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Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR)

Semi Annual Progress Report 2

January – June 2021



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List of Abbreviations

BZK	Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands
CBTP	Capacity Building and Training Plan
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CoC	Code of Conduct
CoCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSPFRP	St. Maarten Civil Society Partnership Facility for Resilience Project
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
E&S	Environmental and Safeguards
GA	Grant Agreement
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GM	Grant Manual
GoSM	Government of St. Maarten
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
LMP	Labor Management Procedures
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoECYS	Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (SXM)
NRPB	National Recovery Program Bureau
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PDO	Project Development Objective
PIU	Project Implementation Unit

BZK	Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands
POM	Project Operations Manual
PTC	Project Technical Committee
R4CR	Resources for Community Resilience
SC	Steering Committee
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEC	Social Economic Council
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SFC	Samenwerkende Fondsen Cariben (Caribbean Cooperation Fund)
SXM	St. Maarten
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
VNGI	International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities
VNP	Representation of the Netherlands in Philipsburg
VROMI	Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure (SXM)
VSA	Ministry of Health, Social Development and Labor (SXM)
WB	World Bank

1 Executive Summary

The R4CR program, which started in July 2020 with the formal signing of the agreement between VNGI and the WB, performed steadily in the first six months of 2021. R4CR has three components, a grant, capacity strengthening and project management component.

Grant Component

Most of the projects (9) identified under 'Quick-Win' round 1, which at field level started late November 2020, were completed by the end of May 2021 despite COVID-19 restrictions. Only 3 projects got a one-month (budget neutral) extension and were finalized by 30 June 2021. The main challenges CSOs faced during 'Quick-Win' round 1 were:

- Getting familiar with all the documents related to R4CR and program rules, regulations and responsibilities as included in the Project Operations Manual (POM);
- Operating in accordance with the environmental and social standards identified under the program;
- Reporting and meeting project deadlines;
- Handling in accordance with the procurement rules, more in particular receiving at least three quotations from at least three different suppliers;
- Dealing with the final auditing.

The challenges both the PIU and CSOs faced during implementation were subject of discussion during the Learning benchmark Training (LBT) of early June 2021 and a major reason for the PIU to make minor adjustments to the POM. Amendments were focused on clarifying environmental and social standards, financial and auditing aspects of the program.

In February-March the PIU launched 'Quick-Win' round 2. The evaluation and publication of the assessment report followed in April-May with the selection of 12 successful proposals. On 16 June a zoom-launch session was organized including official speakers. The selected grantees gave at this session a one-minute pitch of their project. The ceremony was completed with the symbolic signing of the grant agreement. Next, all grantees followed a Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT) session by the end of June after which they were able to receive financial resources and effectively started implementing their projects. The project implementation period runs until the end of December 2021.

The PIU learned from 'Quick-Win' round 1 that the environmental and social standards (safeguards) must be enforced more strictly in future application rounds. During both the LBT as well as the PDT session, exercises were made by grantees to identify the main risks and mitigation measures to be taken under their own project.

The PIU will follow up by continuing to make unannounced visits to CSOs and project sites during implementation to ensure that grantees will adhere and operate in accordance with the applicable environmental and social standards reflected in having taken the necessary precautionary measures at project sites.

Capacity Strengthening

One of the main support mechanisms under R4CR to make project results sustainable is to strengthen the capacity of CSOs to be able to manage and monitor future activities in a professional manner. Next to the R4CR information sessions and obligatory training during project implementation, the PIU spent a lot of time on individual coaching and providing tailor-made support to organizations. Because CSOs are different in size, experience and management style, each organization needed a unique approach. Clearly the PIU could only provide such support following a request from the organization.

Together with NPower, the PIU organized several additional training sessions on subjects identified by CSOs during the first LBT session in November 2020. Training on project management, report writing and finance and budgeting, identified as weaker areas during this reporting period, was organized at the premises of R4CR. Due to COVID-19 regulations the number of participants was restricted. The intention is to repeat such training in the second half of 2021.

Project Management

For the PIU, visibility of project outcomes has always been one of the most important aspects for starting a 'Quick-Win' round. By showing end results, other organizations can be made enthusiastic and convinced to also submit a project proposal during one of the future application rounds. Seeing is believing is a key term of R4CR. Visibility is not only reflected by the output delivered but also by attention addressed to R4CR in the (social) media. Evidence for this attention are the multiple articles published in the local newspapers, the many R4CR related Facebook posts and interviews given by project beneficiaries at different radio stations. Communication is seen by the PIU as a key instrument to get maximum outreach for R4CR. The PIU therefore spent a lot of time and energy in finetuning the exposure and outreach, both of the R4CR program as well as attention addressed to the individual CSO projects.

On request of the Government of St. Maarten (GoSM), the PIU on 3 June 2021 gave a presentation about the R4CR program in general and the 'Quick-Win' rounds in particular for the Council of Ministers. Practical examples of activities completed were shown and an open discussion was held on the added value of the CSO sector for the development of St. Maarten in general.

During the reporting period, four physical missions and one video-zoom mission focused on R4CR. Representatives of BZK, VNP and the Trust Fund SC visited St. Maarten and R4CR where they received an update on the program and were shown several project activities at field level. The WB organized a video-zoom mission with the aim to review the progress of R4CR.

The PTC as overarching instrument met three times during the reporting period and gave formal endorsement to several actions (portfolio and budget cap increase, formal approval of the 'Quick-Win' round 2 selection process and endorsement of the assessment report).

2 Introduction

Following hurricane Irma, which hit St. Maarten severely in September 2017, the Netherlands government allocated € 550 million for reconstruction support to St. Maarten¹. A total of € 470 million (US\$ 553 million) has been committed to a trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB). Support is dedicated to reconstruction and improving public service delivery, public order, and infrastructure, including strengthening the civil society on St. Maarten.

A modest part of US\$ 7.2 million was granted to start an aid program directly aimed to provide support to the civil society on St. Maarten. This Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR) program is implemented by the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNGI) in close cooperation with the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB), Foresee Foundation and other local partners.



The current report is the second semi-annual progress report produced under the R4CR program which provides direct support to organizations having their focus on strengthening the civil society in the broadest sense of the word. The report covers the period January-June 2021.

Main activities implemented during the reporting period included:

- Completion, submission and validation by the WB of the two remaining Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Labor Management Procedures (LMP)²;
- Day-to-day coaching of and coordination with staff of CSOs implementing projects under 'Quick- Win' round 1;
- Multiple field visits made to CSO sites where project activities under 'Quick-Win' round 1 were implemented;

¹ Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands (BZK).

² The final versions of the SEP and LMP were approved in January 2021.

- Continuous disbursements made to Grantees active under 'Quick-Win' round-1 following a request for advance payment;
- Following experiences gained from 'Quick-Win' round 1, minor adjustments were made to the Grant Manual (GM), which serves as explanatory document for R4CR applicants;
- On-going individual discussions with CSOs to strengthen project proposals which they planned to submit for a second review under 'Quick-Win' round 2;
- Organizing information sessions about the R4CR grant scheme in February 2021 preceding the formal announcement of 'Quick-Win' round 2;
- Participation of the PIU in the one-week virtual WB mission organized in February 2021;
- Formal start of 'Quick-Win' round 2 on 28 February announced through a virtual zoom session;
- Assessment and final selection of proposals for 'Quick-Win' round 2 which took place in April-May 2021;
- Official ceremony organized and announcement of the 12 winners under 'Quick Win' round 2 through a virtual zoom session;
- For grantees who operated under 'Quick-Win' round 1, a Learning Benchmark Training (LBT) was organized in June 2021;
- Following experiences gained from 'Quick-Win' round 1, minor adjustments were made to the Project Operations Manual (POM), which serves as guidance document for successful grantees during project implementation;
- For grantees who qualified for 'Quick-Win' round 2 a Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT) was organized in June 2021;
- Participation in three Project Technical Committee (PTC) meetings³;
- Organization of field visits for BZK officials in January and May 2021;
- Organization of a field visit for members of the Trust Fund Steering Committee (SC) in February 2021;
- Production of several reports: R4CR Semi-annual Progress Report 1 (January 2021), CSO capacity assessment report (April 2021), 'Quick-Win' round 2 Assessment Report (May 2021), 'Quick-Win' round 2 Assessment of Identified Risks and Mitigation Measures (June 2021).

³ 8 February, 15 March and 24 May 2021 respectively.

3 R4CR General Program Information

The Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR)⁴ program officially started on 10 July 2020 with the formal signing of the agreement between the WB and VNG International (VNGI). The program will last for a period of four years until June 2024. The Project Development Objective (PDO) has been defined as to improve the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and to support implementation of reconstruction and resilience projects at the community level.

R4CR is composed of three components.

Component 1 finances small grants provided to local CSOs which work with communities to generate project proposals focused on reconstruction, resilience and service delivery. R4CR does not finance major civil works nor new constructions. Rather, projects financed will constitute those requiring rehabilitation and be of small magnitude. In addition, R4CR will not include any land acquisition nor displacement of populations. Applications will be submitted and screened against predetermined eligibility criteria.

In the period July 2020 until June 2021, the R4CR Project Implementation Unit (PIU) launched two 'Quick-Win' application rounds to produce rapid and visible results and to make sure that the mechanism used is straightforward, speedy and inclusive, equally spread over the different thematic areas⁵. Project applications are demand driven and CSOs are fully accountable for project results achieved.

In the period 2021-2024 a maximum of five additional application rounds can be organized provided that the financial resources are sufficient. The PIU has analyzed the results of 'Quick-Win' round 1, which was completed in June 2021 and used the outcomes to make minor adjustments to both the Grant Manual (GM) as well as the Project Operations Manual (POM).

Component 2 supports all capacity building and technical assistance (TA) activities, mainly for CSO staff but also for all other stakeholders involved in project implementation and coordinating project activities.

⁴ In the Project Appraisal Document (PAD), prepared by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the project is referred to as 'Sint Maarten Civil Society Partnership Facility for Resilience Project (CSPFRP)'. The working title however is Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR).

⁵ The following thematic areas have been identified: community councils/neighborhood initiatives and initiatives for relief; day care centers/afternoon school programs and activities; sports and recreational activities/facilities; nature and environment (re-/upcycling) and animal welfare activities; art, cultural, archaeological and heritage activities; psycho-social and emotional support; poverty relief; youth employment/entrepreneurship; skills development; tackling Gender Based Violence (GBV).

This component also provides TA needs identified during program implementation following qualitative and quantitative evaluations and learning and knowledge sharing events such as the Learning Benchmark Training (LBT) organized for 'Quick-Win' round 1 grantees in June 2021.

Component 3 supports all activities related to project management and coordination reflected in the day-to-day operations of the R4CR program. On St. Maarten, a PIU is active and supported by a back-up team at VNGI in the Netherlands. Both entities are in charge for fiduciary oversight and management, risk management, planning and monitoring, reporting and documentation of good practices, knowledge management and coordination of program activities with other stakeholders.

Management and coordination also involve processes of the grant mechanism or the project cycle and activities that aim at awareness creation, education and communication. This component supports all other logistical and operational aspects of the R4CR program which ensure that management and oversight of local CSOs function smoothly. In addition, the component will support activities related to the functionality of the Project Technical Committee (PTC) that provides oversight and coordinates and harmonizes project activities with other related work on St. Maarten.

4 Environmental and Social Framework

The Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) describes the commitment of the WB to sustainable development, through a policy and set of Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), designed for WB supported projects with the aim to minimize any adverse impacts on local people, their livelihoods, culture and the environment⁶. Since R4CR operates under the St. Maarten Trust Fund, administered by the WB, the program must operate in line with the ESS as identified and described in the four obligatory ESF documents⁷.

Preceding the actual start of R4CR implementation in 2020, VNGI completed under a project preparation grant a first draft of the four ESF documents. These documents became an integral part of the agreement between the WB and VNGI. Multiple discussions with Bank teams took place to shape the documents in an acceptable manner.

A key aspect during project preparation was to maximize the outreach of R4CR. Information on the program was widely disseminated both in writing and through different information channels (VNGI and R4CR Websites, social media and separate information sessions organized).

The PIU team composed was and still is restricted in reaching out physically to target groups because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Strict SXM government regulations are in force which made it impossible to organize crowded physical sessions. Irrespective these limitations, R4CR managed in the six-month period (January-June 2021) to finalize a first grant application round and to launch a second round, which effectively started early July 2021.

In the current section the PIU reports on the general aspects and experiences to date of the environmental, social, health and safety performance of the program. R4CR is a four-year program which during implementation plans to organize several grant applications rounds. In its first year of implementation, two 'Quick-Win' rounds have been launched with a duration of maximum six calendar months of implementation. The first 'Quick-Win' started in December 2020 and was completed in June 2021. ESF experiences described in this section cover the experiences faced during implementation of 'Quick-Win' round 1. These experiences had an impact on how to organize preparatory actions under 'Quick-Win' round 2.

Both the R4CR program but also CSO projects must operate in accordance with the applicable conditions as described in detail in the ESMF. The following seven ESS are relevant under R4CR:

⁶ The ESF enables the WB and support program implementers to better manage environmental and social risks of projects and to improve development outcomes. The ESF was launched on October 1, 2018.

⁷ Environmental Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Labor Management Procedures (LMP), all approved in January 2021.

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The PIU is in charge for screening environmental and social risks and impacts of CSO projects financed under the grant mechanism. During the general information sessions organized before the actual submission of proposals, the PIU stressed the importance of project implementation in line with underlined environmental and social regulations. As part of the standard application template, the PIU inserted a separate section on safeguards and a standard social-environmental and cultural heritage screening checklist. However, submission of applications under round 1 learned that for the majority of CSOs the subject of safeguards turned out to be a rather abstract principle, which made that most CSOs completed the checklist automatically without realizing what it meant for their specific project. When asked for instance whether the CSO saw any environmental and/or social risk, almost all CSOs answered that they did not see any risks. This most probably has to do with the fact that the majority of the CSOs are rather small entities with just a few volunteers active to whom it seems to be difficult to map out the broader context and perspective of their project.

Under 'Quick-Win' round 2, the PIU took a different path. Based on the responses given by CSOs in their technical proposal, an environmental and social safeguard and vulnerability assessment was made which resulted in an overall score for each of the successful applicants⁸. However, this resulted in only a general and average assessment of the environmental and social vulnerability of applicants. In addition to the vulnerability assessment, the PIU decided to list for each of the successful applicants, under each of the relevant ESS, the risks and possible mitigation measures to be taken.

During the Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT) session for round 2 grantees organized at the end of June 2021, broad attention was addressed to the issue of environmental and social standards where the PIU used practical examples to show to the audience what ESS means. Part of the presentation was an exercise where grantees were asked to list a few risks under their specific project and ways to overcome these risks (mitigation measures). This exercise turned out to be an eyeopener which resulted in listing several risks specific for a particular project identified by the project team itself. The PIU will continue this exercise and share with each of the successful grantees under 'Quick-Win' round 2 a complete set of risks and mitigation measures as defined in a separate document prepared in June 2021 and expects from the CSO to carefully screen these risks/mitigation measures and add or revise whenever relevant. In this way it is expected that the environmental and social framework becomes more and more containable and understandable to CSO staff in such a way that appropriate measures can and will be taken by a particular project team.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

CSOs are informed to take necessary measures to create acceptable labor conditions in line with the procedures described in the LMP document. Key potential labor risks under R4CR are:

⁸ Reference is made to the assessment report (May 2021).

- The use of child labor. Mitigation: there is a minimum age of eighteen years applicable to all workers active under R4CR and CSO projects. All active CSOs are aware of this restriction. From time to time the PIU makes randomly on-site checks through field visits.
- Harassment at the work site. Mitigation: protection of workers active under R4CR at all circumstances is key. Any harassment in whatever form must always be reported by the CSO in their monthly report. However, the worker has the possibility to submit a grievance about the harassment to the CSO or even to the PIU. Under 'Quick-Win' round 1 the PIU has not received any complaint about harassment at the work site. Unannounced field visits by PIU staff and interviews with direct and indirect beneficiaries will learn more about this aspect.
- Gender based violence (GBV), or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) incidents have not been reported during the reporting period. CSOs have been informed to be extremely alert to such kind of excesses and immediately report any incident directly to the PIU. Due to the sensitivity of the topic, the PIU will take necessary steps guaranteeing the privacy of possible victims of GBV and/or SEA.
- There is a Code of Conduct (CoC) especially prepared for workers under R4CR and attached to the LMP document. The CoC is prepared to indicate how project staff/workers should behave to avoid any negative impact of project activities on the direct environment. Although the LMP is accessible to the wider public through the R4CR Website where it is published, the PIU has little illusion that many workers will have gone through the document before starting to implement a project. It is for this reason that the PIU brings the CoC constantly under the attention of the CSOs and its workers.
- Some projects identified under R4CR have a higher risk when it comes to safety and health hazards. Especially projects focusing on small renovation must take necessary precautionary safety and security measures to avoid any negative impact for the direct environment. Under 'Quick-Win' round 1 and prior to the start of renovation activities, the PIU had a joint discussion with both the CSOs and external contractors to indicate the possible risks of certain interventions and what measures had to be taken. Although most contractors, especially the more experienced and larger ones, have their own policy when it comes to safety and security, it was especially useful to point out to the small contracting companies to take precautionary measures like shielding a project site before starting with the actual work⁹. The PIU checked multiple times during implementation the worksite status through unannounced randomized site visits.
- In addition, CSOs were requested to get acquainted with and operate under all circumstances in line with the SXM labor legislation. This meant that both project staff, but also external workers were able to show a valid work permit and health insurance certificate prior to the start of project activities, which was checked by the PIU.

⁹ The PIU prepared a compliance checklist which had to be signed by both the CSO as well as external contractor to make the aware of the relevant ESS mechanisms applicable under their project.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Especially for the three small renovation projects approved under 'Quick-Win' round 1, the PIU made clear to respective CSOs and hired contractors that they were in charge for the proper handling and disposal of waste material from the project site. The contractor guaranteed any on-site waste material was shielded and inaccessible for any outsider during project implementation. Although the waste material was kept to a minimum, this was finally transported to the central dump site of St. Maarten by the contractor.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

For all projects implemented under 'Quick-Win' round 1, although so diverse in nature, different health and safety measures had to be taken. Protective clothing for workers on small renovation projects was self-evident. However, staff operating under the Animal Defenders Foundation (ADF) and the Nature Foundation (NF), who worked with animals, also had to wear protective clothing to avoid being bitten by wild animals. The health and safety measures for both staff and patients during treatment applied by the Aids Foundation (AF) were of a different nature but as important to be taken. The two projects which created a playground had to guarantee that children, after completion, can play in a safe environment. This not only required the use of safe material (rubber tiles) but also applying a standard safety regulation policy for playground equipment. All CSOs and their external contractors active under 'Quick-Win' round 1 applied community health and safety measures.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

There was only one project under 'Quick-Win' round 1 which impacted the biodiversity. The Nature Foundation (NF) responded to a call for the SXM society to determine the abundance and status of vervet monkeys on St. Maarten. One of the main aims of biodiversity conservation in general is to keep the natural world in balance. On St. Maarten the vervet monkey is an invasive species which harms the natural environment, more in particular local agricultural activities. NF, through this project, wanted to find out whether there are solutions to effectively reduce the monkey population on St. Maarten. NF also planned to test solutions such as sterilization and a humane way of eradication through euthanasia. However, the last option was blocked as it turned out to be a bridge too far. Nevertheless, without a clear policy and solution to decrease the vervet monkey population on St. Maarten, the biodiversity on the island will have difficulties in finding a true balance.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Under 'Quick-Win' round 1 there were no project activities which infringed on cultural heritage sites. Under 'Quick-Win' round 2, one of the intended projects is to add several murals as artwork to revitalize the inner city of Philipsburg ultimately with the aim to attract more visitors. However, the CSO must come to an agreement with the building owners where murals can be placed. The CSO was emphatically requested not to cover sites which have been declared cultural heritage monument. This request was repeatedly mentioned and the CSO confirmed that this will not happen.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Stakeholder engagement is important in the broadest sense of the word. It is not only of interest to attract the CSOs to the program but also to develop a supportive relation between the CSO and the community where a project is implemented to make sure that sustainability following project end is a serious option.

Both the PIU and the CSOs make optimal use in spreading information through social media by publishing relevant project related information. Facebook is a mechanism widely used on daily basis by project stakeholders on St. Maarten. Table 18 in section 7.2 of this report shows the number of Facebook posts made under the R4CR program to date.

Likewise, the PIU attaches great importance to the widespread fame of R4CR among the SXM community. It is for this reason that the PIU at certain intervals provides information on the program through radio interviews but also stimulates CSOs to tell their story to stimulate others to participate in the program. Table 19 in section 7.2 shows the attention paid by different radio stations to R4CR in the period January – June 2021.

Attention addressed to the R4CR program in general and CSO project activities more in particular is key to its success. Especially feedback received from direct and indirect project beneficiaries is crucial because this will learn organizations and the PIU how to better perform and ultimately result in higher quality future projects. The PIU familiarizes staff of each CSO continuously during information and training sessions with the possibility to complete the GRM form to express their opinion about operations. CSOs at their turn are called to share the GRM form with their direct and indirect target groups. From the responses included in the final report of nine CSOs which completed project activities under 'Quick-Win' round 1, no single organization expressed any dissatisfaction with the performance of their project and/or support received from the PIU¹⁰.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic had and still has serious consequences on the daily performance and operations of the R4CR program and projects.

The PIU continuously touched base with the official Website of the St. Maarten government on the status of the pandemic to be able to immediately respond to any amendments¹¹. Up-to-date information, policy and restrictions issued by the St. Maarten government were adhered to and applied under the program.

From the start of R4CR, the PIU has been extremely cautious with organizing physical sessions.

¹⁰ Three projects under 'Quick-Win' round 1 received a one-month project extension until 30 June 2021. At the time of publishing this semi-annual report, their final report was yet to be received. Reference is also made to section 5.1 of this report.

¹¹ <http://www.sintmaartengov.org/government/VSA/Health-Updates/NOVELCORONAVIRUS/Pages/default.aspx>

If information or training sessions were organized physically, there was maximum attendance rate to avoid large groups. Social distancing was continuously considered as was the use of face masks and hand sanitizer. In situations where the PIU wanted to create a wider reach, this was effectuated by organizing video-zoom sessions. In as much as possible, distant communication mechanisms were used which turned out to have no negative impact on the R4CR performance so far. All CSOs operating under R4CR were familiarized with the COVID-19 restrictions and informed to act in accordance.

5 Grant Scheme Implementation

5.1 'Quick-Win' Round 1 – Technical

Implementation of the 'Quick-Win' round 1 projects covered all six months of this reporting period. The twelve selected projects were, due to their different nature, size and complexity, developing in a diversified manner. Some CSOs started right after signing the Grant Agreement (GA), where others required more time to submit all relevant documentation before a first advance payment could be made by the PIU. On 1 January 2021, theoretically all 12 grantees had to be fully operational. Technically speaking, however, only 50% of the CSOs had received a first advance payment by that time.

The fact that half of the grantees started late with project implementation for administrative reasons ultimately did not have a negative impact on the final completion of their project. In the end, nine grantees managed to complete their project activities within the six-month contracting period. Only three CSOs submitted a formal request to the PIU for an extension of one calendar month for reasons beyond their control which are described below.

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL) had serious difficulties with purchasing a 40-foot container. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, worldwide trade flows have been disrupted, with containers stranded on unexpected places. In addition, the price of containers, which for PJL forms the backbone of their satellite library project, exploded in the first months of 2021. PJL therefore struggled with purchasing a container for the price included in their original financial proposal. They finally managed to get one for a reasonable price but had to make serious trade-offs which turned out to be time consuming. The PIU granted PJL a one-month extension until 30 June 2021.

The SXM Early Childhood Development Association (SECDA), as umbrella organization in charge for day care and afterschool care institutions, started their food program on 1 January to streamline it with the start of the new semester. SECDA asked for an extension of the food program until 30 June, which marked the end of the school year. To streamline the food program with the schoolyear was thought to be a solid argument and thus this request was granted by the PIU.

Finally, K1 Britannia's main aim was to train volunteers in disaster relief to be better prepared for future natural phenomena. As part of their training program, they had planned to bring in several trainers from overseas which due to the continuation of COVID-19 became problematic. Towards the end of project implementation, K1 submitted an amendment to their project proposal which focused more on local training and additional supplies with a one-month, budget-neutral, extension of the project implementation period. The PIU also granted this request.

By far the most challenging issue during this reporting period for both the CSOs but also the PIU was how to apply the relevant environmental and social standards (safeguards). Because the R4CR program covers so many different topic areas, for each of the CSOs different restrictions and regulations are applicable. A food support program for school children simply requires different safety measures and instructions compared to the installation of a pumping system for a swimming pool. Although most environmental and social standards seem to be obvious, some grantees had to be made aware through different information sessions and site visits organized to apply these standards while implementing the project. For the PIU, the 'Quick-Win' round 1 implementation turned out to be an eyeopener as well regarding the application of the standards. The use of practical examples during implementation learned that CSOs better grasped the importance of the standards which was a lesson learned for the PIU and directly applied during the preparatory information and training sessions for 'Quick-Win' round 2.

Reporting in general turned out to be a challenge for many of the implementing grantees. The PIU expected the CSOs to forward a short progress report every month. To make things easier for the grantee, the PIU had developed a standard template which just needed to be completed by the grantee. Following submission of the report, the PIU could sit together with the grantee and discuss where additional assistance was needed. However, the content of many reports turned out to be below standard which made it difficult and rather time consuming for the PIU to discover the real problem areas. The fact is that the St. Maarten community is verbally organized with less emphasis on written commitment, which becomes even more obvious among small unexperienced CSOs that fully depend on volunteer contributions. This is also one of the reasons why report writing is one of the key subject areas where the PIU, together with Foresee Foundation, organized a training session which will be repeated multiple times during R4CR implementation¹². However, writing reports is a quality that will only develop through practicing. The PIU can only provide advisory support but cannot write the report for the grantee.

