

LIMITED
LC/CAR/L.72
20 December 2005
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**AN ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL VULNERABILITY AND RESILIENCE
IN POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPERS (PRSPS/I-PRSPS)
OF SELECTED CARIBBEAN SIDS**

This paper has been reproduced without formal printing.

Table of Contents

Abstract.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1. Introduction.....	1
Background.....	1
Countries under review.....	2
Findings of the review.....	4
2. Vulnerability.....	4
Social vulnerability and poverty.....	4
3. Details of the review.....	6
4. Recommendations and conclusions.....	12
Annex: Natural events and threats facing Caribbean Small island Developing States.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Bibliography.....	13

List of Tables

Table 1. Selected indicators for four Caribbean SIDS.....	2
Table 2. General overview of country PRSPs reflecting an awareness of vulnerability issues.....	8
Table 3. Social susceptibility matrix.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 4. Social resilience matrix.....	11

Diagrams

Diagram 1. Framework for the social dimension of vulnerability to a natural disaster....	9
--	---

Abstract

The study undertakes a review of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (I-PRSPs) of four selected Caribbean SIDS from the Eastern Caribbean. The countries had participated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy initiative formulated by the World Bank. The country papers reviewed were the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The review assesses and provides a comparative analysis of the general awareness of the notions of vulnerability and the inclusion and use of strategies that address the reduction of vulnerability and the strengthening of resilience by the countries reviewed. It also explores how vulnerability reduction strategies were applied to differing groups, as elaborated through the PRSPs.

Intermediate results

1. The study was presented at the launch of the Millennium Development Goals, Report for Barbados and the OECS, and Dialogue to Review the IPRSPs/PRSPs, 31 March-1 April 2005 at the UN House in Bridgetown, Barbados. The meeting was convened by UNDP Barbados Office;
2. The study was quoted in a paper entitled: "Strategy Paper: A Framework for Monitoring the MDGs and Sustainable Human Development in the CARICOM Region", prepared by the UNDP Subregional Office for Barbados and the OECS (25 July 2005) for Submission to CARICOM, COSHOD;
3. A module on social vulnerability was included in the Grenada CWIQ, as a result of growing awareness of the value of including a vulnerability analysis in the poverty reduction strategies.

1. Introduction

Background

The year 2005 marked the fifth anniversary of the World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) initiative. It has been suggested that there are a number of factors which make this initiative different from other initiatives for poverty reduction. Key among them, is that the PRS stresses the monitoring of results, seeks to make clear the causal links between public actions and poverty reduction and, significantly, the PRS seeks to encourage a participatory approach. The Bank suggests that the PRS is based on similar principles of its Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF), which are that it is meant to be country-driven, results oriented, comprehensive, partnership-based and framed within a long-term perspective.

The development paradigm within which the PRS is situated, according to the Bank, is one in which there is recognition that rapid growth is a necessary condition for lasting poverty reduction, but is not a sufficient one (World Bank, 2000). The Bank argues that poverty and income inequality can become serious impediments to rapid growth and that good governance and transparency can facilitate sustained growth and the participation of the poor in its benefits. The Report on the World Social Situation 2005, supports this notion by arguing that ignoring inequality in the pursuit of development is perilous. It suggests that inequalities in income distribution, in access to productive resources, basic social services, opportunities, markets and information can cause and exacerbate poverty. The report concludes, therefore, that policies and programmes for poverty reduction should include socio-economic strategies to reduce inequality.

The PRS has been critiqued for not resulting in strategy papers which pay sufficient attention to issues of sustainable livelihood strategies and the social dimensions of anti-poverty strategies or gender equity. It has been suggested that most papers separate the macroeconomic critique from the social policy directions and send an implicit message that growth is good for reducing poverty without discerning the differing impacts on poor or vulnerable groups (Thin et al, 2001).

As part of the fifth anniversary, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff have jointly undertaken an assessment of progress, challenges, and good practice of the PRS initiative. In the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Caribbean office led a review of the PRS initiative in the first quarter of 2005, to examine a number of relevant issues for Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries, such as data collection and analysis, programme targeting and the socio-economic policy framework; and to explore lessons learnt from other countries in Central and Latin America that had undertaken PRSPs.

