



## CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

# Island Snapshot

## Trinidad and Tobago



### About the CCDRMF

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRMF) is one component of Global Affairs Canada's<sup>1</sup> (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 countries<sup>2</sup>: *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 \$1,017,338.66<sup>3</sup> to eleven (11) projects that are under consideration for execution during the period 2017 to 2019.

### Island Overview

The twin-island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is the most southerly of the Lesser Antilles. With a total land area of 5,128 km<sup>2</sup>, the country also comprises some 30 smaller landforms including Chacachacare,

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<sup>1</sup> Previously the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)

<sup>2</sup> In addition, one small community project was approved for the British Virgin Islands

<sup>3</sup> Subject to amendment



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Monos, Huevos, Gaspar Grande, Little Tobago, and St. Giles Island. Trinidad has an area of 4,768 km<sup>2</sup> (about 93% of the country's total area), while Tobago is 300 km<sup>2</sup> (5.8% of the country's area). Tobago lies approximately 32 km northeast of Trinidad, and is separated by a channel, the Tobago Sound, which is nearly 12 km in width.

The country's terrain is a mix of mountains and plains. Trinidad has three distinct mountain ranges. The northern range is an outlier of the Andes Mountains consisting of rugged hills, the highest point being El Cerro del Aripo at 940 m. The central range is low-lying with a swampy area rising into rolling hills with a maximum height of 325 m; and the southern range is made up of a line of broken hills. Trinidad is drained by several rivers, the Caroni and the Ortoire River being the two main rivers. Tobago, which is of volcanic origin, has one central ridge, the Main Ridge, which has a maximum elevation of 640 m. Tobago's mountainous terrain results in several small rivers and streams which run throughout the island, the main river being the Courland River. The southwest of the island is relatively flat and comprised mostly of coralline limestone.

The Republic experiences a tropical climate. The average annual temperature for Trinidad is 26 °C and 28 °C for Tobago. There are two distinct seasons: the dry season (January to May) and the wet season (June to December). The North-East Trade winds bring the most intense rainfall to the highland areas of northeast Trinidad and along the main ridge in Tobago. The annual average rainfall for Trinidad is 2,000 mm, whereas in Tobago the average ranges from 3800 mm along the Main Ridge to less than 1,250 mm in the lowland areas.

Based on the 2011 Population and Housing Census, the total population of Trinidad and Tobago was 1,328,091 (50.17% male and 49.83% female). About 96% of the population resides in Trinidad. Although Trinidad and Tobago's economy is comprised of many different industries, the economy has benefited tremendously from the exploitation of the country's large reserves of oil and gas, making it one of the wealthiest countries in the Caribbean. Over the past few years, about 40% of gross domestic product (GDP) has been generated by the Energy sector, while Services contributed 50% and Non-petroleum sectors (inclusive of agriculture, manufacturing and chemical and non-metallic minerals), about 10% of GDP.

Trinidad and Tobago's natural hazards are primarily flooding, landslides, high wind events, earthquakes, and hurricanes. During the period 2011 to 2014, the country recorded 695 floods, 277 strong wind events, and 179 landslides. Flooding and landslides tend to occur locally in the north of Trinidad and on Tobago. In Trinidad, multiple severe flooding events throughout 2010 and in 2011 resulted in one death, property damage, disruption of some services, and traffic congestion. Meanwhile, multiple landslides in 2011 led to a segment of the North Coast Road being blocked, cutting off access to Maracas for a few hours; and in 2012 several landslides (mudslides) coupled with flooding in Diego Martin (North West) resulted in two deaths and extensive property damage.

The country is considered to be highly vulnerable to seismic activity. The most significant earthquake event in recent history, measuring 6.1, occurred in 1997 and resulted in losses of about US \$1,942,628,683. Major earthquakes measuring 5.0 to 5.8 were also recorded during 2006 and 2010, which



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resulted in minor damages to property, but no reported deaths or injury. Earthquake hazards are concentrated in western Trinidad; however, Tobago also had a number of felt earthquakes in recent years.

While the islands are both outside the main Atlantic hurricane belt, Tobago – more so than Trinidad – is susceptible to the threat of tropical cyclones and has experienced strong winds from several hurricanes. The most significant being Hurricane Flora (Category 3) in 1963 which resulted in losses of about US \$299,359,310. Of course, like other small island developing states (SIDS), Trinidad and Tobago is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including changes in temperature and precipitation, intensified hydro-meteorological events and associated hazards, and sea level rise.

### CCDRMF Projects in Trinidad and Tobago

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 Trinidad and Tobago, the CCDRMF has received seven (7) project applications. Of these, only two (2) community-based projects were approved. These projects support disaster risk management through home retrofits and landslide mitigation. A brief overview of the completed and on-going projects can be found in the table below.



Figure 1: Roof repairs – Project C.A.R.E.

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD\$)	Total Project Cost (CAD\$)
<b>Project C.A.R.E. - Community Awareness through Preparedness and Responsible Empowerment</b>	Habitat for Humanity® Trinidad and Tobago	To reduce disaster risk and meet the needs of the Cumana community for safe, hurricane resilient homes.	2012-2013	\$69,974.52	\$108,212.52
<b>Safe Shelter through Landslide Mitigation: A Community-Based Solution</b>	Habitat for Humanity® Trinidad and Tobago	To reduce the devastating effects of landslides on livelihoods, homes, and household safety in the low-income, landslide	2016-2017	\$85,222.00	\$186,903.00



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Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD\$)	Total Project Cost (CAD\$)
		prone community of Moriah.			
				\$155,196.52	\$295,115.52

For more information, contact the CCDRMF at:

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