

CDEMANews

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CERT Programme Prepares Communities to Respond



1 Map reading in Monsterrat.



2 SAR Training in Grenada.

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It is recognized that one way to enhance community resilience is through the transfer of critical knowledge and skills to the people themselves. This is supported by CDEMA through its many interventions at the community level. The CDEMA led Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is an example of this. The Program is designed to train individuals to protect themselves, family, neighbours and neighbourhood in emergency situations. This response could mean the difference in lives saved before the arrival of emergency services.

CERT is an adaptation of the Los Angeles (USA) Fire Department programme which trains people from various walks of life prepare to work as team members and perform as individual leaders in the

initial phase of an emergency. It was launched by CDEMA in 2012 after being successfully piloted in Montserrat in February 2009 and subsequently used in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands in September 2011.

CDEMA receives support for this program through the European Union funded Disaster Risk Management Sub-regional Programme (ACP-EU Project) and the Italian funded Enhancing Resilience to Reduce Vulnerability in the Caribbean (ERC) project. As of February 2013, a Regional Training of Trainers (CERT Instructors Training) in Grenada and a similar sub-regional programme in Montserrat has resulted in fifty two persons being trained as instructors.

CERT Programme continued on page 2

The course provides participants with training in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety; first aid, light search and rescue; team organisation; and disaster medical operations. Participants also undertake a number of physical outdoor activities and work as part of a team. Persons completing the week long intensive course commit to conducting local level training in their respective communities. These trained instructors are expected to drive CERT Programs in their individual countries and may also be called upon by CDEMA to assist in delivering the CERT programs across the region. This will help with the sustainability of the program as it is replicated across the Caribbean.

There is also a second component of the CERT program which contributes directly to local level training. Only pilot communities under the ACP-EU's Enhancing Community Resilience component have benefitted thus far. Over 100 persons have been trained at the local level in Cabaret in Haiti, Couva in Trinidad, Anegada in Virgin Islands, Skibbo in Jamaica and 20 in Leiding, Suriname.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members are also appropriately equipped for ready response. For every CERT training programme conducted since 2012 participants have received individual CERT kits while the National Disaster Office has received team equipment to be used in further training and for subsequent hand over to the community.

The future of the CERT programme is promising as already more National Disaster Offices are requesting that the CU assist them in starting CERT programs at the national level by creating teams of instructors in their various countries. *SD*



CDM Strategy Beyond 2012

The process for formulating the Comprehensive Disaster Management's Strategy Beyond 2012 is well underway. The Strategy will address how the next programming cycle will build on the national, sectoral and regional strengths, processes, partnerships, synergies and momentum gained as a result of the 2007-2012 CDM implementation.

This consultative and participatory process draws on the expertise of disaster management stakeholders, from national, regional and international agencies, who have been associated with CDM implementation.

One of the first steps undertaken has been to review and analyse the status of the Enhanced CDM Strategy and Programming Framework, 2007 – 2012 and to define persistent implementation gaps/challenges as well as any emerging priority areas and lessons learned.

Throughout this review process, assessments will be undertaken and recom-

mendations will also be made within the context of the 2007-2012 Strategy and its areas of relevance for the revised strategy. Specifically, stakeholders will be addressing gaps at the National Level and how these would be treated in the revised strategy. The elaboration of the implementation plan and Performance Monitoring Framework for the CDM Strategy Beyond 2012 are also key objectives of the process.

A tool for tracking the CDM targets achieved and generating regional and national reports is also being considered. Development of this online data management system will allow for data entry by CDEMA's Participating States and key regional and international partners that have a role to play in achieving the targets set.

The CDM Strategy seeks to strengthen regional, national and community level capacity for mitigation, management, and coordinated response to natural and technological hazards, and the effects of climate change. *SD*

Bioche gets evacuation route



Bioche Road Under Construction.



Bioche Road.

The village of Bioche in Dominica was selected as one of the pilot communities for a programme aimed at strengthening capacity of communities to withstand and minimize the impacts of extreme events in the Caribbean region.

The programme is designed to ensure optimum involvement of residents within the communities. It is being implemented by CDEMA through the European Union funded "Disaster Risk Management Sub-Regional Programme" under the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility.

Bioche, a small rural community on the Western coast of Dominica, is prone to a number of hazards. Over time, this fishing village, of houses closely built together, has suffered impacts of several hurricanes, storm surges and more recently a fire. A river flowing through the village also makes it highly vulnerable to riverine flooding.

