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## CARIBBEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE

USAID's Caribbean Energy Initiative (CEI) focuses on building energy sector resilience across the region, in recognition of the critical role that a steady, reliable energy supply plays in the daily economy of the region and in post-disaster recovery.

Funded with an initial investment of \$5 million, this planned five-year initiative is part of the U.S. government's increasing engagement in the region within the framework of the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in the Caribbean (also known as Caribbean 2020), which identifies the Department of State and USAID's security, diplomacy, prosperity, energy, education, and health priorities for the region. It is also a key element of the Trump Administration's Growth in the Americas (America Crece) Initiative.

Through the CEI, USAID will contribute to the U.S. government's effort to boost the energy resilience of Caribbean island nations, thereby overcoming a major remaining roadblock to the region's growth, stability and self-reliance.

USAID's program will focus on:

- reducing electricity prices;
- increasing service quality; and
- enhancing the ability of electricity systems in the Caribbean to withstand shocks.

It will work by:

- diversifying the kinds of fuels used in the region's grids and the locations from which the fuels are sourced;
- strengthening infrastructure to withstand major weather shocks and earthquakes;
- diversifying the supply of energy services and products to the region; and
- enhancing the ability of utilities across the region to manage their grids for resilience.

The Initiative will promote local and U.S. private sector partnerships and investment in building energy sector resilience. There are many opportunities, whether through project investments or through business start-ups, for a broad array of private sector participation in the energy sector.

USAID will also leverage U.S. and international public finance resources to help energy project developers mitigate technical and political risks, thereby reducing the region's reliance on imported fuels and creating openings for U.S. private sector investment and public-private partnerships.

The CEI's geographic scope includes the Eastern and Southern Caribbean, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.