



Cayman Islands becomes CDEMA's 19th Participating State

What's Inside?

CDEMA establishes logistics hub for COVID-19 response

Synergy 2020 prepares the region for the 2020 hurricane season

Ronald Jackson bids farewell to CDEMA after seven outstanding years



Cayman Islands Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin signed a declaration of intent to join CDEMA on RFA Mounts Bay in June 2019.

The Cayman Islands has become the 19th Participating State of CDEMA, with official admission effective September 1, 2020. The final decision was made at the 5th Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of CDEMA on August 28, 2020 where the Ministers unanimously agreed to admit the Cayman Islands to membership of CDEMA. Chairman of the Council of Ministers, the Hon. Vincent Bryon,

“On behalf of the Council of Ministers of CDEMA, I welcome the Cayman Islands to the CDEMA family. It is significant that this admission takes place on the 29th anniversary of the Agency's establishment as it reflects the continued maturity of the Organization and underscores the strong bonds between the CDEMA System and the Government of the United Kingdom.”

The Cayman Islands Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin, JP said, *“It is a pleasure to become an official member of CDEMA as we have worked together over the years in providing hurricane relief for other Caribbean countries in the aftermath of disasters. All of us who have been through devastating storms know that it is vital that relief efforts are coordinated. I look forward to a close and productive relationship between CDEMA and the Cayman Islands Government in the future.”*

The Cayman Islands Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Tara Rivers, JP said, *“As this year has demonstrated more so than any other, the countries across our region are faced with a shared set of threats and have common ground to support one another through challenging times. Our membership with CDEMA will help to formalise Cayman’s commitment to our Caribbean neighbours while building our own resilience through access to pooled resources as well as shared training and support capabilities.”*

Executive Director (ag) of CDEMA, Elizabeth Riley, also welcomed the new Participating State saying, *“The expansion of the geographical coverage of CDEMA to include the Cayman Islands reiterates the common vulnerability that we share as Caribbean States to the multiple hazards that affect our region. More importantly, it underscores the value of working together with common purpose to build resilience to hazards. The CDEMA Coordinating Unit looks forward to serving the Cayman Islands.”*



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Participating States



The Cayman Islands has been assigned to the North Western Sub-Regional Focal Point led by Jamaica. CDEMA will provide any assistance needed to the Cayman Islands during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season, and beyond.



CRIS
Caribbean Risk Information System

**New Website Launch
Coming Soon!**

Global Affairs Canada funds CDEMA'S COVID-19 Logistics Hub Operations



High Commissioner of Canada in Barbados Marie Legault (left) speaking with Executive Director of CDEMA (ag) Elizabeth Riley

For over 20 years, Canada has given tremendous support to the Caribbean. Its focus on disaster management has seen strong efforts made towards building resilience and bouncing forward after recovery. The Government of Canada has been strongly aligned to executing CDEMA's mandate, by significantly contributing to Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM).

High Commissioner of Canada in Barbados, Marie Legault, in a chat with CDEMA said “Canada has been a great partner to CDEMA from the beginning, from the days of CDERA. CDEMA is such an important institution of the region that from the beginning we decided that of course we would partner with it. It's been more than 20 years in the making, and we're very happy to continue partnering with CDEMA.”

She highlighted the impact of Hurricane Ivan on Grenada in 2004, and noted that since then the activity in the Atlantic Ocean has drastically increased. It was the unprecedented 2017 Atlantic Hurricane season that forced regional and international partners to reassess the Caribbean's policies and frameworks. Hurricanes Irma and Maria developed into two major hurricanes, between September 5-20, 2017.

Strategic planning was subsequently undertaken with former Executive Director of CDEMA Ronald Jackson, where partners sought to highlight lessons learnt and challenges which arose and threatened the region's vulnerability. Canada pledged further support with a project to fill the gaps and tackle a big piece of the overall strategic plan. In March 2019, the Targeted Support to CDEMA project was implemented by Global Affairs Canada to strengthen the region's operational readiness to respond to natural disasters. It has since supported community recovery through funding of projects geared towards vulnerable groups of society. Knowledge management and decision-making processes are also key elements of the project. As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada has remained a constant support to CARICOM countries. A total of CAD\$401,359.53 was re-allocated from the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project, towards the establishment and operations of the Integrated Regional Logistics Hub (IRLH).

