

## Press Statement

# Dutch Disaster Fund opens funding opportunity for reconstruction

The Board of the Dutch Disaster Fund (NRF) has pledged a maximum of 2 million euros for the reconstruction efforts on Sint Maarten, after the island was severely hit by hurricane Irma, leaving much devastation in its wake. The fund is also open to Sint Eustatius and Saba.

Clemence Ross van Dorp, chairman of the NRF: 'It is a sign of the solidarity of the people in the Netherlands with the islands that are so severely hit by hurricane Irma. It is a support for organisations on the islands to restart their operations'.

The Board of the NRF is happy to announce that reconstruction fund is now open to receive applications from organizations that want to contribute to the re-establishment and strengthening of social networks and social activities on the islands, such as: neighborhood and community projects, day care centers for children, elderly, and the differently abled, as well as for youth activities, which all have been heavily affected by the hurricanes.

The Dutch Disaster Fund will coordinate with the 'Samenwerkende Fondsen Caribisch deel van het Koninkrijk' and with the Dutch ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom relations in order to avoid overlap in funding of reconstruction projects.

It is the intention to spend 2/3 of the fund via organizations that are established and registered on the islands. Seeking collaboration with and support from agencies and experts outside the islands is also welcome. Advisors to the 'Samenwerkende Fondsen Caribisch deel van het Koninkrijk' are available to provide support in drafting NRF funding applications.

Clemence Ross van Dorp: 'It is our ambition to strengthen local organizations on the islands. They are the best guarantee that the reconstruction---fund will contribute for a sustainable better future.'

All conditions and information on the application process can be found on the website of the Dutch Disaster Fund ([www.nationaalrampenfonds.nl](http://www.nationaalrampenfonds.nl)), including a downloadable request form (both in Dutch and English).

A meeting will be hosted for organizations in the Netherlands that are interested in knowing more about the reconstruction fund on Monday 12 March at 19.30 in Utrecht. Registration for this meeting is done by e-mail addressed to: [secretariaat@ehbo.nl](mailto:secretariaat@ehbo.nl)

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For additional information:

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