

Report to Congress on Strengthening Disaster Resilience in the Caribbean Region

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) submits this report, pursuant to Section 7019(e) of Division K of P.L. 117-328, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024, which incorporates by reference the requirements of House Report H. Report 118-146 on strengthening disaster resilience in the Caribbean region:

Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of USAID shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, detailing the uses and intended uses of all funds provided by this Act and prior acts for strengthening the resilience of countries in the Caribbean against natural disasters.

BODY OF REPORT

Congress has directed USAID to use \$17 million in fiscal year (FY) 2023 Development Assistance funds to design and implement interventions in the Caribbean that enhance island disaster recovery and resilience capacity and help the region to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Building off of similar prior year allocations for disaster resilience in Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022, these funds will allow USAID to address resilience-related issues and gaps in the Caribbean region, and will complement and build upon USAID Missions' bilateral programs focused on building resilience to climate change.

In 2022, USAID launched the Caribbean Vision for Climate and Disaster Resilience (see [Attachment 1](#)) as a unifying framework for climate and disaster resilience programming in the Caribbean region. Programs under the Caribbean Vision directly support USAID's 2022-2030 Climate Strategy goals and contribute to U.S. Government initiatives like the U.S.-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030 (PACC 2030) and the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE). USAID, in consultation with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs Office of Caribbean Affairs, has reviewed disaster resilience activities to ensure that they will support and advance the goals of these initiatives.

To support Caribbean Resilience and Disaster Management, USAID allocated the following funding levels to Caribbean operating units for FY 2023:

- Dominican Republic (DR) in the amount of \$1.75 million
- Eastern and Southern Caribbean (ESC) in the amount of \$7.25 million;
- Haiti in the amount of \$2 million;
- Jamaica in the amount of \$3 million;
- USAID Caribbean Development Program in the amount of \$2 million;
- USAID Latin America and Caribbean Regional (LAC/RSD) in the amount of \$1 million; and
- USAID/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) provided \$20.4 million in FY 2023 for

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Caribbean region.

Dominican Republic - \$1.75 million

In the Dominican Republic, USAID will build climate and disaster resilience through promoting water security and sustainable livelihoods by reducing pressures on key water sources, enhancing watershed governance, and strengthening climate adaptation practices in vulnerable communities. This activity will catalyze private sector engagement to strengthen the capacity of local community organizations to adapt to climate shocks in the northern border region between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Additionally, the activity will improve access to climate information at the local level, allowing for timely decision making as a response to potential disasters or climate-driven events.

Eastern and Southern Caribbean - \$7.25 million

In the Eastern and Southern Caribbean, USAID will work with public and private sector entities to reduce constraints to climate and disaster finance. With technical assistance, USAID will help governments develop, update, and implement financial instruments for climate and disaster-related investments. USAID will also support Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), particularly those in the agriculture sector, to increase the adoption of climate smart technologies and practices. Programming will also improve availability, accessibility, and use of climate data to enhance climate services and support climate-informed decision making and climate-smart planning in the ESC region.

Through a new activity, USAID/ESC will build the resilience of MSMEs to withstand climate crises and support their efforts to maintain livelihoods more quickly after disasters. Targeted activities for MSMEs include business growth boot camps, advisory services, and partner matching.

Haiti - \$2 million

In targeted watersheds and coastal areas in Haiti, USAID will support smart land and coastal resource management practices to improve soil conservation, increase landscape systems productivity, enhance livelihood and income benefits for households, offset carbon emissions, and enhance water retention. By investing in landscape management and watershed restoration, USAID helps communities increase tree cover and reduce and prevent erosion, landslides, and flooding, which are exacerbated by climate change.

Jamaica - \$3 million

USAID/Jamaica will implement two new activities: one focused on strengthening Jamaica's ability to withstand or rebound quickly from disasters and climate change, and one focused on strengthening Jamaica's energy resilience to disasters.

The first activity will identify and implement strategic adaptation and disaster risk reduction approaches at the national and subnational level. The activity will support adaptation and

disaster risk reduction planning for parishes and communities; training for improved water management in key sectors such as tourism and agriculture; improved early warning systems for flash floods; and nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction.

The second activity will help strengthen the ability of Jamaica's energy sector to withstand or rebound quickly from disasters. USAID will help ensure energy resilience best practices are incorporated into the Government of Jamaica's infrastructure planning and will foster partnerships between government and the private sector. This activity will also help advance Jamaica's solar and wind power generation efforts and rooftop solar policy which are a critical element of disaster resilience.

Caribbean Development Program - \$2 million

USAID's Caribbean Development Program will mitigate the effects of seasonal climate events, including coastal flooding, coastal erosion, and severe rainfall, while building the resilience of coastal communities. Climate adaptation efforts will focus on preserving high biodiversity areas like coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds which provide climate resilience to sectors and communities depending on them. USAID will work with the tourism sector to advocate for marine protected areas, improve solid waste management, and promote sustainable fisheries to reduce biodiversity threats.

The Caribbean Development Program will continue to bolster the performance and disaster resilience of energy systems in the region. With FY 2023 funding, USAID will provide technical assistance to improve regulatory frameworks and improve the enabling environment to increase the deployment of renewable energy and the adoption of battery storage technologies, which reduces reliance on one central source of power generation. Capacity-building for electric utilities will also strengthen the resilience of the power grid to better withstand the impacts from tropical storms and hurricanes.

USAID Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean/Regional Sustainable Development - \$1 million

USAID Latin America Regional Program (LAC/RP) will support USAID missions and partner countries in the Caribbean to address climate risks. LAC/RP technical assistance to USAID missions and partner countries in the Caribbean will contribute to increased preparedness for natural disasters, by, for example, providing technical expertise on how to make watershed management and planning more inclusive and disaster-resilient and how to increase the resilience of critical energy facilities to withstand changing change impacts and disasters. LAC/RP will also provide technical assistance for project design and procurement of activities that aim to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean financial systems to prepare, respond and rebound from disasters. For example, this could include technical assistance for banks and other financial systems to ensure they systematically account for the impact of climate risks on their portfolios.

USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) - \$20.4 Million

With FY 2023 funding, USAID/BHA continued to support the improvement of emergency preparedness and access to early warning and response systems across the Caribbean region. These activities aimed to mitigate the adverse effects of natural hazards, climate change, and technological risks through training, capacity assessments, and strengthening community-led disaster response and contingency planning, with a focus on youth leadership and engagement. For community-led disaster resiliency, USAID/BHA is particularly focused on strengthening local organizations, through direct funding and through a regional program dedicated to capacity building and funding of local organizations. USAID/BHA also strengthens the operational capacity of the regional disaster risk reduction agency and member states in end-to-end supply chain management and emergency telecommunications, and supports investments into the strengthening of social protection systems in reaching populations impacted by disaster, including their role in the last mile of delivery of transfers.

USAID/BHA supports the rehabilitation of water distribution points and community engagement efforts in Haiti to implement disaster risk management countermeasures, particularly for youth, and enhance resilience to sudden-onset shocks, such as earthquakes. Of this \$20.4 million, USAID/BHA is providing approximately \$10.6 million to Resilience Food Security Activities to improve food and nutrition security, and resilience to shocks, building resilience capacities at the household, community and structural level.

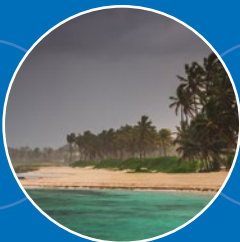
In FY 2024, USAID/BHA will continue to support these emergency preparedness, early warning and response systems efforts across the region, building upon capacities strengthened in previous years. The focus on strengthening community-led disaster response and regional capacity building is critical, as USAID/BHA will leverage previous achievements in capacity building to prepare for the upcoming 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, predicted to be extremely active.

Attachments:

1. [USAID Caribbean Vision for Climate and Disaster Resilience Report](#)

CARIBBEAN VISION

FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE



USAID
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CONTRACT INFORMATION

This program is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of its requisition number REQ LAC-19-000022 (LAC Environment Support Services Contract (LAC ESSC)) implemented by prime recipient Environmental Incentives, LLC (EI) with partner ICF Macro, Inc. LAC ESSC has been issued under contract number GS-00F-193DA and supports the same program objectives as described in RFQ number 7200AA19M00008. LAC ESSC is funded and managed by the USAID Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Office of Regional Sustainable Development and Environmental activities.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS VISION	5
WHY IS A REGIONAL VISION NEEDED?	5
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN VISION	7
GOALS AND CONTRIBUTING APPROACHES.....	10
GOAL 1: OVERVIEW FOSTER STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION AMONG MISSIONS, GOVERNMENTS, INSTITUTIONS, AND DONORS	12
GOAL 2: BUILD EFFECTIVE DATA SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT DECISION-MAKING	13
GOAL 3: STRENGTHEN EXISTING INSTITUTIONS TO MANAGE CLIMATE RISK COMPREHENSIVELY	14
GOAL 4: SECURE EFFECTIVE CLIMATE FINANCING STRATEGIES TO BUILD CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE CAPACITY	15
MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING	16
GENERAL APPROACH.....	16
LEARNING QUESTIONS.....	16
MONITORING	17
MANAGEMENT APPROACH.....	16
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	18
ANNEX 1. ASSESSMENT	18
ANNEX 2. USAID AND U.S. GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES, AND PRIORITIES.....	18
ANNEX 3. CURRENT CONTRIBUTING USAID ACTIVITIES.....	20
ANNEX 4. PARTICIPATING BUREAUS AND MISSIONS	20

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

FIGURE 1: MAP OF COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE CARIBBEAN VISION	6
FIGURE 2: CARIBBEAN VISION FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE INFOGRAPHIC.....	9
FIGURE 3: ELEMENTS OF ADAPTIVE CAPACITY THAT GUIDED THE GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT	10
FIGURE 4: U.S. GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES	18
FIGURE 5: USAID PRIORITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION.....	19
TABLE 1: THE CARIBBEAN VISION GOALS, CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATIVE APPROACHES, AND OPERATING UNITS.....	11
TABLE 2: CARIBBEAN VISION FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE INDICATORS.....	17
TABLE 3: CURRENT USAID ACTIVITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO REACHING THE CARIBBEAN VISION GOALS.....	20
TABLE 4: CARIBBEAN VISION CONTRIBUTORS' INFORMATION.....	20



ACRONYMS

BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
CDP	Caribbean Development Program
ESC	Eastern and Southern Caribbean
FY	Fiscal year
IMEM	Integrated Marine Ecosystem Management
LAC	Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean
MEL	Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
PACC	U.S.-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030
PREPARE	President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience
PV	Photovoltaic
RFS	Bureau for Resilience and Food Security
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

USAID's Caribbean Vision

USAID envisions a climate resilient Caribbean region whose stakeholders can collectively prevent, respond to, and recover from the negative impacts of climate change and protect the most vulnerable.



Photo: Storm damaged beach on the island of Barbuda.

ABOUT THIS VISION

WHY IS A REGIONAL VISION NEEDED?

Regional Context

The Caribbean region is highly vulnerable to climate hazards, including hurricanes and tropical storms, sea-level rise, coastal flooding, saltwater intrusion, and drought. From 1960 to 2014, the average tropical cyclone in the Caribbean caused \$352 million (in constant 2010 dollars) in damages.¹ Regionally, projections say the estimated cost of inaction will exceed \$10 billion by 2025 and \$20 billion annually by 2050, representing approximately 5 and 10 percent of regional gross domestic product, respectively.² The economic losses due to hurricanes alone may reach \$30–\$40 million per year by 2050 for just the Bahamas, Haiti, and Jamaica and increase exponentially by 2100. The majority of income losses across the Caribbean from increased tropical storm intensity will fall on the poorest quartiles of the Caribbean economy.³ These losses are coupled with an increased cost of humanitarian assistance—for example in fiscal year (FY) 2021, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) provided more than \$706 million for emergency response activities

in 13 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.⁴

Caribbean small island developing states are particularly predisposed to be adversely affected by climate change given natural resource constraints, high exposure to natural hazards, and the high dependence of island economies on climate-sensitive natural resources and supply chains for food and fuel imports. Projected increases in climate variability and change in the coming years will continue to threaten livelihoods, public health and safety, agriculture, natural resources, the built environment, and the financial stability and security of Caribbean nations.⁵ The interactions and cascading impacts of multiple and frequent hazards compound the challenge of disaster response and climate change adaptation. The visibility of small island developing states at the 26th U.N. Conference of the Parties (COP26) climate negotiations brought increased attention and funding from numerous governments, including the U.S. Government, to address the issue of equitable, inclusive climate resilience for the Caribbean's climate-vulnerable countries and communities.

