

Just BE Fisherfolk

Magazine



SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

Amplifying Climate Justice for Fisherfolk in the Barbados Blue Economy with Emphasis on Women and Youth

2025



SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

Table of Contents



Grantees Bios 04

Introduction | 06
Small Grants Big Waves

Project 1 | "Voices From the Shore Youth Project" | 07
Sheena Griffith, Margaret Harding, Sylvia White

Project 2 | "Pile Bay Fisherfolk" | 10
Kevin Chapman & Katrina Chapman

Project 3 | 13
"Health on the Line" | Vernel Nichols

Project 4 | 16
"Opening New Horizons" | Kerry-Ann Nowell-Browne

Project 5 | 19
"Weston Youth" | Catherine Sandiford-Tull

Final Reflection 22

GRANTEES



SHEENA GRIFFITH

Sheena comes from a long-standing tradition of artisanal fisherfolk and has worked in the fishing industry for over 20 years.

She is a founding member of the acclaimed Voices from the Shore Theatre Collective.



MARGARET HARDING

Margaret has been in the Barbados fishing industry for over 25 years. Coming from a traditional fishing family, she first entered the industry as a small-scale fish processor at the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex, where she still operates.

Margaret has been a member of the Central Fish Processors Association (CFPA) since its inception and has served previously as the CFPA Activities Coordinator and a founding member of Voices from the Shore Theatre Collective.



SYLVIA WHITE

Sylvia is a fish processor and vendor, former Vice President of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) and founding member of Voices from the Shore Theatre Collective.

She is a third-generation fisherfolk, born, raised and living in the beautiful village of Tent Bay, Bathsheba, St. Joseph.



KATRINA CHAPMAN

Katrina Chapman is a third-generation fish vendor with over 20 years of experience in the fishing industry. She comes from a long-standing family tradition in the fisheries sector and has developed a deep love and extensive knowledge of the industry.

Katrina currently serves as the President of the Pile Bay Fisherfolk Organisation and is also the Market Manager of the Pile Bay Landing Facility.



KEVIN CHAPMAN

Kevin Chapman serves as the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Pile Bay Fisherfolk Organisation. A proud grandson of a fisherman and a hawker, Kevin has been immersed in the fishing community all his life.

He uses his talents to help organise and empower fisherfolk.

GRANTEES cont.....



VERNEL NICHOLLS

Vernel Nicholls is a distinguished leader in Barbados's fishing industry and has been in the industry for over 30 years.

She is the President of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO), where she advocates for the rights and development of fisherfolk, emphasising sustainable practices and technological advancement.



KERRY-ANN NOWELL-BROWNE

Kerry-Ann Nowell Browne is a seasoned fish processor with over ten years in the fishing industry. She is the founder of the NGO- Empowering Women in Fishing and More.

Kerry-Ann also serves as the Secretary of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) and is a passionate advocate for empowering women in fisheries.



CATHERINE SANDIFORD-TULL

Catherine Sandiford-Tull, President of Weston Fisherfolk & Community Inc. and Treasurer of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO), has been a fisherwoman and charter boat owner for four years.

She holds an MBA in Finance and a BA in English and Economics from Rutgers University, with over 20 years of experience in banking, insurance, and investments.



—Intro

Small Grants, Big Waves:

How Fisherfolk Are Steering Justice in Their Communities



Maria Pena | UWI CERMES Project Officer | Just BE Fisherfolk Project PI



Katherine Blackman | Consultant



Bertha Simmons | Consultant



Rishad Maynard | CCRIF Intern with UWI-CERMES

As part of the broader Just BE Fisherfolk initiative, a dynamic sub-project launched in mid-2024 provided local fisherfolk with the opportunity to turn bold ideas into impactful action.

Through a targeted small grant initiative, five fisherfolk organisations or individuals—formal or informal—received funding of BBD \$4,000–\$5,000 (USD \$2,000–\$2,500) to roll out projects rooted in climate justice, with powerful connections to social and blue justice.

Launched on 31 July 2024 through the Just BE Fisherfolk WhatsApp group and extended across various fisherfolk networks and emails, the initiative sparked keen interest across the community. Applications closed on 30 September 2024, with UWI-CERMES stepping in to provide both online and in-person info sessions, along with tailored one-on-one support to help applicants shape their proposals.

