



Celebrating 25 Years 1991 - 2016



The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) celebrates its silver anniversary in 2016. It has been 25 years since the CARICOM Heads of Government in recognition of the fragile economies and ecosystems of the States within the Caribbean region being extremely vulnerable to natural and man-made hazards, demonstrated the foresight to establish a regional CARICOM Mechanism for emergency response and disaster relief.

The regional Agency was first established in 1991 as CDERA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency) with primary responsibility for the coordination of emergency response and relief efforts to Participating States that require such assistance. It transitioned to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in 2009 to fully embrace the principles and practice of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) and to advance the work of CDERA by ensuring

sustainable development of resilient communities within the Caribbean region.

Over the 25 years, the CDEMA System has learned, adjusted, improved and retooled to meet the demands of each stage of the journey. The disaster events of the last decade and the climate threats facing the region today and in the future are a testament to the foresight of the Region's Leaders back in 1991. It further underscores the relevance and mandate of CDEMA as an institution equipped with the experience and knowledge to offer solutions to the current climate change dilemma.

A major achievement of the Agency is the development and implementation of the CDM Strategy now in its third iteration for 2014 -2024. CDM is an integrated risk management strategy, developed first in 2001 as a blueprint for guiding disaster management interventions in the Caribbean region. CDEMA also plays a key role in developing a regional level framework for risk reduction and coordinating interventions at the regional level to enhance disaster resilience within the Caribbean region. In this regard, CDEMA has over the years developed a number of model tools and provides support to Participating States in adapting these at the national level. CDEMA also maintains its primary function, which is the coordination of response support to Participating States affected by an emergency event, once the State requests such assistance, through the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). CDEMA's successes are therefore largely due to the solid partnerships with its 18 Participating States, regional institutions, international development partners and donors.

In celebrating this very important milestone, CDEMA would like to thank its stakeholders and partners for their unrelenting support over the past 25 years and looks forward to a prosperous relationship for next 25 years.

CDERA/CDEMA Over the Years!



CDERA Management and Staff, 1995



CDEMA's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), 2009



CDEMA's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), 2016

The TAC comprises the Directors of National Disaster Offices within CDEMA's 18 Participating States (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands and the Virgin Islands).

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From the ED's Desk: CDEMA's 25th—Reflection and Recommitment



By Ronald H. Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA

As I reflect on the creation of the Agency I serve, I am reminded of a line in the Jamaican National Anthem: “Give us vision less we perish”. I believe the CARICOM Leaders showed great vision in the creation of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, in September 1991 as an institution of CARICOM recognized under Article 21 of the Treaty of Chaguaramas. The Agency was created with the full recognition of the fragile economies and ecosystems of countries within the region, and was established with the necessary organs, membership, structure and functions to serve as the regional disaster management body with primary responsibility for coordinating emergency response and relief efforts provided to Participating States that require such assistance. CDERA transitioned to CDEMA in 2009 to advance the work of CDERA and with an enhanced mandate to promote disaster loss reduction and ensure the sustainable development of resilient communities within the Caribbean Region. It is also mandated to perform the role of facilitator, driver, coordinator and motivating force for the promotion and engineering of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in its 18 Participating Member States in the Caribbean Community. The two most important aspects of the creation of the Agency which stands out for me as its leader today are:

1. That it was an institution created for the people of the Caribbean by the people of the Caribbean.
2. The creation represented a partnership between the Government, people of the Caribbean, the CARICOM Secretariat its community of institutions and the friendly Governments and international agencies that were operating in the region at that time.

Twenty-five years later we can say without contradiction that we have been delivering exceptional services to the people of the

Caribbean. There is incontrovertible evidence that the institution and its partners have fought against all odds to repay the faith reposed by the Heads of Government and the Caribbean people. It is therefore necessary at this stage to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the pioneers, leaders, current and former staff members and supporters throughout the CDEMA System for achieving admirable results in disaster management across the region over the years. Without their contribution and commitment a silver jubilee would not have been realized.

The CDEMA System has much to be proud of. We have led the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy since 2001, which serves as a road map for delivering effective disaster risk reduction and resilience programmes at the national and regional levels. We have demonstrated growing capabilities over these 25 years through the strengthening of national preparedness and operational capacities as well as coordinating regional response mechanisms to aid in the relief and response efforts to affected Member States.

Our implementation of the CDM Strategy, now in its third iteration (2014-2024), has provided us the opportunity to focus our efforts on being far more proactive rather than reactive in dealing with disasters risks. The work of CDEMA through the CDM Strategy has contributed to the development of a more organized framework for the management of hazard and disaster risks in our region.

Whilst the journey thus far has been rewarding, the Agency faced numerous challenges over the 25 years but despite the challenges we remained committed to the vision. Challenges ranged from waning support from partners, doubts about capacities, lack of support from our Participating States and sustainable financing issues. However, after each round of challenges we have learned, adjusted, improved and retooled for the demands of each stage of the journey.

As we look to the next 25 years of the journey we will be focusing on strengthening the foundations necessary for the future success of the Agency and regional system. We will set about immediately to advance the following priorities:

1. Continued the strengthening of our accountability systems.
2. Further enhancement of our Regional Response Mechanisms to incorporate

new CARICOM Partners and maximizing the unlocked potential across the Caribbean to better serve the Caribbean People.

