

# SUPPORTING RESILIENT RECONSTRUCTION IN DOMINICA

## Building back better for a resilient future

### AT A GLANCE

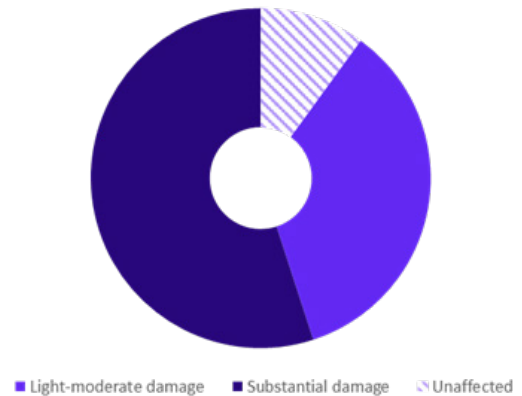
**Country** Dominica

**Risks** Hurricanes; Floods; Landslides; Earthquakes

**Area of Engagement** Enabling resilient recovery

By improving the uptake of resilient building practices, Dominica can limit the damage from natural hazards.

Damage to housing across all parishes following Hurricane Maria



Data source: Hurricane Maria Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

## DOMINICA'S VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL HAZARDS

Dominica is located within the Atlantic hurricane belt and is extremely vulnerable to high-intensity weather events such as high winds, excess rainfall and hurricanes. Physical development in Dominica is concentrated along narrow coastal areas, particularly in the south and west. Housing is not built to withstand extreme natural hazards, with wood and galvanized sheeting being most common for roofing and with few confined masonry buildings.

On September 18, 2017, Hurricane Maria hit Dominica with catastrophic effects. Hurricane Maria was one of the most rapidly intensifying storms in recent history, leaving Dominica exposed to winds, flash floods and landslides. The impacts of Hurricane Maria were severe both for the country's economy as well as the human development of its citizens, and affected Dominica's productive, social, and infrastructure sectors. Two years before Hurricane Maria, Tropical Storm Erika passed over Dominica in August 2015, producing intense rainfall across the island resulting in flash flooding, landslides and mudslides.

## SHARING RESULTS, LEVERAGING FINANCING AND STARTING TO REBUILD

Following both Hurricane Maria and Tropical Storm Erika, Dominica conducted Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs), with support from the ACP-EU NDRR Program\*, which is managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the World Bank.

The Hurricane Maria PDNA identified housing as the most affected sector and one of the most important and challenging areas for recovery. Building on the recommendations of the Hurricane Maria PDNA, the ACP-EU NDRR Program launched the "Enhancing Resilient Reconstruction in Dominica" project.

This project supports the critical early-implementation phase of the World Bank-Financed US\$40 million "Dominica Housing Recovery Project" and seeks, more broadly, to improve the application and uptake of resilient building practices in the

housing sector in Dominica. To this end, the project:

- i. Develops a Management Information System that supports both the Housing Recovery Project and the physical planning process;
- ii. Develops ways to transparently identify beneficiaries of the Housing Recovery Project; and
- iii. Provides resilient reconstruction guidance through hands-on-training to staff in Technical Assistance Centers and to local building contractors and artisans.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### Sharing of PDNA results is key.

Sharing of PDNA results is key to mobilize support and commitment of pledges for reconstruction and resilience building efforts. The PDNA results were shared during the CARICOM-UN High Level Pledging Conference in November 2017 in New York, where over 400 high-level representatives from governments, civil society organizations and the private sector committed to US\$1.3 billion in pledges and US\$1 billion in loans and debt relief to several Caribbean Countries affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

### Improving resilient building practices requires integrating “build back better” in planning as well as building local capacity.

The ACP-EU NDRR Program provides not only technical assistance on how the “Dominica Housing Recovery Project” can plan for building back 1,700 homes, but also provides hands-on support and training to professionals from the Ministry of Housing. This will enhance the uptake of resilient building practices in the specific World Bank-funded project as well as in the housing sector in Dominica at large.

\* The Africa Caribbean Pacific-European Union Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program (ACP-EU NDRR) is an initiative of the ACP Group of States, funded by the European Union, and managed by GFDRR and the World Bank.



# US\$96 million

leveraged to support resilient housing,  
infrastructure, and agricultural livelihoods

## FINANCING FOR RECONSTRUCTION LEVERAGED

The PDNA following Hurricane Maria informed various World-Bank funded projects. This includes the US\$40 million “Dominica Housing Reconstruction Project,” the US\$25 million “Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project” to help farmers and fishermen restore their production in a climate-smart way, and US\$31 million in additional financing for the “Dominica Vulnerability Reduction Project” to support resilient infrastructure and improve hazard data collection.

## STRATEGY FOR RECOVERY DEFINED

The PDNA following Hurricane Maria informed a Disaster Recovery Framework setting out the planning and implementation of recovery interventions following Hurricane Maria. These actions aim to accelerate the short-term recovery, such as continuation of critical services, and strengthen long-term resilience by reducing risk from climate-related hazards.

## CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTEGRATED IN RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS

The ACP-EU NDRR project “Enhancing Resilient Reconstruction in Dominica” is supporting the uptake of climate resilient building practices in the World Bank-supported “Dominica Housing Recovery Project.” The former is assisting the Government of Dominica with drafting an Operations Manual, an Environmental and Social Management Framework, and an Indigenous People’s Plan, which will all be essential for the effectiveness and sustainability for the latter.

*“We have the goal of rebuilding Dominica as the world’s first climate-resilient country. It’s an existential matter for us; it’s the only way forward.”*

-- Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, Dominica, during the CARICOM-UN High Level Pledging Conference