

A
CANADA DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME
(CCDRMP) AND THE
CANADA CARIBBEAN
DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT (CCDRM)
FUND
PUBLICATION.

CAT5:

Caribbean CDM
News & Views

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JULY-SEPT 2010

Canada

PROGRAM/
PROJECT/
ACTIVITY UNDER-
TAKEN WITH THE
FINANCIAL SUP-
PORT OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA PRO-
VIDED THROUGH
THE CANADIAN
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY (CIDA)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Amateur Radio and Emergency Communications** 2
- Suriname Red Cross Flood Risk Reduction Project** 3
- Jamaica's Community Risk Reduction Philosophy** 4
- Cocoa Farming and Climate Change** 6
- Frequently Asked Questions** 7

A CIDA Welcome !!!

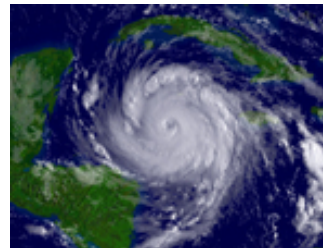
Welcome to the inaugural issue of CAT 5, a quarterly newsletter of the CIDA's Caribbean regional programme covering disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change issues.

Like and unlike a category 5 hurricane, we would like to be an impactful but positive change force for disaster risk reduction in the CARICOM region.

Canada has been playing a pivotal but under-told role in contributing to enhanced comprehensive disaster management in the Region.

CAT 5 intends to highlight Canada's contribution, thinking and progress in its regional disaster and development interventions with Caribbean partners and perhaps more pointedly through the articles of our contributing

authors to explore and spotlight critical issues facing the wider public and communities of practice within the sector.



Hurricane Dean: strongest tropical cyclone of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season, reached Category 5 status before passing just south of Jamaica on August 20.

Taking this approach we further hope to both widen and enhance the level of discussion within this sector while stimulating practical action to address these issues.

As an appetizer, in this and coming issues we hope to explore and dissect issues such as: harmonized program based approaches; sector mainstreaming of DRM; interface of regional, national and local level DRM programming; community based disaster risk reduction approaches; convergence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; governance and public accountability for advancing regional DRM; as well as a range of other proverbial hot topics.

While Canada has traditionally and continues to provide regional countries with emergency and humanitarian assistance in times of disaster, increasingly we have been supportive of the effort of strengthening local, national and regional capacities to *(continued on page 2)*

The Suriname Red Cross:

Partners in Community Flood Risk Reduction.

Overview

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund has found valuable partners in the regions National Red Cross Societies. The Community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) exercises that have been conducted by National Red Cross Societies in a number of countries have enhanced awareness of disaster

risks and enhanced disaster risk management capacities at the community level. The initiatives have also mapped and prioritize natural hazard risks. The Community VCA process is a valuable initiative that creates the demand for the support to address and mitigate the natural hazards that have been identified. The CCDRM Fund views the Community hazard identification,

mapping, and prioritization (VCA) process as important opportunities for collaboration to reduce disaster risk at the community level. This is because the CCDRM Fund was established to provide grant support for community-based projects that reduce disaster risk in measurable ways.

(continued on page.3)

Welcome !!! (continued from page 1)



Disaster Simulation Exercise underway at the CDEMA Regional Coordinating Unit.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Disaster reduction is about making sure that natural hazards have as little destructive impact as possible on lives, livelihoods and development. This is achieved by building resilience and reducing risk and vulnerability. Disasters are not unchangeable facts of life, but are a result of human vulnerability to natural hazards. The way that we build, organize and manage our communities and environment can make the difference between a disaster and just bad weather.

- WHO, 2008.



pro-actively reduce disaster risk and build community resilience. Just what this means and how indeed should we endeavour to do this, is precisely what CAT 5 intends to probe.

Since our contributions to Hurricane Ivan disaster affected countries in 2004, we have broadly supported under the custodianship and coordination of CDEMA a review of the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy which has resulted in the development of a new, more results-based enhanced CDM Strategy.