3. Ensuring that we connect all our stakeholders to the necessary information to improve knowledge and decision making through the agencies intelligence and information clearing house function
4. Launch of the Regional Training Centre (RTC) which will seek to support the enhancement of technical skills and knowledge required of actors at all levels- local, national and regional- for CDM implementation, to include but not limited to the traditional response and preparedness skill-sets.

Our region remains more vulnerable than ever to natural and man-induced hazards but also the increasing effects of climate change and variability which in recent times, have presented us with new challenges resulting in more costly disasters and emergencies. These events continue to threaten the economic growth and prosperity agenda of many of our Caribbean Small Island States and pose increased pressures on our societies, our culture and our people.

Friends, greater demands are being made of our national and regional humanitarian architecture as a result of these events. The disaster events of the last decade and the climate threats facing the region today and in the future is a testament to the foresight of our Leaders back in 1991 and which further underscores the relevance and mandate of CDEMA as an institution equipped with the experience and knowledge to offer solutions to the current climate change dilemma.

The next 25 years will require all of us to look beyond our individual struggle for survival as this singular focus often times can bring short term gains but long term negative and unintended outcomes. We must recommit our selves to the vision back in 1991. Recommit to mending, strengthening and building new partnerships with the people of the Caribbean. I use this 25th Anniversary to encourage the recommitment of our Governments of the Caribbean to recommit to the CDEMA System and the Coordinating Unit, to recommit to the creation of strong National Disaster Offices and strong national systems for Disaster Risk Management. We must always remember that as a system we have been strong not because we relied on our individual strength but because we relied on the strength of the collective. Happy 25th birthday CDEMA!

25th Anniversary Message from the Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of Dominica



A very happy 25th anniversary to the dedicated management and staff of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency—CDEMA.

Twenty five years are indeed a milestone! And thankfully for us in the Caribbean, your twenty five years of service have been extraordinary!

The Commonwealth of Dominica is especially grateful to CDEMA for your work done in

Comprehensive Disaster Management. Your invaluable contribution to our efforts at disaster risk reduction, and your expertise provided, following the passage of tropical storm Erika in 2015, was vital to our immediate response and recovery efforts!

As we continue to experience and prepare for the effects of climate change your role becomes ever more critical. On behalf of the government and people of Dominica, I thank you sincerely for your great work thus far and pledge to work with you as you fulfill your mandate in responding to and working to reduce the risk and loss associated with disasters. I wish you all the best.

Honorable Samantha Marshall, Minister of Social Transformation & Human Resource Development, Antigua & Barbuda & Chair of the CDEMA Council of Ministers

Let me congratulate CDEMA on excelling and doing well over the last 25 years. On this your 25th anniversary, I want to say on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda as well as all other Governments within the region, congratulations on achieving 25 years of excellence. We trust that you will continue to improve and to assist the Caribbean States, not only during disasters but also continue to assist and educate us on mechanisms that can be put in place by every Member State in reducing the risks associated with disasters. I congratulate Mr. Jackson and his excellent team.



CARICOM Secretary—General, Ambassador Irwin La Rocque Congratulates CDEMA on 25th Anniversary

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque has extended congratulations to CDEMA on its 25th Anniversary.

“The Community appreciates your contribution to its well-being over the past 25 years,” the Secretary-General said.

On 9 September, 25 years ago, CARICOM Heads of Government, established a regional



CARICOM Mechanism for emergency response and disaster relief. This move was in recognition of the fragile economies and ecosystems of the States within the Caribbean region being extremely vulnerable to natural and man-made hazards.

Mr Ricardo Mena, Head of the Regional Office for the Americas for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)



Ricardo Mena (UNISDR) - Heartfelt congratulations on the 25th anniversary of CDEMA. Twenty-five years is quite a long time, it’s a quarter of a century and CDEMA has done a lot, spearheading many of the initiatives in DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) that have been applied elsewhere across the entire globe. I think it’s a day for celebration and it’s also a day for reflection. There are still many challenges

ahead of us and as we see the losses due to the impact of disasters continue to grow in the Caribbean region that has been affected throughout its history by different types of hazards, I think we have to renovate our efforts and we have to increase with enthusiasm to build better and stronger resilience for the Caribbean States. I know that you at CDEMA are working hard to achieve this objective and under the leadership of Ronald Jackson, I’m sure that in the years to come you will continue to progress and you will continue addressing DRR in an effective way in the Caribbean. Happy anniversary and I hope you will have a great new quarter of a century with lots of success!

CDEMA hosts 7th Council of Ministers Meeting in Barbados



Official delegates at the 7th Meeting of the Council of Ministers L-R : Hon. George Lightbourne, Turks and Caicos Islands; Mr. Philmore Mullin, Antigua & Barbuda; Hon. Edmund Castro, Belize; Senator Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway, Grenada; Hon. Samantha Marshall, Antigua & Barbuda; Mr. Ronald Jackson, CDEMA; Hon. Adriel Brathwaite, Barbados; Col. Chabilall Ramsarup, Guyana; Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, Trinidad & Tobago. PS Osmond Petty, St. Kitts & Nevis. Also participating virtually were Deputy Governor, Alric Taylor & Premier Donaldson Romeo, Montserrat; PS Denzil Thorpe, Jamaica and Ms. Sharleen Dabreo, Virgin Islands.

