

Regional Consultation on Climate & Security in the Caribbean: A Roadmap to Resilience



Climate change, development and security issues require commitment to improving sustainable policy actions. Resilient development is not just about survival and bouncing back, but about being able to thrive.

This was the focus of the panel discussion on ‘The Big Question: What are the Actions Required for a Resilient and Secure Caribbean?’ with regional policy makers, practitioners and the youth during the ‘Regional Consultation on Climate and Security in the Caribbean: A Roadmap to Resilience’, which was held at the Renaissance Convention Centre in Aruba on December 13, 2018.

The discussions highlighted the importance of pursuing resilience-building to all stakeholders. Resilience is a part of daily life when facing climate change and it is critical

to develop adaptive capacity. The youth also lent their voices to the discussions and emphasized the importance of engaging the youth who are capable of bringing new perspectives to addressing the climate change issue and building their capacity to play a greater role in the resilience agenda.

At the end of the consultation, stakeholders agreed on some key outcomes including strengthening regional coordination, improving capacity (including financial mechanisms) and enhancing knowledge on climate and security; advancing food and water security and renewable energy transition and advocating for stronger political support.

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‘Climate Change: Here and Now’ ...Excerpt from Feature Address delivered by Mr R. Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA at the Inaugural Film Screening Event, “Climate Change: Here and Now” Oct.27, 2018



By Ronald H. Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA

This Initiative comes at a critical juncture in the Region’s efforts to attain its development goals whilst facing internally and externally imposed pressures. It is also coming on the back of the recently released IPCC report on the implications of not attaining the 1.5 Degree or less target.

The findings of this report and the challenge that the rapidly changing climate presents to Small Island States is not lost on me in the least, neither as a citizen of the Caribbean nor in my capacity as the Executive Director of CDEMA where our primary role consists of assisting our Participating States to deal with the effects of a changing climate on climate sensitive hazards. Though some around the world continue to deny the reality of Climate Change, the evidence of this phenomenon has been clear to us in the region for some time. At 1 degree we are already facing significant threat to the safety and security of our population and as such the report is clear that facing a future of 1.5 degrees rise in temperature demands even more urgent and accelerated action. It warns that there is no space for complacency but still offers hope if we are able to have desired actions of the Developed North *HERE* and *NOW* and the requisite actions necessary to tackle the underlying risk drivers that will allow us in the Caribbean to Cope *HERE* and *NOW*.

The fact is that natural hazards are simply one of the characteristics of the Caribbean climate and landscape which we are faced with and will continue to deal with in the future. The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean are highly exposed to catastrophic weather events, particularly those of hydro-meteorological origin like storms and hurricanes. Recent projections in climate research anticipate a significant increase in the frequency and intensity of climate related natural hazard risks, such as hurricanes and extreme weather events, such that the Caribbean’s already dangerous exposure level will be exacerbated.

Over the period August 25 to September 20, 2017, nine (9) CDEMA Participating States faced an unprecedented threat of impact by two rapidly developing tropical cyclones which attained the highest strength on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale - Catastrophic Category 5. These two systems resulted in multi-island impacts. Nine (9) States were impacted, with four (4) States very significantly impacted or devastated. Hurricanes Irma and Maria’s development, threat and impacts on CDEMA Participating States may be exceptional, but as we consider the effects of climate variability and change on meteorological hazards, this may not be unusual.

The impacts of hurricanes and storms can and have been very devastating to the economies and livelihoods of our Caribbean countries. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the period between 1990 and 2014 saw Caribbean countries sustaining losses between 1.8% and 2% of Gross Domestic Product per annum as a result of hurricane impacts. In many cases losses have exceeded 100 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, as in the case of the impact of Hurricane Ivan on Grenada in 2004, Hurricane Irma on the British Virgin Islands in 2017; and Hurricane Maria on the Commonwealth of Dominica in 2017. Such events can have personal, social, economic and environmental impacts that take many years to reverse. Thus, hazards are directly related to the sustainable development of the region. For us in the Caribbean, to survive the implications of the changing climate will require a focus on two things, **vulnerabilities** and **exposure**.

