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Supporting the Recovery Framework in Dominica

(Project ID: 00096592)

Progress Report

December 2015

Background

The centre of Tropical Storm Erika passed about 90 miles to the North of Dominica at its nearest point with the storm producing intense rainfall across the island. The Canefield station recorded 12.64 inches of rain in a 12-hour period from Erika on Thursday, 27 August 2015. Heavy rains caused flash flooding which affected most parts of the island. At August 30, 2015, twenty persons have been confirmed dead and several others are reported missing. The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has also reported that 574 persons are homeless, 300 evacuated and 267 in shelters. Based on this event the UNDP Barbados and the OECS Sub-regional Office (SRO) sought funds from the Crisis Response Unit (CRU) to support a planned initiative in the island aimed at:

1. Developing an effective recovery framework in Dominica and;
2. Supporting the development, agreement and implementation of the recovery strategies in Dominica

The Barbados and the OECS SRO supplemented resources received from CRU with the regular TRAC resources to structure a comprehensive approach to focusing on immediate needs on assessing rehabilitating strategies as well as addressing livelihoods in the wake of the World Bank's Rapid Damage and Impact Assessment.

2015 Activities

The SRO contributed to the recovery process through the provision of technical guidance to the Government relating to the resettlement of people and (re)building communities in safe and sustainable environments (see attached). A Resettlement Advisor was contracted by the SRO for a two week period in September 2015 as part of initial support, to develop an overall Recovery Strategy. He subsequently undertook a second mission in December based on a specific request from the Government, looking at specific resettlement guidelines and sociocultural impacts and other recommendations relating to the medium and long term recovery needs identified in the Resettlement Strategy. Scope of work for a



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vulnerability and environmental impact assessment of proposed resettlement sites was also developed, which will get underway in January.

The office also supported the restoration of the Immigration Service at the Douglas-Charles Airport through the provision of furniture and equipment that sustained damage during the storm.

2015 Expenditure – USD13,024.00

Planned 2016 Activities

The SRO has been continuing implementation of activities to ensure a comprehensive recovery process in Dominica. Specifically:

1. Continuation of the work of the Resettlement Advisor, including:
 - a. Identification of scope, location, prioritisation and draft profile of specific projects
 - b. Guidelines for urban and housing design (e.g. allowable ranges/models for housing density, street widths, public space reserve, housing typologies, housing unit size, other relevant housing and urban design guidelines)
2. Social and Livelihoods Assessment - A Rapid Damage and Impact Assessment (RDIA) report was prepared by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica following Tropical Storm Erika undertaken jointly with the technical support from the World Bank, and in close conjunction with other development partners and international organizations. This assessment however did not substantively address losses to other sectors or impacts on livelihoods and the vulnerability of the affected population. To supplement this report and in the context of a macro-socioeconomic assessment following a disaster, there is need to ensure that the full implications of the event on the population are explored, articulated and inform the recovery processes. As such a supplementary assessment is being conducted with a specific focus on the social and livelihoods effects and impacts of the Storm. Under the leadership of the Government, with the technical coordination of UNDP SRO and support of UN agencies, CDB and the OECS Commission, a team is studying the social and livelihoods effects and impacts of the disaster in Dominica. The team includes experts on gender, housing and commerce, agriculture and tourism. The assessment report is expected by end of January 2016.
3. Hazard vulnerability and environmental impact assessment – the SRO is working with a multi-disciplinary team from the University of the West Indies to conduct assessments of the risk resilience of the proposed resettled communities. This will include examination of geological, seismic and hydrological hazards as well as impacts on natural habitats and biodiversity of the proposed resettlements.

2016 Budget – USD 73,000 (TRAC 1.1.3 USD 62,000; Country TRAC USD 11,000)