



UWI Regional Conference on Resilience to Hurricanes in the Caribbean

2 October 2024, UWI Mona Campus, Kingston

Key Messages by

**Kishan Khoday**

**Resident Representative in**

**The Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman, Jamaica and Turks & Caicos  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

UNDP is the UN's largest implementer of grant assistance for climate action, with over \$4 billion of grant initiatives today in over 140 countries and territories. In the Caribbean, UNDP has been present locally for 50 years, supporting enhanced capacities over the years and access to global finance. Particular emphasis is on developing local capacities for mitigating and adapting to climate change, supporting synergies between climate and disaster policy and planning, enhancing risk governance, building community resilience, and ensuring resilient recovery systems.

- **UNDP assistance** to build resilience to disaster events in recent times in the Caribbean have included regional programme cooperation over the past 20 years with countries across the region to develop capacities for disaster risk reduction, resilient recovery, and local disaster management. This includes local initiatives such as in The Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian to undertake impact assessments and to build back better with new climate resilient shelters; in Belize to enhance impact assessment capacities and risk governance; and with Jamaica following Hurricane Beryl to support recovery of livelihoods, as well as development of a new crisis coordination online platform to enhance coordination or needs and response when disasters hit.
- **UNDP priorities** for supporting resilient based development including building community resilience within food, energy and water systems to reduce overall vulnerability in climate and disaster risk hotspots locally within partner countries and territories; enhancing risk informed development policies and plans; further enhancing local risk governance and institutional mechanisms; and supporting local facilities to expand access to climate and disaster risk finance
- **Challenges and opportunities:** looking to the future, a needs exists to shift beyond response and adaptation systems, towards transformation in development policies so as to future-proof investments and ensure that economic assets and land use is aligned with a future of more unpredictable and severe climate induced disasters. A special focus is needed on the most poor and vulnerable in society, to prevent climate induced re-expansion of poverty as well as rural to urban displacement post-2030. Lastly is a need to develop capacities for accounting for loss and damage from climate change and disasters including related policies and institutional mechanisms, and to ensure policy making takes a systems approach with multi-dimensional risk analyses to better grasp scenarios and futures.