A serious obstacle experienced by CSOs was the way to handle the procurement section more in particular the collection of a 'request for quotation' from minimum three suppliers. This mechanism is supposed to be used for all purchases above US\$ 1,000 to show optimal transparency. Although the process is clearly described in the POM and was explained explicitly during the PDT, the PIU still had to provide additional assistance to the CSOs to make sure that they followed the rules and regulations as described in the POM. However, it was not only the CSO but also some suppliers that had difficulties with the strict procurement guidelines. Some suppliers even wanted to charge the requesting CSO for the offer they submitted separately which of course could not be accepted. It seems that this way of procuring is rather new to many organizations/suppliers on St. Maarten. It is needless to say that this 'learning process' created additional delays in project implementation.

The PIU spent, during this reporting period, a lot of time on individual coaching and providing technical support to the grantees implementing projects under 'Quick-Win' round 1.

¹² Reference is made to section 6.2.1 of this report for further information.

Although these individual sessions turned out to be a time-consuming exercise, the impact was noticeable. The PIU is of the opinion that grantees which operated under 'Quick-Win' round 1 now have a better understanding of the R4CR program in general and the obligations which must be met to become successful. The fact that the PIU offered standard training and individual coaching sessions was highly appreciated and did contribute to a better understanding of the R4CR program content. In Annex 5 of this report an overview is provided of all sessions organized during the reporting period. Most of the standard training took place at the R4CR office premises. Individual coaching and support were provided either at our office or on the project site.

In Annex 2 of this report, the PIU attached an updated version of the original Results Framework, which is an inseparable part of the official agreement between the WB and VNGI. Because under R4CR so many different CSOs are active under an equally different number of subject areas, caution must be exercised while interpreting the figures. Just to give one example, SECDAs as one of the CSOs benefiting from R4CR 'Quick-Win' round 1, organized a food program for children attending daycare and after school care facilities. The number of direct beneficiaries from this food program mentioned by SECDAs has been 650 children. Indirectly, the parents of the children benefited from the program as well, since the children received during the pandemic period at least one hot meal per day. Another CSO that benefited from 'Quick-Win' round 1 was Animal Defenders Foundation (ADF), which implemented a project to treat stray dogs and cats, which owners either have left the island or are unknown. Clearly ADF stood up for the care of stray pets by organizing a spay/neuter and vaccination campaign. However, in this case it is difficult to measure the number of direct/indirect beneficiaries since pet owners who left the island are unknown. It is just good to take this nuance into account when interpreting the figures as presented in Annex 2.

Below, a summary of all separate projects successfully implemented under R4CR 'Quick-Win' round 1 is presented.

2-St. Maarten Aids Foundation (AF)

The main aim of the project was to take care of and provide treatment to uninsured people living with HIV/AIDS. The target group are people who have HIV/AIDS and due to a loss of employment have no insurance or have a gap in medical insurance coverage. However, payment for antiretroviral medication, laboratory tests and doctor consultations must continue. Interruption of treatment can cause resistance to medication and increase the mortality rate and/or transmission of HIV. Due to COVID-19, the number of persons in need of care/treatment increased because many businesses closed, and people got unemployed resulting in a loss of insurance coverage. During the six months of implementation, 20 persons benefited from the care and treatment project (14 male and 6 female). Of the 20 persons, 5 were non-residents and 15 persons had a temporary or permanent resident status. In total, 75% were SXM residents, contrary to what many, including the GoSM and the social health insurance often assume. Continuation of treatment is crucial for HIV/AIDS patients. Fortunately, the AF has received donations which will keep them active until the end of 2021. It is quite likely that the AF will call on once again the support of R4CR in one of the future application rounds.

4-Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL)

The PJL library suffered heavily from hurricane Irma. The library moved to a temporarily location which is far from perfect as it is not or difficult to access for vulnerable and elderly persons. The PJL therefore developed the concept of 'establishing satellites' to increase the visibility and accessibility and to reach out to the community to stimulate reading. The plan is to establish satellites in six neighborhoods spread over the island. The first two satellites, the renovation of the library bus at Cay Hill and the placement of a library container at Belvedere, are part of the project financed under 'Quick-Win' round 1.

The renovation of the library bus was a relatively easy exercise and PJL was able to organize the official opening ceremony of this first satellite on 18 January 2021. Placing the container in Belvedere took much longer but with an extension of the implementation period with one month, PJL managed to complete the exercise by the end of June 2021.



Opening of the Library Satellite in Belvedere Neighborhood (July 2021)

Table 1 *Data collected after opening of the first library satellite in Cay Hill (January 2021)*

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
No. of visitors	20	98	51	27
Checked-out books	10	97	37	31
Information requests	1	10	15	8
No. of brochures hand-out	75	75	20	25
No. of registration forms hand-out	27	50	15	5
New members registered	0	9	10	9
Wi-Fi users	0	0	29	0
Events organized	0	0	0	1
Story-time sessions organized	1	0	5	0

The assumption is that the satellites in the different neighborhoods will be more visible and accessible resulting in an increased attractiveness which will lead to more people visiting the library. People are more prone to participate in events or special programs when organized closer to their homes. The congested roads, traffic jams and lack of parking space prevents people from going to Philipsburg for their books, events, or activities. Visiting the library satellite in the neighborhood is easier to plan and will cost less time and money. The PJJ Cay Hill satellite, opened in January, collected main statistics on visitors and books checked-out. The prime data are presented in table 1 above and look promising.

5-Reading Rainbow Foundation (RRF)

RRF operated a school that was heavily damaged by hurricane Irma in 2017. The school reopened in February 2020 but had to close the doors in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic. After reopening in June, the school struggled due to the reduced number of students because parents who lost their jobs could no longer afford the tuition fee. Step by step, RRF managed to get back on track with the number of students gradually increasing. RRF submitted a project proposal under R4CR which targeted on the following:

- To reconstruct the after-school classroom, including a separate sanitary facility;
- To equip the classroom with computers, desks and chairs;
- To renovate the playground with artificial turf and playground equipment.

Successful implementation of above activities resulted in an increase of new students from 5 (January 2021) to 18 (June 2021). The projection for December 2021 is set at 32 students. The renovated playground has attracted children from the neighborhood who do not have a safe environment to play. Under adult supervision, these children are allowed to use the playground facilities on the RRF premises.

6-Nanny Nurssy Foundation (NNF)

Although the Foundation officially exists only since March 2020, it has been active for over 30 years on St. Maarten offering support to vulnerable persons (homeless, elderly, single mothers) in need of shelter, clothing, food and medication. The premises of the foundation required a fundamental make-over to make it a place where vulnerable persons can use the facilities to recover from the difficulties they are facing in life.

Under the R4CR program, small renovation activities took place where the porch was widened and tiled, hurricane protection windows installed, all water, drainage and septic pipe systems put underground, a new bathroom created, and kitchen and storage facilities renovated. The project was completed within the given period and officially opened on 29 May with a short ceremony.

Renovation premises NNF



8- St. Maarten Early Childhood Development Association (SECDA)

SECDA is an umbrella organization for the private pre-schools, some of them having after-schools as well. The association currently represents 23 pre-schools/daycares. SECDA organizes workshops, training sessions and activities for the directors and teachers of the pre-schools. Activities for children are organized at pre-school level. Workshops for parents, such as "first aid" and "child abuse" are other activities organized. In this way SECDA makes the overall daycare mechanism inclusive by actively involving parents with the daily operations.

Many daycare centers did not fully recover from Irma when the COVID-19 pandemic hit St. Maarten. Not only the physical damage affected the pre-schools, but also the psychological impact of the pandemic left its marks. SECDA submitted a proposal under R4CR to provide children of all daycares the best care despite their financial struggle, by purchasing groceries which are distributed once a month for a period of 6 months (R4CR contracting period) and organize creative movement classes for all children attending one of the daycare centers. In this way, the project guaranteed that children attending the daycares received at least one healthy meal per day (US\$ 0.70 per child). In total, 440 children benefited from this food program, 5 days per week for a period of 6 months¹³.

9-Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation (SCR)

The main function of SCR is to provide opportunities to senior citizens to socialize with fellow elderly citizens at different moments. SCR owns a building suitable for organizing such events. On public holidays and other special days, joint meals and indoor/outdoor game activities are organized. The building however severely suffered from hurricane Irma.

Under R4CR, the PIU approved as a pilot activity the renovation of the restroom facility, the installation of new hurricane shutters to replace the damaged ones and painting of the main hall. Main problem during implementation was the collection of adequate and comparable quotations from three different suppliers. The PIU had multiple sessions with SCR staff to explain to them what was exactly required. Although this process turned out to be time-consuming, the final works were completed on time.

10-Animal Defenders Foundation (ADF)

The basis for ADF operations is to care for all animals on St. Maarten. With positive and consumer friendly information campaigns, ADF tries to bring awareness amongst the population of St. Maarten on how to deal with the issue of stray dogs and cats. A feeding and spay/neuter and vaccination campaign must make sure that the stray pet population is kept under control and the nuisance decreases. ADF fully depends on the involvement of volunteers.

The R4CR project focused on reducing the pet overpopulation through organizing a spay/neuter vaccination campaign and increase awareness amongst the population about treatment of stray dogs and cats. Radio commercials were broadcasted, and newspaper articles published to address the key message (see Annex 7). In total, 140 cats and dogs were spayed and/or neutered during the project implementation period. In addition, 22 animals were vaccinated. The project was successfully completed within the timeframe set.

14-Helping Hands Foundation (HHF)

HHF provides transportation services to elderly, disabled and mentally challenged persons on St. Maarten. By providing transport, these target groups become mobile and are independent, can socialize and get access to facilities and services and participate in activities.

¹³ SECDA requested an extension of project implementation until 30 June 2021 to streamline the implementation period with the school calendar.



Official Transfer of the Wheelchair Bus to HHF (January 2021)

During hurricane Irma, the then operational wheelchair bus was heavily damaged. HHF approached a car supplier on the island who, unconditionally, ordered a wheelchair bus which would fit four wheelchairs and two additional persons. However, funding of the wheelchair bus turned out to be problematic. HHF submitted a proposal under R4CR but since the maximum budget under 'Quick Win' round 1 was US\$ 50.000, HHF had to find additional resources to cover the total cost of the bus which was US\$ 75.000. With a co-financing contribution of US\$ 18.400 from 'Samenwerkende Fondsen Cariben'¹⁴ and a donation of US\$ 6.600 from the car supplier, the wheelchair bus could be transferred to HHF in an official ceremony organized on 11 February 2021 (see: Annex 7). With the transfer, the first project supported under R4CR was officially completed.

16-Foundation Catholic Education St. Maarten (SKOS)

SKOS has been collaborating with different organizations to create a Multi-Functional Recreational Park (MFRP) in Middle Region. The MFRP consists of 3 elements, a basketball court (construction finished), a garden area (completion pending) and a playground (financed under R4CR), which will help further developing the resilience of the Middle Region community. The MFRP is accessible to both the students at the adjacent school as well as the children of Middle Region community¹⁵.

¹⁴ Samenwerkende Fondsen Cariben = Caribbean Cooperation Funds (Netherlands funded).)

¹⁵ The Sister Marie Laurence Primary School was severely damaged under Irma and will remain closed until a new school building has been completed.

The project to create the playground was split into 3 different activity segments as can be seen in table 2 below. Each of these three activities focused on a separate aspect of project implementation. The 'selection of contractor' stage was separated from the rest as it was a challenging activity, not only in terms of the bidding process and the final selection of the contractor but also in terms of contractor's expectations about the involvement of parties concerned. The result however is something the community can be proud of.

The MFRP is the only recreational facility in Middle Region. It is needless to say that the community is very pleased with the end result. One resident literally said '*this is like a jewel in the rubble*'.

Table 2 Breakdown of Activities for the Playground created in Middle Region

Activity	Results achieved	Completed
Playground & Rubber Safety Tiles	1. Receiving the donated playground equipment and selecting the preferred playground equipment (as well as taking measurements)	11/27/20
	2. Creation of Safety Regulations Policy	2/19/21
	3. Design of the layout of the playground in AUTOCAD	2/26/21
	4. Calculation of m2 of rubber safety tiles	2/26/21
	5. Quotation comparison/selection of vendor rubber safety tiles	4/1/21
	6. Small repairs/cleaning of playground equipment	4/29/21
Selection of Contractor	1. Submission of 3 quotations	3/8/2021
	2. Quotation comparison/selection of contractor	3/10/21
Construction of Playground	1. Construction of playground infrastructure	4/9/21
	2. Installation of playground equipment	4/23/21
	3. Installation of fencing and lights	4/28/21
	4. Installation of rubber safety tiles & playground carpet	5/10/21

The safety measures at the playground, both during construction and once used by the children was a top priority for SKOS. During the period of construction (rubber safety mats and playground floor laid) and installation of the equipment, the playground was sealed and not accessible to outsiders. Via WhatsApp, a message circulated among the community not to use the playground because of potential danger.

Following completion of the playground, children using it during school hours will be supervised by teachers. Because it is a public area, the residents have access to the MFRP as well after school hours. To guarantee safety of the users after school hours, adult supervision is desirable but not enforceable. SKOS therefore created its own playground safety regulations. SKOS placed these at the two entrances of the playground, which clearly show the rules and regulations of the MFRP to ensure safety, sustainability and inclusion.

Playground at the MFRP in Middle Region implemented by SKOS



17-Nature Foundation (NF)¹⁶

NF aims to preserve and enhance the natural environment of St. Maarten for current and future generations. NF manages and maintains the only designated nature park area of St. Maarten, and the 30+ diving sites located on the Dutch side of the island. NF is also the scientific authority for both the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of St. Maarten.

NF started the monkey management project, funded under R4CR, in December 2020. The project aimed to determine the abundance and status of vervet monkeys on St. Maarten, and to establish sustainable and humane solutions to manage the invasive species. Halfway implementation, the project had to be transformed upon request of the WB, where the pilot testing of possible sustainable and humane solutions to manage the invasive species had to be deleted.

During the remaining part of the project, NF focused primarily on field research (mapping the geographical areas and numbers of vervet monkeys) as well as on a management option survey to gain the opinion of the St. Maarten residents. The survey resulted in 54% of the respondents choosing eradication as the best management solution, and 33% of the respondents choosing sterilization, with the last 13% of respondents choosing to do nothing. The number of monkeys sighted during field research is expected to be an underestimation of the monkey population currently present, due to the difficulty of the monkey sightings in the dense bush area and differences in residential activity time of the monkeys during the day. It is estimated that some 6 to 9 separate troops of vervet monkeys are present on the Dutch side of St. Maarten, the troops are estimated to have 10 up to a maximum of 50 individuals.

¹⁶ www.naturefoundationsxm.org

If nothing is done within the near future, the vervet monkey population on St. Maarten can rapidly increase causing further issues with native species, damage to agricultural activities and even become a threat to human safety.

The management surveys were conducted in person, with representatives of NF visiting different 'hotspots' (groceries, convenience places and hardware stores) around the island at different times of the day. This survey was not posted online nor were the hotspots declared to the public ahead of time to keep the results unbiased and demographically accurate.

It was important for the NF, R4CR, and the WB that the residents of St. Maarten were able to weigh in on the management options before a recommendation was given on how to handle this invasive species. It is a difficult decision to make morally, and many aspects must be considered. It is expected that by giving the public a voice during this process, it will ensure that the island will be more supportive to future management projects.

21-Carib Swim Team Foundation (CST)

The main goal for CST is to organize and promote swimming for the St. Maarten community. CST aims to become self-supporting, which allows to maximize its impact on the community and preserves the organization for future generations. The main aim of the project CST submitted under R4CR was to repair, improve and modernize the swimming facility. The main beneficiaries of this project are mainly the users of the swimming facility. On an annual basis the number of users directly benefiting from the facility is listed in table 3 below.

Renovation of the existing pump room, which suffered from Irma, was a key target. Until the start of the project only two out of six pumps were operational with resulted in extremely high utility expenses. With the new pumps installed and operational, CST can economize considerably on utility expenses. To improve the security for visitors, a solar lighting system on the entire premises, including car park, was another focus of the project. The previous lighting system was blown away during Irma.

The solar lighting system was completed by the end of March 2021. Before the project started CST held a quick survey how safe visitors felt in the evening. Visitors rated the safety with 4.7 on a scale of 1-10. After the installation of the solar lighting unit the rate increased to 7.2 which is a remarkable increase.

Table 3 Estimate of Number of Users of the CST Pool Facility on an Annual Basis

Beneficiaries	Estimate	Observation
CST members	200	Learning program, swimming team, master team
Other swimming teams	100	It is the only suitable pool on the island where swimmers can meet
'Mermaids'	20	Elderly women staying active and fit
French sea rescue team	25	Training facility
Maritime school	25	Training facility
'Arrifin' swim school	20	Swim school for local Indian community
Inter-scholastic elementary swim school	140	Training and meeting facility for inter-scholastic swim
Recovery/rehabilitation physiotherapy	50	On site physiotherapist
TOTAL	580	

The replacement of the pump room equipment was finalized mid-May 2021. The project was thus completed on time. It is too early to estimate the exact cost savings due to the installation of the new pumps. However, projections made by CST expect energy savings of approximately US\$ 1,000 per month which will enable CST to develop a financial reserve to be spend on other activities.

32-K1 Britannia

K1 Britannia is one of the largest volunteer organizations on St. Maarten. Immediately after the devastation by hurricane Irma in 2017, K1 became active in many areas providing relief support. However, K1 also noted that many volunteers were not prepared or did not have the right skills to face a disaster of this magnitude. K1 started the program 'K1 Disaster Relief and Crisis Team' (DIRECT), which exists now for almost four years. Under the K1 DIRECT program active support was delivered to the islands of Dominica and Bahamas which suffered from the aftermath of hurricanes.

In 2019 several volunteers were able to partake in training programs focused on disaster preparedness and disaster management. These trainings turned out to be successful and K1 wanted to share these skills with many of their volunteers.

They developed a project proposal under R4CR to execute several training sessions for those volunteers who had not participated in the program before, including the acquisition of relevant hurricane proof equipment¹⁷. The goal is to develop a key group of volunteers who are better prepared and equipped for future disasters and who can immediately act once a disaster hits St. Maarten or neighboring islands in the Caribbean.

During implementation of RCR, K1 completed a diverse set of training sessions to assist staff and volunteers to stay up-to-date and well prepared to tackle various tasks and situations that may arise. The training sessions had the following impact on trainees:

- They are more confident to respond to different scenarios due to increased skills and knowledge;
- It encourages direct volunteers that their commitment is appreciated and valued which is supportive to the retention rate of volunteers;
- Attending different training sessions further contributes to the team building process within the organization;
- Organizing training and field activities shows participants what is expected from a disaster response volunteer.

In table 4 below, an overview is given of the actual training sessions organized during the project implementation period, including the number of trainees.

Table 4 Training Sessions organized by K1 during R4CR Project Implementation

No.	Training Subject	Description	No. of Trainees
1	Psycho-social support in disasters	2-day training to provide psycho-social support after disasters	9
2	Basic Life Support	1-day training on basic life support	3
3	Coursera Plus	Bought access to a variety of courses that can be completed in due time	---
4	Excel	Microsoft Excel course part 2 and 3	4
5	UNDAC	Disaster response course by UNDAC/UN	27
6	Truck License	Driver license-C to operate a truck	2

¹⁷ The training sessions usually take place on Curaçao because the headquarters of K1 is based there. However due to COVID-19, K1 decided not to plan any training sessions overseas due to uncertain travel restrictions. Training took place on St. Maarten or through a videoconference online session.

No.	Training Subject	Description	No. of Trainees
7	Heart Saver	2-day course in CPR, AED and First Aid ¹⁸	18
8	Emergency Medical Responder	Emergency Medical Responder course	7
TOTAL			70

The 'Coursera Plus' on-line training, originally planned to provide training through seven on-line courses to 6 staff members/volunteers did not work out as planned. As a result, K1 managed to reallocate funds and organize truck driver license courses for two volunteers and an on-line course subscription to multiple on-line courses offered by various universities and private entities on disaster management from which staff and volunteers can benefit.

5.2 'Quick-Win' Round 1 – Financial

Budget Re-allocation

During implementation of 'Quick-Win' round 1, the PIU received from 5 CSOs a request for a budget re-allocation which was approved. For two projects, 4-PJL and 6-NNF, the budget for works to be implemented by external contractors were underestimated. Following this, funds from other budget line items had to be re-allocated to cover the works activities being the main objective of these projects. For two other CSOs, 10-ADF and 32-K1, the budget change resulted from the fact that some goods were no longer being purchased. Finally, one CSO, 17-NF, had to change the budget due to an amendment of the project objective.

Disbursements

In table 5 below the disbursement status overview of R4CR for 'Quick-Win' round 1 is presented¹⁹. The initial total contract sum for 'Quick Win' round 1 was fixed at US\$ 452,480.31. During project implementation, three CSOs received an addendum to increase their grant amounts, connected to indirect costs (provision for contingency) and audit fees which were not initially budgeted for. Following this, the amended total contract sum reached a level of US\$ 458,936.89. The PIU transferred a total sum of US\$ 442,831.55 (95.6% of the total allocated budget) until the end of this reporting period.

¹⁸ CPR is Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, a lifesaving technique useful in many emergency situations; AED is automated external defibrillator, used to help people experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest.

¹⁹ Version: 9 July 2021.

Project Completion

The 'Quick-Win' round 1 project period ended on 17 May 2021. Nine CSOs were able to complete their project by that date. Two out of these nine CSOs were exempted from performing an audit, because the PIU had decided to make direct payments to the supplier/contractor on behalf of these 2 CSOs (9-SCR and 14-HHF). Reference is made to table 6 below for an explanation. For the remaining seven CSOs, a specialized audit was executed which focused on the accuracy of the funds spent in verification of the original supporting documentation. The audit report included the auditor's opinion and a stamped/initialed financial report. The PIU received official audit reports from six out of the seven CSOs. Only for 21-CST the final official audit report had not yet been received before finalization of this semi-annual report due to the high workload of the auditing company.

Based on the audited financial reports recently received, seven of the nine CSOs who completed their project on time fully utilized their budget. There was one CSO that exceeded the budget (10-ADF). However, this CSO covered the difference with own resources.

There were three CSOs that requested an extension of their project period to be able to complete the project successfully (4-PJL, 8-SECDA and 32-K1)²⁰. The project period was extended with a little over month. The amended project completion date for these CSOs was set for June 30. These three CSOs are currently in the process of executing their audit.

At the end of this reporting period the PIU was able to officially close-out eight of the twelve 'Quick-Win' round 1 projects. From these eight projects the total budget was US\$ 296,666.01 and the total project expenses were US\$ 263,891.02, which resulted in a disbursement rate of 89%.

²⁰ See section 5.1 of this report for a full explanation.

Table 5 Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR) – ‘Quick-Win’ Round 1 – Disbursement Overview (June 2021)

No.	Grantee Name	Cat.	Approved Budget (Nov20)	Addendum (Feb 21)	TOTAL BUDGET	Advance Payment 1	Transfer Date	Advance Payment 2	Transfer Date	Advance Payment 3	Transfer Date	Advance Payment 4	Transfer Date	TOTAL ADVANCES	Advances as % of budget	Disb. in Dec-20	Disb. in Jan-21	Disb. in Feb-21	Disb. in Mar-21	Disb. in Apr-21	Disb. in May-21	Disb. in Jun-21	TOTAL DISBURSED	%	CONTRACT BALANCE	%
1	2-AIDS-FOUNDATION	6	32.277,62	1.508,30	33.785,92	13.860,00	10-dec-20	18.236,62	22-feb-21	1.689,30	21-jun-21	---	---	33.785,92	100,0%	4.141,04	5.746,69	4.409,14	6.575,06	12.913,99	---	---	33.785,92	100%	0,00	0%
2	4-JUBILEE-LIBRARY	5	50.000,00	0,00	50.000,00	35.450,00	4-mar-21	12.050,00	3-jun-21	---	---	---	---	47.500,00	95,0%	0,00	0,00	0,00	14.626,84	3.280,00	5.490,92	---	23.397,76	47%	26.602,24	53%
3	5-READING-RAINBOW	2	31.500,00	0,00	31.500,00	21.276,00	27-jan-21	5.755,25	19-mar-21	1.968,75	23-apr-21	2.500,00	21-jun-21	31.500,00	100,0%	0,00	4,41	22.345,93	2.623,72	2.138,95	4.386,99	---	31.500,00	100%	0,00	0%
4	6-NANNY-NURSSY	7	28.436,80	0,00	28.436,80	11.803,40	22-jan-21	10.000,00	26-feb-21	3.455,50	9-apr-21	3.177,90	23-apr-21	28.436,80	100,0%	0,00	0,00	20.672,69	9,00	3.464,50	4.290,61	---	28.436,80	100%	0,00	0%
5	8-SECDA-FOUNDATION	2	44.637,60	0,00	44.637,60	22.719,77	15-dec-20	15.000,00	23-mar-21	4.685,95	10-jun-21	---	---	42.405,72	95,0%	0,00	7.931,95	11.975,78	6.072,48	7.074,75	7.939,35	---	40.994,31	92%	3.643,29	8%
6	9-SENIOR-CITIZENS	3	15.191,55	0,00	15.191,55	5.597,13	25-feb-21	3.500,00	9-apr-21	2.097,12	21-jun-21	248,76	30-jun-21	11.443,01	75,3%	0,00	108,99	5.632,11	35,98	3.534,93	2.131,00	---	11.443,01	75%	3.748,54	25%
7	10-ANIMAL-DEFENDERS	4	16.800,00	2.800,00	19.600,00	6.592,00	21-dec-20	8.396,00	23-mar-21	4.612,00	21-jun-21	---	---	19.600,00	100,0%	2.856,08	3.194,73	1.967,39	2.728,74	3.933,80	5.025,00	-105,74	19.600,00	100%	0,00	0%
8	14-HELPING-HANDS	1	50.000,00	0,00	50.000,00	50.000,00	15-dec-20	---	---	---	---	---	---	50.000,00	100,0%	0,00	50.000,00	---	---	---	---	---	50.000,00	100%	0,00	0%
9	16-SKOS-FOUNDATION	1	49.650,40	0,00	49.650,40	15.448,13	19-mar-21	13.942,61	10-may-21	17.751,41	18-may-21	2.508,25	30-jun-21	49.650,40	100,0%	975,00	247,80	0,00	14.233,58	13.942,61	20.251,41	---	49.650,40	100%	0,00	0%
10	17-NATURE-FOUNDATION	4	41.501,34	0,00	41.501,34	23.378,05	15-dec-20	16.051,73	9-apr-21	45,11	9-jul-21	---	---	39.474,89	95,1%	3.768,54	4.032,35	5.586,56	2.654,47	8.024,09	15.408,88	---	39.474,89	95%	2.026,45	5%
11	21-CARIB-SWIM-TEAM	3	46.508,00	0,00	46.508,00	30.154,79	4-mar-21	13.161,00	20-apr-21	---	---	---	---	43.315,79	93,1%	0,00	0,00	0,00	17.348,34	5.617,50	20.349,90	---	43.315,74	93%	3.192,26	7%
12	32-K1-BRITANNIA	9	45.977,00	2.148,28	48.125,28	26.122,38	21-dec-20	19.596,64	23-apr-21	---	---	---	---	45.719,02	95,0%	3.913,24	159,79	9.301,78	4.597,41	6.146,70	13.423,54	---	37.542,46	78%	10.582,82	22%
OVERALL TOTAL 1-12			452.480,31	6.456,58	458.936,89	262.401,65		135.689,85		36.305,14		8.434,91		442.831,55	96,5%	15.653,90	71.426,71	81.891,38	71.505,62	70.071,82	98.697,60		409.141,29	89%	49.795,60	11%

-  = Three CSOs received a contract extension until 30 June 2021. Their final financial reports, including audit statements, had not been received before publication of this semi-annual report.
-  = The CSO completed the project on time. However, the final audit report had not yet been received by the PIU before publishing this semi-annual report.

