



Country Snapshot

Guyana



About the CCDRMF

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRMF) is one component of Global Affairs Canada's¹ (GAC) larger regional Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program. The CCDRMF is a competitive fund which is designed to support community-driven projects that seek to 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 CAD \$3.0 M 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 targeted audience is community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil-society organisations, and government agencies wishing to undertake community projects in the following beneficiary countries²: *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)*'.

To date, the Fund has supported twenty-nine (29) community sub-projects totalling CAD \$1,770,517.11, of which twenty-three (23) are completed and six (6) are on-going. The Fund has also provisionally allocated CAD \$1,017,338.66³ to eleven (11) projects that are under consideration for execution during the period 2017 to 2019.

¹ Previously the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)

² In addition, one small community project was approved for the British Virgin Islands

³ Subject to amendment



CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

Country Overview

Guyana is located on the northeast coast of the South American continent, bordered by Suriname to the east, Venezuela to the west, and Brazil to the south. The area of the country is approximately 215,000 km²; and it is divided into four (4) natural regions: a low-lying coastal plain; a hilly sand and clay area; a forested highland region; and an interior savannah. Guyana is part of the broader natural area called the “Guianas” or the “Guyana Shield” which is known for its rich biodiversity.

Guyana has a tropical climate with almost uniformly high temperatures and humidity. The country experiences two wet seasons (April to July and November to January) and two dry seasons (February to April and July to November). Rainfall is heaviest in the northwest and lightest in the southeast and interior. The country is rich in surface water resources; however, drainage throughout most of Guyana is poor and river flow sluggish due to the average gradient of the main rivers (1 m every 5 km). As such, swamps and areas of periodic flooding are found in all but the mountainous regions.

The only Anglophone country on the continent, Guyana is divided into ten (10) administrative regions. According to the last census in 2012, the population stood at 746,955 (49.78% male and 50.22% female). The low coastal plain, which occupies about 5% of the country’s area, is home to majority of its inhabitants. The coastline lies below the average high tide level and is protected by sea-defence structures, mangroves and beaches. Georgetown, the capital city, is located on the coast by the eastern part of the Demerara River’s mouth.

The national economy is based mainly on agriculture (sugar, rice), extractive industries (gold, bauxite, diamonds), services and manufacturing. In terms of the sectoral composition of real gross domestic product (GDP), in 2014, the agricultural sector contributed 22.6%, the mining sector 10.9%, the services sector 65.9%, and the manufacturing sector 4.0%.

Unlike its island neighbours in the Caribbean, Guyana is located outside the Atlantic hurricane track. Nonetheless, the country is vulnerable to natural hazards, the two most prevalent being floods and droughts. Priority among these is floods which result from heavy or continuous rainfall exceeding the absorptive capacity of soil and the flow capacity of rivers and streams, as well as breaches of coastal defences and dams. The coastal regions are particularly vulnerable since the land gradient allows flood waters to drain towards populated areas. Water can only be drained from these populated areas by pumps during low tide. Flooding is also a major hazard in the flat areas of the interior’s savannah, where the water can remain stagnant for weeks. The country has been impacted by a number of severe floods, the heaviest on record for the country since 1888 being the floods of December 2005 - February 2006. The months-long flooding, concentrated in the most heavily populated areas, created a disaster for the communities in Regions 3, 4 and 5 resulting in damages estimated at Guyana \$55.1 billion (equivalent of 59% GDP). The disaster affected 275,000 people and claimed 34 lives (7 by drowning and 27 from illnesses arising from the floods).

During drought, Guyana experiences water rationing, cessation of logging and river transport in some places, and the loss of livestock. For example, as a result of the drought of 2009 - 2010 which affected the Caribbean region, in February 2010 the Government was required to allocate US\$ 1.3 million for farmer



CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

relief in Region 2. In terms of climate change, the projected effects include sea level rise, with a strong impact on the mangrove ecosystems, and an increase in extreme weather events such as intensified rainfall and more consecutive dry days.

CCDRMF Projects in Guyana

The CCDRMF is a competitive small grant facility and between 2008 and 2015, there have been nine (9) Calls for Proposals. In total, the Fund received 212 project applications but only forty-three (43) projects, 20%, from thirteen (13) countries met the criteria and were deemed eligible for consideration.

