MEMBERSHIP
Based in Barbados, the Caribbean Development Bank is owned by 26 member countries including 18 regional borrowing members, 3 regional non-borrowing members and 5 non-regional members.

REGIONAL MEMBERS (BMCS)
Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands

REGIONAL MEMBERS (NON-BMCS)
Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela

NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS
Canada, Germany, Italy, People’s Republic of China, United Kingdom

*BMCs – Borrowing Member Countries

CDB MISSION STATEMENT
CDB intends to be the leading catalyst for development resources in the region, working in an efficient, responsive and collaborative manner with our BMCs and other development partners, towards the systematic reduction of poverty in their countries through social and economic development.
The Caribbean Development Bank is working together with you to reduce poverty through community-driven social and economic development.
PARTNERSHIPS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION
The CDB Way

Despite the Caribbean’s social and economic progress, too many people still face the challenges of poverty (76% of people in Haiti and an average of 26% in other Caribbean countries). CDB is meeting that challenge in partnership with communities throughout the region, offering much-needed loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, policy advice, and technical assistance. These funds come from Ordinary Capital Resources and Special Fund Resources. The Special Development Fund Unified (SDFU) accounts for 90% of these Special Fund Resources and is one of CDB’s most vital sources of funding.
As the Caribbean’s premier regional financial institution, we’ve learned that the most effective pathway to development is actively listening to and partnering with the people in our member countries and with our development partners around the world. Through the Special Development Fund Unified, we work together for:

- BROAD-BASED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
- GENDER EQUALITY
- GOOD GOVERNANCE
- REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION
- ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS
THE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND UNIFIED (SDFU)

The CDB’s Special Development Fund Unified offers funding for **HIGH-PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**. With support from several contributors, the SDF was established in 1970. Then, in 1983, the Special Development Fund Unified was created to streamline the Fund’s operations. Funding for the SDFU is replenished every 4 years. The SDFU has its own governance structure and there is an Annual Meeting of Contributors to agree on the Fund’s areas of priority for the next four-year cycle. These negotiations take into account the economic and social situation in the Borrowing Member Countries, the international and regional environment, and CDB’s capacity.

The SDFU is currently in its 7th cycle, covering the period January 2009 to December 2012. Priorities for this cycle are:

- **STRENGTHENING POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**
- **SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ADVANCING THE CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA**
- **SUPPORTING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION**
- **ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS**

Active engagement with the community is key to how the SDFU works. The programme is able to respond effectively through a participatory approach - engaging communities in assessing their own assets and determining their priority needs for funding. This process encourages critical thinking, decision-making and involvement in solutions that benefit the community.

*The Special Development Fund Unified (SDFU) supports several programmes that reduce poverty and support social and economic development:*

- **THE BASIC NEEDS TRUST FUND (BNTF)**
- **THE CARIBBEAN TECHNOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES (CTCS) NETWORK**
- **SOCIAL & ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **LOW-INCOME MORTGAGES**
- **STUDENT LOANS**
- **LOANS TO SMALL & MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMES)**
BASIC NEEDS TRUST FUND (BNTF)
This is a direct, targeted poverty reduction programme, whose mission is to empower and equip communities with necessary resources, and improve their access to basic public services. BNTF grants improved access to health services, education, water and sanitation, and other community needs. Funding is channeled toward projects that reduce people’s economic and social vulnerability to risks that affect income and well-being.

CARIBBEAN TECHNOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES (CTCS)
The CTCS provides subsidised Caribbean technical expertise to organisations and enterprises in CDB Borrowing Member Countries. CTCS services include project planning, evaluating new and expanding businesses, training, resolving production and maintenance problems, and quality control applications. It is a regional consultancy network that supports entrepreneurship and the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises.

HUMAN RESOURCE AND PRODUCTIVE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
The CDB provides lines of credit to national development agencies and regional governments. This funding enables eligible students from low-income households to access loans for higher education, low-income mortgages for people in need of homes, and loans for small and medium-sized enterprises in agriculture and industry, for the expansion of the Caribbean’s productive sector.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE
SDFU funding also improves infrastructure that makes daily life and productivity possible, including roads and schools. Special attention is paid to making infrastructure more resistant to the effects of disasters such as floods and hurricanes. Islands such as St. Vincent & the Grenadines, with several rural and coastal communities dependent on farming, fishing and tourism, are particularly vulnerable to these threats.
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
Vulnerability and Resilience

A striking volcanic landscape, steep mountains and black sand beaches: these are a few of the natural gifts of St. Vincent in the Eastern Caribbean, part of an archipelago of thirty-four smaller islands and cays known as the Grenadines. These islands form St. Vincent & the Grenadines (SVG) - a parliamentary democracy with French and British colonial history; now a member of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), CARICOM, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

With La Soufrière volcano in the north of the island, between the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean, St. Vincent was once called Youroumayn by the native Kalinago. It is also a homeland of the Garifuna people – the descendants of Africans who escaped enslavement and joined with Kalinago and Aruac clans: strongly resisting colonial rule. Many Garifuna were forcibly deported to Central America by the British in the late 1700s. St. Vincent and the Grenadines now has a culture formed at the intersections of Indigenous, African and European influences.