1 Acevedo, S. 2016. Gone with the Wind: Estimating Hurricane and Climate Change Costs in the Caribbean. *International Monetary Fund Working Papers*. Volume 2016: Issue 199. <https://doi.org/10.5089/9781475544763.001>.

2 Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). 2012. "The Implementation Plan for the CARICOM 'Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.'" In *Caribbean Community: The Struggle for Survival*, by K. and C. Myrtle Hall, 198–226. USA: Trafford Publishing. <http://www.theintegrationistcaribbean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/The-Implementation-Plan-for-the-CARICOM-Regional-Framework-for-Achieving-Development-Resilient-to-Climate-Change.pdf>

3 Moore, Elliott, W., & Lorde, T. 2016. Climate change, Atlantic storm activity and the regional socio-economic impacts on the Caribbean. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 19(2), 707–726. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-016-9763-1>

4 USAID. 2021. *Humanitarian Snapshot: USAID/BHA in Latin America and the Caribbean*. https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USAID-BHA_LAC_Humanitarian_Snapshot-FY_2021.pdf

5 USAID. 2022. *USAID Climate Resilience and Disaster Recovery Assessment for the Caribbean Region: Gaps and Opportunities Assessment Report*. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z9P8.pdf



FIGURE 1. MAP OF COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE CARIBBEAN VISION

U.S. Government and USAID Context

The Caribbean Vision for Climate and Disaster Resilience (hereafter referred to as “the Caribbean Vision”) responds to the U.S. Government’s recognition of the urgent need to address the Caribbean region’s vulnerabilities to natural hazards and climate change impacts. This Vision is aligned with and will contribute to the U.S. Government’s climate priorities and strategies. The work under the Caribbean Vision, complemented by the regional Caribbean Energy Initiative launched in 2019, will directly contribute to several important U.S. Government initiatives, including the newly announced U.S.–Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030 (PACC 2030) and the President’s Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE).

Launched in 2021, PREPARE is a coordinated, whole-of-government approach that brings together the diplomatic, development, and technical expertise of the U.S. to support more than half a billion people in developing countries to adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change through locally led development by 2030. As a core agency for PREPARE, USAID will respond to partner countries’ adaptation priorities, strengthen cooperation with other donors, integrate climate risk considerations into multilateral efforts, and strive to mobilize significant private-sector capital for adaptation.

USAID’s 2022–2030 Climate Strategy supports USAID’s implementation of U.S. Government executive orders on the climate crisis with a holistic

approach to interventions. The strategy guides the Agency's efforts to target climate change resources strategically, ramp up climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, and further integrate climate change considerations into international development and humanitarian assistance programs across all sectors.

At the Caribbean level, the Administration launched PACC 2030 in June 2022 to mobilize support for Caribbean states under the dual pillars of climate resilience and clean energy. The Caribbean Vision represents USAID's climate resilience response in the region under PACC 2030, while the Caribbean Energy Initiative supports the PACC 2030's clean energy priorities (see Annex 2.a).

The Caribbean Vision also aligns and builds on the ongoing work of USAID Missions in the region. Through a mix of strategic frameworks, and Regional and Country Development Cooperation Strategies, Caribbean Missions prioritize climate resilience and reduction of disaster risk from natural hazards and climate change impact, including the importance of working at the community level. USAID's priority programming in the region includes support for biodiversity and natural resources, communities and vulnerable populations, governance, energy resilience and efficiency, disaster risk reduction, infrastructure, and

key economic sectors and livelihoods, including agriculture and tourism (see Annex 2.b). USAID's development objectives in each of these sectors are significantly influenced by the climate risks confronting the region and the degree of climate and disaster resilience capacity the region and individual countries possess to address these risks. Although Caribbean countries' climate risk and resilience capacities vary widely, a regional approach to address climate impacts has the benefit of coordinated actions and economies of scale for key interventions such as financing and climate data.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN VISION

The purpose of the Caribbean Vision is to provide USAID with a cohesive high-level framework for climate and disaster resilience capacity programming in the Caribbean region (see Figure 1). The USAID Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and representatives from Missions in the region developed the Caribbean Vision to describe, guide, and measure USAID's investments and report the results of the Agency's work on building climate and disaster resilience capacity at a regional scale.

The Caribbean Vision seeks to build on regional capacities, regional partners, and regional economies of scale. USAID programming guided by the Caribbean Vision is meant to complement



USAID defines resilience as

“the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.”

the work of humanitarian assistance that responds in the immediate aftermath of these shocks and ultimately reduce the need for such assistance. The alignment of regional and bilateral programming across the Caribbean enables USAID to create synergies that increase the Agency's overall impact. A shared set of climate and disaster resilience and goals across regional operating units facilitates internal and external coordination, communication, and reporting. With a unified approach to programming and reporting, results can be more easily consolidated and used for communicating impact in a persuasive manner. USAID's clear framing of climate and disaster resilience priorities for the region will help ensure clarity internally and externally with key partners and can be used to galvanize collective action.

USAID LAC Bureau, BHA, the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS), and Mission representatives from the Dominican Republic, Eastern and Southern Caribbean (ESC), Haiti, and Jamaica collaborated to develop the Caribbean Vision from late 2021 to early 2022 (see Annex 4). Its development was informed by the 2022 *USAID Climate Resilience and Disaster Recovery Capacity Assessment for the Caribbean Region—Gaps and Opportunities Assessment Report* and the contributions of the Caribbean Missions and USAID Washington through a series of workshops held in early 2022.



