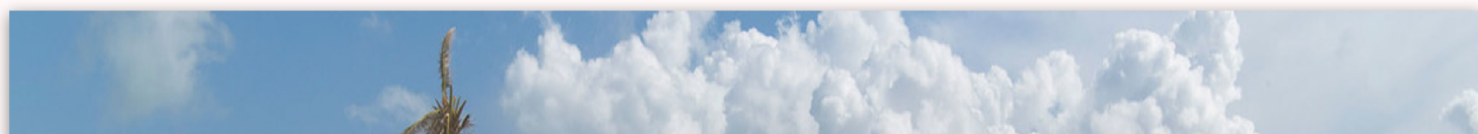




Hurricane Dorian Devastates The Bahamas



Hurricane Dorian caused significant damage to the Abacos and Grand Bahama Islands with an overall estimated 3.4 billion United States dollars in damage. There was severe damage to the social, productive, environment and infrastructure sectors. The housing sector suffered the most damage and significant losses were recorded in the tourism sector. As of October 28, 2019, the official death count is sixty-seven (67) with 282 persons reported still missing. The Regional Response Mechanism - (RRM) was activated and provided overall coordination of the response efforts of CARICOM and international partners. The Regional Response Mechanism provided support to the impacted islands of The Bahamas through the deployment of:

- *Two (2) CARICOM Operational Support Teams (COST). One team was deployed to The Abacos and the other to Grand Bahama to provide support to the re-establishment of the Emergency Operations Centres.*
- *A Detailed Damage Sector Assessment (DDSA) team to Abaco with specialists from six (6) sectors including agriculture, health, education, tourism, housing, debris and waste management.*
- *Two (2) Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNAT), which were pre-deployed to conduct initial damage assessments for The Abacos and Grand Bahama.*
- *Two (2) Logisticians, three (3) Operational Specialists and One (1) Early Recovery Support Officer to provide support to the National Emergency Operations Centre.*

CDEMA assisted the Government of The Bahamas by drafting a conceptual framework for recovery planning in the aftermath of Dorian. The CDEMA Regional Coordination Centre prepared and disseminated eighteen (18) Situation Reports on Hurricane Dorian. The impact of Major Hurricane Dorian activated the coordination mechanisms at both the national and regional levels. CDEMA also provided Strategic and Policy guidance to the Government of The Bahamas through the National Emergency Management Agency during the response phase.



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Exercise SYNERGY strengthens Regional Coordination in Disaster Management

CDEMA's Regional Operational Preparedness and Response Exercise entitled SYNERGY, hosted in association with CARICOM and Global Affairs Canada brought international agencies together last July to test the Regional Coordination Mechanism. Participants in the simulation exercise aimed to improve their response to emergency events that could impact any of the 18 CDEMA Participating States.

Deputy Executive Director of CDEMA, Elizabeth Riley said, *"We are here today because saving lives and delivering humanitarian assistance to impacted populations in CDEMA Participating States in an efficient and effective manner is not an option. We know this because in the Caribbean we live with risks."*

"What is different about Synergy is that it is regionally owned and operated. As a region we therefore set the agenda and priorities and shape the results we want towards strengthened coordination."

Following the unprecedented hurricane events of 2017, a rapid review of the regional response found that there is room to improve and better coordinate the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). The main objectives of Exercise SYNERGY were to test the coordination mechanism in its response to emergency events that impact the CDEMA Member

Countries and to familiarize participants with the operations and protocols of the Mechanism and the Regional Coordination Plan (RCP).

Participants engaged in Pre-Impact and Post-Impact War Gaming sessions where they were challenged to navigate their way through pending weather events using the response mechanism. They also tested the activation of the Regional Response Mechanism and joint coordination of assistance through this mechanism for the impacted CDEMA Participating State. The scenarios propelled discussions around synchronization of resources at national, regional and international levels.

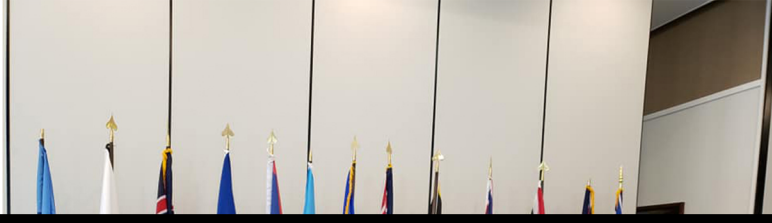
The Exercise brought together representatives of the National Disaster Offices in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, the Virgin Islands, and from regional and international agencies such as the Regional Security System (RSS), Network of Chambers of Commerce (CARICHAM), SOL Caribbean, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), United Nations Population Fund Caribbean (UNFPA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS Commission) and the Canadian High Commission.



