



CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA)

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is a regional inter-governmental agency for disaster management in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It is presently comprised of eighteen (18) Participating States (PS): Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands and the Virgin Islands.

The Agency was established in 1991 as CDERA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency) with primary responsibility for the coordination of emergency response and relief efforts to PS that require such assistance.

Since its inception, CDERA advocated a move away from the traditional “response and relief” mode to a comprehensive approach to include all hazards, all phases of the disaster management continuum (mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery) and all sectors of society. This move towards Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) resulted in the transitioning to **CDEMA** in 2009 to address a mandate to incorporate CDM, establish a new governance structure and make provision for wider stakeholder involvement. The CDM Strategy is closely aligned to the Hyogo Framework for Action. It is fully embraced by the CARICOM Heads of Government as the driving force for building and strengthening disaster resilience in the region.

Governance

The governance mechanism is structured within the context of CDM and facilitates broader stakeholder participation.

- (a) The CDEMA **Council** is the highest level where the Heads of Government of the Participating States determine the policies. The Council meets annually during the month of June.
 - ❖ **The Management Committee of Council (MCC)** - The MCC is a sub-committee of the CDEMA Council charged with making recommendations to Council to enhance the management and functioning of the CDEMA policy identification and organization performance review.
- (b) The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is the technical and programmatic advisory body.
 - ❖ **The Sub-Committees of TAC** - The four Sub-Committee of TAC are:
 - Information Communications Systems Advisory Sub-Committee (ICSAC);
 - Plan Development and Review Sub-Committee;
 - Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Environment Sub-Committee;
 - Work Programme Development and Review Sub-Committee.

The **Coordinating Unit** (CU) The Coordinating Unit will function within a framework that fully embraces CDM and deals with longer-term mitigation issues. As such, the responsibilities and operating functions of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit will be centered primarily around four (4) programming areas, namely:

1. education, research and information;
2. finance and administration;
3. preparedness and response; and
4. mitigation and research.

For more information on CDEMA please visit www.cdema.org and www.weready.org.

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Emergency Operations

CDEMA operates in an environment of small states with large vulnerabilities and limited individual capacity.

The Regional Response Mechanism is an arrangement for the coordination of disaster response among CDEMA Participating States, Regional and International Agencies. It seeks to deliver speedy response and effective and efficient use and management of resources. The CDEMA Coordinating Unit, headquartered in Barbados, is the focal point for effecting the plan. To better manage an efficient response, the 18 PS are grouped into four sub-regions, each of which is headed by an operations unit known as a Sub-Regional Focal Point (SRFP).

The SRFPs Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago are CDEMA's frontline response to member states after a disaster event.

Sub-Regional Focal Point	Responsible for			
Antigua	Anguilla	Virgin Islands	Montserrat	St. Kitts/Nevis
Barbados	Dominica	Saint Lucia	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	-
Jamaica	Bahamas	Belize	Haiti	Turks & Caicos Islands
Trinidad & Tobago	Grenada	Guyana	Suriname	-

Areas of intervention:

- Coordination of the Regional Response Mechanism including:
 - The CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU)
 - The Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team (Light Level)
 - The Rapid Needs Assessment Team(s)
 - Specialist/Technical Support (both human & equipment)
- Information sharing including:
 - Circulation of Advisories, Situation Reports (SITREPS) and Damage Assessments and Needs Analysis (DANA)
 - Web Site Updates on www.cdema.org
 - Hosting Media Briefs and Press Conferences

Levels of regional response:

- The extent of CDEMA's involvement in disaster response operations in Participating States depends on the severity of the situation and the type of assistance required by affected States. Three levels of regional response have been defined:

LEVELS OF REGIONAL RESPONSE TO DISASTERS			
Level	Description	Extent of Regional Involvement	Examples
I	Local incidents within a Participating State are dealt with in the regular operating mode of the emergency services. The local national focal point is required to submit, on a timely basis, information on the emergency event for the purposes of consolidating regional disaster records.	No regional response required	Jamaica Earthquake (January 1993), Barbados Floods (August, 1995) Guyana Floods (January 2005)
II	Disasters taking place at the national level which do not overwhelm the socio-economic structure or capacity to respond within the affected state. In such cases, the primary assistance at the regional level will be limited to providing technical expertise to National Disaster Organizations or facilitating their access to specific resources which may be required due to the particular disaster event. The whole operation is still managed by the national disaster focal point.	Limited or specialized	Hurricane Andrew (Bahamas, 1992) Tropical Storm Debby (St Lucia, 1994) Hurricane Tomas (St Lucia, 2010)
III	Disasters which overwhelm the capacity of the affected state(s) to respond. In such instances the Regional Response Mechanism is activated. This includes the activation of the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) which is the operational arm of the Regional Response Mechanism. The CDRU comprises representatives from the military forces within CARICOM and its main responsibility is logistical support for the receipt and dispatch of relief supplies.	Full activation	Hurricane Luis (Eastern Caribbean, 1995) Hurricane Georges (SKB 1998) Hurricane Ivan (Grenada, 2004)

General Support

CDEMA provides support to its eighteen (18) Participating States in order for them to fully embrace Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM). This includes:

- Providing Assessments, Reviews and Plans/SOPs updates
- Conducting Training workshops, Exercises and Evaluation
- Supplying kit and equipment
- Identifying funding for projects

CDEMA Sub-Regional Focal Points for Emergency

Antigua and Barbuda

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