

A group of people are on a boat in the ocean. The scene is dimly lit, likely at sunset or sunrise, with a warm glow on the horizon. A flag is visible on the boat. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Overview of Labour Migration in the Caribbean: challenges and opportunities

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# Main migration trends in the Caribbean

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- The Caribbean is:
  - A region of origin, transit, and destination of extra-regional and intraregional migration flows;
  - A region of NET emigration;
- Main Migration Trends:
  - From Haiti to Dominican Republic, Dominica, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, Brazil;
  - From Guyana to Trinidad and Tobago and other islands;
  - From Caribbean to Guadalupe, Martinique and T&T (agriculture);
  - From Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago to Europe and North America;



# Caribbean as a source of migrant labour

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1. Labour migration: extra-regional and intraregional focus;
2. NET exporter of **medium to skilled** labour (agriculture and construction; health and education sectors);
3. CSME and OECS Free movement schemes have facilitated movement of professionals and citizens;
  - Facilitated the for reconstruction purposes to islands hit by natural disasters;
4. Large diaspora around the world: Caribbean is a **net receiver** of remittances:
  - Haiti and the Dominican Republic most prominent receivers.





# Challenges and opportunities:

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- Loss of human capital **VS** capturing the benefits of incoming migration (return migration and retirees);
- Updating national labour migration policies **VS** lack of reliable and comparable data;
- CSME: benefits **VS** challenges\*!
- Growing number of migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela **VS** small economies;
- Increasing challenges by climate change: Dominica





# How to increase the opportunities?

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- Caribbean countries' labour supply to the rest of the world is essential for receiving countries:
  - Strengthen negotiation of bilateral labour agreements;
  - Strengthen protection of migrant workers abroad – ethical recruitment practices;
  - Tackle abuse, exploitation of migrants on their national territory;



# Thank you!

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Acknowledgement:

- IOM 2017: Working Papers on Migration: Migration in the Caribbean