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# JUST TRANSITION IN BARBADOS

Youth, Ageing  
Workers & Social  
Protection

Ministry of Labour,  
Social Security and  
Third Sector

IACML / RIAL –  
Thematic Session  
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# LABOUR MARKET CONTEXT (2026)



- Low single-digit unemployment (latest available data) but high youth unemployment



Ageing population



- Tight labour supply in key sectors



- Opportunity for green growth with inclusion risks

# MINIMUM WAGE AS SOCIAL PROTECTION

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- National minimum wage increased to protect vulnerable workers
- Involved social dialogue and stakeholder engagement
- Anchored in decent work and social stability

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# ROLE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR

VISION : To make Barbados the best place to work, contribute and retire.

Labour market activation

Wage and income protection

Social dialogue and inclusion

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# YOUTH INCLUSION – JOB START PLUS



TARGETS PERSONS  
AGED 16–24 YEARS  
NOT IN  
EMPLOYMENT,  
EDUCATION OR  
TRAINING



WORLD OF WORK  
TRAINING AND  
OTHER  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
INTERVENTIONS



CAREER PLANNING



PAID WORK  
PLACEMENTS



EXPOSURE TO  
GREEN & BLUE JOBS  
AND EMERGING  
SECTORS

# INCLUSION BEYOND YOUTH

- Older workers (45–66)
- Persons with disabilities
- Adults with low literacy

# REGIONAL LABOUR MOBILITY

- Open labour market to CARICOM nationals
- Belize, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Equal treatment, contingent rights and decent work for all

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# SKILLS SYSTEMS REFORM



Apprenticeship modernisation



Sector Skills Councils



Demand-driven, competency-based  
education and training



Stronger continuing education to facilitate  
flexible, responsive retraining and upskilling



Green and blue skills development

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INTERNATIONAL  
PARTNERSHIPS



ILO – Just Transition  
and Communication  
Strategy



IDB – Labour  
Market Information  
And Policy Reform

# KEY LESSONS

- Social protection enables transition
- Inclusion strengthens resilience
- Labour policy must lead the green transition
- Strong collaboration and partnership critical (inter-agency, public and private, third sector)



Thank you