The regional hub, based in Barbados, has been CDEMA's biggest contribution towards COVID-19 response for its 19 Participating States. It serves as a primary repository and transshipment point for COVID-19 relief supplies. Where direct delivery could not be facilitated to the states, the items were delivered to the IRLH for organization and storage before national, sub-regional or regional transit. Legault explained that investing in the hub's operations was the best way to help, as CDEMA had the expertise and viable partnerships locally, regionally and internationally to see its execution.

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The states were all beneficiaries of Personal Protective Equipment to support front line workers through successful operations at the hub. She recalled a quote she recently heard, “*No big crisis should go to waste,*” as she reflected on all that has happened in the sphere of disaster management over the past two decades. “*I think both the 2017 hurricane crisis as well as this pandemic have shown that the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados have perhaps a*

different trajectory in history and challenges, and we need to be more responsive in a quicker way,” the High Commissioner said. The High Commissioner recognized CDEMA as a key institution that she will always encourage the Government of Canada to support because as disasters continue to happen, it is essential to keep building resilience.

CDEMA receives partner support to assist with the COVID-19 response to Participating States



Caribbean Development Bank procures Critical Personal Protective Equipment for Caribbean Frontline Medical Workers



Critically needed personal protective equipment (PPE) was delivered to medical workers on the front lines of the Caribbean's COVID-19 pandemic response.

The CDB and CDEMA took delivery of the majority of US\$3 million worth of PPE at the Port of Bridgetown on July 22nd, 2020. CDB procured and purchased the equipment with concessional resources through the Bank's Special Development Fund.

Speaking at the event, President, Dr Warren Smith reiterated the Bank's commitment to helping its Borrowing Member Countries to cope with the effects of COVID-19.

"The coming months are likely to be particularly challenging, given the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19. Helping our Borrowing Member Countries to build resilience against shocks like COVID-19 remains high on CDB's development agenda," stated Dr Smith. In her welcome remarks, Executive Director (ag.) of CDEMA,

Elizabeth Riley shared the work the agency has done to establish the regional hub that will be used to distribute the PPE to 13 other Caribbean countries.

"To support our Participating States, CDEMA has established an Integrated Regional Logistics Hub in Barbados, which serves as a primary repository and transshipment point for COVID-19 related relief supplies and aids the coordination of humanitarian logistics. This critical and timely support from the Caribbean Development Bank will strengthen the capacity of our Participating States in times of greatest need," noted Riley.

At the agency level, Barbados Port Inc. (BPI) agreed to offer warehousing facilities at the Port of Bridgetown to facilitate the storage, sorting and repacking of the equipment. BPI also agreed to the waiver of associated port charges. In his address, Barbados' Minister of the Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, the Honourable

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Kirk Humphrey, noted that recent improvements in port operations aligned with BPI's vision of becoming a regional logistics hub. *"The Port is becoming a lot more digital... we are working with the Caribbean Development Bank on the [development of a] port community system as well as to transform the way we do business. This is a good time to make the Bridgetown Port your integrated regional logistic hub,"* stated Minister Humphrey. The shipments included 35,000 protective suits, 111,000 isolation gowns, over 67,000 goggles, 250,000 protective gloves and 160,000 masks.



CDB also partnered with Crown Agents out of the United Kingdom to secure the equipment which was sourced from providers in Germany and China. The PPE was shipped to Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.



