



## Media Release

### Caribbean Journalists Address Climate and Health Issues in Five Impactful Stories

**Bridgetown, Barbados, 21 November 2023 (PAHO/WHO)** – After the successful completion of a comprehensive virtual training program for over fifty journalists in the Caribbean, focused on climate and health reporting, five compelling news features have been published. The stories highlight critical issues at the intersection of climate change and public health and are available on the Caribbean Investigative Journalism Network's [website](#).

The series of trainings were supported by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) as part of the European Union/CARIFORUM Climate and Health [project](#). The aim was to enhance the skills and knowledge of journalists in the Caribbean region and increase their capacity to report effectively on the pressing challenges posed by climate change to public health. The journalists were immersed in intensive workshops, interactive sessions, and hands-on exercises led by experts in the fields of climate science and public health communication. The training fostered a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between climate change and health outcomes.

Armed with this knowledge, the journalists embarked on their reporting assignments, delving into local communities, speaking with experts, and uncovering stories that matter. The news stories cover a wide array of topics, including the challenges faced by vulnerable communities including the impact on children. Each story provides valuable insights into the inter-relationship between these vital issues, encouraging public discourse and awareness.

Subregional Program Director of the PAHO Caribbean Subregional Office, Dean Chambliss, welcomed the collaboration with the MIC to raise the awareness of the journalists who attended the training as well as the stories published.

“These multimedia features highlight the effects of climate change for Caribbean peoples, the importance of multistakeholder perspectives, and emphasize creative solutions. What is also highly commendable is the emphasis on vulnerable populations in Dominica, Guyana, Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines, including indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, children, and farmers. The stories go beyond the numbers and the usual talking

points often linked to climate change and health to the impact on lives and livelihoods. This included parents who described how recent intense heat was affecting their children at home and at school, the lack of fresh water, how farmers' yields were drastically affected, the impact of more severe weather events on persons with disabilities, and the rise in vector-borne diseases," Mr. Chambliss said.

"The Media Institute of the Caribbean is committed to nurturing a cadre of journalists who can not only report news but also drive positive change through their stories," said Kiran Maharaj, President of the MIC. "We are immensely grateful for the support from PAHO, which has enabled us to empower journalists to address critical topics such as climate change and health. The stories produced by our participants are not just news; they are catalysts for informed action and awareness."

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**About the Pan American Health Organisation:** *The [Pan American Health Organization \(PAHO\)](#) works with the countries of the Americas to improve the health and quality of life of its population. Founded in 1902, it is the world's oldest international public health agency. It serves as the Regional Office of WHO for the Americas and is the specialized health agency of the Inter-American system. [The PAHO Subregional Program](#) is responsible for providing subregional technical cooperation and to strengthen PAHO's engagement with the Caribbean Subregional integration mechanisms, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its various bodies and organs; and to build synergistic partnerships with the West Indies (UWI), among others. PAHO's subregional technical cooperation specifically focuses on public health issues which would benefit from economies of scale and for which agreement on proposed collective responses and actions would produce a far greater impact rather than individual country responses. The Subregional Program also plays a role in coordinating among the different PAHO country offices.*

***About the Media Institute of the Caribbean:***

*The Media Institute of the Caribbean (MIC) is a leading organization dedicated to advancing the standards of journalism in the Caribbean region. Through training programs, workshops, and initiatives, MIC empowers journalists with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the evolving media landscape and address critical issues facing society.*

***About the Caribbean Investigative Journalism Network:***

*The Caribbean Investigative Journalism Network (CIJN) is a platform dedicated to promoting investigative journalism in the Caribbean. CIJN publishes in-depth stories on issues of public interest, encouraging transparency, accountability, and positive change in the region. Visit [www.cijn.org](http://www.cijn.org) to explore impactful investigative journalism.*