

Country Profile

Grenada¹

The country consists of the islands of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, is considered upper middle-income² and rated 'high' on the Human Development Index (68 of 191 countries).³

ECONOMY

Based on tourism and financial service industries



- Growth driven by construction and tourism
- Still vulnerable to geopolitical uncertainty and natural disasters.⁴

HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES



Hurricanes
(Beryl 2024)
(Ivan 2004)



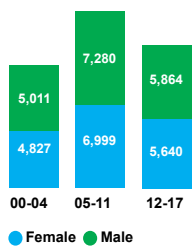
Drought



Potential volcanic activity: Kick 'em Jenny submarine volcano five miles to the north

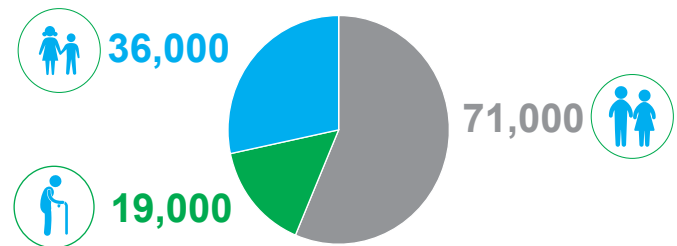
DEMOGRAPHICS

Child Population by Gender



There are an estimated **36,000** children in an overall population of **126,000**, with slightly more boys than girls.

Total Population



SOCIAL STATUS



- At **51** per cent, Grenada has the highest child monetary poverty rate in the subregion. The average is **33** per cent.

2.5%
Child-related social services



2.5%
Health services for children

UNICEF IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

UNICEF is committed to:

- Serving all children across the Eastern Caribbean, especially the most vulnerable
- Working with country partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
- Challenging deprivations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Promoting targeted action to advance equity regardless of gender or disability
- Providing support for children and their families in the event of emergencies.

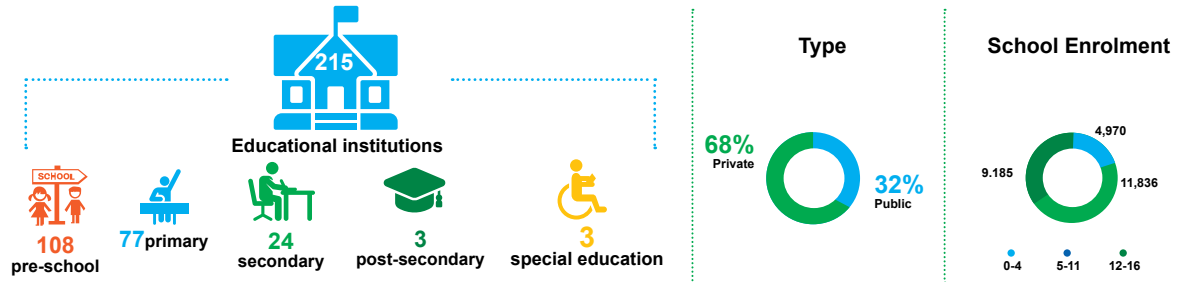


EDUCATION

The country spends a healthy **4.8** per cent of its GDP on education.⁵

School enrolment:

- There are **215** educational institutions in Grenada
- At primary level: **99** per cent of eligible children are in school.
- At secondary level: **88** per cent of eligible children are in school
- There is also **88** per cent enrolment at preschools.



Challenges

- The education system is perceived by many to be out-of-sync with requirements for the future world of work
- A significant number of students have been left behind in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Technical and vocational education and training still seen as the 'poor relation' to academics.⁶

We are supporting:

- The Government's Commitment to Action on Transforming Education/Foundational Learning
- An integrated, holistic approach to early childhood development (ECD)
- Assisting early childhood educators to support children with learning disabilities⁷
- Enhancing their capacity in effective curriculum implementation and student engagement
- Providing primary schools with developmentally appropriate materials for interactive learning
- The development of curriculum-based digital content, with teachers trained in producing digital resources
- Improving connectivity in schools across the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States through the Giga project.⁸

UNICEF's commitment: Children access and complete quality education, with the skills to advance to employment or higher education.

CHILD PROTECTION



Challenges

- One-third of respondents in a 2024 survey said they knew of an incident of child sexual abuse and **70** per cent said it was a major problem⁹
- Corporal punishment is accepted. Only **18** per cent support a ban in homes and **32** per cent a ban in schools
- Nearly **40** per cent of young people have experienced child-on-child violence
- Around **27** per cent have experienced bullying
- Mental health issues, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, are increasingly prevalent.

