



CDEMA News



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10TH CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT SET FOR DECEMBER 2017 IN NASSAU

The 10th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) will be held in Nassau, The Bahamas from December 4-8, 2017. The Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management is the region's premier event on Disaster Risk Management (DRM). It presents a grand opportunity for professionals in the field of disaster management and private/public sector players to demonstrate how their work can be applied through learning and exchanging new knowledge, products and skills.

This year's conference will be convened under the theme **"CDM: The Road to Resilience Check Point 2017 - Building Resilience through Partnerships"**. *"Road to Resilience: Check Point 2017"* presents an opportunity to reflect on the history of the CDEMA, its contribution to disaster risk reduction and regional sustainable development over the past 25 years.

Organized by the Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency in collaboration with its partners, the Conference has over the last decade, showcased best practices emerging from CDEMA's 18 Participating States and beyond.

It has also provided professional development for DRM Practitioners, Planners, Environmental Scientist, among others, within CDEMA Participating States and beyond; engaged niche groups/sectors in the DRM dialogue e.g. physical planners, meteorological services, the political directorate and Ministries of Finance. The CDM conference also facilitated inter-stakeholder exchanges/networking

and "birthed" new policy ideas. As such, the CDM conference is viewed as an important mechanism for stakeholder engagement and inter-sectoral exchanges.

Since the hosting of the first Conference in 2006, the event has gained recognition as the flagship event on the CDEMA Calendar and the premier DRM forum within the Caribbean region.

Comprehensive Disaster Management is the Caribbean's brand of Disaster Risk Management and contributes to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), a blue print for global actions in DRR. In that regard, the Conference is a regional event structured to strategically influence niche audiences, promote good practice, share ongoing research and chart the way forward for the advancement of Comprehensive Disaster Management in the Caribbean.

Established as the region's largest gathering of disaster risk management practitioners, private sector partners, policymakers, development agencies, non-governmental actors and researchers, the conference has attracted over 300 high level delegates each year, from the Caribbean and Latin America, North America, Europe and the Pacific regions. With a strong base of regional and international presenters, speakers and panelists, this year's event will also continue to promote the multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach that embodies CDM.

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**10th CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON
COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT (CDM)**

Dec 4th - 8th, 2017
Nassau, The Bahamas

SAVE THE DATE!

CDM: The Road To Resilience

Check Point 2017
Building Resilience Through Partnership

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From the ED's Desk: Remarks at the CADM2 Post-Evaluation Workshop

Below are the remarks delivered by the Executive Director of CDEMA, Mr Ronald Jackson, during the Opening Ceremony of the Post-Evaluation Workshop for Phase Two of the Caribbean Disaster Management Project (CADM2). The workshop was held at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston, Jamaica on February 23, 2017.



Ronald H. Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA delivering remarks at the Post-Evaluation Workshop for the CADM2 Project.

I wish to start by acknowledging the tremendous contribution of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a development partner over the many years, both bilaterally with CDEMA Participating States and through regional partnership. JICA presents a unique approach to development assistance as demonstrated in the consultative processes towards the development of CDAM1. Their implementation approach focused on strengthening regional capacities with a focus on sustainability, and supporting the delivery of the CDM Strategy in its first iteration back in 2001. They have clearly demonstrated their commitment to the shared regional priorities in the area of Flood Risk Management and Capacity Strengthening for Resilience Building, and generally the delivery of the CDM Strategy Priorities.

CDEMA is pleased to partner with JICA and ODPEM, Jamaica on the delivery of this post-evaluation workshop. Not simply because it is focused on the support to the needs of our Participating States but primarily because the approach of post programme/project evaluations are now consistent with CDEMA's commitment to strengthening accountability and results based planning and programming. Monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives facilitate more effective measurement of result delivery.

The final evaluation of the CADM Project had identified potential challenges to the sustainability of project results. These challenges have not only been reflected in the find-

ings of the CADM evaluations but also in several other initiatives we have been engaged in during the past two years with other partners and Participating States. Many of these challenges question the level of commitment to the agenda of sustainability of these legacy investments. This is an area I would like us to examine carefully during the course of this workshop. It is imperative that we end this activity with a stronger resolve to get it right the next time around.

