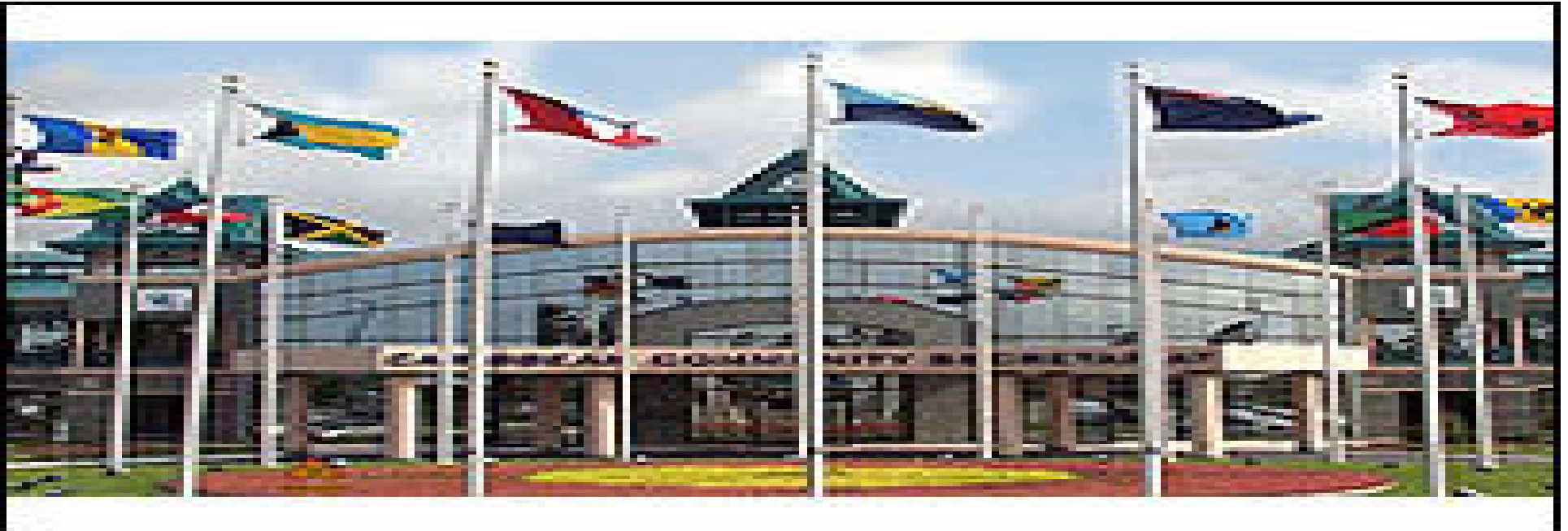


**Caribbean Embassies:  
Bridging the gap between the Caribbean Diaspora  
and the Home Country as part of an initiative to  
stimulate growth and development in the region**



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# Overview of Presentation

- ⌘ Setting the Context
- ⌘ The Diaspora Framework
- ⌘ Methodology
- ⌘ Analysis of Results
- ⌘ Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

# Migration Levels in the Caribbean

Country	% Growth in Migrant Stock	Migrant Stock (000s)		Migrants as share (%) of total home country pop.	
		1990	2000	1990	2000
	1990 - 2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19.18</b>	<b>24.47</b>
Bahamas	11	27	30	10.52	9.85
<b>Barbados</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8.32</b>	<b>9.16</b>
Dominica	33	3	4	3.53	5.28
<b>Grenada</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.70</b>	<b>8.50</b>
Guyana	(33)	3	2	0.43	0.21
Jamaica	(24)	17	13	0.73	0.49
<b>St. Kitts &amp; Nevis</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9.64</b>	<b>11.19</b>
St. Lucia	60		8	4.06	5.45
Trinidad & Tobago	(20)	51	41	4.16	3.20

Source: United Nations (2002)

