



# **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Development  
through  
partnerships**

**Technological  
Enhancements**



**Food  
Security**





## Who are we?

We, BEYOND IYANOLA, are a group of enthusiastic citizens of the world, based mainly in overseas territories, creating a movement for development by harnessing the collective might of our people and well-wishers. With a focus on the island of Saint Lucia, we recognise that true progress can only come from a process of reflection, infused with a healthy dose of realism and integrity running throughout. In-keeping with the theme of reflective learning in this

issue we begin to explore the idea of sustainable development, focusing mainly on the areas of Food and Technology, with a few of our friends. As you read the contributions outlined throughout this write up, we urge you to consider how they resonate with you.

*How can you contribute to the sustainable development of Saint Lucia?*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **DEVELOPMENT FROM 2000–2015**

*In 2000, when leaders from around the world met to decide an approach to global development I wonder if they envisaged the challenging world we would have found ourselves in, just 20 short years later?*

*The Millennium Development Goals were the result of collaborative thinking of these world leaders around the United Nations Millennium Declaration; as they recognised the need to hold, themselves and each other to account for the improvement of the lives of all citizens.*

### The 8 MDG Goals

- 1  Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2  Achieve universal primary education
- 3  Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4  Reduce child mortality
- 5  Improve maternal health
- 6  Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7  Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8  Develop a global partnership for development

**The Millennium Development Goals – 2000 (UNDP)  
United Nations Development Programme**

*Reviewed in 2015, outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals range from the halving of poverty around the world to improving the living standards of women and girls, who are amongst the most marginalised on earth. With all of this, developing global partnerships remains high on the agenda; learning from success stories and more importantly, avoiding mistakes made by others, could save many lives and millions in lost resources.*

# Sustainable Development

*In evaluating the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals, the UNDP highlighted the collective work of **‘national governments, the international community, civil society and the private sector’**, who in resolute determination, improved the life chances of people around the globe.*

*How then can we build on existing partnerships and create new ones to foster balanced development? Development that recognises we are in a world with finite resources.*

*In 2030, when the Sustainable Development goals are reviewed, what will be the impact we would have had on world poverty, hunger, health standards including access to clean water and sanitation, education quality, gender equality and making communities that work for all not just some?*

*Read how the United Nations Development Programme is supporting countries to use an ‘integrated’ approach to meeting these goals— <https://sdgintegration.undp.org/>*

**“... Now we must shift the world onto a sustainable path.”**  
*Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Development Programme*

We at BEYOND IYANOLA are fierce advocates for partnerships.

We believe **‘We are stronger together’**.

We believe **‘Collaboration is Key’**.



**The Sustainable Development Goals – 2015, United Nations Development Programme**

*We agree that an ‘Integrated’ approach to development management takes into account the interconnections between the sustainable development goals. That is, any strategies used to meet the challenges in one, will affect the results of another. For Example, in terms of developing **Sustainable Cities and Communities** - Saint Lucia’s vegetable import bill, in 2017, stood at \$16.7 million dollars — ([https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs92/import/lca/all/show/2017/](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs92/import/lca/all/show/2017/)), so reducing reliance on imported products by*

*increasing the amount of local produce consumed on island seems an appropriate solution. Yes, it could provide the ideal opportunity for women to start and improve small businesses through educational enhancements but how will this be financed? This is where partnerships with **‘national governments, the international community, civil society and the private sector’** really come into their own.*

# SPOTLIGHT

Today we're IN CONVERSATION WITH... Keithlin Caroo, shining our spotlight on her organisation - HELEN'S DAUGHTERS. We came across Helen's Daughters via social media and were immediately taken with the strides made to tackle gaps in our Saint Lucian food and employment markets.

By the time this Political Science and International Relations graduate founded Helen's Daughters, she had had years of foundational education from a range of local institutions including the Saint Joseph's Convent. Here she tells us all about her non-profit which has a special focus on the economic development of rural women through; adaptive agricultural techniques, capacity-building and improved market access.

Helen's Daughters was formed in 2016 in a winning proposal for United Nations Women's Empower Women Champions for Change Program. It was one of only two projects selected in the Caribbean region in November 2016 out of 4,000 proposals. Empower Women (<https://www.empowerwomen.org/en>) is an online platform on women's economic empowerment jointly developed by UN Women and Canada.



