



# CDEMA News

Volume 2 Issue 2

March—May 2016

## NDCs highlight DRM issues at 7th Meeting of the TAC



*Incoming Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway (seated 4th from left) and to his right CDEMA's Executive Director, Mr. Ronald Jackson with the National Disaster Coordinators from CDEMA's Participating States and members of the regional development partners at the 7th Meeting of the TAC, held in Barbados.*

National Disaster Coordinators (NDCs) from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Participating States met in Barbados to discuss disaster risk management issues being faced by the region.

At the 7th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of CDEMA, which was held from April 18 to 22, 2016 at the Caribbean Development Bank, the NDCs emphasized the implications of climate change, specifically on hydro-meteorological and biological hazards that continue to affect Caribbean countries and the resulting need for further investments to maintain and strengthen national and regional response capabilities.

The NDCs also shared their experiences at the national level noting the challenges encountered in the coordination of response to recent events such as the drought condi-

tion, which impacted a number of Caribbean territories since August 2015.

A critical outcome of the meeting was on the agreement by the NDCs, that going forward the coordination of response to drought is a critical function of the national offices and that national policies related to drought are to be treated within the broader Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) context. Other matters discussed included, resilience approaches and preparedness & response capabilities at the national and local levels for all possible hazards.

The meeting also noted the establishment of the CDEMA's Regional Training Centre (RTC) as a mechanism for building and maintaining the required capabilities for CDM in the CDEMA system. The RTC delivers on the CDEMA's mandate as per the Agreement Establishing CDEMA to strengthen capacity

within Participating States and for setting and delivering training standards. The RTC will build on existing training initiatives and partnerships to deliver the relevant training required by Participating States.

The Meeting of the TAC also examined the achievements and challenges of the work advanced by the CDEMA Coordinating Unit over the past year and also with respect to the support provided to the advancement of national level CDM implementation under the Country Directed Fund (CDF) grant facility, currently being financed under the Intra-ACP Programme of the European Union. 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,

### Inside this issue:

From the ED's Desk: Strengthening Caribbean Regional Response Systems	2
CDEMA Launches 25th Year Anniversary Celebra- tions	3
Emergency Drills Tested at Child Care Facilities	4
New Project to Create Resilience Culture in the Caribbean	5
Country Directed Fund (CDF) Grants Awarded to Participating States	6
CDEMA and FAO Collabo- rate on Livelihoods Resilience Programme	6
Grenada trains Early Responders in Incident Command System	7
Turks and Caicos Islands hosts Exercise Design Planning Workshop	7
Strengthening Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean	8

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) and representatives of regional specialized institutions including The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (UWI-SRC).

## From the ED's Desk: Strengthening Caribbean Regional Response Systems



By Ronald H. Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA

Perhaps the most worrying threat for the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) today is the burgeoning impact of climate change. Climate change presents significant implications for safety and security of the Caribbean people.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction as a human security issue is not yet fully explored within a Caribbean context. The new reality which confronts us is that more and more of our citizens are exposed to or at risk of being impacted by climatic hazards.

The outcomes of past adverse events in several of the CARICOM States suggests that the Caribbean governments have been challenged in establishing the appropriate level of national readiness required to facilitate and coordinate an initial response to national disasters. This remains of great concern given the lessons that would have been identified post Hurricane Ivan in 2004 in Grenada. It is therefore reasonable to infer that they will not be prepared to handle the increased pressures the new climate reality will exert on the existing humanitarian architecture. A Regional Response therefore remains a distinct reality for medium scale adverse events and most certainly large scale events impacting many of the CDEMA Participating States.

As Caribbean governments continue to attempt the delicate balance between achieving prosperity and managing high-risk exposures and vulnerabilities they will be required to examine the requirements for tackling the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) in a new climatic reality. Traditionally, the Governments would and could rely on international donor resources in these areas whether it is in "peace time" capacity strengthening and readiness activities or in supporting emergency response operations. Currently there remains some predictability around the presence of extra-regional military humanitarian assistance and disaster response support in the Caribbean region.

Furthermore, the priorities for these assets held by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands that are operating within the Caribbean are primarily for supporting a response to UK and Dutch Overseas Territories. In the event that there are simultaneous impacts to the Overseas Territories and Non-Overseas Territories these assets will be tasked as per priority to the needs of the Overseas Territories and Departments.