# Migration by Level of Education in the Caribbean

Country	Primary		Secondary		Tertiary	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Antigua/Barbuda	7.0	6.0	31.7	35.9	65.3	70.9
Grenada	7.5	9.9	61.1	69.5	68.8	66.7
<b>Guyana</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>85.9</b>
<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>82.5</b>
St .K&N	10.8	10.3	21.4	37.1	89.9	71.8
<b>Suriname</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>89.9</b>
T & T	5.7	6.1	19.3	20.6	77.2	78.4

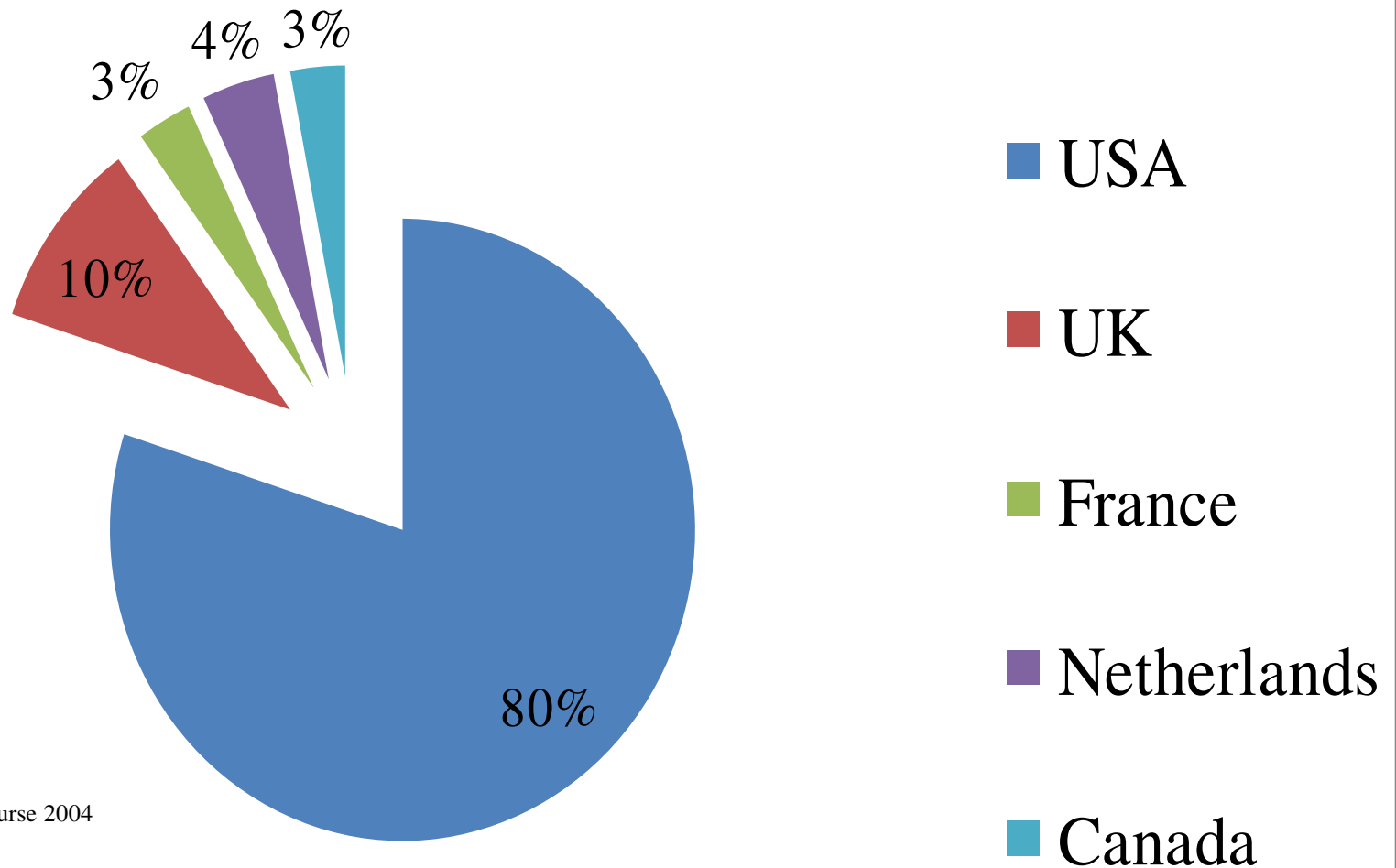
Source: Docquier and Marfouk (2004)