This paper presents another aspect of the review of the PRS process of four selected Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from the Eastern Caribbean that had been involved in the PRS initiative. These countries were the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The review assesses the general awareness of the countries, as elaborated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (I-PRSPs), of the notions of vulnerability and the inclusion and use of strategies that address the reduction of vulnerability and the strengthening of resilience, as applied to differing groups of their respective populations.

Countries under review

In order to better understand the findings of the review it is necessary to grasp the social and economic conditions of the countries under review. Table 1 presents selected socio-economic indicators of the four Caribbean SIDS, to assist in that appreciation. Although all the countries experience the economic volatility and openness found among SIDS, over the last five-year period, they have had somewhat differing fortunes. The one common factor has been the hard blow which they have all been dealt by the change in preferential trading arrangements of the European Union.

Table 1: Selected indicators for four Caribbean SIDS

Country	Population (2000)	Per cent Population Poor	Per cent Population Indigent	Gini Index	GDP Per capita (PPP \$US)
Commonwealth of Dominica	79,880	39.0	15.0	0.35	5,520
Grenada	103,532	32.1	13.0	0.45	6,740
Saint Lucia	157,775	25.1	7.1	0.50	5,260
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	112,000	37.5	25.7	0.56	5,330

Source: Population data: Grenada – Poverty Eradication Report; Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, from CDB; Poverty data CSSDBs; all other data from PRSPs for respective countries;

The Commonwealth of Dominica, with the smallest population of the four Caribbean SIDS, near 80,000, as noted in Table 1, has been experiencing economic decline since the devastating hurricanes of 1988. This decline continued through to the 1990s, with a brief period of growth followed by another major hurricane in November 1999. These, together with other factors such as the global economic contraction and its depressive effects on tourism, and the phased elimination of preferential access to the European Union for Dominica's banana exports, have resulted in a cumulative negative impact on the quality of life of the people of Dominica. At the time of undertaking its I-PRSP, the Government of Dominica indicated that the public debt had risen sharply from 81 per cent of GDP in 2000 to a projected 111 per cent of GDP in 2003.¹ This was accompanied by a rise in unemployment from 15.7 per cent in 1999, to 25 per

¹ The Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSR) was produced by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica on 30 November 2003

cent in 2003. Almost 40 per cent of the population in Dominica are poor and 15 per cent have been described as indigent. Of the four countries reviewed for their Gini Index², Dominica has a Gini Index of 0.35, suggesting that Dominica has the best income distribution among the four countries examined, or the least inequality evident.

Grenada, with a population of just over 103,000, completed its final draft document in May of 2004. With 32 per cent of its population poor and 13 per cent indigent, as detailed in Table 1, Grenada has the highest per capita income among the four countries reviewed at \$US6,740.00. Despite the Grenadian economy having achieved high rates of economic growth averaging 5.7 per cent for the period 1995 to 2000, high levels of poverty persisted. As a primary-producing agricultural economy, involved in the production for export of bananas, cocoa and nutmegs Grenada felt the effects of the change in the trading regime. In 1997 the export of bananas was halted and has been marginal ever since with the dismantling of the preferential trading arrangement with the European Union. By September 2004, Grenada was devastated by Hurricane Ivan. Some 89 per cent of the housing stock was damaged and there was irreparable damage to schools, hospitals and the tourism plant. Ivan brought the tourist sector, which was recovering from the harsh effects of the events of 9/11, almost to a halt. The damage to the country caused by this hurricane tested the relevancy of the poverty reduction strategy which had been completed a mere four months before.

