

Mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on new pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway: Small Island Developing States

Alicia Bárcena

Executive Secretary

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



Five transmission channels of COVID-19 crisis will affect the regional economy

A drop in trade with key trading partners

A fall in commodity prices

Disruption of global value chains

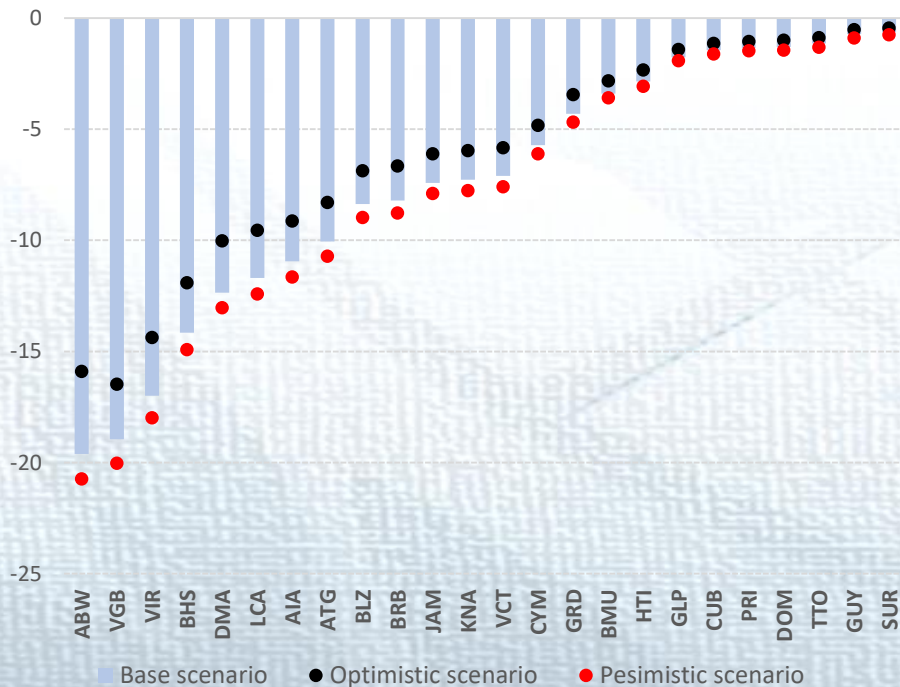
Less demand for tourism services

Decline in remittances

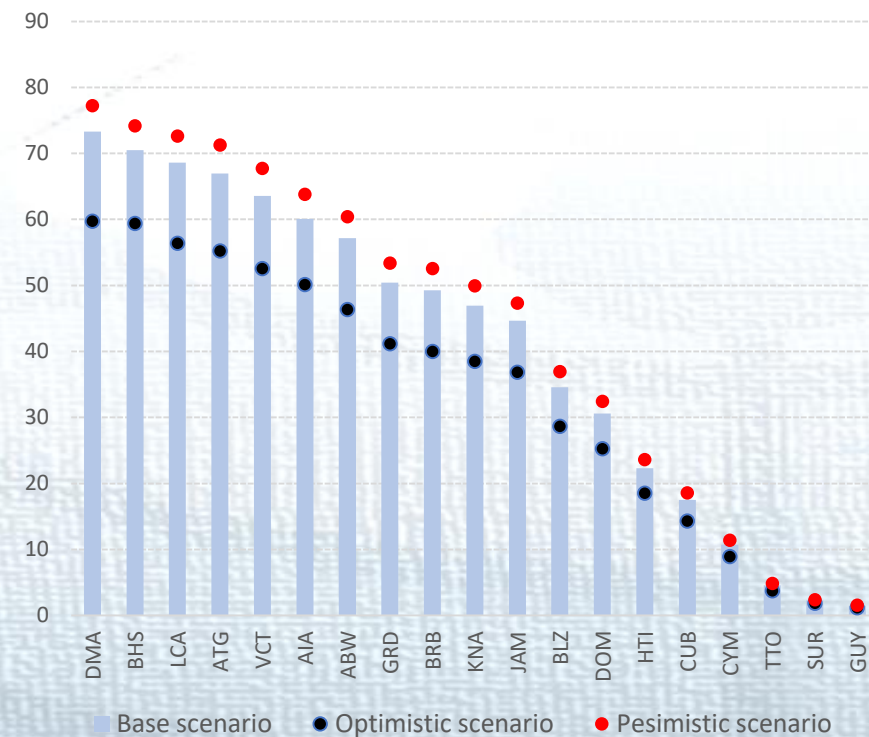
COVID-19 Impact on Tourism

Visitor arrivals will fall by between **57% and 75%** in 2020, leading to losses of tourism expenditure between **US\$22B and US\$28B**

