STRENGTHENING GENDER-RESPONSIVE DISASTER AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN

NADIA MANNING-THOMAS
PLANNING AND COORDINATION SPECIALIST; CCC, DRR AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE
A BIT ABOUT THE MCO

• **Staff Members** – ~40
• **Staff presence** – Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada.
• **Operation Locations** – Across 22 countries and territories
• **United Nations Country Team (UNCTs)** – 6
Understanding that crises can exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities, and that women, girls and boys and men have different needs, risks and capacities before, during and after an emergency that must be taken into account and advocating for the consideration of these distinct needs and capacities as well as women and girls’ participation in strategic planning, decision making and programming, is critical.
Natural hazards and climate change impact women and men differently due to differences in societal expectations of their roles and responsibilities in families and communities, and the means by which they earn their livelihoods. Women generally have lower incomes, less access to credit and decision-making authority, and limited control over resources, which increases their vulnerabilities to many natural hazards and climate change impacts. The impacts of climate change and disasters often magnify existing gender inequalities between women and men; thus, the approach to policy development and service delivery by institutions needs to take into consideration gendered differences. In particular, climate change and disaster risk preparation and response demand initiatives that identify and address existing gendered differences to ensure that women and girls, and men and boys have equal access to disaster risk resilience and climate change and environmental solutions.

During the four-year period of 2019-2022, the EnGenDER Project has aimed to:

- **Strengthen national capacities for gender-responsive climate change planning and implementation among state and non-state actors in each of the nine targeted countries.**

- **Integrate recovery planning and frameworks at both national and regional levels to ensure gender-responsive and resilient disaster recovery for vulnerable groups.**

- **Encourage the application of gender-responsive and rights-based approaches into national climate change and disaster risk reduction decision-making bodies.**

- **Sustainable implementation of gender-responsive adaptation and mitigation strategies.**

- **Gender-responsive and resilient disaster recovery.**

- **Application of gender equality and human rights-based approaches.**

- **Facilitating sustainable change.**
UN Women’s activities under the EnGenDER project have helped the application of gender equality and building gender-responsive recovery capacity for resilience, through:

- Developing standards
- Increasing knowledge
- Strengthening capacity
Strengthening Capacity
Gender-responsive disaster response and climate adaptation
- Gender Data Analysis training for senior technical officers
- Developing a behavioural change strategy
- COVID-19 subventions to women in hard-hit agricultural and tourism industries.

Strengthening women’s resilience in agricultural industries to enhance women’s economic empowerment, climate resilience and food security (UN HSTF).

- Gender-Responsive review of national agricultural and small business support programmes
- Capacity-building of women small holder farmers for more resilient and gender inclusive food systems.
  - legal counselling, mentoring, business training
Increasing Knowledge
Nine (9) country Gender Inequality of Risk and Cost of Inaction Studies and a Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and practices (KABP) Study.

- Sectoral analyses of the gendered and cultural dimensions of climate and disaster vulnerabilities and their integration in CC / DRR strategies and frameworks.
- Assessment of the differential impact of CC and disasters on women and men: transport, water and food access, safety and security etc.
- Policy analysis and recommendations

Increasing Collection and Use of Data:
Developing Standards
A CARIBBEAN MODEL FOR INCLUSIVE RESILIENT, SECURE AND SMART CITIES

From The Caribbean to the World: Inclusive planning for resilient communities

Launch Objectives

- Accelerate momentum in the Caribbean for participatory, inclusive and gender responsive urban planning approaches.
- Share knowledge on and celebrate local innovative and gender transformative urban planning solutions in the Caribbean that have involved local communities and local action to build resilience.
- Discuss better practices in empowering local and regional governments to create greener, more equitable and sustainable cities.
- Highlight better practices on inclusive policies and raise the voices of the most left behind. Launch the RISS Model to support development of Resilient, Inclusive, Smart and Safe Caribbean SIDS.

The RISS programme is grounded in a human security approach, to enhance safety, capacity, resilience and opportunity for whole communities. It recognizes the intersections of climate change and disaster risk resilience, gender-based violence and economic empowerment and strives to build resilience through strategic, integrated interventions.

Specifically, the programme will integrate the following cross-cutting themes:
1. An integrated approach to vulnerability and resilience

Addressing the intersections of climate change, gender-based violence and women's economic empowerment for transformative and sustainable impact on women and girls.

2. Strengthening business resilience

Increasing access to productive resources, and capital by unlocking innovative financing for gender equality, especially in the Green and Blue economies, and tourism sector.

3. Filling knowledge gaps

Enhancing sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis to guide policy and advocacy, gender mainstreaming and implementation of appropriate actions.
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: BUILD BACK EQUAL PROJECT

DONOR
• Global Affairs Canada

PARTNER
• UN Women MCO (Lead Agency) and UNFPA

DURATION
• 4 years

BBE PROJECT COUNTRIES
• Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia & Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

BUILD BACK EQUAL PROJECT: PRIORITY AREAS

1. Law & Policy
2. Improve Women’s Access to Finance
3. Improve Women’s Business Skills
4. Increased access to Gender Responsive Social Protection
5. Shock Responsive GBV Referral Pathways & Social Protection Services
6. Capacity Building of Government Entities (GBV & SRHRs)
7. Increased ability of Government & CSO to provide GBV Services & SRHs
8. MoHs Strengthen Family Planning (Free of Discrimination)
THANK YOU