
Baseline Assessment Report

Recommendations for a
Policy Framework on
Remittances and Diaspora
Engagement

TA/003/2015

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List of acronyms

ACP- Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
ACS-AEC- Association of Caribbean States
AML- Anti-Money Laundering
APEI- Accelerated Programme for Economic Integration
CARICOM- Caribbean Community
CSO- Civil Society Organisation
CVQ- Caribbean Vocational Qualification
CXC- Caribbean Examinations Council
ECCB- Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
ECCU- Eastern Caribbean Currency Union
ECSC- Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
ECTEL- Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority
EU- European Union
ICT- Information and Communications Technology
IGDS- Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies
IIR- The Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies
ILO- International Labour Organization
IOM- International Organization for Migration
LMIS- Labour Market Information System
NGO- Non-Governmental Organisation
OECS- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OGDS- OECS Growth and Development Strategy
REC- Regional Economic Community
SALISES- Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies
SIDS- Small Island Developing States
UAG- Université des Antilles et de la Guyane
UPU- Universal Postal Union
UWI- University of the West Indies

Executive summary



➤ *Structure of the report*

This report briefly outlines the observations gleaned from desktop research and a short field visit to the OECS Secretariat with regard to the state of affairs regarding governance relative to diaspora engagement and remittances, and proposes baseline indicators that can be used in the assessment of the Technical Assistance intervention.

The report notes significant deficiencies in terms of the data available on both diaspora and remittances in the region, but provides a number of indicators that provide a measure of the progress of regional policy framework envisaged in the project design. The report also suggests that given the limitations of financial and human resources created by extensive demands on the OECS Commission in the implementation of the OECS Growth and Development Strategy, the current Technical Assistance be more closely aligned with the pillars of the OGDS, and a wider definition of remittances that would facilitate that alignment. Also noted is the importance of the development or investigation of funding sources that would ensure the sustainability of the action and continued efficiency of the Commission in its implementation.

1. Introduction and background

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) plays a pivotal role on matters relating to functional cooperation and joint coordination in the Eastern Caribbean sub-region. There is a general recognition within the OECS of the importance of diaspora relations and the social, financial and technical remittances that emerge from the diaspora relationship to buttress economic policies and national development. A major challenge is thus to balance current financial, data and other resource constraints within the OECS with the need for governments of Eastern Caribbean countries to have sound migration management. It is within this context that the OECS has undertaken numerous approaches to improve dialogue and knowledge on remittances and its benefit to the countries of the region. Such efforts are evident in the OECS' action and consultations undertaken during the recently convened 'remittances and diaspora engagement' workshops that were hosted within the context of dialogue and cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The proposed Technical Assistance is geared to move the process forward and develop a plan of action for OECS Member States that is definitive and streamlined, while taking into account the important differences and specificities of OECS members, and the full range of potential diaspora contributions (including but not exclusively private financial remittances) to social, institutional and economic development priorities as defined within the OECS Growth and Development Strategy (OGDS) and the OECS Vision Priorities for Consolidation of the Single Economic Space.

The overarching goal of the planned Technical Assistance intervention is to assist in the development of a policy framework on remittances and Diaspora engagement for policy development and implementation by OECS Member States. The OECS is made up of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Eastern Caribbean that are susceptible to numerous economic and environmental exposures that often compromise their development because of their small size and geographical location. Despite important differences in approaches, stages of advancement, and priorities in terms of diaspora outreach and mobilization of remittances and related stakeholders among OECS Member States, Technical Assistance is requested by the OECS through the OECS Commission in an effort to promote cooperation, policy harmonization and common action on diaspora engagement and remittances management. It is noted that work on the policy framework has already begun with the drafting of an Outline Plan of Action on Diaspora engagement and remittances for the OECS.

