

SECTORAL RECOVERY CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES' AGRICULTURE SECTOR

(INCLUSIVE OF THE FISHERIES AND FORESTRY SUBSECTORS)

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 AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY SECTOR IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES:

- Has declined in economic importance in the past 20 years but remains crucial to rural livelihoods.
- Contributed 6.5 percent to GDP in 2020 and accounts for about 10 percent of employment⁴.
- Fisheries employ about 2,500 people
- Forests cover 73.2 percent of the total land area
- Is highly exposed to natural hazards, tropical storms, landslides and volcanic eruptions.
- Agriculture was the productive sector most affected by La Soufrière volcano eruption, suffering USD 85 million in damages and losses (50 percent of which were in crop agriculture and 45 percent in forestry)⁵

- 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.
- 4 World Bank Development Indicators. (2022). *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/VC>
- 5 Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (2021) La Soufrière Volcanic Eruption Sector Reports

KEY RESULTS

The capacity of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector to implement climate resilient and inclusive recovery projects in a timely, efficient, and effective manner is evaluated as moderate.

STRENGTHS:

- Recovery is a priority for the sector and subsectors as the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) elaborated for the La Soufrière volcanic eruption has become the main development strategy for the MAFFRD in the aftermath of this event.

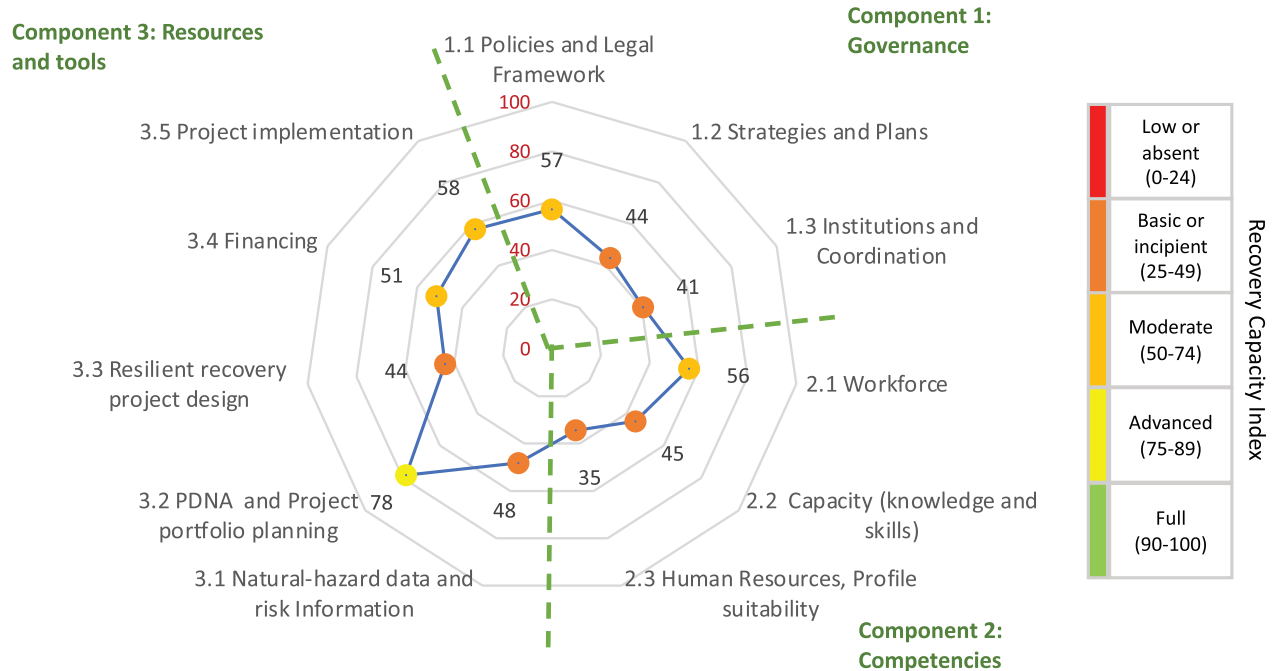
CONSTRAINTS:

- Incipient competencies, operational capacity, skills and resources available within the sector to undertake resilient and inclusive recovery projects. Particularly in terms of the technical capacity required to systematically integrate disaster risk, gender and disability considerations into sectoral operations and conduct entire project cycle management activities.
- Low level of communication and coordination between the agencies in charge of subsectors at the MAFFRD limit an adequate prioritization of recovery projects, leaving major needs uncovered.
- Few capacity building opportunities

THE SRCA FOR SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES' AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

With the objective of assessing the capacity of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector to plan, design, implement, monitor, and evaluate climate resilient and inclusive recovery projects, the SRCA was implemented in the country's agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector under the leadership of the The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Development (MAFFRD) and the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), with the support of the CRF and CDEMA.

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



SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT READINESS FOR RESILIENT RECOVERY IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES' AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY SECTOR⁶

INSTITUTIONAL READINESS

Policies

- Finalize, approve and implement the National Disaster Management Policy, Strategy and Action Plan and the Comprehensive Disaster Management Country Work Program (2022-2026).
- Review the National DRM legislation and update building codes, guidelines and related enforcement regulations.
- Finalize the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Concise Multi-hazard Disaster Management Plan and develop a Strategic Plan for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, to guide development and recovery activities in the coming years, beyond the PDNA.

Knowledge and tools

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

Data and information for risk-informed decision-making

- Develop a consolidated national data (including risk data) platform and information knowledge management system
- Generate hazard and risk maps, including multi-hazard maps

Resilient infrastructure

Develop an investment plan for the agriculture sector that prioritizes infrastructure projects of high relevance for reducing climate risks, including water supply systems.

FINANCES

- Establish clear mechanisms for direct access to the existing Contingency Fund for rapid sectoral disaster recovery
- Create new and enhance access to existing financial mechanisms for resilience and recovery, including insurance for farmers and fishers.
- Develop a plan to finance software updating and maintenance at the MAFFRD to facilitate project management operations.
- Assess the national hydro-meteorological infrastructure and elaborate an investment plan for its update, including acquisition of modern forecasting and climate service delivery technologies and strengthening of early warning communication systems.

⁶ Detailed recommendations are provided in Annex 1 of the Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment report.