Project Information Document
Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 21-Jan-2020 | Report No: 145762
BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
<th>Environmental and Social Risk Classification</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P172619</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Sint Maarten Irma Red Cross Roof Repair Project</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date PID Prepared</th>
<th>Estimated Date of Approval</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN</td>
<td>St Maarten</td>
<td>21-Jan-2020</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financing Instrument</th>
<th>Borrower(s)</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Project Financing</td>
<td>Netherlands Red Cross</td>
<td>Netherlands Red Cross</td>
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</table>

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
<th>3.62</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Financing</td>
<td>3.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financing Gap</td>
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</table>

DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-World Bank Group Financing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trust Funds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free-standing Single Purpose Trust Fund 3.62

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Sint Maarten is a high-income constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Caribbean. It occupies the southern half of an island shared with the French overseas collectivity of Saint Martin. It is the most densely populated country in the Caribbean with a population of over 40,000 and boasts a per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of $25,381. Sint Maarten is currently rebuilding from damage of the 2017 Hurricane Irma that claimed lives and deteriorated the socio-economic environment in the island.

Sint Maarten is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and adverse climatic events due to its location within the hurricane belt. In past decades, the country has been exposed to high winds and numerous hurricanes, including notably intense storms: Donna in 1960 (Category 3), Luis in 1995 (Category 4), and Irma 2017.
(Category 5 on Saffir-Simpson scale). Due to the size of the country, a single storm has the potential to directly impact the entire population. High winds, rainfall and flooding are the principal disaster risk factors, while the country is also vulnerable to earthquakes. Coastal areas are exposed to flood risk from storm surge and tsunamis. Increased urbanization along with climate change and limited country capacity to build resilience adds to its vulnerability to natural hazards.

Natural hazards have catastrophic impacts on the country’s economy since it relies on tourism. Tourism accounted for 45 percent of its GDP and 73 percent of its foreign exchange in 2016. In addition, activities in the transport, storage and communication sector also related to tourism contributed 11 percent of GDP to the country’s total foreign exchange income in 2016. The harbor of Sint Maarten is a significant port for cruise tourism in the Caribbean, with 1.7 million cruise passengers per year. The airport is an important hub for regional travel with a large network of connecting flights across the Caribbean. However, the tourism industry has not led to high growth in recent years and tourism economy is vulnerable to seasonality and weather.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean in Sept. 2017 with an intensity rarely seen in the region. One of the strongest storms on record, the Category 5 hurricane was particularly devastating in its impact on small island states like Sint Maarten.

The Government-led and World Bank-supported National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), developed in the wake of hurricane season, estimated total damages ($1.4b) and losses ($1.3b) at $2.7b, and projected that $2.3b would be required for recovery and resilience interventions over seven years. Sectors with the largest needs included: Housing (22.8 pct), Tourism/Commerce (19.0 pct), and Governance/PFM (9.4 pct).

More than two years after Hurricane Irma struck, many households are still feeling the impacts of the hurricane season, and many roofs remain unrepaired. Vulnerable households that lack access to resources are struggling to repair and rebuild by themselves.

The Irma Reconstruction, Recovery, and Resilience Trust Fund for Sint Maarten was established in April 2018 at the World Bank with financing from the Government of the Netherlands to help respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma in Sint Maarten. The Netherlands Guiding principles for the Trust Fund\(^1\) include a three-pronged approach which foresees the allocation of reconstruction financing to the Government of Sint Maarten, to non-governmental organizations and to international organizations through projects overseen by the World Bank. In this context, the Steering Committee of the Sint Maarten


\(^2\) Small Grants cannot exceed US $5.0 Million.

\(^3\) Letter of the Prime Minister of Sint Maarten to the World Bank, November 15, 2019.
Reconstruction, Recovery and Resilience Trust Fund (composed of one representative each of the Government of Sint Maarten, the Government of the Netherlands, and the World Bank) approved a Small Grant\textsuperscript{2} for the proposed Sint Maarten Red Cross Roof Repair Project at its July 15-16, 2019, meeting and the Project was endorsed by the Government of Sint Maarten\textsuperscript{3}.