Following the review process, seven strong applications were evaluated by the UWI-CERMES project team using five key criteria:

- **Alignment with climate, blue and/or social justice goals**
- **Clear, focused project objectives**
- **Practical, well-designed activities**
- **Feasibility for completion within three months**
- **A budget that made sense for the funds available**

Five standout projects were awarded funding and kicked off in early 2025, with a three-month window to bring their ideas to life. Each grantee was paired with an experienced mentor—Katherine Blackman, Rishad Maynard, or Bertha Simmons—to guide them through the implementation process.

What followed was nothing short of inspiring. Despite the modest grants, the projects delivered wide-ranging and meaningful results, including ocean literacy and the promotion of the cultural tradition of fishing targeting youth, as well as women's health, empowerment, and organisational strengthening. The perseverance of the fisherfolk behind these initiatives showed what's possible when local voices are given the tools to lead.

These small grants proved that with vision and support, fisherfolk can drive real change—anchoring justice not just in theory, but in practice, right at the heart of their communities.



From the Project Report by Sheena Griffith,
Margaret Harding & Sylvia White
Photographs by CERMES & Voices From
The Shore Theatre Collective

Voices from the Shore Cast a Net of Knowledge

Three fisherwomen take theatre to the classroom, teaching kids how fishing sustains Barbados' culture, climate resilience, and food security.

What happens when you mix storytelling, songs, and sardines? You get a bold new way to teach the next generation why fishing matters. That's precisely what Sheena Griffith, Margaret Harding, and Sylvia White—members of the Popular Theatre group Voices from the Shore Theatre Collective (known as "Voices" for short)—set out to do between February and May 2025 with their project "Teaching the Youth the Importance of the Fishing Industry to Barbados."

Targeting over 150 children at Ellerton Primary School, including students with special needs, the trio combined play-based learning with climate justice education. The result? A joyful but powerful lesson in food security, cultural identity, and the environmental stakes facing small island fisheries in Barbados.



Margaret Harding providing the children with a demonstration in fish processing.



Sheena Griffith teaching the children from Ellerton Primary School games from her youth.

Sheena led sessions on how the fishing industry supports local jobs and nutrition, even introducing the idea of turning fish waste into fertiliser.

Margaret transported the kids to her childhood days in a fishing village, playing traditional beach games like “row row nanny” and teaching how fish once caught were cleaned with care. Sylvia delivered a sobering but kid-friendly lesson on climate change, tying global challenges to local realities—and futures.

...Playing traditional beach games like ‘row row nanny’...

As a bonus, the project even secured a donation of 100 flying fish to supplement the school’s lunch programme—an edible reminder of what’s at stake.



L to R: Sheena, Margaret and Bertha chatting with students about traditions within the fishing industry, changes due to climate and the need for fairness to fisherfolk.

Next steps include securing more funding to expand to other schools, inviting fishermen to share their experiences, and introducing students to the full spectrum of fishing industry roles—from pot building to market sales all the while developing fisherfolk climate justice allies among the youth.



Flyingfish do have wings! Sylvia (top) and Margaret (bottom) give the children a close-up look at Barbados' national fish, the first time for many of the children.



The message is clear: if Barbados wants a sustainable fishing future, it must start with the youngest voices—and listen to the ones from the shore.

PILE BAY



From Shore to Strategy: Pile Bay Fisherfolk Step Into Leadership

From the Project Report
by Kevin Chapman &
Katrina Chapman

Photographs by
CERMES & Pile Bay
Fisherfolk Organisation

W

hat happens when fisherfolk take training into their own hands? At the Spring Garden-based Pile Bay landing site, they don't just fish—they lead. From February 28 to March 8, 2025, members of the Pile Bay Fisherfolk Organisation participated in an intensive capacity-building programme designed to strengthen their voice in Barbados' evolving Blue Economy.

KEY OUTCOMES



The programme sparked a sense of empowerment and community pride—especially in women who hadn’t previously seen themselves as part of the policy conversation.

But the path wasn’t without challenges. Youth participation lagged, and some fishermen didn’t engage as expected.

Still, the results were clear: knowledge deepened, confidence grew, and a new wave of leadership began to ripple through the community.

The seven-session training brought together executive members, fishers, and community supporters to sharpen their skills in governance, sustainable fishing, climate resilience, and social justice.

Women made up 70% of participants, setting the tone for an inclusive future in a traditionally male-dominated space.