In addition to our high exposure to climate related hazards, the Caribbean region is highly vulnerable. Factors increasing the vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS to climate related hazards include the heavy concentration of development in coastal areas, lack of adherence to building codes, unplanned settlements, and elevated levels of poverty. The real threat of climate change to SIDS is therefore in the area of human displacement, loss of livelihoods leading to increases in poverty, damage to the built and natural environment, particularly in coastal areas, and the consequent implications for further increased vulnerability and impacts on the underlying drivers of risk. *See more on page 6.*

Building a Caribbean Pathway for Disaster Resilience



During the CDEMA Pre-Council Symposium, which was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 2-3 July, 2018 under the theme “Regional Dialogue on Building a Caribbean Pathway for Disaster Resilience in CDEMA Participating States”, Ministers with responsibility for disaster management as well as other delegates from across CDEMA’s 18 Participating States agreed on a pathway to building disaster resilience in the Caribbean region.

The objective of the symposium was to create a space where policy makers, technocrats and operational actors exchanged perspectives and ideas on the issues, challenges and options for building regional resilience in the face of existing hazards; in an effort to prevent or reduce future risks and vulnerabilities. CDEMA proposed five Pillars for consideration of a regional Resilience Agenda which were explored during the symposium. These Pillars are as follows:

1. Social Protection for the Most Vulnerable: Hurricane events of 2017 identified gaps exist in recovery financing between what is needed and what is provided by the government and the international community. As such there is a widening of the gap between wealthy and poor households after the impact of disasters.

2. Safeguarding Infrastructure: The implementation of building codes which seek to provide regulations and associated standards to ensure human safety and welfare is still experiencing challenges in the Region. Strengthening the infrastructure, particularly at the sectoral level, is a key

component of building the Region’s resilience

3. Economic Diversification: Building economic resilience requires more focused and concerted efforts to pursue sustainable diversification initiatives in order to reduce the incidence of income volatility and alleviate development challenges.

4. Environmental Protection: An integrated approach to resilience must consider protecting the environment, as failure to do so may contribute to or exacerbate disaster impacts.

5. Operational Readiness: The Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) is an operational mechanism with architecture for structuring coordination support to impacted states.

In focusing on rebuilding the countries affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, CARICOM, at the Donor Conference held in New York in November 2017, has declared a vision of the Caribbean as the first climate Resilient Region in the world.

The Pre-Council Symposium preceded the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, which was also held in Jamaica on the 4—6 July 2018. In a Communique issued following the Conference of Heads Government Meeting, CARICOM leaders noted the key role that CDEMA plays in promoting and advocating a disaster resilient Caribbean. *See Communique on page 4.*

Building Resilience: Disaster Management & Recovery Strategy for the Caribbean Community

FROM THE COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE THIRTY-NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY—CARICOM.ORG



Heads of Government reviewed the Region's disaster management and recovery programme. They recognised that the vulnerability of CARICOM Member States to national hazards and the effects of climate change remain key challenges to sustainable development and that innovative approaches were required in the era of super storms.

Heads of Government also recognised that the building of the Community's resilience involved the interaction of social, economic and environmental policies while enhancing physical infrastructure. They emphasised that Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) remains core to the achievement of a resilient Caribbean Community.

They noted that the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) had a key role in facilitating national governments to have full control of the Emergency Response and Early Recovery phases of a disaster and that sustainability of the Agency was therefore of vital importance, given its mandate and the range of post-disaster support Member States require.

They urged Member States to promote and maintain the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) coordinated by (CDEMA) and encouraged the International Community to align its support with this mechanism including early recovery.

Heads of Government also urged the various Councils of the Community to give special consideration to regional sectoral programmes designed to build resilience with the intention of expediting implementation of recommended

actions.

Heads of Government took note of the Regional Preparatory Meeting to the Mid-Term Review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (S.A.M.O.A. Pathway) to be held in Belize from 6-9 August, 2018.

They recalled that the Small Island and low-lying coastal Developing States (SIDS) Framework had its origin in the Barbados Programme of Action of 1994 further complemented by the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) of 2005 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) of 2014. This places specific focus on the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS and provides the basic framework for international cooperation.

Heads of Government expressed concern at the slow pace of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and agreed to work closely with the International Community in the 2019-2024 period to strengthen implementation.

Heads of Government expressed their appreciation for the contribution of Mr. Milo Pearson who has retired after serving 11 years as Chair of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIFSPC).

Heads of Government were also updated on preparations for the 24th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 24) in Poland and encouraged participation at the highest level. In that regard, they issued a Declaration on Climate Change which is attached to this Communiqué. The Declaration provides guidance to Member States in their preparation for participation in COP 24.

