



MORE THAN
35 YEARS STRONG



BNTF HAS BEEN THERE TO MEET BASIC NEEDS, ADD VALUE TO COMMUNITIES, AND CHANGE THE LIVES OF WOMEN



**E AND STRENGTH
EN, MEN AND CHILDREN**

St. Joseph's Convent Marriaqua,
St. Vincent & the Grenadines

More than 35 years ago, the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) approved the first allocation of funds to the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF). It was intended to be a major grant-funded poverty reduction programme with a strong regional presence.

The first BNTF allocation of USD16 million (mn) was approved for seven Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) in 1979.

Almost four decades later, the programme has touched the lives of 2 million people in the Region, and has become one of the Bank's major drivers for poverty reduction.

BNTF implements its sub-projects through grant financing, mainly from the Bank's Special Development Fund (Unified).

Over eight cycles of its programme, BNTF has provided USD300 mn in funding. At present, Governments provide counterpart financing of 5% of the costs for each BNTF sub-project.

This booklet gives an inside look at BNTF and shares examples of how its work is helping transform Caribbean communities.

HOW BNTF MAKES A DIFFERENCE

BNTF is one of the longest running regional poverty reduction programmes in the Caribbean, and stands out in the global development arena for its community-driven approach, tailored for the Caribbean context.

The programme stretches across the Region, providing basic infrastructure and improving the livelihoods of beneficiaries in 10 participating countries.

1. Belize
2. Commonwealth of Dominica
3. Cooperative Republic of Guyana
4. Grenada
5. Jamaica
6. Montserrat
7. St. Kitts and Nevis
8. St. Lucia
9. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
10. Turks and Caicos Islands

During periods of structural adjustment, fiscal constraints and weak growth in the Region, BNTF has been there to meet basic needs, add value and strength to communities, and change the lives of women, men and children. The need for BNTF remains stronger than ever in light of fiscal constraints in state budgets, doubled with the pressing need for sustaining the future of Caribbean communities. The instances of poverty in the Caribbean and the reasons behind them vary widely across different communities. BNTF is one of CDB's primary tools for responding to this scenario, using an adaptive and innovation-driven approach to development in communities.

BNTF has been a successful platform for promoting a broader policy agenda that focuses on poverty reduction, and involving communities in the design and implementation of interventions. A business model for transformative community development for the Region's future is central to BNTF's vision.

MAKING SMART INVESTMENTS THAT STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

The BNTF programme invests in

- **local infrastructure** as an important contributor to pro-poor growth. Reliable, efficient infrastructure is crucial for enhancing economic activity, labour productivity, and lowering production and transaction costs, all of which are essential for poverty reduction;
- **capability enhancement** to enable the poor and vulnerable to respond to opportunities, increase their assets and secure their well-being;
- **vulnerability reduction** to mitigate against the impact of economic and social shocks, natural disasters and man-made hazards; and
- **good governance** to facilitate broad-based sustainable growth, social inclusion and poverty reduction.





**BNTF INTEGRATES
CROSS-CUTTING
CONSIDERATIONS OF
GENDER EQUALITY,
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY AND
CLIMATE CHANGE,
VULNERABLE YOUTH AND
CITIZEN SECURITY—ALL
ISSUES OF PARAMOUNT
IMPORTANCE TO THE
CARIBBEAN—
INTO ITS SUB-PROJECTS.**