Support Categories:

- community councils/neighborhood initiatives (2)
- daycare centers/after school programs and activities (2)
- sports and recreational activities/facilities (2)
- nature and environment (re-/upcycling) and animal welfare activities (2)
- art, cultural, archaeological and heritage activities (1)
- psycho-social and emotional support (1)
- poverty relief (1)
- youth employment/entrepreneurship (--)
- skills development (1)
- tackling gender-based violence (--)

Financial Management – Technical Assistance

In table 6 below a breakdown of the financial management status of CSOs during project implementation of ‘Quick-Win’ round 1 as well as the TA provided by the PIU in this period is presented.

Table 6 CSO Financial Management Status and TA Support delivered by the PIU during ‘Quick-Win’ round 1

No.	Grantee Name	Financial Management	Financial Assistance PIU
1	2-AIDS-FOUNDATION (AF)	The CSO manages and monitors their administration via a spreadsheet. Annually their administration will then be processed by an accountant into a financial administration system.	The CSO is familiar with procedures related to receiving grants and/or subsidies. Financial assistance was mainly provided as an advisory service.
2	4-PHILIPSBURG JUBILEE-LIBRARY (PJL)	The CSO has its own internal financial department and receives assistance from an external accountant who prepares financial statements. Annually an audit is performed of their financial administration.	The CSO is highly familiar with procedures related to receiving grants and/or subsidies. Financial assistance was mainly provided as an advisory service.
3	5-READING-RAINBOW FOUNDATION (RRF)	The CSO manages the cashflow kept in a spreadsheet. Annually the CSO provides the accountant with supporting documents that are processed into a financial administration system.	The CSO required frequent assistance with composing the monthly financial report. The CSO realized that it needs to improve the financial knowledge considerably.
4	6-NANNY-NURSSY FOUNDATION (NNF)	The CSO is a new organization and still in the process of organizing and implementing the administration.	The CSO required frequent assistance during project implementation. The CSO is still in a learning curve.
5	8-SECDA-FOUNDATION	The CSO has its own administrator who manages and monitors the administration through a spreadsheet. The administration will be processed on an annual basis by an accountant into a financial administration system.	The CSO needs to develop a better understanding of budgeting. The CSO needed financial assistance, but unfortunately did not take the initiative to ask for assistance from the PIU.
6	9-SENIOR-CITIZENS RECREATIONAL FOUNDATION (SCR)	The PIU managed the financial payments for this project and CSO due to limited financial capacity.	The PIU managed the financial payments for this project and paid the external contractor directly.
7	10-ANIMAL-DEFENDERS FOUNDATION (ADF)	The CSO manages and monitors its administration through a spreadsheet, which mainly depends on one individual, which is a risky exercise. The CSO has financial volunteers assisting with preparing the financial statements.	The CSO compiled the invoices on a monthly basis and was able to process this monthly in their financial reports. Financial assistance was mainly provided as an advisory service.
8	14-HELPING-HANDS FOUNDATION (HHF)	The PIU managed the financial payments for this project.	The PIU managed the financial payments for this project since only one invoice had to be handled.

No.	Grantee Name	Financial Management	Financial Assistance PIU
9	16-SKOS-FOUNDATION	The CSO has its own internal financial department and receives assistance from an external accountant who prepares the financial statements. Annually, an audit is performed of the financial administration.	The CSO is familiar with procedures related to receiving grants and/or subsidies. Financial assistance was mainly provided as an advisory service.
10	17-NATURE-FOUNDATION (NF)	The CSO hired an external accountant to put financial information on a monthly basis into a financial administrative system. Annually, an audit is performed of their financial administration.	The CSO has a high financially competent person assisting the organization. After minor financial advice from the PIU, the CSO was operating highly independent during project execution.
11	21-CARIB-SWIM-TEAM (CST)	The CSO has an experienced accountant within the board, who was responsible for the execution of the project as well as for the complete financial administration.	The CSO has a high financially competent person assisting the organization. After minor financial advice from the PIU, the CSO was operating highly independent during project execution.
12	32-K1-BRITANNIA	The CSO manages and monitors its own administration through a spreadsheet. Annually, their administration will be processed by an accountant into a financial administrative system.	The CSO realized that more financial independence is needed internally. The PIU noticed improvement in the communication of financial information following several discussions.

5.3 'Quick-Win' Round 2

According to plan, VNGI-PIU was supposed to organize in the first year of implementation two so-called 'Quick-Win' application rounds. The main reason for such 'Quick-Wins' was to keep the momentum going and to quickly show visible results to the St. Maarten community which could convince other CSOs to also apply under future grant rounds. The total envelope available for 'Quick-Win' round 2 was fixed at US\$ 750.000 with a budget cap for individual projects of US\$ 50.000²¹. Both figures are slightly higher than the amounts under 'Quick-Win' round 1.

The fact that 'Quick-Win' round 1 was on track, made the PIU decide to start planning for 'Quick-Win' round 2 early February 2021. Similar to what was done by the end of August/early September 2020, the PIU scheduled a few information sessions in which general R4CR program information was provided as well as the application process explained. The PIU organized five information sessions. Section 6.2.2 of this report provides more details about these information sessions. The deadline for submitting proposals under 'Quick-Win' round 2 was set for Friday 2 April 2021.

²¹ See also chapter 10 (Project Technical Committee) in this report.




REGISTER NOW!
For face-to-face or online sessions

R4CR
GRANT INFORMATION SESSIONS
ROUND 2
FOR NON-PROFITS

SCHEDULE:
Wed. Feb. 10 - 18:00 - 19:15
Wed. Feb. 10 - 19:30 - 20:45
Thu. Feb. 11 - 18:00 - 19:15
Thu. Feb. 11 - 19:30 - 20:45
Wed. Feb. 17 - 18:00 - 19:15
Wed. Feb. 17 - 19:30 - 20:45
Thu. Feb. 18 - 18:00 - 19:15
Thu. Feb. 19 - 19:30 - 20:45
Sat. Feb. 27 - 11:00 - 11:45 (ONLINE)
(face-to-face meetings on these days are limited to 10 persons)

TO REGISTER:
EMAIL: info@r4cr.otg www.r4cr.org

Call by the PIU to enroll for 'Quick-Win' round 2 information sessions (February 2021)

The PIU slightly amended the previous version of the Grant Manual (GM) where experiences from 'Quick-Win' round 1 were included. An updated version of the GM was put on the R4CR Website. Electronic versions of the amended templates for the Technical and Financial Proposal were made available to applicants through the Website as well. Potential applicants were challenged to contact the PIU once any additional information was required or an explanation needed. Several CSOs approached the PIU for additional clarifications in the weeks preceding the deadline.

The final deadline for submitting proposals was Friday 2 April 2021. By that day, the PIU had received a total of 23 project proposals which is considerably lower compared to 'Quick-Win' round 1. What the PIU noticed under 'Quick-Win' round 2 was that less proposals were submitted at the very last moment. Apparently, organizations learned from the first round that it did not make much sense to just submit an idea without meeting the basic program conditions. The fact that the overall quality of the proposals submitted was at a higher level compared to 'Quick-Win' round 1 was also promising and meant that the information made available previously by the PIU apparently had paid off.

Immediately after the official deadline closed, the PIU started evaluating the proposals. First, proposals were assessed based on completeness.

This resulted in a rejection of six proposals which were incomplete or did not meet the basic requirements. Of the remaining seventeen proposals, a technical and financial assessment was made which learned that another five proposals, which may have a potential for future funding, did not pass the critical limit of 70%, set as a minimum for qualifying under 'Quick-Win' round 2.

Table 7 List of Grantees selected under 'Quick-Win' Round 2 including Approved Budget (June 2021)

NO.	GRANTEE NAME	CAT.	TOTAL BUDGET
1	1-EXCELLENCE LEARNING ACADEMY	2	44.299,00
2	3-SINT MAARTEN YACHT CLUB	3	53.525,00
3	5-KIDZ AT SEA	4	57.978,00
4	6-BE THE CHANGE	5	37.019,00
5	7-FREEGAN FOOD	7	59.970,00
6	9-DISCOVERY KIDZ	2	45.192,00
7	10-JUSTITIELE INSTELLINGEN	10	42.705,00
8	11-RISC TAKERS FOOTBALL CLUB	3	25.626,00
9	13-DOW MUSICAL	5	60.000,00
10	19-UNIVERSITY OF SINT MAARTEN	9	56.444,00
11	20-SXM EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	7	59.577,00
12	22-SENIOR CITIZENS	1	21.953,00
OVERALL TOTAL 1-12			564.288,00

Support Categories:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. community councils/neighborhood initiatives (1) | 6. psycho-social and emotional support (--) |
| 2. daycare centers/after school programs and activities (2) | 7. poverty relief (2) |
| 3. sports ad recreational activities/facilities (2) | 8. youth employment/entrepreneurship (--) |
| 4. nature and environment (re-/upcycling) and animal welfare activities (1) | 9. skills development (1) |
| 5. art, cultural, archaeological and heritage activities (1) | 10. tackling gender-based violence (1) |

The remaining twelve projects scored more than 70% and were in principle selected for funding. The PIU was pleased to see that, like round 1, the twelve projects cover eight of the ten thematic areas identified under the R4CR program. A detailed assessment report was prepared by the PIU and shared with the PTC as well as the NRPB and WB for information²². In Annex 4 to this report, an overview of all 23 applications submitted under 'Quick-Win' round 2 is presented including requested and approved budget and brief argumentation why a project was approved or rejected. In table 7 above, the awarded CSOs are listed together with the approved project contract budget. The overall total budget approved under "Quick-Win' round 2 tallied up to US\$ 564,288.



'Quick-Win' round 2 – Agenda of the Official Launch Event

Following the final evaluation of the proposals, VNGI approached the NRPB for calling the PTC together where a formal endorsement of the successful applications had to be made. The PTC, held on 24 May 2021 as a zoom session, formally approved the number of grantees operating under 'Quick-Win' round 2. Reference is made to chapter 9 of this report for more information.

²² Reference is made to the following document: Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR) – Quick-Win Application Round 1 – Assessment Report, May 2021.

In between, the PIU prepared a separate additional report for the WB describing the identified risks and mitigation measures of all twelve approved grantee proposals as described in chapter 4 above²³. Taken all the hurdles, the PIU scheduled a session for the official launch of 'Quick-Win' round 2 and planned this for Wednesday 16 June 2021.

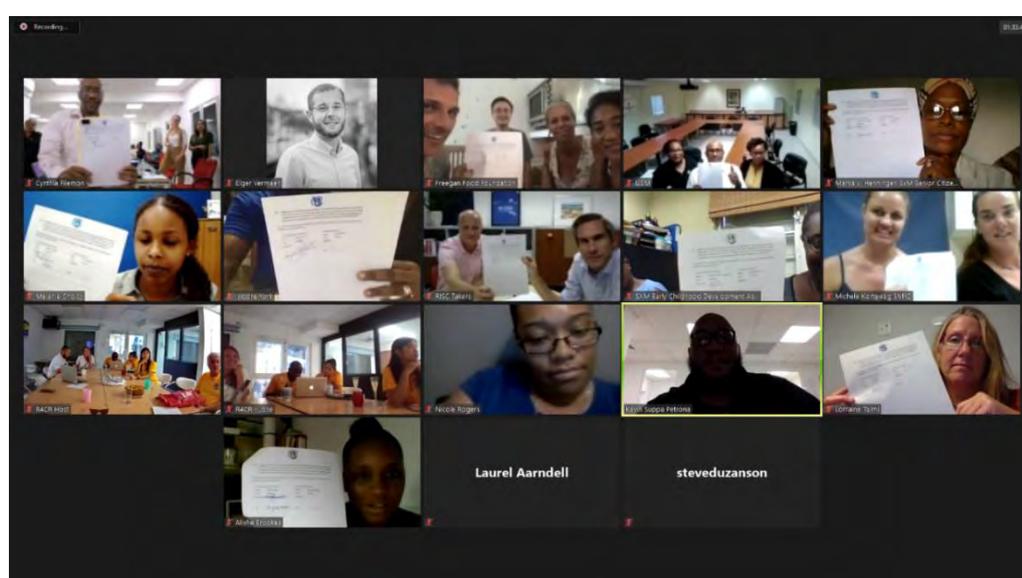
The virtual signing ceremony was hosted by local radio personality and R4CR communications advisor Kevin 'Suppa' Petrona who invited the VNP representative, Mr. Chris Johnson, to kick off the formal part of the ceremony. Mr. Johnson congratulated the twelve grant recipients for their hard work in securing the grant. The honorable Prime Minister Mrs. Silveria Jacobs commended the role that CSOs play in areas where the government does not have enough resources to act immediately or effectively. That is really where CSOs make a large contribution to our society the Prime Minister concluded. Mr. Marcel Gumbs spoke on behalf of the Trust Fund SC and was impressed by the impact small scale projects have on the local community. Mr. Gumbs encouraged other CSOs to make use of the opportunities the R4CR program offers. Mrs. Michelle Keane, representing the WB, congratulated R4CR and the grant recipients with the launch of the 'Quick-Win' round 2. Mrs. Keane also underscored the important role CSOs play in the countries where the WB is active. Mr. Peter Knip, Director of VNGI, the implementing entity behind R4CR, joined in from the Netherlands and spoke proudly of the role VNGI is playing in the R4CR program and stressed the importance of nurturing CSOs to be successful in their projects because of the direct impact they have on local communities. Finally, Mr. Rolf Hunink, R4CR team leader, gave a short synopsis of the twelve projects successfully implemented under 'Quick-Win' round 1 and looked forward to the new projects of round 2.

After the official speeches, host 'Suppa' gave each of the twelve grant recipients exactly one minute to pitch their project to the online audience or risk being drowned out by the newly introduced CSO song ('We are One', written by local Soca artist King Vers) after the one-minute deadline.

The Sint Maarten Yacht Club (SMYC) kicked off the one-minute pitches with their sailing program for a second local primary school in addition to a Swim-to-Sail program where children will learn to swim as a precursor to the sailing program. Next up was Excellence Learning Academy (ELA) who pitched their project for activities for special-needs-children as well as additional staff training. The Kidz at Sea (KAS) Foundation will use their grant to train local young adults how to dive and map underwater debris left by hurricane Irma in the coastal areas. Beautification of urban areas through murals is how Be The Change (BTC) Foundation will use their grant while Freegan Food Foundation (FFF) plans to set up a social food depot where 50 families living below the poverty line can shop for healthy alternatives. The project of Stichting Justitiële Instellingen Bovenwinden (SJIB) prevents convicts from reoffending by starting mediation sessions and train key personnel. The RISC Takers Football club (RTF) only needed 30 seconds to pitch their project as it involves buying a bus in a co-financing agreement with the French Football Federation.

²³ Reference is made the following document: Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR) – Quick-Win Application Round 2 – Identified Risks and Mitigation Measures for approved Grantee Proposals, June 2021.

With a musical pitch the Dow Musical Foundation (DMF) announced plans to teach school kids, prisoners and youngsters in the juvenile detention center how to play steel pan. Tackling adult literacy is the goal of the project pitched by the University of St. Maarten (USM). This hidden problem will finally get due attention. The final two pitches were on opposite sides of the age scale. The Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation (SCR) will continue repairs to their building which started under 'Quick-Win' round 1 and the Sint Maarten Early Childhood Development Association (SECDA) will continue their 'Quick-Win' round 1 project of supplying food to all daycares on the island. Technical difficulties prevented Discovery Kidz Foundation (DKF) from delivering their one-minute pitch, but the reconstruction project was explained by the PIU.



On-line signing ceremony by grantees of 'Quick-Win' round 2 (16 June 2021)

The launch ended with the symbolic signing of the grant agreement as all twelve CSOs simultaneously lifted their pen, signed their grant agreement and showed the signed document. The signing of the grant agreement and singing the CSO song marked the official launch of 'Quick-Win' round 2 implementation.

The week after the official ceremony, the PIU organized for the grantees active under 'Quick-Win' round 2, the Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT which is an obligatory part for all CSOs implementing projects under R4CR. In-depth information on the PDT performance, including assessment by participants can be found in section 6.2.2 below. For the PDT session, the PIU amended parts of the Project Operations Manual (POM) more in particular the sections dealing with auditing and procurement following experiences from round 1. A hard copy and soft versions of the POM were shared with the twelve successful grantees operational under 'Quick-Win' round 2.

All grantees were requested to forward the official signed contract with the PIU which had to be countersigned by VNGI. Once this was completed, grantees could start formally implementing their project for the coming six-month period until December 2021.

In table 8 below, an overview is presented of all recruitment and procurement activities undertaken during this reporting period together with the formal date of approval.

Table 8 R4CR Procurement and Recruitment Overview

Overview of recruitment and major procurement			
Date	Topic		Approval
12 May 2021	External financial audit PPG		WB No objection
30 October 2020	Recruitment of Independent GBV and SEA counsellor		WB No objection
30 October 2020	Recruitment of EHS Safeguards Specialist		WB No objection
5 October 2020	Recruitment of Communications and Outreach Specialist		Direct selection after WB clearance of ToR
25 September 2020	Recruitment of Deputy Team Leader and Finance and Control Specialist		Open procedure after WB clearance of ToR
22 July 2020	Recruitment of Team Leader, Grants Manager and Capacity Building and Training Manager		WB confirmation of continuation after PPG-period
Overview of approved instruments			
Date original version	Date updated version	Topic	Approval
9 July 2021	-	Capacity Building and Training Plan (CBTP)	Pending WB approval
7 April 2021	-	Financial Manual	Pending WB approval
26 May 2021	-	Procurement Plan	WB approval
22 January 2021	-	Approval of LMP and SEP	WB approval
22 October 2020	-	Approval of ESMF and ESCP	WB approval
19 October 2020	1 June 2021	Project Operations Manual	WB approval
20 July 2020	3 February 2021	Grants Manual	WB approval
16 June 2020	-	Project Procurement Strategy	WB approval

6 Training and Capacity Strengthening

6.1 Objectives and Capacity Building & Training Plan

In March 2021 a start was made with writing a draft Capacity Building and Training Plan (CBTP). Although this plan still requires formal approval from the WB, this chapter follows the structure as used in the plan to describe the different training activities performed²⁴.

In the CBTP, the objectives of the capacity strengthening, and technical assistance component are defined as follows:

- Increase successful completion of the CSO projects by providing TA and offering training opportunities;
- Strengthen the capacity of CSOs to improve resilience and sustainability of the civil society on St. Maarten in general and the individual CSOs more in particular.

The first objective focuses more on the short term whereas the second objective emphasizes the overall resilience aim of the St. Maarten TF program. Objective one, being the key to the capacity development component, got special attention during implementation of 'Quick-Win' round 1 and the preparation for 'Quick-Win' round 2. In table 9 below an overview is presented of the different phases, categories and types of training offered to CSO staff participating in R4CR.

Table 9 Outline of Capacity Building and Training Plan Structure

Phase	Category	Type
1. Pre-Grant Phase	Pre-Grant distribution information and grant writing component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sessions • Grant application support training
2. Project Preparation Phase	General Mandatory Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT)
3. Project Implementation Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual CSO guidance and coaching • Needs- and interest-based skills training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual CSO meetings and site visits by PIU • Workshops and trainings on a variety of topics
4. Project Completion Phase	General Mandatory Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Benchmark Training (LBT)

²⁴ A draft version of the Capacity Building and Training Plan (CBTP) was shared with the WB on 8 July 2021.

6.2 Capacity Building and Training Activities

Capacity building and training related activities conducted during this reporting period can be divided into four separate phases and covered both 'Quick-Win' round 1 and round 2. 'Quick-Win' round 1 activities focused on project implementation and completion whereas 'Quick-Win' round 2 activities covered the pre-grant and project preparation phases.

Table 10 Phase-wise Training during 'Quick-Win' round 1 and 'Quick-Win' round 2

Phase	'Quick-Win' round 1	'Quick-Win' round 2
1. Pre-Grant Phase		Pre-Grant distribution of information and grant writing
2. Project Preparation Phase		Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT) as part of the General Mandatory Training
3. Project Implementation Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual CSO Guidance & coaching Needs & Interest based Training 	
4. Project Completion Phase	Learning Benchmark Training (LBT) as part of the General Mandatory Training	

6.2.1 'Quick-Win' round 1: Project Implementation and Project Completion Phase

Individual CSO Guidance and Coaching

Due to the diversity in nature of projects and variation in knowledge and skills level of CSO staff, the PIU spent considerable time on individual coaching of staff and overall guidance of projects. This way of tailor-made capacity strengthening, and guidance activities was reflected in meetings within the PIU office, E-mail and phone call exchanges, and/or on-site project visits²⁵.

The following are just a few of the subject areas where CSOs requested assistance from the PIU or where the PIU considered it to be necessary to provide additional support:

- Procurement, drafting contracts and collection of quotations;
- Monthly technical and financial reporting;
- Completion of forms in relation to environmental and social standards;
- Support with requests for advanced payments and other finance related issues;
- Project planning and time management;
- Mediation on organizational management related to the project;
- Communication procedures.

²⁵ Reference is made to Annex 5 of this report which lists systematically all support sessions organized by the PIU during this reporting period.

Needs- and Interest Based Training

Based on CSO specific interests and needs, staff could enroll to attend additional workshops organized by Foresee Foundation under the NPower program. NPower celebrated international NGO day by organizing its annual NGO conference on Saturday 27 February through a series of on-line workshops. The event offered sessions on twelve different subject areas on-line which ran simultaneously via 3 breakout rooms.

In the period April-June, eight training workshops were organized each one lasting between 2-6 hours. Topics covered areas such as grant and report writing, insurances for CSOs, basic accounting and budgeting, writing SMART objectives, project management and effective publicity. Of these eight workshops, the accounting, budgeting and project management sessions were facilitated by PIU staff. For the remaining sessions external trainers were contracted.

The training sessions were not restricted to CSO staff operating under R4CR exclusively but also accessible for staff of all CSOs active on St. Maarten. Some grantees active under 'Quick-Win' round 1 used this opportunity to increase their skills and knowledge level and participated in one or more of the training sessions. Table 11 below provides an overview of the participation rate of CSOs active under R4CR including the final rating they gave to the usefulness of the training.