Given the period of project implementation (January 2015-June 2017), and the general objective of providing comprehensive support to improve government action and to promote the contribution of civil society to migratory governance, it is notable that the Technical Assistance intervention will also take place in the context of:

- 1) Definition and Implementation on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development which stresses the importance of private transfers and commits to reducing average transaction cost of migrant remittances by 2030 to less than 3 per cent of the amount transferred, addressing obstacles to non-bank remittance service providers accessing payment system infrastructure, as well as the promotion of the use of new technologies, financial literacy and inclusion, and improved data collection.
- 2) Definition and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, to be finalized in September 2015, but which currently includes mention of the importance of migrants and remittances to development outcomes.

- 3) Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway adopted at the 3rd UN Conference on Small Island Developing States which includes a commitment to contribute to the reduction of transfer costs related to remittances given their importance for the economic growth of Small Island Developing States.
- 4) Similar actions promoting free or freer movement of nationals, migration governance and diaspora outreach within the ACP Group and its constituent Regional Economic Communities (RECs), some of which include SIDS.
- 5) Ongoing efforts within CELAC to build regional capacities for a permanent exchange of information and good practices between countries in the region on the issue of migration and development.
- 6) Implementation of the OECS Growth and Development Strategy 2013-2018, which outlines investment promotion and state-led development as core elements of its implementation and the financial services sector a key impetus to growth in the region.
- 7) Consolidation of the OECS Economic Union (inaugurated January 2011) as defined within the Revised Treaty of Basseterre

Indeed, this intervention takes place against the backdrop of several interventions in the wider Caribbean by the ACP in partnership with the European Union as well as United Nations agencies, notably the development and implementation of the ACP Migration Facility (2010-2014), the ongoing UNDP/IOM Joint Migration for Development Initiative (JMDI) (2011-present) and UE-ALC project on Strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between the EU and LAC (2012-2015) to establish migration models on migration and development policies, which has had a direct impact on OECS Member States. The growing interest and actions of the OECS concerning Diaspora engagement and remittances for regional development, and related policy development in CARICOM member states such as Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti provide the basis for active exchange of experiences and the development of partnerships in the context of the envisaged Technical Assistance intervention.

In the lead-up to the current intervention, dialogue and training workshops were held in March and October 2014 in the context of the UE-LAC project, with participants selected by the IOM and the OECS Commission. The audience was primarily made up of policymakers and technical staff of OECS member state governments with some involvement by CSOs or other NSAs. Participants were exposed to key information and presentations on the development of policy relative to diaspora engagement and remittances, including orientation on the structure and use of the recently completed IOM Handbook to Develop Projects on Remittances.

Theme	Policy Area	Public Administration Area	Development Area	Diplomatic Area
Prior to migration or departure				
Labour migration	Bilateral government policies	Processing and granting of visas, migrant protection	Workforce training and awareness-raising	Bilateral cooperation on labour migration and migrant protection
	Skills and work			
	Mitigation of risks			
During migration (period spent in host country)				
Remittances	Money transfer market	Institutional links with formal labour migration efforts	Leverage of development tools by governments	Joint associations of governments, diaspora and the private sector for development
	Financial education and access to financial services			
	Social well-being			
Diaspora	Access to diaspora and transnational links			
	Integration of migrants' country of origin			
After migration				
Return	Legal reintegration	Laws on return and institutional support	Incentives for reintegration	Bilateral development cooperation programmes aimed at returning migrants
	Social reintegration			
	Economic and employment reintegration			

Source: IOM Handbook to Develop Projects on Remittances (2014)

Reports from these workshops were circulated to participants for recommendations, but it is unclear whether information on these events has circulated to the wider population, including OECS member states that were not present at the activities, as well as regional private sector and CSO umbrella associations who would be key in the implementation of activities under the framework envisaged.

➤ *Rationale for the baseline assessment*

The specific objectives of the present baseline assessment are to:

1. Provide an overview of the state of affairs on the specific subject of the OECS request prior to the actual implementation of the TA intervention, to be used as a reference against which to compare the results achieved through the TA intervention and with the objective of evaluating its impact and contribution to the improvement of the initial situation;
2. Offer inputs and guidance useful to fine-tune TA intervention.
3. Identify the major stakeholders and Non State Actors (NSAs) working in the area of remittances and diaspora outreach which will assist in the identification and mapping of potential NSAs in the OECS that might participate in subsequent phases of the Action.

