

FPAC MEETING 2020



Thursday 29th October, 2020

FPAC Theme: '*Build Back Better*'

Conference Theme: '*We Stand Up for Women*'

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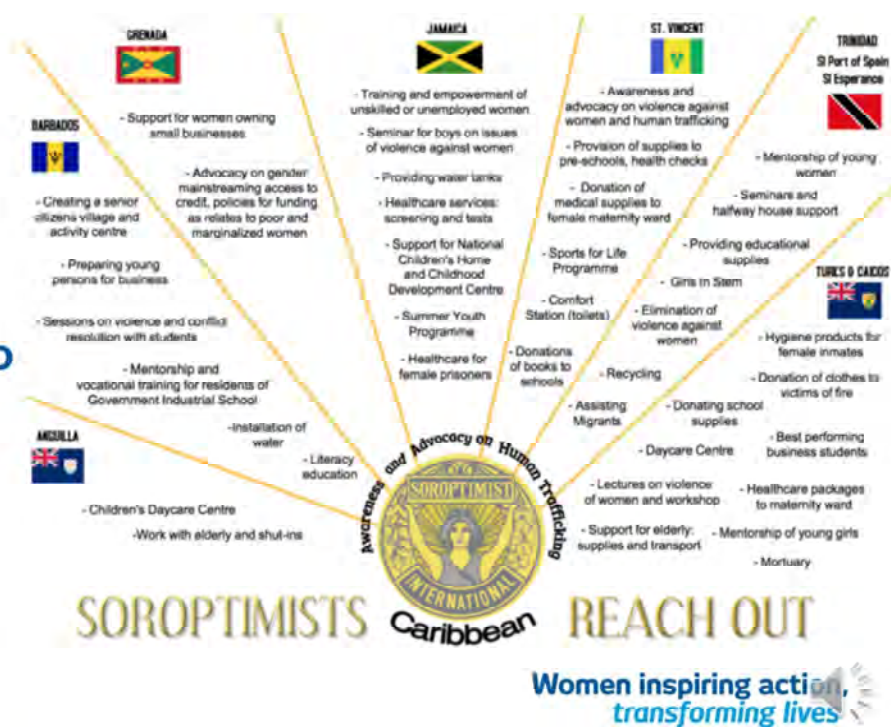
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Caribbean Clubs

I. Challenges Pre-COVID

II. COVID Response

III. Our Future



Caribbean Clubs

We have clubs in the following countries; Anguilla, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos.

The presentation will cover:

- I. Challenges Pre-COVID
- II. COVID Response
- III. Our Future

Women of the Caribbean Challenges Pre-COVID

- According to the World Bank,

'The region has made substantial progress toward gender equality, particularly in women's education achievement and joining the workforce. In a poll of our @WBCaribbean Twitter followers, 67.4% of respondents indicated that access to finance is still a barrier to women entrepreneurs, and 50% voted that harassment is a main barrier facing Caribbean women.'

Societal norms and expectations can hinder progress needed, for example the glass ceiling, the "boy's club" mentality in the workplace, and lack of family support in some cases.'

- In addition, Domestic Violence and single parenting are also challenges facing Caribbean women.

Footnote:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/03/06/international-womens-day-in-the-caribbean-reflections-on-leadership-entrepreneurship-and-navigating-the-workplace>

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Women of the Caribbean Challenges Pre-COVID

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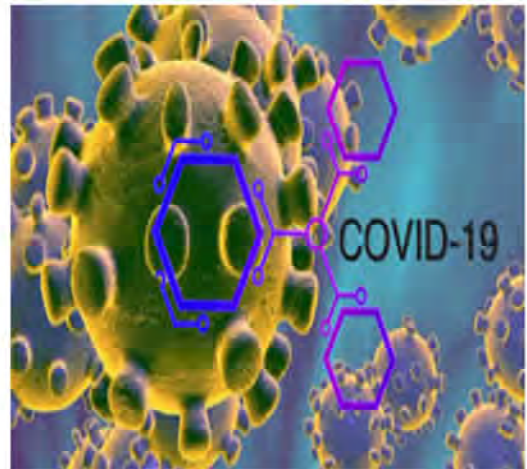
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In addition, Domestic Violence and single parenting are also challenges facing Caribbean women.

