10th European Development Fund

CARICOM IMPACS has obtained approval for funding under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) for projects geared towards strengthening the technical and human capacity of the CARICOM region to prevent, detect and minimize the opportunity for illegal activity at the borders and on land and to enable higher conviction rates. Transnational organised crime and the illicit trade in drugs and guns perpetrated mainly through corruption and gangs has become an increasingly significant threat, affecting both the security and stability of the Region.

The programme is aimed at countering threats to the Region by increasing trans-border intelligence and information sharing and strengthening CARICOM borders. It recognizes the importance of increasing the effectiveness of criminal investigations through modern technologies and scientific techniques and enhancing the capabilities of CARICOM Member States through capacity development and training. Implementation of the programme is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2014 and span three and a half years.

The main objectives are to:-

- Enhance the overall security of CARICOM borders by expanding the advanced passenger information system (APIS) across the region where it is not currently operational
- Enable Customs authorities to identify high-risk shipments and share information through the establishment of an Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS)
- Develop and implement training programmes to facilitate the harmonization and standardization of practices, policies and customs and immigration procedures
- Improve the human resource capacity of member states to examine ballistics exhibits and present evidence in a court
- Develop and implement training programmes designed to promote the standardization of information and intelligence reporting
- Build the capacity of information and intelligence collection through training and standardized reporting systems
- Foster collaboration and information sharing in intelligence between Central and Latin America and CARICOM.

Key Components

Expansion of Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) –

- Expansion of APIS to three (3) CARICOM Member States’ Immigration Departments and twelve (12) Customs Administrations where the system is not operational. System currently operational in ten (10) Member States
• Expansion of APIS to Suriname and The Bahamas and purchase of APIS for Belize, Haiti and Montserrat
• Full potential requires APIS to be operational in the Immigration Departments as well as integrated into the Customs systems of all 15 Member States
• Sensitization of Member States on requirements for APIS system
• Delivery of in-country training including Analytical Training programmes for APIS users

Establishment of the Advanced Cargo Information System –
• Establishment of ASYCUDA Customs systems in at least 12 Member States CARICOM Member States to strengthen border intelligence and information sharing
• Implementation of a system to share cargo information through a central portal
• Utilization of the ASYCUDA World electronic manifest platform to share cargo information received from freight forwarders and shippers to a central portal at the JRCC
• Analysis of information using intelligence techniques to signal high risk cargo to national Customs Authorities
• Centralized screening of all cargo manifest and standardized and harmonized data requirements on cargo reporting.

Status
• Upgrade of communication capacity infrastructure inclusive of hardware, software and continuity assurance intended to enhance resilience of are ongoing.
• Roll out of the expansion the APIS system scheduled to commence in the third quarter of 2017
• Training in Member States re scheduled to commence in 2018.

Capacity Development of Customs and Immigration Officials -
• Training of border security officials to support the improvements in border security controls
• Joint training of customs and immigration officials at the national level and through regional training
• Harmonization and standardization of practices, policies and procedures utilized by customs and immigration officials and increased inter-agency collaboration
• National and Regional Training programmes including train-the-trainer component

Status
• Collaborated with the US Customs and Border Protection agency to develop the border security training curriculum and to deliver this training to customs and immigration personnel in the region.
• Implementation has commenced with training delivered in Trinidad in December 2016.
• Training is scheduled for St Vincent, Antigua, Barbados, St Kitts, Guyana and Grenada between March and June 2017.
• The Train the Trainer component scheduled for March 2017 that will engage border security trainers from all Member States, building the border security training capacity of the Region. The train the trainer process will facilitate the flexibility of training curricula to changes in the Region as the designers of the curricula will be regional border security officers.

Training and Certification Programme for Ballistic Experts and Firearms Examiners -
• Improved human resource capacity of Member States to examine ballistics exhibits and present them in court.
• Upgrade and Expansion of Regional Ballistic capacity through the delivery of the ballistic training double casting and the provision tools and equipment.

Status
• Research is being carried out in conjunction with Member States to finalize the areas of priority
• Discussions are taking place with potential providers of the ballistics training shortlisted in an effort to finalize content and delivery modality

Training Programme for Intelligence Practitioners in the region -
• Training of the region’s intelligence practitioners to deliver high quality relevant intelligence products for CARICOM Member States
• Standardisation of information and intelligence reporting and enhanced capacity of information and intelligence collection at the national and regional levels
• Improved enhance trend analysis and strategic intelligence capacity.

Status
• Discussions are taking place with potential providers of the intelligence training in an effort to determine curriculum content
Additionally the 10\textsuperscript{th} EDF will also give support to the development of a **Counter Terrorism Strategy**. The overall aim is to improve Member States’ coordination and cooperation for Counter-Terrorism in the Caribbean Community and to strengthen the capacities to develop and implement a counter-terrorism strategy. To facilitate this, the EDF will support the hosting of a regional Counter-Terrorism Workshop to facilitate a comprehensive analysis of the regional threats; review existing and necessary counter-terrorism mechanisms including legislative frameworks including their respective strengths and weaknesses; create a realistic plan of action and identify technical assistance to accompany and support the process.

The workshop will target National and regional Counter-terrorism experts including law enforcement, intelligence agencies, regional agencies and other governmental actors. It will extend to include, where appropriate, stakeholders from civil society and the private sector. These experts will act as resource personnel for the development of the strategy, provide global best practices and lessons learnt and participate as appropriate during the series of consultations/workshops. They will also provide technical inputs, if requested by IMPACS, for the drafting of the Strategy.