

Strengthening Disaster Resilience and Social Inclusiveness of Public Financial Management Systems in the Caribbean

Context

How do We Support PFM Systems?

With the support of the [Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery \(GFDRR\)](#) through the Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF), the World Bank's [Governance Global Practice](#) Latin America and the Caribbean is providing technical assistance to strengthen disaster resilience and social inclusiveness of public financial management (PFM) systems in nine countries in the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. For further information, click here: <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/crf>.

The objective of the PFM support is to strengthen the capacity of governments across the region to distribute and manage resources effectively and efficiently in response to natural disasters and emergencies. Technical assistance also aims to improve the capacity of governments to integrate social inclusion in the design and implementation of budget policies to ensure that governments can manage more inclusive recovery and response efforts.

Analytical Underpinnings

Reviews of the disaster resilience of PFM systems in the Caribbean, conducted by the World Bank Governance Team, reveal that the fiscal response to disasters is neither strategic nor efficient in most instances, and emergency finance procedures are often undocumented, ad hoc, coincidental, and sometimes inefficient. Surprisingly, given the frequency of natural disasters in the Caribbean, national authorities provide limited guidance on how to expedite financial management, public procurement, and public investments to swiftly respond to or rebuild after disasters.

Public assets are not systematically tracked and are financially under-protected, making it difficult to quickly carry out accurate post-disaster needs assessments or to replace destroyed assets. The administration of disaster risk financing needs to be more responsive and flexible while ensuring value for money and minimizing opportunities for fraud and corruption.

PFM and procurement have to be embedded in a broader disaster resilience and response framework encompassing: fiscal resilience, countercyclical fiscal policies, reducing public debt,



Grenada. Prisma by Dukas Presseagentur GmbH / Alamy Stock Photo

Country Engagements

To improve disaster resilience and social inclusion of PFM systems, the World Bank Governance Team has been working closely with Governments in the region to provide hands-on support. Below are some of the examples of the type of assistance provided.

Antigua and Barbuda: Streamlining Procurement Procedures for Disaster Response

We are supporting the Government to develop its Emergency Procurement Rules and Procedures to help guide the procurement of goods and services during emergencies. The guidelines specify the conduct of procurement approvals, methods, and sole source solicitations during emergencies and define the role of budgetary units in the process.

Dominica: Integrating Climate-Risks in the Appraisal of Public Investment Projects

The Government designed a new Public Sector Investment Program Methodology that considers vulnerability to climate shocks and impacts in public investment project design, physical placement, construction, and maintenance, including by using projections of the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and other climate trends (e.g., sea-level rise) over the asset's intended lifetime.

Grenada: Mainstreaming Gender Considerations in Planning and Budgeting

The Government introduced a gender budgeting framework which: consists of a new budget submission template; requires gender analysis of programs and budget allocations based on sex-disaggregated data; supports capacity development for improved data collection and analyses across line ministries, and introduces the presentation of gender equity priorities and related budget measures in the publicly available budget documentation.

Saint Lucia: Improving Business Continuity of Ministry of Finance

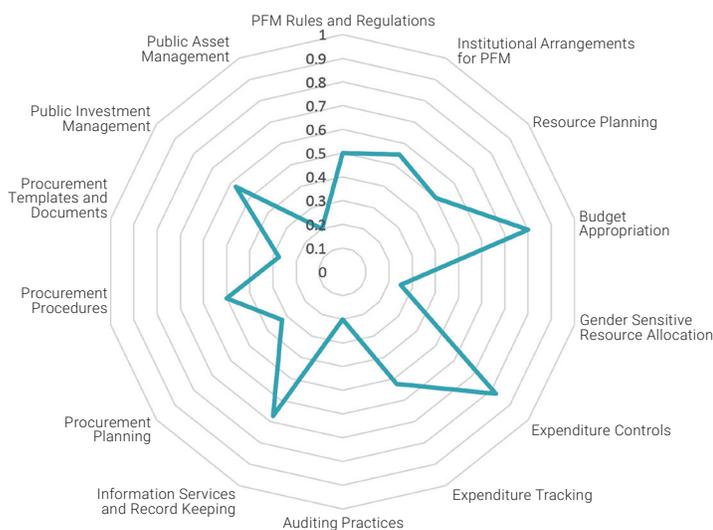
The Ministry of Finance of Saint Lucia has been conducting business impact analyses to understand the key PFM services that must be sustained or quickly restored during disasters. The findings will inform the Ministry's business continuity planning to keep key PFM services and make it easier to resume them after the disruption.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Designing Emergency Budget Execution Guidelines

We have helped to develop the Emergency Budget Execution Guidelines that facilitate the use of funds during disasters. The Guidelines describe the procedures and practices for in-year adjustments to the budget to facilitate timely and flexible responses to disasters within the powers allocated to the Executive.

and alignment of PFM systems; financial resilience, public sector risk layering, strengthening the financial sector and insurance markets; social resilience, strengthening social safety nets and access to basic infrastructure; and institutional resilience, systems that adapt and respond to disasters and ensure business continuity.

How Disaster Resilient are PFM Systems in the Caribbean?



Legend: 1 signifies full disaster resilience; 0.2 signifies limited or no disaster resilience of PFM.

Regional Activities

Webinars on Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) and Disaggregated Data

In collaboration with Statistics Canada's [Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean \(PRASC\)](#) and the [Caribbean Community \(CARICOM\) Secretariat](#), we organized a series of online seminars on the importance of gender-based analysis and disaggregated data.

Over 150 participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname joined the sessions to discuss the collection of disaggregated data and how it can be used to design programs that better target the needs of different groups. Watch the [video](#) from one of the events.

Read our [story](#) on Integrating Gender in Budget Policies for Disaster Management in the Caribbean, and our new blog on Disaggregated Data for Focused Development Programs below.



Dominica, collapsed bridge after 2017 Hurricane Maria. Photo: Jean-Francois Manuel

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Disaggregated data for focused development programs

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Disaggregated data, or data broken down by age, sex, and income levels, can help governments better target development programs. A series of online seminars by Statistics Canada and the World Bank showed Caribbean countries how to collect and leverage disaggregated data to improve program impacts.

The ongoing pandemic has hugely impacted people across the world, and in so many different ways. Depending on who you are and where you live, the experience can be, to use a cliché, worlds apart! For example, to a young boy living in the city, it could all be about attending school remotely, or not being able to play football with his friends. For him, learning is challenging, his grades are deteriorating, his parents may be out of work. He's cooped up in a small apartment with his parents, brothers, and sisters. Life is no longer fun.

In contrast, for his grandmother, who still lives in the village with little or no access to the internet, getting information is a challenge. What's going on with the pandemic? When and where can she get vaccinated? Her daily walks to the market, her weekly gatherings with friends, have all been canceled. For her, life has become lonely. She feels isolated.



officials at a roundtable in Saint Lucia

Often, government programs, though well-intended, do not recognize these different experiences. Their one-size-fits-all approach fails to account for and respond to diverse needs. This results in poor targeting, wasted resources, and can even place individuals and groups at greater risk, especially when fighting a life-threatening crisis like COVID-19.

Which is why, to better understand people's different roles and experiences, countries have been conducting impact assessments of policies based on gender and age. While approaches to conducting assessments may vary, their effectiveness is heavily dependent on the availability of disaggregated data, or data that is broken down by, to start with, age, sex, or income levels. [MORE >](#)

CONTACT US

To learn how to access support and participate directly in activities sponsored by the CRF, please contact CaribbeanPFM@worldbank.org.

CRF Canada Caribbean Resilience Facility

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