

# **FACT SHEET: DATA & SYSTEMS FOR RESILIENT HOUSING PROGRAMS IN DOMINICA**

## **Background**

1. ***Initiative Overview:*** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, in collaboration with CREAD and Build Change, and with support from the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, is advancing the "Data and Systems for Resilient Housing Programs in Dominica" initiative.
2. ***Project Origin:*** This project emerged from the urgent need to tackle housing vulnerabilities worsened by natural hazards and climate change, particularly in the wake of Hurricane Maria's devastation in 2017.
3. ***Government Response:*** In response to Hurricane Maria, the Government of Dominica launched various initiatives aimed at improving housing resilience. These include the construction of social housing, recovery programs, homeowner support, and repair efforts, all crucial for addressing housing needs and enhancing community resilience.
4. ***Emergency Response Measures:*** During the disaster response phase, the Government procured critical materials for rapid repairs, enabling displaced individuals to return home swiftly, even before revised building codes were implemented.
5. ***Project Goals:*** The "Data & Systems for Resilient Housing Programs" seeks to strengthen housing resilience through data collection, guidance manual development, and house strengthening programs. Key activities involve data compilation, surveys, stakeholder engagement, and creating tailored guidance manuals.

6. **Broader Impact:** This initiative aims to enhance disaster resilience and climate adaptability, provide valuable tools and knowledge to homeowners and professionals, foster stakeholder engagement, and collaborate with other Small Island Developing States, aligning with the Ministry's mission to deliver sustainable housing solutions.

7. **Key Findings from 2018 BDA Report:**

- **Damage Factors:** Damage levels were influenced by location, building size, roof and wall types, and materials used.
- **Resilience Factors:** Resilience is multifaceted, highlighting the importance of construction practices.
- **Building Size Correlation:** Larger buildings tended to experience more destruction, indicating size as a vulnerability proxy.
- **Resource Allocation:** The report helped identify the most impacted areas, guiding resource prioritization for disaster mitigation.

8. **Ongoing Housing Efforts:** The Government has intensified housing recovery efforts with projects like the Housing Recovery Project, Kalinago Resilient Housing, various relocation and resettlement projects, and support for self-built homes. These efforts include renovating and retrofitting homes, strengthening building codes, and improving land ownership and registration processes.

**Project Outcome**

9. **Data Collection and Objectives:**

- **Baseline Data Collection:** Surveying 750 houses across Dominica to establish a baseline for assessing housing conditions and trends. This involves:
    - 24 Field Surveyors
    - 7 Field Teams
    - Use of a Mobile Application
  - **Guidance Development:** Creating practical recommendations for strengthening and upgrading existing homes based on collected data.
  - **Government-Led Programs:** Designing targeted home strengthening programs to mitigate vulnerabilities and enhance resilience against natural hazards.
10. **Alignment with GCF Readiness Project:** This initiative complements the GCF Readiness Project - Phase 1: Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening, which includes consultancies focused on resilient housing, such as a study on Socioeconomic, Demographic, and National Climate Resilient Housing Data.
11. **Contribution to Climate Goals:** Both initiatives support Dominica's transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy by enhancing housing resilience, promoting hydrogen production, and addressing policy gaps for climate adaptation and mitigation.