

Who in the blue economy is drowning?

COVID-19 impacts
on Caribbean local blue enterprises

UNCTAD-UNITAR Webinar: Blue entrepreneurship and MSMEs resurgence

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Community-based informal micro-enterprises are a pathway to an inclusive blue economy

Culture in mangroves



Credit: FoProBiM, Haiti

Community-based ecotourism



Credit: Eco South Tours, Saint Lucia

Mariculture farming 'seamoss'



Credit: La Baye Alternative Livelihood Org, Grenada



Illustration: Barbara Kelley, WSJ Opinion

**“We are not all
the same boat.
We are all in the
same storm.”**

*– Damian Barr, writer and
broadcaster*

Challenges faced by Caribbean local blue enterprises

...tions are disconnected from
...eds of local blue enterprises

...l, regulatory and fiscal
...etwork not in place to support
...id social-green/blue
...munity enterprises

...ted existence of micro-finance
...inaccessible by informal micro-
...preneurs

...ness support services do not
...et/accommodate local blue
...rprises

Credit: CANARI



**Biodiversity loss and climate
are impacting along value c**

- Coastal mangroves, coral reefs and other ecosystems being lost and degraded
- Climate change impacts along the value chain: sea level rise and warming, more intense storms and hurricanes, higher storm surge, droughts



COVID-19 impacts on local blue enterprises



Restricted operations and access to customers due to local lockdowns

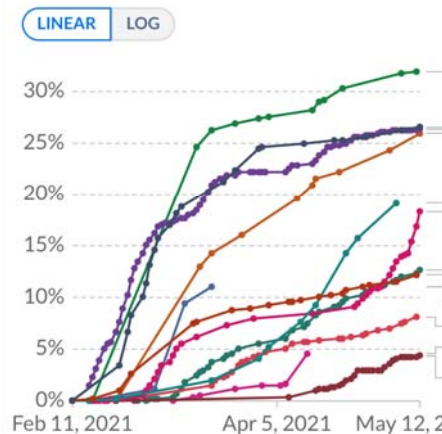
Loss of access to international markets – borders closed, no international tourists; international shipping reduced competition and unsustainable use by coastal communities making subsistence and survival

Bureaucracy blocked access to social safety nets and COVID-relief

Limited access to health services and vaccines in the Caribbean mean risk aversion and long-term worries

Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Share of the total population that received at least one dose. This may not equal the share that are fully vaccinated as a vaccine requires two doses.



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data

Feb 11, 2021

CHART MAP TABLE SOURCES

Local blue enterprises responses to COVID-19

Innovating to reach local markets

Exploring value-added products

Developing capacity to use ICTs for marketing and promotion

Partnerships among enterprises within and across countries



Credit: Indian Castle Fisherfolk Association, St. Kitts and Nevis



Credit: Mayreau Explorers, St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Credit: Capisterre Fishermen's Co-operative, St. Kitts and Nevis



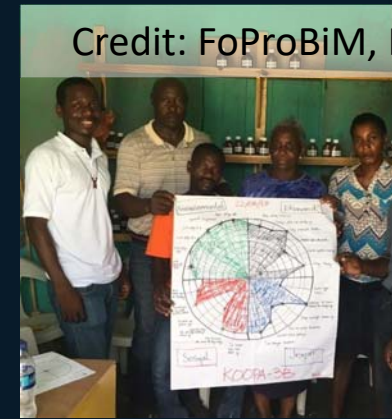
Credit: East Grand Bahama Fly Fishermen, Bahamas



Good practices in capacity building supporting local blue enterprises



- Building capacity in marketing, business management and organizational strengthening
- Strengthening delivery of triple bottom-line benefits
- Providing access to micro-finance with mentoring
- Building capacity to use ICT tools to access digital markets and support
- Climate proofing along their value chains
- Fostering partnerships among enterprises and up the value chain



Good practices in partnerships supporting local blue enterprises



New organisational models fostering partnerships among enterprises and up the value chain

<https://bit.ly/3wKV4nr>



Credit: Alliance of Rural Communities
Trinidad and Tobago

Recommendations to support local blue enterprises for a just and resilient COVID-19 recovery

Access to healthy ecosystems

Allocate resources to civil society organisations and other intermediaries
Scale out on-the-ground support to community enterprises and channel micro-finance

Invest in protecting and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems as the “blue capital” supporting local livelihoods and for climate adaptation

Build awareness of local products to develop local/national markets

Develop targeted policy, legislation, regulations, capacity building and micro-financing programmes

Measure (micro and informal are invisible) and communicate impact to attract additional support and partners

Enhance coordination and synergies

Protect local enterprises from investment in “big” blue economy initiatives that push them out of access to resources and the market