Turks & Caicos Islands Assumes Chairmanship of CDEMA Council of Ministers



The Turks and Caicos Islands is the new Chair of the CDEMA Council of Ministers. Minister with responsibility for disaster management, Hon. Vaden Delroy Williams MHA assumed the role of Chairperson to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) at its 8th Council Meeting which was held in Montego Bay, on Wednesday, July 4, 2018.

In his opening remarks Hon. Williams thanked the outgoing Chair (Antigua and Barbuda) for their contribution to the Council as well as members for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. He also sought the support of members during his tenure which he noted is vital to achieving the goals and objectives of the Council. Hon. Williams further thanked CDEMA and countries in the region that supported recovery efforts in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the immediate aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

As Chair, the Turks and Caicos Islands will be hosting the 9th CDEMA Ministerial Council Meeting next year.

Hon. Williams will be supported in his new role by newly appointed Deputy Chairperson, Hon. Joseph Isaac MP, Minister of the Environment, Climate Resilience, Disaster Management and Urban Renewal in Dominica.

CDEMA Donates Computers to Turks & Caicos Islands Post Irma and Maria



Mr. Ronald Jackson of CDEMA presenting computer to both the Hon. Delroy Williams, Minister of Home Affairs, Communication and Transportation and Chairman of the CDEMA Council of Ministers and the Hon. Karen Malcolm, Minister of Education, Youth, Culture and Library Services respectively.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) donated 88 laptop computers to the Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture and Library Services in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). The computers were presented to the Ministry at a handing over ceremony held at the Premier's Office in Providenciales on October 31, 2018.

The donation was made possible through the CDEMA Legacy Project initiative, which mobilizes finances to support recovery in impacted Participating States. The aim of the Legacy Project is to improve the socio-economic conditions of the most vulnerable persons in the most adversely affected areas and it is mainly facilitated by the collective contributions of individual, corporate, national, regional and international donors.

A donation of USD \$70,000 was provided to assist in the development of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) post Hurricanes Irma and Maria through the contribution of the 88 computers to the Ministry of Education in the TCI. "Through the CDEMA Legacy Project funding, we are able to secure laptops to support teaching, learning and data entry into our EMIS.

"We are grateful for this extraordinary kindness of these 88 computers. This will help the Ministry of Education infrastructure to assist students with their education needs and teachers in their planning and delivery of the curriculum", said the Honorable Karen Malcolm, Minister of Education, Youth, Culture and Library Services. In his remarks, Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA said "This donation of computers forms part of the broader information and communication technology approach in implementing the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy. Given the realities of future climate change impacts to the region, operational readiness for response and recovery are very important. We will have to re-imagine, rethink, re-engineer and emerge a more resilient society. The education sector has to be at the forefront of that thrust going forward".

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It is important to consider also that, in some instances, it is the very way in which we go about our livelihood activities, aimed at bringing about social development that increases our vulnerability. For example, removal of forest or other vegetative cover on slopes to facilitate the expansion of agricultural and/or housing development reduces soil stabilization and increases the likelihood of land slippage as a result of heavy rainfall events. Other examples would be housing settlements too near to coastal areas or river beds, which increases the likelihood of the loss of or damage to homes due to the effects of high storm surge or flooding from the overflow of rivers.

Given the seriousness of the threat of climate related risks to the sustainable development of the countries of our region, CDEMA is of the view that a more balanced approach is warranted with greater emphasis being given to building the resilience of our countries and strengthening the region’s capacity for responding to disasters. In this regard, it is important that we as a region have clear objectives with respect to building resilience.

Since its inception, CDEMA has been working with regional and international partners to identify and manage risks and to strengthen disaster management architecture and processes in the CDEMA Participating States to minimize disaster losses. The focus for achieving this is through a more strategically aligned and integrated risk management approach, where disaster risk management and climate change considerations are integrated into the planning process for priority economic sectors allowing for the application of more appropriate development interventions. In the Caribbean, we have often seen where already constrained resources that have been allocated to social and economic development projects have had to be diverted towards relief and reconstruction after a disaster. This has been the basis of much of our lobbying with political leaders in the CDEMA Participating States, to give greater attention to support disaster risk reduction as it is so closely intertwined with our efforts to attain sustainable development.