According to the UNDP Human Development Report, St. Vincent & the Grenadines ranks lowest of the Eastern Caribbean States in social development indicators. The government’s ability to invest in social programs and respond to external shocks is constrained by its high public debt burden, which was 68% of GDP at the end of 2011. GDP grew on average 6% annually from 2002-07, but contracted between 2008-10 as a result of the global economic crisis. Currently growth is slow, and like the other small island states of the Caribbean, challenges can be countered more effectively by shared regional strategies, approaches and initiatives.

St. Vincent & the Grenadines face many of the challenges of small developing states, including vulnerability to external shocks. The economy is largely based on
agriculture and tourism and is therefore highly vulnerable both to global economic shifts and natural disasters. La Soufrière is an active volcano that last erupted in 1979. Tropical storms have caused severe damage to crops, homes and other infrastructure. The Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), amounting to $US12.622M, towards Natural Disaster Management, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction after Hurricane Tomas in 2010.

Farmers struggled to recover from these disasters, and after the collapse of the banana industry due to shifts in global trade, unemployment can be as high as 30% in some rural areas. The agricultural sector is shrinking in comparison to service industries such as tourism. Recently the smaller sectors of telemarketing and offshore banking came on stream. It is estimated that in 2012, agriculture contributed only 5.4% of GDP, compared to 74.8% from services. These and other factors have led to increased urbanisation, with 49% of SVG’s population living in urban areas by 2010. CDB is supporting rural development not only by meeting people’s basic needs, but also through constructing markets, helping farmers to diversify their offerings, and providing skills training and small business opportunities in other areas of work, for former farmers who have lost their livelihood.

Environmental degradation only increases the risks posed to farmers and other citizens. Erosion of the mountainsides through unsustainable settlement and agriculture can lead to loss of life and property. Global warming and rising sea levels, overfishing, and the pollution of coastal waters, are also serious issues. SVG’s natural resources are under pressure from the demands of population growth, urbanisation and industry. Environmental protection and the sustainable use of these resources are critical to socio-economic development and to the long-term survival of tourism, fisheries and agriculture.

Tourism is now the largest contributor to St. Vincent & the Grenadines’ GDP. However, it is also vulnerable to external shifts such as the global financial crisis. In 2008, the islands had more than 200,000 tourist arrivals, mostly to the Grenadines, a drop of nearly 20% from 2007. Improvements to the industry call for the environmentally-sustainable upgrade of infrastructure and amenities. To this end, CDB helped fund St. Vincent’s upgraded Windward Highway, including construction of an Airport By-Pass Road to the new, large-capacity, Argyle International Airport.

With CDB support, St. Vincent & the Grenadines have also made progress in the areas of healthcare, education and other basic needs. The Government’s Education Sector Development Plan (2002-2007) worked toward institutional development and the reform of education management, improving the quality of primary and secondary education, and access to Early Childhood Education, Adult and Continuing Education, Skills Training and Special Needs Education across the country.

In healthcare, CDB worked with the Government of SVG to build and upgrade health centres, particularly in rural areas, serving people who can ill afford private healthcare. Teenage pregnancies remain high in the islands, with almost 50% of women reporting that they had at least one child before the age of 19. Resources must also be increasingly channeled to the fight against HIV/AIDS. To this end, in 2002 an HIV/AIDS Unit was established in the Ministry of Health. These factors, along with the rise in chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, heighten the need for the health education and clinical services being offered by these health centres; built with CDB funding.

The Social Investment Fund (SIF) established by the Government of SVG in 2003 and CDB’s Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) Office, work with the people of St. Vincent & the Grenadines to overcome their country’s challenges and make the most of its potential. In so doing, CDB is working with communities throughout the islands, to reduce poverty, encourage growth, and increase resilience.
# ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
## Quick Facts & Development Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CAPITAL</strong></th>
<th>Kingstown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIZE/LAND AREA</strong></td>
<td>389 sq km (Saint Vincent 344 sq km) (150 sq mi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAJOR LANGUAGES</strong></td>
<td>English, French Patois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONETARY UNIT</strong></td>
<td>East Caribbean Dollar (EC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[EC dollars per US dollar: $2.70 (2012 est.)]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>POPULATION</strong></td>
<td>103,220 (July 2013 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POPULATION GROWTH RATE</strong></td>
<td>-0.3% (2013 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LABOUR FORCE BY OCCUPATION</strong></td>
<td>Agriculture 26.1%, Industry 5.5%, Services 20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNEMPLOYMENT</strong></td>
<td>18.8% (Youth ages 15-24 – 15.8%) (2008 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Net Enrolment Rate Primary: Male 94%, Female 95%</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Net Enrolment Rate Secondary: Male 92%, Female 84% (2011 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIVING WITH POVERTY</strong></td>
<td>30% of population (2008 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIVING WITH EXTREME POVERTY</strong></td>
<td>2.9% of population (2008 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMPORTS</strong></td>
<td>$366.5 million (2012 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMPORT COMMODITIES</strong></td>
<td>Foodstuffs, Machinery and Equipment, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Minerals and Fuels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMPORT PARTNERS</strong></td>
<td>Singapore 24.9%, Trinidad and Tobago 17.6%, US 12.6%, China 12.3%, Norway 7.5% (2011 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPORTS</strong></td>
<td>$68.3 million (2012 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPORT COMMODITIES</strong></td>
<td>Bananas, Eddoes and Dasheen (taro), Arrowroot Starch, Tennis Racquets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPORT PARTNERS</strong></td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago 12%, Austria 12%, St. Lucia 10.7%, France 9.5%, Turkey 8.9%, Barbados 8.9%, Dominica 7%, Grenada 6.7%, Antigua and Barbuda 6.1% (2011 est.)</td>
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*Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); CIA World Factbook; SVG Ministry of Education, Country Poverty Assessment Report 2008*
WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE OF
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