2. Baseline assessment methodology

Due to the limited time available for the preparation of this report, primary research methods were limited to in-depth structured interviews with key informants, in particular OECS Commission personnel, IOM staff and consultants involved in the process of workshops aimed at strengthening inter-sectoral dialogue on the issues of Diaspora engagement and remittances among OECS Member states. Limited contact was also made with relevant officials from the governments of OECS Member states.

A literature review was conducted prior to a five-day field mission (July 19-24, 2015) to OECS Member State and seat of the OECS Secretariat, St. Lucia, to develop a basis for stakeholder mapping, baseline indicators and specific data relative to the diaspora outreach and the impact of remittances on OECS Member states. Additional literature, including key OECS documents and reports was accessed with assistance from the OECS Commission.

3. Assessment results

3.1 State of affairs

- *The analysis of the current state of affairs with regard to diaspora outreach and remittances within the OECS draws on reports from UE-ALC Workshops as well as the Outline Plan of Action on Diaspora engagement and remittances for the OECS (working draft).*
 - *status of the relevant institutional and regulatory framework,*

Diaspora Outreach

Diaspora outreach activities are unevenly distributed among OECS members, with member states such as St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada having developed specialized units within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or the Prime Minister's Office to address concerns from expatriate nationals, and build relationships with the diaspora. Other member states, including Montserrat and Martinique have included diaspora as part of ongoing policy initiatives centered on relationship-building and the potential contribution of the diaspora to local economic development. While technical cooperation does occur among OECS countries in terms of the trade negotiation process, consular services are largely the remit of individual member states.

Data Treatment

Among the specialized institutions within the OECS institutional architecture, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the OECS Secretariat are related governance institutions whose input would be essential to the treatment of data and the regulation of issues relative to migration and remittances. While there is no specific Memorandum of Understanding relative to statistical and economic data collection and treatment, the two institutions collaborate efficiently and regularly on an informal basis.

While the OECS Secretariat collaborates with Member States to produce and disseminate a range of data on trade, labour, and key economic and social sectors, there is no dedicated

statistical unit within the Secretariat. Of particular importance in terms of the establishment of a regional approach to measurement of remittances is the network of OECS Directors of Statistics which is responsible for the establishment of methodological standards for the treatment of social and economic data within the sub-region and would also be key to the adaptation of existing instruments (census, household surveys, LMIS) to include information on migration and remittances.

Diaspora Databases/Registries

While member states such as Martinique have developed innovative methods using local and social media to identify and register its expatriate population, there is currently no established regional database at the OECS Secretariat which provides comprehensive data on the location, professional and social activities and institutional affiliations of Member States' diasporas.

Telecommunications/Data Transfer

Telecommunications are playing an increasingly important role in diaspora engagement, banking and the processing of remittance transactions, especially in the context of new applications of phone credits to remittances and local financial transaction and emerging internet-based tools for the transfer of remittances. The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) is responsible for ensuring regional collaboration, coordinated action and harmonized policy in the OECS region and is complemented in participating OECS Member States (Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) by National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions (NTRC).

Financial Sector, including non-bank institutions

The Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) encompasses banks, credit unions, insurance companies, national development foundations, development finance institutions, loan associations and finance companies. The regulatory framework of the domestic banking system has two main legislative components. The ECCB Agreement Act, 1983 gives the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank the power to "regulate banking business on behalf of and in collaboration with Participating Governments." Harmonised banking legislation among OECS Member States also allows for universal recognition of the ECCB as the ECCU's Central Bank, with primary responsibility for the supervision of domestic banks. The ultimate authority for regulating institutions covered by this Act is jointly vested in the Minister of Finance and the ECCB. The Minister of Finance is normally required to act in consultation with, and on the recommendation of the ECCB with respect to those areas where the Minister of Finance has ultimate responsibility.