On his trip to the region in 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced a CAD\$20M Canadian contribution to disaster management. CIDA's current Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program - CDRMP (2008-

2015) was designed to give effect to this commitment.

The CDRMP was designed as an umbrella CIDA regional program specifically aligned to (a) supporting regional institutions working to specifically deliver the results identified in the Enhanced Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy including tangible national benefits; and (b) delivering practical and tangible hands on community based disaster risk reduction measures through a locally responsive small grants fund.

To date three sub-projects have been successfully initiated under the CDRMP: (i) a 2.5M project with the Pan American Health Organization for mainstreaming disaster risk management in the health sector of Caribbean states; (ii) a harmonized implementation program for comprehensive dis-

aster management focusing on outcomes 1 and 4 of the regional CDM strategy, co-funded by UK DFID and implemented by CDEMA as well as (iii) the Canada-Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRMF), a results based ground level small grants fund focusing on delivering real risk reduction.

Two additional regional project proposals are presently being appraised for potential future support under the CDRMP.

We hope that you find CAT 5 useful and informative.

We most certainly welcome and encourage your comments, suggestions and feedback!

Happy reading!

Barbados Amateur Radio Operators Expand Emergency Communications Net

The BCBRA has been involved in radio communications since 1975 and with the Department of Emergency Management (formally the Central Emergency Relief Organization, CERO) from its inception.

As a support arm of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) the BCBRA has assisted the DEM with the establishment of their antenna systems and the installation of all of the radio equipment in the recently remodelled radio

room at their National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). These services were provided on a voluntary basis by the BCBRA Technical Team. The Technical Team has also installed and commissioned radio systems for the St. John and St. Lucy District Emergency Organisations as well as a radio system for one of the large department stores at three of their locations.

In April 2009 the BCBRA received CCDRM Fund support to increase emergency radio communications coverage across the island and enhance the resilience of the national emergency communications system by replacing an existing inefficient VHF repeater at Welchman Hall near the centre of the island, and establishing a new repeater site in the east of the island.

The two new repeaters have increased (continued on page. 5)

Suriname Red Cross -

Partners in Community Flood Risk Reduction (continued from page 1).



Crane preparing to lift sluice (flood) gate into position at the Sanica Sluice.

The Suriname Red Cross recently completed a successful disaster risk reduction project with support from the CCDRM Fund.

In early 2009 the CCDRM Fund responded to a request from the Suriname Red Cross for support for a flood risk reduction project in the Community of Wageningen on the north-west coast of Suriname. The coastal community was established in 1949 on the banks of the Nickeri River in low-lying wetlands. The community was protected from tidal inundation and flood waters by a system of dykes and sluice (flood) gates. The purpose of the sluice gate system was to control the water levels in the low-lying community during the rainy season and when water levels in the adjacent river were high as a result of tidal changes or flood waters from Suriname’s interior.

Over the years the slice gates at the Sanica Sluice fell into disrepair and became stuck in an open position. Because the sluice gates we permanently open, over one-hundred houses were regularly affected by floodwaters carried the Nickerie River. The need to reduce flood risk was identified as a priority by the community during the 2008 ECHO funded Community VCA process.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Regional Development and local Government authorities, the Suri-

name Red Cross submitted a project proposal to repair the sluice gates and rehabilitate Wageningen’s drainage system. The CCDRM Fund provided the Suriname Red Cross with grant support for the project which began in May 2009.

Project Results

The two sluice gates at the Sanica Sluice were restored to full working order and installed in February 2010. As a result of the project approximately 100 families now face a significantly reduced threat from flooding.

The project also had a number of unanticipated benefits. As a result of collaboration in the planning and implementation of the flood mitigation project Government officials became more aware of the importance of the role of timely maintenance of the drainage systems in reducing damage and dislocation as a result of periodic flooding. The Commissioner for the Nickerie District was pleased to see that the sluice gates were professionally repaired. To ensure that the project benefits were sustained the Commissioner created a special technical department with the responsibility for maintaining and repairing sluice gates in and around the district. This team is composed of workers that were involved in the renovation of the Sanica sluice.