The 7th Meeting of the Council of Ministers was held at the CDEMA's Headquarters in Barbados on June 22, 2016. The Council is CDEMA's highest decision making body and is mandated to meet in ordinary session annually.

Representation of the 7th meeting of the Council included Ministers of Government, Senior Government Officials and National Disaster Coordinators from across CDEMA's Participating States.

Key items discussed at the meeting included the level of national operational readiness for possible disasters, especially during the hurricane season. The session noted the

importance of countries to be ready and prepared at all times to protect lives, property and infrastructure.

The meeting also discussed the sustainable financing efforts of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU). To this end, the report from the Management Committee of Council pertaining to the financial and administrative matters of the CDEMA CU was reviewed. The CDEMA CU's 2 year work programme was also approved and adopted by The Council.

The Honourable Samantha Marshall, Minister of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development, Government of

Antigua and Barbuda was elected the new Chairman of The Council. The new Deputy Chairman is the Honourable Winston Garraway, Minister of National Security, Disaster Management, Home Affairs, Information and Implementation, Government of Grenada. The meeting also recognized and thanked the previous Chairman, Honourable Adriel Brathwaite, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados. Special recognition and gratitude was extended to the former Deputy Chairman and Deputy Governor of Anguilla, Honourable Stanley Reid. Mr. Reid served as Anguilla's representative to The Council for the past 10 years.

Training for CARICOM's Primary Humanitarian Relief Unit

Thirty two (32) participants from the disciplined forces, including police, military and fire services, successfully completed four days of training in preparation for their role in providing relief and humanitarian assistance in the event of a disaster. The annual training workshop of the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) was held at the CDEMA's headquarters in Barbados from August 8th to 12th 2016.

The training was facilitated by CDEMA in collaboration with the Regional Security System Headquarters (RSS HQ) with funding from the United States Government through the US Southern Command. The CDRU is one of the specialised teams trained by CDEMA each year as part of the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). The RRM is coordinated by CDEMA to provide humanitarian and technical support in a



Members of the 2016 CDRU in training at the RSS Headquarters, Barbados.

timely manner if requested by any of the CDEMA's 18 Participating States. The System is extremely dependent on the readiness and willingness of the governments of Participating States, regional institutions, key development partners, agencies of the United Nations and humanitarian partners to work together in offering immediate

assistance when the call comes from the CDEMA Coordinating Unit. The CDRU is deployed to provide humanitarian assistance in direct support to the civil authorities of any State affected by natural or technological hazards.

The CDRU's mission is to conduct disaster response and relief operations and its main tasks include the management of relief supplies, emergency telecommunications and the provision of appropriate personnel for repairing critical lifeline facilities. The four day training included introductions to Disaster Management, National Disaster Management and the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), introductions to the Regional Supply Tracking System (RSTS), Incident Command System, Urban Search and Rescue in CDEMA Participating States, Dignity and Human Rights and Civil/Military Coordination.

Belize Impacted by Hurricane Earl

In the early hours of Thursday August 4th 2016, Hurricane Earl made landfall near Belize City. Earl impacted Belize as a Category 1 Hurricane with estimated maximum sustained winds of 80 mph. Earl moved westward at a speed near 14 mph and produced rainfall of 8-12 inches resulting in severe flooding over Belize. The system took about fifteen hours to cross the country. The areas most impacted included Belize City, Belize Rural, Orange Walk, Cayo, and the Stann Creek districts. There were no reports of fatalities and no reports of injured and missing persons. In Belize City the Police and the Fire Departments conducted 274 rescues. At the height of the storm 3,500 persons were in 94 shelters across the country. Many roads and bridges were impassable and structural damage reported to houses, businesses, government and private buildings. The final damage assessment by the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) amounts to millions of dollars in material losses.

The Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) was placed on alert while the CDEMA CU remained in contact with the Government of Belize and provided some support in mobilising Emergency Response Grant (ERG) to support recovery efforts. CDEMA is also exploring other avenues for funding to assist with community rehabilitation support.



CDEMA's Executive Director, Mr Ronald Jackson met with Dr. Carla Barnett, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Belize on recovery efforts post Hurricane Earl's impact.



Photos of damage to buildings and flooding as a result of the passage of Hurricane Earl in Belize, August, 2016.



Hurricane Matthew: CDEMA's Response to Impacted States

Matthew, the 5th named hurricane of the 2016 Atlantic Hurricane season, was formed near the Windward Islands on September 28, 2016. As a Tropical Storm, Matthew impacted Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Wednesday September 28, 2016. Heavy rains and strong winds were experienced



Members of the RNATs greeted by Premier of Turks & Caicos Islands Hon. Rufus Ewing (standing 4th from left in the first row) on route to The Bahamas.

in these countries over a period of 24 hours, resulting in flooding, landslides and some damage to infrastructure. There was one report of fatality in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Saint Lucia suffered most in terms of damage to residential homes and businesses, blocked road ways and severe flooding at the Soufriere Hospital, which was relocated to the Environmental Health Building at Deliau Street, Wingsville. 133 persons were also reported in shelters throughout the island.