The ECCB provides support and actively monitors developments, primarily in the credit unions and insurance sectors, both areas of significant importance in terms of emerging approaches to the transfer and investment of remittances. In 2008, the OECS governments conducted Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) Accounting and Auditing. Recommendations from these diagnostic exercises provided a basis for a sub-regional grant-financed technical assistance project focused on non-banking financial institutions in six OECS countries, implemented through the ECCB, which included the

development and implementation of medium-term strategic plans for oversight and regulation of non-banking financial institutions. The emerging framework for oversight of credit unions is of particular importance given the heavy investment of OECS households in credit unions as savings vehicles, and credit unions potential involvement in the remittance economy. The ECCB would also be responsible for oversight and possibly implementation in the case of the issue of diaspora bonds or related instruments targeting investments by expatriate nationals in the domestic sector.

Labour Mobility

Under the Revised Treaty of Basseterre and the resulting OECS Economic Union, citizens of participating OECS Member States, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enjoy the ability to seek gainful employment without requiring a work permit and to stay indefinitely in any Member State under the arrangement. While this facility is primarily aimed at enhancing the labour market to include all Protocol Member States, it may also have implications for diaspora outreach and technical remittances from expatriate nationals.

- *mapping of the policy / legislative process*

From the limited discussions held during the field visit, as well as the desk review on policy and legislative processes within the OECS, it appears that diaspora relations is primarily an activity undertaken by national governments of OECS Member States. This has been recognized as an area for action and further coordination, despite insistence from several participants at foregoing workshops and respondents in this study that the differences among member states in their approach and focus on remittances and diaspora outreach be recognized and respected.

Besides the current efforts, no active policy or legislative processes have been identified at the sub-regional level despite the recent investment of limited supranational legislative powers at the level of the OECS via the Revised Treaty of Basseterre. Current efforts to develop policy are constrained by a lack of adequate data and the draft Action Plan has identified several areas for action in terms of the development of databases and tools to measure remittances, but primarily with a view to building productive relationships with the diaspora in light of regional economic development priorities.

In terms of implementation, which would require not only coordination among Member States but also the engagement of private sector and other NSAs, there is currently no established protocol for the identification and selection of NSA partners for project implementation.

- *related programmes, projects and other donor activities .*

While few related programmes were identified with specific relevance to diaspora outreach and remittances, there is a possible relationship or synergy between the current policy development and facilities developed through the recently completed e-Government for Regional Integration Project (EGRIP) which focused on the application of information and communication technologies to improve the activities of public sector organisations. Given that one of the main areas of action involved improving governments' connection with citizens, the results of this project may align with access to government services by non-resident nationals of the OECS as part of diaspora outreach and relationship building.

3.2 Key baseline indicators

- Key quantitative details – migration and remittances in the OECS

Table 1: Personal Remittances as a percentage of GDP (2010-2013)

OECS Member State	2010	2011	2012	2013
Anguilla	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Antigua and Barbuda	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8
British Virgin Islands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Commonwealth of Dominica	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6
Grenada	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5
Martinique	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Montserrat*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
St. Kitts and Nevis	6.8	6.1	7.0	6.7
St. Lucia	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4

Source: World Bank (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS>)

*Interviews with representative from Montserrat revealed that Montserrat is in fact a net sending country in terms of personal remittances, including towards other states in the Caribbean.

This ratio provides a picture of the relative importance of remittance income within an economy, but does not represent funds transferred informally or capture the potentially greater impact on poorer households. It is important to note that despite significant drops in the period described above, both Grenada (8.7 percent), St. Kitts and Nevis (7.3 percent) were among the countries with the highest remittance to GDP ratio in 2009 (World Bank, 2011).