During the period February and March 2011, the CDEMA Coordinating Unit Technical team (Mrs. Velda Joseph and Ms. Simone Mondesie) held meetings with the Office of Disaster Management, the Department of Local Government (District Development Officer & District Development Assistant), the Physical Planning Department, the Environmental Coordinating Unit, community leaders and residents. They also conducted vulnerability assessments through a participatory methodology and developed vulnerability and risk profiles.

As a result of this consultative process, the community identified riverine flooding, the single lane entrance/exit in the community and the potential for mass destruction of the community's assets through fires as primary concerns. After assessment by the appropriate agencies it was decided to build an exit route out of the community. This would ensure that the community residents would be able to safely evacuate if the need arises.

The Bioche Link road (the name of the exit route) extends the previous single lane road to the Portsmouth main road giving residents an alternative egress option. The road project

started in September 2012 and was undertaken by a local contractor, George Trucking Services at a discounted cost of \$55,000.00.

So committed was the community that residents readily gave up the necessary portions of their property along the route free of charge. The national electricity and water authority also assisted in relocation of their assets with minimal costs to the project. Instrumental in driving the project is the commitment of the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) which has given tremendous support in ensuring all aspects of the projects occurred in a timely manner.

The Bioche residents also participated in other community resilience building efforts. The lessons learnt from this pilot include:

- Strategies developed for disaster risk reduction must be specific to local communities and the issues at hand.
- Community participation in designing and initiating disaster risk reduction interventions is critical.
- Special attention must be paid to community culture and community mobilization techniques.
- Dissemination of information to communities and continuous sensitization is important.
- Identifying a committed "driver" of the project implementation process at the community or country level is critical to advancement of initiatives.
- Communities are willing to be involved in disaster management initiatives but require support and nurturance particularly during the initial stages of involvement.
- Community engagement coupled with technical assistance can lead to holistic and successful outcomes. 

For more information on the project please contact cdema@cdema.org

CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme strengthens disaster risk management in rural communities



In 2010, the Government of Brazil made a donation of just over USD1 million to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) for assisting the CARICOM states to strengthen their resilience to disaster impacts, primarily in rural communities.

Initiatives were executed under the CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme with a key focus on hydro meteorological hazards affecting the agricultural sector and the schools safety programme.

Key to the successful implementa-

tion of the various components of the programme has been CDEMA's partnership with specialist agencies like the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), with the National Disaster Offices and with other national agencies, including the Ministries of



Mission to Brazil.

Education and Ministries of Agriculture. The CIMH implemented a drought monitoring project which resulted in the upgrading of the Caribbean Water Monitoring System. The pilot countries Saint Lucia, Grenada and Jamaica have received equipment for national drought monitoring and water management personnel have been trained in drought planning and monitoring.

With regards to the agricultural sector, approximately 150 rural stakeholders, including small farmers in Belize, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent participated in workshops in their communities to identify and share good practices for mitigation of hydro-meteorological hazards and to develop community based agriculture disaster risk management plans. Assistance was also provided to 100 farmers in Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the form of agricultural inputs to aid in their recovery from impacts from Hurricane Tomas in 2010.

The schools safety component has been based on the 'Living Schools' concept which originated in El Salvador. The emphasis is on upgrading schools to allow them to effectively serve as

places of refuge during an emergency, and providing teachers, students and the community with basic concepts of disaster management. Under this component, over 17 schools in 16 CDEMA Participating States have been retrofitted and teachers and students of several of these schools have been exposed to training in disaster preparedness. A disaster risk management (DRM) Knowledge Management Toolkit has also been developed for school children between the ages of 5 and 16 years. One-day capacity-building workshops were conducted in the six states to familiarize education stakeholders with the resources of the Toolkit and train them in its use. While workshop participants were exposed to all resources in the Toolkit, the Disaster Jeopardy Game developed by Drs. Balfour Spence and Virginia Clerveaux was selected for the training focus of the workshop.

A major aspect of the CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme is centred on developing and sharing of technical expertise and tools related to Disaster Risk Reduction. This got off to an excellent start in 2011 when five (5) CARICOM technical experts visited Brazil. They

met with counterparts to exchange approaches, expertise and tools on various aspects of disaster risk reduction, and to identify potential areas for future cooperation. In December 2011, a Brazil Delegation of three persons attended the 6th Annual CDM Conference coordinated by the CDEMA CU. This contributed to the raising of awareness of Caribbean regional disaster management stakeholders on disaster management experiences and approaches in Brazil. Funding was also made available to two (2) university students for DRR related short training courses in July, 2012 and for one other for a postgraduate research project., as a contribution to the improvement of technical expertise in DRR in the region.

The CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme was one of the outcomes of the first ever CARICOM-Brazil Summit convened in April 2010 which sought to strengthen cooperation between CARICOM and Brazil and to develop opportunities for deepening of their relationship. 

For further information, please contact sharon.l-augustine@cdema.org

Retrofitting and Equipping of the Arapaima Primary School



Arapaima Primary School.



The Civil Defence Commission (CDC) in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Caricom/Brazil/ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Living Schools Initiative continues to extend the mandate of Disaster Risk

Management (DRM) across Guyana. To this extent the Arapaima Primary School in Lethem, Region 9 (Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) benefited from several interventions that are aimed at building both human and material capacities at the institution.

Thirteen thousand five hundred United States dollars (US\$13,500) was spent to build an additional washroom facility, augment the water storage and management facilities, and to deliver disaster preparedness and response training to the teachers and student. During the period Monday January 21 – Friday January 25, 2013 the project was officially completed and the new facility handed over to the Headmistresses of the Arapaima Primary School in the presence of the Regional Executive Officer, Regional Education Officer, Region 9 by Colonel (retired) Chabilall

Ramsarup, Director General, CDC. Twenty (20) teachers from the region were trained as Shelter Managers while one hundred and seventy (170) students of the 4th, 5th, and 6th Grades from the Arapaima Primary School received training in basic disaster preparedness and response, and Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH).

Additionally, a School Emergency Plan was developed for the Arapaima Primary School. A similar project will be done during this year with another school in a disaster prone community. The Arapaima Primary School is usually used as an emergency shelter during emergencies and adverse events in the Rupununi (Lethem). **SO**

For further information, please contact info@cdc.gy

ERC Project supports capacity building for Volunteerism in Disaster Management



Community leaders participating in search and rescue training.



Fire safety training.

Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) territories have been receiving support from the Government of Italy through the “Enhancing Resilience to Reduce Vulnerability in the Caribbean” (ERC) Project to boost efforts in building disaster resilience. The project focuses on the enhancement of regional and national capacities for disaster risk reduction associated with natural, environmental and technological hazards, within the broader context of hydro-meteorology and climate change; and for effective disaster recovery. A key component of the project is the strengthening of volunteerism capacity for disaster response. As such several initiatives have been undertaken since the start of the project in 2011.

By early 2013 a total cadre of 55 persons from 16 CDEMA Participating States were trained to lead, facilitate and replicate the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programme in their respective countries. These training interventions were done in collaboration with the ACP/EU Project and included basic First-Aid/CPR, light search and

rescue and fire suppression.

A two-week ‘Train the Trainers’ course aimed at developing a capacity building programme for volunteers was also held in Italy from November 19-30, 2012. Participants attending the intensive training were exposed to the Italian Civil Protection Department best practices in volunteerism. The Italian volunteer system is an integral part of the Italian Civil Protection Mechanism and is recognised as one of the world’s most efficient and multidisciplinary volunteer institutions.

Legislation on volunteerism has also been considered under the ERC project through the redefining of the Model CDM Disaster Management Legislation and Regulations of 2010. This process of refinement presented an opportunity to address critical gaps in the legislative framework for disaster management at the local level, including the limited treatment and management of volunteers.

Sharing of regional experiences on volunteerism in disaster management was highlighted during the 7th CDM

Conference in Jamaica in December 2012. The session entitled ‘Volunteerism: Shared Disaster Responsibility in Action’ was supported through the ERC project and was held on International Volunteers’ Day. Documentaries on the work of volunteers in the region were also showcased during the “Film Festival” at the Conference.

Also of note is the establishment of a National Volunteer Register database for the Virgin Islands. This is intended to be a comprehensive system that would allow for registration of all volunteers who wish to provide support to the National Disaster Management System. The system could be adapted by other CDEMA Participating States.

The ERC project is being implemented by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in partnership with the executing agency, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the OECS, with technical support provided by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). *50*



7th Annual Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management

Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa, Montego Bay, Jamaica.
December 3rd -7th , 2012



1

Hon. Noel Arscott, Minister of Local Government & Community Development, Jamaica and Chair of the CDEMA Council of Ministers



2

Listening to comments from the floor (L-R) Hon Noel Arscott, Hon. Dr. Morais V. Guy, Mr. Jeremy Collymore, Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite and Ms Andria Grosvenor



3

CDM Exhibition - Marlon Clarke interacting with delegates at the UNDP booth.