World Health Organization and Jack Ma Foundation donate PPE to CARICOM States

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Jack Ma Foundation made a significant donation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The shipment of supplies worth over USD\$700,000 arrived at the Grantley Adams International Airport on July 26, 2020. Prime Minister of Barbados, The Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P., spoke at the ceremony commemorating the donation. She explained, *"On every single occasion that we have reached out to the WHO, to PAHO and to CARPHA I can say without fear of contradiction that they have been there for the Caribbean Community during this pandemic. I want to thank the WHO for being responsive, but for going beyond that because what you see today is only one example of that generous commitment to work on behalf of the smaller states."* Executive Director (ag) of CDEMA

Elizabeth Riley said, *"By virtue of the multi-hazard environment that we exist in, we in the Caribbean know first-hand what it means to live with risk and we also know that resilience is our point of departure,"* *"I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Prime Minister Mottley for your regional leadership in your capacity as Chair of CARICOM during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the staunch support of the Government of Barbados, one of our Sub-Regional Focal Points, in facilitating the establishment and operations of the hub."* The Government of Canada also provided support to CDEMA by airlifting PPE into Barbados. Twenty CARICOM countries stood

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The welcome party led by the Hon Mia Amor Mottley at the GAIA to receive the medical supplies donated by the World Health Organization and Jack Ma Foundation on July 26, 2020.

as the beneficiaries of the supplies, which were delivered within two weeks through the hub. *“The Integrated Regional Logistics Hub is part of the vision of the enhanced services that the Regional Response Mechanism will deliver to*

our Participating States going forward,” Riley added. The IRLH facilitated PPE shipment to 14 countries, and the World Food Programme facilitated shipment to six countries.

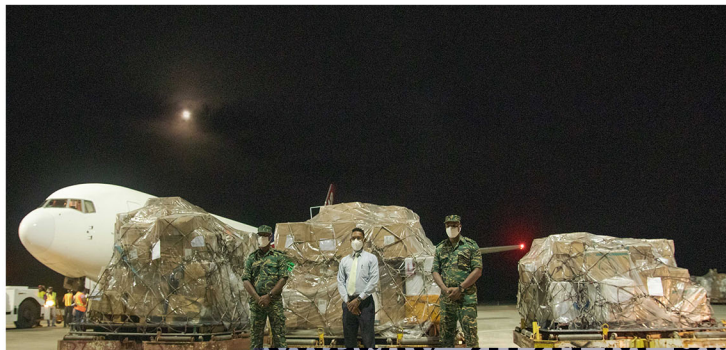
Montserrat Receives A Timely Boost as the Island Continues its Fight Against the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic



Montserrat receiving its PPE donation

Montserrat received a shipment of humanitarian supplies to support the island's national response to the COVID-19 pandemic on Friday, August 7th, 2020 at a handover ceremony at Port Little Bay. The large consignment of medical devices and supplies was made possible through the CDEMA Coordinated Integrated Regional Logistics Hub (IRLH), the World Health Organization (WHO), Jack Ma and the United Arab Emirates.

COVID-19 test kits, masks arrive in Guyana



Director General of the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig, handed over a quantity of essential medical supplies to the Ministry of Health. The supplies were donated through a collaborative arrangement with CARICOM, CDEMA the World Health Organisation (WHO), Jack Ma Foundation and the United Arab Emirates. The items included 5,730 N95 masks, 316,600 surgical masks, 46,250

CDEMA hosts Synergy 2020 in preparation for Hurricane Season

Exercise SYNERGY, CDEMA's flagship Regional Exercise, was held on May 25th 2020 as a virtual "War-Gaming" table-top simulation.

Over ninety-seven (97) participants attended with representatives from all nineteen (19) CDEMA Participating States. Regional and international agencies in attendance included CARICOM and UN agencies, private sector and military personnel and representatives with emergency management interests in the region.

The exercise was designed to test the joint coordination among the partners of the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) in response to a disaster event, as the Caribbean region prepared for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season.



SYNERGY 2020

A Virtual "War-Gaming" Session

#PreparedCaribbean #RRM



CDEMA hosts Deployment Personnel Workshop for Operational Readiness

The CDEMA CU has ensured that personnel within the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) are trained for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season in the midst of COVID-19.