This scenario illustrates one reason why CARICOM should not become complacent and develop a sole reliance on these resources given the current dynamic in global security and the geo-political variables at play. Some of these variables to keep an eye on and which may further prompt a rethink of the current strategic security arrangement for disaster response in the Caribbean are:

1. The current situation of conflict in the Middle East and the impacts of the resulting displacement on countries that we traditionally look to for humanitarian support. This is likely to affect, in the near term, the level of external humanitarian support that would come to the Caribbean after climate-related disaster events.
2. Potential movement of some European military assets out of the region in the near term. Noting that these assets have served in the past to shore up our humanitarian responses with logistics support, equipment and personnel.
3. Graduation of some CARICOM Member States from being able to access Development Assistance that could support operational readiness activities.

In preparation for these changes and as a show of readiness for climate change the governments of the region must move to make our national and regional response architecture more robust.

What prevents the Caribbean from establishing its own CARICOM Guard Ship manned by a CARICOM Military and Coast Guard personnel drawn from among its members and financed collectively by Member States? Couldn't the Caribbean harness among its CARICOM Member States assets and personnel that could include a troop of HADR specialist personnel, engineering battalion (or the capability to facilitate them) and the ability to transport equipment, relief supplies light wheeled tractor and other vehicles capable of supporting emergency operations in an impacted State? The value of the asset would be maximized beyond a disaster response support operation in support of the CDEMA Regional Response as it could also be used to address the Regional Security Operations year

round at sea during normal times.

This approach will require some changes to national and regional security policy and strategy but is consistent with the broader regional integration movement espoused under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas specifically in support of the intent of enhanced functional cooperation as expressed in Articles 6 (Objectives of the Community).

In moving towards this new approach it is proposed that the following actions be advanced in an effort to better maximize the potential of Caribbean Military Humanitarian Disaster Response support:

1. Understand the capabilities that extra regional partners have brought to the "table"
2. Use this understanding to strengthen and maximize the deployability of the existing military capabilities across the region for HADR
3. Establish a Caribbean designed and driven arrangement for Regional Military Planning and Exercising around HADR support to the Regional Response Mechanism
4. Strengthen partnerships with the regional disaster response support and coordination Agency (i.e. CDEMA)
5. A revisit of the concept and design of the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) to be more reflective of the proposed wider military engagement (CDRU Light and CDRU Heavy)
6. Facilitate greater predictability in the deployment of Caribbean military capabilities in a Disaster.

Due consideration must be given to these possibilities as we seek to contemplate the role of our security apparatus in the face of climate change and its implications for Caribbean SIDS.



The UK's RFA Lyme Bay transporting relief supplies and equipment in the aftermath of TS Erica, Dominica



## CDEMA Launches 25th Year Anniversary Celebrations



*L-R: Mr. R. Jackson, Hon. Adriel Brathwaite and Dr. J. Comma sharing a light moment at the launch*



*Ambassador Mr. Francisco Fernandez Pena (Cuban Ambassador) and Senator Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway*



*Guests at the launch of the 25th Anniversary Celebrations*



*Mr. Franklyn Michael of CARICAD and Ms Judy Thomas, former Director of the Department of Emergency Management, Barbados*

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the champion for comprehensive disaster management (CDM) in the Caribbean, celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> year of existence in 2016. In recognition of this milestone, a launch of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations was held at the CDEMA's headquarters in Lower Estate, St Michael, Barbados on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

In presenting remarks at the launch, the Honourable Adriel Brathwaite, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados and outgoing Chairman of the CDEMA Council of Ministers invited the Agency to examine its progress over the last 25 years, "Look back and see the things that you have done well, and the things that you want to take forward for the next 25 years. Look at the things that you have not done well and, of course, [realise] that with climate change and other issues on the horizon, your service and expertise might be required even more over the next 25 years and that you can satisfy the demand of the region." Minister Brathwaite also reiterated the important role CDEMA plays in mobilising and coordinating regional disaster relief and encouraged greater support for the Agency in carrying out its mandate effectively.

Also speaking at the launch and on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CDEMA's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Senator the Honourable Dr. Winston Garraway, Parliamentary Secretary with responsibility for Disaster Management in Grenada and incoming Chairman of the TAC, commended the work of the Agency in the promotion of CDM in Participating States. He also noted the important role CDEMA plays in mobilizing and coordinating disaster response support in light of recent events such as Tropical Storm Erica in Dominica and Hurricane Joaquin in the Bahamas and recounting the impact of Hurricane Ivan on Grenada in 2004, said "the tasks ahead will be a challenging one, since the current impact of climate change on the world, especially our small island states, has produced many new phenomena that have to be mitigated...yes, we have come a long way, we have achieved exemplary success, however, there is much more to be accomplished".

