

Canada

CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER
RISK MANAGEMENT FUND



Snapshot Document
Trinidad & Tobago

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



Trinidad & Tobago
National Flag

Island Overview

The twin-island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is the most southerly of the Lesser Antilles and includes some 30 smaller landforms such as Chacachacare, Monos, Huevos, Gaspar Grande, Little Tobago, and St. Giles Island. Trinidad is 4,768 km² (about 93% of the country's total area), and Tobago is 300 km² (5.8% of the country's area). They are separated by the 12 km wide Tobago Sound.

Trinidad has three distinct mountain ranges and is drained by several rivers, the Caroni and the Ortoire River being the two main rivers. Tobago is of volcanic origin and has one central ridge with several small rivers and streams. The Republic experiences a tropical climate and distinct dry and wet seasons. The North-East Trade winds bring the most intense rainfall to the highland areas of northeast Trinidad and along the main ridge in Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago's natural hazards are primarily flooding, landslides, high wind events, earthquakes, and hurricanes. During the period 2011 to 2014, the country recorded 695 floods, 277 strong wind events, and 179 landslides. Flooding and landslides tend to occur locally in the north of Trinidad and on Tobago. In Trinidad, multiple severe flooding events throughout 2010 and in 2011 resulted in one death, property damage, disruption of some services, and traffic congestion. Meanwhile, multiple landslides in 2011 led to a segment of the North Coast

Road being blocked, cutting off access to Maracas for a few hours; and in 2012 several landslides (mudslides) coupled with flooding in Diego Martin (North West) resulted in two deaths and extensive property damage.

The country is considered to be highly vulnerable to seismic activity. The most significant earthquake event in recent history, measuring 6.1, occurred in 1997 and resulted in significant losses. Major earthquakes measuring 5.0 to 5.8 were also recorded during 2006 and 2010, which resulted in minor damage to property, but no reported deaths or injury.

While the islands are both outside the main Atlantic hurricane belt, Tobago is susceptible to the threat of tropical cyclones and has experienced strong winds from several hurricanes. The most significant being Hurricane Flora (Category 3) in 1963 which resulted in losses of about US \$30 M. Of course, like other small island developing states (SIDS), Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad & Tobago

The CCDRMF has received seven (7) project applications from Trinidad and Tobago. Of these, two (2) community-based projects were approved and successfully implemented. These projects support disaster risk management through home retrofits and landslide mitigation.

Project C.A.R.E. -Community Awareness through Responsible Preparedness and Empowerment

In September 2010, hurricane winds caused damage to several homes in the community of Cumana. Families were displaced and were incapable of covering the costs of repairs and replacing personal property. Project CARE, implemented by Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago, aimed to increase the resilience of targeted homes to hurricanes.

With support from the project, thirty-three roofs of vulnerable homes were retrofitted to withstand maximum winds of 125 mph. Eleven persons from within the community received training in construction, while seven persons benefitted from employment

from the project. The project also supported disaster risk reduction training for over 60 members of the community including First Aid and construction training, thereby enabling people to be prepared to help themselves. The project handed over a nursery of tree saplings to the Cumana Village Council to be planted in selected areas along the coast and vulnerable hillsides to reduce the risk of erosion.

Notably, three women benefitted from the training sessions in construction and were subsequently employed for another program in Valencia.



Project	Organisation	Objectives
Project C.A.R.E. -Community Awareness through Responsible Preparedness and Empowerment	Habitat for Humanity® Trinidad and Tobago	To reduce disaster risk and meet the needs of the Cumana community for safe, hurricane resilient homes.
Project Period 2012-2013	GAC Contribution \$69,974.52	Total Project Cost \$108,212.52

Safe Shelter through Landslide Mitigation: A Community-Based Solution

In Moriah, landslides often had devastating effects on livelihoods, homes, and household safety. Tropical storms have become more intense due to climate change, torrential rains come every rainy season, and landslides are experienced every year in Moriah. The Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), Division of Infrastructure and Public Utilities (DIPU), and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) are not always able to provide adequate support to communities in the aftermath of a landslide. In particular, hazard mitigation services, technical support, training or guided planning for households that are most vulnerable to the effects of landslides on homes and livelihoods are not provided.

sustainable landslide mitigation measures – 26 persons trained in the construction of retaining walls and 38 persons trained in rainwater harvesting.

The project constructed 7 rainwater harvesters and one family benefitted from a roof repair with guttering to protect the foundation. A total of 10 retaining walls were built and 150 trees and ground cover plants were distributed to 60 families for planting to stabilize hillsides. With the support from the project, the bathrooms of the community centre were upgraded to include showers so that the centre could also function as a shelter in times of disaster. The access road was proudly renamed to Canada Lane! The landslide mitigation measures implemented through this project will protect the homes of the beneficiaries for many years to come.

With support from the project, several residents acquired the critical technical knowledge and practical experience to be able to lead the implementation of



Project

Safe Shelter through Landslide Mitigation: A Community-Based Solution

Organisation

Habitat for Humanity® Trinidad and Tobago

Objectives

To reduce the devastating effects of landslides on livelihoods, homes, and household safety in the low-income, landslide prone community of Moriah.

Project Period
2016-2017

GAC Contribution
\$77,820.00

Total Project Cost
\$179,501.00

References

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