The proposed project complements the larger home repair program implemented by the Government of Sint Maarten under the World Bank-financed Emergency Recovery Project approved in July 2018 for US$55 million. The Government’s housing repair program focuses on 350 houses that require substantial repair work, both for roofs and the building structure. The Sint Maarten Irma Red Cross Roof Repair Project will focus on houses inhabited by vulnerable households that need only roof repairs, not larger, structural repairs. The target beneficiaries of the Red Cross program and beneficiaries of the Government’s house repair program do not overlap. The Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) will be the recipient and implementing agency for the project.

Relationship to CPF

The project supports the recovery and resilience objectives of the Sint Maarten Irma Reconstruction, Recovery and Resilience Trust Fund and the guiding principles set out in its administration arrangement.

The project is aligned with the Government of Sint Maarten’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). It will target some of the most vulnerable populations affected by the 2017 hurricane and contribute to strengthening future resilience of these populations to the impacts of future natural disasters.

The activities financed are expected to contribute to better recovery and increased resilience to climate variability and climate change. As the activities under the Project explicitly aim to strengthen climate adaptation through repair and strengthening of damaged roofs to withstand future climatic events, the project is expected to have an estimated 80 percent of climate co-benefits.

C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)
The development objective is to repair roofs up to a safe standard for vulnerable households affected by Hurricane Irma.

Key Results

The expected results of the project are:

- roofs repaired to safe standards, contributing to increased resilience to natural disasters and climate change;
- local tradesmen receiving on-the-job work experience;
- increased awareness of hurricane resistant building practices

D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

Component 1: Roof Repair of Damaged Houses (USD 3.47 million).

This is the only component of the project. This component will support repair of approximately 200 damaged roofs to safe standards.

Steps include:

- Area selection
- Beneficiary identification and selection
- Measurement and distribution of bills of quantities + technical workshops
- Roof repairs by construction crews
- Quality control of repairs

Area selection

- The project will repair roofs in areas of the island where there is still significant hurricane damage and people are struggling to rebuild. These areas could include Philipsburg, Belvedere, Cul du Sac and Over the Pond. Most of the remaining areas on the island have already been served through the recently concluded NLRC funded roof repair project. The final selection of areas will be based on further consultation with key stakeholders including officials from the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB) during the project consultation process, information from communities, and discussion and consultation with the World Bank. Though there will likely be a general focus on some communities during project implementation, a strict segregation between areas is unlikely however and beneficiary eligibility will consider need rather than strict location.
Beneficiary identification and selection

• Once area selection is completed, NLRC will begin with beneficiary identification, starting with one community and focusing all resources on beneficiary selection to allow construction crews to advance as quickly as possible with their work. After the initial start, roll-out will start in multiple areas at the same time. The project aims to reach approximately 200 households. NLRC field teams (community mobilisers and technical staff) will perform a mapping exercise of houses showing visible hurricane damage. Community mobilisers will pro-actively engage with households to complete a vulnerability assessment. This engagement will be done by door to door assessments based on the damage mapping of selected areas.

• After initial identification, a selection will take place by community mobilisers based on existing eligibility criteria of vulnerability. The selection process will focus on key aspects of vulnerability: (i) availability or access to financial capital, (ii) social capital and human capital; and (iii) prioritizing particularly vulnerable groups such as elderly, female-headed single parent households, households with disabled inhabitants, etc. Prior written approval from homeowners and landowners for the repairs and documentation establishing ownership are a strict requirement. As legal status on the island is not a requirement for selection, therefore, households will not be asked to provide this information.

• The eligibility of beneficiaries will also depend on a technical assessment, focusing on repair requirements. The project will focus on roof repairs, although in select cases doors and windows may be repaired/replaced to create a safe living environment. While the ring beam structure sometimes needs to be repaired/replaced as part of the roof repair, other structural repairs and full reconstruction fall outside of the scope of this project. Houses found with asbestos in the roof will not be eligible for roof repair works, since NLRC does not have the requisite skills for safe asbestos removal and disposal. The technical assessment will therefore focus on ensuring that only households with repairs that fall within the project scope are included.

Measurement and distribution of BoQs and technical workshops

• The Bill of Quantities (BoQs) will be finalized with beneficiaries when they attend a technical workshop that introduces the most important aspects of safe construction, principles of hurricane resistant buildings and main reconstruction techniques as relevant on the island. NLRC will share the agreed BoQs with the selected supplier(s) for the project, who will deliver the supplies to homes to coincide with the planned construction.
Roof repairs by construction crews

- As part of a livelihood component of a broader disaster recovery program independently funded and managed by the NLRC, the NLRC has trained crews in construction skills. Under the proposed project, construction crews will be directly hired by NLRC. Each crew typically consists of three to four staff with different skills (carpenters, builders, helpers). All crew members will have successfully completed a short construction course (adapted and contextualized from a Habitat for Humanity construction course) provided by NLRC staff through NLRC resources. Each construction crew will be equipped with tools for repairs.