On July 9, 2020, a two-day workshop training deployment personnel in operational readiness concluded. It sought to orient attendees from around the region on the updated deployment protocols. The online training sessions proved useful in enhancing the capacity of regional personnel, with over 120 persons in attendance. Programme Manager for Preparedness and

considers the threat of COVID-19. Self-Personal Protective Protocol, personal health considerations and sending state guidelines for travel were discussed in preparation for mission during the pandemic. All of the deployment teams under the RRM were required to participate in the webinars. These included the Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT), the CARICOM Damage Assessment and Coordination Team (CDAC), the CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST), the Search and Rescue Team (SART),

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considers the threat of COVID-19. Self-Personal Protective Protocol, personal health considerations and sending state guidelines for travel were discussed in preparation for mission during the pandemic. All of the deployment teams under the RRM were required to participate in the webinars. These included the Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT), the CARICOM Damage Assessment and Coordination Team (CDAC), the CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST), the Search and Rescue Team (SART), the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) and all other Technical Support teams. Within the context of the COVID-19 environment, the online means of orientation has proven to be useful in maintaining regional capacity.

CDEMA bids farewell to Executive Director Ronald Jackson

Following seven (7) years of unwavering and exemplary service to the region, Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Mr. Ronald Jackson bade farewell to the Agency on Thursday April 30, 2020.

Mr. Ronald Jackson was appointed Executive Director of CDEMA on April 3, 2013 and has since provided outstanding leadership to the CDEMA Coordinating Unit in the implementation of the Agency's policies and programmes. Mr. Jackson also provided sterling leadership of the regional coordination and responses to Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent after the Christmas Trough in 2013, Tropical Storm Erika in Dominica in 2015, Hurricanes Irma and Maria (impacting 9 CDEMA Participating States) in 2017, Hurricane Dorian in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in 2019 and in the current COVID-19 Pandemic now affecting the region.

Under his stewardship, the Agency gained further recognition and prominence throughout the Caribbean and globally as one of the foremost regional Disaster Risk Management institutions and a preferred partner for a safe and more resilient Caribbean. He has forged relationships and cultivated several strategic partnerships with a broad-based and diverse range of regional and international development partners, donors, governments, private sector entities and non-governmental organisations. His commitment and advocacy in promoting and advancing the implementation of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Framework for the Region, has captivated many audiences across the globe, resulting in a significant increase of resources through donor financing support to the implementation of Disaster Risk Management programmes in Participating States.



Executive Director (ag) of CDEMA Elizabeth Riley handing over a painting to former Executive Director of CDEMA Ronald Jackson

He led the development of the Caribbean Pathway to Resilience and spearheaded its socialization within the region and among the Americas. Mr. Jackson was also instrumental in the strengthening of cooperative arrangements with the National Emergency Commission in the Dominican Republic, with the French Overseas Territories and the Dutch Caribbean. CDEMA's Membership also increased from 18 to 19 under his stewardship.

"This is a bitter sweet moment for me. I am excited at the opportunity to be able to practice in a global capacity but I feel a sense of duty to the Caribbean Community and as such a part of me will miss working in a context that inspires innovation. However, I feel that I am leaving behind a wonderful platform for the continued advancement of the region's Integrated Risk Management Agenda and the continued growth of the Agency", said Jackson.

Mr. Jackson has been extensively involved in disaster management at the national, regional and international level in various capacities. He served as the Director General of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) in Jamaica, a position he held between August 2006 and March 2013.

Port Resiliency Framework: Managing Disruptions in Small Island Developing States: A Caribbean Perspective

by Curtis Dennie Logistics, Specialist at CDEMA



In the logistics chain, seaports are functional nodes of significant strategic importance, and are considered as critical gateways linking national supply chains to global markets. The infrastructure at ports are vital and costly engineering systems that facilitate trade by receiving, storing, exporting and delivering goods as third-party logistics systems. The challenge of supply chain, disruptions, climate change, and the increase in intensity and frequency of weather events globally have created a compelling sense of urgency for ports to be adaptive and resilient.

Ports are expected to demonstrate resilience and robustness in the face of major shocks and significant disturbances that may pause its operating processes temporarily or for an extended period. Ports function as a strategic economic sector since 90% of the imports to the Caribbean region is conveyed through ocean transportation. The outbreak of the coronavirus has placed unprecedented pressure on ports thus the development of a resilience structure in port logistics is an imperative.

Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of this conceptual paper is to

develop a strategic approach that is aimed towards providing a framework in building resiliency in Caribbean ports. For the purpose of this paper resiliency is defined as the ability to proactively plan and design the sea port operations for anticipating unexpected disruptive (negative) events, respond adaptively to disruptions, while maintaining control over structure and function and transcending to a post event robust state of operations, if possible, more favorable than the one prior to the event, thus gaining competitive advantage.³ The term port as used in this paper refers specifically to seaports.

Port Resiliency Framework

Seaports are important infrastructure that have a multifaceted impact on the environment and national economy. The author has conceptualized a Port Resiliency Framework that identifies the seven elements as critical factors aimed at building resiliency at ports which consists of, Leadership and Decision Making, Port Infrastructure, Collaborative Networks, Risk Management Human Resource Development, and Resource Allocation and Innovation.

Leadership and Decision Making

Strategic Leadership and decision making are important factors in the port's organizational structure. Sea ports are indispensable nodes in the logistics chain thus the decision making of its leaders is a strategic issue. In the governance structure the leaders shape policy and make strategic and investment decisions. They are required to identify and prioritizing risks in the internal and external environment, thus leadership are required to make strategic choices.

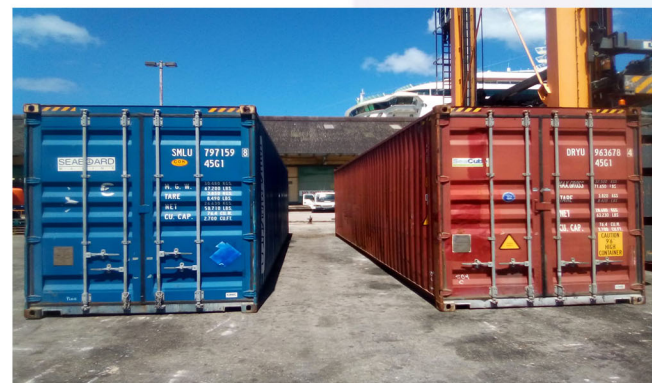
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Port Infrastructure

The quality of the infrastructure is a key determinant of the resiliency capabilities of a port. The new technological paradigm has ushered the need for continued development of technological capabilities. The development of redundancies in the ICT systems will enable for business continuity and operations. Port operations in the Caribbean should be digitized thus enabling the use of smart technology. Ports should speed up utilisation of new tech solutions, such as a maritime single window, terminal operating systems, AI, blockchain, and the internet of things (IoT) to meet ever-increasing environment. Infrastructure development by ports is necessary to secure the marine assets, physical structures and IT infrastructure against extreme events. Ports should promote policy actions aimed at improving the efficiency of port infrastructures and their connections within existing transport systems, according to environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria.

Collaborative Networks

Ports should increase their agility in the supply chain by collaborating with key actors in the supply chain networks in the maritime industry. This should include the monitoring and sharing joint risk information, market intelligence of disruptions and vulnerabilities of the network. The expansion of knowledge market intelligence and relationships with the key actors across supply chain networks in various sectors positions ports for market disruptions. Collaboration within the regional ports and the private sector are key components in building port resiliency.



Risk Management

Risk Management is fundamental to building resiliency and therefore must be integrated into the culture of the organisation with an effective policy and a programme which should be led by the most senior management. Risk Management must translate the strategy into tactical and operational objectives, assigning responsibility throughout the organisation with each manager and employee responsible for the management of risk as part of their job description. Ports should create an asset register and systematically identify the vulnerability of its assets, infrastructure and logistics operations to weather-related impacts⁷. Ports should assess different ‘what if’ scenarios associated with extreme weather events and other forms of disruption that are of most concern to port operations.

Human Resource Development

Historically, ports were designed as labour-intensive entities, however changing technology in port operations are creating changes that have impacted the labour force. Ports should build redundancies in their labour force the recruitment and training of specialized technical skills. The development of the core competencies within an organization is a prerequisite for a successful strategy. The outmoded labour structures at Caribbean ports should be restructured and be realigned with the port’s strategy. The changing global environment requires that ports strengthen their human capital base.

