

Canada

**CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER
RISK MANAGEMENT FUND**



Snapshot Document
St.Lucia

About The CCDRMF

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRMF) is one component of Global Affairs Canada's larger regional Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program. The CCDRMF is a competitive fund designed to support community-driven projects that enhance the resilience of communities and reduce risks from natural hazards (e.g. floods, droughts, tropical storms, hurricanes) and climate change.

Established in 2008 as a small grant facility, the CCDRMF finances projects ranging from CAD \$25,000 to CAD \$75,000, and up to CAD \$100,000 in exceptional cases. The target audience is community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil-society organisations, and government agencies wishing to undertake community projects in the following beneficiary countries¹ : Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

For the purposes of the CCDRMF, a 'community' is defined as 'a group of people living in the same geographical area (such as a neighbourhood, district, city or town)' or 'a group of people

with similar interests (such as youth and women) or livelihoods (such as farmers or fishers)'.

Between 2008 and 2015, there have been nine (9) Calls for Proposals and in total, the Fund received 212 project applications. Only forty-three (43) projects, 20%, from thirteen (13) countries, met the criteria and were eligible for consideration.

Following a rigorous development process, the Fund has supported thirty-four (34) sub-projects in 11 countries valued at just over CAD\$2.2M. The projects have strengthened disaster risk management through improved emergency communication systems, shelter retrofits and safer building practices, flood mitigation and land stabilisation, water storage, food security and climate-smart agriculture, and mangrove restoration.

¹In addition, one small community project was approved for the British Virgin Islands



St. Lucia
National Flag

Island Overview

The island of Saint Lucia, in the Lesser Antilles has a land area of 616 km² and is characterised by steep, rugged landscapes with deep valleys and fast flowing rivers. Although Mount Gimie is the highest point on the island at 950 m, Saint Lucia's most well-known feature is the twin Pitons (Gros Piton and Petit Piton), striking cone-shaped volcanic peaks which have been designated as a World Heritage Site.

The island experiences a tropical maritime climate, with average temperatures of 27 °C. Saint Lucia has a wet and dry season with mean annual rainfall varying from 1,450 mm at the relatively flat coastal regions in the south, to 3,450 mm in the elevated interior region.

Saint Lucia is vulnerable to a number of hydro-meteorological and geological hazards. Historically, hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding and land slippage have been the most likely hazards to affect the island. Flooding, in particular, is a major concern for low-lying areas, where events have led to the displacement of people and the destruction of property. Tropical Storm Debbie in 1994, resulted in damages and losses of over EC \$230

million, while Hurricane Tomas in 2010 resulted in losses of over EC \$1,358 million.

Although volcanic activity has been latent for over 200 years (note, majority of the population lives within 30 km of a volcano), Saint Lucia is located in a tectonically active area and seismic activity has been on-going.

In recent years several small tremors have been recorded, but stronger shocks such as the magnitude 7.4 in 2007 has been observed as well. Of course, like other small island developing states (SIDS), Saint Lucia is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including changes in temperature and precipitation, intensified hydro-meteorological events and associated hazards, and sea level rise.



CCDRM Fund Projects in St.Lucia

The CCDRMF has received twenty-seven (27) project applications from Saint Lucia. Of these, two (2) community-based projects were approved. These projects support disaster risk management by improving emergency communications and addressing drainage.

Repeater System for the Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club

In Saint Lucia, the National Emergency Management Organization has a signed Agreement with the Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club (SLARC) for the provision of emergency communications support during emergency and disaster situations. However, the mountainous terrain of the island makes it extremely difficult to reach certain districts during adverse weather conditions and SLARC operators did not have communications with the various towns, villages and other communities outside of the immediate short-range distance. A more robust radio communication network was needed to facilitate communication during and after hazard impacts to ensure that the right relief supplies are provided where needed.

The project installed two repeaters, one at the top of Morne Fortune overlooking the capital city of Castries, and the other at Moule-A-Chique at the southern tip of Saint Lucia. These repeaters have significantly

improved emergency radio coverage to all districts. Through a number of training sessions, a total of sixty-nine (69) persons from various districts around the island have been trained in basic radio communications. Newly licensed operators are encouraged and excited about the repeaters that have enabled them to speak to other operators in Saint Lucia and the neighbouring islands (Martinique, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Grenada and as far as Venezuela and Brazil). As a result of this project, there is now heightened traffic among Ham Operators on the air. The equipment supplied under the project was tested during the passage of Tropical Storm Matthew, when power was interrupted to communities in the southern section of the island. Ham Operators were able to communicate with their counterparts who had standby power or charged radios. This would not have been possible prior to the installation of the repeaters under this project.



Project	Organisation	Objectives
Repeater System for the Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club	Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club (SLARC)	To install two-way repeater communication system to improve emergency communication among communities.
Project Period 2014-2016	GAC Contribution \$20,000.00	Total Project Cost \$28,755.00

Riviere Mitant Disaster Risk Management – Drainage Rehabilitation and Construction Project

Valerie Lorde Avenue has an unpaved roadway, with unlined drains. This makes the community very susceptible to flooding during periods of light to moderate rainfall events; after which roads become impassible. When it rains, silt and debris accumulates, which makes it difficult for pedestrians and vehicular traffic to navigate the road. Such rainfall events typically occur about ten times a year, particularly in the rainy season, and the residents often have to undertake road repairs after rainfall events.

The Riviere Mitant Development Committee worked with the Department of Infrastructure to install 187 metres of drainage in Valerie Lorde Avenue to alleviate the flooding problem and reduce the impact of heavy rain events on the road surface. Design improvements during the project development process allowed for a greater area of drainage to be addressed and provided greater value for money. Members of the community were engaged in site preparation, construction and clean-up activities and have committed to maintaining the drainage system in the future.



Project

Riviere Mitant Disaster Risk Management – Drainage Rehabilitation and Construction Project

Organisation

Riviere Mitant Development Committee (RMDC)

Objectives

To improve area drainage in Valerie Lorde Avenue, Riviere Mitant, particularly along the main community access road, alleviating the flooding of the road and adjacent areas that occurs whenever there is a significant rainfall event, which occurs frequently.

Project Period
2019

GAC Contribution
\$98,237.00

Total Project Cost
\$105,967.00

References

NEMO. (2012). Disaster Risk Reduction Country Profile for Saint Lucia. National Emergency Management Organisation

NEMO. (2014). Saint Lucia: Country Document for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2014. National Emergency Management Organisation.

Address: High Commission of Canada in Barbados
Bishop's Court Hill, St. Michael, P.O. Box 404,
Bridgetown, Barbados BB11113

PBX: 246-629-3550