Impact of COVID on the Region

- i. Overall, the Region is coping
- ii. Curfews in some countries
- iii. Border closures
- iv. Although death rate has been relatively low, there has been recent spikes in certain islands.



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- ii. Curfews in some countries
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- iv. Although death rate has been relatively low, there has been recent spikes in certain islands.

Impact of COVID on the Region (continued)



- i. Travel and Tourism -The sector has halted and the impact on our respective economies is becoming more visible.¹
- ii. UN's Policy Brief stated that our 'Women have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic; largely employed in the informal and hardest-hit sectors, their ability to absorb economic shocks is less, while they have also taken on greater care demands at home as well as being more exposed to increased violence in a region with high rates of gender-based violence already'.²

Despite the challenges, Soroptimist Clubs in the region continue to find creative ways in which to serve the community and meet our objectives.

What was our response to COVID? What did we accomplished during this pandemic?

Footnote:

1. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/814155/caribbean-total-contribution-travel-tourism-gdp-country/>

2. https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_covid_lac.pdf

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Impact of Covid (continued)

1. Travel and Tourism sector contributes 13.9 percent of the GDP in the Caribbean, directly and indirectly, which is approximately US\$59 billion. The sector has halted and the impact on our respective economies is becoming more visible.
2. UN's Policy Brief published July 2020, stated that our 'Women have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic; largely employed in the informal and hardest-hit sectors, their ability to absorb economic shocks is less, while they have also taken on greater care demands at home as well as being more exposed to increased violence in a region with high rates of gender-based violence already'.

Despite the challenges, Soroptimist Clubs in the region continue to find creative ways in which to serve the community and meet our objectives.

What was our response to COVID? What did we accomplish during this pandemic?



- ❖ COUNSELLING TRAINING for paraprofessionals to provide coping skills to deal with the stress of COVID19 and other stressors (with a focus on women)
- ❖ TRAINING IN CONTACT TRACING for COVID19
- ❖ FOOD BANK for incapacitated women and women without/or with minimal support for their families
- ❖ CARE CENTRE for the elderly
- ❖ BACKYARD GARDENING for food security and to alleviate poverty
- ❖ LUNCH SUPPORT for disadvantaged school children
- ❖ SUMMER READING PROGRAMME

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Accomplishments - Anguilla

- ❑ COUNSELLING TRAINING for paraprofessionals to provide coping skills to deal with the stress of COVID19 and other stressors (with a focus on women)
- ❑ TRAINING IN CONTACT TRACING for COVID19
- ❑ FOOD BANK for incapacitated women and women without/or with minimal support for their families
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- ❖ SI Barbados donated to 50 women in need food hampers and personal care items worth US\$2,500 equivalent.
- ❖ SI Jamestown also donated to families in need.
- ❖ Soroptimists of SI Barbados presented the Frances Chandler Memorial Award to the 2020 recipient, Ms. Christina Pooler. Ms. Pooler is the first recipient of the Frances Chandler Memorial Award, a BDS\$2,5000 grant open to Barbadian women engaged in agriculture.
- ❖ In July, Soroptimists participated in the SIGBI's day of action by planting 'Bajan Cherry Trees'.

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Barbados achievements

- ❑ SI Barbados donated to 50 women in need food hampers and personal care items worth US\$2,500 equivalent.
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- ❑ Soroptimists of SI Barbados presented the Frances Chandler Memorial Award to the 2020 recipient, Ms. Christina Pooler. Ms. Pooler is the first recipient of the Frances Chandler Memorial Award, a BDS\$2,5000 grant open to Barbadian women engaged in agriculture.
- ❑ In July, Soroptimists participated in the SIGBI's day of action by planting 'Bajan Cherry Trees'.



- ❖ Soroptimist partnered with Acts of Kindness (a grassroots organization) to deliver hampers to over 75 families.
- ❖ SIG also donation funds to the Acts of Kindness initiative.
- ❖ SIG made and distributed face masks with Soroptimist logo to nurses, children homes and residential homes for the elderly.