Sessions led by legal, climate, and fisheries experts tackled topics such as executive responsibility, early warning technologies, mobile apps for navigation, and the role of youth and women in fisheries justice.

Participants began attending national town halls on marine spatial planning, engaging in webinars, and expressing stronger advocacy for climate justice.



In a time of rising seas and shrinking margins, these fisherfolk aren’t waiting to be saved. They’re steering their own boats—and charting new waters for justice, sustainability, and community strength.



The training was a success. Participants have fun and learn more about how they could advocate for climate justice.



From the Project Report by Vernel Nicholls
Photographs by CERMES & Esther Jones



Putting Health on the Line in Barbados' Fishing Industry

Inside the bustling halls of the Bridgetown Fish Market, a quiet revolution is taking place—led by the women who process, clean, and sell the daily catch.

Between February and April 2025, the Central Fish Processors Association (CFPA), under the leadership of President Vernel Nicholls, launched an unprecedented project focused squarely on one often-overlooked issue: the health of women in fisheries.

Funded through the Just BE Fisherfolk Small Grant initiative, the programme featured three dynamic sessions and culminated in a vibrant health fair. Over 17 women from four fisherfolk organisations engaged in eye-opening discussions about their occupational health risks—from hypertension to musculoskeletal pain, diabetes, and the mental strain of demanding work environments.

The project then brought in healthcare professionals from the Diabetes Association, Barbados Community College, and the Ministry of Health. From nutrition and mental health to managing non-communicable diseases, participants received practical advice tailored to the realities of life on the fish market floor.

The final event—a community health fair—offered free blood sugar and cholesterol testing to 47 fisherfolk, and closed on a high note with a lively fisherfolk line dance. Mental health literature and resources were also distributed to encourage ongoing care and awareness.



During the seminar, the women were asked to document fisheries work related health risks and challenges.



Heart disease and stroke, diabetes, hypertension, respiratory and mental health, as well as musculoskeletal pain, are common among women in fisheries.

FACT

CFPA now plans to build on this momentum by developing a health services handbook, installing educational posters at landing sites, and utilising digital platforms to share wellness tips and emergency care guidance.

In a sector where women are often the unseen backbone, this initiative reminded all stakeholders that healthy women mean a healthier, more just fisheries industry.





Fisherfolk women participating in the project were grateful to the training facilitators and health care workers who supported the project.



JUST BE FISHERFOLK
SMALL GRANT PROJECT

Women's HEALTH
Barbados Fisheries Sector

01 March
Registration
Powerpoint Presentation
by Vernel Nicholls (President, CFPA)
- Welcome and Overview of Project
- Documenting Health Risks of Women

08 March
Group discussions
linking women fisherfolk health issues to social and climate justice

19 March
Presentation by health experts
- Arthritis and joint pains
- Cardiovascular diseases and Mental Health
- Mental Health & the Youth Project
by Myeisha Holder (BCC student)

28 March
Bridgetown Public Market
Mini Health Fair
- Blood sugar testing
- Cholesterol testing
- Mental health literature
- Beginner Line dances by Synergy School of Dance

FUN ACTIVITY
Building #2, Pelican Village, Bridgetown, St. Michael

JUST BE FISHERFOLK
SMALL GRANT PROJECT

Mini HEALTH FAIR
28th MARCH
at the Bridgetown Public Market

Are you ready to take charge of your health and wellness?
Come and be part of our Mini Health Fair, where you'll have the chance to explore valuable resources, participate in wellness activities, and connect with health experts in your community.

Host
Vernel Nicholls (President, CFPA)

- Blood sugar testing
- Cholesterol testing
- Mental health literature

FUN ACTIVITY
- Beginner Line dances by Synergy School of Dance
Music by DJ Rickey



Fisherfolk taking advantage of free health checks during the Health Fair.

From the Project Report by Kerry-Ann Nowell Browne
Photographs by CERMES



Opening Horizons: Women Navigate New Roles in Barbados' Fishing Future

Between February and May 2025, Empowering Women in Fishing, led by Kerry-Ann Nowell-Browne, brought new visibility to women's roles in the fishing industry.

The project featured workshops, school visits, and interactive sessions designed to boost women's confidence, skills, and awareness of climate and social justice issues.



Activities included an awareness session on the value and treatment of women in the industry, a visit to BICO boatyard for a hands-on boat-building demonstration, and a school workshop with 50 third-year girls at the Alleyne School.