Saint Lucia has the largest population of the four countries under review with just over 150,000 people, 25 per cent of whom are poor and some 7 per cent who have been defined as indigent. It has the lowest per capita income, US\$5,260.00, of the four countries examined but not significantly lower than Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The government describes the Saint Lucian economy as one in transition, brought about by the changing global environment and its impact on banana export earnings, tourism and manufacturing. Saint Lucia has experienced a significant decline in the number of banana farmers, from an estimated 13,000 registered producers in the early 1990s to less than 3,000 in February 2003, or 77 per cent, when the I-PRSR was undertaken. International financial services have been introduced in recent years as a mechanism to generate additional fiscal revenue for the State but performance has been poor. Despite its poor showing, it has remained a significant source of income for the government. Unemployment has been significantly affected showing an increase from 7.2 per cent in 1991 to 13.5 per cent in 2001. The population of Saint Lucia is young with over 40 per cent under the age of 20.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has the highest proportion of indigent persons, 27.5 per cent, among the four countries reviewed and the largest Gini index, 0.56 indicating a high degree of inequality in the country. By the end of 2001 it was estimated that some 52 per cent of banana growers had left the industry since 1990, declining from 7,894 to 3,800. This decline in banana farmers has created significant unemployment in rural banana communities. The government suggests that while poverty levels remain relatively stable over time, the severe shocks which the economy has experienced brought on by the decline in the banana markets and the events of September 2001 which affected the tourism sector, has resulted in a worsening situation. This is evidenced by the large numbers of the population unemployed and an increase in the transitory

² A measure of income distribution in which 0= a completely equal distribution and 1 = a situation of complete inequality.

poor, bringing the ranks of the poor to some 38 per cent of the population. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is reported to also have the highest population density in the OECS at 293 per sq km.³

Findings of the review

From the PRSPs and I-PRSPs reviewed for the four countries under consideration, the following could be discerned:

- (a) The conceptual understanding of notions of vulnerability was weak in all papers reviewed;
- (b) An appreciation of vulnerability analysis was stronger for the economic sector and weaker for the environmental sector. The sector for which the weakest appreciation of vulnerability analysis was evident was in the social sector ;
- (c) Inclusion of any of the three dimensions of vulnerability as part of a country's strategic response to poverty reduction - either to reduce susceptibility or to build resilience - was found to be weak in some countries and non-existent in others; and
- (d) It was not surprising, therefore that the application of mechanisms to address the reduction of a country's overall vulnerability was found to be weak.

2. Vulnerability

Social vulnerability and poverty

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction, convened in Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005, defined vulnerability as “the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards” (ECLAC, 2005) At the same time, resilience was defined as “the capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure. This is determined by the degree to which the social system is capable of organizing itself to increase this capacity for learning from past disasters for better future protection and to improve risk reduction, measures”. Caribbean small island developing States are not strangers to the notion of vulnerability. Discussions on the notions of vulnerability have been ongoing in the Caribbean since the early writings of renowned economists, such as Sir Arthur Lewis and Mr. William Demas. This work continued and intensified during the preparations for the Global Conference on Small Island Developing States, which was convened in Barbados in 1994.

There has been long standing consensus that small economies, engaged in mono-crop industries, may be susceptible to unforeseen events or sudden shocks, which may impact on their

³ Barbados is the most densely populated country in the Western Hemisphere with 646 persons per sq km.

societies and which occur outside their control. Studies undertaken by Briguglio (1993, 1997, 2002), Pantin (1997), Crowards (1999), Guillamont (2004) all support such notions. In addition, recent research undertaken by the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), which sought to measure the environmental vulnerability of SIDS suggests that they are also more vulnerable due to their susceptibility to natural hazards.⁴

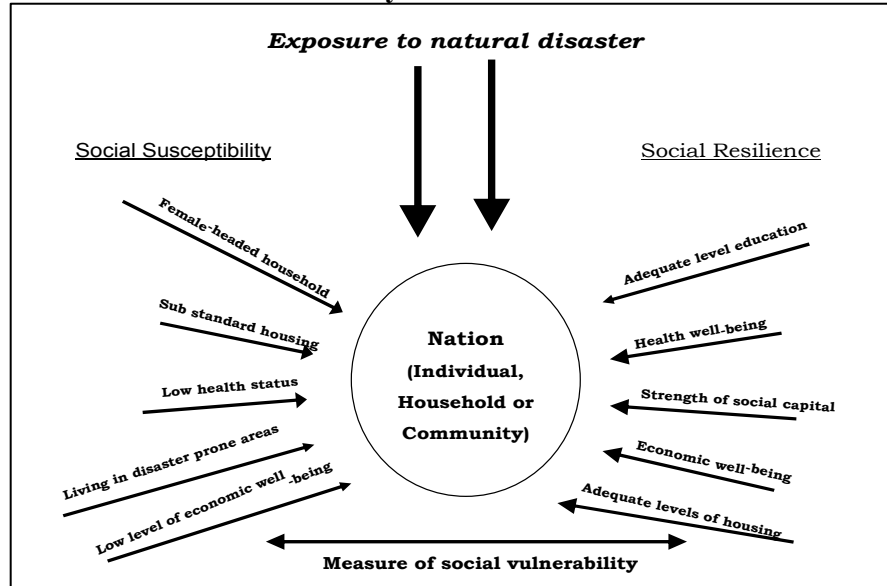
However, it has only been within the last five years that work has begun on the development of a measure to capture the social vulnerability of SIDS, led by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.⁵ For ECLAC, social vulnerability embraces a number of concepts: exposure to damage; lack of protection and precariousness; the risk of being harmed or wounded by unforeseen events; and two opposing concepts - susceptibility and resilience or sustainability. St. Bernard (2004) defined social vulnerability as “the inability of human units (individuals, households or families) to cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, their inability to adopt to and exploit changes in physical, social and economic environments and their inability to maintain and enhance future generations”. This inherent dynamism of social vulnerability differentiates it from poverty which speaks to a lack of resources, and social protection which speaks to provisioning for those sections of the population unable to respond to shocks to their household, community or nation.

