

THE *CCDRM* FUND WORKING WITH THE DISABLED COMMUNITY FOR DRR.

New_s in Brief

The CCDRM Fund announces the successful completion of the following projects:

- Help Age Belize
- Bush Lot Farm #43—Guyana
- Central Corentyne Farmers Group—Guyana
- Jamaica Amateur Radio Association

* The CCDRM Fund congratulates Deserine Robinson on recent appointment as Deputy Coordinator.

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The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Barbados (MSSB) was recently awarded a grant from the CCDRM Fund for their project, ‘Water Harvesting to Enhance the Quality of Shelter-In-Place for Persons with Disabilities in the Event of a Disaster.’

The Objective of the project is to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water to households with persons with multiple sclerosis (MS) during and after an extreme hydro-meteorological event or disaster. Persons with disabilities are extremely vulnerable, and in the best of circumstances because of their mobility challenges, a simple emergency could mean life or death. Water consumption is also higher because of the health needs.

On September 19, 2012, the MSSB launched the project implementation process with a planning meeting at the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium with project partners, including the Barbados Defence Force, Environmental Health Department and the Pan American Health Organization. The meeting was organised by the MSSB to discuss the project’s due diligence requirements and to confirm the roles and responsibilities of the project’s partners in the implementation of the project to reduce the exposure of persons with disabilities to risk, for example, health and safety.

The approved project aims to ensure that persons with MS will have easy and reliable access to water during and after extreme climatic events and natural disasters. Persons with MS cannot carry heavy loads and would be at serious risk of falling while attempting to fetch water under normal conditions, let alone in a disaster or post disaster situation. The uninterrupted supply of water would thus reduce risks at a number of levels.

The collaborative planning meeting will ensure that thirty-one, 450-gallon tanks are installed in strict compliance with international technical and health standards for water harvesting. The partners also conducted a workshop and provided information on the maintenance, consumption, usage and storage of harvested water; as well as specific guidelines for rain water harvesting (see pictures below).

ABOUT THE *CCDRM* FUND...

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund was launched in November, 2008; and is a part of the Canadian International Development Agency’s (CIDA’s) regional Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program (CDRMP). The CCDRM Fund provides grant assistance to non-governmental, community and voluntary organizations and government agencies based in CARICOM member states.

Grant assistance is provided for small-scale, local disaster risk reduction projects. To be eligible for funding a project must be able to bring about a measurable reduction in the disaster risk faced by a community by the time the project is completed. For the purposes of the CCDRM Fund a ‘community’ may be a group of people living in a particular area or a group of people with similar livelihoods in interest, such as farmers or fishers.

Eligible applications are submitted to the CCDRM Fund’s Project Steering Committee (PSC) for appraisal. The PSC uses a standardized scoring process to rank project proposals. The proposals with the highest score are recommended to be the first to be considered for grant support. The recommendations from the PSC are reviewed by a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) appraisal team which reviews each application to ensure compliance with the CIDA’s due diligence and policy requirements.

Priority is given to small-scale community projects in the CAD\$25,000-\$100,000 range.



Captain Maxwell explaining the use of the pump to MSSB members at water harvesting workshop, held October 10, 2012.



Members of the MSSB, listening intently at the Water Harvesting Workshop on October 10, 2012.

Feature Projects in Progress

SATIIM (Belize)

The *Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management* is a community based indigenous organization working on environmental conservation and sustainable development in southern Belize. The purpose of the project is to provide early warning messaging and establish a flood early warning system for five rural isolated indigenous communities. Installation of the repeater tower will facilitate communication, especially with regard to disaster mitigation, preparation, response and recovery. The project focuses on these five indigenous communities as they are vulnerable to natural hazards, including tropical storms, hurricanes, river and coastal flooding, landslides and earthquakes.



Digging of foundation for casting of footings for repeater tower.