Table 11 Overview of NPower Conference and Workshop Activities

NGO Conference (Feb 2021)	Facilitator	# Hours	R4CR # CSOs	Average Score
Conference "2 for 1"	PIU (R4CR 'Quick-Win' round 2 information session)	6	9	
Workshop Series (Apr-June 2021)	Facilitator	# Hours	R4CR # CSOs	Average Score
Insurances	External	3	2	4.0
Grant writing	External	4	2	3.5
Report writing	External	2	5	3.9
SMART Objectives	External	2	2	3.2
Project Management	R4CR PIU	4	5	3.8
Effective Publicity	External	6	2	3.8
Basic Accounting	R4CR PIU	4	3	3.7
Budgeting	R4CR PIU	2	2	3.5
Total Average		27		3.7

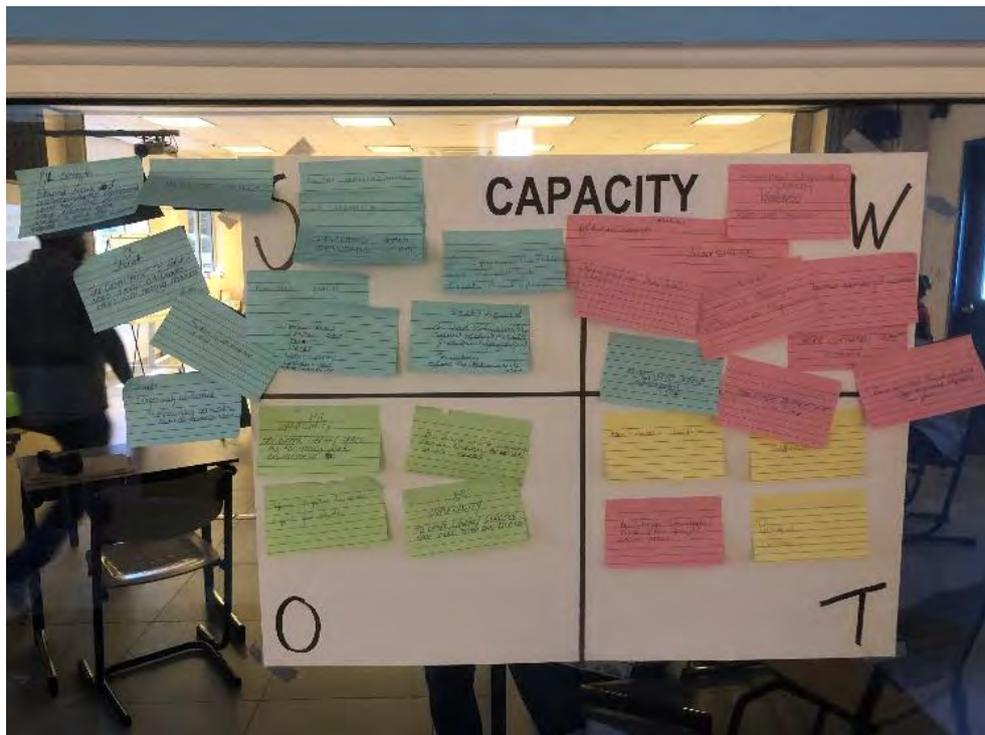
Score on a 1-4 scale: 4 (Excellent), 3 (Good), 2 (Fair), 1 (Needs Improvement)

Learning Benchmark Training (LBT)

The LBT is described as a participation driven training event, a day where board/staff and volunteers of CSO grant recipients provide and share their experiences, achievements, bottlenecks and lessons learned during the period of project implementation with peers from fellow organizations.

The PIU decided to schedule this training session a few weeks before completion of 'Quick-Win' round 1, partly because the learning experiences gained could then be shared in the final report to be produced by the CSOs. A step-by-step self-assessment was chosen regarding the main aspects of the program, namely capacity, finance, social and environmental safeguards and communication. These themes were examined through a SWOT analysis.

Participants brainstormed about their own organization and project and identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats per theme, which were further explored through presentations and discussions. At the end of the day each of the twelve CSOs gave a short presentation on a few achievements and challenges. The day was closed off with an evaluation and a group picture.



Learning Benchmark Training Session – Hands-on Activity (June 2021)

Table 12 Evaluation Results LBT – ‘Quick-Win’ round 1 (June 21)

		ORGANIZATION #												AVG per CSO
Learning Benchmark Training (LBT)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	LBT topics?	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	3.5
2	hands-on activities?	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	3.3
3	style of presentation?	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3.7
4	opportunity to share experiences	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3.7
5	opportunity to network?	4	3	4	4	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	3.4
6	LBT location?	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3.7
7	provision of drinks and the lunch?	4	4	2	1	1	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	3.2
	Overall impression and delivery of LBT?	4	3	-	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	3.5

Score on a 1-4 scale: 4 (Excellent), 3 (Good), 2 (Fair), 1 (Needs Improvement)

Table 13 Overall Project Evaluation by CSOs participating in ‘Quick-Win’ round 1 (June 21)

		ORGANIZATION #												AVG per CSO
About ‘Quick-Win’ Round 1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	Did your organization improve its knowledge and skills about grant management?	4	4	4	3	4	4	2	3	4	4	4	3	3.6
2	Did your organization become stronger in terms of capacity (improved time management, reporting, governance? knowledge of procedures)	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	3.7
3	Do you feel that this project reflected your needs?	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3.9
4	Are you satisfied with the results of your project?	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3.8
5	Did you receive satisfactory support from the R4CR PIU team?	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	3.8
	Overall impression of ‘Quick-Win’ round 1 and your project?	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3.8

Score on a 1-4 scale: 4 (Excellent), 3 (Good), 2 (Fair), 1 (Needs Improvement)



'Quick-Win' round 1 CSO Project Team Members – Projects Completed! (June 2021)

6.2.2 'Quick-Win' round 2 – Pre-Grant Phase and Project Preparation Phase

Information sessions

Potential applicants had the choice to enroll for one of the eight scheduled physical information sessions divided over 4 evenings organized by the PIU in February 2021 within its own office or to register for the on-line information session as part of the NGO conference. Of the eight planned sessions, four sessions were organized on 10, 17 and 18 February respectively²⁶. A final, virtual online information session was held on Saturday 27 February as a separate workshop during the annual NGO conference organized by Foresee Foundation/NPOwer.

The main objective of the sessions was to familiarize participants with the grant scheme process for 'Quick-Win' round 2, the implementation of which was expected to start in June-July 2021.

Table 14 Participation and Attendance Rate in R4CR Information Sessions

	total no. of CSOs present	total persons representing a CSO
Wednesday, 10 February 2021	8	8
Wednesday, 17 February 2021	8	8
Thursday, 18 February 2021 (session 1)	10	10
Thursday, 18 February 2021 (session 2)	8	8
Saturday, 27 February 2021	24	26
Grand Total	58	60

The face-to-face sessions were held at the new R4CR office with a maximum of 10 participants per session adhering to social distancing regulations due to COVID-19. The online session was also presented in the R4CR office which served as the hub during the NGO conference.

²⁶ On Thursday 18 February two sessions were organized.

Overall, the five sessions reached in total 60 persons representing 58 different CSOs on Sint Maarten. This is approximately half of the number of organizations/persons that participated in the information sessions under 'Quick-Win' round 1. An explanation for this could be the fact that already many CSO staff are aware of the application process rules and regulations. Either they participated in previous information sessions or familiarized themselves with information made available by the PIU through the R4CR Website and/or (social) media. Table 14 above shows the attendance and participation rate during the information sessions. The PowerPoint presentation designed for 'Quick-Win' round 1 was updated and the amended version used as main presentation instrument during the five sessions.

Grant Application Support Training

CSOs are continuously told to contact the PIU at any time if they have questions or need support with completing their grant application forms. For some this appears to be a barrier where others feel the need getting more in-depth information before starting to write or submit an application proposal. The PIU therefore decided, as a test case, to schedule a few additional sessions entirely focused on the grant application process where PIU staff provided hands-on assistance and guidance to a maximum of 5 CSOs per session with their project application. The main emphasis of the support was on structuring and drafting solid technical and financial proposals ready to be submitted as part of the 'Quick-Win' round 2 cycle. It must be mentioned here that the PIU only provide guidance and advice. The PIU did not mean to write the documents for the CSO which would have had a minimum learning impact on the respective organization. Table 15 below shows that there was indeed interest from the CSOs witness the fact that in total, 10 organizations and 15 CSO staff employees participated in these sessions.

Table 15 Grant Application Support Training Participation

	17 March	18 March	Total
Number of persons	8	7	15
Number of organizations	5	5	10

Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT)

The PDT took place on Saturday 26 June at the Senior Citizen Recreational Center, one of the grantees benefiting from 'Quick-Win' round 1, which was so kind to make the facility available to the PIU free of charge. All twelve grant recipients selected for 'Quick-Win' round 2 were represented by 1-4 staff members totaling 26 participants. They represented a CSO in the position of project manager, board member and/or financial expert.

The set-up of the PDT systematically followed the Project Operations Manual (POM) which is the background guideline document for all successful applicants during project implementation. After repeating the one-minute introduction pitch provided during the official launch of 'Quick-Win' round 2 on 16 June, the technical section of the POM was presented with a special focus on the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS).

To create more awareness and understanding of the ESS, participants identified several risks and formulated mitigation measures typical for their own project.

After a short break, internal and external communication was presented emphasizing on effective communication by using different sources. The session was closed off with a separate presentation on finance and procurement issues.

Evaluation sheets completed by all participants show that the expectations were met. The main results are included in table 16 below. On a scale of 1-4 the overall training experience was rated with a 3.7 where the usefulness of the content and the knowledge of the presenters scored high. Given the diversity of the projects and the different knowledge and skills level among and within CSOs, it is hard to determine the right pace of this type of mandatory training. What is too slow for one, might be too fast for another. A score of 3.3 shows that the pace apparently was rated as satisfactory.

Table 16 Evaluation Results PDT – Quick-Win’ round 2 (June 21)

	Round 2 Average	Round 1 Average
The usefulness of the content?	3.8	3.6
The hands-on activities?	3.2	3.1
The presenters’ knowledge of the subject?	3.9	3.7
The style of presenting?	3.5	3.5
The pace of the presentation?	3.3	3.5
The extent to which learning goals for this seminar were met?	3.7	3.3
The hand-outs provided at the start of the workshops?	3.7	3.6
The location and facilities?	3.7	---
Provision of snacks and drinks?	3.5	---
Your overall impression of the delivery of this seminar?	3.7	3.5

Score on a 1-4 scale: 4 (Excellent), 3 (Good), 2 (Fair), 1 (Needs Improvement)

Compared to ‘Quick-Win’ round 1 the results show an improvement in most areas. Although it is difficult to prove, it is obvious that the insights based on experiences from the ‘Quick-Win’ round 1, together with the choice of an improved location for ‘Quick-Win’ round 2 has contributed to the higher scores.

7 Communication and Outreach

7.1 External communication with CSOs and the community

With regard to communication, the focus in the first months after the start of R4CR was mainly on getting the program going and start the 'Quick-Win' round 1 as soon as possible. It was a bit of work to find the right information channels and disseminate the correct messages about the project. However, following the activation of both the R4CR Website and the Facebook page, the PIU was able to communicate in a much more targeted way messages to different project stakeholders. The next step was that the PIU had a closer look at the key role of communicating and disseminating information about the R4CR program in 2021 and beyond. A communication plan was designed targeting the use of the different media including their outlets and tools with special emphasis on their reach and target groups.

Given the nature of the program, there is a strong belief within the PIU that in addition to the information provided by R4CR, the CSOs are key in increasing public interest about their projects as they are grassroots organizations operating within the community with a wide reach. All CSOs have their own specific individual network system penetrating the capillaries of the society. R4CR on the other hand has a more general network developed, functioning as an overarching system. The two systems together complement each other nicely. Even more reason to let the CSOs play an active and leading role in promoting and sharing information about their individual projects. In this way they can increase their own visibility and contribute to making the objectives of R4CR more visible in the wider community.

7.2 Media outlets

The PIU identified five different tools or media outlets which are useful and beneficial in sharing R4CR program content and CSO project information. Together they reach the larger part of the St. Maarten community considering that these outlets are accessible and used by most target groups although preferences tend to differ. By covering all these media outlets, the PIU strongly believes that it has a wide reach in disseminating information about the R4CR program.

Website

The R4CR Website includes a fixed number of pages with a specific layout. Although the Website is updated at frequent intervals, the content is static and does not change as a response to user actions. The Website serves as core communication tool providing CSOs and the public with basic R4CR information referred to in meetings, press releases, social and broadcasting media.

In 2021 the Website was extended with one additional page describing the environmental and social standards more specifically, including relevant documentation on this topic.

The total number of forms (messages with questions about the Website) increased from 15 to 18. Downloads related to applications, R4CR press releases, pictures of the project teams and 'Quick-Win' round 2 applications were added as well.



Homepage of the R4CR Website

Press Releases

During this reporting period, six press releases have been published by the PIU. In addition to the only printed newspaper on St. Maarten, the Daily Herald, press releases were shared with five online newspapers as well. Approximately 50% of the CSOs active under 'Quick-Win' round 1 prepared their own press releases. Journalists reported on some of the activities of both R4CR and the grantees. An overview of the press releases is presented in table 17 below. A full printed version of the articles is attached separately to this report and can be found in Annex 7.

Table 17 Attention paid by the Local Press to R4CR (January – June 2021)²⁷

Date	Project	Title
19 January 2021	Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL)	Philipsburg Jubilee Library opens satellite in Cay Hill
10 February 2021	Reading Rainbow (RRF)	Reading Rainbow launches 'active fingers Shaping Minds'
5 February 2021	R4CR-program	R4CR to launch Quick Win Round 2

²⁷ See also Annex 7 of this report.

Date	Project	Title
24 February 2021	R4CR-program	R4CR wrapping up info sessions Quick Win Round 2 ~Call for proposals March 1 to April 2 ~
19 February 2021	Helping Hands Foundation (HHF)	Helping Hands Foundation acquires new wheelchair bus
9 March 2021	Helping Hands Foundation (HHF)	Helping Hands hosts free island tours this month
9 April 2021	R4CR-program	R4CR Quick Win Round 2 off to a Flying Start '23 Proposals Received'
24 May 2021	R4CR-program	State Secretary Knops visits DMF and Sister Marie Laurence School
8 June 2021	R4CR-program	R4CR Quick-Win Round 1 end on high note
11 June 2021	Animal Defenders Foundation (ADF)	Tangible impact of grant for Animal Defenders St. Maarten
11 June 2021	Reading Rainbow Foundation (RRF)	Reading Rainbow officially re-opens, unveils its new afterschool location
21 Juni 2021	R4CR-program	R4CR officially launches Quick Win Round 2 ~US\$564,289 in grants approved for local projects ~
22 June 2021	Nature Foundation (NF)	The Nature Foundation St. Maarten Successfully Completes Monkey Management Project as Part of the R4CR Grant Scheme and Urges for Management Option to be Implemented
29 June 2021	R4CR-program	R4CR Pre-Disbursement Training Complete ~Twelve local projects ready to start~

Facebook

R4CR's Facebook page 'R4CRSXM' was initially used for posting R4CR messages. In 2021, a start was made with sharing CSO project posts placed on own Facebook pages. In table 18 below, a summary of data about the total number of posts, outreach separated by R4CR and CSO content for two different periods during the first year of R4CR implementation is presented. More detailed information can be found in Annex 6.

The number of posts in 2021 increased by 59% where the biggest shift was made by making the R4CR Facebook page accessible to posts of CSO projects. Although the reach has remained the same during this reporting period, first efforts are made to increase the grantees profiles. This is in line with the vision of the PIU to give the CSOs a prominent place under R4CR, thereby increasing visibility and impact.

Table 18 Number of Facebook Posts under R4CR

Data	Jul-Dec 2020	Jan-Jun 2021
Total posts	32	46
Increase in posts in first half year 2021		59%
% Posts R4CR/Total	94%	46%
% Posts CSOs/Total	6%	54%
% Posts CSOs/Total of 12 CSOs	17%	92%
Total Reach	11,265	12,196
Total Engagement	952	1,345

One of R4CR’s challenges is keeping itself informed about posts from the CSO grantees to share their achievements while not spending too much time scrolling the Facebook posts. Therefore, the ‘Quick-Win’ round 2 grantees are requested to work with hashtags ‘#’ and the address sign ‘@’ enabling a direct connection with the R4CR Facebook page. This will facilitate the PIU to easily share the CSOs posts on its own page.



Radio host ‘Suppa’ with Nanny Nurssy after the R4CR interview

Another possibility of increasing the outreach is to share CSOs messages through the Foresee Foundation NPOwer’s community organizations social media network. This public Facebook group can be used by all CSOs sharing their projects and activities. CSOs who register themselves as member can post themselves. The PIU also uses this local community network group with over 800 members to share R4CR posts directly. This is seen as a solid complementary mechanism in expanding the outreach of R4CR.

Interviews with Broadcasting Media.

The St. Maarten media have always been extremely receptive to facilitating messages from the society. The broadcasting media, radio and television, are deeply rooted in the St. Maarten media landscape and welcome the hard work performed by CSOs.

Many radio stations have weekly programs where the public and private sector request airtime. Usually, these services must be paid for by the public and private sector. Several radio and television hosts however gave their support free of charge and invited CSOs in their program to express their message (see table 19 below).

During the first six months of 2021 the extended PIU team represented by 'St. Maarketing', Alston Lourens, and 'Suppa' Media, Kevin Petrona scheduled interviews with all twelve 'Quick-Win' round 1 grant recipients. Except for 1 or 2, all organizations went on air.

Table 19 Attention paid by Local Radio Stations paid to R4CR (January – June 2021)

Laser 101 – 'Suppa' Morning Show

Date	CSO
April/May 2021	Reading Rainbow Foundation (RRF), Helping Hands Foundation (HHF), Aids Foundation (AF)
June 8 @ 8:45	R4CR – PIU
June 9 @ 7:45	GBNM Nanny Nurssy Foundation (NNF)
June 10 @ 7:45	Animal Defenders (AD)
June 10 @ 8:45	Carib Swim Team (CST)
June 14 @ 8:45	Foundation Catholic Education (SKOS)
June 15 @ 7:45	Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL)
June 15 @ 8:45	SECDA
June 16 @ 7:45	Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation (SCR)
June 17 @ 8:45	K1 Britannia
June 29 @ 8:45	Nature Foundation (NF)

My 88.3 – 'My Good-morning Show'

Date (Tue)	CSO
May 25 @ 8:30	Helping Hands Foundation (HHF)
June 1 @ 8:30	Reading Rainbow Foundation (RRF)
June 8 @ 8:30	Foundation Catholic Education (SKOS)
June 15 @ 8:30	Aids Foundation (AF)
June 22 @ 8:30	Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL)
June 29 @ 8:30	K1 Britannia
July/August	SECDA, Carib Swim Team (CST), Animal Defenders (AD), Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation (SCR), Nanny Nurssy Foundation (NNF), K1 Britannia

Graphics

Graphics with short messages on announcements of important events are very powerful as they are easily read and communicated via the different media channels. During this reporting period, R4CR used several visuals in the R4CR branding colors blue, orange and white. Graphics were designed by the communication expert for among others:

- The launch of 'Quick-Win' round 2 application and information sessions held in February 2021;
- Reminders on information sessions;
- Congratulations expressed to CSOs grant applicants;
- Public holiday well wishes on behalf of R4CR.

E-mail/Telephone messaging

E-mail and/or telephone messaging is mainly used to communicate directly with CSOs. The R4CR E-mail address (info@r4cr.org) is the central contact point for both the CSOs and the PIU. It keeps the communication lines short and simple, both internally and externally.

The NPOwer CSO database is used to reach all CSOs, including those who are not (yet) an R4CR grant recipient. This is particularly important for the dissemination of information regarding the start-up phase for future grant application rounds.

7.3 'Quick-Win' Round 2 Communication and Outreach

Based on experiences from the first round, the PIU decided to further improve visibility by including a formal communication and outreach component in the special conditions section, which is a separate attachment to the official Grant Agreement with CSOs. All grantees are obliged to draft a minimum of two press releases, issue four Facebook posts related to their project and participate in two radio interviews during the six-month implementation period of their project. The main aim is to achieve maximum exposure and outreach about their project activities during the lifetime of the project.

8

External Missions and Visits

Mission 1: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands – January 2021

The PIU was informed by the Representation of the Netherlands in Philipsburg (VNP) of a planned mission by the State Secretary Home Affairs to St. Maarten on 7 January. VNP asked whether a visit to the new office of R4CR would be possible to provide the State Secretary with a status update of R4CR. Because this was the first mission under the recently started program, the PIU decided to receive the State Secretary at its office to explain the main program components and activities organized which resulted in the 12 projects implemented under 'Quick-Win' round 1 through a PowerPoint presentation.

Mission 2: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands – January 2021

The representative of the Netherlands in Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK), Mr. Erwin Arkenbout, paid a visit to St. Maarten in general and the R4CR office more in particular on 19 January 2021 to learn more about the R4CR program. Mr. Arkenbout was joined by Mr. Wim Bekker representing BZK. The PIU team prepared a presentation on the status of the R4CR program and the on-going project activities under Quick-Win round 1. The time was too short to also pay a visit to one or more of the actual projects under implementation. As an alternative, the PIU invited two CSOs active under 'Quick-Win' round 1, 4-PJL and 8-SECDA, to participate in the discussion and share their experiences with the delegation. The open discussion answered most of the questions the delegation had about the R4CR program in general and CSO experiences more in particular.

Mission 3: Trust Fund Steering Committee Members - February 2021

On 25 February 2021, two representatives of the Trust Fund Steering Committee (SC) paid a visit to the R4CR office²⁸. After a brief introduction of the R4CR program at the office of the PIU, two on-site visits were made to give the delegation a first impression on what R4CR is trying to achieve.

A first visit was paid to the premises of the 'Nanny Nurssy Foundation', a CSO particularly supporting the homeless and most vulnerable people in the society. Under R4CR, the premises underwent a small renovation which made the facility better accessible for those people in need for temporary shelter.

²⁸ Mr. Marcel Gumbs on behalf of Sint Maarten and Mr. Frans Weekers on behalf of the Netherlands. The third SC member, Mrs. Tahseen Sayed Khan, on behalf of the WB, was not a member during this mission.

The second visit was made to the office of the Aids Foundation where staff explained to the SC members how difficult it is for them to provide support to HIV victims on a continuous basis due to a lack of funds and therefore resources. Their target group are mostly individuals suffering from HIV/Aids who need systematic medication.

Mission 4: World Bank Virtual Mission - February 2021

In the period 22-26 February 2021, a virtual WB mission via videoconference took place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The mission was a follow up to the monthly coordination meetings between the WB and VNGI since the start of R4CR. The main objective of the mission was to review the progress of R4CR with the implementing partners, jointly identify areas for improvement and agree on related actions. Regarding the grant scheme, the mission found that further work is needed to strengthen the application of safeguards in screening CSO project applications. On capacity strengthening, the PIU will share a CSO needs assessment and capacity building plan with the WB for review and feedback²⁹.



State Secretary Raymond Knops (BZK) on a visit to St. Maarten (May 2021)

²⁹ Reference is made to the Aide Memoire - Civil Society Partnership Facility for Resilience Project (CSPFRP, P172339), Implementation Support and Review Mission, February 22-26, 2021 (final agreed clean version, 27 May 2021).

Mission 5: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands – May 2021

On 20 May 2021, a delegation from BZK visited St. Maarten again and paid a site visit to two CSOs which benefit from the R4CR program³⁰.

The first visit was made to Dow Musical Foundation (DMF), a CSO which will benefit under 'Quick-Win' round 2 until December 2021. DMF sharpened their project proposal which was already submitted under 'Quick-Win' round 1 but rejected. Steelpan music is part of the St. Maarten cultural heritage and as such a powerful mechanism to reach out a large community. The main goal of the project is to organize steelpan classes at two public schools, the prison and the juvenile detention center to teach target groups to play the steelpan and in this way to contribute to skills development which is one of the original ten subject categories identified under R4CR. The BZK delegation actively participated and experienced the difficulties of practicing steelpan music.

The second visit was made to a playground adjacent to the 'Sister Marie Laurence Primary School'. The Foundation Catholic Education (SKOS) submitted a proposal under 'Quick-Win' round 1 to get support with the creation of a playground as part of the multi-functional recreational park in Middle Region. The BZK delegation was welcomed at the playground, which had just been completed, by a crowd of children who showed great satisfaction with the facility as it is the only playground in this part of St. Maarten. A few exercises to stretch the legs of the delegation with the local community meant the completion of the site visit to the recreational park in Middle Region³¹.

³⁰ State Secretary Raymond Knops (BZK), Frans Weekers (Trust Fund SC member), Saskia de Reuver (BZK).

³¹ Reference is also made to section 5.1 of this report.

9 Project Technical Committee

R4CR implementation will involve managing several sensitive issues where neutrality and inclusiveness must be visible in design but also functional in practice. To ensure this need will be achieved, a PTC has been created with different actors participating to provide neutral guidance in the selection and operation process and other functions³².

The PTC assists in managing risks, public perceptions and sensitivities that can arise during R4CR implementation. Some applications will be awarded while others are not considered eligible for funding, which could lead to some organisations getting disappointed. Another sensitivity is that R4CR encourages and facilitates cooperation between CSOs, which some might be inclined to do so, while others will prefer not to.

The role of the PTC is to provide advice on: (a) the short-list of application rounds; (b) the planning and process of each call for proposals; (c) financing decisions recommended by VNGI/PIU on proposals presented by applicants; (d) draft annual workplans and semi-annual progress reports; and (e) the development and implementation of R4CR overall.

The PTC is chaired by the NRPB and currently consists of one representative each from the NRPB, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CoCI), and the Social Economic Council (SEC). In addition, two independent members, both having a professional track record in CSO operations and close working relations with the community, are PTC member as well. Finally, VNGI and the PIU participate in PTC meetings. The PTC will meet at least twice a year or more frequently if necessary.

In the reporting period between January and June 2021, the PTC met three times. All sessions were held via a videoconference connection.

The first PTC meeting during this reporting period took place on 8 February. An update of the R4CR program was provided by the team leader. The main reason for calling this PTC together was to discuss the proposal of the PIU to increase the budget envelope for 'Quick-Win' round 2 to US\$ 750,000. In addition, it was suggested to put the budget cap per project at US\$ 60,000. The reason to increase the total envelope for 'Quick-Win' round 2 was the fact that under round 1 there were some promising proposals which the PIU had to push forward to the next round because they required a sharpening of the content.

³² PTC members are representing the NRPB, the CoCI, the SER and two independent representatives on behalf of the civil society. Both VNG and the PIU participate on behalf of the R4CR program.

A reason for increasing the maximum budget per project was the fact that under 'Quick-Win' round 1 the overall budget of some projects had to be decreased because they exceeded the maximum of US\$ 50,000. All PTC members agreed with both an increase of the total envelope to US\$750,000 as well as with the maximum budget of US\$ 60,000 per project under 'Quick-Win' round 2.

On 15 March another PTC meeting was held. The main subject of this meeting was the official validation of the first semi-annual progress report covering the period July-December 2020. The report had been distributed to all PTC members up-front. During the session, the team leader gave a summary of the main issues including a status update of the R4CR program as of to date with the most actual information being the official announcement of 'Quick-Win' round 2 as per 1 March 2021³³.