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Operations within the CDEMA Integrated Regional Logistics Hub

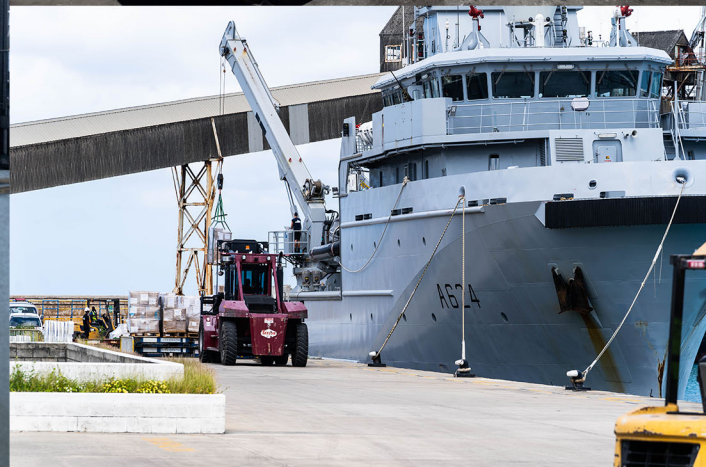
Resource Allocation and Innovation

The extent to which ports are resilient resides with their resource allocation and innovation policy. Ports are capital intensive driven entities that require high maintenance costs, skilled labour, the appropriate technology and equipment to facilitate cargo operations. Ports should incorporate and foster innovation in its culture. The capacity to develop new ideas and processes contribute to an organization's competitive advantage; therein lies the importance of innovation. Ports should embrace innovation, welcome new ways of doing things, facilitate access to knowledge by employees, and by rewarding innovators.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The paper has provided a framework for the development of resiliency and risk mitigation in Caribbean ports which will aid in responding to disruptions. The paper has implications for the Caribbean region in providing a roadmap in designing strategies for building resiliency at in seaports. The objective of this paper was to determine the key factors that underpin port resiliency in the Caribbean and to provide recommendations.

The paper proposed a resiliency framework that encompasses three fundamental levels of the port that is strategically targeted at the institutional, management and operation levels. The conceptual framework identified Leadership and Decision Making, Port Infrastructure, Collaborative Networks, Risk Management Framework, Human Resource Development, and Resource Allocation and Innovation as strategic enablers in building resiliency at ports. The paper underscored the need for the digitisation of Caribbean ports and the strengthening its human resource base. An enhanced resiliency framework at ports will enable business continuity, mitigate against the risks and vulnerabilities to biological and natural disasters and supply chain disruptions.



Operations within the CDEMA Integrated Regional Logistics Hub

CDEMA and The European Union launch the 11th EDF Natural Disaster Facility in the CARIFORUM Programme



The EDF Team at the launch of the 11th EDF at the CDM11 conference in Sint Maarten

CDEMA and the European Union launched the 11th EDF Natural Disaster Facility in the CARIFORUM Programme at the biannual CDM11 conference hosted by CDEMA in collaboration with the Government of Sint Maarten. The initiative aims to contribute to the reduction of the vulnerability to disaster risks, and to promote the sustainable development of the countries of this region. The target outcomes are linked with Priority Four of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy “Strengthened and sustained community resilience.”

The ceremony was presided by Honourable Prime Minister of Sint Maarten Ms. Silveria Jacobs and His Excellency Fernando Ponz Cantó, Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Mr. Ponz Cantó emphasized the EU commitment to reduce vulnerability in the Caribbean Region, including the potential impacts of climate variability and change. He also referred to the importance of the participation of the Dominican Republic Government in this mechanism, as it increases the cooperation and share lessons learned among all the countries and territories of this region. Former Executive Director of

CDEMA Mr. Ronald Jackson highlighted that the positive impact and result of the actions and projects financially supported under the 10th EDF Natural Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Project and noted that the priorities of the 11th EDF are the Sustainable Development Goals and CDM Agenda.

The 10th EDF saw many successes such as main sponsor of the CDM10 and contributing sponsor to CDM11. Other initiatives funded under the EDF 10 include the NAWSA’s Community Water Storage Project which provided schools in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique with functional water storage systems. Children who were previously made to leave school early benefitted from 1000 gallon water tanks.