Table 2: Size and Location of the OECS Diaspora

OECS Member State	Population ('000s)	Stock of Emigrants ('000s)	Top Destination Countries for Diaspora
<i>Anguilla</i>	15.1 (2011)	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>	87.6 (2009)	42.8 (2010)	the United States, the Philippines, Virgin Islands (U.S.), the United Kingdom, Canada, Netherlands Antilles, Dominica, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis
<i>British Virgin Islands</i>	33.5 (2015)	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Commonwealth of Dominica</i>	73.6 (2009)	69.3 (2010)	United States, the United Kingdom, Virgin Islands (U.S.), Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Spain, Italy, France, Barbados, Greece
<i>Grenada</i>	105.9 (2013)	68.3 (2010)	United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Mexico, Antigua and Barbuda, Venezuela, Australia
<i>Martinique</i>	386.5 (2013)	450 (2013 est)	<i>France (400,000 est.), South Africa, Japan, other Europe</i>
<i>Montserrat</i>	4.9 (2012)	<i>n/a</i>	<i>United States, United Kingdom, Canada</i>
<i>St. Kitts and Nevis</i>	54.2 (2013)	31.9 (2010)	United States, United Kingdom, Virgin Islands (U.S.), Canada, Netherlands Antilles, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Netherlands, Australia, St. Lucia
<i>St. Lucia</i>	182.3 (2013)	40.4 (2010)	United States, United Kingdom, Barbados, Canada, Virgin Islands (U.S.), Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Spain, Dominican Republic, Guyana
<i>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>	109.4 (2013)	41.1 (2010)	Canada, United Kingdom, United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, Venezuela, Greece

Source: Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011; Interviews; CIA World Factbook

Beyond the size and location of the OECS Diasporas, the skills available within these populations is also of primary importance. As has been noted in several studies of high-skill migration, Caribbean countries, and in particular OECS member states figure among the countries with highest emigration rate of its tertiary- educated population: Grenada- 85.1 %; St. Vincent and the Grenadines- 84.5 %; St. Kitts and Nevis- 78.5 %; St. Lucia- 71.1 %; Antigua and Barbuda- 66.8 %; Dominica- 64.2 % (World Bank, 2011). In terms of the analysis of the expatriate populations, it would also be important to identify the gender and age composition of these populations independent of and in relation to that of the local population to inform policy and project design.

- *Proposed baseline indicators which will also be used to monitor and evaluate progress of the Technical Assistance intervention*

Remittances

In terms of the results and intended impact of the project on remittances, it is important to note that increases in remittances would be difficult to describe as consequences of any policy changes due to wider impact of direct governmental policies and economic cycles within and outside the OECS. This is doubly so for measures such as Remittances to GDP as well as changes in the relationship between Remittances and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).

In terms of relevant indicators, it is recommended that the Technical Assistance intervention address systemic issues involving effective and inclusive governance with regards to remittances and related monetary system reform, including elements drawn from the Addis Ababa Agenda (AAAA). Proposed indicators are:

- 1) Average costs of remittance for migrant workers
- 2) Existence of agreed framework for collection and treatment of data at regional level, including gender disaggregation
- 3) Number of non-bank institutions authorized to provide remittance transfer services in the country
- 4) Estimated percentage of community members receiving remittances via new technology and who have accessed financial literacy and inclusion programmes.

Diaspora Engagement

Proposed indicators are:

- 5) Definition of Diaspora Human Resources Recruitment Strategy, including methodology for skills database development at the regional level
- 6) Formal capitalisation and inventory of diaspora relations approaches currently used by all OECS member states
- 7) No. of private sector and NSA institutions identified within the OECS as potential partners

- 8) Formation and function of multi-stakeholder virtual team of reformers, involving OECS and national government representatives, academia, diaspora institutions and private sector.

Given the current paucity of data regarding the characteristics of the OECS Diasporas, the monitoring and evaluation of Technical Assistance relative to the collection of data at the national and sub-regional levels on diaspora skills should involve capitalization of the experiences of countries that have already advanced their diaspora policy or institutional development (Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent) in the drafting of Regional Framework, building on the outline Plan of Action on Diaspora Engagement and Remittances for the OECS prepared by Dr. Natasha Mortley for the OECS Commission as well as the provision of assistance to nascent policy documents at the Member State level (e.g. Montserrat)

