

PD-ARM-109

AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE SUBPROJECTS

APPROVED UNDER USAID'S

BASIC NEEDS TRUST FUND (BNTF) PROJECTS

IN

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

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ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

Twenty-one infrastructure sub-projects were completed in Phases 1, 2 and 3 in St. Kitts and Nevis. Of this total, twelve sub-projects were selected for review. These were distributed as follows:-

Access Roads

Buckley	Molineaux
Trinity	Ottley Infrastructure
Cart Path	Sandy Point Road to High School

Infrastructure

Cardin Home for the Aged
McKnight Community Centre
Sandy Point High School
St. Paul's Primary
Pogson Hospital

Water Supply

Tabernacle

Time did not permit a separate visit to Nevis to review subprojects implemented under the Basic Needs Trust Fund project.

Evaluation Methodology

Reviews of individual sub-projects included site visits and interviews with the project administrators and residents from the respective communities.

General Comment and Summary of Findings

The range of projects selected generally, reflected the priority areas of need as determined by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. The projects were spread out around the country and, in my view, were representative of the general needs of persons living in the communities.

The projects contributed to the alleviation of poverty within their respective communities. Those which particularly stand out were:

- 1) renovation/extensions to Cardin Home
- 2) renovation/extensions to Pogson Hospital
- 3) the construction of the reservoir in Tabernacle
- 4) construction of access roads in Sandy Point, Trinity and Buckley Estate.

The Cardin Home

Before renovations/extensions were carried out at the Cardin Home, it was an old, very run-down facility which provided a home for approximately eighty destitute persons. Sanitary conditions were appalling and it was shunned by the community. It was commonly referred to as the "poor house". Under the BNTF project, renovations have been carried out on the existing structure and as a result, the physical environment has been transformed. Staff and residents now have a renewed sense of pride in the surroundings. Toilet facilities have been replaced and the living conditions have been considerably improved. Accommodation has now been provided for 120 persons. The demand for placement is so great that eligibility has to be determined on the basis of needs assessment.

In order to ensure more effective management of the facility, the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis has increased its annual budget allocation. A matron, two staff nurses and four attendants are now paid monthly by government, where formerly, there were only 2 nurses and 2 attendants. Maintenance at the facility is facilitated by a combination of public and private support. Government ministers give a contribution annually from their "walk-a-thon" while the Rotary Club and other public spirited groups including, the U.S. military, have provided such services as painting and fencing the facility.

The people who have a home at this facility would have been left to roam the streets of St. Kitts if this facility was not available.

Pogson Hospital

Pogson Hospital provides medical care for the people of Dieppe Bay and Sandy Point which number approximately 3,000. This includes provision of the eight basic service elements in accordance with World Health Organization guidelines. In addition, the hospital also has the capacity to deliver babies and carry out minor operations. During my visit, there were ten female patients, six males and three children. The facility now has thirty beds, three of which are set apart in a separate unit for pregnant mothers and their children. Previously, there were twenty five beds, but there was no separate unit for babies.

The kind of people whom I observed as patients at the hospital appeared to be of low income status. The hospital does not have an X-ray Department, nor does it provide laboratory services. By upgrading and expanding the facilities, the delivery of health care in this community has been improved. The environment has been improved for both patients and employees. There are now 7 staff nurses, 2 sisters and 3 nursing assistants. Prior to the expansion there were four staff nurses, 1 sister and two nursing assistants. Poor and under privileged members of the community are the main beneficiaries.

2

Access Road

Access roads have been constructed at several points around the country. Site visits were made to those in Buckley, Sandy Point, Trinity and Molineaux. Before repairs were carried out, the roads in these villages consisted of unpaved dirt surfaces with no provision for drainage. During the raining season, the muddy and slippery state of the roads made them virtually impassable while in the dry season, windborne dust became an environmental hazard to those living in these communities. On average, about 1,500 - 2,000 persons live in each of these villages.

Now that the roads have been paved, the houses of the residents in these villages, are for the first time, accessible any time of the day or night or in any kind of weather conditions. Water drains off quickly and areas, which previously would have been water logged, are no longer catchments. By eliminating the potential for water to settle, this project has reduced the possibility of mosquitos laying eggs and harboring in these communities. This has significantly reduced exposure to disease like malaria and dengue fever.

In the event of illness or a fire in the community, an ambulance or a fire tender can easily access the stricken home. The collection of garbage can now be routinely collected. In my opinion, the people in these areas can all be categorized as low income status. Upgrading the roads in these communities has significantly improved the living conditions for the people in these poor communities.

chool construction/renovation

Three school projects were visited. Two were completed and one was in the process of implementation:

- 1) construction of a new school in St. Pauls
- 2) construction of a new wing at Sandy Point High School
- 3) erection of a seawall at Sandy Point Primary School. (This project is currently being implemented).