Across the region, CDEMA and many other regional stakeholders remain committed to the aspirations of advancing Early Warning System (EWS) as a means of achieving community resilience. It is well outlined as a Key Regional Outcome in the CDM Strategy 2014-2024 and is likewise a priority in the Sendai Framework for Action 2015-2030. Hence, we have to remain steadfast to resolving the challenges that have prevented the establishment of a robust people centred EWS.

I want to also acknowledge the support and tremendous contribution of the regional institutions represented here, the University of Guyana, University of the West Indies and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

Working closely and leveraging the respective advantages and capacities of our regional institutions will allow us to make better use of emerging opportunities going forward. We must however, be mindful that current status of CADM reflects the need to revisit the development assumptions embedded within the application of the OECD criteria (only 10 of 18 States are eligible). The original assumption that CADM type interventions could be replicated in other States through regional technical support and financed through investment by other donors has not borne fruit in part because many Caribbean States are now omitted from some funding envelopes. I therefore want to continue the broader advocacy among the development community and encourage our partners JICA to reflect on how their development approaches can continue its evolution towards embracing the real vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In closing, I want to reiterate the need for national level commitment through programmatic approaches to Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) including treatment of the flood hazard management. This must be treated as an important imperative given the context of the 'new climate normal' we are facing and will continue to face.

I want to again thank JICA for their continued support, ODPEM Jamaica for hosting and other parties for their participation. Partnerships are extremely valuable to CDEMA and this year for our 10th CDM Conference, we will be focusing on building and sustaining partnerships towards national and regional resilience. I greet you all on behalf of the CDEMA CU family.

CDEMA champions Caribbean School Safety Initiative

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) reiterated its commitment to championing the Caribbean School Safety initiative towards building a culture of safety within the education sector. At the recently concluded Caribbean Safe School Ministerial Forum held on April 3-4, 2017 in Antigua and Barbuda, CDEMA announced that the Safe School Initiative will be a flagship programme in the Corporate Planning period 2017-2020.

During the Forum, Caribbean Ministers of Education and other high-level officials endorsed and signed the Antigua and Barbuda Declaration for School Safety. The Forum was hosted by the Hon. Michael Browne, Minister of Education, Science and Technology for Antigua and Barbuda. Twelve countries from the English, Spanish and Dutch speaking Caribbean participated in the Forum, which was organised through the collaboration of regional and international partners- UNISDR, UNICEF, CDEMA, UNESCO, IFRC and the OECS.

The CDEMA Coordinating Unit has a long history of supporting the integration of disaster risk management into the education sector through the development of technical resources to support policy, school readiness and resources to support the infusion of disaster risk management concepts into the curriculum.

Schools and the children and staff that occupy these institutions are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of multiple hazards. It is estimated that 175 million children each year are in danger of being affected by disasters worldwide. In the Caribbean, disasters have also taken a toll on schools and the education system. The earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 killed 38,000 students and 1,300 teachers and education personnel. It also destroyed 4,000 schools as well as the headquarters of the Ministry of Education.

Education plays a crucial role in reducing vulnerability and building community resilience to disaster risks by increasing citizen's awareness, knowledge and skills of how to address disasters. Education is also essential for empowering people and reducing poverty - poverty is recognised as one of the most important factors that contributes to the Region's high level of vulnerability. The education sector is also vulnerable to impacts of hazards, and impacts to the sector can have long-term and far-ranging implications for sustainable development. Damage to schools by disasters can lead not only to the loss of children's and teachers' lives but also to a loss of public investment in social infrastructure and interruptions to education.

The signing of this declaration demonstrated the regional commitment to disaster risk reduction in schools. The Forum also developed a Road Map on School Safety and a Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism that will allow the Caribbean countries to track progress toward achieving the goals of the Declaration.

The meeting also launched the Caribbean Safe School Initiative. Among the key resources that Caribbean countries will have at their disposal is the CDEMA Model Safe School Programme. Endorsed in 2015 by Caribbean Ministers responsible for DRM, as a regional approach to addressing school safety, it centres around a set of Standards for School Safety which guide countries on how best to address risks in schools. The MSSP also has a toolkit- a suite of resources that include a model policy and assessment tools and a Safe School certification process. The MSSP has been recognized as a means of implementing the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, the internationally supported approach to building resilience in schools. These pillars are (i) Safe Learning Facilities, (ii) School Disaster Management and DRR and (iii) Resilience Education.



Ms Elizabeth Riley, Deputy Executive Director of CDEMA signing the Antigua and Barbuda Declaration for School Safety.