HHTT (Trinidad and Tobago)

Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago has been working in the area of disaster risk reduction for the past two years. The CIDA funded project entitled, Community Awareness through Responsible Preparedness and Empowerment (CARE) was designed to address the needs of the rural community of Cumana for safe, hurricane resilient homes. The project will retrofit thirty plus roofs to withstand winds of 125mph. The project will also seek to reduce wind damage and soil erosion by planting the appropriate trees and grasses to serve as wind breaks for homes in coastal areas and as soil stabilizers in adjacent hilly areas.



Work-in-progress on a house in the Cumana community.

Feature Projects in the Pipeline

RC/MJ (Dominica)

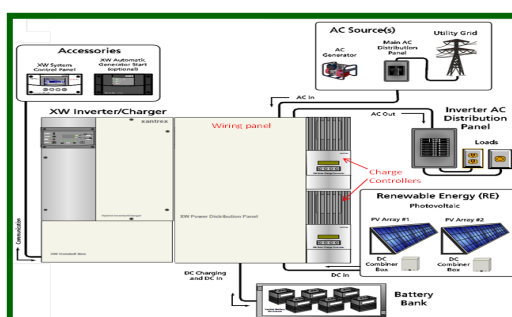
The *Riviere Cyrique/Morne Jaune Village Council* is a local government entity whose objective is to help the community to achieve its small scale development objectives. In 2009, the Village Council was successful in its application to the CCDRM Fund for a grant to renovate the then derelict community centre to serve as a hurricane shelter. The project was successfully completed in December, 2011. Realizing that a further reduction in the vulnerability of men, women, children, the elderly and the disabled could be achieved, the village council made a second application to the Fund. The purpose of the second project is to reduce the level of risk to which persons are exposed when using the hurricane shelter by installing: water storage capacity, uninterrupted photo-voltaic electricity supply, secure emergency supplies storage and refrigeration.



RC/MJ Renovated Community Centre.

ARSB (Barbados)

The *Amateur Radio Society of Barbados* is a volunteer organization promoting and advancing studies and experimentation in the field of communications electronics. The proposed project will support the installation of a grid connected and stand alone solar powered alternative energy system. This will allow the ARSB to operate independently of the municipal power supply which may be interrupted by extreme weather or natural disaster. The proposed alternative power supply will not only enable the ARSB to better provide emergency communication support to the country of Barbados in times of disaster but will also reduce the cost of power to the society.



Photovoltaic unit to be installed by the ARSB.

Feature Projects Wrapping Up

JARA (Jamaica)

The *Jamaica Amateur Radio Association* was established in 1939 and is comprised of a group of dedicated amateur radio operators (hams), who operate within strict international guidelines and adhere to well established code of ethics. The purpose of the JARA project is to enhance the ability of communities to prepare for, cope with, and recover from extreme climatic events by:

- Restoring and strengthening Jamaica's emergency coverage served by ham operators through the installation of seven repeaters.
- Increase emergency radio coverage from 60% to 85% of the country.



Presentation of ham radios by CIDA at ODPEM in July 2012. (Photo: Bryan Cummings).

NAVCO (Belize)

The *National Association of Village Councils* is a collaborative umbrella organization representing the Village Councils of Belize.

The main purpose of the Belize River Valley Community Disaster Mitigation Project (BRVCDMP) is to strengthen the resilience and self-reliance of four flood-prone communities in the valley by helping them to renovate flood shelters and improve emergency communications; to protect their vulnerable residents, including reducing or preventing illness, injuries or other losses associated with floods and other disasters.



Work-in-progress on Rancho Dolores hurricane shelter.

Technical Assistance Consultancy

Over the first three years of the Fund's operation it was observed that the communities applying for funding are generally characterized by: limited access to resources and information, chronic cumulative effects of extreme weather events, poverty, marginalization and the challenges of sustaining daily livelihood. These realities make it difficult for the average vulnerable community to coordinate the development and submission of a grant proposal for a risk reduction project that is both feasible and sustainable.

