



SKILLS TO ACCESS
THE GREEN ECONOMY
SAGE

Canadian-Caribbean
Institute
May 2026
Pat Bidart



COLLEGES &
INSTITUTES
CANADA



In partnership with
Canada

collegesinstitutes.ca/SAGE



SAGE

Partnerships

SAGE consisted of 8 institutional partnerships with 25 Caribbean TVET institutions and 15 Canadian colleges focused on delivering gender sensitive skills training programs that met economic and environmental needs of the region. Climate Smart Agriculture, Sustainable Construction, Coastal Management, Renewable Energy, Eco Tourism & Educational Technology.

8 Apprenticeship pilots, industry, TVET & Caribbean institutions

Partnerships

- Support for students with disabilities, marketing, green skills, gender and apprenticeship was also involved in the SAGE program.

SAGE IMPACT STATISTICS

528

STUDENTS RECEIVED
CAREER COUNSELLING

500,000+

CARIBBEAN & CANADIAN
PEOPLE REACHED

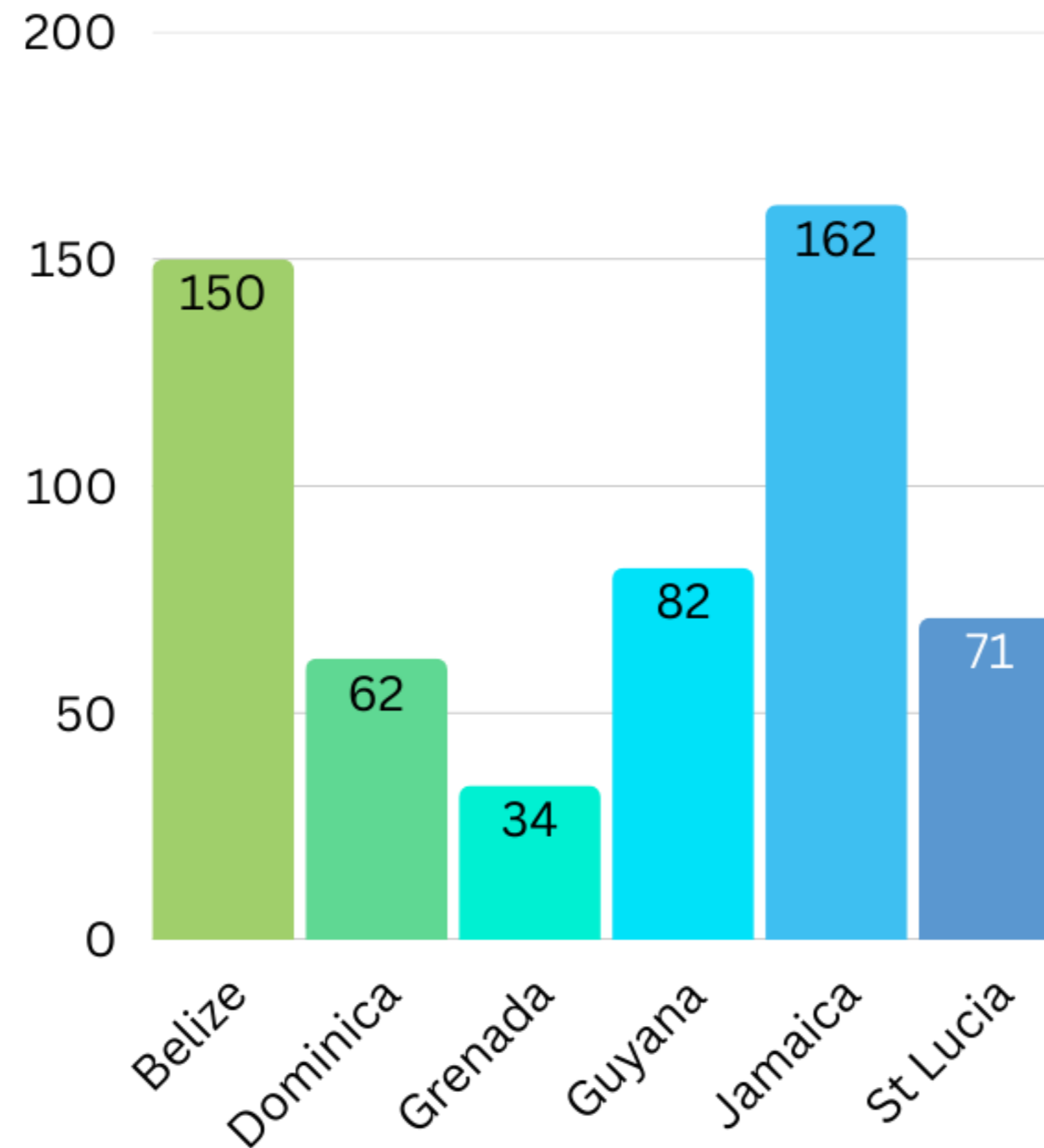
3 NEW

COMMUNICATION
CHANNELS

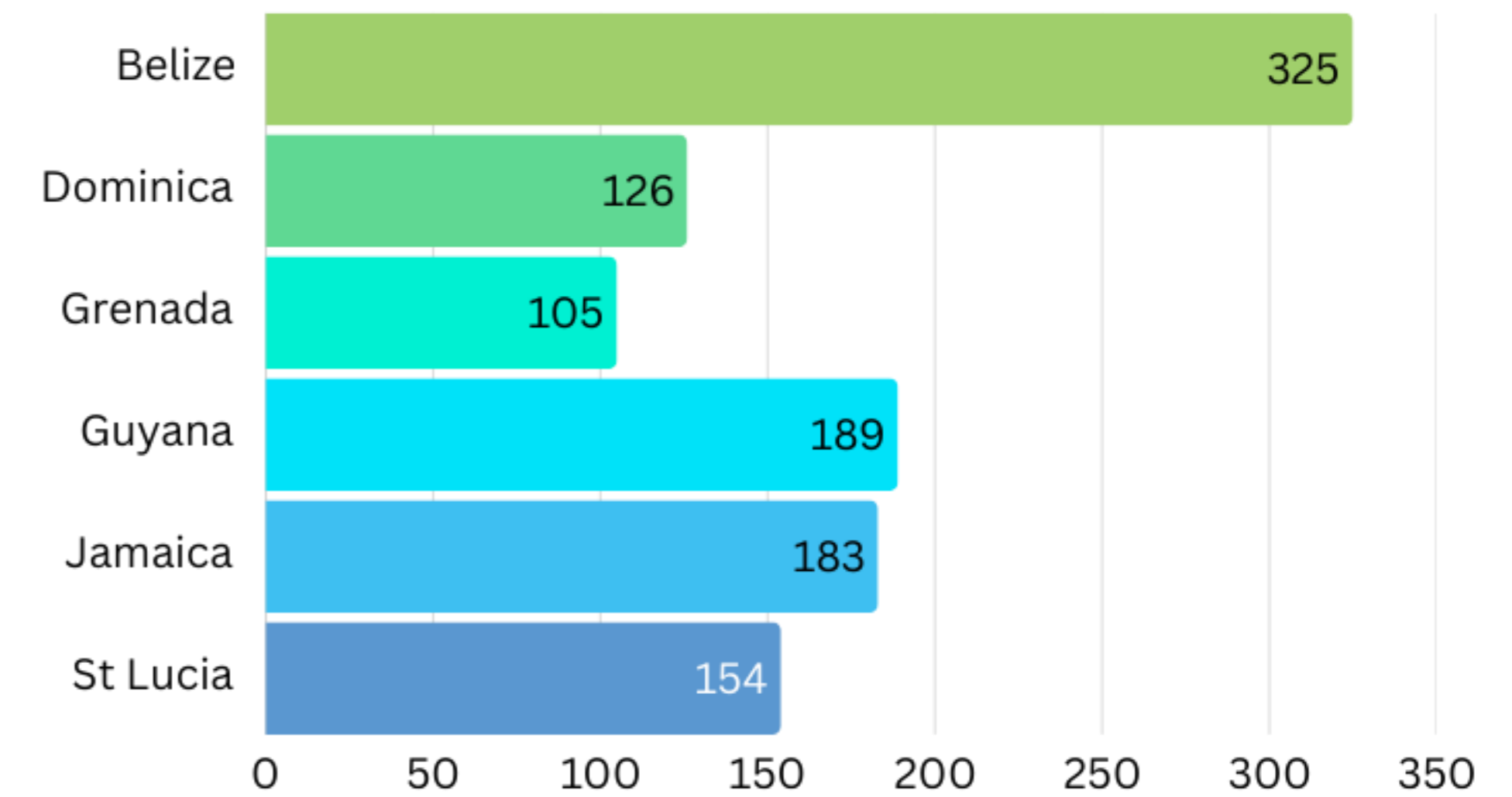
84%

OF TARGET INDICATORS
COMPLETED/ EXCEEDED

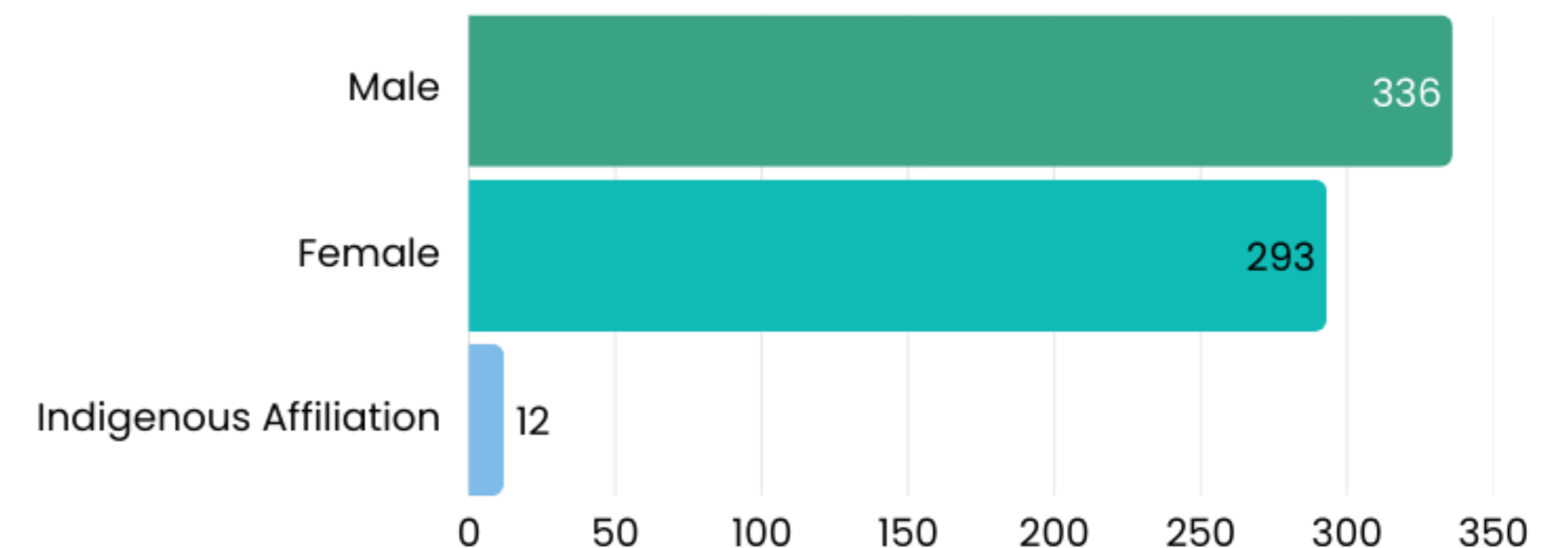
561 TOTAL STAFF TRAINED



1082 TOTAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SAGE PROGRAMS



629 TOTAL STUDENT GRADUATES TO DATE



SAGE IMPACT STATISTICS

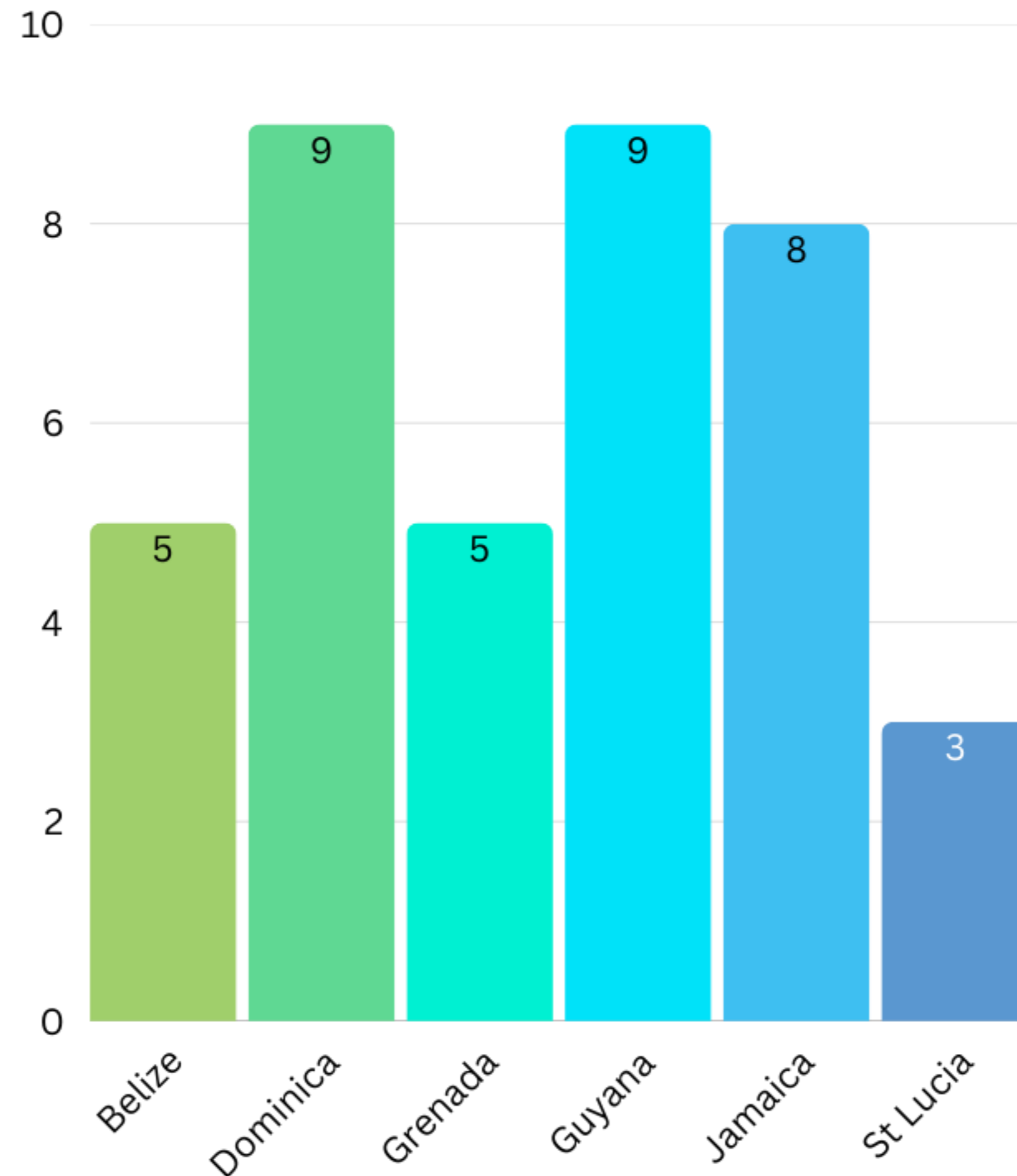
23%
OF GRADUATES FIND
EMPLOYMENT WITHIN A
MONTH POST-
GRADUATION

81
STUDENTS FINANCIALLY
ASSISTED WITH STUDY
ABROAD TOURS

138
STAFF TRAINED IN DELIVERING
GENDER-SENSITIVE
ECOTOURISM PROGRAMS

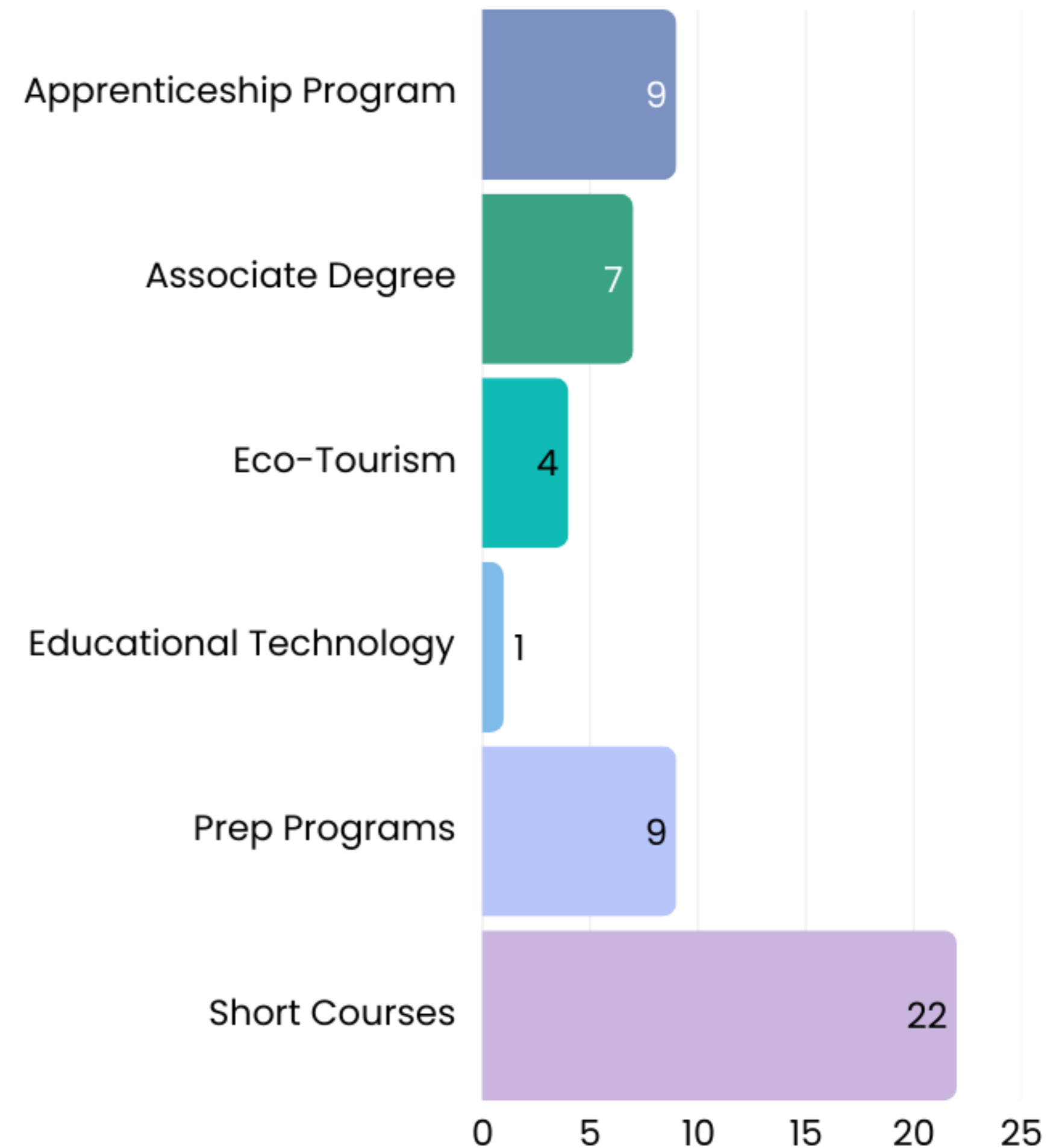
63
