

YOUTH AND THEIR ROLE IN THE PATH TO RESILIENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Prepared by: CDM Youth Steering Committee

CONTEXT

A resilient region is probably one of the most anticipated characteristics and achievement for Caribbean

2017 events , particularly hurricanes Irma and Maria, has forced the Caribbean leaders to clearly define the metrics associated with a climate resilient region

Comprehensive Disaster Management underpins this resilient agenda

Youth have too been affected and are willing to share our experiences and those of our loved ones as well as offer our insight on ways to achieve a standard of resilience across our region

Our Approach

Small think tank formed with youth representatives from CDM9 and CDM10 partnered to represent the youths in their individual islands by soliciting the opinions of these leaders of tomorrow

- 6 youth from the 4 CDEMA Sub-Regional Operational Focal Points

Conducted Document reviews

- Concept Note – Regional Dialogue on Building a Caribbean Pathway for Disaster Resilience in CDEMA Participating States
- Green Paper on Disaster Resilience in CARICOM States
- Youth DRR Declarations form CDM9 and CDM10

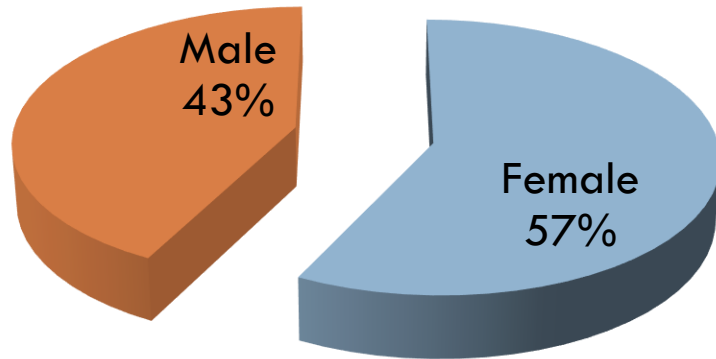
Surveyed 89 respondents from CDEMA Participating States with

- 78% between 18 – 25 years
- 62% at the pursuing or completed tertiary education

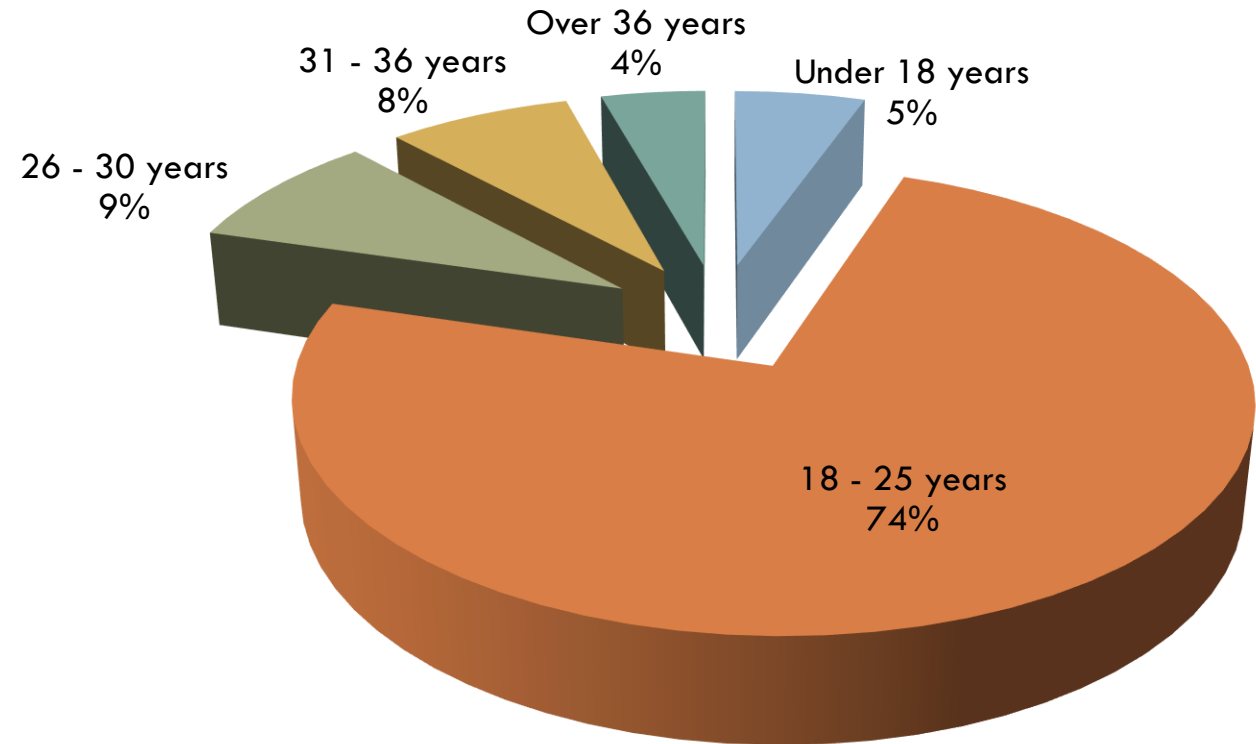
Limited timeframe did not allow more youth to participate