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Grenada's accomplishments

Soroptimist partnered with Acts of Kindness to deliver hampers to over 75 families.

SIG also donation funds to the Acts of Kindness initiative.

SIG made and distributed face masks with Soroptimist logo to nurses, childrens' homes, and residential homes for the elderly.



- ❖ Soroptimists donated care packages to the families of the students at an infant school that it supports.
- ❖ Donation of face masks to the National children's home
- ❖ Clubs in rural Jamaica are targeting the elderly in the surrounding communities to do their shopping and getting their medication as there is a curfew for persons over 65 and there is a great need in this area.
- ❖ Daily necessities are also being provided on a small scale to families in need.
- ❖ Hundreds of persons turned out for the 7th annual health fair hosted by the Soroptimist International Jamaica (Kingston Club) in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of North St Andrew, to commemorate International Women's Day 2020.

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Jamaica's accomplishments

- ❑ Soroptimists donated care packages to the families of the students at an infant school that it supports.
- ❑ Donation of face masks to the National children's home.
- ❑ Clubs in rural Jamaica are targeting the elderly in the surrounding communities to do their shopping and getting their medication as there is a curfew for persons over 65 and there is a great need in this area.
- ❑ Daily necessities are also being provided on a small scale to families in need.
- ❑ Hundreds of persons turned out for the 7th annual health fair hosted by the Soroptimist International Jamaica (Kingston Club) in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of North St Andrew, to commemorate International Women's Day 2020.



COVID 19 RESPONSE

- ❖ Donation of masks to mini-bus drivers and fisherfolks.
- ❖ Presentation on “*coping and responding to stress during the pandemic.*”
- ❖ LOVE Boxes (vegetable and fruit) donated to five Geriatric Homes.



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**St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Covid response**

- ❑ Donation of masks to mini-bus drivers and fisherfolks.
- ❑ Presentation on “coping and responding to stress during the pandemic”.
- ❑ LOVE Boxes (vegetable and fruit) donated to five Geriatric Homes.



Other Activities

- ❖ **International Women's Day 2020: Speakers Meeting** with the theme **"I am generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights"**. 32 participants attended.
- ❖ **Girls on Fire:** Soroptimists in partnership with the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme – field trip, workshop, art class awareness on the impact of degradation, pollution and climate change on the environment and the urgent need for preservation and conservation.
- ❖ A Scholarship/Bursary Programme for Girls to attend secondary school
- ❖ Vouchers for uniforms donated to assist girls from underprivileged and vulnerable homes.
- ❖ A Programme of Awareness on a series of topics for female prisoners incarcerated at Her Majesty's Prison.



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St. Vincent and the Grenadines – other activities

- ❑ International Women's Day 2020: Speakers Meeting with the theme "I am generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights" . 32 participants attended.
- ❑ Girls on Fire: Soroptimists in partnership with the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme – field trip, workshop, art class awareness on the impact of degradation, pollution and climate change on the environment and the urgent need for preservation and conservation.
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Aligning Our Work with the SDGs



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Our Future Plans

You can see the work that we are planning under each of these SDGs.



**Our beaches might be empty -
but we are hopeful for a brighter tomorrow.**

**So we won't
worry about a
thing....**



**Cause every
little thing is
going to be all
right.**

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Conclusion

Our Beaches might be empty.

But we are hopeful for a brighter tomorrow.

We end with a message from Bob Marley & The Wailers 'Three Little Birds', "Don't worry about a thing.. Cause every little thing gonna be all right".

Be Safe!

Thank you.

Be Safe!



Thank You!

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Report from Turks and Caicos Islands

Food Security

- The Soroptimist Sisters partnered with the Provo Children's Home.
- A Private home that houses orphans and vulnerable children.
- The aim of this initiative is to assist the children with gardening skills.
- The garden was cleared away in preparation for planting.
- This is a long term project to help them become self sufficient with fruit and vegetables.