Photo: Heather Suggitt, Unsplash

The assessment recommended USAID:

- » Supports coordination mechanisms with bilateral and multilateral donors to enhance aligned and strategic investments, focusing on long-term funding that better meets the needs of Caribbean institutions.
- » Expands two-way data collection to build access to local, actionable climate information and co-develop tailored information products with sector practitioners, climate information providers, and private-sector actors.
- » Supports regional and national universities and technical institutes to develop and deliver curricula on climate change science and adaptation technologies.
- » Supports significant scale-up of private-sector investment in adaptation and climate resilience by supporting governments and financial institutions to develop the policy and regulatory environment and financing products required to de-risk private-sector investment and attract private-sector participation.

The full *Gaps and Opportunities Assessment* contains a more complete list of these recommendations (see Annex 1).

This Caribbean Vision document presents the results of these efforts (see Figure 2). It includes four high-level regional goals, a small set of prioritized illustrative approaches, and a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) component. The Vision is a living document responsive to regional strategies and priorities and, therefore, likely to change over time.

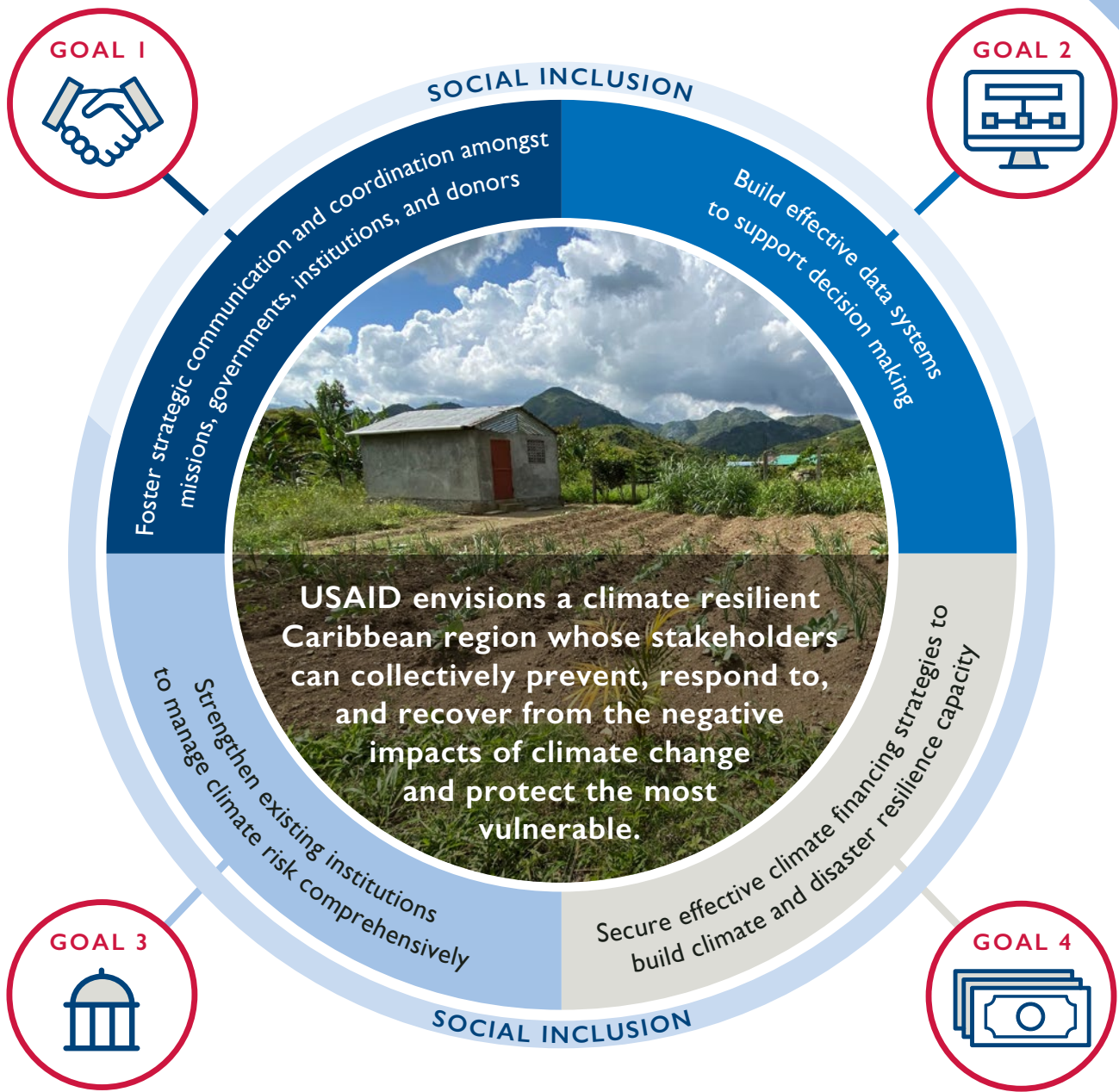


FIGURE 2. CARIBBEAN VISION FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE INFOGRAPHIC

Photo: Farm in Haiti

GOALS AND CONTRIBUTING APPROACHES



Photo: Renaldo Matamor, Unsplash

OVERVIEW

USAID seeks to strengthen Caribbean nations' capacities to adapt to climate change and prevent, respond to, and recover from natural disasters in general. This Caribbean Vision builds on the work Caribbean countries and their institutions, as well as regional bodies, are already doing to build resilience to climate shocks and stresses. Cross-cutting themes of the Caribbean Vision include:

- » **Caribbean institutions' and stakeholders' collective capacity:** The Caribbean Vision emphasizes the importance of strengthening the capacity of institutions and stakeholders to build climate and disaster resilience capacity.
- » **Vulnerable populations and social inclusion:** The Caribbean Vision learning agenda will inform design and implementation for approaches under each goal to contribute to social inclusion and improve the resilience of the most vulnerable.