Profiling “the voice”

Respondents by Sex

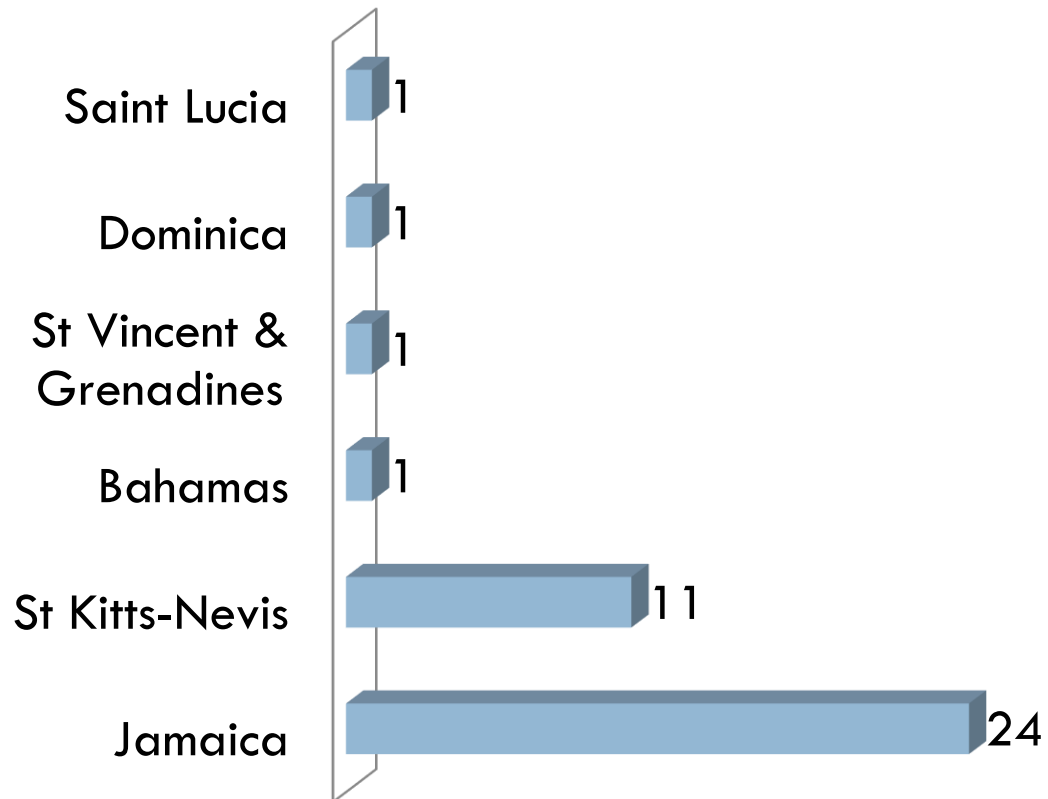


Respondents by Age

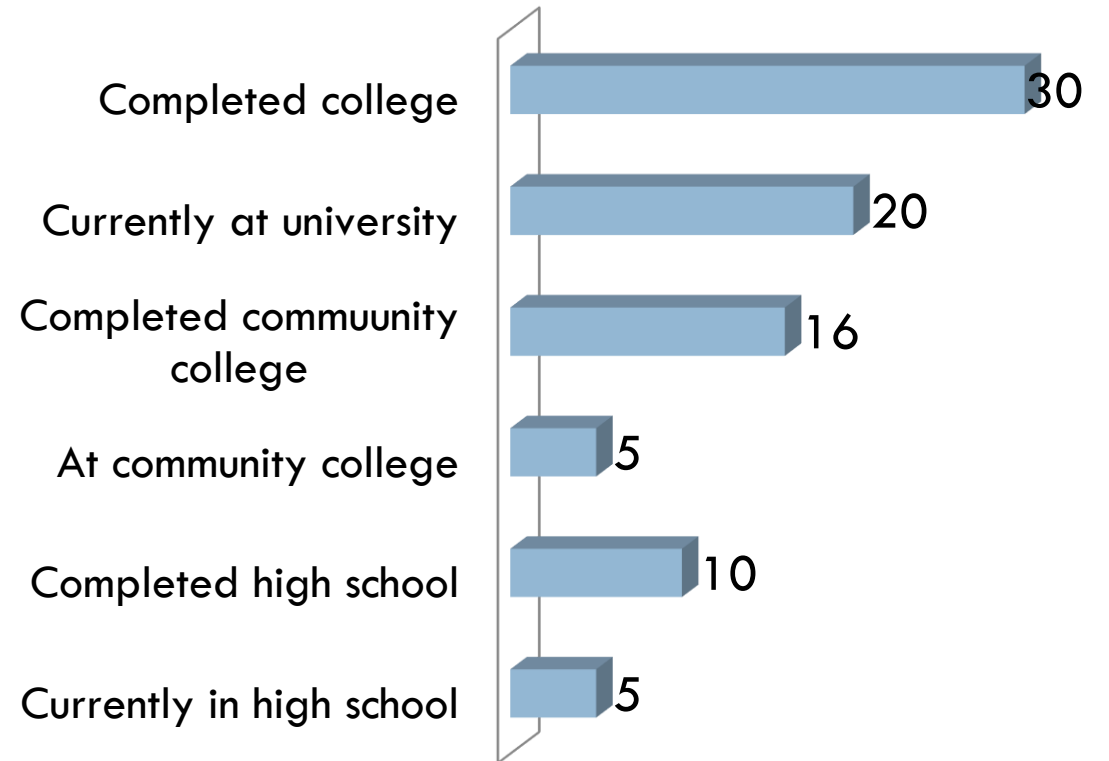


Profiling “the voice”

Respondents by Country



Respondents by Educational Level



Initial Observations

Youth

- generally feel there is a need for greater of involvement in the decision-making process
- resolve that our involvement in all aspects of DRR is of immense importance
- are ready to assist in any regard as long as the opportunities are open to them
- recognised that disaster risk reduction is everybody's business, even that of the most vulnerable

We the youth of CDEMA Participating States...

Want to be involved in building a Resilient Caribbean (99%)

Feel little has been done to empower us to help drive or support this resilient agenda (74%)

- Our current involvement is “late to the table” or tokenism

See our involvement as critical as the 2017 events suggest that the Caribbean region is not resilient (71%) to impacts from natural hazards

Believe 2 key factors led to the level of devastation from hazards (including the 2017 events)

- Ignorance (81%)
- Lack of preparedness (98%)

Our Voice...Calling for Action



Education (72%) and a better understanding of risk are key elements to accelerating the Climate Resilient Caribbean agenda



Curriculum reform (86%) that integrates disaster risk management in all facets of formal and informal academic programming needs to move from a discussion point/agenda item to becoming an immediate reality



Offering incentives for engaging in mitigation practices (48%) or to solicit more involvement from the youth is useful but personal responsibility (82%) is critical to becoming a Resilient Caribbean



Supporting the Call to Action...What we bring

Energy

- Youthfulness allows us to be able to achieve any task handed to them, as well as the willingness to participate.

Technology developers and manipulators

- We are the primary users and developers of new technology and can therefore assist the integration of a regional resilience portfolio.

Paradigm shifters

- We bring and advocate for new perspectives on the development of the resilience portfolio in the region

Key Actions

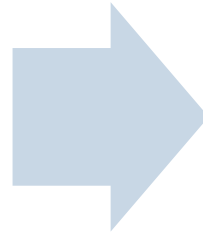
- Formalize the CDM Youth architecture at the national and regional levels
