U.S.-St. Vincent & the Grenadines Partnership 2020

The United States of America works with St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) to increase security, prosperity, and democracy in the Caribbean. A beneficiary of large regional programs like the FY20 US$20 million Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) and small community-led grants, SVG is a valued U.S. partner.

Security

- U.S. Southern Command virtually hosted the annual Caribbean National Security Conference for defense and public-security leaders to focus on regional mechanisms to mitigate the impact of disasters in a COVID-19 environment.
- The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations provided the Royal SVG Police Force with up to date training on utilizing social media to advance investigations and respond to threats posted online.
- The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs purchased a much needed tractor for the SVG Coast Guard to recover surface patrol boats used for maritime security and counter-narcotics operations.
- We congratulate Lieutenant Commander Deon Henry of the Coast Guard for completing 11-months of intensive study and his graduation from the U.S. Navy's Staff College and to Lieutenant William Theobalds of the Police Force, the first-ever Vincentian graduate of the U.S. Navy's International Maritime Staff Officer Course. Both courses were provided through the U.S. International Military Education and Training (IMET) program.
- The U.S. Embassy hosted the first reunion for International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) alumni. The workshop advanced regional policing, sentencing guidelines, and international cooperation.

Prosperity

- Entrepreneur Kenna Questelles George was selected for the State Department's flagship entrepreneurship program, the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI).
- The Embassy partnered with the Global Entrepreneurship Network and YLAI alumna Jeneille Lewis to convene a monthly "Startup Huddle" entrepreneurship incubator to foster networking, business pitching, and professional networking.
- Ministry of Finance Officer Kayanna Burke and town planning consultant Benarva Browne began their masters degrees at the University of Minnesota and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively, through the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship exchange program.

Health, Education, and Environment

- U.S. Southern Command delivered US$15,000 in critical personal protection equipment (masks, gloves, hazmat suits, sanitizer) to protect Vincentians.
- The CDC and USAID provided more than US$3 million to PAHO and UNICEF's COVID-19 response in SVG and the OECS.
- USAID's US$8.9 million Early Learners Program with the OECS supported more than 400 teachers with training and 7,300 students with books and supplies in SVG. Reading at grade level increased by nearly 50 percent among participating primary school students.
- With the Inter-American Foundation, USAID has initiated a grant to scale up restoration in Ashton Lagoon, Union Island, using ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to reduce risks to climate change.

Visit BB.USEMBASSY.GOV to learn more about these programs and future opportunities.

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