The last PTC meeting during this reporting period was held on 24 May 2021. The main task for the PTC members during this session was to formally endorse the list of projects selected and approved by the PIU under 'Quick-Win' round 2. The team leader provided a quick resume of the process which started early March with the official announcement of the application process. Potential applicants had until 2 April to submit their technical and financial proposal. The PIU received in total 23 applications of which 12 were found mature enough for funding. The selection report including the list of all applicants was shared with the PTC members before the meeting. A brief explanation on project content for each applicant was provided which ultimately resulted in the twelve selected grantees which met the administrative, technical and financial conditions reflected in an overall score of 70 or above. The PTC officially endorsed the 'Quick-Win' round 2 assessment report and as such the selection of the twelve grantees to start project implementation under 'Quick-Win' round 2. The approved projects under 'Quick-Win' round 2 have an overall total budget of US\$ 564,288.

³³ See also section 5.3 of this report.

10 Conclusion

The R4CR program, which started in August 2020 with the organization of the first information sessions, is today on schedule in terms of implementation. Before the program kicked-off, the intention was to launch within its first year of implementation at least two 'Quick-Win' rounds. By the end of June 2021, 'Quick-Win' round 1 was officially completed and 'Quick-Win' round 2 had just started for a period of six calendar months until the end of December 2021.

In total, 24 projects submitted by CSOs in the period 2020-2021 have been completed or are currently under implementation. A wide variety of subject areas are covered by the 24 projects. In financial terms, the total contract value of 'Quick-Win' round 1 and round 2 is US\$ 1.023.225 in total, which is more than 25% of the overall total grant budget available under R4CR.

Quite a number of CSOs on St. Maarten are less familiar with funding procedures and had to get used to the extensive procedures under R4CR, including the many documents to be completed and submitted before actual project implementation could start. The PIU however managed to comfort CSOs by keep on explaining why information was needed and what the function of a particular document was.

CSOs highly appreciated the way the PIU organized general training and information sessions and the fact that it took plenty of time to provide organizations with individual advise and coaching services on request. In addition to the general training sessions, individual coaching turns out to be an important and strong element in the capacity strengthening process of CSOs, especially because the size, development and operations of CSOs are so different.

The main challenge for the PIU will be to make sure that all grantees currently active under 'Quick-Win' round 2 of R4CR will operate in accordance with relevant environmental and social standards and complete all project activities within the timeframe of six calendar months set for round 2.

The PIU plans to start organizing the third application round of R4CR in the fall of 2021. This application round is different from the two 'Quick-Wins' rounds before in the sense that it will be less restrictive in terms of budgeting and duration. However, the budget and period of implementation need to be realistic in the sense that all scheduled activities must be implemented and completed within the contracting period set and in line the allocated budget.

List of Annexes

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Annex 2 - R4CR Results Framework

Annex 3 - Evaluation of Learning Benchmark Training and Overall R4CR 'Quick-Win' Round 1

Annex 4 - Assessment of Applications received under R4CR 'Quick-Win' Round 2

Annex 5 - R4CR Meetings and Sessions organized in the period January - June 2021

Annex 6 - Total R4CR Facebook Posts – January – June 2021

Annex 7 - R4CR in the Media

Annex 1 - R4CR Project Synopsis

Project Title	St. Maarten Civil Society Partnership Facility for Resilience Project (CSPFRP) ³⁴
Contract Number	TF0B2229-SX
Location	St. Maarten
Project Development Objective	Improve the capacity of CSOs and support implementation of reconstruction and resilience projects at the community level.
Program Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Component 1 will finance small grants provided to local CSOs that will work with communities to generate sub-project proposals to implement activities focused on reconstruction, resilience and service delivery. ▪ Component 2 will support all capacity building and TA activities, mainly for CSO staff but also for all other stakeholders involved in project implementation and in coordination of project work to achieve the PDO. ▪ Component 3 will support all activities related to project management and coordination.
Contractor	VNG International
Contracting Authority	World Bank
Project Starting Date	10/07/2020
Project End Date	24/06/2024
Project Duration	48 months
Total Project Budget	million US\$ 7.2
Date of Report	23 July 2021
Reporting Period	01/01/2021/ to 30/06/2021
Author of Report	R4CR Project Implementation Unit (PIU)

³⁴ Operational name: Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR)

Annex 2 - R4CR Results Framework

PDO Indicators by Objectives/Outcomes

Improve capacity of CSOs & support implementation of resilience & reconstruction of projects at community level

► % of projects approved which are fully implemented and functional to users (disaggregated by reconstruction and resilience projects) (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Previous	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	50.00	75.00
Date	29-May-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024

This indicator is calculated using the total number of projects that have been approved and funded and the number of projects that have been fully implemented which are functional to users. Full implementation implies that CSOs have successfully achieved technical and fiduciary requirements of their grants following the guidelines provided by the PIU. The projects will be disaggregated in terms of resilience and reconstruction projects as defined in the POM.

Comments:

The total number of project proposals submitted under R4CR from the start in July 2020 until 30 June 2021 has been 58. The R4CR-PIU approved in total 24 projects (12 under Quick-Win round 1 and 12 under Quick-Win round 2). Until 30 June 2021, all twelve projects selected under Quick-Win round 1 had been completed. Of these twelve completed projects, three can be considered as reconstruction/renovation projects (4-Philipsburg Jubilee Library, 5- Reading Rainbow Foundation and 6-Nanny Nurssy Foundation). The twelve projects selected under Quick-Win round 2 technically start on 1 July for a period of six calendar months until 31 December 2021.

Period July 2020-June 2021: 58 project applications submitted, 24 projects approved, 12 finalized (12/24 = 50.00%).

► % of CSOs participating in the project with improved capacity for grant management and implementation (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Annual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	50.00	70.00
Date	29-May-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024

The indicator will provide information on CSOs performance in selected technical areas such as timeliness of implementation of projects; timeliness of reporting; quality and completeness of reporting during their participation in the project.

Staff members of all CSOs implementing project activities are obliged to participate in at least the Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT) session organized by the PIU immediately after signing the Grant Agreement (GA). During project implementation, CSO staff is also obliged to participate in the Learning Benchmark Training (LBT) session to share experiences and challenges. On top of this obligatory training, the PIU organized for those who expressed interest, separate tailor-made training and coaching sessions with the ultimate goal to strengthen the internal capacity of organizations.

Comments:

Period July 2020-June 2021: Round 1: all 12 CSOs participated in PDT and LBT; all 12 CSOs received TA and on-the-job coaching advice. Round 2: all 12 CSOs participated in PDT. Only for round 1 the figure is complete because all CSOs participated in all obliged training and capacity development sessions. Following this, 12 out of 24 CSOs (50%) improved their capacity.

Familiarization with the rules and regulations of R4CR made that all projects under 'Quick-Win' round 1 were completed on time by 30 June 2021. CSO staff had to become familiar with the reporting deadlines where the PIU had to send several times reminders. However, all CSOs forwarded their monthly reports (both technical and financial) electronically to the R4CR-PIU. The quality of the reports differed considerably with the more solid information provided by the more elaborated CSOs, with previous experience under funding programs. However because R4CR ideally supports both large as well as small organizations, experienced and unexperienced, differentiation in the quality of reports is self-evident.

► % of beneficiaries expressing satisfaction that projects reflected their needs (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Annual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
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Value	0.00	0.00	100.00	75.00
Date	29-May-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	<p>The indicator will measure project performance in terms of responsiveness to the community needs. It will provide information at the start, midterm and at the end of perception of beneficiaries about the projects and whether the latter reflect their needs as expressed at the prioritization stage.</p> <p>From the direct beneficiaries, being the CSO staff employees involved in project implementation, the PIU did not receive any negative feedback about the R4CR program in general and/or the PIU support provided to the individual CSOs more in particular. Full satisfaction was expressed by the CSO that completed project activities, especially the tailor-made assistance was appreciated by many.</p> <p>From the indirect beneficiaries the R4CR PIU did not receive any negative feedback, not directly or indirectly through the CSO.</p>			
► Number of beneficiaries of sub-projects (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	1,970	10,000.00
Date	31-Mar-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	<p>The indicator is a cumulative number of people who are direct beneficiaries of services provided by investments which were supported through projects that are implemented by the CSOs. The cumulative number spans the project economic life but would be checked for possible double counting given the size of the island to ensure credibility of the final result.</p> <p>The PIU organized on 5 June a Learning Benchmark Training (LBT). Part of this training was dedicated to the number of persons who benefitted directly and indirectly from the R4CR program. Although it is hard to compare, due to the great diversity of support areas, the PIU still asked CSOs to provide quantitative data. Adding up the data provided by the 12 CSOs that implemented Quick-Win round-1 projects, a total number of 1,970 direct beneficiaries was mentioned. The number of indirect beneficiaries was set at 1,850. Reference is also addressed to section 5.1 of this report.</p>			
▢ Number of people being served by sub-projects of which female (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	897.00	5,500.00
Date	31-Mar-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Not all CSOs provided a breakdown for male/female beneficiaries.			
▢ Number of people being served by projects of which male (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	823.00	4,500.00
Date	30-Jun-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Not all CSOs provided a breakdown for male/female beneficiaries.			

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Small Grants to CSOs for Reconstruction and Resilience				
► % of beneficiaries expressing satisfaction with projects' outputs (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	100.00	70.00
Date	30-Apr-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Indicator measures percentage of beneficiaries based on a sample who express satisfaction with the outputs from the projects implemented in their areas with funding from R4CR. Of the CSOs who completed their 'Quick-Win' round 1 project activities by 30 June, full satisfaction with the results created was expressed.			
► Cumulative number of CSOs benefiting from the project grant scheme (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	24.00	80.00
Date	29-May-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Indicator is a cumulative measure of CSOs which are able to formulate projects proposals for consideration by the PIU and subsequent endorsement for funding. During Quick-Win round 1 (implemented in the period December 2020 until June 2021) 12 CSOs lead organizations benefitted from the R4CR Grant Scheme. One of the organizations, the SXM Early Childhood Development Association (SECDA) represents as umbrella organization 24 day-care and after-school care organizations. For the Quick-Win round-2 (to be implemented in the period July-December 2021) another 12 CSOs have been selected and will accordingly benefit from the Grant Scheme tallying the total to 24.			
► Cumulative number of projects funded (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	24.00	100.00
Date	28-May-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Indicator is a measure of cumulative number of projects that are funded for implementation. During Quick-Win round 1 (implemented in the period December 2020 until June 2021) 12 projects have been implemented and funded. Under Quick-Win round 2 (to be implemented in the period July-December 2021) another 12 projects will be funded under the Grant scheme tallying the overall total to 24.			

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for local CSOs				
► Percentage of CSOs with increased capacity for fiduciary management of grants (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	58.30	67.00
Date	30-Apr-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Number of CSOs with increased capacity for fiduciary management after project management.			
► Percentage of CSO proposals accepted after a second stage review (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target

Value	0.00	0.00	16.66	80.00
Date	30-Apr-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Indicator captures the efforts of CSOs to bring their applications to an acceptable level taking advantage of the training and coaching provided by the PIU. It also provides feedback on effectiveness of the PIU training program.			
► Number of training sessions provided by the PIU (disaggregated by type of training) (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2.00	10.00	16.00
Date	30-Apr-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Indicator provides information on quantity and quality of training provided as well as types of technical capacities addressed for CSOs by the management agency. In the first six months of 2021, the PIU organized 5 general R4CR information sessions, one LBT session (obligatory for 'Quick-Win' round 1 grantees), one PDT session (obligatory for 'Quick-Win' round 2 grantees), separate training sessions on project management (1), basic accounting (1) and budgeting (1).			

Project Management and Coordination

► % of CSOs receiving projects' grants within 1 month after funding approval (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	50.00	95.00
Date	30-Apr-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Indicator measures timeliness of CSOs access to funds once their proposals were approved for funding, and therefore the effectiveness of the project in providing funds to eligible beneficiary CSOs approved for funding. During Quick-Win round 1, 6 out of 12 CSOs (50%) received a first advance payment within a month after the Grant Agreement was officially signed. Two organizations (5-Reading Rainbow and 6-Nanny Nurssy) received their first payment within two months after signing the Grant Agreement mainly because they faced difficulties with collecting quotations from suppliers. Three other CSOs (4-Jubilee Library, 16-SKOS Foundation and 21-Carib Swim Team) had problems with the delivery of project material because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, their first payment was only transferred in March 2021. However, the late transfer did not negatively impact the final end-date of these projects.			
► Percentage of grievances that are resolved within three months after they were formally registered (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00
Date	30-Apr-2020	25-Sep-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024
Comments:	Indicator measures efficiency of grievances (complaints and appeals) management system for the project. During the reporting period, no grievances were included in the regular monthly reports submitted by the CSOs. The PIU also did not receive any negative feedback on the program from indirect beneficiaries who can submit their grievances by completing the GRM form downloadable through the R4CR Website.			

Annex 3 - Evaluation – Learning Benchmark Training and Overall R4CR ‘Quick-Win’ Round 1 Performance

		ORGANIZATION #													
Learning Benchmark Training (LBT)		Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	AVG
1	The LBT topic?	Excellent (4) Good (3) Fair (2) Needs Improvement (1)	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	3,5
2	The hands-on activities?		4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	3,3
3	The style of presenting?		4	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3,7
4	The opportunity to share experiences		4	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3,7
5	The opportunity to network?		4	3	4	4	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	3,4
6	The LBT location?		4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3,7
7	The provision of drinks and the lunch?		4	4	2	1	1	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	3,2
8	Overall impression and delivery of LBT?		4	3	-	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	3,5

Remarks:

- 1 Despite some minor hick-ups like lunch being late, the conference was very well organized. R4CR team did a great job.
- 2 Well organized: very interactive and informative.
- 4 Although the conference is excellent, it takes a full Saturday. For volunteers with a full time job and volunteer work, this is in our opinion too much.
- 5 Throughout the 6 months project implementation, R4CR communication was very well organized. Job well done!
- 6 Very good initiative and support.
- 7 Great opportunity to meet and network with other foundations.
- 10 No additional comments, was well done!

		ORGANIZATION #													
About 'Quick-Win' Round 1		Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	AVG
4	Did your organization improve its knowledge and skills about grant management?	A lot (4) Average (3) A little (2) Not at all (1)	4	4	4	3	4	4	2	3	4	4	4	3	3,6
5	Did your organization become stronger in terms of capacity (improved time management, reporting, governance, knowledge of procedures)		4	4	4	3	4	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	3,7
6	Do you feel that this project reflected your needs?		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3,9
7	Are you satisfied with the results of your project?		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3,8
8	Did you receive satisfactory support from the R4CR project team/PIU?		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	3,8
9	Your overall impression of Quick Win round 1 and your project?	Excellent (4) Good (3) Fair (2) Needs Improv. (1)	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3,8

Remarks:

- 1 I would like to thank R4CR for accepting our Foundation's project and on behalf of our clients.
- 2 Continue as you are.
- 4 Thank you!
- 5 Continue doing a great job! Thank you and your team.
- 6 More publicity.
- 8 We hope that animals will stay on the agenda and part of this project. Thank you for letting us be part of this!
- 9 Allow the project manager to attend both the technical as well as the financial info session at the beginning of the grant round.
- 10 Was well organized. Thank you all, R4CR. Keep up the good work.

Annex 4 Assessment of Applications received under R4CR 'Quick-Win' Round 2

PROJECT NO.	LEGAL NAME	PROJECT NAME	SECTOR	CONTACT PERSON	TEL	EMAIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	GENERAL COMMENTS
20210201	Excellence Learning Academy Foundation (ELA)	Locomotor and Movement Activity'	Afternoon School Program/ Sports and Recreation	Nicole Rogers - School Operations Manager Alisha Brookes - Board President	526-2677 543-5050 550-7971	sxmexcellenceacademy@gmail.com nrogers.ela@gmail.com	\$37.242	\$44.299	The ELA provides care and education to 30 students with a range of special needs such as Autism, Down Syndrome, ADHD, and various learning disabilities. They generate income through parental contributions and subsidy from SMDF. The foundation requests funding for 5 different sports activities for their children and some training for staff. Each child's progress related to the different activities will be evaluated throughout the program. After the initial proposal the R4CR team met with ELA to get some clarification and discussed on how to improve the grant proposal. An improved proposal was submitted.
20210202	Peridot Road Foundation (PRF)	Abuse Alert Mobile Application App or Domestic Violence Awareness App	Psycho-social and Emotional Support/Gender Based Violence	Gracita Arrindell - President Perla Bruney - Board Treasurer	587-4949 520-4778	gracita@sintmaarten.net gracitaa@gmail.com perla.bruney@gmail.com	\$37.455	\$0	This project should ideally be integrated as part of other domestic violence oriented interventions and not as a stand-alone tool. The use of such an app should have been discussed with specialist organizations active in the field of domestic violence (reference is made to project 20210210 on this list). Besides, no information about the effectiveness of the app as used elsewhere in the world was provided. A comparative analysis of similar alert mobile application apps would have been useful.
20210203	Sint Maarten Yacht Club Association (SMYC)	Strengthen the Foundation	Afternoon school program/ Sports/ Youth employment/ Skills development	Michele Korteweg - General Manager Garth Steyn - Commodore Board	581-0559 580-5806	manager@smyc.com caribsailing@gmail.com	\$64.889	\$53.525	In the original project proposal, the CSO included a considerable amount for roof repair. After intensive discussions with the R4CR team, we manage to convince the CSO that R4CR is primarily focused on benefiting vulnerable groups rather. In the revised version, the roof repair was taken out. The adjusted project aims to expose local kids to sailing while teaching them valuable and useful (if not life-saving) skills. To expand the current sailing program at the SMYC to allow local kids access, the project proposes the purchase of 6 new Lasers sailing boats and 5 Pico's (boats). A second primary school will be introduced to the sailing program, 12 low income students will be offered free sailing lessons once a week for 6 months and the Swim2Sail program will be launched which will teach kids to swim as a first step towards sailing.
20210204	Sint Maarten Football Federation (FF)	Outdoor Fitness Location	Sports and recreation	Peter Suwijn- Administrator Sudesh Singh - President Board	580-8333 581-3331 520-1857	psuwijn@hotmail.com president@sxmfootball.com	\$0	\$0	A clarification session was held at the premises of the PIU on Tuesday 16 March. A field visit to the intended place (Emilio's center) where the outdoor equipment was expected to be placed was made on Friday 26 March. This project is part of a larger community space project supported by SMDF and the Red Cross. Due to the fact that of the originally selected 10 community places, currently only 7 are still to be planned and no change in the overall budget was made, there seems to be sufficient financial resources available for the remaining 7 community sites. This may have been the reason why the association did not submit a final project proposal.
20210205	Kidz at Sea Foundation (KAS)	Making our Coastline Safe and Clean Again – One Bay at a Time	Sports-recreation/ Nature-environment/ Youth employment/ Skills development	Kim Frye - Project Director Lorraine Talmi - Board President	586-5338 581-7232	info@thescubashop.net ltalmi@magnis.com	\$57.978	\$57.978	This project aims to map the location of waste at the bottom of the sea in the Dawn Beach area using up to 24 young adults (18-34) as volunteers who will be given a course in snorkeling, diving (PADI certificate) and mapping. The volunteers will be sourced from Kidz at Sea's own maritime training program but also from other foundations catering to vulnerable young adults.
20210206	Be The Change Foundation (BTC)	@ColorMe5XM Philipsburg Art-Walk (Phase 2)	Neighborhood initiative/ Art/ Skills Development	Laura Bijnsdorp - member Melanie Choisy - President Board	586-9330 553-4048	bethechangesxm@gmail.com laurabijnsdorp@gmail.com melanie.choisy@gmail.com	\$36.450	\$37.019	This is a well prepared project with a clear objective which covers several program categories of which art is the main one. The project is a continuation of Phase 1 (not funded through R4CR) where in total 12 murals were produced. This second phase plan adds another 6 murals to revitalize the inner city of Philipsburg and support the local community in the area by attracting visitors to follow a special 'art walk'. The technical and financial proposal are clearly interlinked with a detailed breakdown of the costs. The fact that the final approved budget is slightly higher than the request amount is because an additional insurance premium had to be included which was missing in the original budget.
20210207	Freegan Food Foundation (FFF)	Freegan Food Market	Poverty relief/ Skills development	Joost de Jong - managing director Christel Horst - board president	580-7381 554-1182	info@freeganfoodfoundation.com chrisjeh@msn.com	\$58.135	\$59.970	Freegan Food Foundation fights food waste and strives to end hunger on the island of St. Maarten. In this project they set up a social supermarket concept where 50 families, identified as living below the poverty line, will be shopping hence being able to make their own choices on what to 'purchase for free'. This project pays for the infrastructure of the project. Co-financing by 'Samenwerkende Fondsen' is an important condition and needs to be formalized before the grant agreement can be approved.
20210208	United Consumers Association (UCA)	Affordable Fruits and Vegetables 4all	Poverty relief	Alberto F Bute - President Carl W Duinker - Treasurer	588-1553 523-4252 554-3071	butique@gmail.com carl.duinker@gmail.com	\$0	\$0	The project plan was unstructured and the required Financial Proposal (Annex 2) missing as were the official financial statements. The main concern however is whether UCA has all the required permits to be able to operate as a food importer and retailer on the island. There is also unclarity about the identification and selection of vulnerable groups. The R4CR team submitted before the deadline of 2 April a list of questions for clarification on which we did not receive a response.

PROJECT NO.	LEGAL NAME	PROJECT NAME	SECTOR	CONTACT PERSON	TEL	EMAIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	GENERAL COMMENTS
20210209	Discovery Kidz Foundation (DKF)	Completion of two classrooms - Installation of windows, doors, floor tiles and artificial grass	Afternoon school program	Merl Antoine - Director Guillermo P. Jeters - Board Secretary	553-4266 580-3182	om.discoverykidz@gmail.com minap@inbox.com	\$26.851	\$45.192	A typical example of a project which suffered heavily due to a wrong cost calculation. Just after Irma, a project proposal was submitted to 'Samenwerkende Fondsen' for € 18,000 to renovate two classrooms which were heavily damaged under Irma. While the contractor implemented the project, it turned out that the allocated funds were not sufficient resulting in termination of project activities half-way. The CSO submitted under R4CR a proposal to complete the two classrooms. Under R4CR we used the expertise of an independent building expert to make a realistic cost calculation to complete the two classrooms. In addition, the R4CR team also approved resources to finance equipment for these two classrooms to make them operational.
20210210	Stichting Justitiele Instellingen Bovenwinden (SJIB)	Tackling Domestic Violence	Psycho-social & emotional support/ GBV	Cynthia Filemon - Acting Director Eunicio Martina - Board President	588-6182 554-2283	cynthia.filemon@sjis-sxm.org eunicio@gmail.com	\$42.704	\$42.705	The goal of the project is to strengthen organizational capacity to reduce re-offending in criminal cases in general, and domestic and gender-based violence cases more specifically. Furthermore, the project aims to run a mediation pilot. The capacity building is aimed at advancing re-integration of suspects and offenders of crime into the community and building organizational capacity in mediation skills to reduce recidivism.
20210211	RISC Takers Football Club (RTF)	Co-financing Mini Bus	Sports-recreation activities/ Skills development	Herbert Beldman - Board Secretary Anno Bauer - Board president	580-8385 522-6699	secretary@risctakers.com president@risctakers.com	\$25.626	\$25.626	The CSO has submitted a request for co-financing (max. 20% of the purchase price plus insurances) a mini bus under R4CR. The minibus will primarily be financed from the St. Martin Football Association (French side) and the Federation France Football (FFF). The bus will be used to transport club members to matches, training sessions and other outdoor activities. The reason why the CSO participates in club football on the French side of the island is because there is currently no youth competition on the Dutch side of the island. Finance by R4CR depends on the approval of SMFA/FFF, which should be within the six month implementation period of the project. The CSO is aware of this.
20210212	National Sports Institute (NSI)	Renovation basketball court Belvedere	Sports-recreation	Maikel Comet - Director NSI Sifried Hodge - NSI facility manager Rignald Eugenio - President Board	524-8490 523-2690	director@nationalsportsinstitute.sx bigg.si@hotmail.com supervisoryboard@nationalsportsinstitute.sx	\$51.475	\$0	The CSO had the opportunity to clarify what the exact costs are for renovation of the basketball court at Belvedere, meaning lighting, fencing, court, board and bleachers repair. The cost calculation reflected in the submission of their quotations only covered the costs for fencing, which is only part of the costs. Besides the CSO had to explain the labour costs. The R4CR management gave NSI an extra period to submit the requested information. Unfortunately this period passed without NSI forwarding the requested information which resulted in sidelining this project.
20210213	Dow Musical Foundation (DMF)	Steelpan Music Program Schools & Prison	After-school programs Cultural heritage Skills development	Isidore York - President Foundation	522-6508	dmsxm@gmail.com Minerva.Martin-Cooper@dpsxm.com ruthee11@hotmail.com LAamdel@gmail.com	\$66.752	\$60.000	The main goal is to organize steelpan classes at two schools, the prison and the juvenile detention center to teach the children/prisoners to play the steelpan. The budget includes the purchase of additional steel pans and the teaching of the classes. This project was not approved in the first round. The R4CR team guided the foundation in its process to re-submit a new proposal for round two which has resulted in a proper application. The approved budget was brought down to fit within the maximum project limit.
20210214	St. Maarten Martial Arts Foundation (SMAF)	Martial arts in the fight for resilience	Sports-recreation	Marco London	520-8334	mlondonsxm@gmail.com	\$32.704	\$0	Following the submission of a first draft version, the R4CR team recommended the CSO to take necessary time in order to comply with all R4CR requirements as listed on the Website and present a more mature proposal in one of the future application rounds. The CSO followed this advice and decided to withdraw its application from this Quick-Win round.
20210215	Green Star Foundation (GSF)	Agri-Edu	Afternoon school programs?	Janice Benjamin - Project Coordinator Perdo Brooks - Board President	587-7920 524-2247	armandebenjamin@gmail.com fickbrooks27@gmail.com	\$59.730	\$0	The choice of combining horticulture with education is a solid one. However the application seems to be overambitious and is lacking supportive quality documentation such as the official annual financial and technical reports covering the years the foundation was active. There is not enough evidence on what has been achieved in previous projects before Irma. The application should also have included a more concrete activity plan and timeline. Furthermore endorsement letters or letters of intent from selected schools which in principle confirmed their participation would have strengthened the application.
20210216	Home Away from Home Foundation (HAFH)	Transportation as a Necessity for Seniors of HAFH	Neighborhood initiatives	Patricia Flanders - President Imelda Romney - Secretary	520-2136 524-5756	goldenagesxm@gmail.com	\$64.570	\$0	The aim of the foundation is to operate a day-care center for elderly. This project however deals with the purchase of a vehicle. It would have shown professionalism if the foundation would have tried to contact the Helping Hands Foundation (HHF) on St. Maarten which is a typical organization focusing on transport for seniors and people with a disability. It would have made more sense to enter into an official agreement for transport with HHF for transport of the seniors rather than purchasing an own vehicle. Besides the budget goes beyond the maximum of US\$ 60,000. Following observations made by the PIU on the proposal which were shared with the foundation, HAFH decided on the day of the deadline, 2 April 2021, to withdraw the application which is no longer running for R4CR support.
20210217	St. Maarten Service Training Academy Foundation (STAF)	St. Maarten Pride with One Voice	skills development	Josianne Artsen - Director/ Project Coordinator Dimar Labega - Board President	580-4187 524-2625	josianne.artsen@gmail.com dlabega@gmail.com	\$66.024	\$0	A major concern was the choice and costs associated with the production and publishing of the interactive E-book. Considering the target group of the application the R4CR team questions whether the interactive E-book is the best choice. The choice and costs of the proposed Learning Management System also raised some questions. Given the limited number of students this seems to be a rather large investment. Finally, the total budget submitted exceeded the maximum of \$60,000.