In exploring the framework for the social dimension of vulnerability to a natural disaster, ECLAC suggests that it is the dynamic interplay between the factors of social susceptibility and resilience that results in a weak or strong position of social vulnerability. Factors of social susceptibility may include female headship; substandard housing; low health status; living in disaster prone areas; and a low level of economic well-being. Social resilience, on the other hand, may include adequate levels of education; favourable health and well being; possessing strong social capital; economic well-being and adequate levels of housing. The diagram below illustrates the framework. The double arrow in the diagram represents the dualism of a threat, its magnitude and the probability of it striking.

⁴ SOPAC presented the results for 253 countries for its Global Environmental Vulnerability Index (GEVI) at the World conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, Kobe Japan 2005.

⁵ See paper by Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard, published by ECLAC. WP/2003/1

Diagram 1: Framework for the social dimension of vulnerability to a natural disaster



3. Details of the review

The detailed review sought: (a) to capture the overall use and understanding of the dimensions of vulnerability in the poverty reduction strategies; and (b) examined how the papers treated with the social susceptibility and resilience components of vulnerability in each country's poverty reduction framework, strategy or plan.

The review first sought to ascertain to what extent an awareness of the dimensions of vulnerability was present in the country papers. To facilitate that task, four categories were defined: how and to what extent vulnerability was discussed; was an understanding of the issues presented and how was it presented; identification of the strategies recommended to reduce vulnerability; and a search for coherence that linked strategy to programme and to specific groups for whom recommendations were targeted.

Table 2 presents the results of the general overview with regard to the four categories discussed. Of the four country papers considered, that of St. Vincent and the Grenadines displayed the best overall discussion of vulnerability. This can be found in paragraph 1.4, headed 'Macroeconomic Context and Progress on Structural Reform':

“Understanding the economic underpinnings and workings of the economy of SVG provides some measure of hindsight into possible poverty causality factors. The country's small size and openness indicate a level of vulnerability to economic shocks (internal and external). This is compounded by a number of geographical factors - the existence of a volcano; the country lies in the path of the Atlantic hurricane belt; and its location along major earthquake fault. In fact SVG has been classified as highly vulnerable, ranking 29 out of 111 developing countries (Commonwealth Secretariat, 1998); and

on p13:

“While poverty levels remain relatively stable over time, the economy has experiences some sever shocks since 1995 and a recent study by Kairi indicates a resulting worsening of the situation. Notable among recent developments are the sharp decline in the banana industry and the events of September 11, 2001, which have left large numbers of the population unemployed, and increased the ranks of those Kairi describes as the ‘transitory poor’.

Poverty in SVG is not confined to any particular locale, but is widespread and deep, affecting with particular severity children, women and the elderly who together account for a significant per cent of the estimated population. Of particular concern also is the 26.9 per cent of youths considered to be living below the poverty line.”