3.3 Stakeholders mapping and analysis

Financial and Private Sector

Name	Relevance	Notes
Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions (CCCU)	Credit unions are key players in the financial sector of OECS countries, holding deposits for over half of the working population. Based in St. Kitts and Nevis, the CCCU covers eight (8) of the 10 OECS Member States, and is a primary advocate for the co-operative sector in the region.	Tel: (869) 466-9453 Fax: (869) 466-6957 Website: www.caribccu.coop
Eastern Caribbean Institute of Banking and Financial Institutes	Based in St. Kitts and Nevis, the ECIB provides professional development courses for the staff of institutions across the financial services sector, and assists its members to develop and implement best practices, to enhance their ability to compete in the changing global economy	Telephone: 869 466 5566 Facsimile: 869 466 5701 Email: ecib@caribsurf.com Website: http://www.ecib.org
St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture	Represents large cross-section of businesses in St. Lucia, including several major local and foreign actors within the banking and finance sector.	Tel: +1 758 452 3165 / +1 758 453 1540 Fax: +1 758 453 6907, Email: info@stluciachamber.org Website: www.stluciachamber.org
The St Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Industry and Commerce	The SVG-CIC maintains close links with Government as well as inter-governmental and private organizations and represents large cross-section of businesses, including several within the banking and finance sector.	Tel 1 784 457 1464 Email : svgchamber@svg-cic.org Website: www.svg-cic.org

Research and Social Dialogue

Name	Relevance	Notes
Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance (CCMF)	Based in Trinidad and Tobago, the CCMF is a policy research institution established by central banks of Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries and the University of the West Indies, to undertake studies and provide information for monetary and financial policy issues for the region. The CCMF counts the ECCB and St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla National Bank among its contributing institutions.	Tel: (868) 645-1174 or (868) 224-3727 Fax: (868) 645-6017 Email: CCMF@sta.uwi.edu Website: www.ccmf-uwi.org
Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS)	Gender has been consistently identified as a major element of remittances and development. Based in UWI Mona (Jamaica), the IGDS has expertise in the area of migration and development, can provide regional coverage through its centres in UWI campus countries.	Tel: (876) 977-7365 Fax: (876) 977-9053 Email: cgdsmona@uwimona.edu.jm
Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)	Based in Barbados, the SALISES is a specialist research institution that focusses on issues related to remittances, population and development; data collection and management. The institution also provides regional coverage through centres in the UWI campus countries.	Tel : (246) 417-4478 Fax: (246) 424-7291 Email: salises@cavehill.uwi.edu
Université des Antilles et de la Guyane	The UAG has produced several studies on migration and development in the Caribbean and may be a key partner given the recent accession of Martinique to OECS.	Website: http://www.univ-ag.fr/fr/campus/poles_universitaires/martinique.html

Diaspora and Social Inclusion Organisations

Name	Relevance	Notes
Caribbean Diaspora for Science, Technology and Innovation (CADSTI)	CADSTI is a diaspora organization whose primary activity is the management of The Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF) a NGO established 2010 and its primary function is to mine and mobilize the resources in the world-wide Caribbean Diaspora in support of the CSF. The institution also has a relationship with the OECS in terms of project implementation around education.	Caribbean Science Foundation Telephone: 1-246-417-7493 E-mail: csfhdq@gmail.com Website: http://caribbeanscience.org/ http://cadsti.org

3.4 Feedback regarding the Technical Assistance Fiche

➤ *Relation of the proposed TA intervention to the assessed state of affairs*

Given the limitations of financial and human resources created by extensive demands on the OECS Commission in the implementation of the OECS Growth and Development Strategy, it is key that the current Technical Assistance be more closely aligned with the pillars of the OGDS, and a wider definition of remittances that would facilitate that alignment. Also important would be the development or investigation of funding sources that would ensure the sustainability of the action and continued efficiency of the Commission in its implementation.

Among the key areas of convergence identified in the course of the field visit and in review of pertinent documents are five (5) interrelated themes:

- 1) Collection of data on skills with a view to building virtual communities and promoting virtual/physical technical remittances to the OECS;
- 2) Connecting diaspora investment and social remittances with youth and educational development through investment and mentoring, in particular in the area of STEM and ICT;
- 3) Diaspora diplomacy and diaspora involvement in country branding and promotion abroad;
- 4) Combining remittance tracking with the use of ICT to reduce the high cost of sending funds and promote financial literacy, engaging local or diaspora private sector, media and other NSAs in this process;
- 5) Diasporic tourism and identification on (non-remitting) second and third generation diaspora nationals, who may be more inclined towards investment.