Direct tourism impact on GDP growth, 2020
(Percentage)

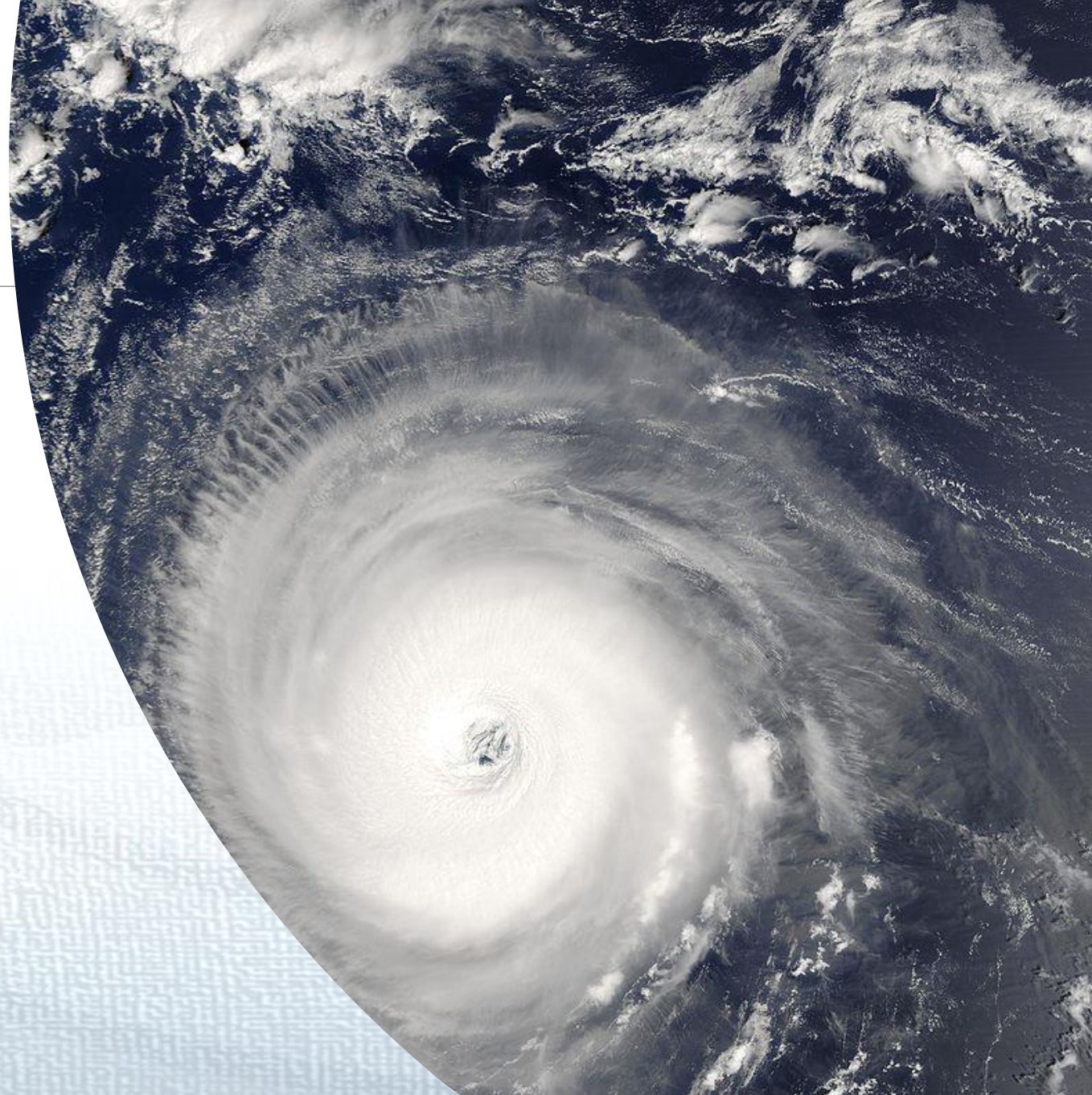


Visitor expenditure losses
(Per cent of exports of goods and services¹)