# What is a Diaspora

⌘ Sheffer (2003) defined the Diaspora as:

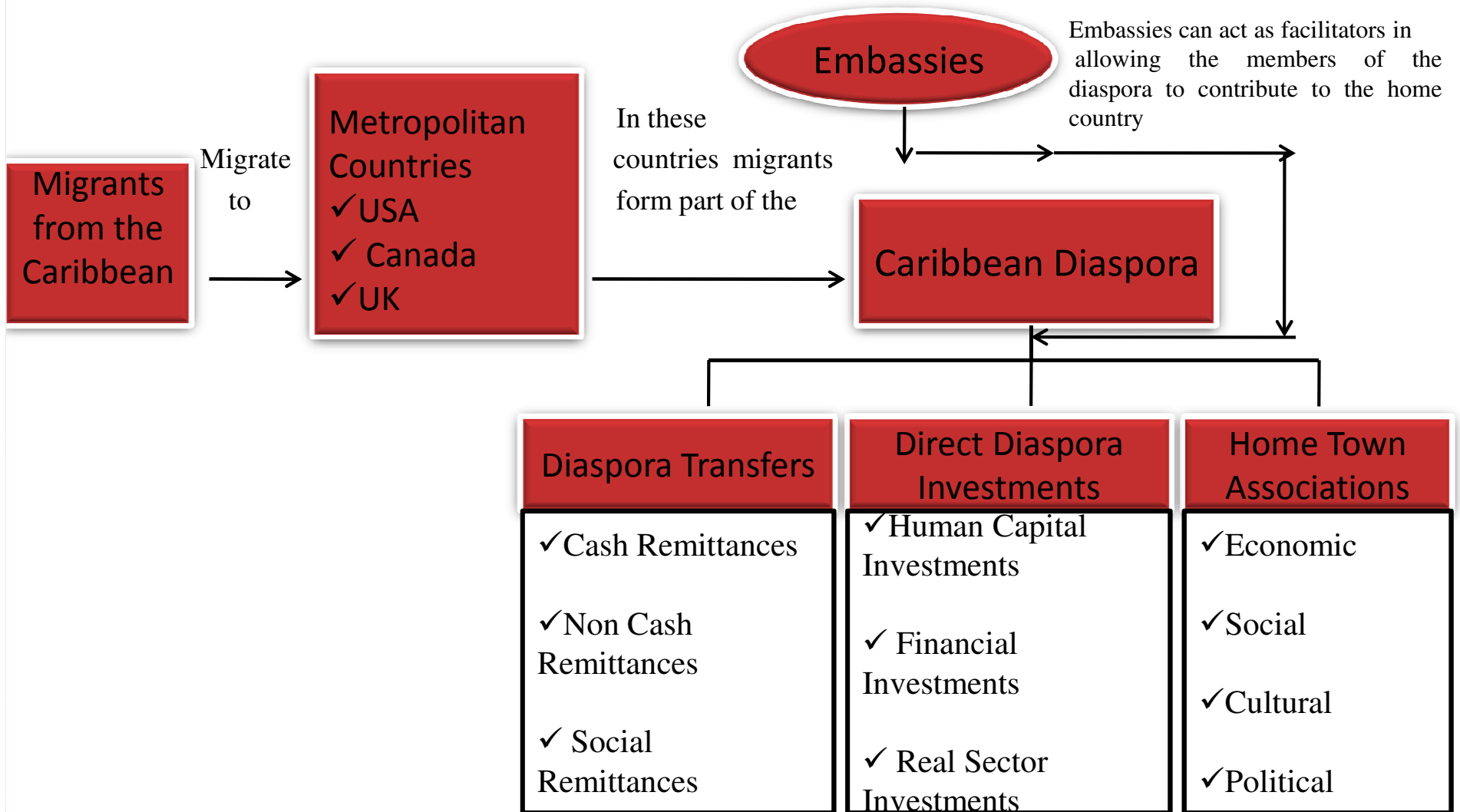
*“Ethnic minority groups of migrant origins, residing and acting in host countries but maintaining strong sentimental and material links with their countries of origin or their homelands.”*

