

Press release – For immediate release

RIISE begins operations to accelerate resilient infrastructure delivery in the Eastern Caribbean

Miami, 15 September 2026. -- The governments of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines can now access support from **the Caribbean Resilient Infrastructure Implementation and Skills Exchange (RIISE) Facility** to accelerate the delivery of climate-resilient infrastructure projects. RIISE has officially begun operations, and is ready to provide specialized technical assistance to overcome implementation bottlenecks so that investments are swiftly translated into completed, resilient public infrastructure on the ground.

Funded by the Government of Canada and hosted by UNOPS, RIISE operates through a Secretariat based in Barbados and is governed by participating Caribbean countries, with technical guidance from an independent panel of experts.

“Resilient infrastructure is essential to economic development, climate adaptation, and the well-being of Caribbean communities. Canada is pleased to support RIISE as a regionally led facility that will help governments access the expertise and support needed to deliver priority infrastructure investments. By helping address implementation challenges and strengthening countries' ability to move projects forward, RIISE has the potential to accelerate resilient infrastructure delivery and generate lasting benefits for Caribbean communities”, said H.E. Brenda Wills, High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

RIISE currently supports Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Eastern Caribbean in accelerating increasingly complex climate investments, ensuring local teams have direct, on-demand access to specialized technical expertise. By providing targeted support during project implementation, RIISE complements existing financing and project-preparation mechanisms and helps governments move projects toward completion.

This implementation support can target a range of projects, including **water and sanitation, transport, energy, coastal protection, public buildings, disaster recovery, health, education, and housing**. Governments can access two service modalities: short-term technical advisory services to resolve specific challenges and temporary specialist deployments to reinforce local teams, combining remote and in-country support tailored to each assignment.

Through these two modalities, governments can access expertise in project management, procurement, contract management, engineering and technical reviews, and financial management. To support resilient and inclusive delivery, RIISE can also deploy specialized expertise across environmental and social safeguards, climate resilience, and gender equality and social inclusion, alongside stakeholder engagement, communications, monitoring and reporting, and risk management.

How to access support. Ministries and public institutions in the four participating countries can request assistance through their designated National Focal Points, who can fill out the online

Request Form outlining the project, the implementation challenge, and expected outcomes. The Secretariat will use this information to assess eligibility and work with the requesting institution to define the scope of assistance and expertise required. For guidance on preparing and submitting a request, visit riise-caribbean.org or contact secretariat@riise-caribbean.org.

"Today marks an important moment for the Caribbean. UNOPS is proud to provide the operational backbone for this Caribbean-led initiative. Governments across the region have set a bold vision for more resilient infrastructure; our role is to help turn that ambition into results by providing national institutions with the additional capacity, expertise and implementation support they need to deliver for their people," said Giuseppe Mancinelli, UNOPS Caribbean Director.

Beyond its immediate implementation support, RIISE's longer-term ambition is to help strengthen and retain technical expertise within the Caribbean. As the facility evolves, this could include opportunities for specialists to work alongside public-sector teams and for countries to share knowledge and experience, helping local teams build the expertise to lead future infrastructure initiatives.

RIISE was officially launched on 14 September at a side event of the Caribbean Infrastructure Forum (CARIF) in Miami. Participants included Hon. Shawn Edward, Minister of Infrastructure, Ports Services, and Energy of Saint Lucia; Hon. Andrew John, Minister of Housing, Land Management, Urban Development, and Informal Settlement Upgrading of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Hon. Dr. Irving McIntyre, Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Climate Resilience and Social Security of Dominica; Alva Browne, Permanent Secretary in Grenada's Ministry of Infrastructure, and H.E. Brenda Wills, High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, alongside representatives of international financial institutions, international organizations, and infrastructure development partners.

While Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are the initial focus, RIISE is designed with the potential to expand its reach over time in response to government needs and as additional partnerships and resources are mobilized.

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Notes to editors

Photos

Photo RIISE Launch 1, from left to right:

- Anne Joselin, Infrastructure Advisor, UK FCDO.
- Dr. Irving McIntyre, Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Climate Resilience and Social Security, Dominica.
- Alva Browne, Permanent Secretary of Infrastructure, Grenada.
- Brenda Wills, High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.
- Maria Rojas Gonzalez, Head of Representation to the Anglophone Caribbean and Regional Development Banks, European Investment Bank.

- Andrew John, Minister of Housing, Land Management, Urban Development, and Informal Settlement Upgrading, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines.
- Shawn Edward, Minister of Infrastructure, Ports Services, and Energy, Saint Lucia.
- Giuseppe Mancinelli, UNOPS Caribbean Coordinator and Barbados Country Director.

Photo RIISE Launch 2, from left to right:

- Alva Browne, Permanent Secretary of Infrastructure, Grenada.
- Dr. Irving McIntyre, Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Climate Resilience and Social Security, Dominica.
- Andrew John, Minister of Housing, Land Management, Urban Development, and Informal Settlement Upgrading, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines.
- Shawn Edward, Minister of Infrastructure, Ports Services, and Energy, Saint Lucia.
- William Squier, UNOPS Portfolio Development Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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About RIISE

The Caribbean Resilient Infrastructure Implementation and Skills Exchange (RIISE) is a regional technical assistance facility funded by the Government of Canada and hosted by UNOPS. It will initially support Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by helping governments overcome implementation challenges, strengthen institutional capacity, and promote regional knowledge exchange in resilient infrastructure delivery.