PROJECT NO.	LEGAL NAME	PROJECT NAME	SECTOR	CONTACT PERSON	TEL	EMAIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	GENERAL COMMENTS
20210218	Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC)	Lagoon Protection	nature/environmental protection	Tanya Power-Stevens - Grant Officer Natalia Collier - Secretary	581-7637 845-4261	tpower-stevens@epicislands.org ncollier@epicislands.org	\$42.223	\$0	The main focus of this project is the relaunch of "Slurpy", the sewage pump out boat that was damaged by hurricane Irma. The business case study has to be updated and the boat repaired. Then it will be used for planting mangrove trees and sewage pump out. A school education program is also attached to the project. This is the second time this project application is rejected where the CSO has not been pro-active enough to submit a business plan for Slurpy although it was in use for several years before Irma. The board has not made enough effort to show evidence of a feasibility study or share 'old' data.
20210219	University of St. Maarten Foundation (USM)	Basic Literacy Skills course for Adults	skills development	Corinne Lujuez-van Putten - Program Coordinator Valerie Giterson - Board President	542-5171 520-1399	corinne.lejuez@usm.sx usmfoundationpresident@gmail.com	\$59.669	\$56.444	The goal is to launch a literacy program at USM targeting person who are functionally illiterate. Although there are few statistics on this subject or group available, it is a well-known problem in the community. The lack of literacy impedes persons from moving from low paid jobs to better paid jobs because they lack the basic skills to perform anything but menial jobs. Approval of the laptops and rent is still provisional. The R4CR team is still having discussions with USM and the final budget could be adjusted downward.
20210220	SXM Early Childhood Development Association (SECD)	Pre-school Grocery Shopping & Afterschool Activities	afternoon school program/ extracurricular activities	Sophia Farrell-Hassell - President Diandra Pikeur-Anderson - Secretary	581-0870 586-2827	sophiafarrell34@gmail.com busybodyplayschool@gmail.com	\$54.718	\$59.577	SECD has extended the request for a food program in round 2. They also requested activity funding (sports/art) for 57 member organizations, who have afterschool programs for children in the age of 4-18. Due to Corona, the situation for daycare centers has not improved considerably and therefore an extension will be given. Due to the large increase in children returning to the day care centers and afterschool programs (from 440 in round 1 to an estimated 700 in round 2), the original proposal has been adjusted and the activities have been taken out, focusing solely on food for an amount of \$ 071 per day per child per day. For the activities more elaboration is needed on numbers in order to justify the submitted budget.
20210221	St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association (SHTA)	Smile Job File	employment/ entrepreneurship	Wyb Meijer - Executive Director Lorraine Talmi - Board President	542-0108	wmeijer@shta.com office@shta.com	\$46.140	\$0	The R4CR program is primarily focused on the non-profit sector and within this sector on the most vulnerable segments within the society. The SHTA, focusing on the business community of Sint Maarten, is not the prime target of this specific support program. The costs for organizing a three-day event as indicated in the financial proposal is not in line with the main principle of the R4CR program, to support the most vulnerable segments in the society.
20210222	Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation (SCRF)	Building Renovation	Community/Neighbourhood Initiatives	Marva van Henningen - Director Clifton Wilson Malcolm Cooper	520-7764	aandmdomaccess@live.com malcolm.cooperjr@outlook.com	\$50.240	\$21.953	The SCRF foundation submitted a second request for funding. The PIU approved during QW-1 a pilot initiative of a little over \$ 15,000 to test whether the foundation had the capacity to implement the project. With some hick-ups the activities were completed. During QW-2 the foundation plans to finalize more than the second part of their original plan of activities that was not approved under QW-1. The additional construction activities which went well above the original budget were taken out which leaves the total sum covered under QW-2 to be close to \$ 22,000.
20210223	Wildflower Center Foundation (WCF)	Gender and Violence	gender based violence	Cassandra Richardson	587-6477	cassandra.richardson@gmail.com	\$59.976	\$0	The project seems to be too extensive for a new foundation which still has to develop its own track record. The R4CR team in a pre-meeting therefore suggested to start during this Quick-Win round a pilot exercise or combine activities with more experienced institutions in this subject area. Following a positive result of the test phase the project could grow from there. However a massive project for such an unexperienced CSO is not realistic and the fact that 40% of the allocated funds cover one project coordinator does not look very promising either. A clear outline and content of the training program was also lacking.
TOTAL							\$1.041.552	\$564.288	

5 Declined because of inadequate administrative information submitted or not being consistent/relevant

6 Sidelined because answers on additional questions not convincing enough, however having potential for a next round of grant application

12 In principle considered to be adequate for funding provided that special conditions will be met

Annex 5 - R4CR Meetings and Sessions organized in the period January - June 2021

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
7-Jan-21	Meeting with State Secretary BZK	Raymond Knops	Jose, Chi Hing	Office	familiarization of State Secretary with R4CR program	---	
8-Jan-21	Meeting with Nanny Nurssy Foundation	Monique Gumbs Gwendolyn Arndell	Jose, Chi Hing	Office	discuss the annexes needed to request first advance and explaining monthly reporting.	1	
18-Jan-21	Opening first satellite library	Invited guests	Rolf, Steve, Chi Hing	Asha Stevens School	official opening of the first satellite of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.	1	R4CR attended the session following an official invitation.
18-Jan-21	Meeting with Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation	Marva van Henningen Malcolm Cooper Clifton Wilson	Rolf	Hope Estate	discuss the fact that three quotations are required from construction suppliers.	1	
19-Jan-21	Meeting with Dow Musical Foundation	Isidore York	Rolf, Jose	office	discuss the further shaping of the proposal to become eligible under 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	1-2	Dow submitted a proposal under QW-1 which was not awarded
19-Jan-21	Meeting with BZK representative in Caraiben	Erwin Arkenbout, Wim Bekker	Rolf, Jose	office	familiarization of visitors with R4CR program	---	
20-Jan-21	Meeting with the Belvedere Community and the National Sports Institute	Michael Cornet Jessica Richardson Rignald Eugenio	Rolf	Belvedere community Center	discuss project proposal developed by NSI with representatives of the Belvedere community to achieve wide community support for the plans.	1-2	
27-Jan-21	Meeting Reading Rainbow	Delmarie Cornelius	Steve, Chi Hing	office	discuss the breakdown of the first advance of the grant.	1	

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
11-Feb-21	Official transfer of the 'Wheelchair Bus' project to the Helping Hands Foundation	Board and invited guests	Rolf, Jose, Steve	Car dealer	official hand-over of the Wheelchair bus to the HHF which completed the project funded under R4CR.	1	R4CR attended the session following an official invitation.
12-Feb-21	Meeting with Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation	Marva van Henningen Malcolm Cooper Clifton Wilson	Rolf, Chi Hing	office	discuss the three quotations received from construction suppliers and how to go from there.	1	
17-Feb-21	Meeting with Stichting Justitiele Instellingen (SJIS) and the Prosecutors Office	Cynthia Philemon Sandra Withfield Sanne Bartels	Rolf, Jose	prosec. office	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	1-2	liaise between Prosecutors Office and SJIS for joint project proposal.
22-Feb-21	Meeting EPIC	Tanya Stevens	Steve, Rolf	office	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	1-2	
23-Feb-21	Meeting with Nanny Nurssy Foundation	Monique Gumbs Contractor	Rolf, Chi Hing	office	discuss the process of payment and contractor's agreement.	1	
23-Feb-21	Meeting with Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation	Marva van Henningen Malcolm Cooper Clifton Wilson Contractor	Rolf, Chi Hing	office	discuss the process of payment and contractor's agreement.	1	
25-Feb-21	Visit Trust Fund Steering Committee members	Frans Weekers, Marcel Gumbs	Rolf, Jose	on site	paid visit to location and Nanny Nurssy and Aids Foundation to discuss support under R4CR	---	
3-Mar-21	Meeting Reading Rainbow	Delmarie Cornelius	Chi Hing	on site	assistance provided with the monthly financial report.	1	
8-Mar-21	Meeting with Excellence Learning Academy	Alisha Brookes Nicole Rogers	Rolf, Jose	school	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	1-2	proposal focuses on special needs students.

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
8-Mar-21	Meeting with Reading Rainbow Foundation	Delmarie Cornelius	Steve, Veronika	on site	discuss and sign safeguards documents.	1	
10-Mar-21	Meeting with Ministry of Justice	Anna Richardson, Minister Geertje van Haperen, Advisor	Rolf, Jose	Gov. Building	explore possibilities of supporting the Victim Support Services Foundation initiated by the Ministry of Justice.	2	agreed was that R4CR will receive a written explanatory note which however was not received.
12-Mar-21	Meeting with Peridot Foundation	Gracita Arrindell	Rolf, Jose	office	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	2	proposal focuses on introducing an app on mobile phones.
15-Mar-21	Site visit to nanny Nurssy Foundation	Monique Gumbs	Rolf, Veronika, Elger, Eline	on site	check on the safeguards and progress of small construction activities.	1	safeguard checklist discussed and signed.
15-Mar-21	Site visit to Senior Citizens Foundation	Marva van Henningen Clifton Wilson	Rolf, Veronika, Elger, Eline	on site	check on the safeguards and progress of small construction activities.	1	safeguard checklist discussed and signed.
16-Mar-21	Meeting with Football Federation	Peter Suwijn	Rolf, Jose	office	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	2	outdoor fitness project.
18-Mar-21	Meeting with Animal Defenders	Nathaly Pieters Mohana Ceasar	Rolf, Jose	office	discuss the current progress of ADF project implementation under 'Quick-Win' - round-1.	1	agreement reached that ADF will submit data and visuals in their March report.
19-Mar-21	SXM Yacht Club	Michele Korteweg	Rolf, Steve, Jose	office	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	2	partly building renovation and partly swim/sail training.
19-Mar-21	Ceremony with Beach Cleaner Foundation	Board and invited guests	Steve, Jose	Coral Beach Club	learn about the beach cleaner and attend reception.	2	
22-Mar-21	Meeting with Wild Flower Foundation	Cassandra Richardson	Rolf, Jose	office	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	2	train the trainers on gender-based violence.
23-Mar-21	Meeting Stichting Justiele Instellingen	Cynthia Philemon Sanne Bartels	Jose	online	project proposal - annex 2 discussed.	1-2	challenge with external quote for training discussed and advice provided.

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
23-Mar-21	Meeting with Lions Club	Merilyn Buncamper	Steve, Rolf	office	discussion on the possibility of submitting a project proposal (building renovation) by Lions.	2	
24-Mar-21	Meeting St. Maarten Basketball Association (SXMNBA)	Alex Ferdinand	Steve	office	project ideas and funding possibilities.	1-2	
24-Mar-21	Site visit Nanny Nurssy Foundation	Contractor Melvin Samuel	Jose	on-site	observe construction progress, discuss payment	1	
24-Mar-21	Site Visit SKOS - Sr. Marie Laurence School	Contractor Windward Roads	Jose	on site	observe construction progress	1	
24-Mar-21	Reception Red Cross	Invited guests	Jose	Red Cross	ceremony - to thank local CSOs on behalf of Red Cross.	---	
25-Mar-21	Meeting with Kidz at Sea Foundation	Kim Frye Lorraine Talmi	Rolf, Steve	office	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	1-2	
26-Mar-21	Meeting with Voice of the Youth	Nellie Blaise Michel Peterson	Jose	office	follow-up discussion on project proposal - developing an obstacle course.	1	challenges with exceeding budget - advice provided.
26-Mar-21	Meeting with Football Association and Red Cross representative	Gene Kemble - SMFF Peter Suwijn - SMFF Kevin Davies - Red Cross	Rolf, Steve, Jose	Emilio's sports center	find out the status of the community space area financed through Red Cross and SMDF.	2	SMFF will decide whether to submit a project under Quick-Win 2 or whether the resources of SMDF/RC are sufficient to cover the outdoor exercise equipment.
26-Mar-21	Meeting with Nature Foundation	Melanie Meijer zu Schlochtern Alice Manley	Rolf, Steve, Jose	office	discuss revised Monkey Management project proposal focusing on collecting data through surveys only (extending Phase 1).	1	NF must focus exclusively of Phase 1 and stop implementing Phase 2 of the original project. A project amendment note to be expected.
31-Mar-21	Meeting with AIDS Foundation	Judith Bell	Chi Hing	on location	discuss financial administration	1	The CSO monitors their financial resources in a diligent manner. Internal administration in a spreadsheet to monitor payments.

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
1-Apr-21	Meeting with K1 Britannia	Chiara Bowers	Chi Hing	on location	discuss financial administration	1	Monitoring of financial resources needs improvement.
1-Apr-21	Meeting with Nature Foundation	Jodi Garner	Chi Hing	on location	discuss financial administration	1	NF uses an external accountant. The financial administration is kept in good order.
2-Apr-21	Meeting with Voice of the Youth	Jean Oneli (Nelli) Blaise	Rolf	office	follow-up discussion on project proposal - developing an obstacle course.	2	Voice of the Youth will not submit a proposal under Quick-Win 2 as they cannot guarantee that all preparatory steps can be completed.
7-Apr-21	Meeting with Animal Defenders	Mercedes de Windt	Chi Hing	on-site	discuss financial administration	1	ADF keeps their financial administration in a spreadsheet on a monthly basis. Their financial administration is sufficient.
8-Apr-21	Meeting with Reading Rainbow Foundation	Delmarie Cornelius	Chi Hing	on-site	discuss financial administration	1	RR files invoices and an accountant processes it into a financial admin system. Financial knowledge within the CSO is very limited.
9-Apr-21	Meeting with Freegan Food Foundation	Joost de Jong	Jose, Rolf	office	discuss draft project proposal 'Quick-Win' - round-2.	2	guarantee that co-financing through SF is available.
9-Apr-21	Meeting with SECDA	Khalila Joseph	Chi Hing	on location	discuss financial administration	1	SECDA keeps a spreadsheet of check payments which is forwarded annually to an accountant. Monitoring of financial resources needs improvement.
12-apr-21	Site visit to Discovery Kidz	Merl Antoine	Steve, Rolf, Harry	on-site	main aim was to check on the cost calculation submitted under Quick-Win 2 of the small renovations to be proposed.	2	The independent building expert will estimate whether the cost calculation of the renovation is reasonable and based on actual market prices.

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
13-Apr-21	Meeting with K1 Britannia	Priya Thirumur Roger Matros Chiaira Bowers	Rolf, Chi Hing	office	main aim was to clarify the implementation status and discuss a possible extension until 30 June following travel restrictions of external trainers due to COVID-19	1	K1 will submit an official request for an extension of the project activities including an argumentation.
13-Apr-21	United Consumers Association (UCA)	Alberto Bute Carl Duinker	Rolf, Steve	office	main aim was to explain to UCA why their proposal submitted under R4CR Quick Win round-2 was not awarded	2	
15-Apr-21	Meeting with Nanny Nurssy Foundation	Monique Gumbs Erik van Engelen	Rolf, Chi Hing	office	subject of discussion was the final audit to be executed following project end.	1	
15-Apr-21	National Sports Institute (NSI)	Sigfried Hodge Rignald Eugenio	Rolf	office	the R4CR team discussed with NSI lacking information to their proposal especially in relation to the budget and offered NSI a final attempt to collect the right information.	2	NSI must submit as soon as possible, but no later than 23 April, correct information on cost calculation related to the renovation of the basketball field in Belvedere.
16-Apr-21	United Consumers Association (UCA)	delegation of six representatives (Mr. Bute, Mr. Duinker and 4 others)	Rolf, Steve	office	UCA again tried to convince the R4CR team of the need for funding their project. However, UCA did not use the correct templates (no financial proposal) and does not meet the R4CR conditions. UCA basically operates as a cooperative with a membership fee. We mentioned that the NRPB 'Enterprise Support Project' would be better equipped to fund UCA. However they were turned down under ESP as well.	2	The R4CR team will contact the 'Enterprise Support Project' and propose a joint meeting with UCA representatives to discuss the topic further and see whether there is a way-out.
20-apr-21	Meeting with SECDA	Board plus office manager	Chi Hing, Jose	on location	discuss reporting round 1 and prospective grant for round 2	1-2	Number of documents to be submitted
20-apr-21	Meeting with Nanny Nurssy Foundation	Erik van Engelen	Chi Hing, Steve, Jose	office	closing off project round 1 - next steps NNF (priority in needs)	1	
23-apr-21	Meeting with SECDA	Khalila Joseph	Steve, Jose	office	discuss adjustment of Annex 2, combining food program with after school activities	2	

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
26-apr-21	Meeting with SKOS	Tanja Frederiks	Jose, Veronika	on-site	check on the safeguards and progress of small construction activities.	1	ongoing construction, partly fencing still needed, will follow up on SZV papers
29-Apr-21	Meeting with Discovery Kidz	Merl Antoine/ daughter Jacky Gumbs	Steve, Chi Hing, Jose	office	discuss financials and project proposal	2	Discussing information provided thus far
29-apr-21	Meeting with PJJ	Pieter Lucas, Mrs Holiday	Steve, Veronika	on-site	check on the safeguards and progress of small construction activities.	1	ongoing, delay in construction, potential additional visit due to delay
5-May-21	Meeting with Discovery Kidz	Merl Antoine/ daughter Wim Reiff	Steve, Chi Hing, Jose	office	discuss financial reports and order list furniture and other materials.	2	Other meeting later that day to finalize order
5-May-21	Meeting with Discovery Kidz	Merl Antoine/ daughter	Jose	on-site	update on order list after review.	2	Final list to be submitted before next morning at 7 am.
7-May-21	Meeting Sky Angel Ministry	Carmen Hodge, Brother	Rolf, Steve, Jose	office	explanation on application rounds and forms to be filled out.	2	Project was rejected. Mrs. Hodge was updated on procedures
7-May-21	Site visit Nanny Nurssy Foundation	Monique Gumbs	Rolf, Jose	on-site	check completion of the building.	1	
7-May-21	Meeting with Fritz Pantophlet Foundation	Fritz Pantophlet, Herbert Martina	Rolf, Jose	on-site	discuss mobility situation and access to transportation for persons in a wheelchair	Open	Orientation meeting, to be followed up by meeting with Helping Hands Found.
11-May-21	Risc Takers Football Club	Herbert Beldman	Rolf, Chi Hing	office	issue discussed was the size and level of detail of the final audit and protocol to be followed as described in the POM.	1	The R4CR team will, following round-1 experiences, screen the POM in a detailed manner and see whether the section on auditing requires any adjustment.
11-May-21	University of St. Maarten	Corrine Lejuez, Antonio Baez	Steve, Rolf, Jose	office	discuss budget and project for new project	2	
12-May-21	Meeting with Helping Hands Foundation	Josianne Fleming, Patricia Friday	Rolf, Jose	office	discuss final report, charges for wheelchair bus, relationship with other senior organizations, request for survey among clients	1	Also spoke about possible project idea for round 3-4 including other senior organizations

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
12-May-21	NRPB - Enterprise Support Project (ESP)	Elozona Ochu	Rolf, Steve	office (zoom session)	aim of this session was to clarify with the NRPB-ESP team issues discussed with the UCA in previous meetings. The R4CR team explained why the UCA project was not considered under Quick-Win round-2. The ESP also rejected the project.	2	main conclusion was to send an invitation to UCA for a joint meeting to clarify issues. An invitation was sent for 17 May 2021.
13-May-21	Helping Hands Foundation	Josianne Aartsen	Rolf, Jose	office	discuss the content of the final report to be submitted to the PIU	1	
14-May-21 18-May-21	Discovery Kidz Foundation	Merl Antoine	Rolf	on-site	three potential constructors paid an on-site visit to DKF to check, based on the checklist of the independent building expert, the requirements to finalize the renovation and to be able to present their own cost calculation.	2	Quotations to be expected.
20-May-21	Meeting with Reading Rainbow Foundation	Delmarie Cornelius	Chi Hing	on-site	Assistance provided with the final financial report	1	
20-May-21	Meeting with State Secretary and other BZK delegates	Raymond Knops, Frans Weekers, Saskia de Reuver	Rolf, Jose, Steve	on-site	on-site visits made to Dow Musical Foundation (DMF) and Foundation Catholic Education (SKOS) to show support provided under R4CR	1-2	
24-May-21	VNP-BZK	Mirthe Coppelmans, Sjoerd van Wetten, Merel van Hoeven	Rolf, Jose	office	introduction new VNP staff to project team	---	
3-Jun-21	Council of Ministers SXM	Ministers	Rolf, Jose	Gmnt Building	presentation for the Council of Ministers of the R4CR program upon request of the council	---	
5-Jun-21	Learning benchmark Training (LBT)	all Round-1 CSO beneficiaries	PIU team	NIPA	exchange of experiences and lessons learned between CSO representatives following the completion of 'Quick-Win' round-1	1	

Date	Activity	Present	R4CR Team	Location	Aim	Round	Observations
8-Jun-21	Radio 101 Laser (SXM)	'Suppa' Petrona radio show	Rolf, Chi Hing	on site	radio interview on R4CR program	1-2	familiarization of wider SXM audience with R4CR program.
9-Jun-21	Attending official opening Reading Rainbow	Delmarie Cornelius	Rolf, Steve, Chi Hing	on site	official opening of the early stimulation and nursery and after school premises following renovation activities under 'Quick-Win' round 1.	1	
16-Jun-21	Official launch 'Quick-Win' round 2	official invitees & representatives of 12 CSOs	PIU team	office	zoom session organized to mark the official start of 'Quick-Win' round 2 under the R4CR program	2	
21-June-21	Meeting with Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation	Marva van Henningen, Clifton Wilson, Malcolm Cooper	Chi Hing	on-site	discussing on finalizing the financial report as well as closing off the project in Round 1	1	
23-Jun-21	Meeting Green Star Foundation (GSF)	Janice Benjamin	Rolf, Steve	office	clarification to GSF representative about the requirements CSOs must meet to become eligible for funding under R4CR.	---	
26-Jun-21	Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT)	all Round-2 CSO beneficiaries	PIU team	Hope estate	familiarize 'Quick-Win' round 2 applicants with the technical and financial requirements under R4CR.	2	
28-June-21	Meeting with Baker Tilly	Arjen Pool & Omar	Chi Hing	on-site	Baker Tilly was approached by SECDA and clarification the audit was discussed	1	
29-Jun-21	Meeting with Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation	Marva van Henningen, Clifton Wilson, Malcolm Cooper	Rolf	office	explanatory session on the request for quotations to be submitted under round 2.	2	

Annex 6 - Total R4CR Facebook Posts – January – June 2021

Jul-Dec 2020						Jan-Jun 2021					
Date	R4CR		CSO			Date	R4CR		CSO		
	Reach	Engagements	Reach	Engagements	Name CSO		Reach	Engagements	Reach	Engagements	Name CSO
24/8/2020	64	5				01-11-2021	878	174			
24/8/2020	69	1				01-12-2021	73	3			
24/8/2020	75	1				01-12-2021	341	44			
24/8/2020	84	1				20/1/2021			94	9	Nature Foundation
24/8/2020	90					22/1/2021			1349	137	Phil Jub. Library
25/8/2020	95	27				28/1/2021			72	8	SECDA
31/8/2020	122	9				02-09-2021			844	139	Reading Rainbow
09-01-2020	138	10				02-10-2021	403	13			
09-06-2020	208	22				19/2/2021			544	48	Helping Hands
17/9/2020	2313	131				24/2/2021	97	10			
27/9/2020	157	12				27/2/2021	80	5			
10-03-2020	391	38				03-12-2021	134	5			
10-03-2020	168	8				03-12-2021	375	12			
30/10/2020	404	48				24/3/2021	290	17			
11-11-2020	404	48				25/3/2021			83	13	SKOS
11-12-2020	176	6				25/3/2021			97	10	K1 Britannia
15/11/2020	244	24				25/3/2021			457	53	Nanny Nurssy
19/11/2020	1002	82	147	21	Animal Defenders	29/3/2021			48	1	K1 Britannia
20/11/2020	329	27				31/3/2021			81	15	Carib Swim Team
20/11/2020	455	62				04-01-2021	56	1			
20/11/2020	120	14				04-01-2021	73	10			
20/11/2020	617	97				04-02-2021			115	17	SKOS
20/11/2020	423	21				04-02-2021			99	25	K1 Britannia
20/11/2020	494	45				04-10-2021	71	6			

Jul-Dec 2020						Jan-Jun 2021					
Date	R4CR		CSO			Date	R4CR		CSO		
	Reach	Engagements	Reach	Engagements	Name CSO		Reach	Engagements	Reach	Engagements	Name CSO
23/11/2020	164	37				13/4/2021	51	6			
28/11/2020	322	15				21/4/2021			81	5	Nature Foundation
29/11/2020	348	19				22/4/2021			48	2	SKOS
30/11/2020	525	52				22/4/2021	100	11			
12-01-2020	420	25				26/4/2021	49	1			
12-01-2020	530	40				27/4/2021			1041	128	SKOS
15/12/2020			83	3	Nature Foundation	05-11-2021			114	24	SKOS
17/12/2020	84	1				21/5/2021			65	5	SKOS
						21/5/2021	834	141			
						27/5/2021			144	22	Reading Rainbow
						28/5/2021			78	6	Helping Hands
						31/5/2021			139	9	Nanny Nurssy
						06-01-2021			92	11	Carib Swim Team
						06-05-2021	267	49			
						06-09-2021			104	4	Nanny Nurssy
						06-11-2021			240	7	Read. Rainb./Animal D
						15/6/2021	1157	30			
						17/6/2021	198	26			
						20/6/2021			33	1	Freegan
						22/6/2021			80	8	Nature Foundation
						25/6/2021			79	10	Nature Foundation
						26/6/2021	448	64			
32	11035	928	230	24	2	46	5975	628	6221	717	11

Annex 7 - R4CR in the Media



Helping Hands Foundation acquires new wheelchair bus

The Helping Hands Foundation (HHF) has acquired a new wheelchair-accessible bus to assist its members and the community. The bus, a white van with a wheelchair lift, was purchased through a grant from the R4CR Quick-Win Round 1 program. HHF is a non-profit organization that provides support and resources for people with disabilities. The new bus will be used for transporting members to meetings and other community events. HHF is grateful for the support from R4CR and the community.

