

## TECHNICAL SESSION

### Building Back Better & Inclusive Recovery in Small Island Developing States

May 14th, 2019/ 11:00-12:30, ROOM 18

Context	<p><b>Small Island Developing States (SIDS) suffer disproportionately from the adverse impacts of natural hazards exacerbated by climate change.</b> They include more than two thirds of the countries with the highest relative average annual disaster losses caused by natural disasters – between 1 to 9% of their GDP, and the costs are growing. Climate change is expected to greatly increase SIDS’ exposure to natural hazards such as hurricanes, storm surges, flooding and extreme winds. The recurrence and severity of natural disasters compound existing challenges and place added burdens on the SIDS’ efforts to achieve sustainable development goals by impeding their development of social programs and infrastructure including diverting funding to disaster response.</p> <p><b>Natural disasters are also not neutral as they disproportionately affect the poorest, the vulnerable and most marginalized due to uneven access to political, economic and social resources which affects people’s capacity to cope, manage and recover from disasters.</b> Disasters affect women, girls, men and boys differently due to gender inequalities, often exacerbated by marginalization due to age, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation as well as socio-economic status, geographic context and cultural and religious beliefs. Inclusive recovery ensures that the poorest, most vulnerable and most marginalized are reached and protected and empowered to participate and influence in disaster recovery planning and decision-making and broader resilience building.</p> <p><b>There are several approaches to achieve inclusive recovery, and one of them is to apply the principles of Building Back Better (BBB), operationalized through three dimensions: building back faster, stronger and more inclusively.</b> BBB can lay the foundation for building inclusive and resilient societies and benefit SIDS specifically due to their high vulnerability and small scale. SIDS make up 7 of the top 10 countries with highest gains from BBB. The Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)/World Bank report <i>Build Back Better</i>, shows that a faster, stronger and more inclusive recovery would lead to an average reduction in disaster-related well-being losses of 59 percent in SIDS and that such resilient and effective recovery can only take place through targeted actions before the disaster hits. It therefore important to understand what BBB means in practice and what the challenges are to its implementation - especially in SIDS where government face many challenges in managing and responding to climate and disaster risks.</p> <p>The session on <i>Building Back Better and Inclusive Recovery in Small Island Developing States</i> will bring together experts from SIDS to share experiences on BBB focusing specifically on inclusive recovery and how to reach, protect and empower the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in disaster recovery and reconstruction. It will specifically discusses the challenges and opportunities SIDS encounter when implementing the BBB approach including the importance of planning ahead of disasters and the role that social vulnerability assessments, adaptive social protection systems, community resilience and gender equality and women’s leadership can play in BBB to build sustainable and resilient societies in SIDS.</p>
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<b>Speakers / Panelists</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Elizabeth Riley, Deputy Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)</li> <li>2. Mr. Omar Sweeney, Managing Director, Jamaica Social Investment Fund</li> <li>3. Ms. Mary Jack, Provincial Coordinator, Action Aid Vanuatu &amp; Leader of the Women I Tok Tok Tugetha Network</li> <li>4. Ms. Victorina Palu, Senior Engineer, Ministry of Infrastructure, Tonga</li> </ol> <p>Moderators: Naraya Carrasco and Cindy Robles (GFDRR)</p>
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