SI Turks and Caicos Islands

SI Provo partnered with the Provo Children's Home, a Private home that houses orphans and children who are most vulnerable in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The aim of this initiative is to assist the children with gardening skills so that they are able to harvest fruits and vegetables for themselves. The garden was cleared away in preparation for the growing of the vegetables. This project is a long term project with the focus being to make them self sufficient with fruit and vegetables.

Partnerships/Reduced Inequalities

- On March 8th 2020 we partnered with a local construction company.
- The efforts assisted a family of 9 with the renovation of their home.
- The pregnant mother was also assisted with medical care.
- On August 13th 2020 little Nelia was born.



On March 8th 2020 just before the COVID-19 pandemic, SI Provo partnered with a local construction company to bring much relief to a family of nine (9) in an effort to assist them with the renovation of their home. The efforts continued with the family, also assisting with medical care for the pregnant mother. On August 13th 2020 little Nelia was born.

Hunger and Poverty Alleviation

- Due to COVID-19 the clubs of the TCI partnered with other NGOs.
- This partnership brought much relief to many families.
- The clubs received a cheque for \$20,000.00 to assist in this venture.
- Over one thousand families were fed since April to September 2020 with joint NGO donations.



The pandemic of COVID-19 saw the need for SI Provo, Grand Turk and South Caicos to join hands with other NGOs in an effort to bring much relief to many families who continue to be jobless in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The club received a cheque for \$20,000.00 from an organization to assist in this venture. Over one thousand families were fed since April to September 2020 with joint donations and our efforts continue through financial and food bank donations.



Building Back Better

Future Plans

Post Covid -19 issues in the TCI

- Rapid increase in unemployment especially in the tourism industry.
- Parents are struggling to afford private education for their children, hence a strain on public schools.
- Vulnerable families are faced with additional challenges not being able to afford an electronic device for online learning.
- Increase in domestic violence as a result of unemployment and underemployment.

- TCI Clubs will continue to meet virtually to achieve our objectives.
- The clubs are partnering with Rotary to purchase electronic devices for our vulnerable young girls we mentor, as well as others in need of a learning device.
- Our clubs will continue to feed those in need in conjunction with other NGOs.
- Our clubs will be hosting a virtual symposium to address the concerns of abused and battered women in December 2020.
- Our club will be planting trees at many schools on each island commencing in January 2021.

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Post Covid-19 issues in Turks and Caicos Islands

- Rapid increase in unemployment especially in the tourism industry, the major revenue sector in the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- Parents are struggling to afford private education for their children, therefore we see a strain on public schools.
- Vulnerable families are faced with additional challenges as they cannot afford an electronic device to continue online learning with their children.
- Increase in domestic violence as a result of unemployment and underemployment.

Future Plans

- The clubs within the Turks and Caicos will continue to meet virtually to host meetings in an effort to achieve our objectives.
- The clubs are joining efforts to partner with Rotary to purchase electronic devices for our vulnerable young girls we mentor, as well as others in need of a learning device.
- Our clubs will continue to feed those in need in conjunction with other

NGOs.

- Our clubs will be hosting a virtual symposium to address the concerns of abused and battered women.
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Soroptimist International Trinidad and Tobago

The Caribbean Future Build Back Better

**by
Bebe Ajodha**

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I am Bebe Ajodha on behalf of Soroptimist international Trinidad and Tobago I present to you the Caribbean Future , Build back better

Caribbean Problems – Trinidad- Covid 19

1. Loss of jobs – increase in poverty and lack of food
2. Migrants refugees– Venezuelan
3. Mental health – increase in depression, lack of coping strategies
4. Increase in personal protection and safety – masks needed
5. Education challenges – lack of supplies and devices
6. Environment – Climate Change and loss of Biodiversity – extreme weather

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The Caribbean like the rest of the world has been facing similar challenges pre and post covid 19 .

In Trinidad we too experienced many challenges

These included loss of jobs which lead to increase in poverty, and lack of food

In addition ,we faced a specific issue in terms of an influx of Venezuelan migrants
There was an Increase in mental health issues such as depression and lack of coping strategies during stay at home

There was a need to increase personal protection by way of wearing face masks

Women faced more hardships as families suffered from lack of funds to purchase school supplies

Education is now online hence digital devices are needed.