The Suriname Red Cross’ project showed Local Government officials the impact that community teamwork can have on local problems. Based on the success of the Red Cross and Wageningen residents

Local Government Officials have joined the Wageningen Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) to ensure post-project continuity of the community effort to ensure flood risk reduction. Government workers also signed up to join the Wageningen Disaster Response Team after witnessing the success of the flood mitigation project.

Lessons Learned

Projects initiatives like the Community VCA, which focus on natural hazard assessment, capacity enhancement, and public awareness, create an expectation that the identified natural hazards will be mitigated. The CCDRM Fund only provides grant support to projects that will produce tangible and immediate disaster risk reduction benefits.

Initiatives like the Community VCA and the CCDRM Fund-supported disaster risk reduction represent two operational halves of the disaster risk management equation. These two areas of intervention are necessary and complementary. They therefore provide a tremendous opportunity for collaboration to address community disaster risk reduction needs. As a result of the success of the collaborative effort between the Suriname Red Cross and the Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund, the Fund will actively explore the possibility of collaborative arrangements with National Red Cross Societies in the other CARICOM states.

“Disaster risk reduction; one community at a time”



Newly fabricated sluice (flood) gate being installed.

Building Disaster Resilient Communities Jamaica

The toll of Natural and Man-Made Disasters on Communities have over the past twenty-five years have been quite significant economically socially and environmentally resulting in billions of Jamaican dollars in losses both directly and indirectly. The hazard impacts caused by Hurricane Ivan resulted in losses of over J\$40 billion (8% of GDP) and 17 deaths with 32,000 persons displaced [Gilbert: 65% of GDP, 810,000 displaced and 49 deaths]

Since natural hazards are a part of our everyday life which affects the social and economic and environmental fabric of communities it is critical that the strategic policies are developed to build resilient communities and thereby reduce vulnerability to natural hazards and the associated risks to life, livelihoods and development. The community involvement and engagement must be the underpinning philosophy of any thrust towards a national risk reduction program.

This approach has been a central and consistent strategy of Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). Its targeted interventions continue to illustrate that the community is a critical partner in the development process and therefore must be critical partners in the risk reduction process.

The ODPEM's philosophy sees the community at the center of the decision and development process. We have seen that some of the most effective risk reduction initiatives have involved communities in a significant way. Several such communities have been able to understand the risk they face and their vulnerability and have designed appropriate plans to address these risks. Through our efforts to build disaster resilient communities we have been able to transform vulnerable communities into resilient ones.

Our assessment of such interventions over the last two decades has proven that, given the resources, community's have been able to apply their knowledge and skills to identify and prioritize natural hazards and take the necessary steps to minimize the impact of these hazards.

In realizing that greater emphasis needed to be placed on the people who would be directly affected by the hazards they face the ODPEM set about the process of establishing community disaster management structures, programs and projects aimed at strengthening the communities capacity to minimize their risk and survive for at least 72 hours post impact.

Since communities are generally knowledgeable about their own environments and coping mechanisms and ways to reduce vulnerabilities, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation programmes initially sought to provide communities with the ability to manage local interventions in preparedness and response. The community would therefore become self reliant in the short-term and relying on National, Regional and International support in the medium- to long-term. Community Disaster Management Planning has now evolved to include hazard identification, vulnerability assessments and hazard mitigation activities.

Some of the notable interventions include training in shelter management, first aid and hazard mapping; establishment of community flood warning systems and flood teams; tangible demonstration and actual mitigation projects.

The number of vulnerable communities in Jamaica has been assessed at over 200 and as such it was recognized that a methodology was needed to effectively identify the prioritize communities for disaster risk reduction interventions. Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) has developed a vulnerability ranking system aimed at doing just that. This methodology is used for assessing the vulnerability of the countries communities to natural hazards. The tool will be used to reveal high risk communities with the assistance of hazard data and maps. The tool will facilitate strategic interventions at the National and Community Levels including the efforts of non-state actors in promoting the development and prioritization of hazard mitigation strategies; improved disaster response capabilities and advance disaster recovery initiatives.