WOMEN IN TRADES

39 GENDER-SENSITIVE OUTREACH & PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED

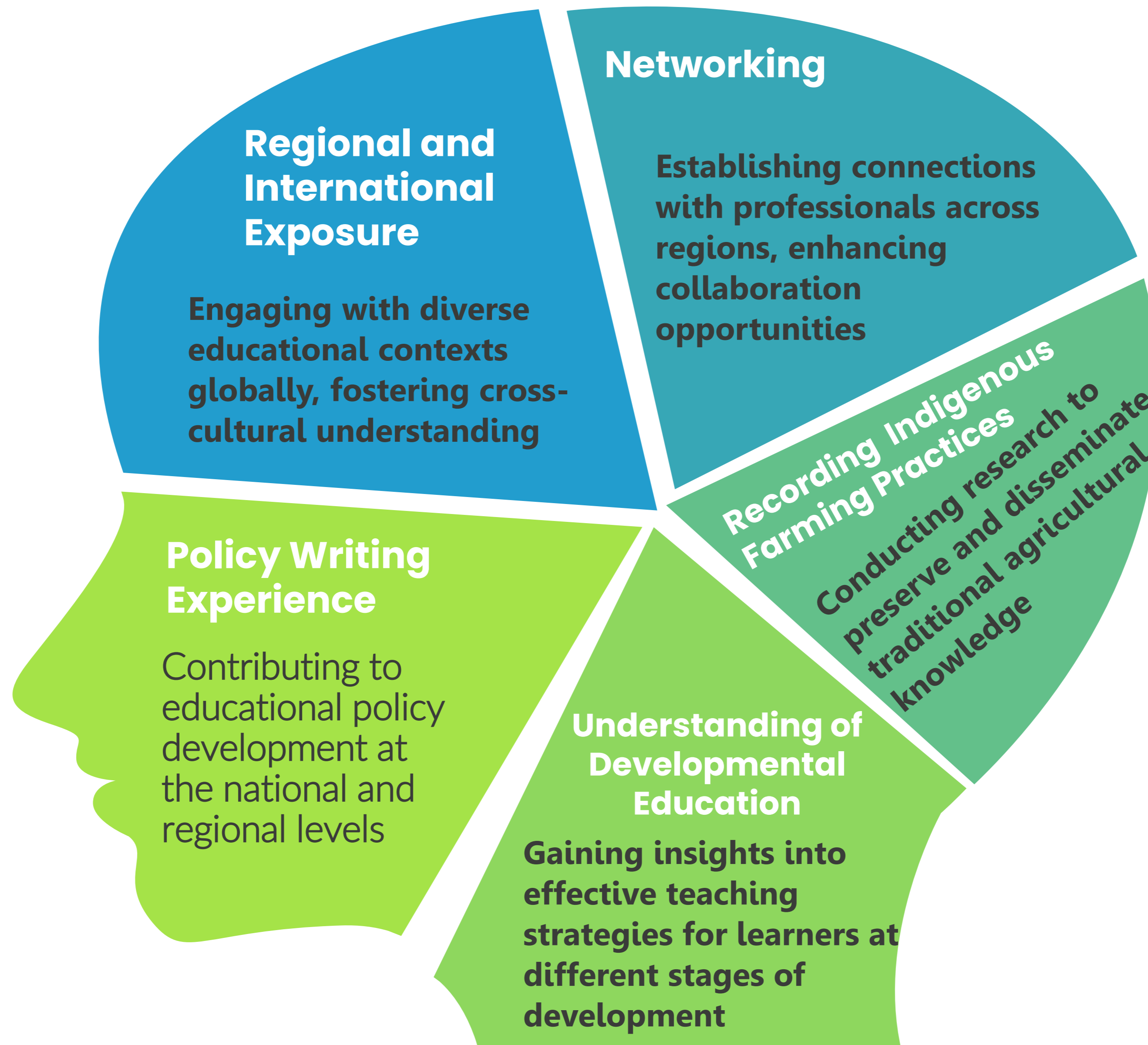


PREP PROGRAM AGREEMENTS
COMMENCED IN EVERY
COUNTRY

PROGRAMS / COURSES DEVELOPED



Achieved Career Goals of Caribbean Partners



SAGE Successes

Faculty & Administration

- Competency Based Education & Training
- Educational Technology
- Counselling
- Expertise in Green skills areas (specific skills related to curriculum development)
- Working with students with disabilities
- Leadership training
- Advisory Committees
- Applied Research
- Experiential learning tours to partner institutions & CIGan conference
- Gender
- Equipment & technology



SAGE Successes

Students

- Scholarships to assist with tuition and living expenses