Caribbean Ministers of Education, other high-level officials and international partners pose with the signed Antigua and Barbuda Declaration for School Safety during the Caribbean Safe School Ministerial Forum.

Dominica receives CDF grant to review Draft CDM Legislation

The Office of Disaster Management (ODM) - Commonwealth of Dominica has been awarded Euro 9,640.00 to facilitate a review, consultation and update of their draft Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Legislation. The grant funds were awarded by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in March 2017 under the Country Directed Fund (CDF), which is financed by the European Union through the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Management in the CARIFORUM Programme (NDRM).

The CDF forms part of the grant facility developed under the ACP-EU financed Strengthening of the Capacity of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit and Participating States for Implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management Project.

A first draft of the CDM Legislation for Dominica was developed in 2013 under the CDM Harmonized Implementation Programme (CDM HIP) financed by UK AID, DFATD (now Global Affairs Canada) and the Australian Aid Agency. The passage of Tropical Storm Erika, which devastated Dominica in August 2015, provided an opportunity to examine and address gaps in the draft legislation.



A section of the Coulibistrie community in Dominica post TS Erika, 2015.

CDEMA's Participating States, mindful of their vulnerability to the impact of disasters, have embraced a CDM approach in respect of the far reaching consequences of hazard impacts. The CDM approach is characterised by, among other things, risk reduction, resilience building at all levels and the development and maintenance of sound response and recovery mechanisms. A critical component of the CDM approach is the implementation of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programming Framework 2014-2024. This CDM Strategy is intended to emphasise, among other things, disaster loss reduction through disaster risk management.

It is anticipated that the approach of fully integrating Comprehensive Disaster Management into sustainable develop-



Members of the ODM Dominica Staff during an orientation session at the CDEMA CU. L-R: Fitzroy Pascal, National Disaster Coordinator (Ag.); Karen Reviere Cuffy, Programme Officer (Ag.); Donalson Frederick, Programme Officer (Ag.) with Andria Grosvenor, Planning & Business Development Manager, CDEMA.

ment planning, along with the diversity of actions and responsibilities required, will increasingly be incorporated into the development policies, plans and projects of every CDEMA Participating State. The CDEMA has, among other things, piloted the drafting of two model legislative frameworks in respect of disaster management, namely the CDEMA Model Disaster Legislation (1996) and the Model CDM Legislation and Regulations (2010). An Adaptation Guide for the Model Comprehensive Disaster Management Legislation was subsequently published by CDEMA to assist Participating States in the development of their National CDM Legislation.



An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group,
funded by the European Union

UNICEF, Caribbean disaster managers seek to build resiliency in region

The region has been affected in the last two years by the El Niño phenomenon causing drought. Predictions suggest that in 2017 this may be further compounded by the developing of “La Nina” with stronger cyclonic season, heavy rains, floods, and landslides.

“These growing hazards as well as social violence and development gaps of the population, are a major challenge to sustainable development and the survival and well-being of the children, threatening the consistent exercise of basic children rights. The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean are characterized by small populations with high exposure and limited national capacity where a single hazard event can destroy large percentages of the productive capacity and infrastructure forcing reliance on neighbouring states and from the coordination and capacity of the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency and its regional and international partners” said Douglas Reimer, LACRO Chief of Emergency.

In this context, supporting the development of more resilient communities and national and regional actors is an important part of UNICEF’s strategy to protect the rights of children in the region, through sub-regional, national and community emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives under the leadership of CDEMA and the member states of the region, is paramount in setting programming direction, coordination and collaboration.

The persistent and cumulative effects of the drought and floods has increased the vulnerability of families and extend beyond food insecurity and reduced livelihoods to increased levels of malnutrition, reduced access to water and sanitation services, and difficulties in maintaining adequate hygiene practices.

To address these issues, a two day meeting organized by LACRO and hosted by UNICEF Office for Eastern Caribbean Area in Barbados, took place to enhance knowledge and capacities on emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Attendants included UNICEF CO Emergency focal points from the Caribbean region (Belize, Dominica Republic, Jamaica, Guyana and Suriname and Barbados-based ECA Office), New York Headquarters and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Authority (CDEMA).

According to organizers, the meeting was critical as the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America countries have high levels of vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards, primarily related to climatological events such as tropical storms, hurricanes, and drought. These hazards are already affecting the region and will be increasingly exacerbated by climate change.