The impact statement of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy 2014 to 2024 “Safer, More Resilient and Sustainable CDEMA Participating States through Comprehensive Disaster Management” reflects the growing understanding that countries must define what acceptable levels of risk may be within their context, define approaches and mechanisms that will enhance their capacity to endure and increase their ability to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from the effects of a hazard impact, in a timely and efficient manner.

In that light, and somewhat reinforced by the particularly devastating impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the region in 2017, regional Heads of Government have renewed their commitment to a strategic approach to addressing the need to build the region’s resilience to disasters and climate change. At the Donor Conference held in New York in November 2017, CARICOM has declared a vision of the Caribbean as the first climate Resilient Region in the world.

Pursuing a resilience agenda is about securing the economic and social wellbeing of the people of the Caribbean population, and protecting the built and natural environment within 1.2 miles of the coast. This requires policies, regulations, plans and programmes that (1) build awareness of our populations of the risks that we face as a region, but also the risks associated with the particular areas in which we reside and work, and how we can adjust our lifestyles and practices to reduce those risks; (2) address the needs of the most vulnerable persons within the society especially children, the elderly, the poor, physically and mentally challenged, and low-income single parent families; (3) protect the natural environment, particularly coastal and marine ecosystems and reduce the underlying environmental drivers of risk; and (4) ensure that all new structures, investments and housing are undertaken in ways that enable them to withstand natural shocks and sustain future economic development, through implementing and enforcing building standards. We have to enable the effective practice of development planning and control; (5) Invest in National and Regional Mechanisms that can efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies and catastrophes, saving lives and reducing the loss of property.



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In an insightful keynote address, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Climate and Security Lieutenant Commander Oliver-Leighton Barrett, United States Navy (Retired), shared on how climate change contributes to underlying security issues, including trans-regional criminal flows and other climate-related security challenges. However, he contends that there are opportunities for better security cooperation through an effective Caribbean pathway to resilience. “Commitment is key, the best crisis roadmaps are only as good as the agencies and government that decide to act on it”, concluded Barrett.

Climate change and climate security is a non-discriminatory threat that needs to be given higher priority. The region is highly vulnerable to climate change related hazards with critical infrastructures and sectors are in danger. Action or inaction of today has consequences.

Ambassador Jules Bijl, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands emphasized the challenges we face as being substantial. “The increase in extreme weather events like hurricanes and flooding as well as the rise in sea level poses a real threat to our existence. The threat to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is one of the reasons we are working hard to keep global warming at the initial target. Just focusing on preventing climate change is not enough; we also need to focus on the adaptive capacities of peoples and countries”.

Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA noted the peculiarities of the Caribbean region and how these have given rise to the specific challenges we currently face. “Our future survival rests within our ability to pool our collective capacities to offer a more favourable common destiny. This consultation is a welcoming engagement for



Mr. Ronald Jackson of CDEMA presenting token of appreciation to the Hon. Evelyn Wever-Croes, Prime Minister of Aruba.

the Caribbean Community to both contribute to the global discourse on planetary security and at the same time continue our global advocacy on our efforts to garner action on the agenda of climate change and to support our regional resilience building agenda here in the Caribbean”.

The regional consultation brought together technical experts, practitioners and policymakers in the fields of climate change, disaster risk management and regional security to address climate change and the effect on human security within the Caribbean region. The event was co-organised by CDEMA, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Aruba Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Clingendael Institute and the Planetary Security Initiative (PSI).



Delegates at the “Regional Consultation on Climate and Security in the Caribbean: A Roadmap to Resilience” Aruba Dec. 13 2018

High Level Courtesy Visits, Meetings and MoU Signings at the CDEMA CU



Delegation from the Netherlands Regional Envoy for the Caribbean - Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence with Mr. Ronald Jackson, CDEMA



Mr R. Jackson, CDEMA and Australian Deputy High Commissioner, H.E. Bruce Edwards



L-R: Shin Ogawa, Counsellor from the Embassy of Japan, Tatsuya Morita, Adviser, Regional Development Planning Ronald Jackson, CDEMA & Iwano Junnosuke, Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



Brigadier General Bryan Radloff of the US Air Force, South Command (Left) & Mr. R. Jackson, CDEMA



Meeting on inter-agency collaboration with regional partners (RSS & CARI-COM IMPACS) & the UK Military



UK's Minister for the Armed Forces at the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Right Honourable Mark Lancaster MP accompanied by British High Commissioner Mrs. Janet Douglas and Senior Military Planners



The CDEMA CU welcomes Mr Didier Chassot, Ambassador of Switzerland to the CARICOM: Caribbean Community and Mr. Frabrizio Poretti, Director of Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy in Bogota, Columbia to explore possible avenues of cooperation in reducing disaster risk and strengthen resilience in the Caribbean.