The information generated by the community vulnerability

Community involvement and engagement must be the underpinning philosophy of any thrust towards a national risk reduction program.

Ronald Jackson, Director, ODPEM, Jamaica.

assessment process will provide the Government of Jamaica and the donor community with an opportunity to adopt a strategic and coordinated approach to the systematic reduction of natural hazard vulnerability in communities at highest risk. The resulting coordination of poverty reduction initiatives, disaster risk reduction, and economic development, and environmental conservation, initiatives will redound to stronger more sustainable communities. The Canadian International Development Agencies (CIDAs) Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund was established in 2008 as a means of further facilitating community self-help, disaster risk reduction interventions. Several project proposals have been submitted by community groups and NGOs in Jamaica. These have been strong proposals in the main, but have required technical guidance to ensure that the disaster risk reduction interventions are technically sound and provide sustainable protection. The ODPEM with the support of the Planning Institute of Jamaica established a Thematic Working Group for Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation to assist applicants to with the technical aspects of their projects. One of the areas of focus of the working group will

be to review the proposals before they are submitted to the CCDRM Fund's project review committee in order to identify the technical needs of the proposals and to identify the agencies that will be able to assist with providing design inputs, feasibility assessment support or assist with securing permits or approvals necessary for project implementation. The ODPEM sees these projects as contributing collectively in a significant way towards Outcome four (4) - Enhanced community resilience in CDERA Participating States to mitigate and respond to the adverse effects of climate variability and change and disasters and Jamaica's the overall Goal of Building a Disaster Resilient Jamaica.

While there have been numerous successes in placing the community as the focal point within the drive to establish strong national disaster risk reduction programmes, there are still numerous challenges to overcome. The issue of ownership of the process and the sustainability of community actions are still major hurdles that must be cleared. The organization has been engaged in a process of learning from its past approaches to improve its future interventions. The ODPEM is working with the Local Authorities and communities to strengthen the ownership, ensuring that they have a stake in the disaster risk reduction interventions slated for their communities. The ODPEM is also working to strengthening the local governance mechanism in relation to Disaster Management by promoting partnerships at the Local and Sub-Regional Level and by reestablishing the communities platform at the various Local Authority Meetings to get involved in the decision making process.

The lessons from the past decade have suggested that the approach of seeking to build resilient communities is so far the right approach. This has continued to be a feature of the ODPEM's strategic priorities.

This article was contributed by Ronald Jackson, Director General, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. July 13, 2010.

“...a community which invents its own ideas and work programmes to address their individual needs has a better chance of finding long term solutions to its problems. Our experience has shown that by identifying resources within a community and among its members projects have been implemented at far less costs than government directed approach.” -

- The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

Emergency Communications: Barbados Citizens Band Radio Association (continued from pg 2)

emergency radio communications coverage from approximately 50% to 90% of the island, The expanded coverage means that all twelve (12) District Emergency Organization (DEO) base-stations would be in effective communication with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) along with the eighty-four VHF hand held radios operated by DEO members.

The project was successfully completed in February 2010. The BCBRA has actually been able to extend emergency radio coverage to almost 100% of the island of Barbados (Fig. 1).



BCBRA receives valuable donation from Canadian Government
 6/3/2009
 By Enrico Bohne
 The Government of Canada has donated \$10 963 (just over BBD \$18 500) in support of the expansion and upgrading of the Barbados Citizens Band Radio Association's VHF Repeater Telecommunications Network. Chargé d'Affaires in the Canadian High Commission, Douglas Holland, revealed that "disaster risk management is a programming priority for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in its 10 year strategic framework for the Caribbean region". He informed, "CIDA's new \$20 million regional disaster risk reduction program focuses on the long-term mitigation and recovery in the disaster cycle and will examine some elements of preparation for disasters. The program is two tiered, with both regional and national responsive components." "Within this program, CIDA's Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRMF) was launched in November 2008 to provide support to small, community-focused projects that produce a measurable reduction in the impact of natural disasters on communities in the Caribbean," Holland furthered.