St. Paul's Primary School

The St. Paul's Primary School started as a community project about ten years ago by members of the Anglican Church. At that time, it was located in a building which was annexed to the Anglican church. As the community expanded, it became evident that the church could no longer adequately accommodate the growing school population which had moved from 100 to in excess of 200. A completely new school has been constructed in the community of St. Paul's.

The new school has an enrolment of 400 - 450 children and is centrally located in the heart of the village of St. Paul's. This change of location has reduced the travel time for children. St. Paul's has consistently achieved some of the highest percentage passes in the 11-plus examination. Both teachers and parents are satisfied with the new surroundings and think that it has contributed to an improved performance of the children. The community has taken an active involvement in the maintenance of the school and will shortly, be assisting with the fencing of the grounds.

Sandy Point High School

With USAID assistance, a new wing was constructed at Sandy Point High School. The wing, which consists of five classrooms, is used to provide students with marketable skills. The Sandy Point High School serves as a catchment for students from St. Paul's Primary School and the Dieppe Bay High School. Skills such as home economics, technical drawing, woodwork, art, typing and computer skills are taught at the school. About 700 students benefit from these programs on a rotating basis.

Water Systems

The reservoir which was constructed in the village of Tabernacle under the USAID-BNTF program has a capacity of 80,000 gallons and serves about 4,000 persons in Tabernacle and surrounding areas. Families in this area now have safe, reliable running water in their homes for the first time.

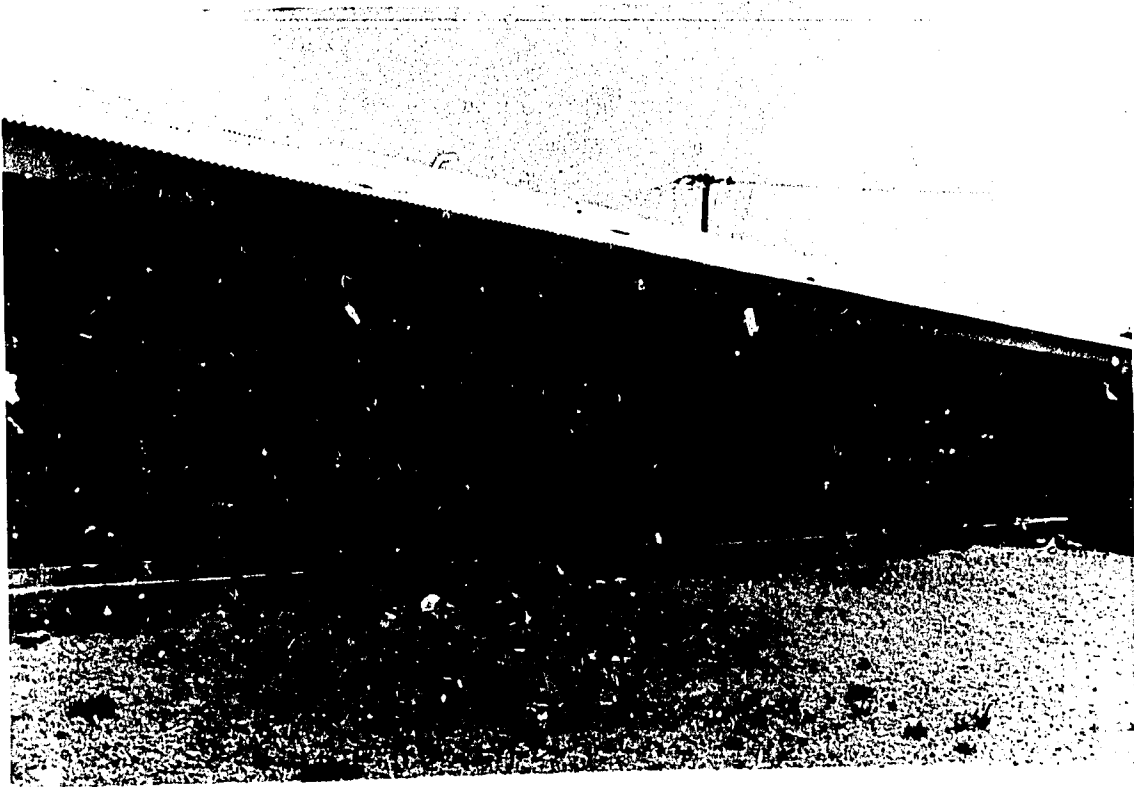
ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