St. Vincent joined the CDB in 1970 and by the end of 2012 approvals for funding had totaled $US287.8M, comprising $US263.7M in loans, of which $US93.5M (35%) was funded by the SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND UNIFIED (SDFU), and $US24.1M in grants of which $15.1M (63%) was funded by the SDFU. Of the $US24.1M in grants, $US11.9M was directed toward technical assistance grants and $US12.2M went toward the BASIC NEEDS TRUST FUND (BNTF). CDB funding in St. Vincent is used for financing social and economic infrastructure such as schools, road and water projects, building more disaster-resistant structures, and community skills training and empowerment. CDB-funded projects are administered through the Basic Needs Trust Fund Office in St. Vincent as well as various other Government Ministries. Projects are also done in collaboration with locally-led village councils, non-profit organisations and other community and civic groups.

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
(1970-2012)

$US287.8M

- Loans
- Tech Assist. Grants
- BNTF
- $US11.9M
- $US12.2M

FARMER
TOP HILL
WORKING TOWARD A DREAM

“I was told that I could amount to nothing. I want to show people out there that they can amount to anything they want to be.” Mary Jackson is a mother of three and member of a skills training programme and business co-operative supported by the CDB.

Cleopatra Jackson, longtime social activist and coordinator of the programme, explains how it all began: “We had in St. Vincent what was called a National Literacy Crusade where we had adults going back to school. Mary was one of the students - the definition of a hard worker. She used to go to her farm in the mountains, bathe in the river and then come down to class…. At the end of that project, all the learners were saying, “Ms. Jackson, what is it we’re going to do now? We need something to do.” So we said, let’s see if we can go into some skills training.”

According to the European Commission’s Country Strategy Paper 2008-2013, “unemployment, especially among women and youth, is a serious problem” in St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Whether in farming or tourism, many people are only seasonally employed. Unemployment was only made worse by the collapse of the banana industry due to changes in trade agreements between Europe and the Caribbean.

The Strategy Paper continues, “A survey in 2001 on the socio-economic impact of the restructuring of the banana industry in Saint Vincent indicated that…workers deriving all or an important proportion of their earnings from bananas, have fallen from about 23,000 to about 7,000, all of whom require access to alternative sources of income.” Mary is one of thousands of Vincentians affected by this crisis. “When the banana industry went through it’s struggles, as farmers and women in agriculture, we suffered a whole lot.”
CDB addresses this need for new work, by offering skills training in several villages throughout the island. Courses include electrical installation, plumbing, electronics and garment construction – skills that workers can use to generate income and develop small businesses. In fact, CDB’s Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) training includes courses in life-skills, money management, and for starting a small business.

Some of these training groups developed into business co-ops. Under Cleopatra Jackson’s guidance, Mary and her fellow students formed an Adult Learning Co-operative Group, named NACALCOG after their home villages: New Grounds, Adelphi, and Chapman. The group makes and sells school uniforms and other garments on machines bought by CDB. And with CDB-funded adult learning classes, many of the workers have moved from having difficulty with reading and writing, to successfully completing their secondary education.

As a young girl, Mary only reached the Form 3 level before she had to leave school to work full-time. Now she has 4 CXC subjects and is working on completing Form 5 Mathematics. She hopes that going back to study will inspire the children she teaches in Sunday School at church, as well as her three children - Ricardo, Sion, and Ezra - to value education as well. In the garment manufacturing co-op, surrounded by her fellow workers, Mary stitches a schoolgirl’s red, pleated uniform on the machine. “My dream?” she says, above the whir of the room, “Honestly, to go to university. I do not have the money; I do not know where it coming from, but that is one of my dreams…. ” Now, with CDB’s help, it is possible.
“I have lived and seen the struggles of farmers,” shares Cherraland Thomas Farrell, Assistant Manager of the North Union Market, built with CDB funding. “This market is important to me because it’s a farming community. It is a livelihood where farmers can come and sell, interact with other farmers and make money. It can help them in their day-to-day sustenance.”

Cherraland’s home village of North Union, on the east coast of St. Vincent, was once an agricultural hub. Now, across the island, farmers fight to survive the collapse of the banana industry, the ravages of Hurricane Tomas, black spot disease and price-gouging by traffickers. In North Union and the surrounding areas, they were selling their goods at the side of the road. To address traffic, storage and sanitation issues, and provide a central space for the sale of produce, CDB funded the construction of a large market that can serve the entire area.