Quality control of repairs

- Roofs will be repaired according to technical guidelines established for the project. The roof repair guidelines take into account local hazards, most notably the impact of strong winds. For every four construction crews, there will be one site supervisor for daily on-site monitoring of progress, quality and safety. Different repair jobs will be allocated to different crews, some repairs requiring only two or three staff and some larger repairs requiring five or six staff. Four NLRC staff consisting of skilled engineers or architects will provide both training and oversight to construction crews and monitor the overall quality of repairs. A project manager will oversee the entire project.

The project will also contribute to increasing local capacity in the construction sector by training more people in construction and employing them in construction crews, thereby contributing to the economic recovery of people involved. Assisting vulnerable households in repairing their homes will contribute significantly to their recovery from Hurricane Irma and will allow them to be better prepared for future disasters.

The NLRC aims to repair an estimated 200 damaged roofs in areas not reached under its earlier independently financed roof repair project. NLRC-employed and supervised construction crews will repair the roofs to ensure faster and higher quality repairs than those realized under the homeowner-driven Phase 1 of the project. The construction crews are using an updated version of the reconstruction guidelines that are based on those originally developed by the NLRC in collaboration with a local engineering firm (ICE) and the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure (VROMI).

The proposed project builds on these lessons learned from a previous NLRC home-owner driven roof repair project which fixed 165 roofs and provided materials and technical guidance for repair of an additional 520 roofs between early 2018 and October 2019. The proposed project integrates key lessons learned and will use a detailed and tested project approach and established reconstruction technical guidelines. Furthermore, NLRC has an experienced team on the ground able to continue with roof repairs. The NLRC is the implementing agency for all components of the project.
### Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

#### E. Relevant Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESS Standards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESS 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</td>
<td>Relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESS 4 Community Health and Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESS 7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESS 8 Cultural Heritage</td>
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<td>ESS 9 Financial Intermediaries</td>
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#### Legal Operational Policies

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<tr>
<th>Safeguard Policies</th>
<th>Triggered</th>
<th>Explanation (Optional)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects on International Waterways OP</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60</td>
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### Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The Environmental and Social Risk Category (ESRC) of the proposed project is considered Moderate (M). Improving the safe standard for vulnerable households affected by Hurricane Irma and increasing capacity in the construction sector in the Island will have essentially positive social impacts. Project activities have minimal adverse environmental risks. Since the activities to be carried out are limited to the repairs of roofs of individual homes, the environmental risks from the proposed activities are very localized, temporary in nature, limited to the construction period, mostly related to occupational health and safety of the workers and the home occupiers, and can be readily mitigated during the roof repairs. However, potential presence of mold might exist in the roofs to be demolished and/or to be repaired and thus the Moderate risk rating. Should mold removal or vector control be required as part of roof repairs, a Pest Management Plan is included in the ESMF in order to provide a safe and healthy working environment for workers and home occupants.
tenants. In addition, workers will be trained in Occupational Health and Safety measures and will wear protective gear to minimize risks. Likewise, to minimize health and safety risks to home occupiers while the roof repairs are ongoing, the home occupiers will be out of their home during the daytime. NLRC will be responsible for making the property safe and secure for occupancy during the evening. If the outcome of the beneficiary selection deems temporary relocation necessary, an agreement will be sought between NLRC and the project beneficiary and compensation and logistical support for temporary relocation will be offered consistent with rates provided under other projects financed by the Trust Fund and implemented by the NRPB on behalf of Governmentt. The social risks and impacts pertaining to labor and working conditions are not considered complex and are easily mitigated by practices that the work teams and the NLRC county team is familiar with. Regarding institutional capacity of NLRC to manage the environmental and social safeguards instruments, while this project will be NLRC's first experience following the ESF, the agency is familiar with environmental, social, occupational health and safety standards, stakeholder engagement, grievance redress mechanisms, labor management and environmental and social safeguards management.

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