The students learned about fishing careers, species identification, and fish processing techniques.

The initiative also hosted a forum on 12 April, where 15 participants engaged with experts on blue justice, financial literacy, and co-operative business models. In total, 66 individuals benefited directly.

Despite challenges such as scheduling during peak fishing season and a cancelled boat trip, the project achieved its goal of widening opportunities for women in the sector.

Workshops and school outreach empower women and girls to lead in the fishing industry and blue economy.

The programme's success has inspired the launch of a new non-profit organisation: Empowering Women in Fishing and More, currently in the process of registration with the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO). Plans are already underway for a second financial literacy workshop to continue the momentum.





Women fisherfolk getting a taste of boat building.



Grantee Catherine Sandiford-Tull

Weston Youth Dive into Ocean Awareness

By Catherine Sandiford-Tull
Photographs by the Weston Fisherfolk
& Community Inc.



F

rom port tours to coral reef talks and glass-bottom boat rides, thirty children from Weston, St. James, were immersed in a two-day programme designed to grow their ocean literacy and awareness of social, climate, and blue justice. The initiative, led by Weston Fisherfolk & Community Inc. under the Just BE Fisherfolk small grant, engaged youth with lively, hands-on sessions that brought the coast to life.



Interactive in-class activities and field trips helped develop ocean literacy among youth



**OCEAN LITERACY PROJECT
FOR WESTON YOUTH**

**Social Justice
Climate Justice
Blue Justice**

Day 1

Thursday February 20, 2025

8 AM Board Bus at Weston Market

9 AM Fisheries Division

11 AM Port Inc Tour of B'Town Port

1PM Tiami / Atlantis Submarine

3-4 PM Return/Parent-pickup

3-5 Catalina

CZMU COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT UNIT

CERMES CUB Coastal Zone Management Unit

Barbados Fisheries Division

BARNUFO Barbados National Underwater Federation

Clean Up Barbados

On **Day 1**, the children visited the Fisheries Division and Bridgetown Port, attended sessions led by the Coastal Zone Management Unit and Voices from the Shore Theatre Collective, and learned about the marine space through interactive quizzes and presentations. They observed cruise ships and catamarans and saw a model of the Atlantis Submarine.

Day 2 focused on coral reef conservation and environmental care. In partnership with the Coral Reef Alliance and Clean Up Barbados, participants learned about reef regeneration and took part in a beach clean-up discussion. They ended the day aboard a Horizon glass-bottom boat, spotting reefs and divers in action.

Young ocean explorers out and about on a glass bottom boat



Despite limited funding and scheduling adjustments due to school terms, the project achieved its goals: introducing youth to marine careers, environmental responsibility, and justice themes in engaging and accessible ways.

These experiences continue to demonstrate that early exposure to marine education—especially through fun, inclusive, and justice-focused programming—can create lasting change for coastal communities and the ocean they depend on.



**OCEAN LITERACY PROJECT
FOR WESTON YOUTH**

**Social Justice
Climate Justice
Blue Justice
Day 2**

**Weston Fisheries
Community**

ERMES

CORALL

**Sunday February 23, 2025 (@ Gazebo)
11:30 AM CORALL Presentation
12:15 PM Glass-Bottom Boat Tour
2:30 PM Return/Parent pickup**

CZMU

Clean Up Barbados

J. J. Catalina



Instructor Michelle Barrow teaching the Weston youth about social and blue justice through Popular Theatre.



FINAL

REFLECTION

As this special issue comes to a close, the message is clear: small grants can spark big change.

Across landing sites, markets, boatyards and schools, these community-led projects have empowered women, educated youth, and opened new paths in the fishing industry. They've tackled leadership, health, ocean literacy, women's empowerment and traditions in fisheries, all linked to climate justice—with creativity and care.

What began as simple ideas evolved into bold actions: boat-building workshops, youth outreach, health fairs, and the establishment of a new NGO.

These are more than project reports—they're proof that when fisherfolk lead, communities thrive.

Let this be just the beginning.



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Editor-In-Chief: Maria Pena

Designed by: Esther Jones

Cover page photo by Maria Pena

Back page photo by Gender In Fisheries Team (GIFT)

Reports translated into text by ChatGPT



SMALL GRANT PROJECTS



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



SMALL GRANT PROJECTS



Scan for more information on
the Just BE Fisherfolk Project