Patricia Peters has been selling goods in the market since it opened three years ago. Along with her husband, Ken, and their six children, she has always made a living from farming. The market means that they no longer have to depend on traffickers. “My husband used to give his crop to the traffickers to sell. And some of them still owe him money. Some vegetables, when you don’t sell them within days, they spoil. When we plant produce now, I know that we will get it sell right here.” She supplies dasheen, potato, banana, manioc, breadfruit, coconut, eddoes, along with flour, sugar, rice, laundry detergent and other household goods. “When I don’t have to sell, I go out and purchase from farmers who have.”

In addition to the areas where farmers sell their produce, the market also has a poultry depot run by the Diamond Trust Poultry Project. CDB sponsored 1000 chicks and the construction of hen houses for this project, which sells chicken and eggs at North Union. The two-storey building also houses a restaurant, hair salon, post office, storage areas and administrative offices.
So the market goes well beyond food, with spaces for people who sell craft and clothing; facilitating diverse occupations for villagers, in difficult economic times. **Eurine Trimmintham** is one such crafts-person. “Since I was 13 years old I started making crafts. Over the years I did many different jobs: care for the aged, etc. Now I’m unemployed. It’s not easy here you know! I have children, grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Instead of sitting down folding my hands, I decided to do my craft. I make place mats and baskets with wild pine that I collect by the sea. I do crochet and knitting too. The craft keeps my hands moving; it keeps me active.”

At the moment, sales are slow and villagers at the market would like to attract more farmers and customers from a wider area. In spite of their challenges, Cherraland, the Assistant Manager, is grateful for the market and those who sell there. After all, agriculture is still a source of income for St. Vincent & the Grenadines - the livelihood of thousands. As a daughter of farmers, their fate is hers. “It strengthens me to see farmers still wake up and go to the land every day. It’s a ray of hope.”
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT

“My dream is to become a marine biologist,” says Chelsea Glynn, student at the Bequia Anglican Primary School, recently rebuilt with CDB funds, “because I have this fascination for the ocean.”

The sea defines life in Bequia, one of the islands in the Grenadines connected by ferry to St. Vincent. “I grew up on Bequia,” shares Principal Madge Providence Hazell. “Every day we’d go swimming. We sailed boats made out of coconut shell, with pieces of cloth for sails…. The island has changed quite a bit. Bequians travel far and wide in search of work. Most people here do seasonal work in tourism.”
There are four primary schools on the island. One of the oldest is the Bequia Anglican Primary School. “It had last been rebuilt in 1951,” Principal Hazell points out. “An adobe building with a concrete shell... It began to crumble. The building developed huge cracks and became unsafe.”

The school, which houses about 300 students, was completely rebuilt three years ago with funding from CDB. The primary school now has fourteen spacious classrooms, as well as a pre-school wing attached to the ground floor of the building. This makes Bequia Anglican the first primary school on the island with an attached Early Childhood Centre. The pre-school children now have a safe space, staffed by their own teachers. There is a fenced outdoor play area designed just for them. Learning materials in bright colours fill the rooms, along with child-friendly furniture, so that they can play and learn at their level.

Thanks to CDB, Bequia Anglican Primary is also the first school on the island to have a fully equipped library and computer lab. Chelsea, a 12-year old student, has benefitted from all the improvements. “I think that one of the best parts of the school is the Science Lab. I like Science; I like to explore. I love the Library too, because I’m a professional writer, and I enjoy reading.” Two days earlier, she won a prize in a national writing competition run by the Ministry of Education.

“Development, to me, is the total development of the students in education: Not only the academic, but also the spiritual, the physical, the cultural.”
This is also the first primary school on the island to have a music room, which still needs to be equipped with instruments. In the meantime, students use the room to practice choral speaking and calypso, two more extracurricular activities in which the school excels. Ms. Hazell, Principal here for almost seven years, writes some of the choral speaking pieces, as well as the calypsos that win the school prizes in national competitions. “I come from a long line of teachers. It’s in the family. In my schooldays I always admired teachers. My grandfather was a principal and my aunts were teachers as well.” The CDB-funded upgrades have renewed her energies. “I can see now, with these improvements to the school, that the staff and students are happy.”

Students in the examination class finish up their projects in the new Science Lab. Over in the next wing, a teacher moves between the desks in one of the large, airy classrooms, to assist her students with the math problem they are working on as a class. The lunch bell rings. Children rush upstairs to the new kitchen and cafeteria area, where the school-feeding programme offers free meals to those who need them. Boys and girls of all ages sing and run. They play games on the school grounds and in the large field nearby.