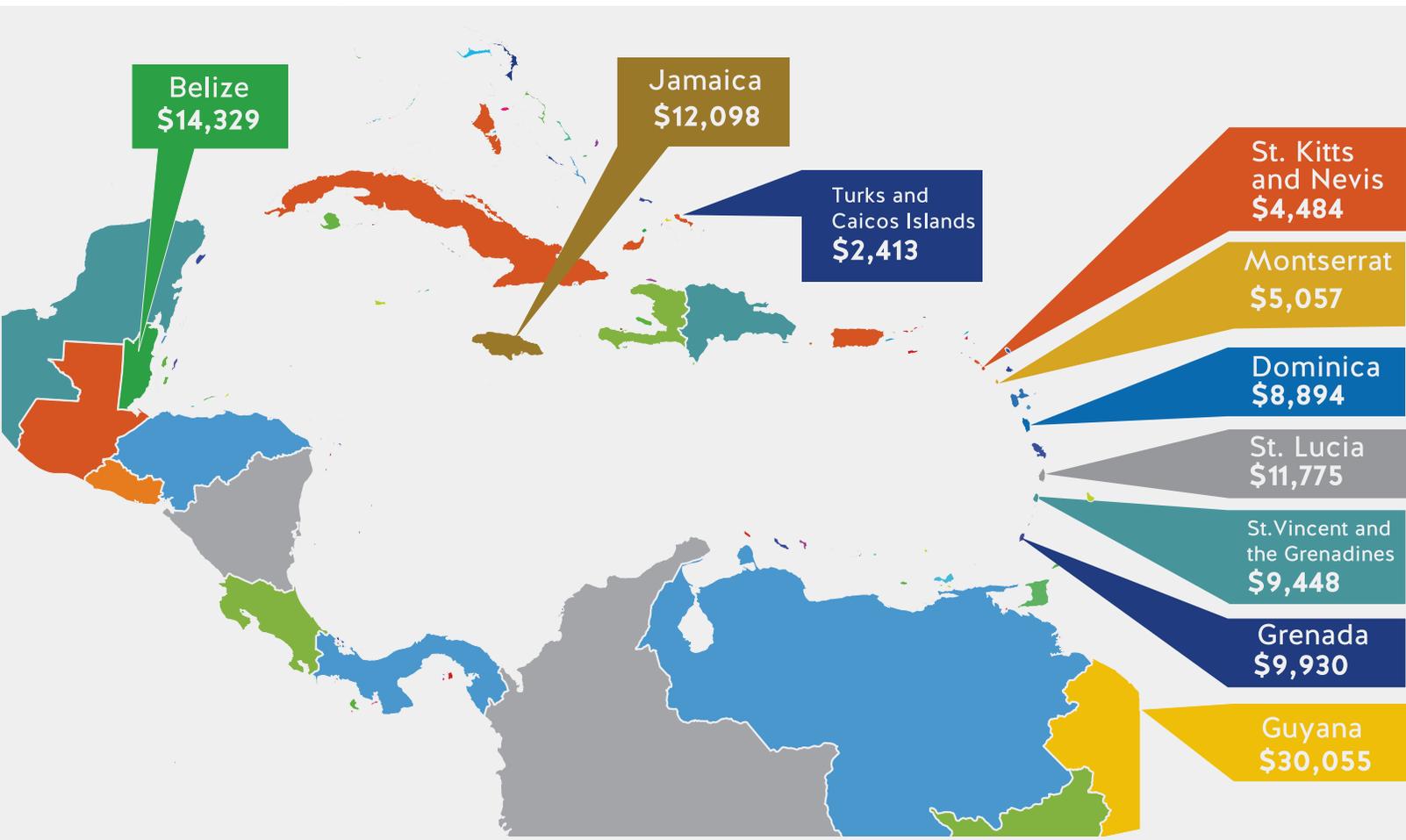
Skills training programme, Grenada

FACTS & FIGURES: A SNAPSHOT

Over cycles four through eight, BNTF has approved more than 2,000 sub-projects and disbursed more than USD 100 mn to implement poverty-alleviating interventions in the Caribbean.

