

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



WORLD BANK GROUP

Resilient Housing and Affordability Assessments

Countries

Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia

Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility Component

Adaptation Facility for Leveraging Investments in Resilience in the Caribbean

Amount Approved

€276,500 / \$298,000

Duration

05/2020 – 02/2023

Context and Objectives

The housing sector in Caribbean nations is often the most financially affected sector in the aftermath of natural disasters, such as when hurricanes Maria and Irma struck the region in 2017. The vulnerability of the housing sector is exacerbated by increasing urbanization, which has had a major impact on Caribbean land and housing markets. The availability of quality and affordable housing has not been able to meet the demand as more people move to urban centers looking for better opportunities. As a result, many households resort to living in low-quality structures to meet their housing needs, making them especially vulnerable to natural disasters. This situation has created a need for a comprehensive reform of regional housing policies.

The objective of this project was to support the governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the

Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia in undertaking such reforms through a better understanding of the links between urbanization, supply constraints, housing affordability, and the increasing vulnerability of the housing sector to natural disasters.

Main Activities

- Delivering a Rapid Housing Sector Assessment
- Producing a Housing stock resilience analysis
- Developing a retrofit strategy

Results

In the **Dominican Republic**, the project enabled the development of a Rapid Housing Sector Assessment, which included a review of the Housing Law and National Housing Plan, leading to the integration of resilient housing policy topics into the country's housing agenda. A series of workshops helped embed the lessons learned and led to the delivery of recommendations to strengthen the draft Housing Law and a checklist for the establishment of a National Housing Plan.

In **Saint Lucia** the Rapid Housing Sector Assessment presented the demand and supply issues facing the housing sector in Saint Lucia as well as some policy recommendations. It is considered an entry point for a deeper dialogue on housing issues that can build resilience and contribute to environmental sustainability.

Ultimately the technical assistance delivered by this project identified key constraints in the housing sectors in the Dominican Republic, Sint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and informed the

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



WORLD BANK GROUP

development of housing and land policies. Engagement with local officials resulted in them being better equipped to design and follow through on housing and land sector interventions.

Partnerships and Coordination

The project was implemented in collaboration with the relevant bodies of the governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia. The World Bank coordinated its efforts with the EU Delegation responsible for each country.