MoU signing between CDEMA & the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). L-R: Andria Grosvenor, CDEMA; Ronald Jackson, CDEMA with Tonni Brodber, Deputy Representative, UN Women.



MoU signing between CDEMA and Rescue Global (RG). L-R: Joanne Persad, CDEMA looks on as Hannah Pathak, Deputy CEO, Rescue Global & Ronald Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA sign MoU.



Courtesy visit by Ms. Kamal Khera (2nd from left), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, Govt. of Canada to the CDEMA CU with representatives from the Canadian Delegation & CDEMA CU.



MoU signing between CDEMA and MapAction. L-R: Liz Hughes of MapAction and Ronald Jackson of CDEMA.



National Disaster Coordinator for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) St. Kitts, Abdias Samuel and the Director of the Nevis Disaster Management Dept., Brian Dyer paid a courtesy call to the CU during their visit to Barbados. L-R: B. Dyer (NDMD); Donna Walker (CDEMA) & A. Samuel, NEMA.



Youth in Focus: CDEMA's 2018 Interns

Peta-Gay Harris: My internship that lasted for two months at CDEMA resulted in a wonderful and invaluable experience, one that I would gladly do again. I was able to expand and strengthen my skills in Geographic Information System (GIS) applications. I completed various GIS orientated tasks, which allowed me to understand my strengths and also helped to identify the areas I wish to focus on in the future. I was able to participate in two (2) GIS training workshops, which not only sharpened my analytical and critical thinking skills but also allowed me to be more efficient in the operation of a new software. Being a Graduate of the University of West Indies, I have been exposed to the field of disaster risk management. However, at CDEMA I had a practical, realistic and hands-on experience of disaster management and coordination at a regional level. Additionally, I was fortunate to experience the activation of the Regional Coordination Center (RCC) during Hurricane Isaac and Tropical Storm Kirk and was able to contribute to the operations. Overall, my experience at the CDEMA was great. The work environment was conducive for produc-

tivity and growth. The experience was enlightening and resulted in my personal growth and professional development. Additionally, it encourages me to explore more in the field of disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean.



Above: Peta-Gay Harris presenting GIS maps and shape files she developed while at CDEMA.

Below: Brendon Taylor receiving his certificate of completion from Jonny Douch, MapAction Facilitator at the Regional GIS

Brendon Taylor: My responsibility over the 2-month internship at CDEMA was to develop programmes geared towards promoting youth involvement in disaster management. More specifically, at the end of the internship I was able to deliver a concept paper which provides a framework for youth participation in Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM). From my work, I recognised that there is a significant need for youth participation in disaster management within the Caribbean region. Individuals 30 years or under comprise the largest proportion of the regional population. It is therefore evident that if the countries of the Caribbean are affected by a disaster, youth will be one of the primary groups affected. Based on this realisation, youth should play an active role in reducing their own vulnerabilities to both natural and man-made hazards.

CDEMA has committed to supporting platforms which facilitate opportunities for youth participation. One example is the Caribbean Conference on CDM which boasts a weekly session for youth delegates from CDEMA Participating States. On a personal note, I was afforded several opportunities to build capacity and strengthen skills during the tenure of the internship. For instance, I was able to use communication skills to make a presentation to CARICOM Youth Ambassadors on the concept of CDM. Furthermore, I was able to build on previously acquired technical skills in geospatial analysis via participation in a



Geographic Information System (GIS) workshop sponsored by MAPACTION through CDEMA. There are opportunities for young individuals to pursue careers in disaster management, to volunteer with the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) and to build strong professional networks with regional practitioners through such internship opportunities. Whether these opportunities are recognised or taken will have major implications for the sustainability of disaster management in the Caribbean. This is because the resilience of the Caribbean region to climate change and all hazards will heavily depend on young individuals utilising their knowledge, innovation and skills to combat the future impacts.

CDEMA Acknowledges Generous Support from Donors/Partners

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Coordinating Unit extends its appreciation to you for the generous contribution to the CDEMA Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) post Hurricanes Irma and Maria. CDEMA is extremely grateful for the unwavering support in the form of cash donations to the immediate response and recovery efforts to the impacted Participating States.