September 5, 2016 will mark twenty-

five (25) years from the date that the CARICOM Heads of Government, in recognition of the fragile economies and ecosystems of the States within the Caribbean region, demonstrated the foresight to establish CDEMA.

"Over the 25 years, we have learned, adjusted, improved and retooled for the demands of each stage of the Agency's 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 our leaders back in 1991", said Executive Director of CDEMA, Mr. Ronald Jackson. "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."

Highlighting some of the achievements of the Agency over the years, Mr Jackson also said, "The work of CDEMA has contributed to the development of a more organised framework for the management of disasters and disaster risk in our region. All of our Participating States have dedicated and staffed disaster offices and have implemented or are in the process of implementing disaster risk management legislation." He acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Jeremy Collymore, former Executive Director of CDERA/CDEMA and other past members of the CDEMA System who have given years of exemplary service to the region in disaster management. Mr. Jackson also highlighted the involvement of key stakeholders and sectors in disaster programming, primarily agriculture, tourism, civil society, education, physical planning and environment, and finance, as well as, a growing private sector interest and engagement.

The Agency was first established in 1991 as CDERA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency), with the primary responsibility of coordinating and providing emergency response and relief efforts to Participating States that require such assistance. CDERA transitioned to CDEMA in 2009 as the lead institution in the region with responsibility for disaster risk management and to advance the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy. In recognition of the 25th anniversary, a number of activities will be implemented during the year in CDEMA's Participating States.

## Emergency Drills Tested at Child Care Facilities—A 25th Anniversary Activity

Children, residential and day nursery officers of the Barbados Child Care Board were actively involved in a full scale exercise to test their level of readiness in the event of a disaster. The exercise was held on May 26 at the Nightingale Children's Home in Black Rock and included a fire and an earthquake drill. Technical teams from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), the Barbados Fire Service, the Royal Barbados Police Force and CDEMA facilitated the exercise.

CDEMA in collaboration with the Child Care Board and the Barbados National Disaster Management System have jointly undertaken this capacity building initiative as part of the CDEMA's 25th year anniversary celebrations and in recognition of Child Month. Prior to this exercise, a disaster planning workshop was conducted with 40 early childhood operators and officers of the Child Care Board on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. Participants were exposed to a standardized approach to disaster preparedness, planning and response processes in a realistic environment as well as the terminologies used in these functions.

The exercise, which involved a total of 60 persons, was part of the Child Care Board's efforts to improve its capacity to respond to disasters. The goal therefore was to test the emergency procedures for the Child Care Board in responding to a fire and an earthquake emergency within the Nightingale Complex. Specifically, the exercise examined how safety wardens, staff and occupants of both the Violet Child Care Centre and the Day Nursery follow the Board's Emergency Procedures and safely evacuate the impacted premises.

"These drills are vitally important for us at the Nightingale Complex as they help us to be prepared in the event we have an actual disaster. We are indeed grateful for the assistance given by all the coordinating agencies today and wish for continued support", said Sheila Francis, Manager of Administration at the Child Care Board.

Impressed with the outcome of the exercise, Inspector Fred Clarke of the Barbados Fire Service commented on the importance of conducting fire drills, "I'm quite pleased with the performance of the staff in preparing the children for evacuation and the safe manner in which this was done. It is very important to practice these procedures and to remember them in case of a real fire".

In presenting remarks at the close of the exercise, Deputy Executive Director of CDEMA, Elizabeth Riley highlighted CDEMA's role in facilitating disaster risk reduction especially for vulnerable populations. "As you know, persons who are differently abled, as well as very young persons or very elderly persons, are of specific concern when we look at disaster management, and there are very specific considerations that we have to make for them. She further noted, "from our Agency's perspective, this is something we highlighted in our comprehensive disaster management strategy, and it is an important message we would like to send from this exercise".

The training workshop and drill exercises were two of the three interventions being conducted with the Child Care Board. A review and strengthening of the Board's Emergency Plan is being undertaken following the evaluations of the exercises. The updated Plan is scheduled to be completed and will be presented to the Child Care Board by August 2016.