In regard to the second category of examination, the Grenada country paper, presented the most robust discussion and inclusion of issues of natural disasters, among the four country documents reviewed. This was evidenced from this quote on page 46:

“Grenada is particularly vulnerable to certain types of national disasters which include floods, landslides, hurricanes, storm surges, volcanoes, which can affect key infrastructure and can have devastating impacts on the economy. In this regard disaster management and preparedness is seen as a major issue to be considered when addressing the question of poverty eradication.”

With regard to the category of investigation that sought to identify strategies to reduce vulnerability, in the Dominica paper no specific vulnerability reduction strategy was presented. General poverty reduction strategies were presented, however, such as efforts to foster growth, encourage increased employment in the private sector and reduce employment in the public sector. In the Grenada document specific strategies were presented to reduce vulnerability, but mainly in the environmental area, such as land use planning and training in management of natural disasters.

In regard to the gaps in the strategies, it was evident that most papers were unable to coherently link poverty indicators identified in national poverty assessments with the programmes elaborated for the reduction of poverty. However, the Saint Lucia paper presented the most coherent arguments, strategies and programme. It presented cogent arguments on vulnerability and demonstrated an understanding of the concept through its use, both economic and environmental, as an influencing factor for the economic difficulties being experienced by that country. The document identified specific strategies and, in most instances, tied them to programmes. However gaps could be found in the targeting of programmes to such groups as teenage mothers, the Rastafarian communities and the elderly, which had been initially identified.

Table 2: General overview of country PRSPs reflecting an awareness of vulnerability issues

Country	Discussed	An understanding of the issues is presented	Strategies to reduce vulnerability are presented	Gaps
Dominica	Vulnerability mentioned once pg 5; make mention of the impact of man made and natural disasters on the country as a whole pg 3; Presents social problems p16; discusses high incidence of indigence among the Carib community; main causal factor of poverty lack of employment and underemployment pg 13.	In the discussion on the decline of Agricultural Production with an emphasis on Banana the vulnerability of Dominica within the global environment is implicit.	No specific Vulnerability reduction strategy but general poverty reduction strategy : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Growth; • Encourage private Sector Employment; • Government Retrenchment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No special programme to reduce vulnerability of Carib population; • No special programme for Female Headed Households; • No special programme re: Natural Disasters – i.e. preparedness, prevention or mitigation
Grenada	Conceptual discussion is weak although mention of vulnerability is made on pgs 3, 22, 60	The most robust discussion and inclusion of issues of natural disasters among the four country docs reviewed, pgs. 25, 29, 46, 60	Specific strategies to reduce vulnerability are discussed and presented: physical planning and land use; training in management of natural disasters	Recognition of social vulnerability , special identification of issues to be addressed
Saint Lucia	Discussion of vulnerability on pgs 12, 15, 24, 25; diagram of how key institutions seek to provide assistance to poor and vulnerable households pg 36	On pg 12, in a discussion on the influencing factors for the economic downturn of Saint Lucia, both the economic and environmental vulnerability of Saint Lucia is presented	In Chapter 3 in the area of education there is reference to informal institutions and programmes for young persons at risk pg 31; under housing ref to Emergency housing management policy pg. 34	Specific programmes to reduce susceptibility of groups such as: Teenage mothers, Rastafarian community, Elderly (Although these groups are alluded to in pgs 51-2)
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Vulnerability as a causality, pgs 10, 13	Clear understanding evidenced by use of arguments, pgs 14, 10, 13, 18, 69.	Under Social Safety net: Improve disaster management , reduce vulnerability pg 28, 29	Specificity on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FHH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ jobs ○ education ○ social protection • Shelter (retrofitting)

In Table 3, issues of susceptibility were captured. The study used the social susceptibility matrix to present factors that might increase susceptibility as outlined in the framework found in Illustration 1. Factors examined were: those which contributed to disintegrating or weak social capital; the position of poor female-headed households; the location of persons found living in substandard housing; and recognition of the danger of living in disaster prone areas. Through the discussion found in the country papers, an assessment was made regarding the recognition of these susceptibility factors and how they were addressed. Two of the four country papers reviewed addressed all of the four co-factors of social susceptibility. In one country paper, two co-factors were particularly well presented and in one paper one co-factor was discussed.

