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## RESILIENT RESTORATION OF PIVOTAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN POST-IRMA BARBUDA

### *India-UN Development Partnership Fund Monthly Newsletter - June 2019*

#### **SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR THE RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF POST-IRMA BARBUDA**

The India-UN Partnership Fund “Resilient Restoration of Pivotal Public Infrastructure for the Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Island of Barbuda, Post Hurricane Irma” project, consists of two initiatives:

- 1) The Hannah Thomas Hospital rehabilitated and equipped, ensuring structural resilience and inclusive access; and
- 2) The Barbuda Post Office rehabilitated and equipped, ensuring structural resilience and inclusive access.

#### **WORKING TOGETHER: JOINT EFFORTS FOR RESILIENT KEY PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURES AND ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES**

##### **Hannah Thomas Hospital Rehabilitation**

The Hannah Thomas Hospital, composed of four major buildings, is the only health care facility on the Island of Barbuda and was severely affected by Hurricane Irma, requiring extensive rehabilitation. The impact of Hurricane Irma clearly showed the need to improve the resilience of the structure to natural hazards. As indicated by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GoAB) and the affected community, the provision of health care services is critical for promoting the return of the displaced population, as well as for improving the resilience of people living in Barbuda and is a priority for UNDP.

The evaluation of Invitation to Bid for the rehabilitation works according to Building Back Better (BBB) principles, is ongoing with participation of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through the Ministry of Public Works. Two sessions of the evaluation panel have taken place to date. The awarding of the contract is estimated to take place in July 2019, with rehabilitation works taking place over the course of three months.

##### **Medical Equipment and Supplies**

A final session of the tender evaluation panel with participation from the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment will take place during the month of July 2019. Delivery and installation of medical equipment and supplies will be aligned with the completion of rehabilitation works.



**Post Office Rehabilitation:**

An areal view of the completed exterior works of the Barbuda Post Office  
Photo: Mr. Pete Airall /PWD



**A view of the Barbuda of the Post Office Gallery**  
Photo: Herbert Martinez / UNDP

## Barbuda Post Office Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation works have been completed with only minor interior and finishing works remaining. Quality assurance for building back better, according to OECS Building Code and national building guidelines continues through technical support provided by UNDP in collaboration with the Public Works Department (PWD) of Antigua and Barbuda.

## Post Office Equipment

The procurement process for the office equipment needed to furnish the Post Office has been completed. Delivery has been coordinated between UNDP and the Barbuda Council, with the support of the local private sector, and installation of office equipment will be aligned with the full completion of finishing works.



A view of the Barbuda of the Post Office Interior  
Photo: Herbert Martinez / UNDP

## BEYOND THE WORKS

The project's communications strategy includes community updates on the project's progress.

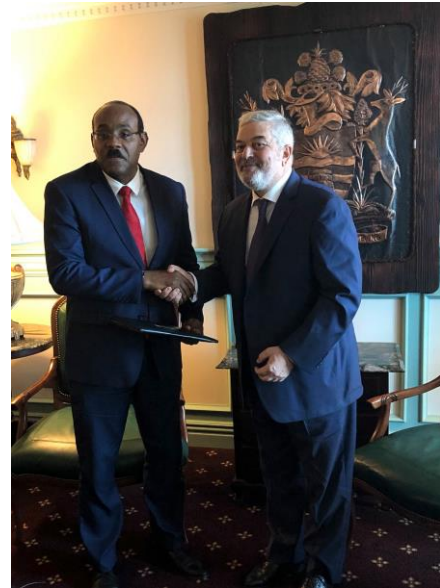
A second community information session is being planned to take place before the end of the month of July 2019. UNDP continues the distribution of bi-monthly community bulletins providing highlights concerning the overall support to the Barbuda recovery post-Irma. The bulletins are regularly circulated via social media, as well as via the Barbuda Council and the Barbuda Radio Channel.

In addition, capacity building and training of Contractors in BBB practices, according to OECS Building Code and the Antigua and Barbuda Building Guidelines, which was initiated by UNDP in 2017 carried out during 2018, are currently continuing through on the ground training and quality assurance activities during all rehabilitation activities. One additional session for contractors working in Barbuda is being planned.

UNDP and national and local authorities have forged a strong partnership since the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and continue to work closely together to deliver the critical project's

objectives. This partnership represents a key element in all activities conducted by UNDP.

Rehabilitation of pivotal public infrastructures falls within UNDP wider strategy to support recovery and resilience through several components in housing, livelihoods and disaster risk reduction through early warning system (EWS) support.



### Strong Partnership at national and local levels:

The new UNDP Resident Representative met with Prime Minister Gaston Brown and the Barbuda Council to renew commitment  
Photos: Ugo Blanco & Herbert Martinez / UNDP



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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Sub-regional Office for Barbados and the OECS/UNDP Antigua and Barbuda Project Office

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