

SECTORAL RECOVERY CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR GRENADA'S HOUSING SECTOR

CONTEXT

The Caribbean region is highly prone to disasters, causing destruction of infrastructure and property, loss of income, and costs as individuals and businesses work around disruptions. Disasters jeopardize sustainable development and economic growth prospects and have a disproportionate impact on the poor. Indeed, the economic damages and losses related to natural hazards in the Caribbean represent a yearly average of 3.6 percent of the regional Gross Domestic Product.¹

Fast and inclusive recovery efforts in the aftermath of disasters can lower social and economic burdens and allow a more rapid recovery of development levels². With climate change and the prospect of more frequent hydrometeorological disasters, resilient recovery planning and investments have become a priority for the region. This involves assessing and building the capacity needed to ensure the fast and efficient restoration of services, economic activities and infrastructure.

Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment (SRCA), developed by the Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF)³ and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), analyzes the capacity of key sectors for efficient and coordinated recovery and provides recommendations to improve recovery processes along three main axes: Governance, Competencies and Resources and Tools. Results are part of CDEMA's Comprehensive Disaster Management Audit tool.

THE HOUSING SECTOR IN GRENADA:

- Is highly exposed to natural hazards and vulnerable to climate change.
- Is under-insured
- 30 percent of the housing stock had to be completely replaced after Hurricane Ivan in 2004
- A large proportion of the housing stock is structurally weak and located in high-risk areas

KEY RESULTS

The capacity of Grenada's housing sector to implement climate-resilient and inclusive recovery projects in a timely, efficient, and effective manner is evaluated as basic or incipient.

STRENGTHS:

- Progress has been made in integrating DRM, gender and disability considerations for housing into national and sectoral governance frameworks, specifically into the National Sustainable Development Plan and sectoral strategies.

CONSTRAINTS:

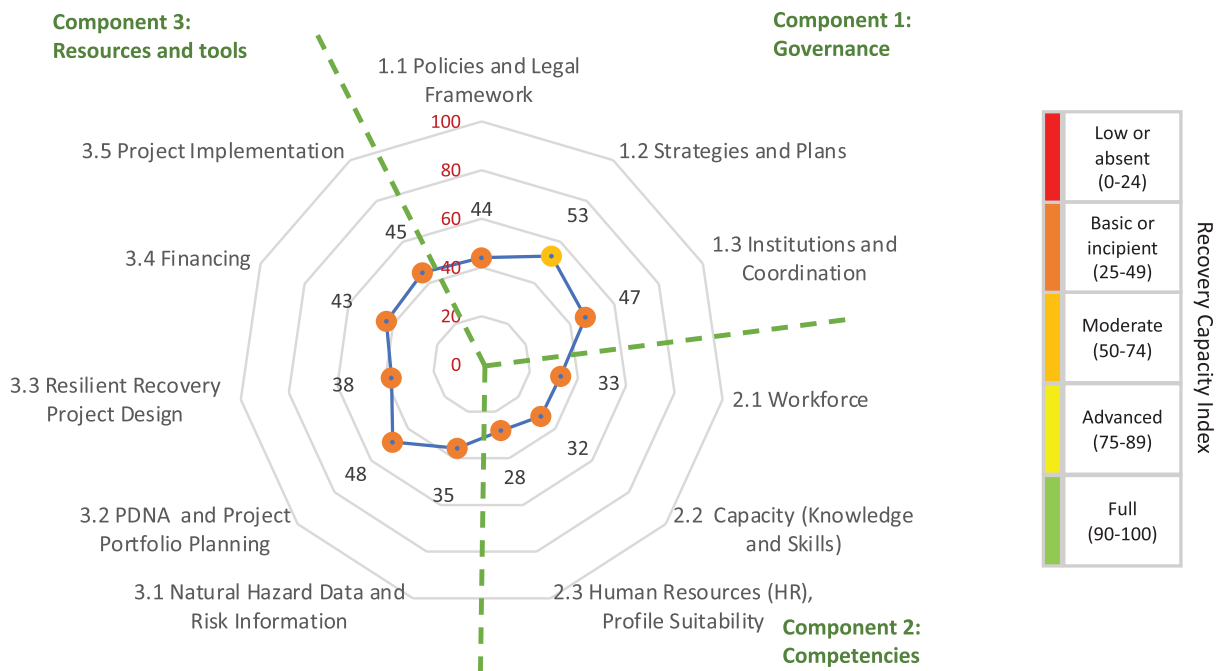
- The competencies, operational capacity, skills and resources available within the sector to undertake resilient and inclusive recovery projects are basic, particularly in terms of technical capacity and human resources, in the knowledge and skills required for recovery project planning and implementation and in the availability of natural hazard and risk information for decision-making.

THE SRCA FOR GRENADA'S HOUSING SECTOR

To assess the capacity of Grenada's housing sector to plan, design, implement, monitor, and evaluate climate-resilient and inclusive recovery projects, the SRCA was implemented in the country's housing sector under the leadership of the Housing Unit at the Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment (MSDHCE) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), with the support of the CRF and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

1 Rozenberg, J. et. al (2021). 360° Resilience: A Guide to Prepare the Caribbean for a New Generation of Shocks. World Bank, Washington, DC.
2 Hallegatte, S., Rentschler, J. and Walsh, B. (2018). Building Back Better: Achieving Resilience through Stronger, Faster, and More Inclusive Post-Disaster Reconstruction. World Bank, Washington, DC.
3 The Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF) is hosted by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) at the World Bank Group.

RECOVERY CAPACITY INDEX (RCI) FOR THE 11 KEY ELEMENTS ASSESSED



SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT READINESS FOR RESILIENT RECOVERY IN GRENADA'S HOUSING SECTOR⁴

INSTITUTIONAL READINESS

Policies

- Finalize, approve and implement the MSDHCE's National Multi-Hazard Disaster Emergency Management Plan.
- Approve the National Disaster Bill and the National Land Policy
- Revise and integrate resilient and inclusive recovery considerations in: the National Disaster Management Plan
- Elaborate a national climate-smart housing strategy and a national urban development strategy

Knowledge and tools

- Recruit specialized staff in areas specific to disaster risk management
- Institutionalize training in disaster risk management, recovery, gender and disability inclusion for public and private sectoral stakeholders
- Integrate DRM, gender and disability inclusion knowledge as requisites in public recruitment protocols

Data and information for risk-informed decision-making

- Establish a clearinghouse and data management unit, a national data repository, a digital and georeferenced cadaster and an inventory of public assets
- Generate hazard and risk maps, including multi-hazard maps

Resilient infrastructure

- Screen for climate resilience all critical infrastructure projects in the national project pipeline and the National Adaptation Plan and ensure they are ready to finance by conducting the necessary studies (e.g., feasibility studies).
- Create an overall asset management and maintenance process to ensure the sustainability of infrastructure investments
- Create a technical assistance plan with a range of risk reduction interventions to encourage and guide homeowners in retrofitting their property

FINANCES

- Accelerate the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy
- Estimate and include a contingent annual recovery allocation in the MSDHCE's budget
- Review insurance premiums and access requirements to resilience and recovery financial mechanisms for homeowners

⁴ Detailed recommendations are provided in Annex 1 of the Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment report.