ST. KITTS AND NEVIS
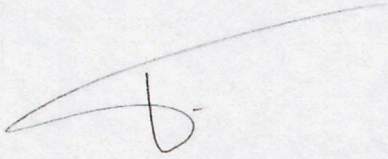
UNITED NATIONS

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

JANUARY 2024 – DECEMBER 2025
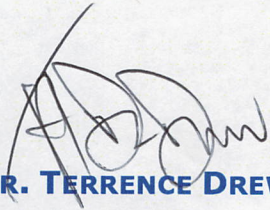
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THE HON. DR. TERRENCE DREW

PRIME MINISTER OF ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

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ACRONYMS

BOS	Business Operating Strategy
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CIP	Country Implementation Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCO	Development Coordination Office
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
IFI	International Financial Institution
IMS	Information Management System
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MAF	Management and Accountability Framework
NSDCC	National Sustainable Development Coordination Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
RBM	Results Based Management
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Development States
UN	United Nations
UNST	United Nations Sub-Regional Team
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UN MSDF	United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster and Risk Reduction
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCTAD	United Nations Council for Trade and Development
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNLIREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
VAC	Violence Against Children
WFP	World Food Programme

1. Introduction and purpose

This UN Country Implementation Plan (CIP) is a country-specific document which serves as an instrument for facilitating greater alignment and coherence of the UN Development System's support to St. Kitts and Nevis in keeping with the mandate of the UN General Assembly outlined in the GA Resolution 74/297. This CIP, like its predecessor plan, has been programmatically developed to respond to the pillars of the Caribbean's 2022-2026 UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) which serves as the overarching blueprint for the UN's cooperation and support in the region. The CIP for St. Kitts and Nevis seeks to capture key contributions to the Federation by the UN Development System, maximizing and promoting synergies among agencies and across MSDCF signatory countries. This CIP, which will be valid for a two-year period, will seek to capture the UN agencies, funds, and programmes (AFPs) planned programmatic actions toward achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and build on the progress made under the 2022-2023 CIP in direct response to, and in consequence of, the COVID-19 global pandemic. Overall, this new CIP will seek to utilize a more collaborative approach amongst the UNDS, the government of St. Kitts and Nevis and other key partners, by:

o **Promoting a distinctive offer that better tailors UN technical support to St. Kitts and Nevis in alignment with national and regional needs and priorities;**
o **Delivering a more coherent and coordinated UN response to St. Kitts and Nevis through joint mechanisms and planning instruments; and**
o **Expanding and leveraging partnerships with a diverse grouping of actors to tackle complex development challenges and priorities.**

The 2024-2025 CIP will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needs be, to ensure interventions remain on track to achieve the intended outcomes toward the 2030 SDG Goals.

2. Country context
2.1　Brief Overview of Country's Sustainable Development Context

St. Kitts and Nevis is a high-middle income Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Eastern Caribbean with a land area of 260km^2 and exclusive economic zone of 9,502km^2. The estimated population in 2023 was 53,000[1] with 49% males and 51% females. The twin-island nation is classified as a High Human Development country with a per capita income of US$23,358 and a ranking of 75th among 191 countries in the 2021-2022 Human Development Report. Over 95% of the population has access to essential services such as electricity, potable water, sanitation services, and shelter 2, with adequate access to health care and education. Nevertheless, St. Kitts and Nevis is also characterized by a high dependency on importation of food and fossil fuels, acute vulnerability to climate-related disasters, as well as susceptibility to economic shocks and supply chain disruptions from global conflicts.

The country depends heavily on services (68% of GDP), particularly tourism, which accounts for 22% of GDP and 42% of employment, with agriculture and manufacturing collectively accounting for 8% of GDP. The Government's Citizenship By Investment (CBI) Programme has also been a substantial contributor to the post-sugar economic stability.

Table 1.0 Country Profile in Numbers

Life Expectancy at birth: 74.6 years (2021)	
• Men (72.3 years)	
• Women (77.0 years)	

Unemployment Rates: 5.4% (2020)

St. Kitts	Nevis
• Men (9.5%)	Men (4.1%)
• Women (6.5%)	Women (4.7%)

Labour Force Participation Rate:

St. Kitts	Nevis
• Men (76%)	Men (78.3%)
• Women (70.2%)	Women (69.8%)

Income:
- **Human Development Index:**
  - **Value: 0.777 (2021)**
  - **Rank: (76 out of 191 countries)**
- **Debt to GDP Ratio: 64.7% (2022)**
- **Gross National Income (GNI): USD 23,358 (2021)**
- **GDP per capita: USD 18,585 (2022)**
- **Annual Inflation: 2.5 % (2022)**
- **Income Inequality: 0.306 (2018)**

Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)
- Rank: **80**th out of 143 developing and emerging economies (2021)

Literacy rate (2021): 97.8%

Gender inequality index: N/A

2.2   Progress towards the 2030 agenda

In 2015, St. Kitts and Nevis committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, the planet, and global prosperity, expected to be implemented by all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, through bold and transformative steps urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.