**KEITHLIN CAROO, FOUNDER OF HELEN'S DAUGHTERS**

*"... micro-enterprises owned by women are half as likely to obtains a loan from a financial institution." Keithlin Caroo, Saint Lucia*

## The Journey

Keithlin and her team have made amazing progress since the start of Helen's Daughters including collaborating with the University of British Columbia in April, 2018. This involved partnering five chemical and biological, and geological engineering students with rural women farmers to find sustainable agricultural practices, develop skills such as data management and use of Google Earth, and develop technical recommendations for the sustainable design of a farm. This resulted in a Sustainable Farming Handbook that is used as an open-source information tool to any and all farmers and is available on their website at [www.helensdaughters.org](http://www.helensdaughters.org).

In September 2019, Helen's Daughter's Rural Women's Academy launched a six-month capacity-building program that paired rural women farmers with mentors whose expertise lie in the areas of financial book-keeping, sustainable farming, legal advisory services, food-retail sector, digital literacy, agricultural markets and demand. This capacity-building program is aimed at not only providing female farmers with access to mentors during specific days but also included a monthly classroom style training on the aforementioned topics, along with a mobile information program that provided farmers with weekly updates on agricultural best practices received via their cellphones.



The aim of Helen's Daughters focuses on six principle areas:

- ◇ Expanding opportunities for rural women who work in agriculture,
- ◇ Promoting financial and digital inclusion for rural women in aspects of agricultural outputs,
- ◇ Fostering female entrepreneurship and enhancing the productivity of women-owned enterprises,
- ◇ Enhancing the voices of rural women in decision-making related to agricultural policy and beyond,
- ◇ Eliminating legal barriers to female economic empowerment,
- ◇ Reducing gender pay gaps in the agricultural sector.


*Continued overleaf on page 5*


Presently, Helen’s Daughters has empowered over one hundred women farmers to adopt new agricultural practices via:


- o Switching from commercial pesticides to organic substitutes such as seaweed;
- o Improving their understanding and ability to assess soil composition and ascertain best suited plants for differing areas;
- o Adapting the types of crops planted, which have a greater commercial market demand, enabling them to earn a stable income;
- o Adopting new approaches to mitigate against climate change and land degradation
- o Improving their internet literacy skills; and
- o Developing alternative or supplementary income from confectionery, writing supplies and craft-work.

## *Calling All Patriots, Friends, Investors and Well-Wishers!*

 [758-287-7700](tel:758-287-7700)

 [info@helensdaughters.org](mailto:info@helensdaughters.org)

 [www.helensdaughters.org](http://www.helensdaughters.org)

 Fond Assau, Babonneau, Castries, St. Lucia

**So how can the diaspora, citizens at home and interested parties get involved, you ask?**

**Helen’s Daughters** would welcome:-

**Expertise — Persons** who have a deeper knowledge of modern agricultural practices and are willing to volunteer their time to educating farmers.

**Promotion — Sharing** the organization and spreading their work and it's existence in larger circles.

**Funds — As a non-profit**, they rely heavily on grant funding and donations, as they receive no funds from government at this time. Persons in the diaspora and at home can assist financially to support access to finance for small-holder women farmers. Though their capacity-development programmes have been proven to work, along with giving the appropriate introductions so that these women can gain access to appropriate markets to sell their produce, access to finance to obtain farming inputs such as soil, fertilizer, etc, have hindered many women farmers from moving forward. They need to find ways for these women to gain access to small loans (micro-finance) so that they are able to meet the demands and quality of their customers. Banks and credit unions are still hesitant to give loans to farmers or persons who are self-employed and the statistics show that micro-enterprises owned by women are half as likely to obtains a loan from a financial institution.

Facebook: @helensdaughters.slu

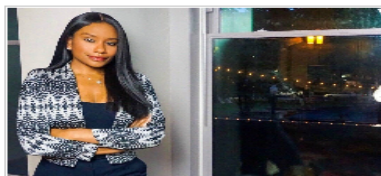
Twitter: @HelenDaughters

Instagram: helensdaughters.slu

LinkedIn: helensdaughters-slu

## Helen’s Daughters in the Media

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesellsmoor/2018/09/13/this-saint-lucian-woman-is-combining-agriculture-technology-gender-equality/#2eb73d236ff7>



### This Saint Lucian Woman Is Combining Agriculture, Technology & Gender Equality - Forbes

As part of the Island Innovation series, today I interview Keithlin Caroo, the founder of Saint Lucian non-profit Helen’s Daughters. This NGO was formed in 2016 in a winning proposal for UN Women ...