- Career counselling available
- Applied Research involvement
- Experiential Learning tours: one learning tour to improve knowledge in their area of study. A second tour involved Indigenous students from Belize, Dominica and Guyana to western Canada.
- Gender approaches
- Skills in the “green economy”





SAGE Challenges

- COVID
- Some countries not able to grant NVQ's & CVQ's
- Technology available at some institutions (SAGE did help with some institutions-smart classroom & learning hubs)
- Industry not always participative , some expectation that they should receive financial reimbursement
- Financial challenges at some institutio

Lessons Learned

- Online training and development were crucial to the project, as the program commenced at the onset of COVID-19. Partners learned that online methods of working and communicating can be as effective as in-person meetings. Furthermore, partners reported feeling highly connected to the program due to consistent contact and ongoing communication.
- Program delivery timelines needed to remain flexible due to COVID-19 restrictions at institutions and difficulties with student recruitment.
- Scholarships became especially important following COVID-19, as many families were experiencing significant financial hardship.
- NTA's/TVET councils can present challenges in obtaining program accreditation. Timely decisions are not always possible due to the status and capacity of these councils. A more efficient and responsive accreditation process is needed in some countries.

Lessons Learned

- Canadian partners were diligent and worked hard to ensure that the partnerships were successful. Changes in leadership at both Canadian & Caribbean institutions created some difficulty during the program.
- There is a clear need for apprenticeship training in the Caribbean. The pilot programs were well received; however, in some countries, employers require additional training on the benefits of apprenticeship models
- Financial difficulties at some Caribbean institutions created additional challenges for program delivery.
- It is important to have good communication channels, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp for programs, partners and to share the stories with outside agencies and interested people.
- Long term relationships have developed with some of the Caribbean & Canadian partners as well some Canadian colleges used this opportunity to work with other institutions in country.
- Canadian High Commission offices are important to connect with as staff understand the issues and challenges in country.

Recommendations

- Determine what you are looking for in a partnership?
- Sign a MOU when you have a good understanding with your partner?
- What are the mutual benefits for each institution?
- It is exciting to have partnerships, and you need people to work on these partnerships.
- Development programs can lead to long term relationships in country.
- Students & faculty at Canadian & Caribbean institutions benefit greatly from these partnerships so important to work together for the long term.