Engagement of these themes would be important for synergies with current efforts in terms of diaspora outreach and local economic development at the national level as well as in terms of the vision priorities and growth and development strategy defined at the sub-regional level.

➤ *Proposed adjustments, if any, to the technical assistance fiche and related justification*

Given that the three components of the intervention involve: Demand-driven technical assistance, NSA targeted initiatives; and Information collection and dissemination, the following adjustment are proposed.

II. Background and Justification

It is recommended that this section be revised to include a focus on OECS strategic framework, and vision priorities, with clear noting of strategic context in which the Remittances issue is being addressed by the OECS and its Member States, noting in particular the significant differences among Member States in terms of resources, focus, and priorities with regard to diaspora outreach and remittances.

III. Methodology

World Bank expertise, in particular the KNOMAD programme, should be consulted both in terms of an overview of the subject, but also in terms of its recent work on private sector involvement in the migration-remittance nexus.

- *Outputs: (Bullet 3) The Report entailing **recommendations for a future policy framework** should be directly linked to the draft Action Plan on Diaspora engagement and remittances for the OECS and take into consideration similar policy frameworks in the wider Caribbean (Jamaica, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago among others).*
- *Outputs: Bullet 4: OECS Members States officials' awareness of the recommendations for a policy framework should be complemented by similar awareness among NSA, including the private sector*
- *Outputs: Given the significant restrictions in terms of financial resources to undertake activities which may emerge as part of the framework, assistance in the development and presentation of proposals to technical and funding partners for aspects of the framework, including statistical data collection and treatment, should be among the outputs.*

These adjustments to the outputs would of course have a similar impact on the Activities and Workplan, in particular reduction in the time dedicated to the development of recommendations, or the adjustment of Activity 2 to include the development of funding proposals relative to the further development of the policy framework and/or further development of common indicators and statistical methods with regard to remittances.

V. Resources

Technical Expert in the field of Remittances and Diaspora Studies. It is recommended that it be further specified that the consultant have significant grant or proposal writing experience, as well as expertise in quantitative methods and statistics. Prior experience within an REC or regional intergovernmental institution in the Global South would also be advisable.

➤ *Risk assessment*

- **Divergences in Member State priorities relative to remittances and diaspora.**

While it is assumed the regional coordination is desirable among Member States of the OECS, the Framework should provide a flexible toolkit, allowing for significant differences in terms of pace and extent of adoption and implementation while ensuring some level of harmonization at the supranational (OECS) level.

In terms of regional coordination in terms of data collection- the OECS Directors of Statistics are already responsible for determining methodologies relative to economic data collection and treatment, and is the institution within the OECS should be engaged directly (in tandem with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank) in terms of all activities currently envisaged in the

TA workplan, in particular Activity 1: Review and undertake and analysis of mechanisms and indicators used to track remittances in OECS countries with the purpose of identifying a common set of indicators to measure the level of remittances and that could be used by all OECS Member States.

- **Isolation from international good practices**

Given the specificity of SIDS economic and institutional concerns, a possible action in this regard would be good practice exchanges with similar sub-regional communities which including SIDS (e.g. PIFS, APEI) through cooperation with IOM, ACP and the World Bank.

- **Competing financial governance and oversight institutions**

Project implementation should provide for inclusion or consultation with institutions involved in governance relative to Anti-money laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer compliance with regard to remittances transmission.

- **Language barrier**

The recent accession of Martinique may mean that language services may need to provided to ensure the full participation of representatives from this member state.