[www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)

<https://ictupdate.cta.int/en/article/marrying-tourism-and-digital-agriculture-for-female-farmers-in-st-lucia-sid0963d38d9-6a34-47bc-b8eb-b2647bd330a6>



### Marrying tourism and digital agriculture for female farmers in St. Lucia - ICT update

Helen’s Daughters is a social enterprise that directly connects rural female farmers to the hotel industry. It was born out of the belief that there was a need to support rural women with the use of adaptive agricultural techniques, capacity building and improved market access.

[ictupdate.cta.int](http://ictupdate.cta.int)

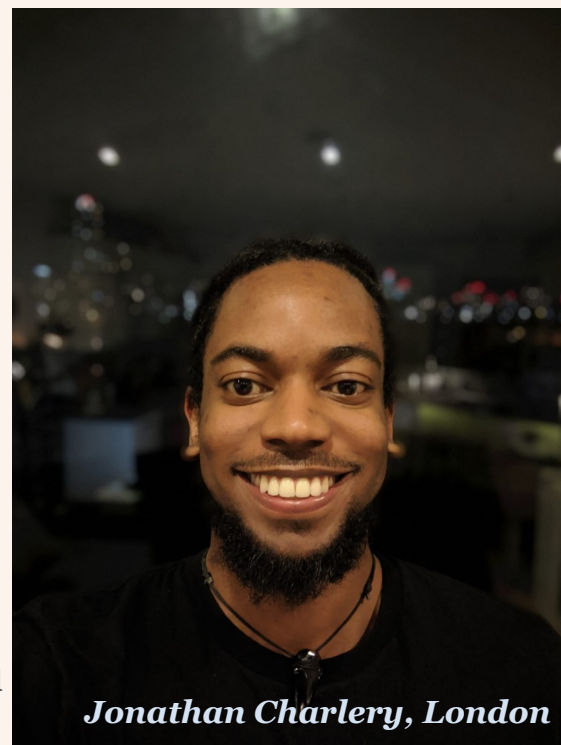
## The place of Technology in Sustainable Development

The current pandemic has increased our reliance on technology to undertake a myriad of things including how we keep in touch with each other, shop for food or collect medication. Keithlin Caroo, recognised the importance of technology in developing food security.

Jonathan Charlery, a 30 year old Saint Lucian, software engineer based in London, contends that the role of technology is centred on breaking down barriers and allowing us to compete on an even plane. As a smaller country, it could enable us to showcase our talent to the rest of the world as well as advance ourselves without any of the limitations from previous generations. The information and resources are all out there: everything necessary for us to learn and rise above our own borders is at our fingertips. We just need to actually focus on using that technology wisely.

A passionate advocate of Youth Development and Advancement and Climate Action, he recognises the need for us to be proactive in our approaches to protecting the climate.

In terms of future developing sustainable technologically related practices in Saint Lucia, Jonathan thinks we could start by reviewing what resources we have and framing a plan for how best to utilise them to achieve the goals we set for ourselves. He further explains that other countries like Singapore, that are in a similar position to us in terms of resources, have been able to do so much and have become economies that lead the world, so we know that it's possible. Singapore's economic successes have been based on an economic development model constructed by our very own, Sir Arthur Lewis. We can study and understand what they've been able to achieve and the partnerships they've been able to foster and see how we too can learn from their use of technology to also propel ourselves forward.



*Jonathan Charlery, London*

### TECHNOLOGY : Water, Sanitation, Hygiene



*Dr. Nicole Jean, London*

Meet Dr. Nicole Jean, a 34 year old consultant in the field of Public Health, Civil Engineer and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene here in London. Born and raised in St. Lucia, she has recently started her own company called Konsa which offers a full Mechanical Electrical, Public Health and Civil technical advisory and design service. Check them out on [www.konsa.co.uk](http://www.konsa.co.uk).