The SDGs raise the bar to achieve a paradigm shift in many key development areas. The transformative agenda focuses on the five Ps (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership). Achieving the SDGs is a complex and systematic endeavor that requires involvement from a wide range of stakeholders across different backgrounds, thus creating social and institutional partnerships as well as the joint responsibility of public entities, businesses, and citizens for the implementation of the SDGs.

Consequently, international partnerships and collaboration are also crucial for St. Kitts and Nevis to achieve the SDGs.

Figure 1.0 St. Kitts and Nevis' Progress Scorecard on Implementing the 2030 SDGs

Figure 1.0 above highlights St. Kitts and Nevis' 2023 SDGs Annual Progress Report, which is prepared by the Statistical Division of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and gathers information from the National Statistical Department, National Accounts and Reports, and UN Agencies' Country Analysis. Based on the information provided at the time of reporting, only SDG 4 (Quality Education) has been achieved in St. Kitts and Nevis. However, it is noted that there is only moderate progress being made to maintain this SDG achievement. It should also be noted that SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) are the only two SDGs showing on track to SDG achievement. Nevertheless, there remains challenges to implementation impacting both of these SDGs as well as SDGs 2, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Moreover, the report was unable to capture any data on progress being made for SDGs 1, 3, 8, 10 and 12.

Overall, it is necessary to underscore that the devastation of the global pandemic in terms of its impacts on people and the halting of economic activity for a considerable time had slowed down the progress towards the SDG achievements. Like other countries, during the pandemic, the major focus of St. Kitts and Nevis was to protect its citizens, both in terms of health and livelihoods, with tremendous effort and resources repurposed towards tackling COVID-19. However, as the impact of COVID-19 on the social and economic frameworks of the country seem to be rebounding, efforts are now being readjusted to accelerate the pace of implementation of the SDGs through innovative and collaborative approaches which incorporate strong data usage and analysis as guidelines.

3. CIP ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

3.1 Developmental Challenges

Key Development Challenges

o   High Debt to GDP ratio, with declining access to finance for development
o   Water scarcity and impact on waste management and food security
o   High prevalence of NCDs and rising mental health issues
o   Resurgence of frequent incidents of violent crime
o   High cost of energy and cost of living
o   Lack of economic diversification
o   Rising Temperatures -vulnerability to natural disasters (i.e. storms, flooding, coastal erosion)
o   Open market economy, net importer of many goods and reliant on several trading partners

3.2 National Plans and Priority Areas

The challenges outlined above, in many ways, impact the socio-economic development of St. Kitts and Nevis by affecting sectors like agriculture, energy, water, health, trade, and tourism. In response, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, in November 2023, embarked on an initiative to transform the nation into a Sustainable Island State by 2040 called the **Sustainable Island State Agenda (SISA) 2040.** The SISA is based on seven (7) key pillars, namely, i) water Security, ii) energy transition, iii) food security, iv) sustainable industries, v) the circular economy, vi) sustainable settlements, and vii) social protection. This agenda has been deemed a necessity to provide generational security and wealth for all groups and future generations as well as develop a climate resilient state for the survivability of the Federation. The SISA will also be facilitated through the implementation of the National Development Planning Framework (NDPF) Implementation Plan for 2023-2037 which was approved by Cabinet in January 2024. This new multi-year planning framework outlines a range of relevant initiatives for (a) the adaptation and mitigation of the aforementioned developmental challenges' adverse impacts on the country as well as (b) the implementation of national development priorities such as financing for development, digital transformation, citizen security, energy-water-food security nexus, social protection with a focus on the most vulnerable groups in society and creating the enabling environment for the execution of the SISA.

The above priorities constitute the basis for the 2024-25 CIP priority areas of support for St. Kitts and Nevis. Fundamentally, the CIP is also designed to advance human rights, promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and adhere to international standards with a commitment to leave no one (LNOB). The programmatic support by the UNDS which underpins the CIP, is also strategically designed to advance lagging SDGs. Accordingly, in the framework of the UN MSDCF for the period 2022-2026, this CIP operationalizes the UN's commitment to support St. Kitts and Nevis on the following four (4) broad pillars for SDG acceleration.