Annexes

Annex 1 – List of literature reviewed

- Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance (CCMF). 2014. Caribbean Economic Performance Report- June 2014. UWI, St Augustine. www.ccmfuwi.org
- ECCB. The Financial System in the ECCU. <http://www.eccb-centralbank.org/Financial/fin-intro.asp>
- Final Report. Mini-training workshop: Diaspora Engagement and Remittances: Capacity Building and Dialogue within the OECS region
- IOM. Final Report. Workshop on “How to incorporate remittances and diaspora engagement into development policies”
- Ishmael, L. 2006. The OECS Model of Integration in the Context of Caribbean Regionalism. OECS, Castries, St. Lucia.
- Mortley, N. 2014. Report on the OECS/IOM Mini Workshop on Diaspora Engagement and Remittances for Development in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)- 31 October 2014 (18 November 2014)
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. OECS. 2013. Draft OECS Growth and Development Strategy. Unpublished draft.
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. 2014. OECS Vision Priorities: Consolidation of the Single Economic Space
- The OECS Commission. 2015. Draft Paper on Advancing Telecommunications Policy and Regulation in the OECS. Unpublished Draft.
- United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the OECS. 2011. United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Barbados and the OECS 2012-2016
- Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS, Bridgetown.
- Universal Postal Union (UPU). 2014. A paradigm shift for the postal sector – Summary report (February 2014). UPU, Berne.
- World Bank. 2011. The Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011. <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/migration-and-remittances>
- World Bank. 2014. OECS Countries - Regional partnership strategy for the period FY15-19. Washington, DC ; World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/10/20324234/oecs-countries-regional-partnership-strategy-period-fy15-19>

Annex 2 – Questionnaires

n/a

Annex 3 – List of key informants

Name	Position	Organisation	Contact details	Date of the meeting/ call held	Comments on contacts made
Beverly Best	Head, Functional Cooperation & Programme Management Unit	<i>OECS Commission</i>	bbest@oecs.org	Wednesday 22 nd 9.00 am; Thursday 23 rd 9.30 am	Discussions re official correspondence/introductions, priority contacts and overall strategic direction of OECS and member states
Natasha Kay Mortley	Lecturer/Facilitator	<i>Regional Coordinating Unit of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI Mona Campus</i>	kmortley@gmail.com	Wednesday 22 nd 10.00am	Review of workshop process and request for draft action plan
Eraina Yaw	Project Coordinator	<i>IOM Guyana</i>	eyaw@iom.int	Thursday 23 rd 10.00am	Brief discussion on design of workshop and participant selection, feedback
Nathalie Hanley	National Project Coordinator for the Caribbean	<i>IOM Guyana</i>	nhanley@iom.int	Thursday 23 rd 10.00am	Brief discussion on design of workshop and participant selection, feedback
Loverly Anthony	Research Officer, Economic Development and Policy Unit	<i>OECS Commission</i>	lanthony@oecs.org	Thursday 23 rd , 11.40am	Discussion re statistical data methods, labour migration, remittances and diaspora data collection, institutional framework for

					data collection and treatment
Ricardo Cordero Diaz	Senior Regional Specialist Labour Migration/Migration & Development	<i>IOM RO San José</i>	rcordero@iom.int	Thursday 23 rd , 12.00 pm	<p>1) Criteria used by IOM/OECS for selection of participants at initial workshops in OECS region</p> <p>2) Extent of the sharing of outcome documents, and feedback from stakeholders and non-participants</p> <p>3) Any indicators of priority areas in terms of aligning diaspora policy to economic priorities, data generation or data deficits, and any possible specificities among member states</p>
Didacus Jules	Director-General	<i>OECS Commission</i>	djules@oeecs.org	Thursday 23 rd , 2.30 pm	Problem identification. Overview of OECS strategic priorities relative to remittances and diaspora.
Delancey Peter	OECS Focal Point	<i>Office of the Premier, Montserrat</i>	peterd@gov.ms	Thursday 23 rd , 3.45 pm	Discussion on Montserrat priorities and possible differences in focus among OECS member states with regard to diaspora outreach and

					remittances. Review of Montserrat diaspora policy development process.
Murielle Lesales	Cooperation Officer	<i>Regional Council of Martinique</i>	Murielle.lesales@region-martinique.mq	Wednesday 28 th July, 11am	Discussion on Martinique status within OECS, priorities and possible differences in focus among OECS member states with regard to diaspora outreach and remittances.