The total cost of the Programme is EUR 14,000,000. CDEMA will implement EUR 7,000,000 through a grant contract while the Dominican Republic will implement an estimated EUR 3,000,000. Furthermore, ECHO has been contracted EUR 4,000,000 from the programme to implement activities in order to carry out humanitarian DRR activities aligned with CDM Strategy. The programme will focus on four result areas which are:

- Strengthened national and community level capacity for resilience building and operational readiness.
- Enhanced integration of CDM into key sectors at the national level.
- Capacity for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) coordination at national and regional levels strengthened between CDEMA, Dominican Republic and other countries within the Caribbean region.
- Improved local capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction Management in the Dominican Republic.

REACHing Resilience in the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean



The CDEMA CU is pleased to present the Resilient Environment & Agricultural Caribbean Habitats (REACH) project, in collaboration with its implementing partners the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and the Italian International Centre on Environmental Monitoring (CIMA) Research Foundation. The project is funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The beneficiary countries are Saint Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Since the launch in April 2019 in the two recipient countries, the implementing partners have been working alongside the Ministries of Agriculture in both countries to implement the project activities.

The primary aim of the project is to enhance the capability of small farmers and their communities to organize and manage Agricultural Disaster Risk Management initiatives through improved access to and joint management of relevant agro-meteorological information flows (on a two-way basis). The desired outcome is that farming communities will have improved access to tailored information on climate-related events to better prepare for threats posed by meteorological hazards. Additionally, the project has scope for the joint

design and implementation of adequate Natural Resource Management and agricultural risk management practices to enhance the resilience of small farmers to shocks and hazards. To achieve this, the project is promoting the exchange and scaling-up of best practice workshops which will bring together representatives of Caribbean countries where Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) plans are already being implemented, and where Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Natural Resource Management (NRM) best practices have been applied. It is envisioned that this model of information sharing will ensure the dissemination and replication of useful experiences across the region and strengthen institutional capacities at various levels, including preliminary identification of possible South-South Cooperation perspectives.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, project activities have been delayed. Notwithstanding, national workshops and training for small farmers have been hosted on virtual platforms and the project is scheduled to regain momentum in the coming months. Notable activities for the months of October and November should include installations of agro-meteorological stations in both St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

CDEMA strengthens multi-hazard early warning systems in St. Lucia

CDEMA successfully executed the “Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at the regional national and community level in the Caribbean” project. A total budget of €163,000 was allocated to the project through the European Union. Since its 2018 start, the focus on Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) has allowed for significant improvements in St. Lucia. The outputs included:

- 1- Increased effectiveness of preparedness at community level through concrete priority actions
- 2 - Regional preparedness is strengthened through operational response readiness and harmonized approach to MHEWS.

St. Lucia benefited from a number of outputs which were achieved through the project. A national MHEWS policy was implemented to promote effectiveness at the national level. The population of approximately 165,651 persons received hazard awareness education about tsunamis, earthquakes and hurricanes. Eighty-one first responders were trained to communicate with persons with disabilities. A Memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and Liberty FM 92.3 for broadcast interruption in emergency cases. The project also increased hazard awareness in Soufriere where over 3,000 St. Lucians reside in vulnerable areas.

The “Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at a regional, national and community level in the Caribbean” 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.

2020 Snapshots



**UNOCHA IM workshop
January 2020**



**CDEMA signs MOU with CARDI
February 2020**



**Canadian High Level visit to the CDEMA CU
February 2020**



**Republic Bank Barbados donates cheque to
CDEMA - February 2020**



**Coleridge and Parry School donates
cheque to CDEMA - February 2020**



**UNESCO and CDEMA Workshop
March 2020**

2020 Snapshots



**Mount Gay donates hand sanitizer to CDEMA
April 2020**



**CDEMA & USMLO donate PPE to St.Kitts and
Nevis June 2020**



**Site visit of the Integrated Regional Logistics
Hub - July 2020**



**CDB hands over US\$3mil in PPE to CDEMA at
the Barbados Port Inc - July 2020**



**CDEMA and USAID launch the Caribbean
Climate Resilience Initiative
August 2020**



**Department of Emergency Management
Barbados receiving its PPE donation from CDB
August 2020**