Barbados Advocate article that Chargé d'Affaires in the Canadian High Commission, Douglas Holland launches BCBRA project to expand the emergency radio communications network in Barbados.

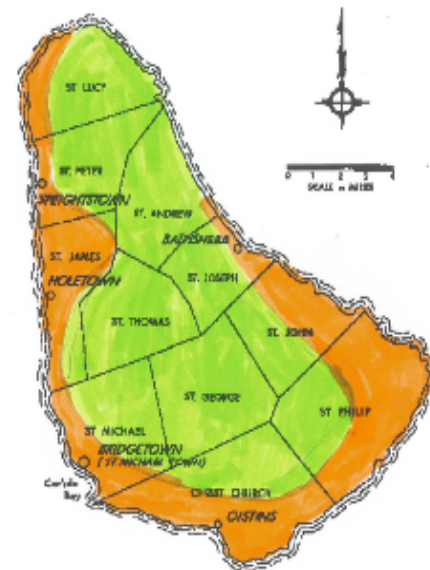


Fig. 1: BCBRA Communications Coverage of Barbados before (green) and after (orange) the successful completion of the CCDRM Fund supported project.

CONVERGENCE:

How climate change and disaster risk Management affect day-to-day development.

Adjusting to climate change and disasters in a practical way.

For cocoa farmer, Joe, in Jamaica, climate change was a vague word that he had heard in the media or here and there.

It was not something he had ever given much thought to until he attended a workshop on climate change and agriculture put on by Panos Caribbean and the National Environmental Education Committee (NEEC) under their Voices for Climate Change Education project in March 2010.

He was a part of the Cocoa Industry Board which had about 22,000 members and they were planning their five year investment strategy. The only problem was that they had not factored in climate change.

Midway into the workshop discussions, he was struck by how climate change could affect his cocoa crop and their careful planning. "If the climate predictions of more droughts and floods come true, then that means that we may need a breed of cocoa that is more drought resistant," he said. "That is something that we will have to explore before we invest millions in our strategy."

While the climate change information meant reworking an almost completed strategy he was very happy that at least a lot of money had not yet been spent implementing the strategy.

Increasingly, individuals, organisations and countries are beginning to look at incorporating climate change concerns into their planning. Jamaica and other Caribbean countries have been identified among the world's 'hot spots' regarding climate change - that is countries which are extremely vulnerable to climate change. Global warming which is driving climate change has been identified as having serious implications for small island developing states. Climate change is the changes in weather over a long period of time - particularly those changes that are influenced by human actions.

Already Jamaica and other Caribbean islands have come face to face with the ills of a changing climate, including, in recent years, fiercer and more frequent hurricanes. There are also predictions that the island of Barbuda could sink within another 60 years, with a similar fate anticipated for other islands in the region. Other negative impacts of climate change include increased global

temperatures and the risk of greater incidents of diseases such as dengue. Changing rainfall patterns are affecting crop growing seasons and warmer temperatures can affect crop yields. Warmer seas could drive some fish to seek cooler waters and can cause coral bleaching and damage to reefs.

Farmers in some communities have already started to look at alternate ways of farming to adjust to climate changes. In Mochó, Clarendon, Jamaica for example, greenhouse farming is becoming an attractive option to deal with the prolonged droughts that the community faces. Coffee farmers in places like Cascade in Portland, that are prone to landslides, have been using terracing as a way to adapt.

Organisations like the Women's Resource and Outreach Centre based in Kingston, are doing small projects to help rural farmers protect their livestock during hurricanes. The projects encourage the community's to have shelters for the farmers to store their livestock once a hurricane warning is issued. This helps to reduce the number of animals killed during hurricanes for example ensuring that farmers at least some form of capital to rebuild after a hurricane.