At its core, this Vision is grounded in the assumption that if USAID contributes to building the adaptive capacities of systems, institutions, and communities to absorb, withstand, and transform in the face of ongoing climate stressors, it will strengthen climate and disaster resilience capacity in the Caribbean. The Caribbean Vision draws on the elements of adaptive capacity outlined in USAID's Climate Risk Management Framework, which guided the *Gaps and Opportunities Assessment* (see Figure 3). The four identified goals of the Caribbean Vision are to foster communication and coordination; build effective data systems

to support decision-making; strengthen existing institutions to manage climate risk comprehensively; and secure effective climate financing strategies to build climate and disaster resilience capacity. The

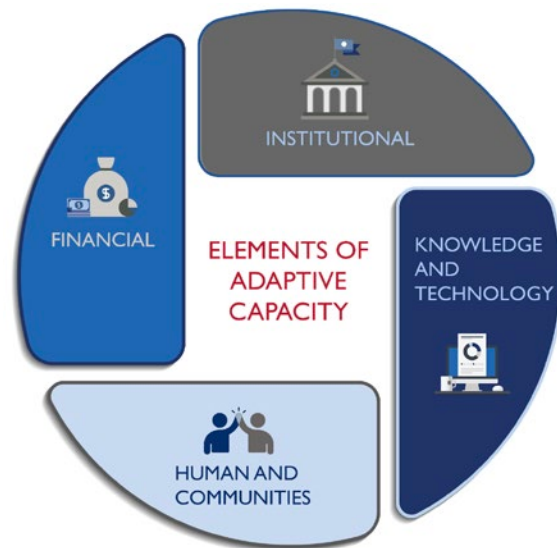


FIGURE 3. ELEMENTS OF ADAPTIVE CAPACITY THAT GUIDED THE GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESMENT





first Caribbean Vision goal focuses on fostering strategic communication and coordination as a means to enhance the effectiveness of the other three goals, which reflect three of the four elements of adaptive capacity (institutional, knowledge and technology, and financial). The human and communities element cuts across the Caribbean Vision goals. Together, the Vision's four goals focus

on creating the enabling environment for increased climate and disaster resilience capacity (see Table 1 for illustrative approaches to reach these goals and Annex 3 for current USAID activities that contribute to these goals).

disproportionately suffer the negative impacts of climate change. In line with PREPARE and USAID’s Climate Change Strategy, equitable, inclusive development is central to programming contributing to the Caribbean Vision.

All Caribbean Vision-related work has the goal of improving the lives of the most vulnerable, who

TABLE 1: THE CARIBBEAN VISION GOALS, CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATIVE APPROACHES, AND OPERATING UNITS

Goals	Contributing Illustrative Approaches	Operating Units
 <p>GOAL 1: Foster strategic communication and coordination among Missions, governments, institutions, and donors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Collaborate with existing institutions/platforms to promote donor coordination and leveraging of synergies (e.g., Caribbean resilience fund, utilizing a database, etc.) » Support South–South exchanges and knowledge sharing (e.g., connecting governments and local institutions) » Create formal and informal structures and processes that enable Mission–Mission and donor–donor knowledge sharing 	All
 <p>GOAL 2: Build effective data systems to support decision-making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Support existing institutions, especially those that manage and maintain data systems, and build the capacities of others in the area of data systems » Provide technical assistance related to data systems and data sharing » Strengthen capacity related to data packaging and appropriate digital technologies that respond to end user needs 	Caribbean Development Program (CDP), Dominican Republic, ESC, Jamaica
 <p>GOAL 3: Strengthen existing institutions to manage climate risk comprehensively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Support stakeholders to create comprehensive risk strategies, analyses, and plans » Provide institutional strengthening support to regional implementing partners, including national conservation/environment trust funds » Create programs tailored to and targeting vulnerable groups 	Dominican Republic, ESC, Haiti
 <p>GOAL 4: Secure effective climate financing strategies to build climate and disaster resilience capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identify existing analyses and, as necessary, undertake an analysis of climate finance bottlenecks and challenges to identify solutions and productive strategies, including leveraging government social protection systems » Collaborate with non-traditional actors in the area of climate finance (e.g., World Bank, Green Climate Fund) » Create regional-level financing mechanisms that can be applied at the local level (e.g., risk insurance for communities) 	CDP, Dominican Republic, ESC

GOAL 1.

Foster Strategic Communication and Coordination Among Missions, Governments, Institutions, and Donors



GOAL OVERVIEW

Operationalizing strategic communication and coordination among USAID Missions, governments, institutions, and donors is key to ensuring cross-learning, building partnerships, and coordinating regional impact. Under Goal 1, USAID will continue and expand communication and coordination efforts to advance actions in support of country-level and regional strategic frameworks.

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATIVE APPROACHES

- » Collaborate with existing institutions/platforms to promote donor coordination and leveraging of synergies (e.g., Caribbean resilience fund, utilizing a database, etc.)
- » Support South–South exchanges and knowledge sharing (e.g., connecting governments and local institutions)
- » Create formal and informal structures and processes that enable Mission–Mission and donor–donor knowledge sharing

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Strengthening Energy Sector Resilience in Jamaica is a three-year partnership (2020–2023) between USAID/Jamaica and an alliance of Jamaican and international private-sector and non-profit organizations to accelerate the adoption of distributed solar energy to increase energy resilience in Jamaica. The alliance will drive photovoltaic (PV) and storage demand through outreach and awareness efforts; reduce barriers to navigating PV+ regulatory and administrative processes; develop the local PV+ workforce through training programs; install a pilot demonstration project featuring utility-scale batteries; and map suitable sites for renewable energy development. The program also supports workforce development and training, including USAID-funded scholarships for disadvantaged students interested in becoming certified solar and battery system installers.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

The Integrated Marine Ecosystem Management Program (IMEM) (2019–2022) in Northern Hispaniola, is part of the CDP managed by USAID/Dominican Republic. The activity aims to improve the management and conservation of marine ecosystems along the northern coast of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, while minimizing economic and cultural disruption to the communities that depend on those ecosystems. Through various working groups and cross-border collaboration at the local level, IMEM builds capacity and fosters collaborative relationships that support behavior change among fishers and farmers along the Haitian-Dominican border. Additionally, the program contributes to the protection of northern Hispaniola ecosystems. In turn, the reduction of threats to these coastal ecosystems increases climate resilience given coastal resources' importance for livelihoods, food security, and coastal infrastructure.