As a Hurricane, Matthew impacted Jamaica on the 3rd; Haiti on the 4th and The Commonwealth of The Bahamas during 4th - 6th October, 2016. No deaths or injuries were reported in Jamaica however, 3,500 persons were in 193 shelters across the island.

Matthew provided significant impact to Haiti

as a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale with maximum sustained winds up to 140 mph (220 km/h) with higher gusts and subsequently severe impacts to The Bahamas as a Category 3 with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph. CDEMA activated the Regional Coordination Plan and the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC). In efforts to assist these countries in dealing with the aftermath of the hurricane, CDEMA also deployed 2 sets of specialized response teams to Haiti and The Bahamas.

At the request of the Government of Haiti and based on priority needs identified, CDEMA deployed a 6 member CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST) to Haiti on Friday, October 7, 2016. The COST support Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) coordination

in Jérémie and Les Cayes, two settlements most affected by Hurricane Matthew. The team was led by Brigadier General (Ret'd) Earl Arthurs and supported by technical personnel from CDEMA Participating States.

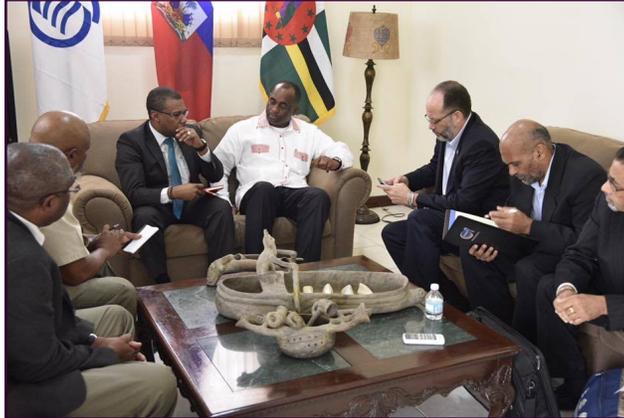
Three (3) Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNATs) were also deployed to The Bahamas on Friday October 7, 2016 on the request of NEMA, Bahamas. The teams included representatives from UNDAC, CARPHA and CDEMA and were led by Ms Joanne Persad, Programme Manger, Preparedness and Response, CDEMA. The RNATs facilitated initial damage assessments and needs analysis in Andros, Grand Bahama and New Providence Islands.



Members of the COST meeting with officials of the Civil Protection Directorate, Haiti

CARICOM High Level Delegation visited Haiti & The Bahamas in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew

A high level delegation visited Haiti on October 11, 2016 and The Bahamas from October 12-13, 2016. The delegation discussed support with the leadership of the affected States and confirmed additional areas where the Community could provide support. Members of the delegation included: The Honourable Roosevelt Skerritt, Prime Minister of Dominica and Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Government of Caribbean Community, Ambassador Irwin LaRoque, Secretary General of CARICOM, Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA, Honourable Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture St. Vincent and the Grenadines supported by a technical representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dr. David Farrell, Principal of the



Members of the CARICOM High Level delegation being briefed by CDEMA's Executive Director, Mr. Ronald Jackson in Haiti, October 11, 2016.

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, who joined specifically for the Haiti segment. Emerging from the high level dialogue, additional support was recommended for Haiti that focused on providing targeted assistance in a specific geographical locale and for a specific purpose. As such the CARICOM support was concentrated in the Sud Department, specifically in Les Cayes and Jeremie. To this end, resources were garnered from Member States to provide the well needed support to the worst affected population in these two areas for a maximum period of one month.

The Community also agreed to focus its intervention on rehabilitating the education infrastructure. A school feeding programme was supported for 2 weeks catering to children and families displaced as a result of Matthew.

Images of damage caused as a result of Hurricane Matthew



Broken poles found within assesses communities in New Providence



Above: Aerial shot of a section in the SUD Department (South) of Haiti.



*Above: Flooding at the entrance to the General Hospital
Below: Damage to roof of a school in Les Cayes, Haiti.*



Coastal erosion at Smith's Point Beach, Grand Bahama



Above: Flooded street in a community in New Providence, The Bahamas



Above: House damaged by a fallen tree in Les Cayes, Haiti



Left: Damaged structure in Andros, The Bahamas

CARICOM's Intervention in Haiti, post Hurricane Matthew a Success

The Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) response to the devastation in Haiti as a result of Hurricane Matthew on October 4, 2016 is deemed a resounding success. CARICOM's response was led by CDEMA in providing emergency relief supplies and early recovery operations in the two most affected areas of Les Cayes and Jérémie.

As part of a legacy intervention, CARICOM supported the rehabilitation of the Ecole Nationale De Sicard de Pelerin School in Les Cayes and a feeding programme for the students for a period of two weeks. The CARICOM response also provided US\$53,000 in relief supplies (including items such as tarpaulin, water, protein, starch, hygiene products and supplies for babies) to 805 families in Les Cayes.



