

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BARBADOS/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Support for Strengthening the Barbados Disaster Risk Management Public Policy Framework
▪ TC Number:	BA-T1128
▪ Team Leader/Members:	JOHNSON, MONIQUE THERESE MARIE (CSD/DRM) Team Leader; HORI, TSUNEKI (CSD/RND) Alternate Team Leader; BROWN, TENISHA ELIZABETH (CSD/RND); ALLENG, GERARD P. (CSD/CCS); GUERRERO COMPEAN, ROBERTO (CSD/RND); SOPHIE TEYSSIER (CSD/RND); BLENMAN, SHAMAR (CCB/CBA); MENDOZA BENAVENTE, HORACIO (LEG/SGO); SUAREZ VAZQUEZ, GINES (CSD/DRM); LACAMBRA AYUSO, SERGIO (CSD/DRM); CHRISTIAN JANELLE NATASHA (CSD/CCS); ESCOVAR BERNAL, MARIA ALEJANDRA (CSD/DRM); CHAVEZ, ELIZABETH (CSD/CSD)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	21 Feb 2025
▪ Beneficiary:	Department of Emergency Management
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$470,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals
▪ Prepared by Unit:	CSD/DRM - Disaster Risk Management Unit
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CCB/CBA - Country Office Barbados
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	Yes
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Persons with Disabilities; Gender equality; Diversity; Social protection and human capital development; Sustainable, resilient, and inclusive infrastructure; Institutional capacity, rule of law, and citizen security; Targets poor populations; Supports sustainable economic growth; Public sector policy and management

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this Technical Cooperation is to provide technical support to the Government of Barbados for activities necessary to strengthen the Disaster Risk Management Public Policy Framework for Barbados, therefore improving capacity to effectively manage disaster risks and build resilience across key economic sectors.
- 2.2 Barbados, the easternmost of the southern Caribbean islands, is situated along the hurricane belt, making it vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes. The island has a long history of significant impacts from natural disasters, particularly storms, with a total economic cost of US\$286 million and 16,907 people affected since 1970 (EM-DAT, 2024). Since 2000, there has been an increase in the frequency and economic impact of disasters in Barbados. Major hurricanes continue to pose a significant threat, but there has also been a rise in smaller, more frequent events. Between 2000 and

2020, Barbados experienced over 190 flooding events, 49 storm events, and 56 landslide events (DesInventar data). The cumulative effect of these frequent events underscores the importance of robust Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strategies to mitigate their impact and enhance community resilience. Storms have caused substantial damage to infrastructure and property, leading to considerable economic disruption. Additionally, Barbados' vulnerability to climate events is likely to increase due to climate change and the expected frequency of catastrophic events (hurricanes category 4 and 5). Historically, DRM public policy in Barbados has been implemented by the Department for Emergency Management (DEM), based on the Emergency Management Act of 2007. The country has adopted a comprehensive disaster management approach as a participating state of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). The DEM developed the Barbados Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Country Work Program (CWP) 2019-2023 to strengthen national systems and processes for emergency and disaster risk management. In 2024, the Barbados Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Policy was approved by Cabinet, setting forth specific priority areas and strategic interventions. However, the existing legislation lacks a comprehensive framework for assigning responsibilities across all government levels, and sectoral responsibilities are not clearly defined. Concrete DRM responsibilities remain with the DEM. Hurricane Beryl, which struck Barbados in July 2024, caused extensive damage, particularly to the island's vital fishing industry. The storm destroyed 88 boats and damaged 75% of the active fishing fleet, resulting in significant economic losses and disrupting the livelihoods of many families. This event highlighted several critical lessons and challenges, including the vulnerability of infrastructure, challenges with community response to early warning systems, and the need for better integration of the national emergency management system with sector-specific plans. Effective governance and collaboration are essential to ensure a swift and organized response to such disasters. The Government of Barbados is at a pivotal point for reviewing its organizational and governance structure to document and incorporate lessons learned following Hurricane Beryl. This aims to strengthen a broader and more strategic DRM public policy approach by addressing these issues, strengthening the policy framework, and building sector-specific capacity.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 Component I: Strengthening of priority sectoral activities for building more climate-resilient infrastructure and civil society comprehensive DRM.** Sectoral Assessments of Hurricane Beryl impacts and resilient capacity in Tourism and Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security to identify specific capacity gaps, knowledge needs, and the development of sectoral implementation road maps to enhance intra-sector coordination and communication for strengthening climate-resilient public investment mechanism.
- 3.2 Component II: Support for the implementation of the multi-hazard early warning systems public policy through strengthening of citizen engagement in disaster preparedness activities.** In order to achieve the objectives of an effective EWS, it is crucial that communities are engaged to take proactive participatory actions and EWS mechanisms are fully recognized. This is critical and should incorporate lessons learned from past events such as Hurricane Beryl and across the region such as Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas.
- 3.3 Component III: DRM Public Policy Framework Review.** DRM Public Policy Framework Review and Enhancement including review of the Emergency Management Act of 2006; recommendations for clarifying roles and responsibilities across government sectors and identify gaps in sector-specific DRM regulations and guidelines. Development of a Public Investment Strategy for DRM to identify resources needed to improve DRM public policy

3.4 **Component IV: Project technical support.** Technical implementation support to component activities of the TC

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Strengthening of priority sectoral activities for building more climate-resilient infrastructure and civil society comprehensive DRM	US\$200,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$200,000.00
Support for the implementation of the multi-hazard early warning systems public policy through strengthening citizen engagement in disaster preparedness activities	US\$100,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$100,000.00
DRM Public Policy Framework Review	US\$50,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$50,000.00
Project technical support	US\$120,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$120,000.00
Total	US\$470,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$470,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The executing agency for this TC will be the IDB through the Disaster Risk Management Unit of the Climate and Sustainable Development Division.
- 5.2 The executing agency for this TC will be the IDB. However, all project activities will be implemented through close coordination with the Government of Barbados agencies, including the Department of Emergency Management within the Ministry of Home Affairs and Information.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 Intra-institutional coordination, GOBA ownership and commitment to the specification and implementation of public policy modernization and institutional reform actions for advanced Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management is an aspect for this TC to achieve the objective of its activities. At the same time, this factor may present a potential risk of generating a delay in its execution. This risk will be mitigated with the establishment of a intra-governmental inter-institutional coordination mechanism (for the duration of the TC) under the authority of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry responsible for the Department of Emergency Management.

VII. Environmental and Social Aspects

- 7.1 This TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).