GOAL 2.

Build Effective Data Systems to Support Decision-making



GOAL OVERVIEW

To support decision-making in climate and disaster resilience, USAID envisions complementing significant technical, scientific, and sector knowledge at the regional level through Goal 2 programming, which will address gaps in the collection and use of local data and information and strengthen dissemination and use of sectoral technologies.

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATIVE APPROACHES

- » Support existing institutions, especially those that manage and maintain data systems, and build the capacities of others in the area of data systems
- » Provide technical assistance related to data systems and data sharing
- » Strengthen capacity related to data packaging and appropriate digital technologies that respond to end user needs

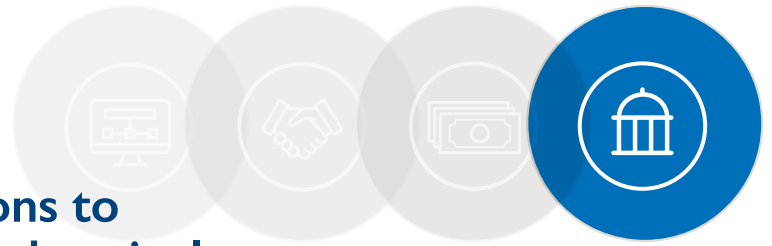


PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

From 2019 to 2022, USAID/ESC partnered with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology to address critical gaps to strengthen the region's ability to respond to natural disasters while building resilience to climate variability through **Strengthening Disaster and Climate Resilience in the ESC**. USAID provided \$1.8 million for a series of targeted activities that build resilience in the region. The project improved systems to support efficient disaster recovery and response to natural disasters, and strengthened early warning systems to improve response to hydro-meteorological and hydrological systems. Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Kitts and Nevis benefit from these activities.

GOAL 3.

Strengthen Existing Institutions to Manage Climate Risk Comprehensively



GOAL OVERVIEW

Wide-ranging levels of capacity to manage climate risk across the region is further accentuated by the Caribbean's increasing vulnerability to natural hazards and climate impacts. Through Goal 3, USAID will support proactive risk management as a cornerstone of long-term, transformative resilience.

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATIVE APPROACHES

- » Support stakeholders to create comprehensive risk strategies, analyses, and plans
- » Provide institutional strengthening support to regional implementing partners, including national conservation/environment trust funds
- » Create programs tailored to and targeting vulnerable groups



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

The **USAID Reforestation Project** in Haiti is a five-year cooperative agreement (2017–2022) that aims to reverse the long-term trends of environmental degradation and tree cover loss in the Nord and Nord-Est departments of Haiti through resilience activities that create sustainable reforestation and build the assets of communities. The project's objective is to increase tree cover in target areas while reducing the threat of deforestation, improving resilience to economic and natural shocks, and improving environmental governance and coordination. Project interventions include building the capacity of targeted groups and local governments to develop and implement subwatershed management plans that promote productive land use, reduce disaster risks, and improve natural resource management governance.

GOAL 4.

Secure Effective Climate Financing Strategies to Build Climate and Disaster Resilience Capacity



GOAL OVERVIEW

Long-term, stable financing is needed to build absorptive and transformative resilience and increase the region's ability to address climate risk at scale and speed. Under Goal 4, USAID will collaborate with public and private-sector actors to identify solutions for climate finance bottlenecks and create financing mechanisms to increase the flow of and make equitable financing for climate and disaster resilience.

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATIVE APPROACHES

- » Identify existing analyses and, as necessary, undertake an analysis of climate finance bottlenecks and challenges to identify solutions and productive strategies, including leveraging government social protection systems
- » Collaborate with non-traditional actors in the area of climate finance (e.g., World Bank, Green Climate Fund)
- » Create regional-level financing mechanisms that can be applied at the local level (e.g., risk insurance for communities)



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

The **USAID/ESC-funded Climate Change Adaptation Program** (2016–2020) provided capacity building support to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre's project development facility, resulting in the mobilization of approximately \$55.7 million from the global Green Climate Fund. In addition, the resources enabled the development of the fund's pipeline projects worth \$300 million across Caribbean Community Member States.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING



Photo: Renaldo Matamoro, Unsplash

GENERAL APPROACH

To the extent possible, all USAID operating units in the Caribbean will contribute to achieve USAID's Caribbean Vision by aligning new climate and disaster resilience investments to the four high-level goals. Missions throughout the Caribbean will implement and report on complementary bilateral and regional climate and disaster resilience programming that contributes to the overarching Caribbean Vision statement and goals. Technical staff will share information on new programs and indicators and participate in ongoing reflection, learning, and knowledge sharing on aligned programming. The Caribbean Vision's MEL approach will allow operating units to track work and outcomes, examine challenges and progress with a regional lens, and use documented evidence to inform new activity design or inspire new ways of working and collaborating across the region.

During the workshops in early 2022, participants developed learning questions to fill knowledge gaps and identified a set of indicators to monitor progress toward the Caribbean Vision goals. Leveraging ongoing data collection to the greatest extent possible, participants consulted MEL plans from current activities and other key resources such as the FY 2021 USAID and Department of State standard indicator list, the USAID Climate Strategy 2022–2030, and USAID's PREPARE strategy, to select indicators and develop the overall MEL approach.

LEARNING QUESTIONS

The Caribbean Vision is a framework for learning as well as action. A regional-scale learning agenda based on the Vision's goals will help improve programming region-wide by helping to identify and fill knowledge gaps, test critical assumptions, and better understand the environment in which USAID programs work. Preliminary questions for the learning agenda are:

- » What are the existing regional standards for measuring resilience?
- » How can USAID help support efforts toward standardization of a method to measure resilience gains and for applied use of such a standard in the region?
- » Who lives in the Caribbean Vision areas of focus and what are the divisions of economic and political power and opportunities?
- » What are the current gaps and barriers for stakeholders in accessing, analyzing, and using climate data for decision-making?
- » What type of incentives work best to generate improved institutional capacity?
- » What strategies are best suited for countries to better access climate finance?
- » What factors, if any, constrain the private sector or commercial banks from involvement and investment in climate action?