*A caregiver safely evacuates toddlers to designated assemble point.*



*Infants at the Day Nursery are safely secured by placing cribs on top of each other and covered with mattresses.*



*BG (R) Earl Arthurs, lead facilitator explaining the various processes in disaster preparedness, planning and response*



## New Project to Create Resilience Culture in the Caribbean

In keeping with its mandate, which involves ‘encouraging cooperative arrangements and mechanisms to facilitate the development of a culture of disaster loss reduction’ among Participating States, CDEMA in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) announced the project “Strengthening Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Capacities for Resilience in the Caribbean” during the Disaster Risk Reduction Development Partners Meeting which took place on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Barbados. The project, which is also supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) stands to benefit the region by building resilience in Participating States.

Specifically, the recently started project will contribute to strengthening disaster risk reduction monitoring capacities

at national and regional levels in the Caribbean; increased knowledge and capacities for local resilience and community safety through enhanced capacities and commitment for safe schools and enhance risk-sensitive business investment.

When announcing the project, Ricardo Mena, Head of the Regional Office of the Americas of UNISDR, highlighted the importance of projects of this nature due to its “contribution to the timely implementation of the Sendai Framework, applying an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction involving key actors at regional, national and local level. He mentioned further that the harmonization of the 2014-2024 Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy indicators and monitoring system with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will facilitate national and regional reporting to both frameworks and is showcasing a good practice in the Americas region. This initiative is co-funded by European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection (ECHO).

Likewise, he made a call for all participants to promote an integrated vision where “disaster risk reduction and the adaptation to climate change are components that must be tackled together in order to effectively contribute to increasing resilience in each and every community within the regions vulnerable to disasters such as the

Caribbean” he added.

In welcoming the prospects of this new project, Ronald H. Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA said that the partnership on this project will directly contribute to the delivery of The Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy 2014-2024 which is the roadmap being utilized by CARICOM Member States towards the realization of

the Safer More Resilient and Sustainable Communities. “This project is in keeping with the philosophy of Comprehensive Disaster Management of engaging all sector of our society in the effort to build a culture of safety. The initiative will assist CDEMA to further its previously established programme for Safe Schools in the Caribbean and strengthen efforts to engage with the private sector on Disaster Risk Management Issues.”



*A section of the Disaster Risk Reduction Development Partners Meeting held at the Radisson Hotel, Barbados on April 7, 2016.*

He further hailed the partnership between CDEMA and UNISDR as a model of how a Global Organization can successfully collaborate with a Regional or Sub-Regional Organization by finding common threads that allow the expression of shared goals and a common rallying theme of resilience. “As we seek to deliver Regional Public Goods and Services to the people of the Caribbean we must seek to harmonize our efforts to ensure that the Caribbean Community is able to maximize on the benefits that can be derived from donor support”, he added.

Mr. Jackson also thanked the ADA for their continued support of efforts in the Caribbean indicating that this is the third round of support provided by the ADA in their contribution to the delivery of the 2014-2024 CDM Strategy Results.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Development Partners Meeting’s objective was to discuss and consider collaboration possibilities among current and planned development partners’ interventions in the region with regard to disaster risk reduction (DRR). The Meeting brought together donors and partner agencies working in the Caribbean. This event was organized by European Union and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

## Country Directed Fund (CDF) Grants awarded to Participating States

Over the last three months, a total of eight CDEMA Participating States - *Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname* - have been awarded the Country Directed Fund (CDF) Grants.

The Country Directed Fund involves two processes based on the amount of the grant being applied for. A responsive simplified process is used for access to a maximum of €10,000. A competitive call for proposals, undertaken twice per year (March and October), is being used to access amounts in excess of €10,000.00 and up to a maximum of €60,000.

Under the responsive simplified process (under €10,000), applications were reviewed by a CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) Internal Small Grants Committee and countries were awarded funds for improving operational readiness at the national and community levels, and for capacity building of National Disaster Coordinators (NDCs). Countries were able to access funding for the volcano awareness programme in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the hosting of a series of training workshops in Grenada in the areas of National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), Incident Command System (ICS) and Plans Review and Development (PRD). The capacity built through these interventions were tested through Exercise TRADEWINDS 2016. Six NDCs from St. Kitts-Nevis, Guyana, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname were supported to participate in the 7th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which was held April 18 - 22 in Barbados. The TAC meeting was designed to include a 3-day capacity building component. The CDF includes funds which are ring-fenced for this action.

