



Data for Local SDG Action

Helping Caribbean Region communities visualize progress

The Data for Local SDG Action Project will engage communities in Jamaica, St. Lucia and Barbados in collaborative actions to implement the internationally-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level.

The SDGs rely on data collected for each of the 17 Goals to assess how much progress has been made—and what remains to be done before 2030. This data can identify strengths or areas for improvement in communities. It helps communities with similar challenges share experiences, collaborate, and validate their progress—whether those communities are in the same country or across the world. Donors and development partners can use this data to identify priorities, track impact and identify new partners.

Community Indicator Systems (CIS) are online platforms that turn this data into accessible, interactive displays for leaders and community members to track issues that matter locally. IISD has developed a customizable, open source platform to collect and visualize indicator data on well-being using maps, graphs and charts. Informed by community members' stated priorities, CIS platforms empower communities to collect and use data that connects their well-being to the SDGs.

This “localization” of the SDGs turns abstract global targets into actionable local goals. Being able to observe the local and global impact of their efforts gives community members ownership and control of development action, stimulating and sustaining a willingness to engage.

Launching CIS platforms in the Caribbean Region

IISD has run an award-winning CIS platform in our headquarters city – Winnipeg, Canada – since 2009 and is currently implementing CIS in communities across Canada as well as El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, and Thailand. This project will pilot the international implementation of CIS platforms in Jamaica, St. Lucia and Barbados.

IISD will work with community organizations in these islands to build CIS platforms that can serve as models across the Caribbean region. Data availability and development expertise in the islands provide a strong foundation to customize a CIS platform for local priorities, turn over its management to community partners and maximize public engagement.

This CIS project will help existing efforts in participating communities to track their progress. They will be able to measure progress or regress on local development targets and evaluate achievements in the context of the SDGs. Community members in Jamaica, St. Lucia and Barbados will have an accessible, engaging tool to enhance their decision making, quickly visualize progress and connect deeply felt personal goals with the framework of the SDGs.

Who is IISD?

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is an independent think tank that promotes human development and environmental sustainability. With offices in Winnipeg, Geneva, Ottawa, and Toronto, our work affects lives in nearly 100 countries.

IISD's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Knowledge program provides information and analysis in support of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 SDGs. Our work seeks to enhance SDG implementation by increasing the accountability of decision-makers, transforming patterns, processes and relationships for implementation and engagement, and developing and applying methods to track progress in new ways.

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