1.   **Building Economic Resilience**
2.   **Building Social and Human Capital Resilience**
3.   **Building Climate Resilience**
4.   **Building Safe, Just and Peaceful Societies**

These broad priority areas will be fueled **by six (6) key transition areas** to deliver catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs. They include: **(1)** food systems; **(2)** data systems; **(3)** digital connectivity; **(4)** education; **(5)** jobs and social protection; and **(6)** climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

3.3   Mapping UN Support for Operationalization of National Priority Areas

Key Pillars of the MSDCF	National Development Priority Areas	Alignment to MSDCF Outcomes & Enablers	SDGs Alignment	UN Programmatic Support in the CIP
B U I L D I N G **E R** **C E** **O S** **N I** **O L** **M I** **I E** **C N** **C** **E**	1. An Integrated Approach to Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries for Food Security	More productive and competitive business ecosystems **(1)** Manage natural resources and ecosystems **(6)**	2, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	• Increase capacity of both public and private sector stakeholders to promote and enhance agribusinesses that is sensitive to COVID-19 and gender gaps • Strengthen capacities to combat IUU fishing and identify investment opportunities along the fishery value chain • Equip Government institutions and farmers with innovative technologies to improve water management and increase efficiency in the agricultural sector over time.
	2. Sustainable Industries: Tourism, Creative Economy, Internet-based Services	More productive and competitive ecosystems **(1)** A more diversified and sustainable economy **(2)**	8, 9, 10	• Launch Phase III of Future Tourism Project to build capacity of tourism-related MSMEs in digital tech, financial planning and marketing • Support the strengthening of the enabling environment for the orange (creative) economy through promotion of cultural services and improved market access
	3. Green Energy Transition	A more diversified and sustainable economy **(2)** Manage natural resources and ecosystems **(6)**	7, 8, 9, 12	• Strengthen national capacity to accelerate the green energy transition • Develop policy and institutional arrangements for decarbonizing the electricity sector and enhancing energy efficiency of public buildings • Demonstration of feasibility of high energy efficiency buildings and resilient grid-integrated renewable electricity generation
B U I L D I N G	4. Social and Human Development: Investing in People & Enhancing the Care Economy	Use relevant data to design and adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and LNOB **(3)** Equitably access and utilize universal, quality	1, 3, 4, 5, 10,	• Increase capacity of government institutions to collect, analyse and utilize data to address structural and social inequalities • Improve policy and legislative mechanisms on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights • Enhance capacities to reduce inequalities and address different forms of discrimination and ethical risks • Develop national policies and regulatory systems to improve the effectiveness of medicines, vaccines and health technologies • Develop and implement health financing mechanisms to increase fiscal space for health • Assess and strengthen emergency preparedness and IHR capacities

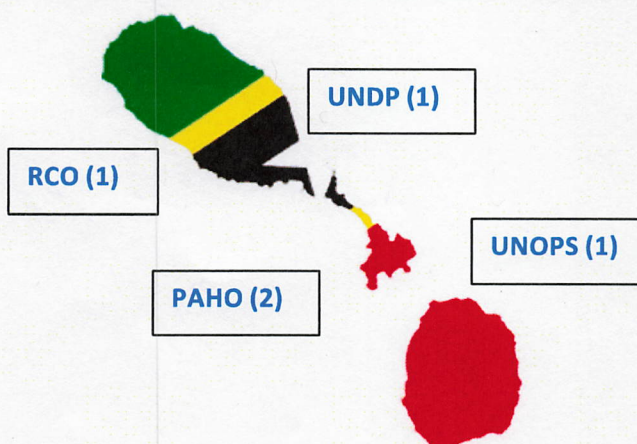|					
S O C I A L **C A P I T A L**	**H U M A N & R E S I L I E N C E**		and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health, and care services **(4)**		• Strengthen Integrated Health Services Delivery Networks to provide comprehensive and quality health services • Strengthen social protection systems to reduce poverty and vulnerability, boost resilience and deliver shock-responsive programmes • Strengthen capacities of Public and Private institutions to provide efficient access to integrated programmes that address multidimensional needs of the most exclude children • Strengthen education systems to meet challenges of relevance and the changing context • Strengthen Community-based mechanisms and care services to ensure protection, including in humanitarian settings. • Support families and communities to access education • Strengthen capacity of public and private institutions to protect children and effectively respond to VAC • Increase capacity of educational institutions to develop policies and frameworks to provide learner-centered environments. • Enhance capacity of early childhood educators to develop equitable, inclusive, and integrated ECD policies and programmes
B U I L D I N G **C L I M A T**		5. Environmental Sustainability and Disasters and Disaster Risk Management	Enhancement of adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation **(5)** Manage natural resources and ecosystems **(6)**	12, 13, 14, 15, 16	• Enhance capacity to engage in environmental migration policy discussions • Strengthen humanitarian supply chain and logistics capacities to protect their access to food and livelihoods • Strengthen capacity of government institutions to support child-sensitive climate policies and programmes. • Increase capacity of government and communities to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change • Enhance access to info to empower societies to advance sustainable development and build resilience to climate change and disasters • Support government to develop and implement multi-risk national disaster risk reduction strategies in line w/ the Sendai Framework • Provide guidance to government for the financing of disaster risk reduction actions and addressing infrastructure resilience • Strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems that reach the most vulnerable in society • Strengthen capacity of key stakeholders to conduct systems-level risk assessments and analysis for risk reduction approaches