The Saint Lucian Paper provided a good discussion of the need to strengthen social capital, highlighting the significance of culture, language and social attitudes as factors of social cohesion. Page 20 paragraph four states:

“Development and social workers note a number of trends towards social disintegration, exclusion and marginalisation, on the basis of age, culture, language and religion. Young people are the victims of a culture which silences, suppresses, criminalises and incarcerates youth (Barrow 2001), while society does not care sufficiently for senior citizens. In spite of the major advances made over the past tow decades, thanks in particular to the work of the Folk Research Centre (FRC) and individual cultural activists and media workers in the country and the region, people who are not fluent in English are unable to function fully in many circles and sectors, and the use of the Creole language remains perceived as backward and suitable only for entertainment and rural life. Religions create important cleavages in society, and followers of the Rastafarian faith are often discriminated against and marginalised”.

On page 21 the paper continues:

“At the local level, social capital is somewhat weak and many communities are poorly organised”.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines paper argued that the area of social infrastructure had emerged as vital to the poor. In section 2.24 social infrastructure was defined to include:

“...a broad range of tangible and intangible elements. Intangible elements include the existence of strong kinship ties, community linkages, and community organisations. These can take the form of shared child care arrangements, informal lending opportunities and communal labour. Where these aspects of social infrastructure exist, persons have a greater ability to maximize scarce resources, thus creating a buffer against poverty.”

In the two country studies, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which addressed the susceptibility caused by living in disaster prone areas, recommendations around land tenure and use policies were made.

A social resilience matrix was developed to capture the analysis and recommendations made in the Country papers under review. It was intended that such a matrix could depict the social resilience component of the social vulnerability framework as presented in Illustration 1. The results of that matrix are presented in Table 4.

Of the four countries reviewed, in the category of economic well-being, all spoke to the

Table 3: Social Susceptibility Matrix				
Country	Disintegrating /weak Social Capital	Circumstance of Poor Female Headed Households	Sub-standard housing	Living in disaster prone areas
Grenada	Need for capacity building p.60	Specific Recommendations pg. 21	National housing settlement programme pg.50	Need for land use policy pg. 28
Dominica	Importance of Community support pg10			
Saint Lucia	Good discussion of need to strengthen social capital; significance of culture, language and attitudes pgs. 20,21,22,57		Identified as a need to be addressed pg.59	
St Vincent & the Grenadines	Importance of social capital pgs 18,19,59	Circumstance of FHH highlighted pgs 14, p24	Importance of Shelter pg 29	Land tenure policy pg.37

need to strive for economic growth and to formulate policies that would address employment creation. Some countries were more specific than others. St Vincent and the Grenadines suggested that:

“Poverty reduction strategies need to focus on the Micro enterprise and informal sectors of the country providing financial, business and educational support.” The paper called for further research on the informal sector.

In the Saint Lucia paper under a goal to “sustain and develop livelihoods and production capacity” two recommendations, among others, were made which addressed the issue of economic well-being. These were to, “facilitate access to land for agricultural production; and to develop pro-poor tourism programmes and activities”.

Although all papers discussed ‘adequate levels of education’, it was the St. Vincent and the Grenadines paper which identified education as central to poverty eradication.

“The Government of the SVG recognises that education is central to development – and subsequently to poverty reduction. The link works as a preventive measure and as an escape mechanism. Thus high priority is to be given to education in the Medium Term in order to achieve the goal of providing every citizen with quality education. A nationwide early childhood development programme will be established and should be linked to nutritional programmes for children. Compulsory Education is essential as issues of child labour and truancy continue. The issue of limited enrolment to secondary education due to both space and achievement has to be addressed urgently.”

Two of the four country papers, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadine, spoke to the need to improve disaster management and to minimise the vulnerability of the population. The Grenada Paper presented a full programme for disaster awareness and preparedness.