The meeting identified comprehensive school safety, risk analysis and assessment to ensure evidence based planning, advocacy and allocation of resources as key areas for joint follow-up work. Strengthening synergies between social protec-

tion and DRR in order to build resilience was identified as a key cross cutting strategy.



Participants at the Joint Meeting of UNICEF Country Offices and CDEMA held in Barbados—February 20-21, 2017.



L-R: Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director CDEMA; Major Clemens Buter, Advisor Planning & Operations, PAHO and Dr. Dana Aan Alphen, Regional Advisor, PAHO



Gayle Drakes of the CDEMA CU presenting on areas for Establishing UNICEF and CDEMA Collaboration.

Regional agencies benefit from the European Union sponsored GCRSP

CDEMA along with three other regional agencies benefitted from the successful implementation of the Global Crisis Response Support Programme (GCRSP), sponsored by the European Union.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Regional Security System (RSS) and the CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and its two sub-agencies – the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC) and the Joint Regional Communication Centre (JRCC) and CDEMA participated in the recently concluded GCRSP which started in 2015.

The GCRSP's primary focus was to strengthen crisis response and early warning capacity among the 4 regional agencies. The programme used different methodologies such as training courses, workshops, peer to peer exchanges and simulation exercises to facilitate the collaborative learning among the four regional agencies who all play key roles in responding to crises in the region.

The outcomes from the GCRSP will have a lasting effect in the region including a gender lens in the decision making process, to awareness of the triggering effects a project could have from a conflict sensitivity perspective, to strengthening of the network among the participating agencies.

In January 2017, key representatives of the four regional agencies participated in an intensive two-day exercise simulating a complex emergency situation and response. A year in the making, Exercise Synergy 2017 simulated an earthquake disaster coupled with marine and security emergencies. It enabled participants to test and practice procedures and techniques for dealing with unpredictable events.

The overall goal of Synergy 2017 was to bring the four agencies together to work as a collaborative team to deal with the challenges of a complex emergency. It employed a Virtual Crisis Room, an online hub that enabled all the agencies to track developments and their responses in real time.

The Programme ended with a Regional Coordinating Workshop and Closing Ceremony, at the Hilton Hotel Trinidad and Conference Centre, Port of Spain on Thursday January 26th, 2017. Executive Directors of the four agencies and the Head of the European Union Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago, agreed that the knowledge transferred has given the agencies the impetus needed to continue working together to achieve enhanced regional coordination.

The agencies gave the Programme a thumbs-up as they believe the benefits derived would have a lasting effect in the Region. Participants also expressed that they are now better prepared to respond to crises and potential conflict situations.



Regional Coordinating Workshop and Closing Ceremony attended by representatives of the 4 Agencies: CDEMA, CARPHA, CARICOM IMPACS and RSS in Port of Spain on Thursday January 26th, 2017.



Representatives from the 4 Regional Agencies discussing events being logged into the Virtual Crisis Room in the Regional Coordination Centre at the CDEMA's Headquarters.



Members of the 4 regional agencies and representatives from National Disaster Offices participating in the exercise (from left to right: Philmore Mullin (NDC, Antigua & Barbuda); Lorraine Francis (CARPHA), Mandela Christian (CDEMA), Nadine Bussell (CARICOM IMPACS), Claricia Stevens (NDC, St. Kitts & Nevis), Captain Brian Roberts (RSS), BG General (R) Earl Arthurs (CDEMA) and Joanne Persad (CDEMA).

CDEMA welcomes International Partners while fostering Partnerships



Photo on the Left: Courtesy visit to the CDEMA CU in March 2017 by the EU Delegation & Envoy from Brussels. L-R: Mr Dell'Araccia, Head of Division at the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels; Mr. Ronald Jackson, CDEMA; Ambassador of the EU Delegation, Ms Daniela Tramacere; Mr. Peter Ulf Sturesson, Head of Section Development Cooperation-Green Economy & Resilience, (EEAS) & Ms Andria Grosvenor, CDEMA.



Photo on the Right: Austrian Ambassador Mrs. Marianne Feldmann met with Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA in February 2016.

NDOs Participate in Disaster Assessment Seminar and Training

Representatives of National Disaster Offices (NDOs) from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis participated in a regional seminar entitled, 'Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Building'. The seminar was presented by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and hosted by CDEMA on the 14-16 March 2017.