Operating units are encouraged to collaborate with implementing partners to identify additional questions that inform learning and adaptive management during activity-level implementation.

MONITORING

To monitor the progress toward achieving the four goals of the Caribbean Vision, select indicators will be used by both bilateral and regional activities. Coordinating monitoring efforts using shared and aligned indicators, USAID will aggregate results, report on regional outcomes, and promote greater

synergies among the individual activities. This coordinated approach also offers a regional lens to assess any variances in the progress of individual activities, which can inform adaptive management. The selected indicators are a mixture of custom and standard indicators.

TABLE 2. CARIBBEAN VISION FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Additional notes or disaggregation	Goal
CUSTOM: Number and quality of USAID’s collaborative engagements with key stakeholders. (Collected using a qualitative monitoring log to track the type and quality of the various collaborative engagements among USAID and overnments, regional institutions, and other donors).	Disaggregated by: » Type of collaboration » Stakeholder	
EG.II-6 Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by U.S. Government assistance	Disaggregated by gender	
EG.II-2 Number of institutions with improved capacity to assess or address climate change risks supported by U.S. Government assistance	Disaggregated by: » National government » Sub-national government » Other	
EG.II-4 Amount of investment mobilized for climate change adaptation, as supported by U.S. Government assistance	Disaggregated by public and private sectors	

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

USAID’s Caribbean regional Missions will lead the implementation and reporting of programmatic approaches most appropriately implemented at the regional level. They will also assist in communicating about the Vision to regional and bilateral USAID staff, provide support with context monitoring, and work with the communications team to regularly disseminate relevant data and information. The regional and bilateral Missions will share responsibility for coordination among themselves and key stakeholders.

To support implementation of the Caribbean Vision, USAID LAC Bureau will advocate for

alignment of USAID’s regional programming on climate and disaster resilience with the Caribbean Vision and its four goals. The Bureau will also contribute to regular synthesis reporting and coordination, as needed, to communicate results toward the Caribbean Vision and goals to key stakeholders, including Congress, Missions, and Bureau leadership. USAID Washington pillar bureaus, in conjunction with USAID LAC Bureau, will provide technical support and guidance to Caribbean Missions to ensure alignment of climate and disaster resilience programming with the Agency’s priorities and guidelines.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Photo: Evan Brockett, Unsplash

ANNEX I. ASSESSMENT

[USAID Climate Resilience and Disaster Recovery Capacity Assessment for the Caribbean Region Gaps and Opportunities Assessment Report](#)

ANNEX 2. USAID AND U.S. GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES, AND PRIORITIES

A. U.S. Government Strategies and Initiatives

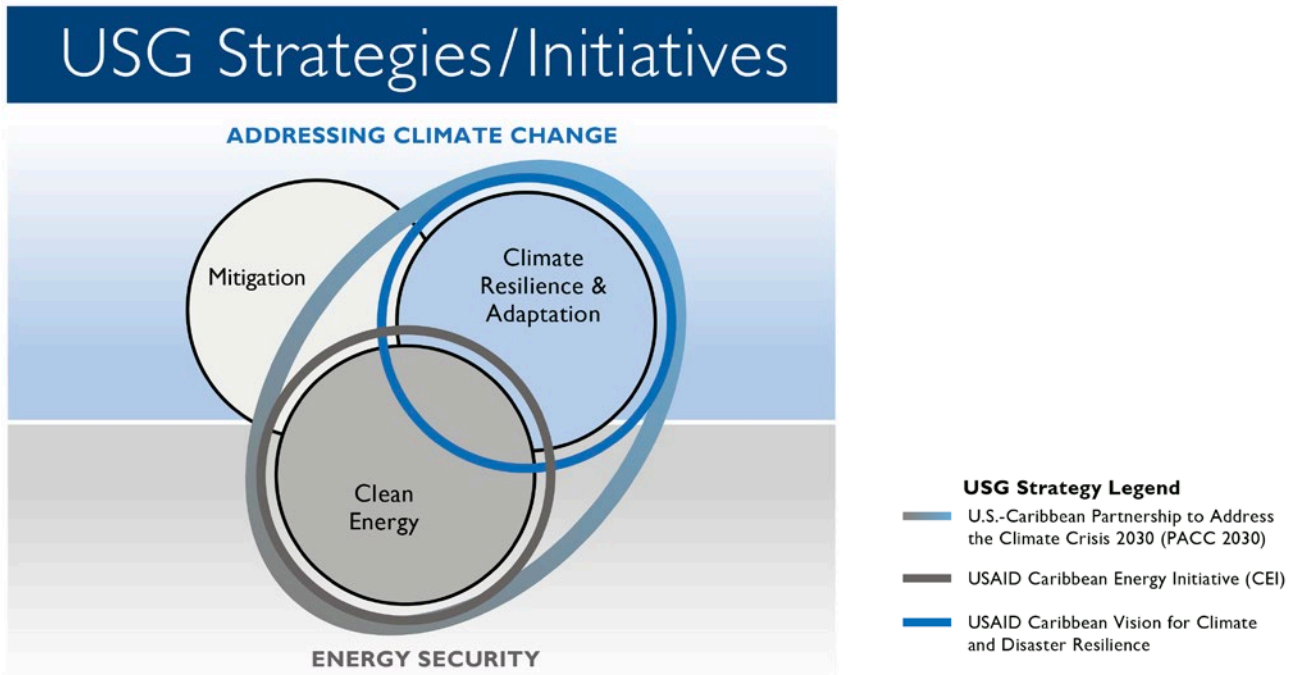


FIGURE 4. U.S. GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES

USAID's Caribbean Energy Initiative and the USAID Caribbean Vision for Climate and Disaster Resilience contribute to U.S. Government clean energy and climate resilience priorities in the Caribbean as articulated through the newly launched PACC 2030.