Table 4: Social resilience matrix

Country	Adequate levels of education	Disaster awareness and preparedness	Economic Well-being	Health and Well being
Grenada	Adequate levels of education	Programme for Disaster Awareness and preparedness	Strive for Economic Growth and employment creation	Importance of health and nutrition
Dominica	Discuss the good social indicators of the country pg. 4		Strive for Economic Growth and employment creation	
Saint Lucia			Strive for Economic Growth and employment creation	Significance of child health and environmental health
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	Education central to building resilience p44	Need to improve disaster mgt and minimise vulnerability p.28	Strive for Economic Growth and employment creation	

4. Recommendations and conclusions

The foregoing review of the PRSPs and I-PRSPs of selected Caribbean SIDS concluded that:

1. Social vulnerability analysis may provide a useful tool to policy makers when formulating policies and programmes in the social sector. The inclusion of such an analysis should lead to programmes better targeted to the reduction of susceptibility and the building of resilience; and

2. Vulnerability analysis, inclusive of all its dimensions, economic, environmental and social, should become an integral part of the national development planning framework of Caribbean SIDS. Such inclusion could result in more realistic national goal setting particularly where the achievement of growth targets are concerned, the meeting of the Millennium Development Goals and other sustainable development goals.

Annex: Natural Events and Threats facing Caribbean Small island Developing States

Type of event	Threat
Earthquakes	All Caribbean countries with the exception of Bahamas and Guyana, lie close to the known tectonic plate boundaries. The North American plate dips from east to west beneath the Caribbean plate along a north-south line just east of the Caribbean arc
Volcanic Activity	Several of the islands of the Eastern Caribbean are volcanic in origin. The volcanoes are considered to be either active or dormant. Kick'em Jenny (just north of Grenada) is an active submarine volcano.
Tsunamis (Sea waves that travel at an average of 500 to 600 km per hour)	Studies suggest that a violent eruption of Kick'em Jenny would result in waves that reach heights of 7 meters on the north shore of Grenada within 5 minutes of the eruption. All other islands of the Eastern Caribbean would experience waves ranging from 1.7 meters to over 5 meters high.
Hurricanes and tropical storms	The Caribbean lies in the North Atlantic Ocean, one of the six main tropical areas of the earth where hurricanes may develop every year. The destructive potential of a hurricane is significant due to high wind speeds and torrential rains that produce flooding and occasional storm surges with heights of several feet above normal sea level.
Excessive rainfall	The results of flooding depend on type of elevation of facilities in the location of the event. The results may range from loss of equipment and finishes inside flooded buildings to deaths and property damage.
Storm surges and coastal area flooding	Storm surge is associated with hurricanes and consist of unusual volumes of water flowing onto shorelines. Storm surge has been responsible for much of the damage caused by hurricanes, especially in large low-lying coastal settlements. The increase of coastal settlement has put much of our economic investment at risk from sea damage
Landslides	Many landslides in the Caribbean islands are brought about by inappropriate framing practices, construction of housing on hill sides and road construction in mountain areas, although triggered by natural events.

Source: ECLAC (2005) "Small States Vulnerability and Development"

Bibliography

Caribbean Development Bank (2005) Poverty, People and Potential: The BNTF in the Caribbean. Caribbean Development Bank, Barbados.

ECLAC (2005) “Small States Vulnerability and Development” LC./CAR.L.60

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2005) “Grenada: A Gender Impact Assessment of Hurricane Ivan - making the Invisible Visible” LC/CAR/L.48

International Monetary Fund and the International Development Association (2003) “Dominica: Joint Staff Assessment of the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper”.

International Development Association and the International monetary Fund (2002) “Guyana: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Joint Staff Assessment”.

Ministry of Finance and Planning, Government of Dominica (2003) “Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper”. Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica

Ministry of Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government Castries, Saint Lucia (2003) “Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan for Saint Lucia”. Castries, Saint Lucia

National Economic and Social Development Council, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2003) “Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper”. Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Thin, Neil, Mary Underwood and Jim Gilling (2001) “Sub-Saharan Africa’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers from Social Policy and Sustainable Livelihoods Perspectives: A Report for the Department for International Development”. Oxford Policy Management, England

Thomas, Spencer (2004) Grenada Poverty Eradication Strategy, Government of Grenada

Toye, John and Richard Toye (2005) “The World Bank as a Knowledge Agency”, a paper of the Overarching Concerns Programme. Paper Number 11. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva.

United Nations (2005) The Inequality Predicament : Report on the World Social Situation 2005.

World Bank Group (2000) “Poverty Reduction Strategy papers Internal Guidance Note”. The World Bank Group Operations Policy and Strategy. Washington D.C.

World Bank (2004) “Good practice Note: Using Poverty and Social Impact Analysis to Support Development Policy Operations” The World bank Washington, D.C.