Part of CDB’s nationwide Basic Education Programme, Bequia Anglican Primary has a bright future. Principal Hazell sees the bigger picture. “Development, to me, is the total development of the students in education: Not only the academic, but also the spiritual, the physical, the cultural. We don’t just want children to be one-sided. We want them to be well-balanced, so that they can function well in the society, because the society needs everybody.”
IMPROVING EDUCATION

The CDB-funded Basic Education Programme (BEP) built better infrastructure in schools across the country, and trained educators and administrators, in order to improve the quality of education for children in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

PHASE 1 of the project improved learning environments through physical upgrades of schools. This included the construction of a new primary school at Fairhall, converting a primary school to the Dr J.P. Eustace Memorial Secondary School, and constructing a replacement secondary school at Barrouallie called the Central Leeward Secondary School. Two model Early Childhood Education Sections were built at the Fairhall School and at Bequia Anglican Primary. The programme also provided equipment, furniture, educational materials and supplies for the children at these schools.

PHASE 2 of the Basic Education Programme involved enhancing teacher proficiency through undergraduate training in key subject areas at the secondary school level, professional training for principals at primary and secondary level, and post-graduate training for curriculum officers and education support staff. The programme also provided institutional strengthening through training at the post-graduate level for school supervisors, in areas such as education statistics and research methods, project management and policy analysis, educational planning and management.

CONSULTANCIES: There were also two major consultancies geared toward improving the education system as a whole: One involved a diagnostic system to detect learning difficulties. Thirty teachers were trained to provide assessment and special assistance for students, so that they can be re-integrated into the mainstream education system.

The second consultancy is the development of a new Education Sector Plan with proposed solutions for consolidating and building on the progress being made in education, in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.
The CDB-funded Basic Education Programme (BEP) built better infrastructure in schools across the country, and trained educators and administrators, in order to improve the quality of education for children in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

CDB-FUNDED BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME: TRAINING OFFERED

- Fifty-seven teachers were trained at the Bachelors level in various subject areas including English, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Computer Science, Spanish and French, Physical Education, Geography, and Music.

- Twenty uncertified teachers were certified by the University of Nottingham.

- Four teacher trainers were equipped at the Masters level.

- Thirty principals (fifteen primary and fifteen secondary) were trained at the Masters level in Instructional Leadership.

- Eight officers of the Ministry of Education received postgraduate training in curriculum development.

- Four officers in the Ministry of Education received postgraduate training in Education Monitoring and Evaluation, Education Planning, Policy Analysis, and Education Research.

- Seven officers in the Ministry of Education received undergraduate training in Statistics, Education Management, Information Systems, Library Sciences, Accounting, Management and Economics.

- Several Ministry of Education officials received short-term training in Education Supervision and Inspection, Appraisal of Personnel and Institutions, and Education Management.
SAVING LIVES

“I am very positive that this clinic would be the facility on Bequia that helps to save lives.” **Herman Belmar**, Deputy Director of Grenadines Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister, is a Bequia native. Like the majority of residents, he eagerly awaited the construction of the new clinic on the island, funded by CDB.

The old Port Elizabeth Clinic served all of Bequia, a well-known destination in the Grenadines. For decades, the clinic operated from a single room in the Bequia Hospital. From 1991, it occupied a room attached to the hospital which had been originally used for food storage. In this severely limited space, the clinic staff continued to function as best they could, offering services such as maternal and child health, family planning, dressings, monitoring and treatment of chronic diseases, and emergency services.

**Sylvester Tannis**, member of the Project Monitoring Team for the new clinic, describes some of the failures of the old facility: “The old hospital and clinic take care of the entire island of Bequia, and they’re grossly inadequate. With a population of over 5000 people, plus the thousands of visitors who come here yearly, they overwhelm the space we have here. On mornings it is common to see residents waiting outside the clinic, exposed to the elements, as the previous facility had no waiting area.”

Other factors put even more pressure on an already inadequate space. According to the Country Strategy Paper of 2002-2007, there has been an alarming rise in the number of people living with chronic diseases in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, including HIV/AIDS, hypertension, asthma and diabetes. This coupled with the fact that the population of Bequia has increased over the years to over 5,380 persons, means a growing demand for quality medical services.

“You could imagine when there’s an emergency what takes place here;” Mr. Tannis continues, speaking from personal experience of living on the island. “It’s chaotic. Nurses have to go in very small boats, challenging the rough seas to go to mainland. Sometimes the patient dies in the crossing, before they get to the ambulance on the other side.”

Mr. Belmar adds, “That old clinic and hospital are termite-ridden and structurally unsound. I would hate to see another hurricane season come on, and that facility gets blown away…. If I get ill, I want to feel comfortable that I will be made better, not look up and see conditions that make me feel worse.”
In response to the community’s needs, CDB funded the construction of a new, modern clinic in a nearby location in Port Elizabeth. The new space is fully air-conditioned, with a large, comfortable waiting area, a nurses’ station with patient records, offices for doctors and nurses, examination rooms, rooms for dressings, deliveries and surgical procedures, space for storage, separate washrooms for clients and nurses, and a pharmacy, laundry and kitchenette.

Furthermore, since Bequia is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes, the building was designed and constructed to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. The second phase of the project involves demolishing and rebuilding the hospital. While the old hospital is being renovated, operations will move to the new clinic and ancillary locations.

