

# CRISIS & Gender-Based Violence

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# Crisis Context

- The COVID-19 Pandemic hit our CARICOM region in March with lockdowns for many Member States as soon as a case of the virus was detected...making many people afraid...
- The CARICOM region, part of the Caribbean (20 MS) is no stranger to crisis—MS located in the Hurricane Belt (area in the Atlantic Ocean likely to experience hurricanes during the Atlantic Hurricane Season) Islands furthest south such as Aruba, Bonaire, **Barbados**, Curaçao, and **Turks and Caicos**—are the least likely to experience hurricanes.
- Least likely because Barbados was last hit by a major hurricane in 1955, Hurricane Jannet, which saw scores of people dead and \$\$\$ millions in damage. Yet, Turks and Caicos; especially South and Grand Turk were affected by both Irma & Maria in 2017.
- Of the 20MS only 3 are mainland territories—Belize, Guyana & Suriname.

# Crisis Context

- The region is best classified as “Small Islands Developing States” (SIDS)
- Some of the most beautiful places on earth to visit with over 700 beautiful islands like the Bahamas, atolls of white sandy beaches, like B'dos, the second largest Barrier Reef in the world & most pristine in the case of Belize, historic ports and towns like Jamaica along with a rich amalgam of cultures and people, the region is remote, vulnerable to shocks and highly indebted.
- Yet, this region of the world has and continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in exceptional ways with fewest cases compared to the rest of the world.

# Who's more vulnerable?

## WOMEN

- Women are disproportionately affected by GBV pre COVID and, during COVID. While quantitative data are not yet available women have reported an uptick in abuse via interviews conducted by several community groups.
- JA, T&T, Suriname (1 in 3). Gy-(1 in 2) (Regional Prevalence Surveys)
- Shelter-in-place -wrong place
- Unemployed, Triple role, burden of care—assisting their child/ren with on-line learning, time poverty.

## MEN

- Perpetrators—90% (GY Prevalence Survey 2019)
- Unemployed
- Drug abuse or Alcoholism

# Who's More Vulnerable? (lockdown)

## **WOMEN**

- Lack of basic SRHR, contraception
- Prenatal services, psychosocial support
- Reporting mechanisms not possible
- IPV during pregnancy leads to miscarriages, abortions
- Children-immunizations

## **MEN**

- Afraid to report violence
- Seldom seek help-Batterers Intervention Programme (regional pilot)