

LOW-LEVEL TROUGH SYSTEM AFFECTING THE LESSER ANTILLES REGION –

SITUATION REPORT #2

AS OF 1700 HRS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2013

THE SITUATION:

Severe rains and high winds due to a Low Level Trough System would have impacted the Participating States of CDEMA's Central Sub-Region of Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica through Monday 23rd to Wed 25th December, 2013.

The synopsis by the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) stated that a small low level trough had moved into the Eastern Caribbean under the influence of a mid to upper level trough. The orientation of the eastern side of the upper level trough had significantly enhanced showers and thunderstorm activity over the states of the Eastern Caribbean.

Between December 23rd and 24th Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia began reporting heavy showery activity with accumulations over that 12 to 24 hours period recorded at 406 mm in Burton, St. Lucia, 156 mm in Grenada, and 109 mm in St Vincent.

PROGNOSIS:

Reports of severe damage due to high winds, torrential rains and overflowing rivers were received from Dominica, Saint Lucis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. According to the Barbados Meterological Service, rainfall from the system, which had dumped more than 3 inches of rain overnight on Dec 24th, was expected to decrease today (December 26th).

National Emergency Operations Centres have been activated and Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) Teams have been deployed for assessing the impacts and assessment reports have been forthcoming.

NATIONAL REPORTS AND ACTIONS:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- Affected areas (unchanged):
 - Several rivers overflowed their banks in Chateaubelair, Buccament, Vermont, O'Briens Valley, Clare Valley and South Rivers.
 - Major areas affected are Buccament Bay, Vermont, South Rivers, Byera, Spring Village, Rose Bank, and the capital Kingstown.
- Affected Population
 - Eight (8) persons are confirmed dead as a result of landslides and flooding. Five (5) persons from one family in Rose Bank died from landslides, one (1) in Byera and two (2) in Vermont.
 - Five (5) persons missing, five (5) persons injured, and sixty-two (62) homeless.
 - Two (2) Emergency Shelters have been activated at Buccament and Chateaubelair.
 - Sixty-two (62) persons have been provided with emergency shelter.
- Critical Facilities and Infrastructure
 - Critical infrastructure affected includes the E. T. Joshua Airport and Milton Cato Memorial Hospital where the Paediatric Ward was flooded. The E. T. Joshua Airport has reopened.
 - Several communities remain cut-off due to damaged bridges and blocked roads. Vehicular traffic cannot enter or leave the North Windward community of Sandy

Bay, and several blockages from landslides are preventing access to communities in North Leeward. The Caratal bridge is damaged, and the Bailey by-pass bridge in Colinarie was washed away.

- The Building Roads and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) and the Ministry of Transport and Works have reported severe flooding, blocked roads and damage to homes, roads and bridges as well as other infrastructure. They are continuing their assessments and clean up operations.
 - Nine (9) houses were destroyed and fifteen (15) damaged but as assessments continue. The estimated numbers of damage and destroyed buildings are expected to increase.
 - Fifty percent (50%) of consumers are without pipe-borne water and it is expected that residents between Layou and Prospect will be without water at least until Saturday.
- EOC Status
 - The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) remains partially activated and a number of key agencies and volunteers are involved in the operations.
 - National Response
 - The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) has provided sleeping bags, comfort kits and jerry cans to those affected.
 - The Ministry of Transport and Works have commenced the initial damage assessment process to accessible areas.
 - The Ministry of Education has activated its Emergency Shelter Committee.
 - Temporary measures on the Caratal bridge have been instituted to allow single lane access to vehicular traffic this evening.
 - The Ministry of Health has conducted several emergency meetings with the Health Emergency Committee. The pediatric, male medical, maternity (delivery), and the neonatal intensive care units of the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital have been temporary relocated as clean- up operations continue.

- The psycho-social support team led by the Ministry of Health is providing support to those persons injured during the event.
- The Roads Building and General Services Authority (BRAGSA), Ministry of Transport and Works and the Forestry Department continue their road clearing operations.
- The Acting Prime Minister – Hon Girlyn Miguel, Director of NEMO – Mr. Howie Prince and other Government Officials visited affected areas today on the Leeward side as far as Belle Isle and Georgetown on the Windward side.
- The SVG Red Cross Society has been distributing jerry cans in affected areas.
- Sixty (60) cooked meals have been supplied to persons in Emergency Shelter at the Buccament Secondary School.
- LIME is donating food and other supplies to families in the Emergency Shelter at Buccament.