CARICOM's rehabilitation of the Ecole Nationale De Sicard de Pelerin School in Les Cayes post Hurricane Matthew

Additionally, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica shipped two 20ft containers of relief supplies to Haiti and provided cash donations of US\$100,000 to support CARICOM efforts. The Government of Jamaica also shipped two 20ft containers of relief supplies donated by the people of Jamaica while the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands provided cash donations of US\$50,000 and personnel to also aid the recovery and relief process.

Noting that the relief and early recovery operations in Haiti have come to a close, CDEMA's Executive Director, Mr. R. Jackson said, "The success of the mission would not have been possible if it wasn't for the personnel, the regional response teams, the contributions made by CDEMA Participating States, regional and international partners including the United States Southern Command and the World Food Programme (WFP). On behalf of the CDEMA System and the wider Caribbean Community, I wish to recognise and thank them all for their contributions". The Executive Director also expressed gratitude to Digicel Business (Barbados) for demonstrating their support by offsetting the costs for calls and data usage incurred by CDEMA's staff during the response period.

"The efforts spearheaded by CDEMA underscore the importance and urgency in which the region needs to continue to strengthen its capacity. We need to identify sustainable mechanisms to finance these systems so we can continue to serve the needs of our Participating States in a predictable way", added Mr. Jackson.

The region's response started with the deployment of the CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST) between October 7th and 19th, 2016 at the request of the Government of Haiti. The COST provided direct support to the Emergency Operation Centres of Les Cayes and Jérémie by compiling data, generating information, coordinating both external and internal resources, as well as generating reports. The team was led by CDEMA and supported by technical personnel from Barbados, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago,

Turks and Caicos Islands and the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

Highlighting the valiant efforts and contributions to the early recovery process by the local Haitian officials, retired Brigadier General Earl Arthurs, CDEMA's Operations Specialist and Special Coordinator on the ground in Haiti said, "I think one of the major achievements of the mission was the show of ownership and leadership by the Haitian Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) of the response operations at the National and Departmental levels". General Arthurs who was stationed in Haiti with the COST for four weeks also stressed the high level of participation of all the relevant sectors in meetings. He also commended the high standard of the Situation Reports produced and circulated by the DPC Haiti throughout the period. Following General Arthurs redeployment, Lt. Colonel Clyde Parris served as Special Coordinator for the CARICOM response in Haiti.

In addition to the COST, a CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) team was deployed to assist with the distribution and management of relief supplies. Deployment of the CDRU and the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) personnel was facilitated by the Regional Security System (RSS) and the Government of Jamaica. The CDRU also assisted with establishing High Frequency radio communication between Jérémie and Les Cayes.

The rehabilitation of the school was facilitated by Structural Engineer, Grenville Phillips, who donated his time to provide supervision and onsite training to Haitian artisans. Military engineers from the JDF also facilitated the repairs to the school in Les Cayes as well as provided military security for the CARICOM humanitarian actors on the ground, including members of the CDRU and COST.



These Les Cayes residents get some help from members of the CARICOM contingent in lifting the family packages.

All teams that were deployed to Haiti were redeployed by November 16, 2016 signaling the end of the operations.

Daily weather analysis and briefings was provided by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in supporting the preparedness and response teams in Haiti to inform operations. The Government of Haiti reported that Hurricane Matthew resulted in 546 deaths; 1,410,774 persons being in urgent need of humanitarian assistance at the height of the emergency and 120,000 families had their homes destroyed or damaged.

CDEMA and IDEA International Awarded Silver Medal

CDEMA is the recipient of a Silver Medal award which is shared with the Institute for Development in Economics and Administration (IDEA International). The award was sponsored by the International Development Bank (IDB) and presented during the IX International Seminar of the Sub-National Governments Network (CoPLAC) held in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico on September 8th, 2016. Both entities were nominated for the ‘Second Competition in Management for Development Results (MfDR)’ and were placed second in the ‘MfDR in Sectors’ category.

“Being awarded this Silver Medal on the occasion of celebrating our Silver Anniversary is highly commendable and speaks to the growth of the Agency over the past 25 years in ensuring that M&E is highly featured in our efforts to be accountable to our Participating States and stakeholders as we report on progress towards the achievement of the Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy 2014-2024 and the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) Corporate Plan 2014-2017”, commented Mr. Jackson on receiving the award.

In 2013, the CDEMA CU contracted the IDEA International Institute to provide support to strengthening the MER capacity of the Agency to lead the CDM agenda for the region. The project undertaken by IDEA started with a series of training in Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) of a critical mass of key actors, both at



In the photo from L-R is Dr. Frederic Martin, Co-President of IDEA and Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA with other awardees.

automatic, and operational levels over the planning horizon of the CDM Strategy. The development of such a robust system also includes efforts to strengthen M&E at the level of the National Disaster Management Organizations. And finally, the initiative was accompanied by the design and implementation of an online monitoring system, which started with a diagnostic of needs and of relevant existing information systems, and then included the adaptation of the generic IDEA Solutions “Monitoring for Results” (M4R) software to the specific needs and characteristics of CDEMA to develop a tailor-made solution, which is currently functional as CDM Monitor.

Based on the support given by IDEA, the CDEMA CU has seen an improvement over the last 3 years in its internal systems in terms of monitoring and reporting of results. The CU is also providing support to the Participating States and to stakeholders within the CDM Governance Mechanism in order to improve the level of reporting on progress of implementation of the CDM Strategy.