R E S I L I E N C E					• Provide support for the establishment and management of disaster losses and damages tracking systems • Build national capacity to mitigate, prepare, respond, and adapt to climate shocks and related events • Support the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (Mitigation) • Support NDC and LT-LEDS development and implementation • Support the Development of National Communications, National Adaptation Plans, and Indigenous Regional Adaptation Plans • Provide support on crosscutting areas (e.g. Climate Transparency, Climate Finance, and non-Party stakeholder engagements)
B U I L D I N G S A F E J U S T	**P E A C E F U L S O C I E T I E S**	6. Digital Transformation	Laws, policies, systems, and institutions improve access **(7)**	8, 16	• Building awareness and strengthening capacities for inclusive, ethical, human centered digital transformation and digital citizenship.
		7. Citizen Security	Laws, policies, systems, and institutions improve access **(7)** Engaged in building and maintaining safer, fairer, inclusive, and equitable societies **(8)**	16,	• Accelerate PACE Justice project • Public and private institutions are strengthened to prevent and effectively respond to violence, abuse, and exploitation of children • Strengthen capacity of duty bearers to support positive attitudes, behaviors and practices • Strengthen capacity of national institutions and enhance meaningful youth engagement for an inclusive, ethical, just, and peaceful society

	8. Financing for Development	Data and Information Systems **(Enabler)** Advocacy for development financing **(Enabler)**	16, 17	• Develop a National SDGs financing strategy • Provide technical support to align national budgeting system w/ SDGs that enable tracking of budget allocation for the SDGs, including through gender responsive budgeting
	9. Enabling Framework for the Sustainable Island State Agenda	Data and Information Systems **(Enabler)** Advocacy for development financing **(Enabler)** Youth and civil society engagement **(Enabler)** Regional Integration **(Enabler)** Advocacy for people at risk of being left behind **(Enabler)**	17	• Strengthen institutional framework for implementing SDGs • Coordination support through the RCO and UNV for the NSDCC • Mainstreaming and policy support mission for the SISA • Support for data collection and analysis to support decision making • Support for developing an Integrated National Financing Framework to identify and mobilize funding • Support for communications and advocacy to streamline messaging on SISA through the SDGs • Support for Resource Mobilization and Partnerships • Coordination of Development Partner Group Meeting to discuss a coordinated approach to channeling resources to national priorities • Support for Data Collection, knowledge management and utilization of UN Info

3.4 Snapshot of UN Agencies Programmatic Offer

Country	Year	Required Funding	Available Funding	Funds to be Mobilized	Agencies
St Kitts and Nevis	2024	$ 6,667,540	$ 3,866,624	$ 2,800,916	UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, PAHO, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, IOM, UNESCO, ITU, UNDRR, OHCHA, UNFCC, UNEP
	2025	$ 4,835,300	$ 1,751963.29	$ 3,083,337	

4. GOVERNANCE AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The United Nations Sub-Regional Team (UNST) in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean comprises a total of 22 AFPs under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the Secretary-General's designated representative in the sub-region. The UNST is charged with supporting Eastern Caribbean Governments including St. Kitts and Nevis, in meeting national development priorities. There are nine (9) resident agencies (FAO, IOM, ITU, PAHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and UNFCCC), six (6) with programatic presence or liaison offices in Barbados (OCHA, OHCR, UNDRR, UNFPA, UNIDO and UNODC), and seven (7) non-resident agencies (ECLAC, ILO, UNCTAD, UNEP, and UNESCO), from which dedicated staff serve the Governments and people of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories.

There is a total of four (4) UN agencies and four (5) personnel currently based in St. Kitts and Nevis. To better coordinate the increasing in-country support to the government and other stakeholders, the team was expanded with the placement of a UN Country Coordination Officer in September 2021. This new role is aimed at improving in-country coordination capability among UN agencies and national stakeholders and partners leading to improved development effectiveness at the country level.

The National Sustainable Development Coordinating Committee (NSDCC), responsible for the coordination of the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in St. Kitts and Nevis, serves as the primary mechanism for review of progress in the implementation of this CIP. Within the context of the CIP, the NSDCC is the main in-country mechanism responsible for supporting the overall planning, monitoring, and implementation in St. Kitts and Nevis. The UN CCO serves as interlocutor to facilitate dialogue between the NSDCC, and UN AFPs (collectively and individually) as required.

ANNEX 1: CIP RESULTS AND RESOURCE FRAMEWORK