# The Location of the Caribbean Diaspora



Source: Nurse 2004

# The Potential of the Caribbean Diaspora to Impact Development



# Sample Survey of Caribbean Embassies

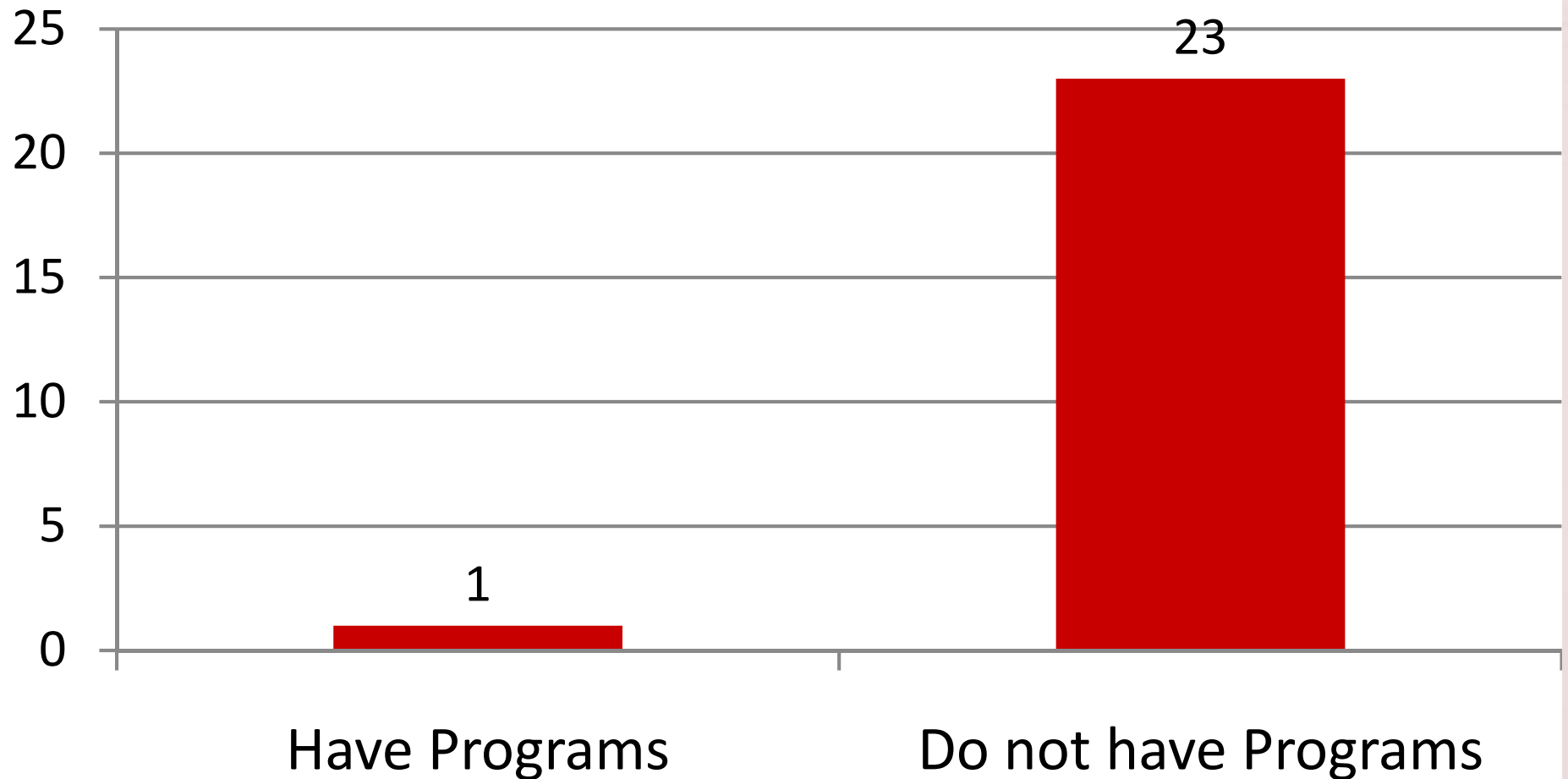
- Purpose:** To understand the current role embassies play in enabling their diaspora to contribute to the growth and development of their country of origin, as well as the potential of the Caribbean embassies to help mobilize the resources of the Caribbean diaspora.
- Coverage:** A total of 24 embassies in the USA, UK and Canada were surveyed for the following countries: Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda.
- Instrument:** Structured questionnaire administered via telephone interviews.
- Survey Design:** Purposive Sampling.



