

SHELTER - RETROFITS AND INCLUSION

GUYANA CIVIL DEFENSE COMMISSION

Lessons Learnt:

One of the changes which would be made is to increase the amount of time allocated towards construction and retrofitting activities, especially in instances where the facility may have another primary function. Apart from this, it would be useful to identify a number of resource personnel with the technical expertise, prior to the project's commencement who can offer assistance and support monitoring activities throughout the project. Furthermore it is prudent to: Ensure that ample time is given to construction activities, in order to absorb any eventualities that may occur. Encourage partnerships and collaborations throughout the project, and identify opportunities for unexpected partnerships to be built as the project unfolds. Ensure that there is a balance between the hard and soft measures in the project.

Beneficiaries

The community of Ordnance Fortland, an estimated population of 699 persons, would have benefitted from the project's retrofitting activities, as the facility is designated to serve them in the event of any occurrences. The disabled population, especially persons with limited mobility and utilising wheelchairs, would have specially benefitted, as the retrofitted facility is not only one of the first designated emergency shelters, but it has also been so designed, to ensure that these individuals can be accommodated and effectively housed.

A total of 22 persons directly benefitted from the capacity building component of the project, and are now trained Shelter Managers who are knowledgeable and equipped to support the operations at the Fort Ordnance Primary School in the event that it is activated as an emergency shelter. The entire populace of Region 6 are indirect beneficiaries of the project, as the facility can be used to house persons from other communities in the event of extreme disasters requiring relocation.

DOMINICA MORNE JAUNE - RIVIERE CYRIQUE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Lessons Learnt:

Change the ordering and installation process used for the solar panels. The ordering was very lengthy and caused delays in the timely execution of the project. Ensure that project starts within the stipulated timeline; make use of resources within the community and ensure there is a sustainability plan in place so the project can support itself.

Beneficiaries

The communities / groups that benefited from the project are located in the South Eastern District: Delices, Boetica, La-Plaine, Morne Jaune, Riviere Cyrique, Grand Fond and the Mahaut Sports Club. A total of 2,000 persons benefited form the project. The persons from the spin-off communities and the sporting and youth groups now utilize the location for sporting activities and other community social activities, training, etc.

Approximately 30% of this total is youths between the ages of 13 to 18, 50% are young adults and 20% adults. No elderly or disabled members in this group.



PANOS

Lessons Learnt:

The project was an incredible learning experience and gave immense satisfaction in filling an often overlooked need that of the need to differentially cater to people with disabilities (PWDs) in disasters. As emerged from the training workshops, persons more often than not, do not deliberately ignore or exclude PWDs in disaster situations. Rather, it is a case of them being unsure of how best to work with and help them. Once they are exposed to training on how to do this, many feel much more confident to do so. Critical to the successful implementation of any project that caters to a special-needs group/community is the early and sustained inclusion of representatives from said group/community, in this instance PWDs. It safeguards buy-in and promotes long-term sustainability of project results. One key thing that could be done differently would be to allocate more time for consultations so the timeframe of the project would be longer.

Beneficiaries

According to the national disaster office, there was a challenge in identifying and reaching PWDs in vulnerable areas, hence the need for a database. They now have a database of persons in the three targeted vulnerable communities and more PWDs participate in decision-making re-disasters through the disaster office's systematic move to facilitate their inclusion. In total, 375 persons benefitted directly from the project. These beneficiaries are from the communities of Waterford, Gregory Park and Bridgeport in St. Catherine. These included PWD's, disaster responders, and community groups. While the three communities were targeted, the Portmore Municipal Council has committed to using the lessons learnt from the project in its disaster response in Portmore overall. Roughly 5 persons from the media were also trained on how to cover issues affecting PWD. During the EWS simulation one deaf female around 16 years old participated. A few elderly persons attended the early community sensitisation meetings.

GRENADA NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Lessons Learnt:

In depth research into washroom equipment that is specially designed for use by the physically challenged is needed. In addition, engagement with the Grenada National Council of the Disabled helped to agree on the standards for the facility prior to construction. It is preferable to assemble a project team dedicated to the project to make the process easier for all involved and not be overly ambitious with the timeline.

Beneficiaries

According to information received from the 2011 Housing and Population Census, over 10 % of the population benefited directly from the implementation of this project. The following information provided by the Central Statistics Office on the communities that benefited from the upgrade of the emergency shelters:

MALE – 5,879
FEMALE – 5,920
CHILDREN – 2848
ELDERLY - 1402

NO. of PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES and/or self care – 4178
Resulting in 20227 persons overall.



CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT FUND (CCDRMF)
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