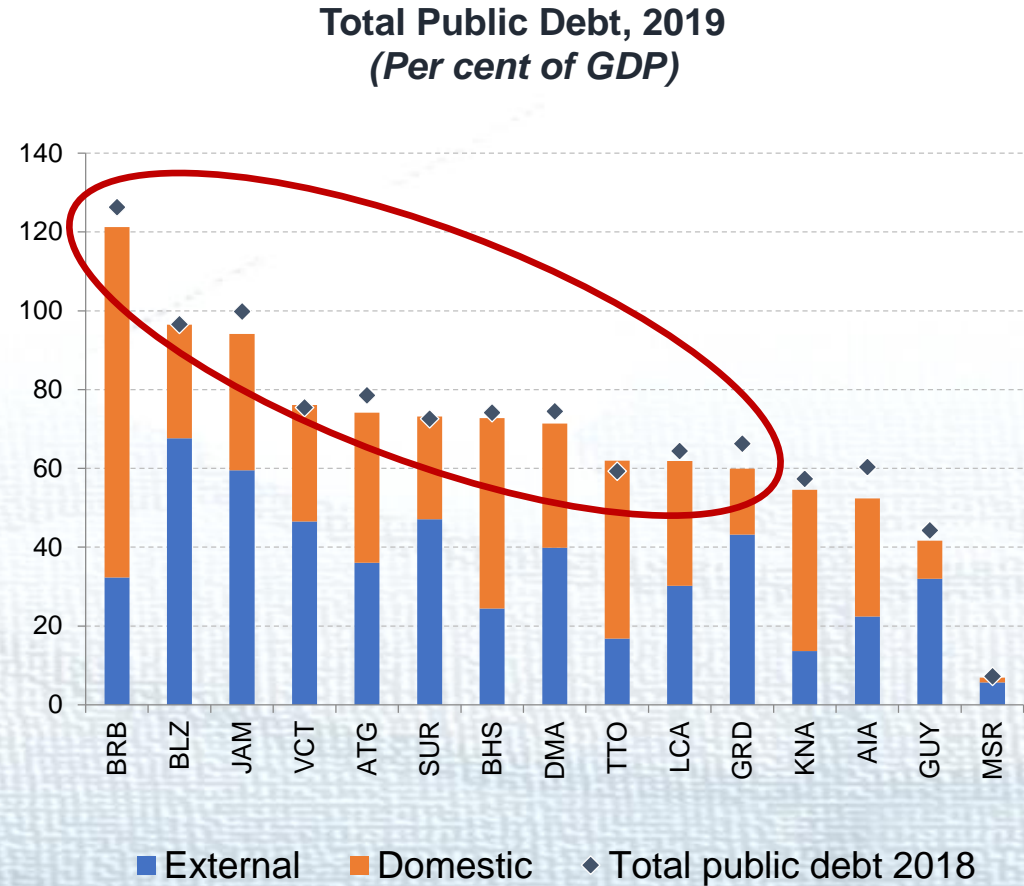
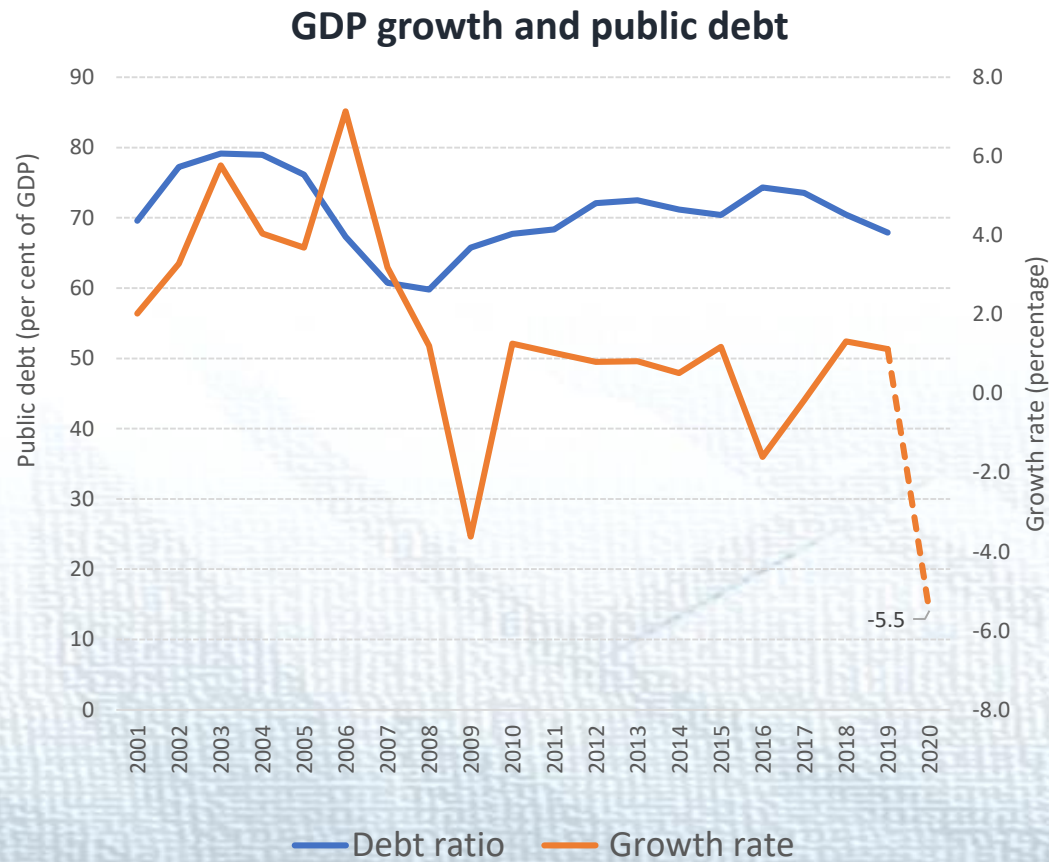