*This is the Anglican Church building where the school was originally located.
Note the outdoor toilets to the right*

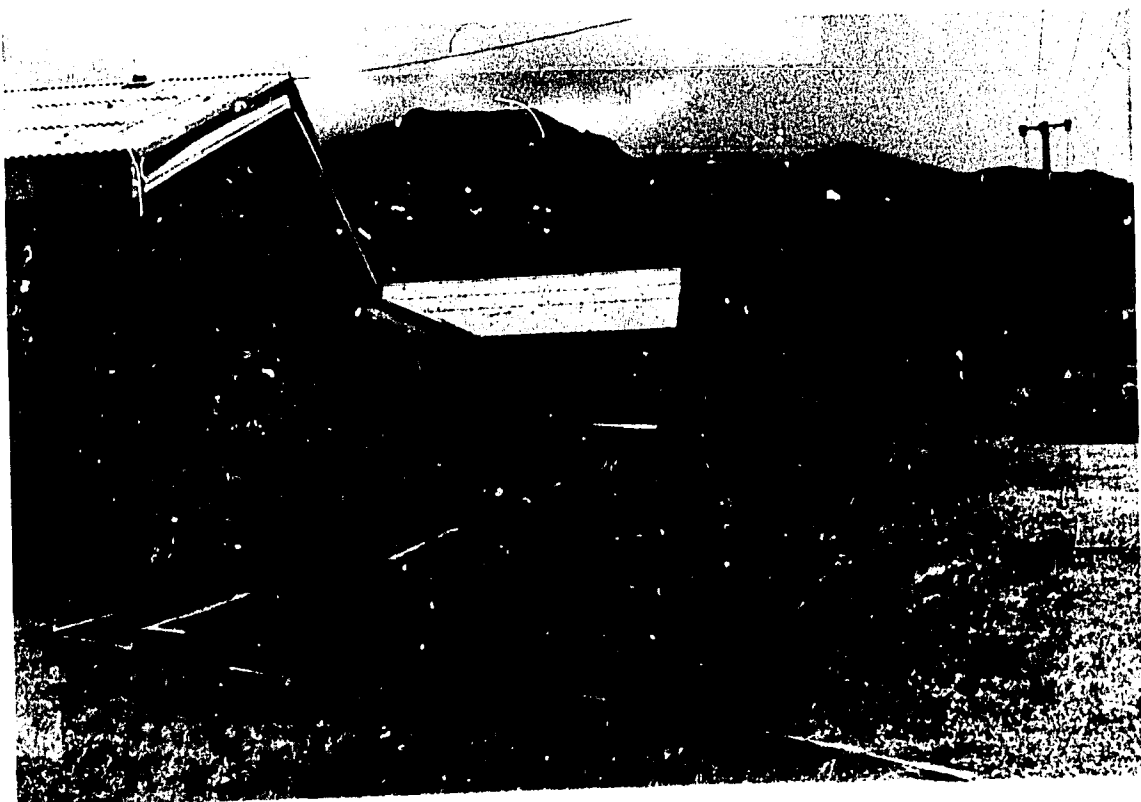


ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

This school was constructed under the BNTF project and has an enrolment of 450 students.