From Guyana, the CCDRMF has received twenty-seven (27) project applications. However, of these, only five (5) community-based projects were approved. These projects support disaster risk management through flood mitigation, improved drainage infrastructure, livelihoods protection, food security, and shelter renovation. A brief overview of the completed and on-going projects can be found in the table below.



Figure 1: Farine processing and storage facilities, WVC and KMCRG projects

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD\$)	Total Project Cost (CAD\$)
Mitigation of Impacts of Flood Inundation Project	<i>"Partners in Rural Development"</i> CHF-Guyana/Central Corentyne Farmers Group	To rehabilitate secondary drainage canals, raise cultivation plots and install drainage-outlets on farmlands ⁴ so as to enhance irrigation efficiency and reduce flood risk.	2011-2012	\$44,902.00	\$48,562.00
Disaster Mitigation through Improved Farm Techniques	<i>"Partners in Rural Development"</i>	To redesign the internal field drainage system infrastructure on	2011-2015	\$39,371.85	\$44,451.85

⁴ Locations: Bloomfield, Lancaster, Alness, Limlair, Adventure, Hogstye, Nurney, Friendship, Kildonan Village, Bush Lot, Port Mourant and Letter Kenny, Central Corentyne District, Berbice



CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD\$)	Total Project Cost (CAD\$)
	CHF- Guyana/Bushlot Farm no. 43 Village Development Group	targeted farms ⁵ to reduce the effects of water logging on crop production and the establishment of a nursery to produce much needed seedling for farmers in the participating communities.			
Empowering Women in Wowetta to Mitigate Against Threats to Food Security Resulting from Droughts, Flooding, Wild Fires and Extreme Climate Change Effects	Wowetta Village Council (WVC)	To enhance food security and adapt to the impacts of flood and drought in Wowetta by establishing a facility to produce and stockpile farine as a food reserve.	2015-2017	\$89,913.67	\$139,297.00
Alleviation of the negative effects of natural disasters in Region 9⁶ indigenous communities	Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group (KMCRG)	To reduce the incidence of hunger and the related problems that affect indigenous people during and after extreme climatic events, by enhancing resilience of cassava production systems to ensure the production and availability of the staple food, farine.	2015-2017	\$99,632.47	\$143,656.00
Enhancement of Emergency Shelter Capacity to Mitigate Flood Risk in Ordnance Fortland	Civil Defence Commission (CDC)	To reduce the adverse impacts displaced residents in Ordnance Fortland face due to excessive flooding by improving the facilities and implementing a shelter management system at the Fort	2015-2017	\$99,023.00	\$106,914.29

⁵ Bushlot Farm no. 43 Village, Corentyne and Berbice Communities

⁶ Moco Moco Village



CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD\$)	Total Project Cost (CAD\$)
		Ordinance Primary School (Temporary Shelter).			
				\$372,842.99	\$482,880.81

For more information, contact the CCDRMF at:

Email: ccdrm.fund@gmail.com

Skype: [ccdrmfund](#)

References

- Bank of Guyana. (2016). *Annual Report 2015*. Retrieved November 2016, from <https://www.bankofguyana.org.gy/bog/images/research/Reports/ANNREP2015.pdf>
- Bovolo, I. (2013). *Managing Flood Risk in Guyana: The Conservancy Adaptation Project (2008-2013)*. Retrieved November 2016, from World Bank Group: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/17843>
- Bureau of Statistics. (2016). *2012 Population & Housing Census - Final Results*. Retrieved November 2016, from Government of Guyana: <http://www.statisticsguyana.gov.gy/census.html>
- Castello, J. (2009). *Enhancing Gender Visibility in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in the Caribbean - Country Assessment Report for Guyana*. Retrieved November 2016, from United Nations Development Programme: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/E5D3D452323901708525771F00618BF8-Full_Report.pdf
- CDC. (2014). *Progress and Challenges in Disaster Risk Management in Guyana, 2014*. Retrieved November 2016, from Civil Defence Commission: <http://dipecholac.net/docs/files/785-guyana-cd-v38-finaldraft-all-low-res.pdf>
- Green, E. (2013). *National Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan and Implementation Strategy for Guyana*. Retrieved November 2016, from Civil Defence Commission (CDC): <http://cdc.gy/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Document-for-Website/3.%20National%20Integrated%20Disaster%20Risk%20Management%20Plan%20for%20Guyana.pdf>