According to the World Health Organization (2001), the importance of investing in health to reduce poverty and promote economic development cannot be overstated. Improving the health of the population has a direct impact on economic development. Health is the basis for job productivity, the capacity to learn at school, and to grow intellectually and physically. Poor health and healthcare are severe impediments to economic progress and the well-being of communities.

At last, the healthcare infrastructure on Bequia is undergoing a much-needed change, thanks to CDB. One day, Herman Belmar hopes, the hospital and clinic will have even more extensive offerings, covering those services that currently need to be sent to the mainland, costing time and money that people can ill-afford: including blood tests, X-rays, EKGs and ultrasounds.

In the meantime, the new clinic and hospital will offer life-saving healthcare in Bequia. As Mr. Belmar says, “We have to be able to take care of the visitors who come here, but even more so, the residents themselves. I want to see something that I would expect for myself, offered to the people of the northern Grenadines.”
THE ROAD HOME

Josephine “Mimi” Peters sits on a bench in front of her wooden house that stands on concrete pillars next to the road in Top Hill. She eases herself up slowly, and goes to roast some breadfruit in the fire of an outdoor brick oven, just off the road, higher up from her house. She tells us about the old road, “Hill and gutter, hill and gutter. The road and them wasn’t good. They wasn’t good at all. You couldn’t walk on it. If you sick, you couldn’t come out here.”

Top Hill is part of Biabou, a community in the south constituency of St. Vincent, along the eastern, windward coast. As the name suggests, Top Hill is the area located on the slopes of a central hill overlooking the village centre. Biabou is a farming community grappling with the economic fallout from the rapid decline of the banana industry. While there is some subsistence agriculture, unemployment is high: at around 37% of the villagers.

The dirt road that provided access to Top Hill was in a deplorable condition. In the absence of any drains, especially
along the uphill section, erosion carved deep gullies into the roadway. In some cases, this erosion severely exposed and undermined the foundations of retaining walls and fences of properties next to the road.

Dennister “Norris” Greene lives in one of the houses along this road with his young children. “I live here 45 plus years. Here me born and grown up. There used to be a lot of farmers around. Now a lot of the guys have gone abroad. I lived in the US for a while myself. Now I back in St. Vincent. They been talkin’ bout the new road for a long while. A lot of promises were made and never kept. Nothing ever came through for us. A lot of folks had already given up hope.”

For years residents had difficulty getting to their homes, especially at night – the danger heightened by the few, widely-spaced, street lights. Even worse, when it rained, it was common for both children and adults to slip and fall while trying to negotiate a path along the steep and slippery road. Older persons, such as Ms. Peters, were particularly at risk. “On my way to church, through how the eyes them dark, me’s a slip and I go down in a gutter.”
Young children had difficulty getting to school, especially during the rainy season when they would often arrive in class with feet covered in mud. The community was also not accessible by car, intensifying the hardships experienced by villagers. The ill, elderly or differently-abled had to be lifted bodily out to the lower sections of the road by their neighbours or family. When there was a death in the community, the body also had to be lifted out.

Building a home in the area was extremely difficult, since additional funds had to be found to bring labourers and materials up the hill. In most cases, family members, including children, had to work long, hard hours on these homes, carrying materials up the hill themselves. Mrs. Peters’ testifies: “Some of them used to use donkey, but still it was a hard thing for donkey too.”

All this changed when CDB came through for the people of Top Hill, funding the construction of a new road, with proper drainage. One resident, Randolph Woodley, points to a new home under construction, “Two days ago I see a truck bring material up here to build this house. That could have never happened before. It was a real challenge to get your stuff up here, like your cement, your blocks. Now you can build up here much easier.”

In this close-knit community, everyone is rejoicing. Norris grins as his daughters ride their bicycles up and down the new road, racing each other as he watches from his front porch. “Seeing it happen before your eyes. It was amazing. It’s a joy man. It’s a joy.” The new road has not only helped people develop their homes, but also to have access to important public services, including health, transport, and education. With public transport now available, and a safe route for walking, residents can be on time for work and school. On evenings they attend public meetings, social activities and even adult education classes such as those offered by the Learning Resource Centre.

Mrs. Peters, one of the elders in the village, has waited long for this change. She happily gave up a section of her property for the construction of the new road. “People go in town now, van bringing them right up here. And me does take me time, walk, go right round by church. So me more than glad for this road.”
WAY TO FLY

CDB is funding the reconstruction of the Windward Highway: the most direct route between the capital, Kingstown, and the northeastern side of the island. The upgraded highway will include an airport by-pass road that links to St. Vincent & the Grenadines’ new international airport, which is currently under construction.

Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves noted that, “In August 2005, my government accepted the advice of experts, both local and foreign, to build a new international airport on mainland St. Vincent. The decision to construct on a green field site at Argyle was based mainly on the potential contribution of the international airport to tourism and agriculture development, and the physical restrictions on expanding the E.T. Joshua Airport.” The new Argyle International Airport is designed to handle almost 1.5 million passengers annually and allow direct flights to North, Central and South America, using large commercial jets.