Climate Change Vulnerability

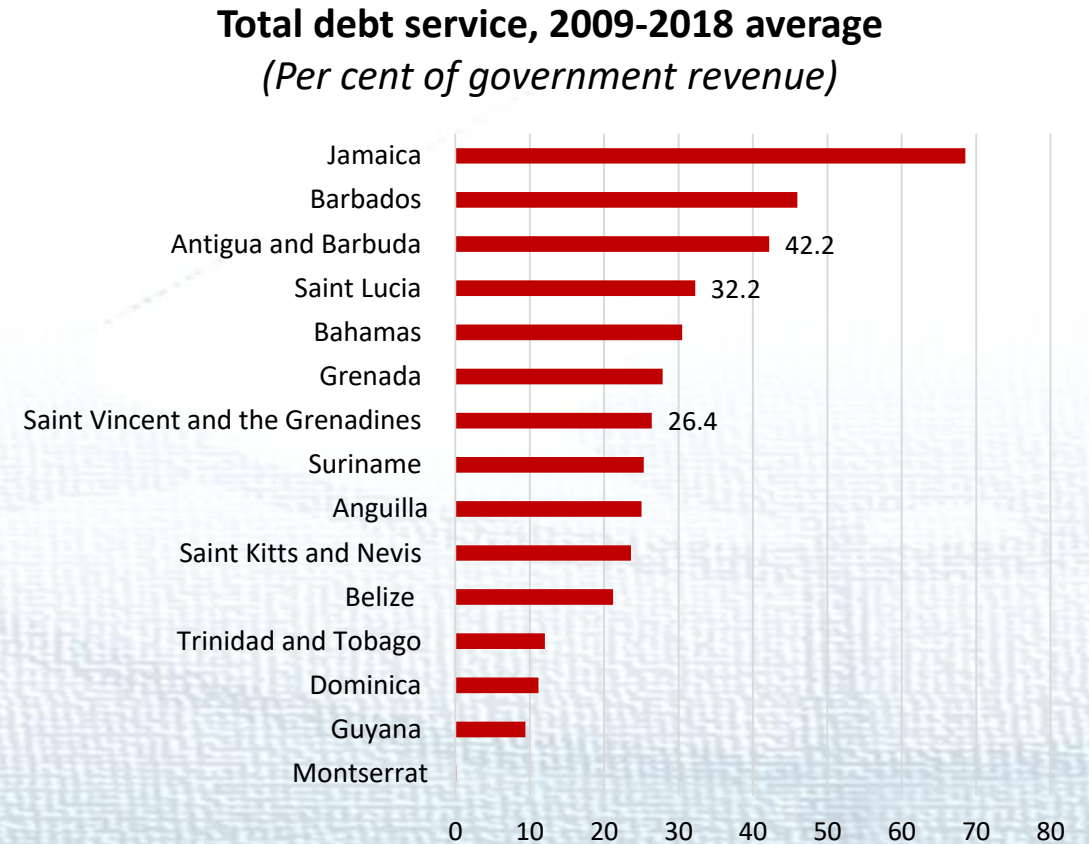
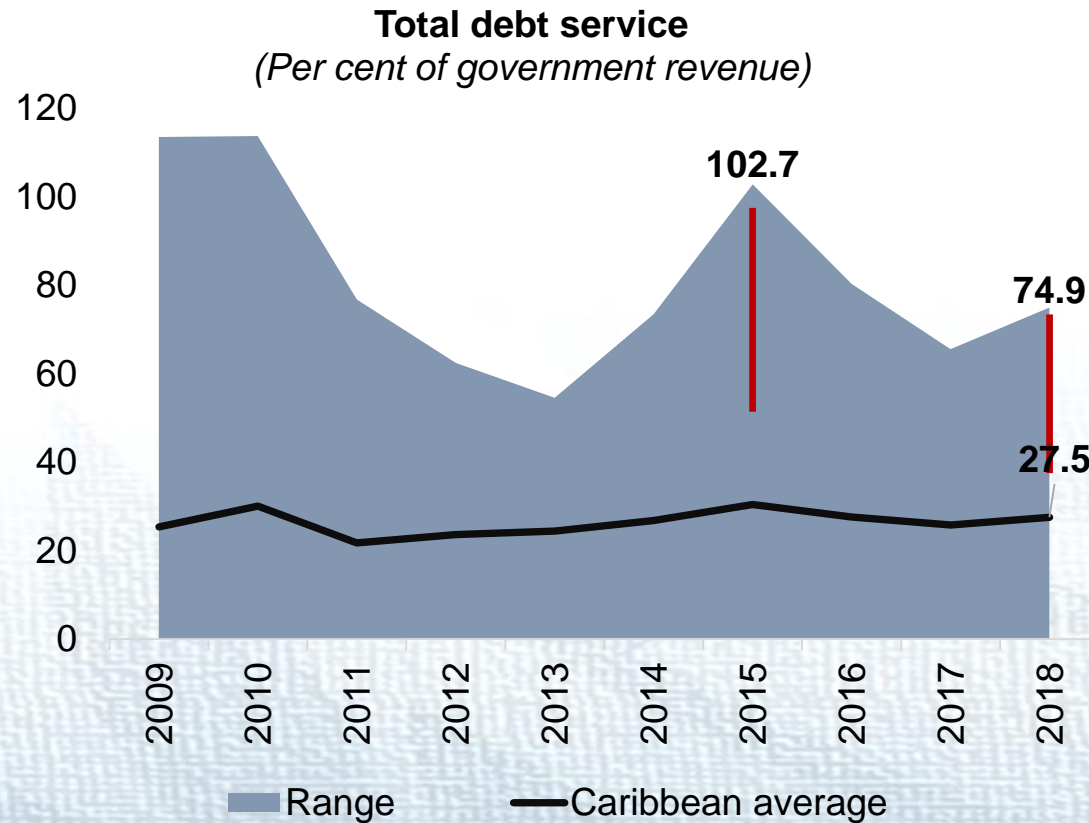
- During 1990 - 2019, there were over 400 disasters in the Caribbean, 90.4% from hydro-climatic phenomena
- In 2019 Hurricane Dorian caused US\$3.4b in the Bahamas; 1% of GDP.
- 2020 is forecast to be highly active with an estimated 16 named storms anticipated.