CDEMA CU and in major National Disaster Offices. Twenty one participants achieved the Masters Certification Programme in M&E and Information Systems, a graduate level credited programme offered jointly by IDEA International and University Laval, Canada.

Further work on the M&E system involved the revision of the strategic and operational plans, adjusting when necessary the choice of indicators in the Performance Measurement Framework, and checking for the consistency of targets set at strategic, program-

CDEMA and CBU Signed MOU



Mr Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit and Mrs Shida Bolai, President of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), signed historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to further collaborate and maximise on mutual benefits in raising awareness on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) and increased media role in promoting disaster preparedness and response in the region. The MOU signing took place on October 25th at the 47th Annual General Assembly in Havana, Cuba. Speaking during a discussion on Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr Jackson also called on the region’s media to become more of an ally in drawing public attention to the commitment gap among the region’s political directorate and decision makers to invest more on prevention and mitigation strategies.

CDEMA Strengthens Collaboration with Dominican Republic

In an effort to strengthen cooperation among disaster and emergency management agencies across the region, CDEMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Emergency Commission (CNE) of the Dominican Republic.

The MOU, which was signed on June 6th by Mr. Ronald Jackson of CDEMA and Major General Rafael E. Pichirilo of the CNE, aims to establish a general framework of cooperation and partnership between the institutions. The agreement covers areas of mutual interest and efforts to support the regional disaster resilience building agenda within the Caribbean and more particularly between CDEMA Participating States and the Dominican Republic. The two institutions seek to complement efforts and create synergies in which each partner's advantages



Mr. Ronald Jackson and Ambassador Antonio Vargas Hernandez

are enhanced, capitalizing on the experience and for the purpose of undertaking joint actions in areas of interest. This would also include the design of strategies and actions aimed at capacity building within CDEMA Participating States and the Dominican Republic in relation to Compre-

hensive Disaster Management. During his official visit to the Dominican Republic, Mr. Jackson also met with Ambassador Antonio Vargas Hernandez, the NAO of European Funds for Development and Director General of Multilateral Cooperation (DIGECOOP). Ambassador Vargas Hernandez expressed his satisfaction with the signing of the MOU between the two Agencies and said that by order of the President Danilo Medina, the institution he leads has advocated and promoted closer cooperation with the Caribbean. He also highlighted the need for greater collaboration in integrating disaster risk management in academics, specifically in the curricula of schools and universities in the Dominican Republic.

Jeremy Collymore Honoured by the Government of Barbados

The former Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Jeremy M. Collymore was recently honoured by the Barbados Government for his outstanding contribution and leadership in Disaster Management at the national, regional and global levels. Collymore was honoured with the Barbados Service Star at the Awards of National Honours, on the celebration of Barbados' 50th anniversary of Independence on November 30th, 2016.

In his quiet and appreciative demeanor Collymore said, "I am indeed grateful to be recognised for my work although I never really worked for an award." Mr. Collymore, who has served the region for more than 30 years by leading disaster response coordination at the national and regional levels, is also a strong advocate for cultural change to building disaster resilience in the Caribbean, and continues to do so as an Honorary Research Fellow

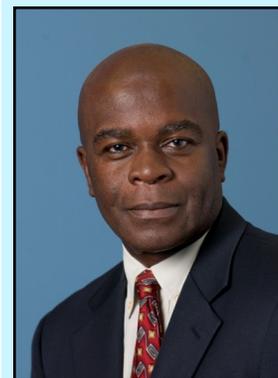
at the Institute for Sustainable Development, UWI. "I see myself as a flag bearer in the disaster management community. This is a discipline and a profession which, for a long time has been marginalized in public and private sector policy and programmes across the region."

Mr. Collymore was the first and only Coordinator of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) established in 1991 as the lead CARICOM regional agency for disaster emergency response coordination. One of his major "pioneering" achievements included championing and leading the paradigm shift of regional disaster management thinking from a response tradition to a Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) approach. The adoption of the CDM approach by CARICOM in 2001 also resulted in Collymore overseeing the transition of CDERA to CDEMA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management

Agency) in 2009 and being appointed as the first Executive Director of CDEMA up until 2013 when he demitted office.

"I see this is as a signal of an awakening and recognition of the importance of disaster risk management considerations in our development space. I hope it encourages all of the development partners, practitioners and those who support this resilience agenda to keep up the march to the mission. I look forward to the day, in the not too distant future, when comprehensive risk management will become routine in all elements of our society and economy."

In offering congratulations to Mr. Collymore on behalf of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit and the CDEMA System, Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA said, "This award is a fitting honour and tribute to Jeremy recognising his outstanding and sterling contribution



Mr. Jeremy Collymore, recipient of the Barbados Service Star National Honours Award, 2016

to the CDEMA system and disaster management in the Caribbean region and beyond. We as Disaster Risk Management practitioners applaud his efforts to establish the CARICOM Regional Disaster Management mechanism and a strong brand".