B. USAID Priorities in the Caribbean Region



DOs and IRs Most Closely Related to Climate and Disaster Resilience

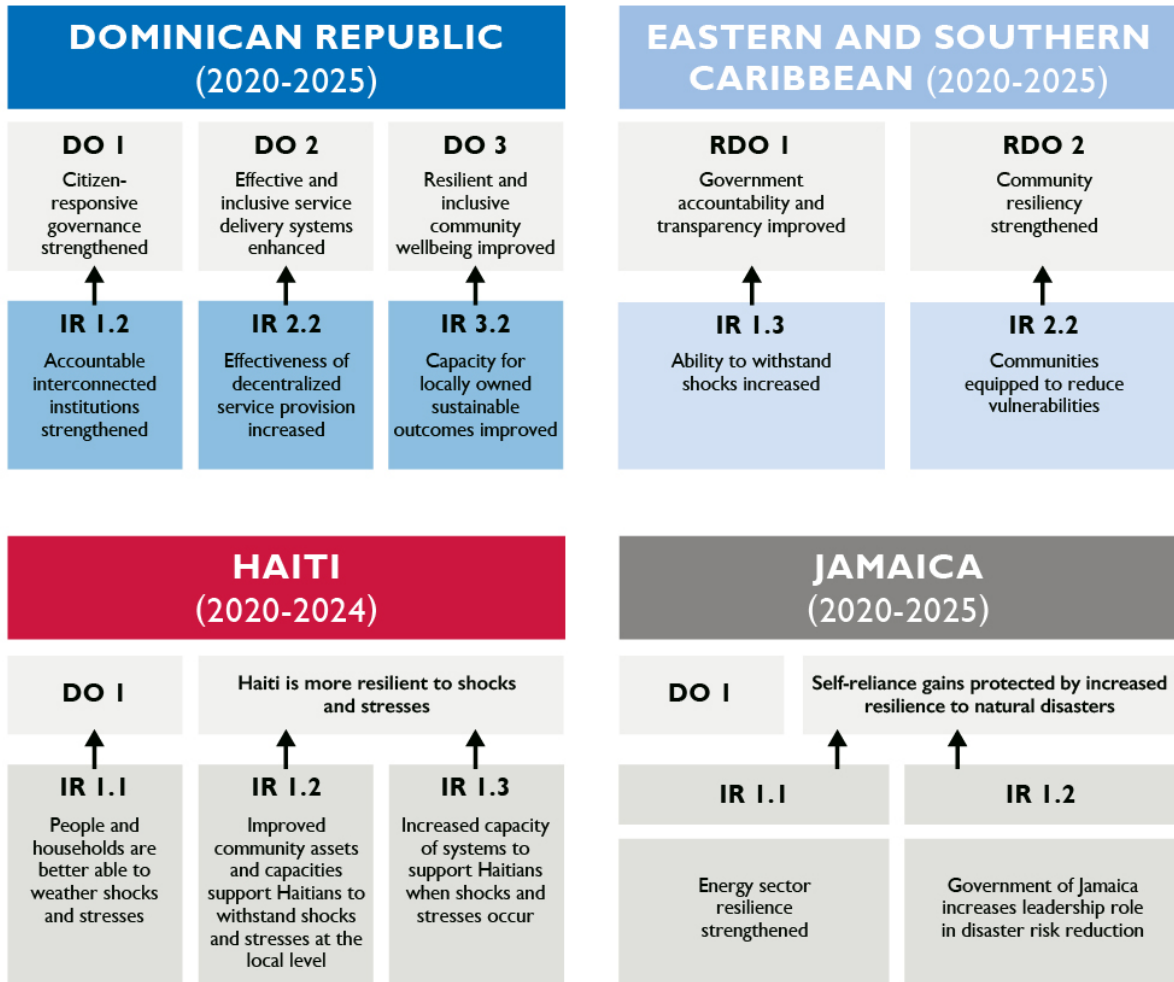


FIGURE 5. USAID PRIORITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION.

These development objectives and intermediate results are those most closely related to climate and disaster resilience from USAID/Dominican Republic’s Country Development Cooperation Strategy (2020-2025), USAID/ESC’s Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (2020-2025), USAID/Haiti’s Strategic Framework (2020-2024), and USAID/Jamaica’s Country Development Cooperation Strategy (2020-2025).

ANNEX 3. CURRENT CONTRIBUTING USAID ACTIVITIES

TABLE 3. CURRENT USAID ACTIVITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO REACHING THE CARIBBEAN VISION GOALS.

	GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4
CDP (managed out of USAID/Dominican Republic)				
Integrated Marine Ecosystem Management (2019–2022)	X			
Energy Sector Reform Activity (2022–2026)	X			
USAID/Dominican Republic				
Interagency agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	X	X	X	
Interagency agreement with the U.S. Forest Service		X		X
USAID/ESC				
Caribbean Climate Resilience Initiative (2020–2023)		X		X
Strengthening Disaster and Climate Resilience in the ESC (2019–2022)		X	X	
Building Community Resilience in the ESC (2020–2023)	X		X	X
USAID/Haiti				
USAID Reforestation Project (2017–2022)			X	
USAID/Jamaica				
Strengthening Energy Sector Resilience in Jamaica (2020–2023)	X			

ANNEX 4. PARTICIPATING BUREAUS AND MISSIONS

Information for the USAID Bureaus and Missions that participated in the development of this Caribbean Vision is included in Table 4. For more information regarding the Caribbean Vision, please contact: LAC.CAR@usaid.gov.

TABLE 4. CARIBBEAN VISION CONTRIBUTORS' INFORMATION

Bureaus and Missions	Operating Unit or Office
USAID/LAC	Office of Regional Sustainable Development/Environment and Energy Team
USAID/LAC	Strategy and Program Office
USAID/LAC	USAID/Office of Caribbean Affairs
USAID/RFS	Center for Resilience
USAID/BHA	Office of Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean
USAID/CDP	Sustainable Environmental and Economic Development
USAID/Dominican Republic	Sustainable Environmental and Economic Development
USAID/ESC	General Development Office
USAID/Haiti	Economic Growth and Agriculture Development
USAID/Jamaica	Office of Citizen Security



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