High public debt and low growth



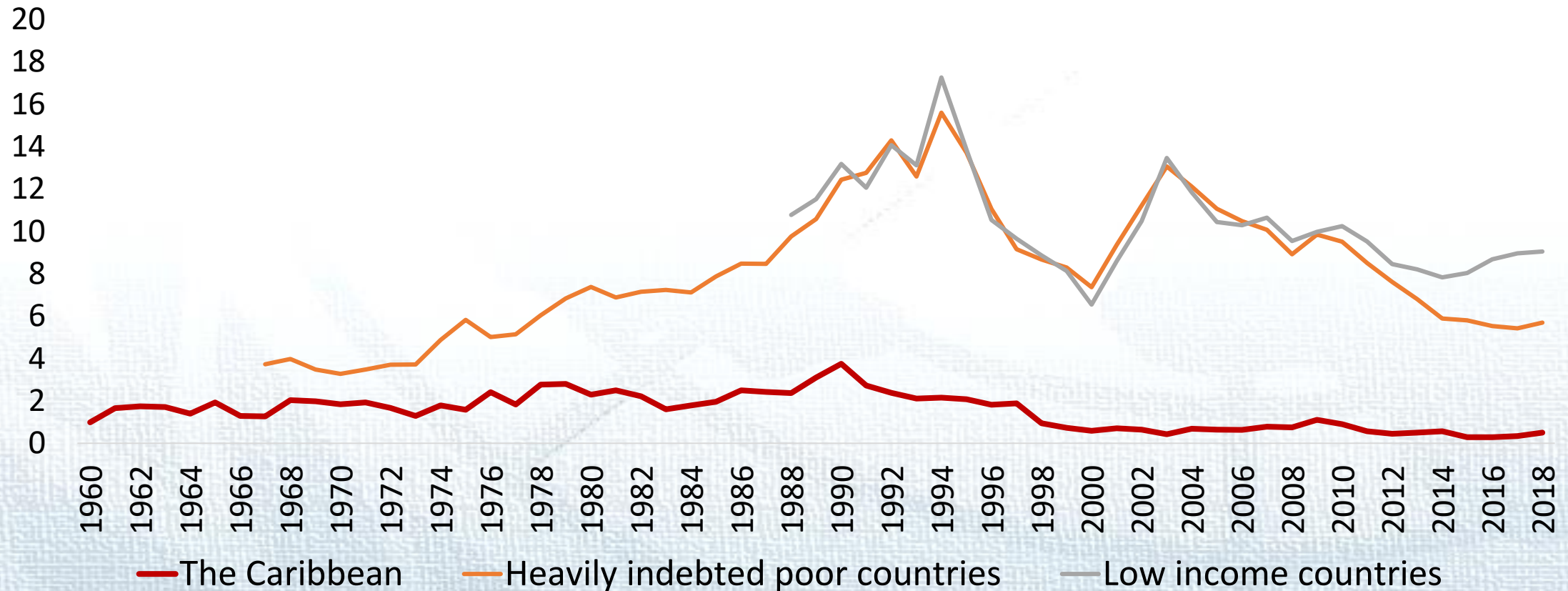
High debt service limits fiscal space for COVID response



- Notes: 1. This chart illustrates the wide range of debt burdens that Caribbean SIDS face.
 2. The high end of the shaded area is maximum debt service ratio, and the low end is the minimum, which remains at or just above zero.
 3. Bahamas data is unavailable for 2017 and 2018 and Barbados data is unavailable after 2015..

Concessional financial support is an imperative for the Caribbean

The Caribbean (13 countries): net official development assistance received, 1960–2018
(Percentages of gross national income)



Source: World Bank database.

a Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

Five recommendations for financial support and increase fiscal space for Caribbean SIDS

1. ECLAC debt relief initiative for resilience
2. Debt and service stand still and access to concessional funding, eligibility criteria of IFIs
3. Stage contingency bonds: hurricane clause
4. Green and blue bonds
5. Liquidity support Special Drawing Rights (SDR) Issuance.

Warning signs just 10 years from Agenda 2030 and SAMOA Pathway



**Poverty and
inequality**



**Women's
empowerment**



**Food security
and access to ICT
platforms**



**Unemployment
particularly for
youth**



**Strengthening
health and
sanitation**



Thank you