So far, three countries have approved projects through the competitive call for proposals (€10,000 to €60,000). Two of these projects are to strengthen volunteerism in disaster management and the other addresses a structural mitigation action in a vulnerable community. These are

Grenada National Volunteer Service, Grenada; The National Disaster Risk Management Volunteers Programme (NDRMVP), Jamaica and Reduction of Boulder's and Ghaut Sand Impact, Antigua and Barbuda. These larger grants are processed through a Grant Approval Board comprising CDM partners including the private sector, CDEMA CU personnel and country representation. Proposals are screened along agreed criteria for eligibility, completeness and linkages to the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy 2014-2024 and eligible Participating State's Country Work Programme before being submitted to the Board, who will review the application and make the final decision for granting the funds.

The Country Directed Fund (CDF) mechanism was established in 2009 under the Comprehensive Disaster Management Harmonized Implementation Programme: Phase 1 (CDM HIP), to support the urgent need expressed by National Disaster Offices (NDOs) to access funds to strengthen their ability to achieve tangible CDM results where national budgets were insufficient. This was supported through the financial support from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada (formerly CIDA), UK Aid from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (formerly AusAID).

Through the European Commission funded, **Strengthening of the Capacity of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit and Participating States for Implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management project**, which runs from September 2014 to December 2018, funding has been provided to allow the CDEMA CU to continue to provide its Participating States with financial support through the CDF mechanism. The CDF arrangements were therefore enhanced based on internal and external reviews including the CDM HiP Evaluation to build upon previous successes, strengthen the process and position the facility for future growth as a Grant Facility.

## CDEMA and FAO Collaborate on Livelihoods Resilience Programme

CDEMA in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) hosted a regional workshop to formulate a FAO livelihoods resilience programme for the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The workshop was held from 22-23 March, 2016 at the Kapok Hotel in Trinidad and Tobago.

Participants including scientists, disaster managers and agricultural specialists are working together to collate and share good practices in agricultural disaster risk

management and develop country road maps to deliver the country resilience programme for Caribbean SIDS. The development of a livelihoods resilience programme is in keeping with the need to mainstream disaster risk management in the agriculture sector towards achieving the 2014-2024 Compre-



*Participants at the Opening Session of the Regional Workshop to formulate a FAO livelihoods resilience programme for Caribbean SIDS, Trinidad*

hensive Disaster Management (CDM) objectives. Speaking at the opening of the workshop, CDEMA's Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Elizabeth Riley said, "Disaster risk management must be viewed as the launching pad for engaging sector partners, including the agriculture

sector in dialogue on the hazard related consequences of climate change and for undertaking associated adaptation actions".

Given the region's vulnerability to climate induced hazards, it is important for the region to monitor and undertake contingency planning and adaptation actions particularly for the agricultural sector.

Ms. Riley said the "reality of these threats demands that we boldly step outside of our comfort zones to engage in interactions with varied actors on dynamic issues. With the establishment of the CDM Coordination and Harmonization Council in 2007, FAO willingly stepped forward to lead the charge in the agriculture sector. I wish to take this opportunity to thank FAO for its leadership and our other agricultural sector partners for their commitment over the years."



## Grenada trains Early Responders in Incident Command System

The national disaster management system in Grenada was strengthened with over 30 early responders benefiting from an Incident Command Systems (ICS) training exercise. Upon request from the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA), the CDEMA CU Preparedness and Response Unit facilitated the training course, which was held from April 28 - 30, 2016 in St. Georges, Grenada.

The training in ICS was partly in preparation for the upcoming Exercise TRADEWINDS 2016, which is being held in Grenada between June 5th and 14th. Utilizing the revised training package developed by the CDEMA's Regional Training Center (RTC), the method used for the 3 days included presentations, discussions and practical exercises. The final day focused on exercising two groups in establishing the Incident Command System in response to a mass casualty incident.

The training course also focused on the conceptual aspects of ICS and fundamental

operational components in the field from an on-scene management perspective. The participants included representatives from NaDMA, The Royal Grenada Police Force, The Fire Department, The Ministry of Health and The Grenada Red Cross.

The ICS training course is part of an ongoing initiative by CDEMA to streamline the Incident Command System in the region. This new iteration of the ICS training course was first executed in Antigua and Barbuda prior to and in preparation for them hosting Exercise TRADEWINDS 2014. The training syllabus was further enhanced and delivered successfully in Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis and finally Turks and Caicos Islands in July 2015. After each training and After Action Reviews, the ICS Training syllabus was enhanced to make it more appropriate, better flow and sufficient practical sessions to practice the necessary ICS skills.



*Above: ICS practical training exercise*

*Below: Participants actively engaged in presentation*



## Turks and Caicos Islands hosts Exercise Design and Planning Workshop



*Above: Participants brainstorming for a plan of action  
Below: A working group during one of the many activities*



A cadre of persons are now capable of planning, conducting and evaluating exercises in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This is as a result of a training workshop in Exercise Design and Planning that was held on February 22 - 26, 2016 in Providenciales at the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME) Headquarters.

