## CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PROGRAM

The countries that make up the Caribbean are disproportionately affected by global economic, financial and environmental crises. Their small island economies are often unable to cope with global economic downturns or extreme weather events such as hurricanes.

High debt levels and sluggish growth have resulted in increasing poverty and inequality, and have negatively impacted social development. Marked gender disparities exist in education, health and income. There is weak representation of women in leadership, and high rates of gender-based violence.

Canada has long-standing and strongly anchored links with the Caribbean, based on shared values, cultures and personal ties. Through international assistance, Canada contributes to human dignity, growth that works for everyone, environment and climate action, and inclusive governance in the region.

To address the Caribbean's development needs, Canada is working with government institutions and civil society organizations to create a more competitive, productive and gender-equitable workforce and private sector. It is doing this by providing technical assistance to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and to increase access to training opportunities.