Construction of the airport was temporarily delayed by the discovery of the most significant archaeological site in the history of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and perhaps the wider Caribbean. A team of archaeologists from Canada working in the Escape area of Argyle uncovered evidence suggesting that there was civilization in St. Vincent 2000 years ago and beyond.

During their archaeological excavations, the team led by Jo Moravetz, and including Margarita Guzman, Jode Mackay and Taylor Graham, discovered ancient pottery and other items buried inside shallow graves along with human remains. The style of some of the pottery is indicative of the Saladoid culture of indigenous peoples from South America who moved into the Caribbean region around the 4th century B.C. The discovery of several items made from material not indigenous to St. Vincent, is evidence that these people engaged in seafaring and trade. The team also uncovered a long house, the first of its kind to be found in the Caribbean.

A second team of archaeologists and students from the Faculty of Archaeology at Leiden University in the Netherlands investigated another site, rich in Cayo artifacts. In January 2011, four members of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture arrived to investigate and advise on the possible relocation of the petroglyphs at Yamboo, which were found on the western side of the Airport construction area. These unparalleled discoveries of early Caribbean peoples are to be preserved as part of a Cultural Heritage Plan proposed by the National Trust and funded by the International Airport Development Company (IADC).

Many people are looking forward to the completion of the Argyle International Airport and other discoveries that might be unveiled as it proceeds. Residents, foreign visitors and the numerous Vincentian nationals living abroad, who remain financially, emotionally and culturally connected to the islands, will all benefit from the new international airport, as well as the upgraded highway and airport by-pass road, funded by CDB.
HELPFUL HEALTHCARE

“I used to say, why they don’t put a health centre in Evesham,” Adonis Prescott says softly, rocking her baby boy, “And when I hear that they was going to put the health centre here, I feel so good.”

Without the new clinic, funded by CDB, people had to take two buses to the nearest health centre. In this farming area, the distance was long and costly, putting people’s lives at risk during emergencies. The proximity of the health centre allows villagers quick access to medical help, but it also encourages them to exercise preventive care, which can save lives, improve health, and reduce financial and social costs in the long term.

Adonis is here today with several other young mothers, for her baby’s postnatal check-up. And Sheila Joseph, a 72-year old client, is here to check her blood pressure and keep tabs on her diabetes. She too is thankful for the clinic in their area. “A grandson of mine, with asthma - the quickest place he can come to is here. And I come here to get my medication.”

The new health centre has a large waiting room that hosts clinics for villagers with the increasingly common chronic diseases of diabetes and hypertension. Vicklee Joseph, Staff Nurse, elaborates, “We have caregivers who help clean elderly or house-bound clients’ homes and take care of them two or three times a week. We have an antenatal, postnatal and child health clinic. We offer family planning services, as well as testing and counseling for HIV and other STIs.

In a community with many young mothers, Jazinga Baptiste, Community Health Aide, as well as the Staff Nurses such as Ms. Joseph, play an essential role. “We meet with the mothers and counsel them concerning breast feeding, nutrition and dates for their children’s vaccines.”

Community clinics such as this one are indispensible to the delivery of affordable, quality health care to people living in rural areas such as Evesham. Prior to the centre’s construction the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) Office consulted with the community, who expressed strong objections to the initial location, due to its steep and difficult access. Since these projects are community-driven, BNTF worked with the Ministry of Health to secure land in a more central location, just off the main road traversing the village, making transportation to the clinic easier for all concerned, particularly those who are elderly, ill or infirm.
Funded by CDB, the health centre serves a number of villages, including Evesham, Collins, Riley, Carriere and La Croix, part of the sixteen or so communities making up the Marriaqua constituency, approximately 8 miles from the capital. In addition to a spacious waiting area, the Evesham Health Centre has a nurse’s station, antenatal room, vaccination room, counseling room, doctor’s office, dentist’s office, pharmacy, dressing room, child health room and asthma bay. There are also nurse’s quarters, as well as staff and client washrooms, a kitchen and dining area, laundry room and sluice. The different service areas, along with the upgraded facilities and equipment, help the Centre’s staff offer a better quality of health care.

“In an effort to protect the citizenry and emphasise its ‘wellness revolution’”, according to the project brief, “the SVG Government is working to bring affordable public healthcare to the people that need it most, particularly in rural areas.” Effective health education is vital to this effort, leading to more regular check-ups, screenings, early detection and treatment of illnesses, a decline in the incidence of chronic “lifestyle” diseases and an improvement in people’s overall health.
These changes will have a positive effect in communities, that extends beyond the health centre’s direct clients. For instance, although fewer men come to the centre than women, Roslyn Richardson, Nursing Supervisor, indicates, “We also educate the females about health issues that affect men, so that they can teach the males at home.” In so doing, the Evesham Health Centre, funded by CDB, exists to meet the needs of the entire community.

“I feel development is something good,” Sheila Joseph says, getting ready to walk home after her check-up, “because it helps everybody.”