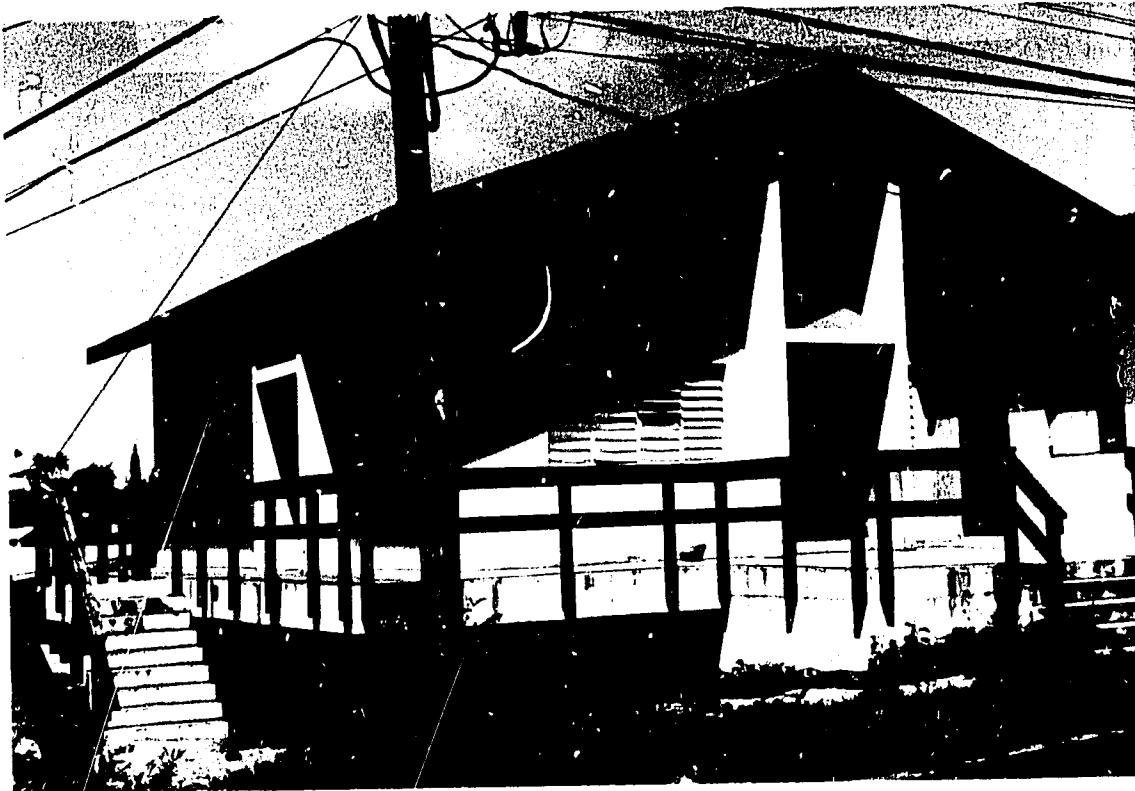


The blocks and materials shown in the photograph were provided by government and will be used to erect a fence/wall around the school



McKNIGHT COMMUNITY CENTRE

This centre is located on the outskirts of the capital Basseterre and is used by youths for social, cultural and economic purposes.



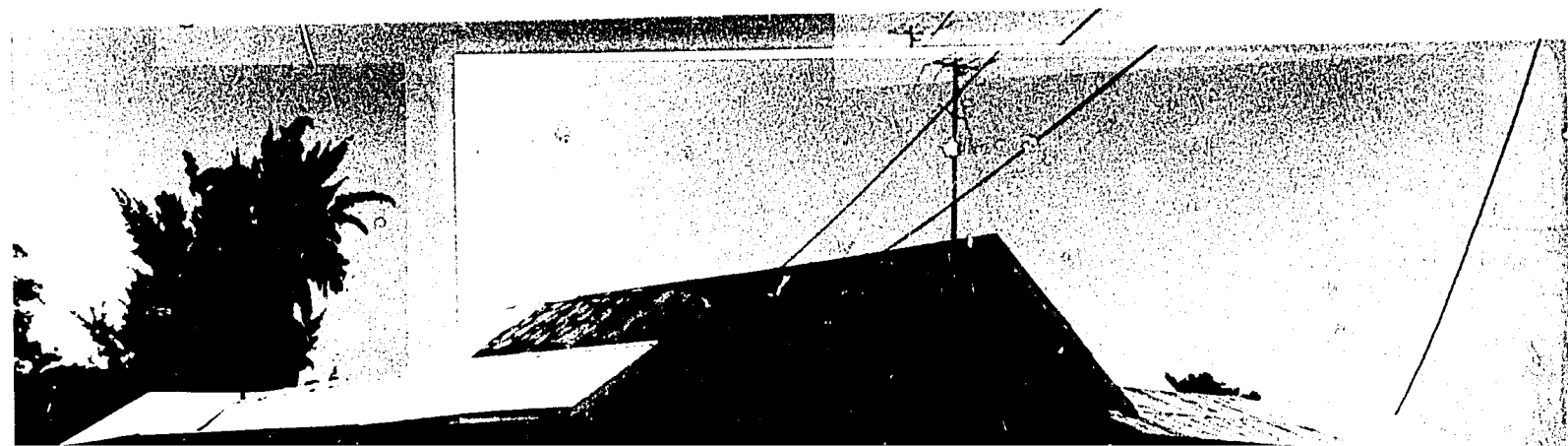
POGSON HOSPITAL

As a result of the extensions carried out to the hospital, the dispensary has now been relocated from its cramped location.



POGSON HOSPITAL

Under the BNTF project, the roof of the building was repaired, a ramp established, and a new wing built to the back of the building. Other internal structural changes were carried out.



THE CARDIN HOME

This photograph shows the male ward which was renovated. The fence around the building was erected by the Rotary Club.

