

# Eastern Caribbean Social Protection Newsletter

Issue No. 6 – October 2016



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## WELCOME TO THE SIXTH EDITION OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SOCIAL PROTECTION NEWSLETTER!

The newsletter is intended to provide an update on key developments in social protection for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). This initiative is a response to the need for better information sharing in the Eastern Caribbean, identified by the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners' Group on Poverty Reduction (ECDPGPR), as part of the partnership coordination mechanisms under the UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS. The newsletter also shares global resources that can be applied to enhance OECS work in effective and efficient delivery of social protection programmes.

The newsletter contains key regional news and events, a knowledge section that outlines some new

publications and research and some on-line training, resources, tools and networks available for social protection stakeholders to benefit and updates on upcoming international events.

The newsletter creates an opportunity for contribution and information sharing among policy makers, practitioners, academia, civil society, and media to be equipped with not only regional key developments in social protection but also international initiatives that can shape up sustainable and efficient social protection systems in the Eastern Caribbean.

**UNICEF on behalf of the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners' Group on Poverty Reduction.**

# 1. Regional News and Events

## 27<sup>th</sup> CARICOM Heads of Social Security Meeting, Bahamas, 27-29 April, 2016



The 27th CARICOM Heads of Social Security Meeting took place in the Bahamas on 27-29 April 2016, and focused on the development of strategies and systems aimed at “Building resilience and sustaining social security in the age of economic uncertainty.”

Mr Ariel Pino, Social Protection and OSH Specialist, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean participated in the meeting. The ILO highlighted that social protection benefits are powerful tools to combat poverty and inequality, and to invest in social and economic development. As such, they are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and meeting targets. Social protection, through policies that are aligned with economic and labour policies, is an economic, social and political necessity. Effective national strategies to extend social security, in line with national circumstances, should aim at achieving universal protection of the population by ensuring at least minimum levels of income security and access to essential health care through the Social Protection Floor and progressively ensuring higher levels of protection. In line with national priorities, resources and circumstances, policies and programmes should aim at building and maintaining comprehensive and adequate social security systems.

Other topics discussed during the meeting included the revision of the CARICOM Social Security Agreement (CASS) and the Memorandum of Understanding on Pooling of Resources. The next CARICOM Heads of Social Security Meeting will take place in Barbados in 2017.

## Launch of Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment, Caribbean Development Bank, 26 July, 2016

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), in collaboration with the OECS Commission, launched its five-year Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) Programme in Saint Lucia on July 26, 2016. There was wide participation by Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) and development partners. This Programme, the sixth in the cycle of CPAs, is designed to improve availability of timely and reliable country monetary and gender-sensitive multidimensional poverty data (MPI) in OECS and non-OECS Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs)<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to improving the availability of statistics, the Programme is intended to further enhance the capacity of BMCs to conduct multidimensional poverty assessments, monitor achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and enhance the capacity of OECS BMCs to use a Geographic Information Systems platform to analyse, map, monitor and report on different dimensions of social and economic well-being. The Programme will provide support to non-OECS countries to build capacity in adopting multidimensional measurement either as stand-alone studies or as part of established national surveys, including, *inter alia*, Labour Force Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Household Budget Surveys. In this cycle, the Programme has been expanded to include The Bahamas, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. It will be implemented with the coordinated and strategic support of development partners who have continued to allocate resources for statistical and analytical capacity building for evidence-based decision-making in the Region.

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<sup>1</sup> The OECS countries participating in the Programme are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS). The non-OECS countries are Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

## UNICEF ECA supporting development of Social Protection Legislation in Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat

The UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area is currently engaged with the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat in developing Social Protection Bills. The overall objective is to provide the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Government of Montserrat a better understanding of its current legislative framework and shift from provision of poverty alleviation to creation of economic interventions. This will in turn improve systematic integration and implementation of appropriate and targeted social protection policies reaching the poorest and vulnerable families, women and children. The legislation provides a framework for guiding the short and long-term goals to achieving a social protection floor in Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat. The framework intends to support the implementation of commitments on national poverty reduction strategies and objectives as well as part of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The specific objectives are:

1. To draft the Social Protection Bill (2016) for Antigua and Barbuda, which would repeal the Poor Relief Act (1961)
2. To draft the Social Protection Bill (2016) for Montserrat
3. To provide the appropriate legislative framework to improve the integration and implementation of social protection policies and programmes to address the needs of the most vulnerable in Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat towards becoming productive members of society.

