



# THE CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE



## A Shared Regional Security Partnership



St. Vincent and the Grenadines is partnering with the other nations of the Caribbean and the United States to combat the drug trade and other transnational crime that threatens regional security. This shared security partnership, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), fulfills the commitment to deepen regional security cooperation that President Barack Obama made at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, in April 2009.

### Enhancing Citizen Safety

CBSI complements other citizen safety initiatives between the United States and other partners in the hemisphere. CBSI will increase citizen safety throughout the Caribbean by working together to:

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

### Regional Cooperation

Participating nations worked together for more than a year to develop CBSI. In meetings, which leadership of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Dominican Republic facilitated, we assessed strategies to combat transnational crime and the root causes of crime and violence. Together, CBSI partnering nations adopted a Declaration of Principles, Plan of Action, and Framework for Security Cooperation at the inaugural Caribbean-U.S. Security Cooperation Dialogue held in Washington, D.C. in May 2010.

We will continue this dialogue through technical working groups to coordinate local, national, and regional security and crime prevention activities and policies. These working groups will ensure effective and efficient implementation of programs, identify future program and policy needs, and inform policymakers at the 2nd annual Caribbean-U.S. Security Cooperation Dialogue in 2011.

### United States Support Under CBSI

The United States will provide more than \$45 million to support CBSI in 2010. In addition, the Obama Administration has requested \$79 million to continue support for CBSI in 2011. This funding will complement non-monetary policy support the United States has committed to this multi-year partnership.

U.S. funding and programs complement those of our Caribbean partners. These programs were developed in response to those concerns and priorities discussed during our initial meetings, build

on existing partnerships and prepare for future cooperation, and meet objectives described in the CBSI Joint Plan of Action.

The first fiscal year of CBSI funding includes approximately \$1.7 million for St. Vincent and the Grenadines programs. St. Vincent and the Grenadines will also benefit from approximately \$3.7 million for the Regional Security System (RSS), as well as \$7.4 million for USAID-administered initiatives that will be divided among the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. U.S. support will include:

- Interceptor boats, support equipment, command and control systems, radios, logistical and maintenance support, and training to increase maritime interdiction capability
- Command and control systems, information sharing equipment, and maintenance support for the RSS
- Counternarcotics equipment to RSS units, including video cameras, night vision goggles, bullet-proof vests, radios, and field drug test kits
- Promoting coordination at the working level among justice sectors and institutions in order to harmonize policies, procedures, and systems across the OECS countries, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago
- Youth entrepreneurship training and increased access to microfinance

### CBSI Complements Other U.S. Assistance

The U.S. commitment to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and to the CBSI partnership extends beyond the CBSI funding described above, including support for the following:

- Life and jobs skills training through "A Ganar" funding for 225 at-risk youth
- Funding for communications equipment
- Computers for the Financial Investigation Unit
- Providing professional development and technical training opportunities to St. Vincent and the Grenadines' security forces
- Funding for the restoration of St. Mary's Church, Bequia, Grenadines

The United States looks forward to continued cooperation with its Caribbean partners to strengthen the CBSI partnership. More information is available at: [www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/cbsi](http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/cbsi)