

Grenada Community Revitalization Needs Assessment

USAID Contract No. EPP-I-00-04-00026-00

To best coordinate with the SOW, the current identified needs are segregated by the “breakdown of financial information” outlined in the Amended Scope of Work. In addition, the initial Work Plan comments on more general obstacles and deficiencies in general project management and program implementation.

General Management and Implementation Needs

The island has experienced a sharp increase in costs for office space, office equipment and supplies, and gasoline. The former are caused by the shortage of undamaged commercial property. The latter is due to the GoG lifting of its cost controls on the cost of gasoline.

Many of the commercial businesses had their stores and warehouses looted in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. This backlog of inventory, coupled with the spike in demand from international donor agencies, has led to a scarcity of office equipment and higher than normal pricing. Some equipment prices (desks and office chairs) have doubled in price over the last 2 ½ weeks.

There is a very limited pool of experienced and capable NGO's. This issue is reiterated below.

Residential Housing

The most salient issue to be addressed in the residential sector seems to be land title/tenure. In the initial phase of this program USAID clarified that PADCO should limit its projects to home repair and rehabilitation. That said, this is an issue that will need to be addressed. Land title issues have produced a general aversion to the replacement of destroyed houses. Such “cherry picking” of beneficiaries will only continue for a very limited time. Land tenure will need to be addressed at the GoG country-wide level.

The lack of construction skills at the “self help” level is prevalent. The majority of the residential housing owned by the countries most vulnerable groups will be repaired by the homeowner him/herself. Their skills are extremely limited. In addition, there is very little technically appropriate information being distributed.

Land Revitalization

There is an acute shortage of the saplings and seedlings needed for replanting of trees, shrubs, and ground-cover. The procurement of this and other needed

supplies and equipment is being slowed by the overwhelming amount of relief and reconstruction material destined for Grenada. The situation becomes more pressing when considering that planting must be done during the rainy season (mid-January, at the latest).

There is a dearth of NGO's that have experience in environmentally focused programs.

PADCO has only identified two environmental consulting agencies on the island. With the influx of international donor money they are in very high demand. Their services are critical in properly pinpointing the most impacted areas.

As is often the case, the environmental issues cut across multiple governmental agencies. In this instance, NAWASA, The Ministry of Health and Environment, and The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, all play a significant role. PADCO is coordinating with all three agencies. However, the agencies are not in concert in their priorities or coordination.

Clinic Repair

The Ministry of Health has been extremely helpful in facilitating and coordinating the damage assessment and prioritization for the repair of the medical clinics. Contractors are being pre-qualified, and sub-contracts are expected to be finalized within 10 days.

Primary School Repair

There is a significant disconnect between the construction cost produced by the Ministry of Education and those estimated by PADCO's engineers. While we are proceeding with finalizing construction costs for Tivoli, in the parish of St. Andrews, and St. Patrick's, in the parish of St. Patrick's, it will always be necessary to verify damage and repair costs in project selection and implementation.

School construction will be greatly expedited by vacating the buildings. Many of the schools have experienced roof damage. In the event that the buildings are two-story, the students have been moved into the lower level, and are attending school in shifts. While this is helpful, the student's safety and the intense level of disruption caused by major renovations should be considered.