Dominica

- Affected Areas:
 - The Office of Disaster Management reports that the southern part of the island from Scotshead to Laudat and Canefield was the most affected by the heavy rains and flash flooding resulting in a number of roads intercepted and homes impacted. In particular the communities of Shawford/Fond Cani, Gutter, Bathe Estate, Newtown, Castle Comfort, Loubiere, Citronaire, Point Michel, and Soufriere were impacted.
- Affected Population:
 - Families in the following Newtown, Loubiere, Citronaire, Castle Comfort, and Bath Estate Communities were affected by the event. Assessments are continuing.
- Critical Facilities and Infrastructure
 - The areas worst affected are in the southern Districts.

- The initial assessments indicate a total of thirty three (35) landslides or mudslides were recorded.
- Rockfall/Landslides occurred in the Roseau Valley area (Laudat, Shawford, Fond Cani) and flash flooding caused the temporary blockage of the Newtown main road and the Bath-Estate/Elmshall Bridge. Roads are being restored (even if only partially). The roads leading to and from the southern villages of Scotts Head and Soufriere were blocked by debris and landslides and are in the process of being cleared.
- Numerous fallen rocks and trees impeded traffic but crews have worked to clear most of these.
- Electricity service was interrupted and intermittent through several parts of the island. While the electricity has been restored to most parts of the island, Bagatel, Fond St Jean, Soufriere continue to experience some electrical disruptions with staff from DOMLEC taking remedial action.
- Water services were affected by land slippage and intake siltage and a number of communities, including Morne Prosper, Grandfond and Laplaine, were experiencing shortages.
- Preliminary Estimates:
 - Very preliminary assessment suggests that the costs of cleanup and clearing of landslides is at least EC\$275,000.00.
- National Response
 - The Ministry of Public Works, Energy and Ports (MPWEP) has engaged the services of private contractors/equipment owners to commence immediate clearing operation without compromising the safety of workmen.
 - The services of a number of heavy equipment operators have been engaged to undertake emergency clearing works.

- Most of roads are passable by vehicular traffic and final clearing works i.e. clearing of drains and other related works are on-going.
- Efforts have been made to allow the passage of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic in most of these areas with the view to completing the cleanup operation shortly. However, initial observations suggest that significant resources will be required to restore and rehabilitate failed embankments, road carriageways and drainage structures.
- Immediate Needs:
 - The immediate requirements for the affected families are for food and clothing, particularly in the Newtown area, as well as water storage and portable water treatment distribution plants and mobile flood lighting.

Saint Lucia

- The Saint Lucia Meteorological Services reported that 171.1mm of rain was recorded within in the 24 hours period between December 23rd and 24th.
- Areas Affected:
 - Landslides were reported in Dennery to the south.
 - The entire village of Anse-La Raye was flooded.
- Critical Facilities and Infrastructure:
 - Assessments reveal that the Canaries Bridge was damaged.
 - VHF communication between the north and south of the country was hampered due to interference from neighboring radio stations. This communications link is still down.

- National Response
 - The NEOC is activated.
 - Electricity has already been restored to the Bisee area.
 - Additional government vehicles have been assigned to NEMO to support response efforts.
 - School Assessments are underway, while monitoring and discussions continue between the Met Office and the NEMO Secretariat.
 - Sector assessments are also being carried out by the Ministries of Tourism, Health and Education:
 - Ministry of Tourism
 - Seaports were unaffected and all boats were intact.
 - Reports indicate that no heritage site properties were damaged.
 - The road to Rainforest Skyrides is accessible.
 - A number of visitors were stranded at the Hewanorra International Airport. The Ministry is addressing their welfare needs.
 - Ministry of Health
 - **General**
 - There are reports of six (6) confirmed deaths related to the weather system. All are males – five (5) were confirmed dead in the south and one (1) in the north.
 - There is presently no tap water island-wide.
 - No update on the Soufriere/Choiseul region is available at this time due to challenges in access and communication. There is also no roadway access to this area given that both the Piaye and Canaries bridges are down. The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force has deployed a team by sea to assess the area.