Local and regional non-governmental organizations and national disaster offices have played a critical role in assisting communities and community based organizations to prepare and submit applications. National disaster offices have also been strategically involved in providing and/or mobilizing technical assistance for the design and certification of disaster risk reduction projects with physical works components.

For various reasons, it has not always been possible to coordinate voluntary technical assistance to support community disaster risk reduction projects; with capacity and scheduling constraints being the main limiting factors.

The 2011 mid-term review of the Fund confirmed that approximately twenty-two (22) project proposals, submitted to the Fund between January 2009 and August 2010 had not advanced to the final stages of the appraisal process because they were unable to secure some form of capacity development and/or technical assistance input.

In recognition of this situation, CIDA took the decision to re-allocate a part of the CCDRM Fund's budget for the provision of technical assistance. The first step in the process involved securing the services of consultant Reginald Burke to review the projects, assess the interest of applicants and develop terms of reference for consultant engineers and livelihoods specialties to assist applicants with the finalization of their proposals.

CIDA is currently in the process of reviewing CV's to identify suitable consultants for specific engineering services. It is anticipated that in the final stages, the projects will receive the assistance in time for the revised applications to be resubmitted for final appraisal in February 2013.



Community of Harkers Hall, Jamaica, one of the projects requiring technical assistance for its land stabilization project..

CCDRM Fund Meets with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

As a part of its mandate, the CCDRM Fund works with communities to reduce climate vulnerability and enhance resilience. The Fund understands that offering grants for eligible disaster risk reduction projects is only the beginning of the funding process. The Fund also has to consider the social, cultural, economic, planning and logistic contexts in which projects are implemented. Technical assistance must be negotiated and coordinated to ensure that projects complement or are nested in national disaster plans and strategies. The Fund must therefore work closely with National Disaster Coordinators and their offices.

In order to ensure that the CCDRM Fund's plans and strategies are consistent with national realities on the ground, the CDEMA has provided the Fund with the opportunity to meet with the NDC's, through the annual TAC meetings. The TAC forms part of the governance mechanism of the CDEMA and provides strategic guidance on the development and implementation of the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management programme.

At the most recent TAC meeting held, April 26-27, 2012, the CCDRM Fund had the opportunity of presenting NDC's with the updated plans for providing technical assistance for applications that had stalled in the appraisal process. The approach that the Fund has adopted to provide TA is based on guidance and recommendations provided by the NDC's at a review during the December 2011 CDM conference and input from the 3rd TAC meeting.



Representatives attending the third meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency held in Barbados.

The CCDRM Fund Launches Facebook Page



Facebook is undoubtedly the most popular social media network with over 750,000,000 visitors per month (<http://www.ebizmba.com/articles/social-networking-websites>), catering to all age groups, gender and social strata; and a popular tool among NGO's, CBO's, service organization, clubs and government agencies. With this in mind, the CCDRM Fund launched its Facebook page on July 17, 2012.

Since the launch of the page, there has been a steady flow of persons liking the page, with the total 'likes' now standing at 132.

The Fund uses the Facebook page to show milestone achievement and interact with stakeholders, as well as:

- * Share information / news items on climate change and disaster risk management.
- * Interact with beneficiaries.
- * Share successful project ideas—radio communication awareness, rain water harvesting, shelter upgrades, land stabilization, etc. and
- * Provide a link to the Fund's webpage.

The overall benefit of using the Facebook page is to provide a coherent guidance for development of appropriate messaging and effective exchange of information with and among stakeholders.