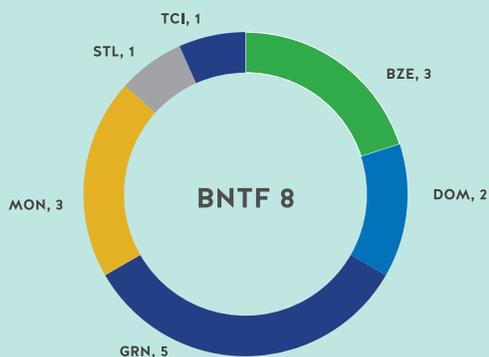
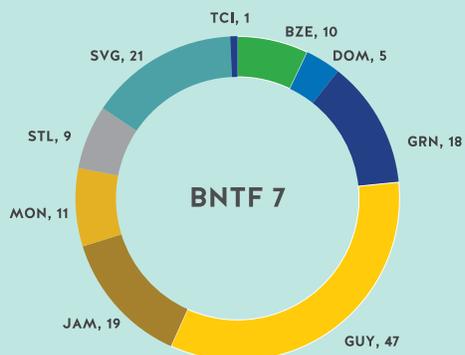
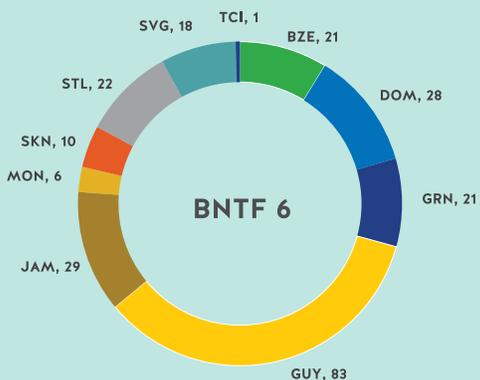
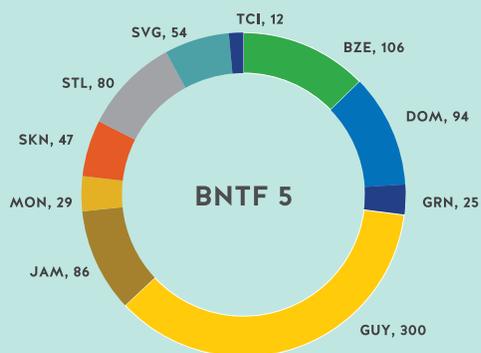
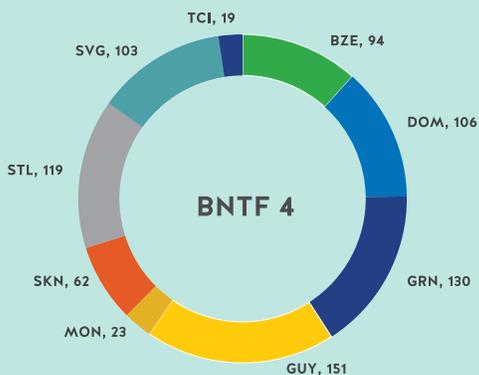
BNTF COUNTRY DISBURSEMENTS

Total funds disbursed to participating countries through BNTF (\$'000)



BNTF SUB-PROJECTS

Total sub-projects approved by country (cycles 4-8, as at May 2016)



**ST. VINCENT &
THE GRENADINES:
HELPING WOMEN
FARMERS REBUILD**





In the community of Langley Park, St. Vincent, many women's livelihoods took a hard hit when the banana industry declined. Once part-time labourers on banana farms, they were left jobless.

Hizzard Joseph is one woman farmer from the area, who is rebuilding her life through agriculture. Her roster of clients has grown to include restaurants and hotels and she now makes enough money to meet her daily needs, honour her financial commitments, and send her sons to school. In fact, one is on his way to university, with financial support from his mother.

Hizzard's success story is just one of many from the Women in Agriculture Langley Park Cooperative (WALCO), where 15 women, mostly single parents, benefited from BNTF's investment of USD24,800, and a contribution

of USD6,200 from the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The funding, provided under BNTF 6, gave them the tools, sheds, seeds, seedlings and fertilizers they needed to start boosting their incomes.

These women, once considered to be the poorest in their community, are on an entrepreneurial path that is improving their lives and their dependents'.

REAPING SUCCESS

BNTF's investment kickstarted more opportunities in agribusiness for the women farmers of Langley Park.

Through the sub-project, each of the 15 women received a demonstration plot for a butternut squash initiative from the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) supplied them with more tools and training.

The group also secured additional funding from BNTF and raised contributions to develop a poultry farming business. They have become skilled in caring for export-quality birds, and are using profits from the poultry business to cover the Cooperative's expenses. Most members also own shares in a Fair Trade Group.

The Cooperative has also tapped non-traditional sources for boosting their agriculture projects, raising an extra USD7,500 donation from a private-sector company to support their vegetable growing and poultry-raising enterprises.

Out of funding for basic equipment, seeds and seedlings, a business in agriculture has grown, giving the women of WALCO, their dependents and the wider community a chance to rebuild and reap real success.



GRENADA: SECURING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH SAFETY AT SEA

In Grenada, where the fishing industry had been experiencing positive growth, too many seafarers were still operating without formal training or certification.

A training programme funded by a USD123,500 investment under BNTF 7, has helped them become safer at sea and made them less vulnerable to the risks that come with working offshore.

Participants – 7 women and 105 men – were drawn from various fishermen’s cooperatives across Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique to complete an internationally accredited seafarer training programme. Delivered in accordance with the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW), the programme blended practice and theory.

