COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has further exacerbated an already precarious livelihood and food security situation before its outbreak. According to a WFP-led recent survey, 48 per cent of respondents reported job loss or reduced salaries, while 40 per cent reported eating less preferred foods or skipping meals/eating less than usual, as food prices increase. It is projected that the ongoing crisis will push nearly half the population into unemployment (48 per cent) and increase severe poverty from 2.4 per cent pre-pandemic to 18.4 per cent.

For the most recent update on the COVID-19 caseload, see the PAHO daily report. For the latest information on curfews and other measures, click here.

KEY ISSUES

Socio-Economic Vulnerability

Grenada experiences high levels of inequality, unemployment and poverty. In Grenada, 54.8 per cent of the population either live in poverty or are at risk of becoming poor, with the highest incidences of poverty being in the parishes of St. Mark (more than 50 per cent) and St. Andrew (44 per cent). Financial constraints hinder the capacity of the poor to prepare for and recover from the impact of a disaster and the location of housing settlements on the coastline, riverbanks and steep slopes significantly increases their vulnerability.

Agriculture and Food Security

The agricultural sector, an important contributor to foreign exchange earnings, employment and food security, has been experiencing a protracted decline. Hurricanes Ivan and Emily had a devastating impact on the sector (ECS 90.51 million in damages and losses) and abnormal weather patterns in the first half of 2018 negatively affected major crops. Children and female-headed households are among the poorest and most vulnerable groups for food and nutrition insecurity in the country.

Migration

The decline of livelihoods and increasing levels of poverty have led to a rapid increase in rural-urban migration, creating significant challenges in housing and social problems in some urban areas. Emigration has also been a primary feature of population change in Grenada, which ranked among the top 10 sending countries in the world in 2013. Grenada has lost 71 per cent of its skilled workers to emigration, producing shortages in key sectors. Remittances (11 per cent of GDP) have become an important source of income support for Grenadian families; however, the volatility of remittance flows can exacerbate hardships.