R4CR Quick-Win Round One ends on high note

The first round of the R4CR Quick-Win grant program has concluded successfully. The program, which provides small grants to support community projects, received a record number of applications. The grants were awarded to a diverse group of organizations and individuals. The R4CR team is proud of the impact of these grants and looks forward to supporting more projects in the future. The grants supported various projects, including community events, educational programs, and social services. The R4CR team is committed to supporting the community and making a positive impact.

Quick Win Round 2 launched, US \$564,289 in grants approved for 12 local projects

The second round of the R4CR Quick-Win grant program has been launched. A total of 12 local projects have been approved for funding, totaling US \$564,289. The projects include a variety of community initiatives, such as educational programs, social services, and environmental projects. The R4CR team is excited to support these projects and the organizations that are implementing them. The grants will be distributed to the project owners, who will be responsible for the implementation and reporting. The R4CR team is committed to supporting the community and making a positive impact.

Tangible impact of grant for Animal Defenders St. Maarten

A grant from the R4CR Quick-Win Round 2 program has had a tangible impact on the work of Animal Defenders St. Maarten. The grant was used to purchase supplies and equipment for the organization's animal care and rescue efforts. The grant also supported the organization's outreach and education programs. Animal Defenders St. Maarten is grateful for the support from R4CR and the community. The organization is committed to protecting and caring for animals and promoting responsible pet ownership.



Reading Rainbow officially re-opens, unveils its new afterschool location

The Reading Rainbow program has officially reopened at its new afterschool location. The program, which provides reading and educational activities for children, is now open to the community. The new location is a bright and modern space that provides a comfortable and safe environment for children to learn and grow. The Reading Rainbow program is grateful for the support from the community and the R4CR team. The program is committed to providing high-quality reading and educational opportunities for all children.

R4CR Quick Win round 2 off to flying start, 23 proposals received

The R4CR Quick-Win Round 2 grant program has received a strong response from the community. A total of 23 proposals were received, demonstrating a high level of interest in the program. The proposals cover a wide range of community projects and initiatives. The R4CR team is reviewing the proposals and will be announcing the winners soon. The R4CR team is excited to support these projects and the organizations that are implementing them. The grants will be distributed to the project owners, who will be responsible for the implementation and reporting. The R4CR team is committed to supporting the community and making a positive impact.

AWF collected 197 stray and unwanted animals in 2020

The Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) has collected 197 stray and unwanted animals in 2020. The animals were brought to the foundation's shelter and are now being cared for. The AWF is grateful for the support from the community and the R4CR team. The foundation is committed to providing a safe and caring environment for all animals. The AWF is also working to find homes for the animals and promote responsible pet ownership. The AWF is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of animals and the community.





"Library Man" Richard Nicolas (centre) opening Philipsburg Jubilee Library's satellite on the campus of Asha Stevens Hillside Christian School in Cay Hill, assisted by school director Asha Stevens-Mohabier (left) and library foundation president Paul Martens (right) on Monday, January 18.

Philipsburg Jubilee Library opens satellite in Cay Hill

CAY HILL--Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJJ) opened its first satellite public library on the campus of Asha Stevens Hillside Christian School on Jackal Road in Cay Hill on Monday afternoon. The satellite is to serve the general public in Cay Hill and the surrounding districts Monday through Friday from 2:30 to 5:00pm, except during school vacations. The library satellite will be open to the public from today, Tuesday, January 19.

The satellite library, which is located in the no-longer-running but still-functional library bus, was officially opened by "Library Man" Richard Nicolas.

The air-conditioned bus offers a small selection of fiction and non-fiction books for toddlers, younger and older children

and (young) adults, as well as magazines and *The Daily Herald* newspaper. There are books in English, Dutch, French, Spanish and Papiamentu. Readers can also visit the library satellite for membership registration and re-

newals. Membership also gives access to the library's E-books service and the online library of the Netherlands onlinebibliotheek.nl.

Due to the satellite's limited

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SXM Daily Herald –
18 January 2021

Satellite in Cay Hill

Continued from page 1.

book collection, children and adults can only take home a maximum of two items per visit. COVID-19 measures apply.

It is PJJ's intention to open more satellites in St. Maarten in the coming years. A public satellite library on or near the premises of the Belvedere Community Center is planned to be opened in May 2021 and will serve young and older residents of Belvedere, Dutch Quarter and Middle Region.

The public satellite library programme is funded by Resources 4 Community Resilience (R4CR), a programme implemented by the international branch of the Dutch Association of Municipalities VNG through the World Bank Trust Fund for St Maarten to assist the island after the devastating Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Irma also devastated the

PJJ building in Philipsburg, and PJJ is now housed in the Adolphus Richardson building on W.A. Nisbeth Road.

Philipsburg Jubilee Library Foundation President Paul Martens said that because the temporary library consists of only about 10 per cent of its former facility and considering that due to the COVID-19 pandemic very few people can visit the library at one time, it was decided to bring the library to the people.

As the government subsidy for the library has been frozen for 10 years and is not increasing, R4CR was approached for funding in November 2020, and an agreement for a satellite library at the premises of Hillside Christian School was formalised last week, Martens said.

He said World Bank financing will be made available for a new library build-

ing. "Hopefully, we can have a new library building when PJJ celebrates its 100th anniversary on November 23, 2023."

R4CR team leader Rolf Hunink said that under the Trust Fund US \$7.2 million was allocated to support small-scale initiatives by civil society organisations. Twelve organisations, including PJJ, were selected for funding under the project, which started in July 2020 and will run through June 2024.

PJJ's first satellite library was opened before a small audience that included library director Glenderlin Holiday, board members and staff, Hillside Christian Schools director Asha Stevens-Mohabier, and representatives of R4CR and telecommunications company UTS, which is to provide Wi-Fi facilities to the library satellite.

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THE DAILY HERALD, Friday/Saturday, February 5 - 6, 2021



NGOs receiving information during a training session with R4CR staff.

R4CR to launch 2nd round of Quick Win

PHILIPSBURG-The Resources 4 Community Resilience (R4CR) programme will start information sessions for the "Quick Win" round two call for proposals at the R4CR headquarters at A.Th. Illidge Road #60 (former Windward Islands Bank office) on Wednesday, February 10.

The R4CR programme includes a grant scheme as funding mechanism for community and social rehabilitation initiatives in St. Maarten and focuses on improving the capacity of local civil society organisations (CSOs) in reconstruction and resilience activities post-Hurricane Irma.

The R4CR programme is financed by the government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund administered by the World Bank and implemented by the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB). The R4CR programme is locally managed by the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities

VNGI in close cooperation with Foresee Foundation and other local partners.

The grant scheme will be active for four years and will provide grants to local CSOs (formerly known as NGOs) to execute projects focused on reconstruction, resilience and improved service provision. Project activities by registered CSOs can cover subject categories such as neighbourhood initiatives, sports, nature/environment, culture, poverty relief, day-care centres/after-school programmes, youth employment, skills development, psycho-social support or preventing gender-based violence.

"Quick Win round one started in September 2020. We selected 12 out of the 33 projects submitted and gave them each a maximum of US \$50,000 to execute their project within six months. Those projects are now being implemented, so the time is ripe to start up "Quick Win" round 2," said R4CR team leader Rolf Hunink.

Projects currently in the implementation phase are, among others, the new satellite location of the library located at Hillside Christian School in Cay Hill, the spay/neuter campaign by Animal Defenders, and the lunch programme for day-care centres by St. Maarten Early Childhood Development Association (SECDIA).

The first four call-for-proposals information sessions will be organised on Wednesday, February 10, and Thursday, February 11, 6:00-7:15pm and 7:30-8:45pm on both days.

The second series of four information sessions will be held on Wednesday, February 17, and Thursday, February 18, 6:00-7:15pm and 7:30-8:45pm on both days.

The information sessions have been staggered to give interested persons the choice between an early session (starting at 6:00pm) or later session (starting at 7:30pm), but also because each session is limited to 10 attendees due to COVID-19 restrictions. An extra information session has been planned via Zoom on Saturday, February 27, 10:00-10:45am, for those who cannot attend in person.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and space limitations, interested persons or organisations are requested to register for the information sessions by sending an email to info@r4cr.org.

For more information about the R4CR programme or an overview of all current projects, visit

Robber of supermarkets facing six years on appeal

PHILIPSBURG-A man who had robbed two supermarkets in ten days in July 2020 may be facing six years' imprisonment, it emerged from Wednesday's appeal hearing.

Noah Joseph Toussaint (21) was sentenced on September 23, 2020, to 36 months, 18 of which were suspended, on three years' probation, by a judge in the Court of First Instance. However, the Prosecutor's Office appealed the sentence, as it considered the punishment too mild.

The Prosecutor's Office had called for a six-year sentence, with the execution of a previous suspended sentence of 55 days, also for armed robbery, but the judge imposed a lesser sentence due to the defendant's relatively young age. The judge also did not order the execution of the suspended sentence, but instead added an extra year to the probation period.

The solicitor-general upheld the Prosecutor's Office's six-year demand on Wednesday, with execution

of the suspended sentence. If the Court of Appeals does not impose an unconditional punishment, the solicitor-general called for four years in prison, one of which to be suspended, on three years' probation.

Toussaint did not deny he had robbed two Chinese supermarkets on July 13 and July 23, 2020, respectively. He explained his actions by informing the Court of Appeals that he had lost his job during the COVID-19 pandemic. After that, money was low.

"Times were rough. I got really frustrated," he told the judge, explaining that he had committed the robberies to be able to provide for his girlfriend and their little daughter and son.

According to the Prosecutor's Office, the loot of the two robberies, which were committed in broad daylight, consisted of US \$300 in total and a mobile phone.

The suspect said he had used a "fake" gun in the robberies to threaten store personnel and force them to hand over some money. He

had also used the weapon to hit a staff member on his head.

The solicitor-general held it against the defendant that he had shown little remorse and compassion for his victims and that he only spoke about his own personal traumas and frustrations.

According to the Prosecutor's Office, the judge in the Court of First Instance had been too lenient where the young defendant was concerned. "He cannot get away with 18 months," the solicitor-general said Wednesday, demanding that the Appeals Court also order the execution of the conditional sentence.

Attorney-at-law Sjamira Rosburg admitted that her client had a criminal history, but stated it was now time for her client "to grow up, to man up" and get a job and take care of his children, and pleaded with the Court of Appeals not to follow the Prosecutor's Office's demand.

The court will give its decision February 25.

Formal complaint

Continued from page 1.

prior to September 2020 the CCSU had representatives of only two unions with members who are civil servants - Windward Island Civil Servants Union (WICSU) and Windward Islands Teachers Union (WITLU).

Two other unions representing civil servants, ABVO St. Maarten and the police union St. Maarten NAPB, were not part of the CCSU. Unions representing semi-public workers, St. Maarten Communications Union (SMCU) and Workers Institute for Organised Labour (WIFOL), were also not represented in CCSU.

"In other words, four of the six unions in the Chamber of Labour Unions of which government's intention was to legislate changes in the labour conditions of their workers, were not represented in the CCSU," said Elshot.

ABVO St. Maarten was admitted to CCSU in September, the three other unions NAPB, SMCU and WIFOL representing public and semi-public workers

the Dutch government) to change the labour conditions of workers and semi-public workers.

Elshot said the Council of Ministers is unlawfully violating Article 81b of the Constitution of St. Maarten, which states "The legal regulations in St. Maarten are agreements with other powers and international law organisations, to the extent that they have been ratified for St. Maarten."

"Until today, there [has been - Ed.] no agreement with the Windward Islands Chamber of Labour Unions. Until today the Prime Minister has not negotiated a consensus with the unions," she said.

WICLU drafted a memorandum of understanding (MoU) last year and requested a meeting with the Council of Ministers. However, she said this meeting had never happened.

She also mentioned that Members of Parliament (MPs) had invited WICLU to a meeting in September where the unions were able to give MPs an update on the negotiation status and

ister [have] negotiations with the WICLU unions on the cuts adopted in Parliament? When did the Council of Ministers reach an agreement with the unions as a basis for the legislation discussed in Parliament?

"When [did] parties sign an agreement which formed the basis for the legislation presented to advisory bodies the GOA, the SER, the Advisory Council?" Elshot questioned.

She said union representatives in the GOA and the Social Economic Council SER St. Maarten have not seen the draft legislation which was adopted in parliament. "This is in violation of the procedure to establish national legislations and therefore unlawful," she exclaimed.

In her conclusion, Elshot said the unions will formally denounce these unlawful proceedings to the Ombudsman. She said the Ombudsman has six weeks to review the adopted legislation and WICLU will place a request with the Ombudsman to present the adopted laws to the Constitutional

FOUND

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10 February 2021



A scene during the groundbreaking at Reading Rainbow. From left: Lasharee Williams, Delmarie Cornelius and Pratima Prag with contractors.

Reading Rainbow launches 'Active Fingers Shaping Minds'

PHILIPSBURG--Reading Rainbow Early Stimulation Nursery and Afterschool, located on Back Street had its groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, February 8, to signal the start of the project "Active Fingers Shaping Minds".

The project is made possible through the grant mechanism of the Resources for Community Resilience R4CR programme, which is financed by the Government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund.

Reading Rainbow Early Stimulation Nursery and Af-

terschool was completely destroyed by Hurricane Irma in 2017. At the time, the school was educating and developing approximately 60 children a year, ranging in age from two to 12-years-old. "As a result of the extensive damages to the building, the school was closed for two years," stated Managing Director of Reading Rainbow Delmarie Cornelius.

"This grant from R4CR will help us rebuild the afterschool infrastructure, upgrade the playground, and create a comprehensive digital literacy curriculum."

On hand to celebrate the momentous occasion were Reading Rainbow advisors Pratima Prag, Shirley Hilaire, Lasharee Williams, as well as representatives of R4CR, various contractors involved in the project, and supporters. "Reading Rainbow would like to thank R4CR, Mr. Alston Lourens, Mr. Brown, Nos E&K Construction, We-Can-Fix Construction and all other persons who made this dream become a reality today," Cornelius said.

THE DAILY HERALD, Friday/Saturday, February 19 - 20, 2021

Helping Hands Foundation acquires new wheelchair bus

PHILIPSBURG--Helping Hands Foundation (HHF) is now better able to accommodate its elderly and disabled clients, thanks to the acquisition of a much-needed new US \$74,960 wheelchair bus from Real Auto.

In 2020, foundation Treasurer John Hodge, in his enthusiasm to get a new wheelchair bus for the elderly and disabled community, approached Real Auto. A year later, on February 11, the foundation was able to obtain the new bus, thanks to the Resources for Community Resilience R4CR programme and Samenwerkende Fondsen SWF. The Foundation said many persons were involved and have shown HHF the way to acquire the new wheelchair bus.

The persons who directed HHF in the very beginning of the journey to acquire the wheelchair bus included Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs, National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB) Director Claret Connor and Chris Johnson. "Then one day, HHF got a visit from the R4CR team and they informed us that they were in St. Maarten to make communities more resilient, and

that they would be funding a number of projects at \$50,000 each, and the deadline was within a week or two," HHF said in a press release. "That message was music to the ears of HHF, and HHF was advised to find a partner who would complete the funding."

Samenwerkende Fondsen joined R4CR and funded US \$18,400, and with a discount from Real Auto, the wheelchair bus journey was complete.

"The elderly community and the disabled have come one step further today with our new wheelchair bus, and a blessing it is. The elderly and disabled may look forward to new experiences in the future as HHF continues to uplift the lives of the elderly and disabled under the presidency of Mr. Antonio Rogers," the foundation said.

HHF was born out of the need to care for the elderly and disabled in the community. It was a vision by a nurse in 1997. Founder Lucille Jacqueline James said her inspiration grew out of the work she did. The elderly always weighed heavy on her heart. Too often, they would go to see the doctor and were left

stranded. She started taking them home during her lunch time and after work. James engaged with them and the rides home led to drives around the island, where they shared stories of their lonely lives, and not having much to do. As the work got harder, James established a board with founding board members: Lisa Hart, Marjorie Richardson, Helena Richardson, Marva Bell, Xavier van Buren James and herself.

Current board members are Vice President Josianne Fleming-Artsen; Secretary Patricia Friday-Bell; Treasurer Hodge; Assistant Secretary Felicia Thomas James; Assistant Treasurer Hilda Bell-Gullin and board members Freddie Maccow, Monica Simeon-Salome and Patrick Lloyd. Current staffers are office staff Denicia Romney and drivers Valdora Hazel, Maria Martin, Michel Pascal and Joseph Gumbs.

HHF is located at Miss Lalie Commercial Center, #26 Bush Road, and can be reached at tel. +1-721-542-5866 or +1-721-524-1712. HHF accepts donations via its Windward Islands Bank (WIB) US dollar account #101381509, and WIB guilder



The new wheelchair bus.



A scene during the ceremony to acquire the new bus.

account #101379010.

HHF offers medical transportation service to St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC), dialysis, lab visits, therapy and Alzheimer patients. It also offers transportation for 60+ residents from various districts. HHF said it cares for its clients. Its drivers are trained regularly to ensure quality service. HHF adheres to COVID-19 rules at all times, and expects cli-

ents to do the same.

The first wheelchair bus was acquired from the Netherlands Antilles Social Development Fund SOFNA/WIB, then St. Maarten Development Fund (SMDF) predecessor AMFO, SWF and now R4CR/SWF that partnered so that the new wheelchair bus could be funded for HHF.

HHF thanked Jacobs, Johnson and Connor for

their assistance. The funding agencies involved in the initiative were R4CR (R. Hunink and Jose Sommers); Samenwerkende Fondsen (Fleur Hermanides, Jose Sommers); SMDF management (Makhicia Brooks and Melanie Choisy); and Real Auto (Sales Manager Janice Balborda and General Manager Felix Nevarez).

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THE DAILY HERALD, Wednesday, February 24, 2021



R4CR Financial Expert Chi Hing Roger making a point during the presentation of the Quick Win Round 2 information session.

R4CR wrapping up information sessions on Quick Win Round 2

~ Call for proposals March 1 to April 2 ~

PHILIPSBURG--The Resources 4 Community Resilience (R4CR) programme recently held four information sessions for the "Quick Win" Round 2 call for proposals. These information sessions were held in-person to allow Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to get acquainted with the local R4CR staff, but also to pose their questions in person and receive direct feedback.

The information sessions were staggered to give interested persons the choice between an early session starting at 6:00pm, or later session starting at 7:30pm. Due to coronavirus COVID-19 restrictions, each in-person session was limited to a maximum of 10 attendees.

"We were very happy with the turnout which averaged approximately nine persons per session, but moreover, elated to meet the people behind the CSOs in person" said R4CR Team Leader Rolf Hunink.

The R4CR programme includes a grant scheme as funding mechanism for community and social rehabilitation initiatives in St. Maarten, and focuses on improving the capacity of local CSOs in reconstruction and resilience activities post Hurricane Irma.

The R4CR programme is financed by the government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund. The latter is administered by the World Bank and im-

plemented. The second (and final) Quick Win Round will have a total budget of US \$750,000 with a maximum of \$60,000 per project. "Our official call for proposals will start on March 1, 2021 and the deadline to submit a project proposal will be April 2, 2021. We will evaluate the incoming proposals on a rolling basis so it is important to submit projects proposals in a timely manner not to miss out on the chance for funding," concluded Chi Hing Roger.

The final information session for Quick Win Round 2 will be held online via Zoom on Saturday, February 27, from 11:00am to 11:45am.

Interested persons or organisations can register for the information session by sending an email to info@r4cr.org. For more information about the R4CR programme or an overview of all current projects visit www.r4cr.org or their Facebook page, R4CRSXSM.

Hospital vaccination centre assisted by Collectivité staff

MARIGOT--The Collectivité has made two staff members on fixed-term contracts available to the hospital to assist with the vaccination campaign.

This commitment by President Daniel Gibbs made it possible to recruit two young people from St. Martin at the end of their civic

in charge of the daily management of the schedule of Voluntary Health Professionals – 10 doctors working at two locations – and of reception and orientation of patients.

They will be working Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:00pm with secretarial

THE DAILY HERALD, Tuesday, March 9, 2021



Helping Hands Foundation to offer free island tours this month.

Helping Hands hosts free island tours this month

PHILIPSBURG—Helping Hands Foundation (HHF) will be organising free island tours this month for persons who are wheelchair-bound and would be interested in the activity.

The tours will be held on Saturdays from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Space is available for four wheelchair-bound persons at a time. Interested persons can call the office of Helping Hands Foundation to register for the tour at tel. 542-5866 or 524-1712.

Persons must register with a copy of their valid identification. Once their address

is found to be accessible by the foundation's bus, they will be contacted and booked for a tour. To register persons should provide their name, address, phone number, date of birth, type of disability and name and telephone contact of a person who can be reached in case of an emergency.

The foundation received a brand-new wheelchair bus at Real Auto on February 12. The foundation thanked R4CR, Samenwerkende Fondsen Caribbean, St. Maarten Trust Fund, and BZK for funding the wheelchair bus.

"The new wheelchair bus is a great support to the elderly and differently-abled community of St. Maarten," the foundation said. Further gratitude was extended to the St. Maarten Development Fund for its continued support to the foundation's operations and to Real Auto for its gift of free service for the wheelchair bus.

"HHF was blessed and would like to extend our blessings to the elderly and differently-abled community of St. Maarten."

THE DAILY HERALD, Thursday, April 22, 2021

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R4CR Quick Win round 2 off to flying start, 23 proposals received

PHILIPSBURG--The Resources For Community Resilience (R4CR) programme closed the request for proposals for "Quick-Win round 2" on April 2.

A total of 23 proposals were received requesting almost US \$1 million in funding, far exceeding the US \$750,000 budget reserved for Quick-Win round 2.

"Our team is very happy with this result as it shows that the local organisations see the benefits of the programme and have increased the quality of their project plans to meet the strict requirements set by the World Bank," commented Rolf Hunink, R4CR Team Leader.

The R4CR programme includes a grant scheme as the funding mechanism for community and social rehabilitation initiatives in St. Maarten, and focuses on improving the capacity of local civil society organisations (CSOs) in reconstruction and resilience activities post-Hurricane Irma.

The R4CR programme is financed by the government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund which is administered by the World Bank and monitored by the National Recovery Programme Bureau (NRPB).

The grant scheme will be active for four years (2020-2024) and will provide grants to local CSOs – also known as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – to execute projects focused on reconstruction, resilience and improved service provision.

Project activities by registered CSOs can cover subject categories such as neighbourhood initiatives, sports/recreation, nature/environment, culture, poverty relief, day care centres/after school programmes, youth employment, skills development, psycho-social support and gender-based violence.

In the first year of implementation, two Quick-Win rounds are foreseen. The Quick-Win rounds have been designed for projects that can be completed within six months with a moderate budget. Quick-Win round 1 started in September 2020. Twelve projects were selected with a total budget of US \$452,481. Those projects are currently in the final stages of completion. Quick-Win round 2 has a total budget of US \$750,000 with a maximum of US \$60,000 per project.

Following four general information sessions on

Quick-Win round 2 organised in February, the R4CR team decided to schedule an additional four explanatory sessions at its premises on the A.T. Illidge Road to guide attendants systematically through the main application documents: the technical and financial proposal. The explanatory sessions were held in-person to allow CSOs to get acquainted with the local R4CR staff, but also to give them the opportunity to pose their questions in person and receive direct feedback. Due to coronavirus COVID-19 restrictions, each in-person session was limited to a maximum of 10 attendees.