Photos
taken during
the
Exercise
Synergy
2019



The 9th Ministerial Council Meeting in Turks and Caicos Islands



Jackson said, “As you are aware, resilience is the underpinning theme for the 2014-2020 CDM Strategy and rightly so as we understand the importance of defending the security of our populations, infrastructures and fragile ecosystems through policies and legislation geared at



Communication in Crisis

Measuring the Blue Economy

A review conducted by CDEMA's Logistic Specialist Curtis Dennie



The following is a review of the study “Measuring the Blue Economy: The System of National Accounts and Use of Blue Economy Satellite Accounts (2019)”, that was conducted by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The objective of this study was to investigate the use of national accounts data in measuring the impact of increased investments in the Blue Economy (BE) which is defined as all economic activities originating from the ocean and its natural resources. The measurement of a country’s national output is tied to its national accounting framework, which measures the contribution of individual industries to domestic

logistics challenges of our regional maritime transportation system and the factors that underpin these challenges. The study pointed to financial constraints, which have curtailed efforts to maintain and modernize Caribbean ports, leading to inadequate infrastructure, inefficient operations, and unnecessarily high transport costs.

The study underscored the importance of the BE in SIDS and highlighted the Region’s direct dependence on their BE activities as an important source of energy, food, recreation, and transportation. The authors argued that the way forward requires strong data



Regional entities join to boost Tsunami Resilience

Regional representatives from CDEMA’s 18 Participating States benefited from a Regional Tsunami Technical Training Workshop held in Barbados from July 23 to 26, 2019. The workshop is an activity of a project where Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago are direct beneficiaries. However, all 18 member countries of CDEMA stand to benefit from the project’s outcome of an enhanced Regional Tsunami Hazard Plan.

Programme Manager for Preparedness and Response at the CDEMA Coordinating Unit, Joanne Persad said, *“Over the years, the CDEMA Coordinating Unit has been engaged in enhancing regional readiness for tsunamis via a series of projects and programmes in disaster planning at the regional and national levels through simulation exercises all done in collaboration with several partners.”*

“The Regional Tsunami Hazard Action Plan is an annex to the Regional Coordination Plan which will eventually aim to benefit all Participating States, adding to the comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Framework”. Persad implored participants to exchange tools, ideas and lessons learnt during the workshop as they all have a vital role to play in building on the CDM Framework.

Manager in the US National Weather Service (NWS) Caribbean Tsunami Warning Programme, Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade highlighted that the United Nations declared 2021-2030 as a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It is therefore fitting that the Caribbean capitalize on ways to transform tsunami warning systems, reduce loss of life and protect its economies. *“This workshop is great opportunity to review the NWS products, increase understanding of support in development and strengthening of national and regional procedures”*, said Hillebrandt-Andrade.

Participants were exposed to a suite of enhanced operational tsunami forecast products and contribute to the finalization of the Regional Tsunami Hazard Plan as well as the Model National Tsunami Warning Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).



Photos from the Regional Tsunami Technical Training Workshop.



Bolstering the Region's Readiness in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Policy and Practice



Photos from the workshop focused on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

Over the last 15 years in the Caribbean, there have been observed improvements in early warning systems (EWS). However, one area requiring improvement is the governance framework including a national multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) policy. To this end, a draft model national multi-hazard early warning systems policy and adaptation guide was developed and is being validated at a workshop in Saint Lucia on November 12, 2019.

Specifically, the workshop aims to present and obtain feedback on the draft model national MHEWS policy and adaptation guide and to agree on the steps for enhancement and piloting the adaptation of the draft policy. The purpose of early warning systems policies is to establish authority for system administration, control, access, maintenance and use of disaster alert, notification and warning systems.

Ms Elizabeth Riley, Deputy Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) said during the opening session, *“Today’s conversation is important because a life lost as a result of a hazard impact is one too many. About 2 decades ago, messaging from the English Speaking Caribbean was that mortality was not an appropriate disaster indicator for countries in the region. This is no longer the case.”*

Hurricane Dorian’s impact in Grand Bahama and Abaco is the latest in a series of hazard impacts in the region where fatalities are a painful reality” Recent experiences with catastrophic hazards events, together with the availability of guidance for setting up EWS policy, including from Caribbean regional assessments and findings such as the multi-hazard early warning systems checklist among others, present an opportunity to

craft a model national MEWHS policy that is evidence-based and anchored in the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) approach.