Projects like Panos's Voices for Climate Change Education are helping persons to be learn about climate change so that they can make better decisions.

"I have learnt how important energy conservation is to adjusting to climate change. I never really thought of those things before. For the first time in my life, I planted a tree - I did not realise that these actions were so important," said Amique, a Jamaican singer, who has been participating in the Voices for Climate Change Education project.

This article was contributed by Indi Mclymont-Lafayette, Regional Director Community, Media and Environment at Panos Caribbean, a regional information and development agency.

Definition of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

UNISDR defines **disaster risk reduction** as:

-"the conceptual framework of elements considered with the possibilities to minimize vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society, to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) the adverse impacts of hazards, within the broad context of sustainable development."

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines **climate change adaptation** as :

"adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities."



**Canada Caribbean Disaster
Risk Management
(CCDRM) Fund**

CDEMA

Building No. 1

Manor Lodge

Lodge Hill

St. Michael

BARBADOS

Phone: +(246) 425-0386 Ext. 297

Fax: +(246) 629-3876

E-mail: ccdrmf.cancarib@gmail.com

**HAZARDS ARE INEVITABLE BUT
DISASTERS ARE NOT.**

Be prepared don't become a statistic

“Disaster risk reduction - one community at a time”

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund is a small-grants facility. It was established to fund community disaster risk reduction projects. To qualify for funding projects must be submitted by a community group or by an organization working closely with the community that will benefit from the project.

A project must be designed to deal with a disaster risk that has been selected by the community as a priority. If the project is being submitted by a partner organization (e.g. an NGO, service organization, church, government agency) the beneficiary community must be involved in all stages of the project's design, development and implementation.

Some communities may know what needs to be done to reduce the level of natural disaster risk but may not have the technical skills or management experience to develop a proposal or manage the project. Communities may choose to partner with an organization with the necessary technical skills or management experience. A number of successful applications have been received from partner organizations. In each case the application was successful because there was strong evidence of the central role that the community played in the development of the project concept.

Government agencies are eligible to submit applications to the CCDRM Fund providing that the application is submitted on behalf of, and in partnership with, the community that will benefit from the project.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How long does it take for a successful application to complete the review and approvals process?

A: Approximately four (4) months.

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund advertises publishes requests for proposals twice each year in April and again in November. Eligible applications are evaluated on a competitive basis and successful applications receive grant funding through a contractual process. Each call for proposals is open for two-and-half months. Once a call for proposals has closed the process of evaluating begins. There are eight steps to the project review and approvals process:

1. **Project screening** to ensure that projects meet the eligibility criteria set out in the **Guide for Project Submissions**.
2. **Preparation of a project application document (PAD) and file** for each eligible proposal. At this stage the proponent may be asked to provide additional information or to revise the proposal to address information gaps or to provide clarity. The response time of the proponent will determine how quickly this step is completed.
3. **Submission of PAD to Project Steering Committee (PSC) for review**. The members of the PSC will review and evaluate each project on a competitive basis and will meet to confirm final evaluation scores.
4. **Project Evaluation meeting** of the Project Steering Committee provides an opportunity to discuss each project, compare and confirm evaluation scores, identify the projects that will be recommended for funding, and agree upon the additional information that the proponent is required to submit before final approval can be given.
5. **Communication with project proponents to secure the additional information requested by PSC**. The additional information may take the form of technical assessments, official endorsements or approvals, letters of agreement or memoranda of understanding from partner organizations, management capacity assessments or site evaluations. The response time of the proponent will be important in determining how quickly this step is completed. If necessary an environmental screening assessment will be conducted to confirm that the project will not have negative environmental impacts.
6. **Submission of Project File CIDA final appraisal**.
7. **Contracting**. This involves confirming the terms, conditions, and responsibilities under a legally-binding partnership agreement between CIDA and the applicant.
8. **Dispersal of grant funds**: Once the partnership agreement has been signed, arrangements are made to disburse the grant to the applicant.