 - ▣ Disaster Management Ambassadors at all grade levels
 - ▣ Involvement in the national disaster management decision making processes for example decisions regarding the infrastructural to health implications of lack of school safety mechanisms
 - ▣ Engaging in Town Halls Panel Sessions with Community Leaders on possible areas for collaboration between the school and the wider Community to ensure safety in and out of school zones

Key Actions

- **Carving out a space for youth involvement in the Caribbean Safe School Initiative**
 - ▣ Formation of Environmental Clubs that primarily function to edify, raise awareness and mobilize committees of student actors willing to volunteer their time to create and/or encourage Smart School Safety Practices;
 - ▣ Incorporation of emergency and disaster management into the Region's existing School's Curriculum centered around STEAM
 - S- Science
 - T- Technology
 - E- Engineering
 - A- Arts
 - M- Mathematics

Key Actions

Revisiting how youth are engaged to support the packaging and dissemination of disaster risk management information



Providing greater education opportunities for youth to pursue DRM studies

- Scholarships
- Curriculum reform to integrate age-appropriate DRM knowledge at all educational levels

Key Actions

Enhancing the Early Warning Systems at all levels to ensure persons are adequately informed

Providing support for vulnerable persons to build their disaster resilience

Building stronger critical facilities like shelters and communications architecture to ensure they can withstand catastrophic impacts

Kudos

- To all regional bodies who make it their responsibility to involve the Youth in the decision making process.
- To CDEMA CU for making this opportunity possible for the youth to be involved in this auspicious occasion

In Close



“Young people are unmatched by any other demographic group in their ability to bring about meaningful change in social behaviour and attitudes. We must not underestimate their potential to make a real difference in the time of disasters.”

(Bekele Geleta, Secretary-General International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

Our Team

- Aaron Crooks, Jamaica
- Antonette Dennis, Jamaica
- Autumn Inniss-Harris, British Virgin Islands/Barbados
- Brendon Taylor, Barbados
- Phael Lander, Dominica
- Rashulata St Louis , Guyana