

# Caribbean Human Development Report on Citizen Security



## UNDP Human Development Report offers concrete recommendations on how to address security challenges in the Caribbean

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*An independent report facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) calls for a shift from state security to citizens' security in the Caribbean, and presents a Victimization Survey which provides empirical evidence of how insecurity and violence deteriorate human development*

**Port of Spain, 4 September 2011** - Caribbean people now have a vastly wider range of choices than they had in the past. Since the 1960s, there have been significant advances in human development, especially in health care and education, and key improvements in political development. However, several countries of the region are faced with high rates of violent crime and non-criminalized forms of social violence typically directed at members of vulnerable groups. As the elevated rate of violent crime limits choices and life chances, it deteriorates human development. An independent Human Development Report facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) calls for a shift from state security to citizens' security in the Caribbean, while it offers concrete recommendations on how to address security challenges in the region. The Report will be released in December 2011, after a process of national consultations.

Crime and violence require coordinated, national, regional and international responses. While the countries in the region have sought to respond to crime in national jurisdictions and through regional programmes and structures, many of the forms of crime in the region such as drug, weapons and human trafficking and money-laundering transcend national boundaries. There is need to strengthen existing regional approaches designed to address the specific issues faced by Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Given the strong relationship between crime, insecurity and development in this region, it is most appropriate that the problems of crime and insecurity should demand the attention of the first Caribbean Human Development Report for the English and Dutch-speaking countries. This report will provide evidence based recommendations for the development of public policies and programmes to address citizen security issues. Such recommendations will be the result of examining how insecurity and violence have negative impacts on human development in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean countries and within the context of SIDS.

Although the Caribbean consists of more than thirty nations and dependencies or colonies, the geographic scope of this report is restricted to the English and Dutch-speaking countries. The selection of this sub-region was based on the view that insecurity has become a very serious problem and a particularly problematic issue in the English-speaking Caribbean. In addition, systematic work aimed at better understanding the lack of citizen security on a truly regional scale has been somewhat limited.

The central idea of this report is that the Caribbean countries need to complete the shift from state security to citizens' security, a concept associated with security against the threat of crime or violence and is used

to refer to the paramount security of individuals and social groups. Citizen security includes institutional and social actions to protect and guarantee effective liberties and the rights of people through control and prevention of crime and disorder.

The report relies in primary data that was gathered throughout the application of a Victimization Survey, which provides empirical evidence for the analytical examination of how insecurity and violence have negative impacts on human development in the Caribbean. Guided by this main objective, the survey collected indicators on thirteen different subjects.

Seven countries within the Caribbean English and Dutch-speaking countries were selected as the research sites for this report including: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. These countries were selected with variation in mind. They represent the geographic dispersion of the group with countries from the Northern Caribbean (Jamaica), the Southern (Trinidad and Tobago) and the Eastern Caribbean (Saint Lucia). There are island territories (e.g. Barbados) and mainland territories (e.g. Guyana). There is variation in the size including micro-states (Saint Lucia and Antigua) and small states (Jamaica and Trinidad). There is also variation in the levels of development with representation of Very High Human Development countries (Barbados), High Human Development countries (Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago), and Medium Human Development countries (Guyana and Suriname). The selected countries also represent the differences and range of variation in the level, structure and intensity of the crime and insecurity problems in the region. Some 11,155 questionnaires were administered and distributed per country. Among the subjects covered by the victimization survey are: Actual victimization, Domestic Violence, Crimes in the community, Fear of crime in the society, Policy orientations of the population, General performance of the police/Confidence in the police, The Courts/Justice system, Community cohesion.

Human Development Reports are autonomous of UNDP. The team preparing the report is independent, multidisciplinary and draws on perspectives and expertise from diverse groups and institutions as well as from the different Caribbean countries. The Lead Author of the Caribbean HDR is Dr. Anthony Harriott, a Professor of Political Sociology and Director of the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security at the University of the West Indies.

Human Development Reports are produced following participatory and inclusive preparation process. Therefore, focus groups and consultations at the national level have already taken place in Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Saint Lucia and Jamaica. To complete the consultation process and to ensure the widest participation, five multi-stakeholder Large Consultation Events will take place in Paramaribo (Suriname), Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), Bridgetown (Barbados), Castries (Saint Lucia) and Kingston (Jamaica). It is expected that these consultations will allow the Caribbean HDR to tap into the experiences of experts within the region and serve to validate other data sources as well as the interpretation of some of the findings.

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