# Contact with members of the Caribbean Diaspora

- ⌘ There is frequent communication between the embassies and Caribbean diaspora which is facilitated by the diaspora associations.
- ⌘ These meetings are typically convened on a monthly basis.
- ⌘ Embassies have regular face to face contact with members of the diaspora when they access consular services.

# Number of Embassies with Programs that allow the diaspora to contribute to their Home Country



# Investment opportunities provided for the diaspora by the Government

- ⌘ All the embassies, with the exception of one (Guyana) noted that their governments have never provided any investment opportunities.
- ⌘ The Guyanese government and various stakeholders have made available investment opportunities in agriculture, real estate, restaurants and supermarkets.
- ⌘ The Jamaican embassy has been discussing the issue of diaspora bonds.

# Do members of the diaspora convey interest in making a contribution to their Home Country?

- ⌘ The diaspora approach the embassies on a regular basis.
- ⌘ They are willing to make contributions in the form of supplies, charitable support and investments.
- ⌘ **N.B.**  
However, there is no support mechanism to facilitate the movement of these supplies from the host country to the home country.

# Programs which facilitate Return Migration

- ⌘ The embassies indicated that there exist no specific programs which facilitate the return of migrants to their home country.
- ⌘ Similarly, there are no programs that allow Caribbean migrants to be re-integrated into the society on their return.

# The position of Embassies on facilitating the transfer of knowledge and skills from the diaspora to the home country.

- ⌘ All embassies indicated their interest in facilitating programs that allow for the transfer of knowledge from the migrants to the home country.
- ⌘ Some of the embassies are now in the process of creating skill banks that record the skills and expertise of each member of their diaspora grouping.

# Hindrances to members of the Caribbean Diaspora contributing to the Home Country

- ⌘ Lack of support from the government in the home country.
- ⌘ Insufficient information.
- ⌘ Lack of incentives.
- ⌘ Caribbean diaspora lack a sense of identity and belonging.

# Conclusion

- ⌘ The Caribbean is increasingly recognizing the importance of the Caribbean diaspora and its potential to stimulate growth and development in the region. However, there is the need for a facilitator. Given that Caribbean embassies are the ones who interact with the members of the diaspora on a regular basis, they can assist in facilitating this initiative. This will allow the region to better access and mobilize the resources of the Caribbean diaspora which can stimulate growth and development.



# Policy Recommendations

- ⌘ A Diaspora Unit (DU) should be set up in the Caribbean embassies.
- ⌘ A Skill Data-Bank (SDB) should be established as a necessary requirement for all Caribbean embassies.
- ⌘ Caribbean governments should increase opportunities for trade, investments, skill and knowledge transfers for members of the Caribbean diaspora.
- ⌘ CARICOM Diaspora Office.

**Thank You For  
Listening !**