

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/CCB
▪ TC Name:	Support for virtual community: data sharing and pool procurement among water utilities in the Caribbean
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4645
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Gilroy Lewis (INE/WSA) Team Leader, Kleber Machado (INE/WSA) Alternate Team Leader, Keisuke Sasaki (INE/WSA) Team Member, Kambiri Cox (INE/WSA) Team Member, Carlos Rodrigues (INE/WSA) Team Member, Sergio Lee (INE/WSA) Team Member
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	Nov 2024
▪ Beneficiary:	Barbados, Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Belize
▪ Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$140,0000
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Firms and Individual consultants
▪ Prepared by Unit:	INE/WSA
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	INE/WSA
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy:	Address climate change, Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Infrastructure with an Emphasis on Regional Integration, Biodiversity, Natural Capital, and Climate Action, Institutional Capacity, Rule of Law, and Citizen Security and Regional Integration.

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The general objective is to support building resilience for water utilities in the Caribbean through a virtual community by data sharing and pool procurement. The specific objectives are (i) to allow for the participating utilities to remain connected into the virtual community while the platform is expanded to other Caribbean utilities; and (ii) to enable and pilot pool procurement with the participating utilities.
- 2.2 For the Water and Sanitation (W&S) sector through the TC RG-T4032, “Data Sharing Platform for Water Utilities in the Caribbean”, an innovative pilot was conducted for Caribbean water utilities to be able to share and access information on spare parts and supplies in real time that will help them with decision making, as well as potentially carve a way for pool procurement in the Region through a technology platform. Participants include seven Caribbean utilities¹.

¹ Water & Sewerage Corporation (WSC), The Bahamas; Barbados Water Authority (BWA), Barbados; Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL), Belize; Guyana Water Inc. (GWI), Guyana; National Water Commission (NWC), Jamaica; N.V. Surinaamsche Waterleiding Maatschappij (SWM), Suriname and Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), Trinidad and Tobago.

- 2.3 As highlighted in the One Caribbean framework, the Caribbean is highly exposed to tropical storms and hurricanes, which will increase in frequency and intensity due to climate change, along with higher temperatures, intense and prolonged droughts, severe rainfall, and increased flooding. W&S utilities are not exempt, and, moreover, following any such event, the resiliency and recovery of W&S services are key to the overall recovery of the affected area. It is worth mentioning that the vision of One Caribbean is addressing such challenges under a regional approach. One of the expected results of One Caribbean is “Improved disaster preparedness and greater access to resilient infrastructure across the region.”
- 2.4 To facilitate a critical mass of utilities in the platform to enable Pool Procurement, financing is required to extend the use for the 7 utilities in the virtual community piloted under RG-T4032 and to pilot pool procurement following the recommendations from the feasibility study conducted under RG-T4032. Additionally, the extended use of the platform will facilitate synergies with the CWUIC response program in expediting mutual aid. The TC aims to improve the resilience of water and sanitation utilities especially against natural disasters, in consideration of the climate change through expediting of mutual aid via a virtual community, sharing data and pool procurement.
- 2.5 The TC is consistent with the IDB Group Institutional Strategy: Transforming for Scale and Impact (CA-631) and is aligned with the objective: (i) Address climate change by supporting improvement of the resilience of W&S utilities especially against natural disasters, in consideration of the climate change through expediting of mutual aid via a virtual community, sharing data and pool procurement. The TC is also aligned with the operational focus(s) areas of: (i) Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Infrastructure with an Emphasis on Regional Integration; (ii) Biodiversity, Natural Capital, and Climate Action (iii) Institutional Capacity, Rule of Law, and Citizen Security and (iv) Regional Integration.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component 1. Virtual community.** This component will finance the subscription and the capacity to upload information on the platform as well as exchange information with other utilities and suppliers for the 7 utilities on the H2bid platform for 10 months. The expected outcome will be at least 4 out of the 7 utilities are capable of conducting pool procurement on the virtual platform
- 3.2 **Component 2. Enable Pool procurement.** This component will finance coordinating and conducting of a pool procurement pilot among the participating utilities. The pilot will be for conducting pooled procurement for goods that are used/agreed by at least 4 out of 7 utilities.

IV. Budget

- 4.1 The total cost of the TC is US\$140,000 financed by ONE Caribbean according to the detail presented in the following table:

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/ONE Caribbean	Total Funding
Component 1. Virtual community	\$70,000	\$70,000
Component 2. Enable Pool procurement	\$40,000	\$40,000
Final Evaluation	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total	US\$140,000	US\$140,000

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The Bank will execute this TC, as requested by the Beneficiary countries through the Water and Sanitation Division (INE/WSA). The IDB will be responsible for the selection and contracting of consulting firms and individual consultants in accordance with the Bank's current procurement policies and procedures for Bank-executed operations. This execution arrangement is justified under OP-619-4 Annex 2 due to: (i) the Bank's experience in the implementation of regional technical support in the areas of water and sanitation that will contribute more effectively to the achievement of the TC objectives in a timely manner; (ii) likewise, execution by the Bank helps to ensure that the lessons learned from the activities carried out are properly disseminated within the region.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The main risk associated with this TC is that of ensuring meaningful participation by participating utilities. However, the partnerships and collaboration already developed through RG-T4032, CWWA and CAWASA should guarantee interest from the key stakeholders; CWWA has proven its capacity to convene relevant sectorial stakeholders to similar venues, and with CAWASA provide a mechanism for utilities to support each other in times of natural disasters. Additionally, the TC will finance a final evaluation of the operation and thereby determine its success.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies for specific investment projects or associated environmental and social studies; therefore, this TC does not meet the applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF). Nonetheless, because of the nature of the activities, the TC will have an ESG officer as team member.