- Health Centers in Anse-La-Raye and Canaries are inoperable and have water marks up to 4-6feet with total, or near total destruction of all contents within these facilities.
- The absence of generators at the Gros Islet Polyclinic as well as the temporary site for “Dennery Hospital” has limited the possible opening times for these facilities.
- ***The Victoria Hospital***
 - Has limited availability of nursing and domestic staff as many of them live in affected areas and were unable to report to work.
 - Kitchen and security staff is adequate.
 - The infrastructure of wards is intact. (The Paediatric ward had mild water seepage).
 - Water tanks are full and can provide water for approximately 2 weeks.
 - Power generator is functional, but will need to be topped up with diesel.
 - Accident and Emergency is functional. (Water seepage incident had been resolved).
- ***Saint Lucia National Mental Wellness Center (SLNMWC)***
 - There is a nursing and domestic staff deficit.
 - Water pressure is low.
 - Electrical Fluctuations persist at Turning Point Rehabilitation Center, however there are no power outages.
 - Bottled water is available and has been distributed to patients.
 - Security personnel are present.
 - There have been few admissions during the event.

- Staff have been re-scheduled of to allow adequate coverage.

- **Community Nursing**
 - The Anse-La-Raye Health Center is flooded. Refrigerator, washer, furniture and other equipment have been damaged by water however vaccines have not been affected.
 - The Canaries Health Center was also flooded and is muddy. All equipment and furniture are affected.
 - The Dennerly Hospital has no generator and no electricity and can only function in daylight hours (8 am to 4 pm).
 - There has been no contact from Soufriere/Choiseul region.
 - All other health facilities in the community seem to be unaffected, but full assessment is still pending.

- **Gros Islet Polyclinic (GIPC)**
 - There is no generator electricity supply, however this clinic can be opened if needed.

- **St. Jude Hospital (SJH)**
 - The Hospital is up and functioning and is currently assisting as a shelter for affected persons in the area.
 - Communication challenges are affecting the ability to call in additional staff. LIME services: Internet, landlines are down. Digicel works in some areas.
 - There is limited availability of fuel in the South.
 - Tank water is sufficient for 2 weeks.
 - Bottled water is available.
 - The Cafeteria staff is working.

▪ **Environmental Health**

- Unable to reach staff from the Soufriere and Vieux Fort offices and to determine the status of these offices.
 - Widespread interruption to the water supply is reported.
 - Potential food safety issues from flooded warehouse facilities and power outages.
 - Drowned animal carcasses reported.
 - No water disinfection supplies available.
 - Potential sewage management issues, especially at temporary shelters. For example, at the Anse-La-Raye Parish Center shelter there are five (5) adults and twelve (12) children but there is no water at the shelter.
 - Officers are in the field conducting assessments and interventions.
 - Vector Control Staff are on standby.
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- National Response
 - The NEMO Secretariat shall continue to monitor the situation and to keep members informed. The next report will be issued from NEMO Saint Lucia at 12 noon.
 - Immediate Needs
 - Drinking water for the entire population (170,000)
 - Water purification for entire population (170,000)
 - Water bladders (min 5,000 gal) x 20
 - Water pumps x 5
 - Hygiene Kits 5,000
 - Generators x 3

- Blankets x 20,000
- Mattress x 500
- Children cots x 500
- Adult cots x 1,000
- Chainsaws 10
- Cutlass x 200 and files x 40
- Temporary bridges x 10
- Cleaning supplies
 - Gloves (10,000 pairs)
 - Buckets (10,000 pairs)
 - Mops (10,000)
 - Bass Brooms (10,000)
 - Wheelbarrows (500)
 - Shovels (500)

REGIONAL ACTIONS:

The Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) continues to be in contact with the affected/threatened states and is providing technical assistance to support the needs assessment process.

The CDEMA system has been mobilized and the Coordinating Unit is liaising with Barbados, the Sub-Regional Focal Point of the Central Sub-Region in the coordination of relief efforts. The CDEMA CU has provided briefs on the event to the CARICOM Secretary General, CDEMA Participating States and partners and continues to facilitate the coordination of relief efforts as required.

Technical support personnel in engineering have been placed on standby through the University of the West Indies. The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology continues to provide technical support in scenario planning to the CDEMA System and has placed a

technical team on standby to address needs in the area of hydrological impact and needs assessment.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS and the Executive Director of CDEMA are convening a meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group on Disaster Management (ECDPG DM) on Friday 27 December at 11am at United Nations House in Barbados. The meeting will review the event and impacts to the affected countries, assess needs and seek agreement on next steps.

CDEMA will continue to monitor the system and provide updates as necessary.

CONTACT DETAILS: The CDEMA CU 24-hour contact number 1(246) 425-0386

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