three months, the Safe Space Initiative hosted support circles, trauma recovery workshops, and information sessions on sexual and reproductive health, housing services, and Gender-based Violence (GBV) support. These sessions did not just meet immediate needs; they opened doors to longer-term empowerment.

The experience also underscored a critical lesson: response efforts must include systems that protect women and girls, even during the chaos of a disaster. That's why, with support from UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund,

Grenada has since accelerated the development of a shock-responsive GBV referral pathway. The goal is clear: no woman or girl should be left without protection or support when the next tropical storm or hurricane comes. UN Women through the BBE Project also supported Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to establish its first national inter-agency GBV task force to drive coordination of essential service providers and key stakeholders.

A year later, the debris has mostly cleared, but the journey to recovery continues. Across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and other affected islands, families like Jady's are slowly rebuilding their lives brick by brick, meal by meal and, conversation by conversation.

Their stories are reminders that in every hurricane or extreme weather event to hit the Caribbean, there are quiet acts of resilience. That behind every food kit, every support circle, every logistics hub, are people: mothers, daughters, neighbours

finding strength in the middle of heavy loss.

As we hit one year post Beryl and the 2025 hurricane season begins, the region stands better prepared, but the real preparedness lies in the spirit of our people.

Throughout the response, the UN Resident Coordinator served as the lead representative of the United Nations, advocating for international support, mobilizing emergency funding, and ensuring that recovery efforts remained people-centred and inclusive. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs role in supporting humanitarian coordination and preparedness in the Caribbean in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency has been critical linking regional and international systems to meet local needs, particularly in multi-island context like Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada.

CARIBBEAN BREADFRUIT AND FISH PIE

What you will need:

For the breadfruit mash:

- 1 medium breadfruit (peeled, cored, and chunked)
- 2–3 tbsp butter (or coconut oil for dairy-free)
- ½ cup coconut milk (or regular milk)
- Salt & black pepper to taste

For the fish filling:

- 1 lb firm white fish (kingfish, snapper, or salted cod, soaked and flaked)
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 sweet pepper, diced
- 2 sprigs thyme (or 1 tsp dried)
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped (or 1 cup canned)
- 1 hot pepper (Scotch bonnet or chili), minced (optional, adjust to taste)
- 2 tbsp olive oil or coconut oil
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp curry powder (optional, for a Trini-style kick)
- Salt & pepper to taste
- ½ cup grated cheese (cheddar or local Caribbean cheese, optional but nice for topping)

Method:

Boil the breadfruit chunks in salted water until tender, about 20 to 25 minutes. Drain and mash with the butter and coconut milk until smooth, then season with salt and black pepper. Set aside. Heat the oil in a pan and sauté the onion, garlic, celery, and sweet pepper until softened. Add the tomatoes, thyme, paprika, curry powder, and hot pepper and cook until the tomatoes break down. Add the fish and cook for 5 to 7 minutes until done and well seasoned. Adjust salt and pepper. Preheat the oven to 375°F or 190°C. Grease a baking dish and spread the fish mixture evenly on the bottom. Cover with the mashed breadfruit and smooth the top. Sprinkle with cheese if using. Bake uncovered for 25 to 30 minutes until the top is golden and bubbling. Serve hot with salad, coleslaw, or fried plantains.



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