## UNICEF supporting Budget and Fiscal Space Analyses in Montserrat and Virgin Islands (UK)

UNICEF ECA in partnership with the governments of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands (UK) and DFID is currently conducting two (2) sets of analyses in each country/territory: 1. Budget Analysis for Investments in Children 2. Fiscal Space Analysis for Investment in a Social Protection Floor. The objectives are to analyse:

- Existing national budget policies, social expenditures and investments in social policies for the needs of children;

- Existing 'allocation and operational' effectiveness and efficiency of direct/indirect public allocations for children, and the degree to which gender responsive budgeting and policy development has impacted this efficiency and effectiveness;
- Overall economic and financial situation in both territories, ensuring a gender-responsive analytical lens, to identify the scope of available or potential fiscal space to spend for social protection in a sustainable manner.

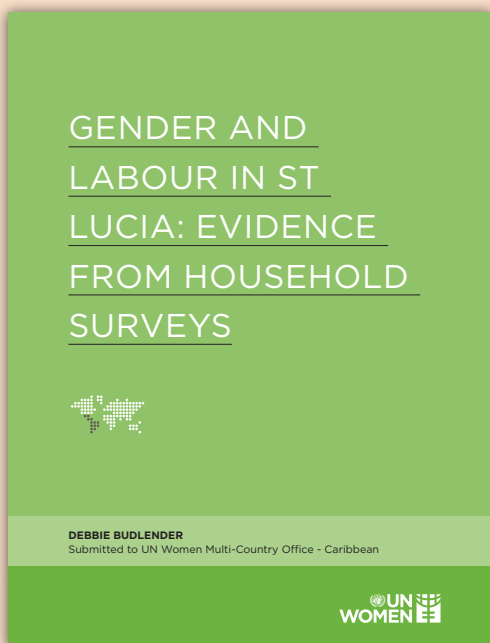
The two studies intend to inform the two territories public finance management reform process that will enhance visibility of resource allocation for children and understand how best to ensure that prioritization of resources are met in the social sectors. Recommendations will be made to increase efficiency and effectiveness and shape the national policy development priorities for children.

## OECS SP Technical Committee Social Policy Toolkit Webinar and Meeting

On 28<sup>th</sup> July, the OECS Commission held a webinar on the Social Policy Toolkit that was developed in close collaboration with UNICEF. A total of twenty-three representatives from six Member states participated to learn how the toolkit can add value to strengthening respective social policies. The webinar also served as a capacity building for policy makers and programmers.

The OECS SP Technical Committee convened virtually on 28<sup>th</sup> July with a total of sixteen members (including representatives from Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Grenada, and St Vincent and the Grenadines) that came together to discuss on the updates and challenges faced in the implementation of the social protection reform. Specific agenda item discussed included: the strengthening of the OSPTC and Member States, a review of the status of member States re growth in the area of human and social development sphere, the use of information technology systems and tools in social protection programming and the creation of a more efficient system of social data management in the sub-region.

## 2. New Publications and Research



### **Gender and Labour in Saint Lucia: Evidence from Household Surveys, UN Women, 2016**

This paper draws together findings from an analysis of data from two surveys conducted in Saint Lucia; the Saint Lucia Survey of Living Conditions 2005/06 and the Quarterly Labour Force Surveys conducted in 2012 and highlights findings in relation to poverty, gender and unemployment. This paper is intended to inform UN Women's support in Saint Lucia and the region more broadly.

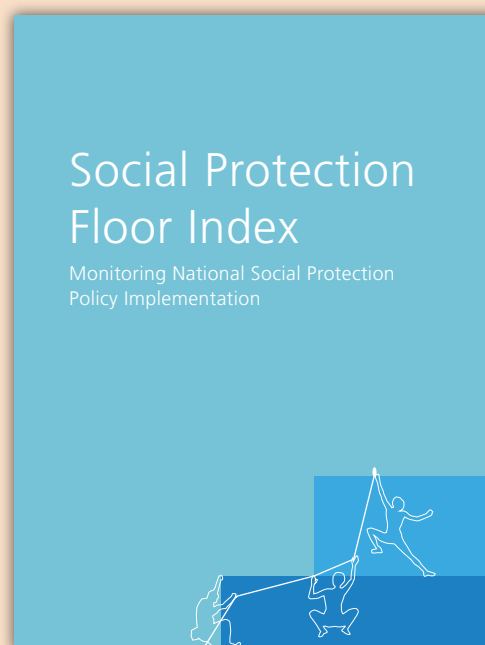
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### **The Changing Nature of Poverty and Inequality in the Caribbean: New Issues, New Solutions, Caribbean Development Bank, May 2016**

As part of its knowledge building thrust, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) commissioned a study entitled "The Changing Nature of Poverty and Inequality in the Caribbean: New Issues, New Solutions". As captioned in the executive summary: the study is motivated by the need to understand the changing characteristics of the poor and vulnerable in the Caribbean both within current and new and emerging perspectives on poverty and inequality. It provides fresh thinking on the

transformative shifts in policies, approaches/strategies and institutions that are required to not only speed up the pace of poverty reduction in the Caribbean, but also to expand opportunities for the most vulnerable by promoting inclusive prosperity.

