

The development of the OECS Secretariat Institutional Strengthening (OECSSSEC IS) Project is in direct response to the dire need to strategically reposition the OECS Secretariat (OECSSSEC) so that there is greater operational effectiveness and efficiency in implementing the integration mandate and strategies on behalf of its Member States. Driven by the mandate of the OECS Authority, the staff of the Secretariat under the leadership of the Director General has recently undertaken internal assessments of its operations with a view to transforming its strategies and visions and becoming a “Centre of Excellence” that will assist Member States in meeting the emerging developmental challenges and needs. The transformation and repositioning of the Secretariat as a “Centre of Excellence” will require both a reallocation of its own core resources, as well as attracting new and additional resources.

It is within this context that the OECS Secretariat approached CIDA to provide the requisite financial assistance for its institutional strengthening. CIDA, in recognition of the importance of strengthening the management and leadership capacity of a key sub-regional institution, has contracted a Canadian based Monitor to primarily monitor the management, administration and performance and to complement the role of the Secretariat as the Executing Agency.

Project Goal and Purpose

The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of selected stakeholders (sub-regional and national institutions) to face challenges in social, political and economic sphere. The overall project purpose, which contributes to achievement of the goal, is to strengthen the operational and administrative capacity of the OECSSSEC to fulfill its mandate and functions in support of the development objectives of the Member States.

Project Impacts and Outcomes

Impacts

- More effective sub-regional integration leading to long-term sustained benefits/development of the sub-region; and
- A stronger more effective OECSSSEC providing leadership to the OECS Development Strategy and to coordination of OECS interests and initiatives.

Outcomes

- Strengthened, integrated OECSSSEC, structured to provide services and guidance to Member States;
- Established, sound, efficient management and financial systems and processes within the OECSSSEC; and
- Improved liaison, communications and networking with Member States, CARICOM, development partners, and civil society.