The official call for proposals started on March 1,

more information about the R4CR programme or an overview of all current projects, please visit www.r4cr.org or the Facebook page R4CRSXM.

2021 and the deadline to submit a project proposal was on April 2, 2021. The proposals are now being evaluated and all applicants will receive a reply within the next two weeks. For



Rolf Hunink and Jose Sommers of R4CR giving explanations during an information session.



Rolf Hunink of R4CR giving explanations during an information session.



Jose Sommers of R4CR during the information session.

THE DAILY HERALD, Monday, May 24, 2021

State Secretary Knops visits DMF and Sister Marie Laurence School

ISLAND—During last week's visit to St. Maarten, caretaker Dutch State Secretary of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Raymond Knops and his delegation on behalf of the Dutch government visited some Resources 4 Community Resilience (R4CR) projects and candidates, among which was Dow's Musical Foundation (DMF).

The R4CR programme was implemented by Association of Dutch Municipalities VNG International and funded by the World Bank Trust Fund for St. Maarten, created to provide assistance to the island after the devastating Hurricane Irma in 2017.

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations in St. Maarten in their reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts after the hurricane.

On Thursday, May 20, State Secretary Knops and his delegation stopped by DMF, which is a candidate applicant for R4CR's round two.

Children of different levels in steelpan education and from various schools, including Sr. Borgia and Sr. Magda Schools, Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC) Comprehensive Secondary Education (CSE), St. Maarten Academy and Milton Peters College, performed for the visitors on their pans, as they were welcomed by director Isidore "The Mighty Dow" York and DMF board members.

Knops, together with Trust Fund Steering Committee member Frans Weckers, Dutch Representative Chris Johnson and Director Kingdom Relations Saskia de Reuver, had a chance to try their hands at the Caribbean musical instruments and get some rhythm as they received and introductory class.

"I think they enjoyed it immensely. It was a highlight of the visit," York said.

"If you play sports, you stay healthy and strong and if you play music, you become intelligent," Knops said during his visit.

"I am happy the delegation stopped by to see how hard we work and to see where we want to go," said York. "I would like to thank the schools for allowing the students to participate, and to all DMF students, members and teachers a big thank you for your support and involvement. This displays how essential the extra classes are and it proved that we were actually already engaged and prepared for this great presentation by all participating students."

York said that DMF is planning on creating a music academy and giving musical classes at the Pointe Blanche prison, Miss Lalie Youth Care and Rehabilitation Centre, and in two public primary schools, Genieve de Weever School and Oranjeschool, which were chosen due to their proximity to DMF's headquarters in the Festival Village.

State Secretary Knops also visited the multi-purpose recreational centre, a project of the Catholic School Board SKOS in collaboration with the Middle Region Community Project, for which R4CR provided the infrastructure for a playground.

Pupils of St. Marie Laurence School, together with their teachers, greeted the delegation while singing their school song and having some fun at the newly constructed recreational grounds. Present were Director of the school board Jessie Aventurin-Hodge and SKOS Project Manager Tanja Frederiks-Vliegen.

Islands 5



Musical students of different levels performed for State Secretary Knops and his delegation.

COVID-19 testing options May 24-28

MARIGOT—The Préfecture, Regional Health Agency ARS and the Collectivité inform the population that the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test centre in Marigot will be open on today, Monday, May 24, during the normal opening hours.

On Tuesday, May 25, rapid antigen tests will be accepted for all travellers departing from St. Martin (from Grand Case and Princess Juliana International Airports). As a reminder, the Sun, Bellevue, Soualiga, Concordia and Caribbean pharmacies carry out rapid antigen tests.

The Pasteur Institute of Guadeloupe, in charge of processing samples taken at the Marigot testing drive, will be closed on Thursday, May 27; the Marigot drive will therefore also be closed that day.

As a reminder, results are available between 36 and 48 hours after taking the PCR test, which results are valid for three days. The public is asked to organise themselves accordingly.

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THE DAILY HERALD, Wednesday, June 9, 2021

R4CR Quick-Win Round One ends on high note

PHILIPSBURG—The Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR) programme officially closed off Quick-Win round 1 with a learning benchmark training on Saturday, June 5.

The R4CR programme includes a grant scheme as funding mechanism for community and social rehabilitation initiatives in St. Maarten and focuses on improving the capacity of

local civil society organisations (CSOs) in reconstruction and resilience activities post-Hurricane Irma.

Two Quick-Win rounds are foreseen in the first year of implementation. The Quick-Win rounds have been designed for projects that can be completed within six months on a moderate budget. The preparations for Quick-Win Round One started in September

2020 and the projects got going in earnest in December 2020.

Twelve projects were selected with a total budget of US \$452,481. Animal Defenders received its first-ever grant in its 30-year existence to neuter and spay stray animals; Carib Swim Team received funding to change its pool pumps, pool filters and install solar lights; the Catholic School Board was awarded funds to set up a playground in Middle Region; and Nanny Nursery Foundation was able to repair its facilities to better assist the sick, needy and homeless.

Helping Hands Foundation used its grant to purchase a wheelchair bus (a joint financing project between R4CR and Samenwerkende Fondsen). KI Britannia used its funds to train more local volunteers in disaster management and disaster preparedness while the Nature Foundation with its grant was able to conduct detailed research on the invasive vervet monkey population wreaking havoc on the island.

Philipsburg Jubilee Library was able to set up satellite locations in Cay Hill and Belvedere; the project suffered some minor delays and will be completed by the end of June. The afterschool foundation SECDA received funding to purchase healthy and nutritious food for children in day-care/after-school programmes, ensure that



Grant recipients toasting to successful completion.

the day-cares received food handler's certification and organised a create movement workshops for the teachers of all day-cares.

St. Maarten AIDS Foundation received a grant to purchase medicines and tests for uninsured persons living with the disease. Reading Rainbow used its grant to rebuild a classroom that was destroyed by Hurricane Irma, upgrade its digital learning lab and refurbish its playground. Senior Citizen Recreational Foundation used its grant to make much-necessary (security) improvements to its building in Hope Estate that has been burglarised 19 times in the last few years.

The grant recipients in Quick-Win Round One were guided and coached intensively by the local R4CR team. Several training and capacity-strengthening opportunities were provided during the six-

month programme, such as the pre-disbursement training, which was geared towards teaching the grant recipients about the R4CR programme's processes, procedures, requirements and reporting.

In addition, R4CR collaborated with the local non-governmental-organisation (NGO) platform Foresee Foundation to offer additional training opportunities such as courses in grant writing, accounting and project management.

During the learning benchmark training each CSO had a chance to tell its story, showcase its project, share experiences and learn about the crucial elements that need to be included in the final project report.

"It was a fun interactive session designed to foster collaboration between the CSOs and encourage them to network and learn from each other," said Capacity R4CR Strengthening Manager Jose Sommers. "Using a series of creative exercises and presentations, we were able to have the CSOs tell each other stories and create appreciation for the unique challenges each project faced."

The learning benchmark training ended with the CSOs completing the programme evaluation form,

toasting to the successful completion of the project and dancing to the CSO song "We are One" which was written by local soca artist King Vers.

With Quick-Win Round One successfully completed, the R4CR team will now focus on the launch of the projects selected in Quick-Win Round Two, which is scheduled to take place online on June 16.

The R4CR programme is financed by the Government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund which is administered by the World Bank, implemented by VNG International and monitored by the National Recovery Programme Bureau (NRPB).

Project activities by registered CSOs can cover subject categories such as neighbourhood initiatives, sports/recreation, nature/environment, culture/arts/heritage, poverty relief, day-care centres/after-school programmes, youth employment, skills development, psycho-social support, and gender-based violence.

For more information about the R4CR programme or an overview of all current projects, visit www.oler.org or the Facebook page R4CRSM.



Carrefour
market

VACANCY

Carrefour Market is looking to fill the following vacancy:

STORE MANAGER

- Must have over 5 years experience as Store Manager.
- Must have over 5 years retail management experience.
- Product knowledge of dry, produce, chilled and frozen products.
- Product knowledge of different ethnic products.
- Complete responsibility for the store, including proper closing and security.
- Conduct weekly individual meetings with department managers and provide constant communication to department managers.
- Communicates sales goals, department performance and sales opportunities with staff to ensure positive results.
- Looks for areas where improvements in service may be required; implements processes, procedures and/or changes to address these issues.
- Maintain health, safety and sanitation issues in order to maintain a safe and clean work environment for employees and customers to ensure compliance other governmental regulations and company standards.
- Focuses on customer satisfaction and needs, ensures that employees provide customers with superior customer service through use of best practices and communication of the importance of superior customer service.
- Responsible for ensuring dates on merchandise such as dairy products, meats and others are checked and expired food pulled off the shelves on a regular basis.
- Responsible for dealing with emergencies, crisis, and any problems that arise during the day in the store.
- Candidate must possess excellent people skills. Train, schedule, and maintain a team.



VACANCY

CAMERA TECHNICIAN

- Installation / service of commercial alarm systems.
- Troubleshooting and repair of various systems.
- Ability to read and comprehend blueprints.

11 June 2021



A view of the new computer lab.

Reading Rainbow officially re-opens, unveils its new afterschool location

PHILIPSBURG--Reading Rainbow Early Stimulation Nursery and Afterschool officially opened its door on Wednesday, June 9, with a small ceremony.

The opening celebrated the comeback after the school sustained severe damage to the building with the passing of Hurricane Irma.

Reading Rainbow Director Delmarie Cornelius said the school had initially opened to pupils early 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic presented a setback. The opening ceremony also celebrated the unveiling of a new location, created just for the afternoon programme of the school.

This project was funded by the Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR) programme. The R4CR programme includes a

grant scheme as funding mechanism for community and social rehabilitation initiatives in

St. Maarten and focuses on improving the capacity of local civil society organisations (CSOs) in reconstruction and resilience activities post-Hurricane Irma.

Thanks to the funding, not only was the school able to secure a proper space for its afternoon school programme, but also provided funds for a computer lab and the refurbishing of the playground.

Members of R4CR were also present for the ceremony. Cornelius provided the members with a short tour and explanation of the school's goal in utilising the space. She said the pupils have already been making full use of the area and are quite happy with it thus far.

She shared that some plans of the school are to collaborate with Philipsburg Community Council to provide a jungle gym for pupils of the school, as well as for children within the surrounding community.

Two other projects include a tree house and a greenhouse to help encourage children's interest in nature and healthy living. The projects would also include children within the community.

She expressed her gratitude to R4CR for the funding, and abundance of guidance received that enabled the project to become reality.

Cornelius noted that although the school has come very far and achieved so much, there is still much more in the works.



Reading Rainbow Early Stimulation Nursery and Afterschool officially opened its door on Wednesday, June 9, with a small ceremony. In photo: Reading Rainbow staff after cutting the ribbon marking the official opening of the school. Story on page 8.

Tangible impact of grant for Animal Defenders St. Maarten

The number of dogs and cats spayed/neutered under the outreach programme by Animal Defenders St. Maarten (ADS) has nearly tripled over the past six months, thanks to a grant from the Resources 4 Community Resilience (R4CR) programme, received in late November 2020. With this grant, ADS not only benefited from more money for its daily activities – with its overall aim of caring for St. Maarten's stray and neglected dogs and cats – but was able to spend less time organising fundraisers, and more time on the tasks at hand.

The grant has been especially impactful, given that ADS depends entirely on donations and volunteers. While stray and neglected dogs and cats have been a pervasive issue for years, the hard-hit economy, especially since Hurricane Irma, has only made things worse. Pet owners find it harder to care for their

pets, while businesses and community members find it harder to donate.

ADS has been creative in coming up with new ways to fundraise over the past few years, collaborating with different partners to host vegan pop-up dinners, Puppy Pilates classes, and issuing a Doggy & Firefighter calendar. With the grant however, a tangible impact becomes clear, benefitting not just the animals but their human families and the island in general, as ADS points out.

Funds were used primarily for a spay and neuter programme, complimentary public awareness campaign, and for buying equipment such as humane traps and a stretcher for injured animals.

Through banners and ads on the radio and in the newspaper, the public was encouraged to be part of the solution by spaying and neutering their pets before they are six months old, shedding light on the fact that there are not enough

homes for the animals on St. Maarten, and encouraging the public to foster, donate or volunteer.

ADS has been offering a deeply discounted price of US \$20 through the programme, increasing access to the services to as many pet owners as possible. Stray dogs were also spayed and neutered. Normally the programme processes around 100 animals per year, but in its six months supported by the grant, 140 animals were spayed and neutered, with another ten pending as they were in heat at the time.

With the grant having just ended in May, the ADS is left incredibly thankful, and has seen what can be made possible through proper funding. "We really want to keep the momentum going, although it was really only possible to achieve this with the help of the funding," ADS' Mercedes De Windt shared with *The Weekender*. Funds also went towards other vet bills and some 22

inoculations that protect against diseases including canine distemper.

Every cent counts and goes straight towards food and vet bills, she explained. Around 35 volunteers make ADS possible. They are unpaid, and not compensated for gas or other expenses. "They do all this work from the heart, they are truly priceless," said De Windt.

The funds also helped in ADS' daily routines of helping sick or injured animals, and feeding the strays of the island. Through a combination of helping the sick or injured, facilitating foster care, feeding, and spaying and neutering, ADS is increasing the quality of life for these animals, without contributing to overpopulation.

The R4CR programme focuses on improving the capacity of local civil society organisations (CSOs) in reconstruction and resilience activities post-

Hurricane Irma. It is financed by the government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund, administered by the World Bank and implemented by the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB). It is locally managed by the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities VNGI in close cooperation with Foresee Foundation and other local partners.

To keep up to date with the work of ADS, fundraisers, adoption possibilities, donation information, and to enquire about volunteering, follow Animal Defenders St. Maarten on Facebook or call +1-721-553-3116. WIB (USD) account number: 807.456.09. Zelle can be used for supporters abroad.



22 June 2021

THE DAILY HERALD, Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Islands

9

Quick Win Round 2 launched, US \$564,289 in grants approved for 12 local projects



A scene during the virtual event, with CSOs with their grant agreements.

PHILIPSBURG--The Resources For Community Resilience (R4CR) programme officially launched "Quick-Win round 2" on June 16, during a virtual signing ceremony with several dignitaries in attendance including Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs.

The R4CR programme includes a grant scheme as funding mechanism for community and social rehabilitation initiatives in St. Maarten and focuses on improving the capacity of local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in reconstruction and resilience activities post Hurricane Irma.

The launch included the symbolic signing of the grant agreements as the 12 CSOs simultaneously lifted their pen, their grant agreement, signed and showed the signed document. The signing of the grant agreement and the singing of the CSO song marked the official launch of the R4CR project in which US \$564,289 will be invested in the St. Maarten economy via local CSOs.

The virtual signing ceremony was hosted by local radio personality and R4CR communications advisor Kevin "Suppa" Petrona who invited the Dutch representative in

Philipsburg, Chris Johnson, to kick off the formal part of the ceremony. Johnson congratulated the 12 grant recipients for their hard work in securing the grant and stated that the job CSOs do in the community is second to none.

Jacobs commended the role that civil society organisations play in areas where government does not have enough resources to act immediately or effectively "that is really where CSOs make a large contribution to our society" Jacobs said.

Marcel Gumbs spoke on behalf of the St. Maarten Trust Fund's Steering Committee and was impressed by

the impact that small scale projects like R4CR have on the local community. Gumbs encouraged other CSOs to make use of the opportunities that the R4CR programme provides.

Michelle Keane representing the World Bank, congratulated R4CR and the grant recipients with the launch of the Quick-Win round 2. The World Bank executive also underscored the important role CSOs play in the countries where the bank is active.

Peter Knip Director of VNG International, the implementing entity behind R4CR, who joined from the Netherlands, spoke of the role VNG International (the international arm of the association of Dutch municipalities) is playing in this project and also of the importance of nurturing CSOs to be successful in their projects because of the direct impact they have on local communities.

Team leader of the local R4CR office Rolf Hunink gave a short synopsis of the 12 projects in Quick Win round 1 and looked forward to the new projects in Quick Win round 2.

After the official speeches, host "Suppa" and his R4CR side-kick Jose Sommers gave each of the 12 grant recipients exactly one minute to pitch their project to the online public or risk being drowned out by the newly introduced CSO song ("We are one," written by local Soca artist King Vers) after the one-minute deadline.

The St. Maarten Yacht Club kicked off the one-minute pitches with its sailing programme for a second local primary school in addition to a Swim-to-Sail programme where children will learn to swim as a precursor to the sailing programme.

Next up was Excellence Learning Academy who pitched its project for activities for special-needs-children as well as additional training for staffers. This was followed by Kidz at Sea Foundation who will use its grant to teach local young adults how to dive and map underwater debris left by Hurricane Irma in the coastal areas. Beautification of urban areas through murals is how Be The Change Foundation will use its grant while Freegan Food Foundation plans to set up a social food depot where 50 families living below the poverty line can shop for healthy alternatives. Stichting Justitiele Instellingen's one-minute pitch covered its project to prevent convicts from reoffending, start mediation sessions and train key personnel.

The RISC Takers Football Club only needed 30 seconds to pitch its projects as it involves buying a bus in a co-financing agreement with the French Football Federation. With a musical pitch Dow Music Foundation announced plans to teach school kids, prisoners and youngsters in the juvenile detention centre how to play steel pan. Tackling adult literacy is the goal of the project pitched by the University of St Martin (USM). This hidden problem will finally get due attention. The final two pitches were on opposite sides of the age scale: Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation will continue repairs to their building which started in Quick Win Round 1 and St. Maarten Early Childhood Development Association (SEDA) will also continue its Quick Win round 1 project of supplying food to all day cares on the island.

Technical difficulties prevented Discovery Kidz day

care and afterschool from delivering its one-minute pitch, but the reconstruction project was explained by Jose Sommers of R4CR (who also managed to stay within the one minute allotted).

The next step in the grant agreement process is the Pre-Disbursement Training (PDT) which the CSOs must complete before the funds can be (partially) released to their projects. The PDT is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, at the newly renovated Senior Citizen Recreational Foundation building in Hope Estate.

The R4CR programme is financed by the government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund which is administered by the World Bank and monitored by the National Recovery Programme Bureau (NRPB). Project activities by registered CSOs can cover subject categories such as neighbourhood initiatives, sports/recreation, nature/environment, culture, poverty relief, day care centres/after school programmes, youth employment, skills development, psycho-social support and gender-based violence.

The "Quick-Win rounds" have been designed for projects that can be completed within six months with a moderate budget. "Quick-Win round 1" started in September 2020. Twelve projects were selected with a total budget of US \$452,481. Those projects have now been completed and Quick Win round 2 will now commence.

For more information about the R4CR programme or a detailed review of all current projects please visit www.r4cr.org or the Facebook page (R4CRSXM).

Whale and dolphin research expedition in the Caribbean

PHILIPSBURG--A three-month whale and dolphin research expedition with the objective to register the number of whales, specifically sperm whales, and the routes they take in the Caribbean started May 15. The results will be used to determine what is needed to protect these large mammals.

The expedition is coordinated by the Caribbean Cetacean Society in partnership with the Worldwide

structure and vocal clans of Lesser Antilles sperm whales, as well as improved knowledge on other species.

Vocal clans are social groups of whales that sound acoustically similar. The biggest threats to whales are noise from ship traffic or coastal development, pollution, hunting and bycatch.

The research during this expedition could make an important contribution to

the protection of whales can be planned.

This research mission receives support not only from DCNA and WWF-NL, but also from Corail Caraibes, French telecom company Orange, Électricité de France (EDF) Group Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute and Parc Naturel Régional de la Martinique.

The research is to provide an understanding of the migration routes of marine

22 June 2021 (Nature Foundation Website)

The Nature Foundation St. Maarten Successfully Completes Monkey Management Project as Part of the R4CR Grant Scheme and Urges for Management Option to be Implemented

The Monkey Management Project designed and implemented by the Nature Foundation St. Maarten and funded by the R4CR Grant Scheme has been completed. This six-month project focused on researching the abundance and status of the invasive vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*) and to establish sustainable and humane solutions to manage the invasive monkey population to protect St. Maarten's native species and local agriculture. The project results recommend initiating the management solution human euthanasia of the monkeys. This solution would be the most time and cost effective and has received the most support from residents, according to the survey conducted. It is highly advised for the eradication management option to be initiated in the very near future.

The project included field research as well as a management option survey to gain the St. Maarten's resident's opinions. "The survey resulted in 54% of the respondents choosing eradication as the best management solution, and 33% of the respondents choosing sterilization, with the last 13% of respondents choosing to do nothing. These results show that most of the St. Maarten residents believe that eradication is the best management solution available" stated Project Coordinator Alice Manley. The field research showed that the highest number of monkeys are present in Point Blanche hill area, but also in Guana Bay, Sentry and Dawn Beach hill areas, high amounts of monkeys can be seen. The numbers of monkeys sighted in the field surveys are expected to be an underestimation of the monkeys present, due to the difficulty of the monkey sightings in the dense bush area and differences in residential activity time of the monkeys during the day. It is estimated that about 6 to 9 separate troops of Vervet monkeys are present on the Dutch side of St. Maarten, the troops are estimated to have 10 up to a maximum of 50 individuals. "If nothing is done within the near future, the vervet monkey population on St. Maarten can rapidly increase causing further issues with native species, agriculture and even human safety. We recommend the government to make the funds available or apply for grants to start the management process as soon as possible to prevent deterioration of the monkey situation or have residents taking matters into their own hands" urged Nature Foundation's Manager Melanie Meijer zu Schlochtern. The management surveys were conducted in person, with representatives of the Nature Foundation visiting different 'hotspots' (grocery, convenience, and hardware stores) around the island at different times of the day. This survey was not posted online nor were the hotspots declared to the public ahead of time to keep the results unbiased demographically accurate.



“It was important to the Nature Foundation, R4CR, and the World Bank that the residents of St. Maarten were able to weigh in on the management options before a recommendation was given on how to handle this invasive species. It is a difficult decision to make morally, and many aspects must be considered. Giving the public a voice during this process ensures that the island will be supportive of future management projects,” said the Nature Foundation St. Maarten.



This research project has led to a fully developed research report that can be used to address funding options and inform the government and the public about the needs of managing the population. The Nature Foundation would like to thank R4CR and the World Bank for the opportunity to perform this project. The Foundation believes that the results from this project will be useful in the future to help maintain and promote the health of the native species and combat the effects of invasive species, the complete report can be found on the website www.naturefoundationsxm.org.

The R4CR program is a grant scheme that focuses exclusively on financing and strengthening of local Civil Society Organization (CSOs). The program is financed by the Government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund. The latter is administered by the World Bank, implemented by the NRPB (National Recovery Program Bureau) and executed by VNGI (the Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten International) in close cooperation with Foresee Foundation-NPower and other local partners.

THE DAILY HERALD, Wednesday, June 30, 2021



Grant recipients with R4CR staff during the pre-disbursement training.

R4CR pre-disbursement training complete, projects ready to start

Philipsburg—The Resources for Community Resilience (R4CR) programme completed pre-disbursement training with the twelve grant recipients of Quick-Win round 2 on June 26.

The “Quick-Win rounds” have been designed for projects that can be completed within six months with a moderate budget (maximum \$60,000 per project in this round).

The training was held at the newly-renovated premises of Senior Citizen Recreational Foundation (one of the grant recipients) in Hope Estate.

The goal of the pre-disbursement training was to familiarise the grant recipients with the technical, administrative and financial processes and procedures of the grant scheme which are detailed in the project operational manual.

The interactive session started with each of the 12 grant recipients giving a one-minute pitch about their project. This was followed by a general introduction of the R4CR programme whereby the roles and responsibilities of the grantees and R4CR team were explained. The environmental and social framework and the relevant standards, also known as safeguards, applicable to the projects were discussed.

These safeguards are meant to ensure that all risks and their impacts are adequately accounted for, described and mitigation measures put in place to guarantee that the project has no negative effects on individuals, the community, or the environment and that all stakeholders are engaged and properly informed. Each grantee was asked to list the potential risks and possible mitigation measures of their project.

Monitoring and evaluation of the projects by means of monthly progress reports was also a topic of interest. Grantees are required to submit monthly reports that give detailed accounts of how their projects are progressing financially and technically. Financial accountability is a crucial part of the R4CR programme. The grantees were given information on how to submit an activity plan to have the project funds released, what expenses are eligible and what checks and balances should be in place.

The twelve grantees were encouraged to communicate with all stakeholders and tell their stories to the general public. “Local non-profit organisations do so much great work that no one has heard about. It’s time for you to tell your stories” implored

Procurement of goods and services was the last major topic broached during the pre-disbursement training. As with most World Bank projects, the R4CR programme also requires three separate quotations for procuring goods or services (above the US \$1,000 threshold) and the different methods of doing so were explained.

With the pre-disbursement training complete, the grantees can now start to work on their activity plans and submit a request to release the funds needed to execute their projects under Quick-Win round 2. The total available budget for Quick-Win Round 2 is \$564,288.

The R4CR programme includes a grant scheme as funding mechanism for community and social rehabilitation initiatives in St. Maarten and focuses on improving the capacity of local civil society organisations (CSOs) in reconstruction and resilience activities post-Hurricane Irma.

The R4CR programme is financed by the Government of the Netherlands via the St. Maarten Trust Fund administered by the World Bank and monitored by the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB). Project activities by registered CSOs can cover categories such as neighbourhood initiatives, sports/recreation, nature/environment, culture, poverty relief, day-care centres/after-school programmes, youth employment, skills development, psycho-social support and gender-based violence.

For more information about the R4CR programme or a detailed overview of all current projects visit



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lid residency
nents.
mail cv to:

VNG International

P.O.Box 30435

2500 GK The Hague

Tel +31 70 373 8401

Fax +31 70 373 8660

vng-international@vng.nl

www.vng-international.nl

vng-international.nl