

# The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative

Guyana



USAID photo



White House photo



SOUTHCOM photo



A SHARED REGIONAL SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

Working together through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), the United States and the nations of the Caribbean are combating the drug trade and other transnational crimes that threaten regional security. This partnership fulfills the commitment to deepen regional security cooperation that President Barack Obama made at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009. CBSI is one piece in an integrated effort that includes the other citizen security initiatives in the Hemisphere. The United States, CARICOM member nations, and the Dominican Republic are improving citizen safety throughout the Caribbean by working together to:

- Substantially reduce illicit trafficking
- Increase public safety and security, and
- Promote social justice.

## Regional Cooperation

CBSI partner nations have collectively identified several priority areas for cooperation. These include building a regional information sharing network, improving maritime interdiction coordination, and developing regional training capacity. Effective solutions to these challenges will require a sustained commitment from all CBSI partners. The United States and its CBSI partners also welcome the assistance of other international donors.

## United States Support Under CBSI

The United States is making a significant contribution to CBSI, committing more than \$263 million in funding for CBSI since 2010. This contribution includes assistance in the following areas, all developed through the CBSI cooperative dialogue process:

- **Maritime and Aerial Security Cooperation.** Support regional maritime and aerial coordination by improving radar coverage in strategic locations and sharing radar information. Provide equipment and training that will enable Caribbean governments to carry out maritime and aerial operations.
- **Law Enforcement Capacity Building.** Enhance law enforcement effectiveness through police professionalization, anti-corruption training, community-based policing, and sharing regional ballistics and fingerprint information.
- **Border/Port Security and Firearms Interdiction.** Provide technical support, technology upgrades, and training on techniques for intercepting smuggled narcotics, weapons, bulk cash, and other contraband at commercial airports and seaports. Funding will also support the interdiction of firearms and secure management of weapons and ammunition stockpiles.
- **Justice Sector Reform.** Reform and strengthen juvenile justice systems through alternative sentencing and rehabilitation services.
- **Crime Prevention and At-risk Youth.** Increase educational opportunities and provide workforce development and entrepreneurship training for at-risk youth as an alternative to crime and other harmful behavior.

## Guyana

Guyana benefits directly from several of the CBSI programs described above, including:

- Provision of three patrol boats with the required equipment and training to enable the Guyana Defence Force to combat transnational organized crime, patrol territorial waters, and ensure freedom of movement for commerce;
- Training and equipment to increase the capabilities and effectiveness of police and customs units at ports of entry;
- Technical assistance to strengthen the anti-money laundering/countering terrorist financing regime in Guyana;
- Partnerships with local organizations to provide rehabilitation for juvenile offenders, offer alternative sentencing options for youth who committed minor offenses, and support reintegration of youth leaving detention facilities;
- Workforce development and educational support for at-risk youth;
- Strengthening capability of law enforcement officials to respond to and investigate cases of gender-based violence to include sexual offenses, crimes against children, and trafficking in persons;
- Educating youth about the judicial system, promoting witness participation, and empowering young people to be informed and responsible citizens who can make positive contributions to society.

More information regarding U.S. assistance to the Caribbean and the CBSI partnership is available at: [www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/cbsi](http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/cbsi).