“This workshop is another demonstration of the region’s readiness to be on the frontline of change of policy and practice in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, and its interface with our development agenda”, said Mr Jeremy Collymore, Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Consultant.

Mr Collymore also highlights that *“although there is no denying the significance of natural hazards in the definition of disaster risk, we need a shift in early warning systems where there is balance between the focus on the hazard and the social context of their experiences”.*

Ms Maria Medard, Deputy Director, National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), Saint Lucia said, *“Early warning dictates finding ways of reducing risks; and one of the best ways to achieve this is to warn people in advance, so that they can take the appropriate action. She also shared on Saint Lucia’s progress in advancing EWS, “Over the past few years Saint Lucia has worked towards advancing its early warning systems to improve early warning for more effective disaster risk reduction. Saint Lucia first installed a flood early warning system in the community of Corinth, and subsequently the communities of Canaries, Soufriere, Marchand and Dennery.”*

Continued on page 10

The MHEWS policy validation workshop was supported through the “Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at a regional, national and community level in the Caribbean” project. The Project supports concrete actions for an effective early warning system, as well as aims to improve information management and operational capacity for an improved Caribbean Regional Response Mechanism. Working with Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Cuba at a national and community level, and with regional early warning

and response actors at the Caribbean level, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (IFRC) are partnering with the General Directorate of Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid of the European Union (ECHO) to reduce the risk of disasters in the region.

Training on the Model Safe School Programme Toolkit in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda



Photos from the Model Safe School Programme Training session led by Danielle Nembhard

Danielle Nembhard, Project Manager with Environmental Solutions Limited, the consulting firm selected to deliver training on the Model Safe School Programme Toolkit, engaged representatives from the education and planning sector during the training at the Public Service Union Conference Room in Roseau Dominica. The training took place in Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis and St Lucia during September 24-October 3, 2019.

The Model Safe School Programme is being implemented by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency to motivate governments to adopt and implement school safety in accordance with the Caribbean Road Map for School Safety. The project is funded by the Caribbean Development Bank under the Intra ACP EU Natural Disaster Risk Management Programme.

Volcano Ready Communities Training St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Photos from the Volcano Ready Training Session

The second in a series of five-day training sessions under the Volcano Ready communities Project was held in St Vincent and the Grenadines from November 4-8, 2019.

The University of the West Indies' Seismic Research Center and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) facilitated the session for volunteers in the North Leeward communities. The project aims to prepare communities to manage potential impacts of La Soufrière Volcano and related hazards. The 'Volcano-Ready Communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines' project targets 12 communities in the high-risk zones of La Soufrière and builds on the training started in 2010 by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) for its Participating States. It specifically seeks to improve response capacities through training and risk assessment;

develop a "Volcano-Ready" framework and toolkit for communities; and create public education and awareness materials to be shared with schools, businesses, and residents.

Following successful completion of the project, St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be the first country in the Region to hold a 'Volcano-Ready' designation.

The 12 communities targeted during the two-year project have been divided into two groups. On the Windward side: Big Level, Colonarie, Fancy, Overland, Owia, Park Hill, Sandy Bay and South Rivers; and on the Leeward side: Chateaubelair, Fitz Hughes, Rose Hall and Spring Village. The project is being administered through the CDB's Community Disaster Risk Reduction Fund, and is supported by the Government of Canada and the European Union.

CDB Wardens trained in Emergency Management



CDEMA's Regional Training Centre hosted an Emergency Management Overview Training Session for Safety Wardens of the Caribbean Development Bank.



July 3, 2019
 CDEMA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation signed an MOU in Saint Lucia. It was signed by CARICOM Ambassador Didier Chassot (left) and Executive Director of CDEMA Ronald Jackson



July 8, 2019
 An MOU was signed between CDEMA and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



July 24, 2019
 An MOU signing between CDEMA and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism to improve DRM in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors



July 26, 2019
 The newly appointed Head of the Country Cluster Support Team for the Anglo Caribbean at IFRC Mr. Ariel Kestens and his team visited the CDEMA CU.



August 14, 2019
 The Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S House of Representatives visited the CDEMA CU. Executive Director of CDEMA Ronald Jackson (2nd fro left) and Deputy Executive Director of CDEMA Elizabeth Riley (right) welcomed the delegation



September 3 2019
 An MOU being signed between CDEMA and the UNFPA Caribbean Sub-Regional Office