As Human beings we are part of the Environment :Climate Change and loss of

Biodiversity can jeopardize us as a people and the progress
towards the Sustainable Development Goals

We have been having extremes of weather, and accompanying disaster

1. Loss of Jobs – Poverty: Food, Hampers, Seedlings: Donations to the Families



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Due to loss of jobs several families were given food and hampers by clubs.
One club donated seedlings so families can plant and feed themselves in the future

Hampers Donation to Venezuelan Migrants

SDG #1, 2 People



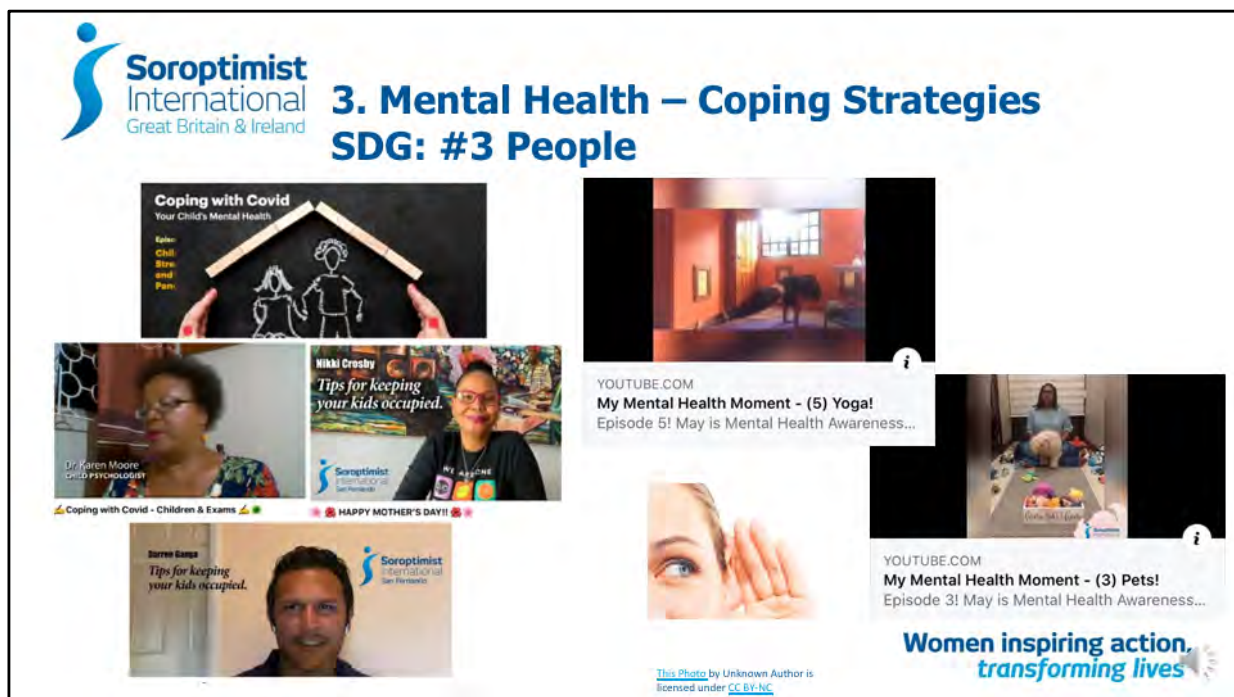
Migrants



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A Special case in Trinidad is the Venezuelan Migrants. As part of the pandemic relief, several Hampers were given to them
This information was featured in one of the daily newspaper



Mental Health :Clubs produced videos and posted on Facebook to assist parents with coping strategies. These included Coping with covid and tips for keeping your kids occupied ,as all children were now at home.

Oher videos included activities to reduce stress . These included yoga, keeping pets and gardening.

One club's project "Covid Comfort" is to call in at homes for the age and chat with residents for a few minutes

4. Personal Protection Masks –Making and Donating



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Personal protection by wearing face masks became the new norm. Some clubs got sewing machines as donations. They in turn donated these to some members in the communities, who made face masks and in turn distributed them to wider communities.