CDEMA and CARICAD Formalise Partnership for Sustainable Development

In a true demonstration of regional partnership, two CARICOM institutions have taken an important step to formalize their relationship towards enhancing sustainable development across the region. CDEMA and the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to demonstrate their synergistic relationship through more strategic collaboration. The MOU was signed by the Executive Director of CDEMA, Ronald Jackson and Devon Rowe, Executive Director of CARICAD on Monday December 05, 2016 at CDEMA Headquarters in Barbados.

Speaking at the brief signing ceremony, Mr. Ronald Jackson said, "This relationship between CDEMA and CARICAD has been brewing for some time and we are particularly proud to share this moment where we formalize a partnership to support institutional strengthening of the public sector across the region. CDEMA and CARICAD share common challenges including those of predictable financing, that all regional institutions face and which presents significant



Executive Director of CARICAD Mr. Devon Rowe (left) and Executive Director of CDEMA, Mr. Ronald Jackson signed MOU signaling a strategic partnership between the two institutions.

challenges for the provision of services to their common Member States." Mr. Jackson also added, "CDEMA and CARICAD have seen the need to collaborate closely on areas that focus on strengthening governance, leadership and a common commitment to sustainable development despite different mandates". "Our vulnerability is not merely a disaster management issue it is a survival and sustainable development issue. Comprehensive Dis-

aster Management is a public sector transformation issue," said Mr. Rowe. "CARICAD is the region's focal point for public sector transformation. The value of this MOU initiative can be appreciated when I remind all that the development and execution was identified as one of the activities under the aegis of the CARICOM Strategic Plan. Implementation of this MOU also means that we will be clearly demonstrating that our regional institutions are working together", he added.

Both CARICAD and CDEMA have identified and agreed on specific opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of their respective work plans as described in the MOU. Some of the areas of collaboration include: promote and publicise efforts in a manner that underscores the value of both institutions to all stakeholders; perform tasks and related assignments with the highest standards of professional and ethical competence and integrity; seek grant funding in a mutually supportive manner; and provide advice, support and technical assistance as agreed by both institutions.

The Intra-ACP European Union Sponsored Country Directed Fund (CDF) Small Grants Highlights 2016

Antigua and Barbuda – Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Training



Participants demonstrating basic search and rescue during the CERT training

The Antigua and Barbuda National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), in collaboration with the Fire Department, St. John's Association and the Red Cross, trained 79 volunteers as part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training initiative in an effort to establish an island-wide CERT-network and enhance disaster management at the community level and strengthen response and basic search and rescue capability at the local level.

The training sought to improve basic first aid, relief efforts, road clearance, damage assessment, basic search and rescue, fire fighting, and generally create enhance capacity for district to district support in times of emergencies/disasters.

It is expected that this will result in increased capacity for preparedness, response, and mitigation in communities in Antigua and Barbuda and strengthening of community-level disaster management structures.

Grenada – Plans Review & Development Workshop

The Grenada National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) conducted a Plan Review and Development Workshop to support enhanced coordination and harmonizing of disaster management efforts in Grenada. The workshop focused on providing updated plans and SOPs to reflect the current situation, foster efficient disaster management and to guide the way the National Disaster Organisation respond to emergencies.

The participants included 15 members of the National Emergency Advisory Council (NEAC), 17 District Coordinators, 9 staff members of NaDMA and 6 representatives from Grenada Red Cross and Utility Companies.

During the three-day Workshop Grenada's Disaster Plan and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) manual were reviewed and framework plans for Tsunami, Earthquake and Evacuation were developed. In addition, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) model plans were utilised during the process.

St. Vincent and The Grenadines – Volcano Awareness Activities 2016

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), in collaboration with the Seismic Research Centre (SRC) of the University of the West Indies, The Strengthening Resilience in Volcanic Areas (STREVA) Project, Soufriere Monitoring Unit (SMU), Forestry Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Education, conducted a public education and awareness campaign (Volcano Awareness Week of Activities 2016) as a means of strengthening and sustaining community resilience to hazard impacts using approaches that are culturally appropriate. The activities included school visits, radio discussions, television broadcasts, public presentations and an Educational Field Tour to the La Soufriere Volcano.

The purposes of the series of activities were to raise awareness of the risk and science associated with an active volcano, to strengthen the planning for volcanic hazards in schools in high risk areas, to give community members in high risk areas the opportunity to explore responses to the acute phase of an eruption of

the La Soufriere Volcano (how to reduce risk to life), and also to discuss longer-term effects of an eruption (how to reduce risk to livelihood), through scenario exercises.

The participants included 30-35 Key national stakeholders, who play a key role in the National Volcano Emergency Plan when activated. Twenty five (25) teachers from Primary and Secondary Schools within the Red and Orange Zones and a total of 558 students, which included 360 grade five and four students from 13 Primary schools and 198 form four and five students also participated in the exercise. These schools are located within the Red and Orange zones and are residents of the communities of Fancy, Owia, Overland, Orange Hill, Georgetown, Chateaubelair, Richmond, Troumaca and Rose Hall. Thirty (30) geography students and 2 teachers from the Georgetown Secondary School and 50 students and 2 teachers from the Sandy Bay Government School as well as 60 members of the public benefitted from the Educational field tour .



