**Project: Support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

**“Implementation of the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC)**

**Model in the Caribbean Region”**

In the Greater Caribbean Region, small businesses provide the majority of jobs, rising in many instances to close to 85 percent of the job market. It is crucial then, that for a proper model to be built, a clear definition must be made to enunciate exactly what is a micro, small or medium enterprise (MSME).

Serious measures to increase productivity; facilitate access to funding; reduction of logistical costs; increased access to new technology and integration of MSMEs into value chains, can all lead to job creation.

A World Bank study has identified some obstacles in a few critical areas which now retard the growth and development of MSMEs - transportation and logistics, electricity, innovation and quality, access to new technology, human capital, funding, trade rules and access to new market information.

The success of this project however, depends on the early establishment of the six business development centres in the Caribbean region; the development of MOUs with private/public entities to foster the SBDCs; training and certification of technical staff to provide the services. (train the trainers modality) and initiating the consulting process in the countries of the region.

***General Objective:*** *Implementation of the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) Model to promote competitiveness among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in ACS Member Countries.*

***Specific Objectives:***

*• To establish at least 6 business development centres in ACS Member Countries to provide business support services for MSMEs*

*• To improve the competitiveness of MSMEs in the region*

*• To improve existing MSMEs through sustained growth and the penetration of new international markets (internationalisation)*

*• To contribute to the growth and enhancement of MSMEs in the region through product and service innovation*

*• Technical assistance and ongoing training for MSMEs*

*• Access to new market information*