Visit our Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/CCDRMFundCanadaCaribbeanDisasterRiskManagementFund?ref=hl>

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Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction

The discourse on gender equality has been receiving increasing attention since the 1990's; and is included as objective 3 of the MDGs, "Promote gender equality and empower women." However, some still think of gender as a topic addressing exclusively women's issues or women's rights, while others see gender as sex. Gender is more than talks about women. Gender refers to the social roles and responsibilities associated with being woman or man. Sex on the other hand refers to biological differences associated with being man or woman. Gender roles and expectations can change over time, and across and within different cultures. The World Bank states that gender is an issue of developmental effectiveness, not just a matter of political correctness or kindness to women (WB, 2002:1). To achieve gender equality in disaster risk management, differential approaches must be employed as disaster situations affect men and women, girls and boys differently. Men and women have different life experiences, and therefore different concerns, needs and priorities. In the event of a disaster men and women have different abilities, responsibilities, priorities and hence respond differently, as a result of this the impacts are different. Women are more vulnerable during all phases of a disaster, due mainly to the high levels of inequality that exist between men and women. Research shows that 60% of the world's poor are women. Women have less ownership of assets and property (UNISDR, 2009:4).

Within male headed households, women typically have less decision-making power and in the public sphere, they earn less, for equal work. Women face greater risk of sexual abuse, domestic and other forms of violence, and more often than not, play a secondary role to male members in the family. Women are socially and economically weaker than men (UNISDR, 2009:4). Such gender based inequalities and vulnerabilities place women at greater degrees of risks to disasters, for e.g. women have less access to disaster early warning, to policy and decision making in risk reduction and disaster management, to knowledge and information, to relief assistance. In the event of disasters, gender based disparities usually surface to a greater degree than in normal situations, making a bad situation even worse. Research from 141 countries show that natural disasters lower women's life expectancy more than men's; boys, women and girls are 14 times more likely to die than men during natural disasters (Peterson, 2007). Women are also more likely to be victims of domestic violence and sexual violence in post-disaster situations.

Women in the Caribbean region often play traditional roles related to caring for children and the elderly, preparing meals, caring for domestic animals and are often tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that members of the household are taken care of, for example, ensuring that there is adequate water for the household (UNDP, DRM in SIDS, 2012, pg 10). Statistics indicate that 22%-44% of households in the Caribbean are headed by females (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12291313>). Despite their vulnerability, women's traditional gender roles also make them resilient, especially given their social networks, caring abilities, extensive knowledge of communities, management of natural and environmental resources and high levels of risk awareness. Women also tend to be more prepared and ready to act in the event of any natural disaster.

The Hyogo Framework for Action on gender states that a gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training.

Therefore policies, programs and projects geared towards sustainable development, environment and disaster risk reduction must take into account how issues affect women and men, boys and girls differently. They must also have a strong commitment towards promoting gender equality, where men, women, boys and girls are given equal opportunity to achieve a better standard of living, with minimal exposure to disaster risk.

Visit our Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/>

CCDRMFundCanadaCaribbeanDisasterRisk-
ManagementFund?ref=hl



Appointment of Deputy Coordinator

Deserine Robinson was appointed Deputy Coordinator for the CCDRM Fund in May 2012. Deserine's varied career spans working with both the private and public sector in; tourism development, tourism/hospitality management, product development and banking.

In her short time with the Fund, Deserine has proven herself as an excellent team player with a keen eye for detail. She demonstrates passion and dedication in working with individuals and organizations across the region to develop and coordinate projects; and has been making tremendous strides in her new career of choice.

Deserine has a Master of Science Degree from the University of the West Indies, Mona, in Economic Development Policy, for her thesis paper she researched, "The role of environmental sustainability in defining the economic sustainability of tourism—A closer look at the hotel sector." She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and Management; and was recipient of a Sandals /Cuban Government scholarship for pursuing a Post Graduate Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management in Cuba.

Deserine enjoys the outdoor and is a lover of hikes and excursions. She is recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh gold award and has been involved in service clubs, such as the Girls' Brigade and the Optimist Club.

Famous quote: "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall" (Nelson Mandela)



Picture, shows both men and women participating at a Suriname Red Cross planning meeting for a CCDRM Fund project.