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PRE-SCHOOL STUDENT
GEORGETOWN METHODIST
LEARNING CENTRE
WHERE
LEARNING IS FUN

Georgetown is St. Vincent & the Grenadines’ second largest town, and the islands’ first capital. It is the site of the closed Mount Betnick factory, a former centre of the now defunct sugar industry. In this town, the Georgetown Pre-school stands opposite the Grace and Truth Hall, in view of the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by old stone buildings that stand in silent testament to St. Vincent’s former colonial past. By contrast, the new two-storey building is bright and colourful, ringing with the sounds of small children laughing, playing and learning.

The old pre-school was kept in the Methodist church, but it soon became overcrowded. CDB funded a new school, with child-centred indoor and outdoor learning facilities; now serving about 120 students from Georgetown and the surrounding areas. With a reputation for excellence in Early Childhood Education and some of the best facilities in the island, parents bring their children to this school, from as far as 11 miles south (Argyle), to 8 miles north (Owia). Sherice Jack is one of those parents.

“I was 19 years old when I had my child. I wasn’t really excited about it at first, but after I accepted it, that I was going to be a mother, I realised that I have to take responsibility. I got this job with YES, the Government’s Youth Empowerment Service, that provides training opportunities for young people between the ages of 16 and 30, who are out of school. They send you on attachment to jobs in different fields. I was sent here to the Georgetown Methodist Learning Centre and I love working here. Now, anywhere I go and my students see me, they’re always, “Aunty Sherice! That’s my Aunty Sherice!” They really love you.”

Her son, Chaz Williams, 2 years old, sits shyly in her lap. “At first my son wasn’t very excited coming here. He cried for the first week. That’s to be expected since he was in a different environment. But as the week passed, he got attached to the school. I’m seeing plenty progress in him: He’s learning a lot. He’s counting from one to ten without my help. He loves to sing. It makes me feel so proud. When I was growing up, I didn’t have my mum around me. She went away when I was small. So to have this experience with my son is a great feeling. And I am not the only one. Everybody wants their child to come to this school.”
The new pre-school has spacious, colourful classrooms, with child-sized tables, chairs and learning tools. The school uses a learning centre approach as part of its curriculum. Each classroom has different learning centres with materials for the children to interact with each other and their teachers in guided play. This helps move beyond a “chalk and talk” classroom that makes it difficult for young children to stay focused and learn. Instead, the mobile and interactive teaching approach helps children build a range of skills simultaneously, while learning new information and concepts. Meshel Jarvis, a full-time teacher at the school elaborates, “Every term we choose a theme and learn about it in different ways. Into one subject, like learning about the heart, we integrate science, mathematics, language, communication and motor skills.”

The focus is on the overall development of the child. So the school also has a kitchen and dining area with child-sized furniture, where teachers offer the children nutritious meals. There is also a playground outside with a trampoline, climbing bars and other play areas that facilitate healthy interaction among teachers and students. Carolyn Audaine, the school’s principal, puts it this way, “Teaching is fun, because children learn through play.”
A pre-school teacher for over 30 years, Ms. Audaine is well-loved by parents and students alike. “My passion is to give children an early start. This pre-school started with a few children in the church hall. In 2004, the number of children jumped to 60. Everyone wanted a place for their children. Then someone told us about CDB’s Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF).”

Thanks to CDB funding, the new Georgetown Early Childhood Centre is a child-friendly environment. There are bathrooms that are specially designed for small children. Upstairs there is a nursery and a large sleeping area where the children take naps after meals. The principal and teachers also have their own space and facilities. Given the resources they need, teachers are motivated to do their best, building a relationship with their students that can help them grow in confidence.

Children bounce ecstatically on the netted trampoline set in the grass outside, joined by their teacher, Suzette George, who is as thrilled as they are to be here. “I love children!” she shares, out of breath, “That’s what I love most about my job. I love being with children. My dream is to open my own pre-school someday.” Her vision is needed. The Georgetown Learning Centre has a long waiting list and no space to accommodate more children. As the demand for Early Childhood Education continues to grow, the school needs to expand, with more classrooms and trained staff.

There is also a need for more Early Childhood Centres like this one, throughout St. Vincent & the Grenadines. “That’s my dream,” Suzette George adds, laughing, “And I hope to get some funding from BNTF!”
At the heart of the Americas, the Caribbean’s contribution to world culture and history far exceeds its size. However, as small states and economies, CDB’s Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) are highly vulnerable to external shocks like global economic shifts and natural hazards. Their economies, once based heavily on sugar, bananas, bauxite and other raw materials, have been rocked by the erosion of preferential trade agreements that were carried over from colonialism into independence in the 1960s. Ill-equipped for the global shift toward trade liberalisation, and facing rising debt and unemployment, BMCs have been compelled to develop strategies for medium-term economic transformation and sustainable growth, poverty reduction, and strengthening their resilience to economic shocks and natural hazards. Their ability to implement these strategies has been constrained by large fiscal deficits and high levels of public debt. CDB and its development partners in the region and abroad mobilise significant financial resources to achieve these goals. In addition to offering technical and financial expertise, this funding is offered as grants and affordable loans to governments, communities, businesses and institutions invested in positive social and economic change throughout the region. The Special Development Fund Unified (SDFU) is the cornerstone of the funding offered by CDB, making it possible for countries to identify and achieve their vision for development.