“My experience here has been a great learning experience, actually. Boys in the fishing sector just go out, catch fish, sell, that’s it. They (the trainers) opened my imagination. They showed me there was way more!” said Akel John, a programme participant from St. Patrick’s.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES, DRIVING CHANGE

Programme participants have been trained in seafaring techniques that keep them safer on the job and reduce the risk of lost livelihoods: personal survival techniques; firefighting and prevention; first aid; personal safety; and social responsibility.

Seafarer training and certification also provide opportunities for employment in the maritime industry locally, in the Caribbean Region and around the world. For captains and engineers, the basic

training completed through BNTF makes them eligible to enroll in advanced training programmes and widens the career options available to them.

For the Government of Grenada, which contributed USD6,500 to the sub-project, having trained seafarers working offshore reduces the number of rescue missions in response to accidents at sea and allows for cost savings. The Port Authority was once faced with a major problem: many small crafts operated without lifeboats or a certified crew. However, since the training, officials can now begin to

ask for proof of certification from crews and operators.

In addition, the success of the training has prompted the Government of Grenada to consider bringing the outdated Shipping Act (1996) in line with new STCW regulations.

The seafarers’ certification is not only creating opportunities for economic growth but it is also driving welcomed policy changes in Grenada to make earning a living at sea safer.



GUYANA: KWATAMANG WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



“It is very difficult to get fuel in here. We have to arrange transportation to bring it, we have to buy it when it is available and then we have to pay a lot of money. With this system, we don’t have to do anything.”

Teacher Ricky Moses, who lives in Kwatamang Village in the remote Hinterland of Guyana, has experienced firsthand the benefits of using a photovoltaic (PV) system to power his community’s water supply.

Before the completion of the water supply improvement sub-project in Kwatamang, Ricky and his neighbours used manual hand pumps to gain access to water. Now, a submersible pump powered by a PV system distributes water to five standpipes, providing more than 400 residents with a continuous water supply. It is



a positive change that is being welcomed in the village's homes, primary school and health centre.

With this sub-project, funded by investments of USD39,600 from BNTF and USD9,900 from the Government of Guyana, has also come training for villagers, who are learning how to use and maintain PV systems.

SOLAR ENERGY A GOOD CHOICE

Senior Councilor of the village, Lakeram Haynes, says using solar energy to bring water to the community has had many benefits: it decreases pollution; provides easier maintenance options; and erases worries about the availability of fuel, since the sun is “always there.”

More importantly, his community now has access to running water, and residents no longer need to use hand pumps.



The Kwatamang success story is just one example of how BNTF has been transforming remote communities in Guyana where there is no grid-connected electricity.

Seventeen more BNTF sub-projects under the sixth cycle of the programme in Guyana have also had PV systems installed. Under the seventh cycle, PV systems will be installed on 16 sub-projects.

Renewable energy has emerged as an effective solution, particularly in Guyana's Hinterland, where the high cost of fuel, a widely dispersed population and limited national electricity distribution threaten economic and social development.

Early results from the Kwatamang Village sub-project have been so encouraging that the BNTF implementing agency in Guyana is considering PV systems as a standard requirement for sub-projects, even for communities on the coastal areas where electricity is readily available.

It is proof that clean energy can connect communities not just to improved water supplies but also to a future where they have equal access to basic services and a chance at enjoying better livelihoods.

WHAT OUR COUNTRY PARTNERS ARE SAYING

BELIZE: YVONNE HYDE

**Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Economic Development,
Petroleum, Trade, Investment and Commerce**

BNTF has been extremely impactful for us. Belize has nearly 140 villages. In most of the villages, you will see a sign that there is either a water supply or school which exists because of BNTF funds. This is the only programme of its kind around.

We could not have done what we have done in the rural areas without the help of the BNTF.

GRENADA: KIM FREDERICK

Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Finance and Energy

BNTF has had a positive impact on communities in Grenada. Through the programme, a number of persons have received training in areas such as agro-processing, crop production and Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, which provide the trainees with the necessary skills to either be self-employed or gain meaningful employment, and therefore achieve sustainable livelihoods.

JAMAICA: BARBARA SCOTT

Deputy Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica

BNTF has improved the livelihoods of our country's most vulnerable populations by investing in health, education and infrastructure. These investments have played a significant role in giving Jamaican men, women, boys and girls access to quality basic services in areas where they were once inadequate.

Our partnership with BNTF continues to help us tackle some of our most pressing challenges in some of Jamaica's poorest communities, and drive economic and social development in our country.



Patchakan Primary
School, Belize



BASIC NEEDS TRUST FUND
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