5. Education – Supplies and Devices Provided



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Education is now online.

Clubs in Trinidad had several projects whereby school supplies, laptops and computers were donated to girls.

A literacy project which included free books to the public was also launched

6. Climate Change :Planting Trees, SDG 13 Planet

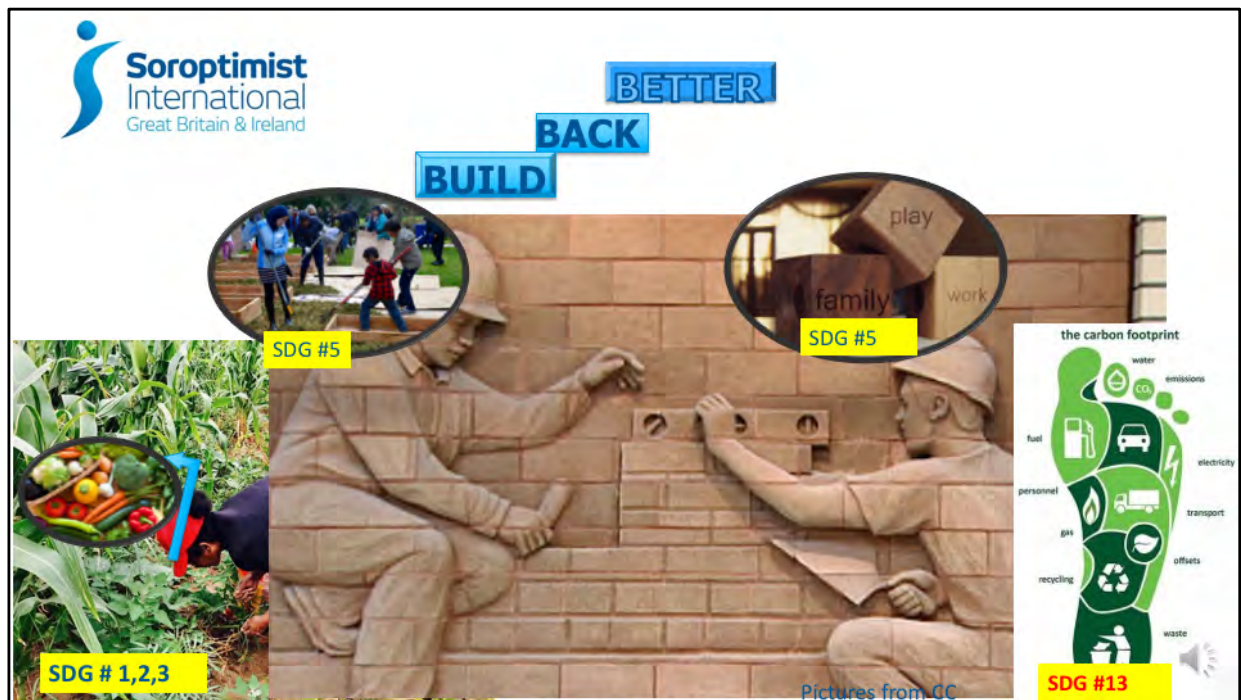
<https://youtu.be/PC8Ev6RIKTW>



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Climate change has affected us in many ways including extremes of weather and flooding. One way to address Climate Change involves planting trees . Members of a club planted trees at a National Park. They also produced a video on biodiversity which was shared to the public on face book and on their You Tube channel



As we Build Back Better: We need :More food production, a focus on agriculture so we can feed ourselves now and, in the future, to alleviate poverty. More families, especially women living, working and playing together building a caring resilient society without depression and domestic violence.

We Need to :Address issues related to Climate Change and Biodiversity. Reduce Pollution and our Carbon Footprints.

And as we build back better: We must move from Awareness to positive Action



Projects from

SI Newtown

SI Port of Spain

SI San Fernando

SI Esperance

SI Anaparima

**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!**

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Contributions for this presentation came from SI Newtown, Port of Spain, San Fernando, Esperance and Anaparima . I Thank You