[LINK](#)



### **Social Protection Floor Index: Monitoring National Social Protection Policy Implementation, M. Bierbaum, Oppel, A.; Tromp, S. Cichon, M. 2016**

This document is a methodological tool to calculate the Social Protection Floor Index (SPFI). The SPFI has been developed to assess the degree of implementation of national SPFs, by detecting protection gaps in the health and income dimension and indicating the magnitude of financial resources needed to close these gaps in relation to a country's economic capacity. The SPFI thus informs members, trade unions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders about the need for corrective policy action, compares the implementation of SPFs across members, and, in future, monitors members' progress over time.

[LINK](#)

### 3. Online Training, Resources, Tools and Networks



**International Labour Organization**

**Social protection assessment based national dialogue: A good practices guide. ILO, 2016.**

This guide helps users to conduct assessment-based national dialogue (ABND) exercises, which are the first step towards implementing nationally defined social protection floors (SPFs). The ABND exercise is based on national multi-stakeholder dialogue concerning social protection strategies, challenges and concrete areas of action. It offers a unique opportunity for UN agencies to build on the synergies of one another and deliver as “One UN” for more efficiency and greater impact.

[LINK](#)



**Inter-American Social Protection Network**

**Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN)**

The Inter-American Social

Protection Network (IASPN) is a community of practice for national social development ministries and agencies, in collaboration with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia, to promote the exchange and transfer of experiences and knowledge on social protection.

[LINK](#)



**Centre for Social Protection**

**Centre for Social Protection, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)**

The Centre for Social Protection (CSP) supports a global network of partners working to mainstream social protection development policy and encourage social protection systems and instruments that are comprehensive, long-term, sustainable and pro-poor. The CSP also provides a range of training activities for organisations and individuals in social protection thinking and analysis, and to share lessons and research from social protection policy and practice. A range of short training



courses are provided to institutions that are seeking a long term engagement with the Centre to build knowledge and capacity in social protection programming.

[LINK](#)



**Overseas Development Institute (ODI)**

ODI’s mission is to inspire and inform policy and practice which lead to the reduction of poverty, the alleviation of suffering and the achievement of sustainable livelihoods in developing countries. The ODI Social Protection Programme aims to support the design and implementation of effective social protection policy and programming in poor countries.

[LINK](#)



## 4. Upcoming International Events

### **“Towards improved investment in children within the Sustainable Development Agenda”, Mexico, October 24-25, 2016**

UNICEF and the Government of Mexico, through the Ministry of Finance (SHCP), the Mexican Development Assistance Agency (Amexcid), and the Executive Secretary of Child and Adolescent Rights (SIPINNA) will convene the International Conference: “Towards improved investment in children within the Sustainable Development Agenda” that will take place in Mexico City on October 24 and 25, 2016.

The conference aims to create a space for dialogue and exchange where participants can present recent innovations and challenges with respect to both public and private financing for the post-2015 agenda, with specific focus on the Goals related to children.

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### **G20 E-Learning on Social Protection, International Training Centre of ILO, 5 September - 02 December 2016**

The course is designed for policy-planners, advisers and technical staff working in relevant governmental structures and social security institutions as well as representatives of workers’ or employer’s organizations involved in the development and implementation of social protection programmes.

This course provides advanced knowledge and management tools relating to feasibility studies of national social protection floors through fiscal space analysis and poverty impact assessment. The course will focus on practical ways to establish the analytical fact base for the implementation of national social protection floors. It is intended as an introduction to technical assessments in the field of costing and poverty impact assessment for a comprehensive social protection system.

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### **Designing Effective Impact Evaluations, Institute for Development Studies, 16 - 20 January 2017**

This five day course tackles an emerging problem in development evaluation: how to ensure that we have the right mix of methods to provide relevant and credible impact evidence. In order to do this, we need to achieve a better understanding of the potential contribution of various evaluation designs and methods, and create the space for thinking this through and incorporating it into our practice.

The course will focus on the use of a wide range of methodologies to meet the growing demands for evidence of impact, particularly as the global community seeks to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The course provides the necessary framing to make better informed design choices, while not being exhaustive on any one particular methodology.

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# 5. About Us

This publication has been produced by the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area with support from its development partners including; UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, FAO, ILO, UNECLAC, the World Bank, the OECS Secretariat, OAS, DFID, CDB, JICA and the Delegation of the European Union for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

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