



SYSTEMATIZATION OF GOOD PRACTICE
PROJECT:
EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
DIASPORA COMMITMENT TO
DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN





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CREDITS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
DFID	United Kingdom Department of International Development
ESDEDC	Effective and Sustainable Diaspora Engagement for Development in the Caribbean
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
IOM	International Organization for Migration
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TOR	Terms of Reference

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INTRODUCTION

The good practice presented below was developed by the Office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Guyana. The project was named the *Effective and Sustainable Diaspora Commitment for Development in the Caribbean* (ESDEDC) and was implemented in four Caribbean countries: Guyana, Belize, Jamaica and Suriname, in a period of approximately 30 months.

The project supported the establishment of multilateral strategies and dynamic partnerships between the countries of origin of the diaspora and the destination countries of these migratory groups: Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, thereby promoting the economic and social empowerment of low-income communities, through the identification of entrepreneurial initiatives and channeling of remittances, enhancing the research skills and pooling of resources by the Caribbean diaspora.

The project that hereafter will be called **Commitment by the Diaspora**, which aspired to contribute to the support that migrants and their families make to the development of their countries, enhancing this income to generate greater economic contributions to communities in financial vulnerability.

This practice contributes to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)¹ (SDGs), specifically Goal 10: Reduce inequalities, focusing on goal 10.7² *Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*. To understand more about the SDGs and migration, consult the guide on migration in the 2030 agenda³.

Similarly, it is linked to the objectives of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)⁴ (GCM) where the focus was on objective 19, *Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries*.

The project coordinator: Eraina Yaw and the IOM Office team in Guyana provided the support to carry out this work and provided the documents that helped to transcribe this experience.

CONTEXT

In the last 60 years, the Caribbean region has been strongly influenced by migration, resulting in one of the largest and most qualified diasporas in the world⁵. Compared with other groups in the global diaspora, a large number of the migrants from the Caribbean are highly qualified.⁶

The new windows of opportunities for professionals and the demands of skilled labor by the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, were supported by immigration legislation, thus favoring the admission of workers to fill certain gaps in commercial sectors.

As a result, there was an increase in the migration flows of qualified professionals to these countries, which produced different consequences for the Caribbean countries:

- Vulnerability of commercial sectors.
- Reduction of workforce availability.
- Internal migration from rural areas to urban areas, which caused instability and poverty.

On the other hand, these migratory movements made it possible to reinforce development in the Caribbean countries, due to the economic contribution and in kind support that migrants sent to their family members, some of whom established businesses or supported community initiatives in their countries of origin.

The InfoDev Diaspora survey of 2013⁷ showed that one in ten members of the Caribbean diaspora invests in commercial companies in the region, and that at least 70% of the diaspora is affiliated with an organization that gives back to their countries of origin to through remittances.

The Diaspora Commitment project was designed to address various areas and needs related to the development of the Caribbean countries and maximizing on the contributions made from destination countries. The commitment of the diaspora through financial support for the creation of small businesses (SMEs) could increase employment opportunities in their countries of origin.

¹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/>

³ https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg_en.pdf

⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/conf/migration/global-compact-for-safe-orderly-regular-migration.shtml>

⁵ This data can be viewed in the document "Migration and Remittances Factbook". World Bank, 2011

⁶ The information was taken from the document "Final proposal Effective and sustainable commitment of the diaspora for development in the Caribbean" of IOM. The document refers to the following link [http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/lttMigLAC/P09_ECLAC\(Port%20of%20Spain\).pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/lttMigLAC/P09_ECLAC(Port%20of%20Spain).pdf) PAGE NOT FOUND

⁷ For more information on the InfoDev Diaspora 2013 survey, visit: https://www.infodev.org/infodev-files/diaspora_investing_december_2013.pdf

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