

THE BAHAMAS POST-HURRICANE DORIAN RECONSTRUCTION



HOUSING

Housing Repairs & Reconstruction Project, Abaco & Grand Bahama

1. BACKGROUND

Hurricane Dorian is recorded to be the strongest Category 5 hurricane to hit The Bahamas in recorded history. Sustained winds were recorded at 185 mph with gusts in excess of 200 mph, spawning strong tornadoes and storm surges in excess of 20 feet, inundating the affected islands with salt water. Due to the slow movement and intensity of the system, excessive rainfall created extreme flooding in Central Abaco, and Grand Bahama Islands.

Field observations and the IDB and United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Damage and Loss Assessments revealed approximately 9,000 homes and in excess of 11 million square feet of structures have sustained some damage on Abaco and Grand Bahama. Damages to the housing sector on both islands were estimated at \$1.48 billion, with 88.9 percent of the housing damage recorded in Abaco. Losses in the housing sector are attributed to the interruption of accommodation and rental services due to severe damage or destruction of the house, making it temporarily or permanently uninhabitable. The assessment team estimated losses of \$56.8 million resulting from 2,894 homes left uninhabitable after the hurricane. Additional costs of \$45.9 million included in this assessment refer to the cost of demolition of the most affected dwellings, debris cleaning, and labor and equipment rental cost.

2. VISION FOR REPAIRS TO HOUSING SECTOR

The Government of The Bahamas is committed to strengthening the capacity of Bahamians, communities and institutions to anticipate, prepare and adapt to adverse events, disturbances and stress, and to recover. This concept of resiliency will require the development of an affordable but resilient housing system and communities that are capable of withstanding shocks associated with the impact of climate change.

The design and construction of affordable homes to withstand ever increasingly strong hurricanes, flooding, storm surges, wind, fire damage, and other natural hazards will be critical to the resilient housing initiative. Other essential factors include: the enforcement of The Bahamas Building Code Edition 3, and future codes as and when revised; use of resilient materials (e.g. hurricane proof doors, roofing, windows); safety related codes and criteria for local construction (e.g. land elevation); providing at-risk low income groups' access to qualified technical professionals (architects and engineers); and improving awareness of households and communities.

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3. REPAIRS TO HOUSING SECTOR, INCLUDING SURROUNDING AREAS

Project Component 1: Government has made available \$10 Million to provide contribute to the repair or reconstruction of existing homes, for homeowners who did not have insurance, pursuant to the following projects/activities:

Project Activities:

- Review assessments of residents' homes impacted, categorizing the damages (minor, moderate and flattened).
- Provide financial aid to residents to assist in the repair of their homes.
- Provide training to raise awareness on the techniques for making houses disaster resilient, which includes brochures, flyers and community level education programmes.
- Introduce cost effective climate resilient mechanism to protect residents' home, including inter alia specialized roofs, climate resistant hurricane doors and windows made from commercial-grade, impact-resistant and adjusting building level to prevent flood water entering inside the house.
- Ensure residents' homes are upgraded in an economical and a climate-resilient way to enhance its compliance with disaster-resistant construction guidelines.
- Ensure repaired housing complies with natural site contours within the community.

Project Component 2: Donor contribution to complement Government's existing contribution for sustainable housing repairs or reconstruction based on resilient criteria, for homeowners who did not have insurance.

Amount: US\$40 Million

Projected Costing for Activities in both Components: US\$50 Million