4

Students from the Montego Bay High School performing a skit during the Youth Session



6 Delegates enjoying the Film Festival which was supported by the Enhanced Resilience to Reduce Vulnerability in the Caribbean Region (ERC) Project.

5 Students of Mount Alvernia High School were all smiles during the Youth Session.



7 Delegates listening intently during the session Women & Girls: The (In)Visible Force of Resilience.



8 Conference Delegates.

Roving Technical Support Team Ready For Deployment

The Roving Technical Support Team represents a new approach by the CDEMA Coordinating Unit to provide support to Participating States in the implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) at the national level. The establishment of the RTST is in direct response to the widely recognised challenges of countries (primarily at the national disaster offices) in advancing CDM with limited resources and limited technical capability. The team will consist of five technical experts in specialist areas of:

- Mitigation and Preparedness;
- Education and Training;
- Emergency Operations;
- Community Disaster Management; and
- Information and Communication Technology

These areas were identified as critical for technical strengthening from the findings of the CDEMA Disaster Management Audit 2010, Country Reports and implementation experiences of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit.

The RTST is not expected to replace local expertise but will be responsive and flexible to the needs of Participating States in the selected areas. The Team will carry out specific tasks to support the country work programme and facilitate capacity

building of national counterparts. The initiatives undertaken will be results oriented and must show measurable outputs.

The RTST will support and complement existing systems and technical assistance delivery which include the country focal point arrangement, technical assistance secondment protocol, Country Directed Fund and technical support within the Regional Response Mechanism.

As of January 2013 members of the team on board and ready for deployment are:

- Ms Joanne Persaud, Mitigation and Preparedness Specialist,
- General (r'td) Earl Arthurs, Emergency Operations Specialist, and
- Atiba Morris, Information and Communication Technology Specialist

The recruitment process has commenced for the two remaining positions.

CDEMA recognizes and acknowledges with thanks the Canadian International Development Agency, United Kingdom Department for International Development and the Australian AID Agency for their financial support in the establishment of the Roving Technical Support Team through the CDM-HIP. 

Staff Announcements

Mr Oronde Lambert to the position of ICT Manager, with effect from January 2, 2013.

Mr. Lambert holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and a M Sc in e-Commerce (pending). He has over twelve (12) years experience as an IT Professional in the region where he has held various positions including that of Database and Network Administrator, Systems Administrator and Senior Systems Analyst. His experience includes an eight-year stint at the Caribbean Development Bank as well as positions with LIAT, Scoros International and the Guyana Sugar Corporation. We wish him a successful tenure at the Agency. 

More Funding Support for National Disaster Programmes

An additional US\$500,000 is now accessible to Participating States (PS) under the Country Directed Fund (CDF) to support national work programme activities that are directly linked to the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management agenda. This fund is financed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (UK Aid) through the Comprehensive Disaster Management Harmonized Implementation Programme (CDM HIP).

Disbursements of the CDF began in 2009 with small grants of US\$15,000 and by 2012 some countries were receiving up to US\$70,000 to undertake initiatives that were prioritized by the National Disaster Offices. According to Cisne Pascal, the Programme Coordinator of CDM-HIP these priorities would have been identified through various assessments including the CDM National Baseline Assessment, CDEMA Audit, and CDEMA ICT Assessment.

"However, it is left entirely up to the National Disaster Offices of the CDEMA Participating States to determine where the

support is most needed and applications to CDEMA must clearly demonstrate that the funds will strengthen their ability to achieve tangible CDM results," she said.

Areas in which countries have benefitted from the CDF included:

- Building human resource capacity for adverse event management through training in initial damage assessment, shelter management and mass events/ crowd emergency coordination.
- Procurement of GIS/GPS equipment to provide real time information to facilitate the decision making process, before, during and after the occurrence of a hazard event
- Enhancement of emergency communications systems
- Simulation exercises such as the National Earthquake Simulation Exercise (NaSIMEX) in Jamaica

At the end of January 2013, more than US\$ 1,056,303 has been accessed by CDEMA Participating States. 

For more information on the, Country Directed Fund please contact Ms Cisne Pascal at cisne.pascal@cdema.org

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