The CDEMA CU through the Regional Training Center (RTC) facilitated the training exercise upon request from the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands. A total of 19 participants were oriented in the exercise design and planning processes, exposed to 5 different types of activities (Exercises) used in the Comprehensive Exercise Programme and gained understanding in the roles and functions of simulators, controllers and evaluators. They were also taught how to conduct briefings and de-briefings before, during and after an exercise.

Exercising is integral to the development of capability, as well as to the preparation of personnel to carry out their functions during actual events. Training in exercise design is ideal for exercise managers and provides a number of techniques and guidelines that will assist them in implementing various exercises and drills.

The Exercise Design and Planning training is guided in part by the "CDEMA Standard for Exercise Planning, Execution and Evaluation Manual" (published in 2015). The purpose of this manual is to provide guidelines and a national reference for the design, planning, conduct and evaluation of Earthquake and Tsunami Drills. This will help in the development of exercise programmes across the Caribbean not only for disaster managers but for the entire national security environment. These exercises will be offered through the CDEMA's Regional Training Center (RTC).



**1.** Participants listen intently during a group presentation activity

**2.** Workshop Facilitator BG (R) Earl Arthurs (Far Left) with successful Participants. Far right is Dr Virginia Clerveaux, Director, DDME



## 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!

### Strengthening Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean



*Participants engaged in group discussions at the Early Warning Systems workshop, held in Barbados April 14-16*

The institutionalization and harmonization of Early Warning System (EWS) as well as integrating vulnerable groups in all processes related to EWS were the main themes of the Caribbean Early Warning System Workshop that took place in Barbados from April 14 - 16, 2016.

More than 70 participants from National Disaster Management Agencies, National Meteorological Services, National Red Cross Societies, Non-Governmental Organizations as well as regional, research, intergovernmental and United Nations organizations identified next steps on how to enhance coordination among stakeholders towards the harmonization of multi-hazard EWS in the Caribbean.

The Caribbean is a region prone to natural hazards such as floods, hurricanes, landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. In addition to a particular exposure, Caribbean countries have comparatively high vulnerability and although many efforts in disaster risk reduction have been made over the past years, including strengthening of EWS, there are still gaps in terms of preparedness.

Early Warning Systems are well-recognized as a critical life-saving disaster risk reduction tool. During this three-day regional event, the following findings and recommendations were also put forward:

- Include vulnerable groups in all processes related to EWS, for example their design, in

order to learn and integrate their needs from the beginning.

- To ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to EWS, there is a need to link the four elements: (i) Risk Knowledge, (ii) Monitoring and Warning Service (iii) Dissemination and Communication as well as (iv) Response Capability.
- Any initiative should further support mechanisms and processes in order to better sustain investment (programme versus project approach).
- Use different types of communication to ensure that messages reach the target population. Define common messages and develop public awareness and education campaigns as part of a community-based EWS.
- Community involvement is critical at all stages of EWS. Communities need to be strengthened in order to protect themselves, react appropriately and help during an emergency situation.

The workshop was jointly organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in close collaboration with CDEMA, under the framework of the Caribbean Action Plan 2015-2016 of ECHO's Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO).

## Upcoming Activities (June - August 2016)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| • CDEMA RTC Disaster Management Module - Regional Security System (RSS) Basic Course for Police Officers, Barbados ( <b>June 20 - 25, 2016</b> ) | • Exercise Region RAP, CDEMA CU ( <b>June 29, 2016</b> )  | • CDRU Training ( <b>August 8 - 12, 2016</b> )  |
| • CDEMA RTC Pilot offering - Basic Disaster Management, Online Course ( <b>Up to June 30, 2016</b> )   | • Key Leaders Seminar - Exercise TRADEWINDS 2016, Miami ( <b>July 19 - 21, 2016</b> )           | • CDAC & COST Training ( <b>Tentative - August 15 - 19, 2016</b> )                                    |
| • Regional Coordination Center (RCC) Exercise, CDEMA CU ( <b>June 28, 2016</b> )   | • Inter-Agency Coordination Table Top Exercise - WFP, UNOCHA, CDEMA ( <b>July 26-27, 2016</b> ) | • Concept Development Conference for Exercise TRADEWINDS 2017, Barbados ( <b>August 23-25, 2016</b> ) |