The CDEMA EAF online donation facility was launched for the first time in September 2017, during the response operation phase of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Monetary contributions were facilitated via this online facility as well as direct deposits to the CDEMA EAF bank accounts. The EAF was established to facilitate receiving donations on behalf of any of the CDEMA's 18 Participating States impacted by a disaster. As such, the monetary contributions were used to provide humanitarian support to the affected population, purchase emergency relief supplies, and facilitate early recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Over the period August 25 to September 20, 2017, nine (9) CDEMA Participating States faced an unprecedented threat of impact by two rapidly developing tropical cyclones which attained the highest strength on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale - Catastrophic Category 5. These two systems resulted in multi-island impacts. Four (4) States, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica and Turks and Caicos Islands, were severely impacted or devastated. A combination of strong winds, storm surge, intense rainfall from Hurricanes Irma and Maria resulted in the loss of lives, significant damage to homes and critical infrastructure throughout the impacted States.

In addition to the immediate response post Irma and Maria, CDEMA has also undertaken a 'Legacy Project' to support the recovery and rehabilitation process in each of the four impacted countries. The aim of the 'Legacy Project' is to improve the physical living conditions of the most vulnerable persons in the most adversely affected areas of the impacted States. The project is facilitated by the collective contributions of individual, corporate, national, regional and international donors.

Antigua & Barbuda received a donation of USD\$50,000 to provide food vouchers in support of the most vulnerable displaced families from Barbuda following the impact of Hurricane Irma. The Autism Centre and the Long Trench Community Centre in the BVI were rehabilitated through the donation of USD \$70,000. Another USD \$70,000 was donated to the TCI to assist in the development of the Education Management Information System



Residents of Barbuda who are recipients of CDEMA Food Vouchers.



Photos Above: Construction of a house and roof repairs in the Kalinago Territory, Dominica. Photo Below: Representatives from the Government of Canada, CDEMA and ODM with beneficiaries in the Kalinago Territory.



(EMIS) post Irma through the contribution of 88 computers to the Ministry of Education.

In Dominica, the project targeted the indigenous population (Kalinago), specifically through support for minor repairs and re-roofing of houses within the Kalinago Territory, which were amongst the most severely damaged. The intervention targets 1000 families through the support of the Government of Canada in the amount of CAD \$150,000.

The combined donations including your generous contribution have helped to provide immediate hurricane relief response as well as the rehabilitation efforts through the Legacy Projects. We endeavour to continue being good stewards of your donations and appreciate your ongoing partnership in building a safer and more resilient Caribbean region.



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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

Project Update: CDEMA's Model Safe School Programme

The Implementation of the Model Safe Schools Programme in the Caribbean kicked-off regionally with a series of launches across four CDEMA Participating states during the months of March to May 2018. Well-attended by government officials, principals, teachers and students, the launches set the stage for a regional initiative which aims to motivate and support governments to develop national safe school policies and implement school safety. The 24-month long project, funded by the Caribbean Development Bank-led African Caribbean Pacific European Union National Disaster Risk Management Programme, allows for sector leadership to facilitate the effective permeation of the practice of safe schools into social and economic sectors. Specifically, National Safe School Programme Committees have been established in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia in order to provide the Project Execution Agency, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Coordinating Unit, with guidance and support for the management of the project at the national level, and also serving as the nucleus for promoting and implementing Safe Schools as a Programme within the Ministry of Education of each country. Each National Safe School Programme Committee is chaired by a designated focal point

from the Ministry of Education, and comprises representatives of Ministries involved in ensuring schools safety and greenness, including the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Environment and Health.

As of August 2018, the project has seen the establishment of all four targeted National Safe School Programme Committees, the completion of the project's baseline study, and the establishment of the partnership with the University of Technology's (Jamaica) Faculty of the Built Environment to enhance the building assessment component of the Model Safe School Programme toolkit. The remainder of 2018 will see the commencement of work toward the development or enhancement of safe school policies in each target state, as well as the development of an electronic application that will allow the Model Safe School Programme toolkit to be utilized on tablet devices. A successful staging of the MSSP Road Show was held in Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Lucia in November. The Road Show was used to raise awareness of the importance of 'safe schools' and increase visibility of the project among national stakeholders.



Students in Saint Lucia participating in the MSSP Road Show



MSSP Road Show Mascot 'Safety' entertained children in St. Kitts & Nevis