The seminar, sponsored by the CCRIF-SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility), included a two-day training component, with the aim to strengthen the capacities of disaster management

personnel in the Caribbean to assess the effects and impacts of disasters, and guide resilient reconstruction processes.

The seminar facilitated discussions on a number of timely issues, including the role of planning in disaster risk management and its impact on the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the role of risk

transfer in enhancing fiscal sustainability in the Caribbean. The participants also benefited from the contributions of the CCRIF SPC and of CDEMA.

ECLAC's Disaster Assessment methodology estimates the effects and impacts of a disaster, and is composed of three

sectors, namely social, infrastructure and productive, which constitutes a multisectoral approach. Through the training, these sectors were analyzed by each of their subcomponents. In addition, the methodology incorporates two cross-cutting themes: gender issues and the environment.



This training follows the successful outcome of a four-day disaster training workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago in January 2017, organized by ECLAC in collaboration with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), and a previous work session between ECLAC and CDEMA in December 2016.

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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!

"Better Coordination, Better Results" - TCI completes EOC Training

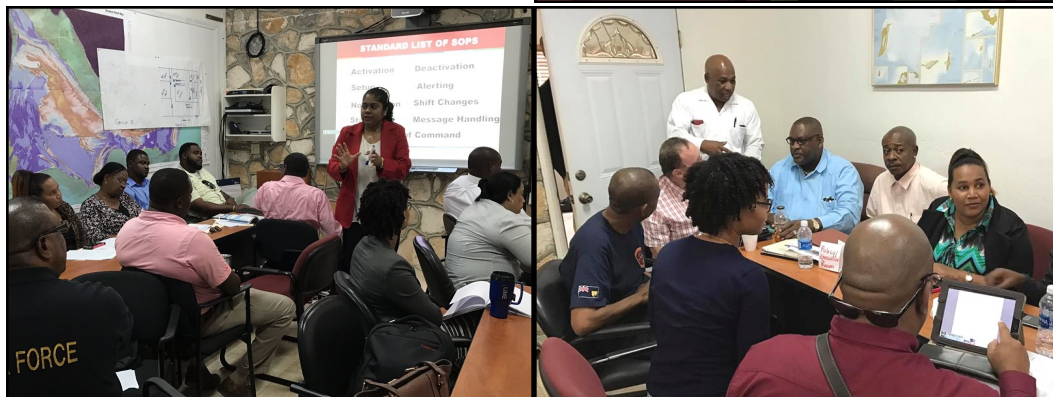
Enhanced Coordination among governmental and non governmental agencies (NGOS) and institutions during emergency events was the aim of the recently completed Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training course in the Turks and Caicos Islands, March 20th-23rd, 2017. The training was convened towards the overall improvement and strengthening of the National EOC (NEOC) operations, as well as the EOCs across the multi-island country.

The training was attended by over 35 participants from the Turks and Caicos family of Islands including senior government officials such as Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Departments, as well as representatives from various NGOs. The EOC training course is designed to aid understanding in the role and functions of an EOC, the management and operations, and the design and layout of the EOC, inclusive of simulation exercises after every module. Topics include the EOC ICS (Incident Command System) Interface, the Psychological and Social Climate in the EOC, Media Relations and Public Information in an emergency, and exercise design and execution

among many others.

On the final day a functional simulation exercise was conducted to give trainees the opportunity to practice their new skills and techniques. The exercise also allowed for a test of the national disaster management system, additional learning by the participants and the identification of areas for improvement.

Altogether, the training course was well received by the participants and deemed important towards the enhancement of disaster and emergency operations in the TCI.



CDEMA CU staff (left photo) Ms Joanne Persad, Programme Manager-Preparedness and Response and (right photo) Ret'd Brigadier General Earl Arthurs—Operations Specialist, delivered training in Emergency Operation Centre Management in the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Upcoming Activities (April - June 2017)

- CDEMA's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting in Barbados (May 8-12, 2017)
- Sub-Regional Focal Points (SRFP) Training in Trinidad (May 15-17, 2017)
- CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) Training in Barbados (May 29 - June 2, 2017)
- Exercise TRADEWINDS 2017 in Barbados (June 5 - 9, 2017)
- Regional Training Workshop for Integrating Gender Equality in Disaster Risk Management Programming in the Caribbean in Georgetown, Guyana (May 17-19, 2017)