Students participating in a volcanic eruption experiment



Cross section of students participating in Educational Field Tour

Nevis – International Day for Disaster Reduction 2016



Demonstration of a volcano hazard



Emergency Services Gear Demonstration



St Georges CERT Cast Members

The Nevis Disaster Management Department in collaboration with the United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) commemorated the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) on 13th October 2016. The theme was “Knowledge For Life”.

The week of activities aimed at (1) raising awareness of the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk management and (2) highlight approaches for engaging local communities and indigenous peoples in implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The activities included: (1) Church Service at the Legacy International Church featuring a presentation Significance of International Day for Disaster Reduction; (2) Logo and Slogan Competition as part of the re-branding initiatives and engaged the Primary and Secondary

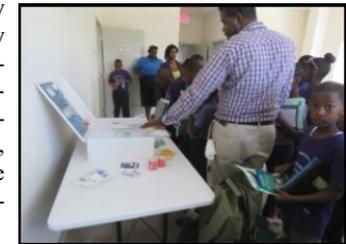
schools to utilize their creativity while learning of the disaster management cycle; (3) Panel Discussion on DRR-Hydro Meteorological Hazards and the extended Drought conditions affecting the Leeward Islands, (4) Open Day activities at EOC Building covered nine (9) hazards such as hurricane, storm surge, drought, floods, tsunami, earthquake, volcano, landslides, and fires displayed in print and audio visual formats with participation from 179 students and 18 teachers from 11 schools and (5) Variety Concert at Nevis Performing Arts Centre (NEPAC)- which culminated the week of activities. It provided the opportunity for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers, First Responders, stakeholders and local artists to display talents in song, dance, poetry, music and drama while being educated in comprehensive disaster management.



NDMD Staff at Church Service



Joycelyn Liburd Primary School



Explanation of Equipment & Tools

Barbados – Development and Enhancement of Disaster Management Plans for the Hometown Community

The Barbados Department of Emergency Management (DEM) conducted Plan Development and Review Workshops to train stakeholders and the Hometown community to develop, review and test a Comprehensive Disaster Plan for tropical weather systems, earthquakes, tsunamis and other hazards impacting Barbados.

The participants included persons from the Royal Barbados Police Force, St James District Emergency Organization, Mango Bay Hotel, Scotia Bank, JLT Insurance Management, Surfside Restaurant, Barbados Revenue Authority, Discovery Bay Hotel, Republic Bank, Sotheby, Barbados Hotel Tourism Association, Hometown Methodist Church, District ‘E’ Magistrate Court, St James Parish

Church, Royal Bank (Barbados) Limited, Hometown Police Station, Hometown Post Office, National Library Service, Sagicor, Folkestone Marine Park, All Seasons Europa Resort, Mango Bay Hotel, the National Library Service, the Hometown Methodist Church, St. James Central District Emergency Organisation and Premiere Surgical.

The training covered areas such as: Introduction to Disaster Management, Elements of Disaster Planning, Steps & Outcomes in the Disaster Management Planning Process, Rationale for a Disaster Plan Presentation of a Suggested Format of a Disaster Plan, Plan Development Exercise and Presentation and Review of Agency Plans.



Sections of the workshop showing participants and facilitators. Pictured top right hand corner is Captain Robert Harewood, DEM’s Acting Deputy Director and bottom left is former Director of the DEM, Ms Judy Thomas.



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Participating States

- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Commonwealth of the Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Commonwealth of Dominica
- Grenada
- Republic of Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Saint Kitts & Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
- Turks & Caicos Islands
- The Virgin Islands

Resilient States...Safer Lives!

World Tsunami Awareness Day Celebrated in the Region

For the first time, World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) was commemorated all around the world in order to raise awareness on the importance of tsunami preparedness and to reaffirm the inherent links between disaster risk reduction and sus-



Representatives from the Caribbean and Latin America at the first WTAD commemoration in the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago, October 2016.

tainable development. CDEMA joined with its national, regional and international partners in recognising and celebrating WTAD 2016. This year the events focused on effective education and evacuation drills. One example from the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions is the Caribe Wave Exercise, which happens every year.

WTAD aims to raise public awareness of the deadly threat posed by tsunamis and share innovative approaches to reducing risk. The worldwide events, supported by the Government of Japan, presented an opportunity to showcase good practices related to Tsunami readiness and supported the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as well as the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy 2014-2024, contributing to greater risk understanding and reduce mortality,

among others. Although tsunamis do not occur very frequently, they can cause huge disasters; as the 2004 Indian Ocean which affected 14 different countries and resulted in more than 227,000 casualties. The Caribbean is a

vulnerable region to earthquakes and tsunamis, in such a way that is expected that one destructive tsunami will take place every fifty years. There is currently a major effort to build upon and reinforce initiatives that aim to strengthen tsunami resilience such as the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP), the Tsunami Smart Campaign launched by the CDEMA, in conjunction with the UWI Seismic Research Centre as well as the efforts undertaken by the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE).

The commemoration in the Caribbean region of WTAD was held on 20th October 2016 and jointly organized by UNISDR, UNESCO/IOC, the ACS, CDEMA as well as CEPREDENAC.

**THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE
 CDEMA COORDINATING UNIT WISH YOU AND YOURS
 A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND
 A SAFE AND HEALTHY 2017!**