UNICEF has supported:

- The Education (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which bans corporal punishment in education settings¹⁰
- A policy and strategic framework for child online protection for Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States¹¹
- Increased knowledge/skills on positive discipline through media campaigns and capacity-building sessions for parents, teachers and coaches
- Enhancing students' knowledge/skills to reduce school violence
- Launch of region's first ever child youth mental health resources website
- A child protection and mental health/psychosocial social support mobile application (MyChild Helpline app)
- Working with youth mental health NGO, Let's Unpack It¹²
- Training for youth-focused professionals in psychological first aid for children
- Community engagement interventions challenging gender-based violence.



UNICEF's commitment: Helping children grow up in a safe, secure environment, protected from all forms of violence and abuse.

SOCIAL PROTECTION



Challenges

- The multidimensional poverty index (which examines non-monetary deprivation) reports that **34.3** per cent of the population live in households considered multidimensionally poor¹³
- The trend is towards greater economic inequality¹⁴
- The social protection system needs to be more shock-responsive.

UNICEF has supported:

- Shock-responsive social protection training to increase the level of coordination among disaster risk management and social protection sectors
- The finalization and operationalization of shock-responsive social protection guidelines¹⁵
- Finalization and endorsement of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Social Inclusion and Social Policy Strategic Action Plan 2023-2030.

UNICEF's commitment: Working to improve the availability of more effective, comprehensive, inclusive, shock-responsive social protection systems to improve the lives of children and their families, especially the most vulnerable.

CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE



Challenges

Since the year 1980, the country has experienced a number of natural hazards.

UNICEF has supported:

- Grenada's Nationally Determined Contribution revision process¹⁶
- Climate change awareness-raising sessions with youth networks and schools¹⁷
- Promoting climate adaptation through the Beat the Heat campaign.

UNICEF's commitment: Implementing risk-informed, child-sensitive climate policies with effective participation of children, young people and communities to promote climate action and resilience.

HEALTH, IMMUNIZATION, NUTRITION AND NCDs



Challenges

Health, nutrition and NCDs are increasingly an issue in Grenada with **26** per cent of young people aged 5 to 19 overweight.¹⁸

UNICEF has supported:

- Advocacy for front-of-package food warning labels for unhealthy foods and programmes to help children develop healthy habits
- Social and behaviour change-related research and strategies to enhance resilience to infectious diseases
- Community engagement in vaccine demand creation and challenging vaccine hesitancy, as well as gender-based violence prevention.
- Training health promotion officers to design quality SBC interventions and conduct monitoring and evaluation
- Training for health professionals and educators on Infection Prevention and Control in schools
- Prevention of water- and mosquito-borne diseases.

CHILD PARTICIPATION/YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



We have supported:

- Training a contingent of young Grenadian activists in youth advocacy to prepare them to spread the advocacy message among their peers
- The U-report platform which is continuing to garner opinions and share information. Its Fundoo initiative offers real-world skills
- The 2024 Children and Youth Action Summit which provided a platform for Caribbean youth to influence global policy on climate and development
- Engaging children in exploring their rights in the annual Caribbean Child Research Conference.

UNICEF's commitment: The wants and needs of young people should be firmly at the centre of the national and global rights and development agenda.

Endnotes

1 Unless otherwise stated, sources: UNICEF, UN Data Portal, Central Statistics Office, washdata, PAHO/WHO, HOT

2 World Bank classification, 2021

3 Human Development Index, 2021-22

4 IMF Staff concludes 2023 Staff Visit to Grenada

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/11/20/pr23404-imf-staff-concludes-2023-staff-visit-to-grenada#:~:text=The%20Grenadian%20economy%20continues%20to%20grow%20robustly%2C%20expected%20to%20surpass.successful%20efforts%20to%20improve%20airlift>

5 This is in line with the Incheon Declaration 2015 which recommends spending 4-6 GDP or 15-20 per cent of public expenditure on education, which was reinforced at the UN Transforming Education Summit in 2022

6 Ibid

7 Including ADHD, deafness and speech and language delays

8 GIGA is an initiative launched by UNICEF and ITU in 2019. It aims to connect schools to the Internet young person to information and opportunity.

9 A statistical profile of violence against children in Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/media/38241/file/A-statistical-profile-of-violence-against-children-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean.pdf>

10 Under the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls which brings together the United Nations initiative and the European Union, with other partners.

11 Approved in 2023 by Council of Education ministers and social development ministers, in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union, ITU

12 There are now two national mental health focal points in a regional network

13 Living Conditions in Public Disclosure Authorized Grenada. Poverty and Equity Update. World Bank, 2021. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/367321631770928387/pdf/Living-Conditions-in-Grenada-Poverty-and-Equity-Update.pdf>

14 Ibid

15 For all countries covered by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

16 National climate pledges detailing what the country will do achieve global climate-related goals

17 The Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) and Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle

18 Childhood overweight on the rise: Is it too late to turn the tide in Latin America and the Caribbean? UNICEF 2023

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