Of her passion Nicole says 'I love creating. In my youth my avenue for creation was crafts, then as I got older this morphed into a love for Mathematics and Technical Drawing. From there, I discovered Engineering. I definitely was not one of those kids who took things apart to discover how they worked, but I do enjoy problem solving. My job allows me to mix creativity with my love for helping people. My degree in Building Services taught me to place the user at the forefront of my mind and I enjoy knowing that my work keeps people safe.'

She is now actively involved in two non-profit organisations, namely, Soulucians and Epi-C - Environmental protection initiatives for Coasts both centred on issues affecting St. Lucia.

# The Role of Technology in Public Health in the United Kingdom and Saint Lucia

*Here are some views on public health from the viewpoint of Dr. Nicole Jean.*

The role of Public Health is to improve the health and wellbeing of society. This is achieved by understanding macro (worldwide) trends affecting society through research then implementing solutions and policies.

Our job as Engineers is to implement solutions and make policies to ensure the safety of the general population. There is no more important a time, (in my lifetime at least) than at the present moment as we tackle the COVID 19 pandemic, but also as we look to the future and assess the impact of climate change on the wellbeing of society.

The global lockdown and decline of commerce will sadly inevitably propel many into poverty; further challenging the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ‘No poverty’ by 2030. It is important therefore, that governments and NGOs are aware of this and prepared to assist the vulnerable. With poverty comes the likelihood of increased levels of poor living conditions and increased risk of disease transmission as a result of poor sanitation and hygiene.

Many have studied and warned of the risks which exist to public health as a result of buildings or their associated components, but it sometimes feels like we’re warning of a fictional environment or occurrence, and so research is fundamental to provide significant empirical data to support our fears and develop implementation strategies. Something that may seem impossible to occur but this may only be because it hasn’t happened in our lifetime.

For the sanitation and water sector, and I often give the example of the spread of SARS at Amoy Gardens in Hong Kong. Here the airborne pathogen excreted by a human became aerosolised and traveled up multiple floors of the building. Infecting persons who had not come into physical contact with one another. It is one of the first proven cases which linked the building drainage system and mechanical ventilation system, to the airborne transmission of disease. It is easy to believe that the poor and under privileged are the only ones who may be at risk of contracting diseases as a result of poor sanitation or even building design. The role of the Public Health Engineer whether in St. Lucia or in the United Kingdom is to safeguard the health of building inhabitants through proper installation design of water supply and sanitation systems.

## Lessons and Top Tips

Nicole state, ‘I believe the best advice I can give anyone trying to decide their next steps, is to follow what you enjoy doing and ensure that you work hard at it. It’s never wasted energy. Also, never sell yourself short. Take critique when offered and use the information to better yourself. Always be your own “biggest supporter”! In the United Kingdom, I believe our biggest opportunity relating to this pandemic is the ability to test foul waters to provide a wholistic indication of the scale of the infection across society as not everyone who has been ill has reported their case to the authorities. Another opportunity exists in the use of foul waters to generate energy. The United Kingdom is well placed with substantial existing infrastructure, to be leaders in this form of renewable energy.’



## Sustainable Development Goals

*Developing sustainable practices in Saint Lucia*

Dr. Nicole Jean believes we can tackle United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3, 6, 7, 11 and 14, by building sewer networks which connect to all households and commercial properties on island. With over 80% of the country not connected to a sewage treatment facility, we live and operate everyday vulnerable to faecal contamination as unsafe methods of disposal are practiced throughout the island.



## *WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?*

**This current pandemic has given us an opportunity to reflect on what is truly important to us. Whether we wish to carry on as ‘normal’ after this crisis has ceased or endeavour to refine the ways in which we interact with our environment for our basic needs, the choice is as always, ours to make. However, we must be cognizant of the fact that earth will give back to us, what we put into it.**

In our next issues of BEYOND IYANOLA Focus 2020 we aim to explore other elements of the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly Health and Education, as well as continuing to discuss Food Security and the use of Technology.

**You are not alone in this time of global crisis.  
Be sure to get in touch with us. We would love to hear from you.**

Email:

[beyondiyanola@gmail.com](mailto:beyondiyanola@gmail.com)

Facebook: @beyondiyanola

Twitter: @BIyanola

Phone: (+44) 7784 885477



Compiled by — Mandy Preville-Findlay

Edited by — Marlon Findlay