



TARGETED SUPPORT TO CDEMA PROJECT YEAR 2 IN REVIEW



Message from the Executive Director of CDEMA Elizabeth Riley



The Targeted Support to CDEMA Project (TSCP) commenced in 2019 thanks to the generous support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The project aims to improve Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) across the 19 CDEMA Participating States (PSs), with specific focus on vulnerable communities. This initiative is of particular significance as it is designed to support all four pillars of the CDEMA (CDM) 2014-2024 Strategy: strengthened institutional arrangements for CDM; increased and sustained learning and management for CDM; improved integration of CDM at sectoral levels and strengthened and sustained community resilience.

To date, the Project has strengthened the technical capacity of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) by supporting the retaining and recruitment of essential human resources. Nine (9) key staff positions, aimed at the achievement of specific objectives for CDM, are funded by the project. One of these key staff positions is the first Gender Specialist for the CDEMA CU. In October 2020, a Gender Specialist was hired for the advancement of gender-sensitive approaches to regional projects, in the CDEMA PSs. Gender considerations have since been integrated into CDEMA's CDM Audit Tools, monitoring of projects on behalf of CDEMA's PSs and a guide was developed to raise awareness around gender issues in general and Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Women in disaster situations.

Preparedness and Response activities within the Agency's Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) are also funded to enhance strategic partnerships and support capacity building

initiatives. This has seen CDEMA's representation in the World Meteorological Organization Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems meetings and collaboration with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology for Impact-Based Forecasting and Planning. Support has also been provided for the revision of CDEMA's Guidelines for Emergency Shelters during Pandemic/Epidemic, instruction on Disaster Risk Management to the Barbados Fire Service's Station Manager's Course, and chairing meetings of the Regional Search and Rescue Working Group. These activities were undertaken through the commitment of the Senior Programme Officer-Preparedness and Response who is also supported by the TSCP.

With the recruitment of an Education and Training Specialist (ETS), the CU has been realising its vision of sustained learning and management for the CDM. Some of the achievements to date under the ETS' portfolio include:

- The delivery of short courses related to education in emergencies and child protection in emergencies in collaboration with UNICEF
- Support to the delivery of training in the use of the GeoCRIS platform
- The coordination of webinars through the Regional Training Centre including "The Caribbean and the Coronavirus Crisis: Big Problems for Small States" and "The Global and Regional Context for School Safety"
- Support to the Safe Schools Pre-Ministerial Forum.

The Project has also zoned in on visibility activities and stakeholder training through the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) to increase knowledge and operational readiness of the CDEMA CU and the PSs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the need for strong ICT systems, and further support will be given to initiatives such as the Integrated Regional Logistics Hub (IRLH) for the movement of humanitarian relief supplies; the expansion of the Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) which hosts a wealth of information for evidence-based disaster management decision making in CDM; and the establishment of an E-Learning Platform to ensure and increase the reach of the CU's training programmes.

In the near future, the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project will extend greater support to Gender Equality, Good Governance building of the CDM mechanism and other critical technical needs within the CU. People who live in communities which have experienced hazard impacts will also benefit from the provision of the Caribbean Early Early Fund (CERF) developed under the project which is aimed at improving disaster recovery and climate resilience.

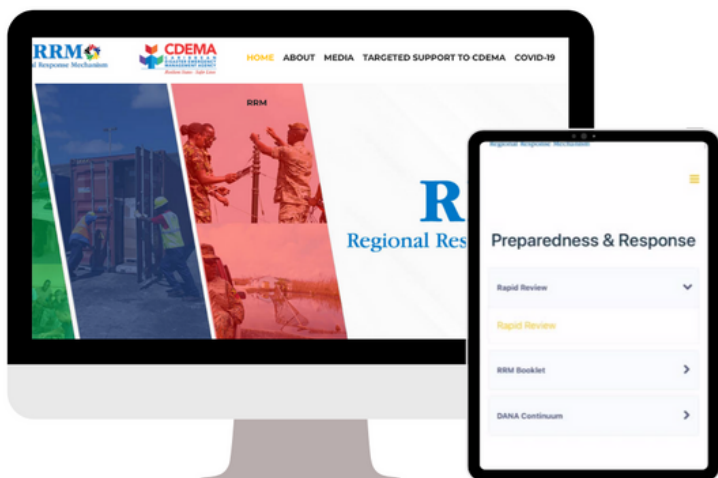
I am pleased by the Project's achievements so far and look forward to its future successes.

Message from the High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados Lilian Chatterjee



Canada has recognised and valued the importance of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency since 1992; consequently, our provision of CAD\$8M for this targeted initiative is a demonstration of our support in a trusted partner. The project came about after the 2017 hurricane season highlighted that additional strengthening of the regional system was needed to mitigate the increasing threats to the region as a result of climate change. Our support has enabled the Coordinating Unit to switch to remote working, so that even as the pandemic affected Barbados the staff were able to continue to support its member states with their own multi-hazard situations. In addition, the crisis around access to personal protective equipment in the region and the request made to CDEMA by the CARICOM Secretariat to facilitate the distribution of donations and purchases was addressed by the establishment of the Integrated Regional Logistics Hub. So although the COVID-19 pandemic may have challenged all of us, we are proud of the CDEMA team for their critical support across the region.

[Click here to visit the New RRM Website](#)



OUR REGIONAL RESPONSE MECHANISM WEBSITE IS LIVE!

With the support of the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project, the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) website is officially live to provide updates and a greater understanding of the RRM.

cdema.org/rrm/



About the Project

The unprecedented events of the 2017 hurricane season severely impacted the capacity of national, regional and international partners to respond effectively to a multi-island strike. A rapid review of the regional response funded by Canada, the United Kingdom and UNICEF indicated that logistics, communication and financing need further support to strengthen Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM).

The Targeted Support to CDEMA Project, funded by the Government of Canada, was conceptualized to assist with a number of crucial areas within CDEMA's mandate. It is aligned to the results of the CDM strategy 2014-2024 and the Global Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The project aims to improve the implementation of CDM in the 19 CDEMA Participating States, with a special focus on vulnerable groups, specifically women and girls. The socially prescribed roles and activities performed by women and girls increase their vulnerabilities in relation to disaster risk management and climate change. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goal 5 - "Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls," by the United Nations, CDEMA has begun to address the gender aspects of climate risk management. The project supports initiatives geared towards implementing gender sensitive policies and practices at the national and regional levels for effective risk management.

The following groups and organizations will benefit from the implementation of the project:

- Vulnerable groups in CDEMA Participating States
- Disaster management authorities
- The CDEMA Coordinating Unit
- National Disaster Organisations
- Communities which experienced hazard impacts.

A total of CAD\$8mil has been allocated to achieving the outcomes of the project, and filling the gaps to enhance resilience in the Caribbean. The expected outcomes are:

- Strengthened operational readiness to respond to natural disasters at the regional, sectoral, national and local levels
- Support given to community recovery for the most vulnerable by providing rapid funding for small, local projects
- Improved knowledge management to support fact-based decision-making
- Strengthened technical capacity within the CDEMA Coordinating Unit to address gender equality and other issues
- Improved governance of CDM action in the region

A Partnership in Focus



Former High Commissioner of Canada in Barbados Marie Legault (left) speaking with Executive Director of CDEMA 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).

Former 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.

Supporting the Integrated Regional Logistics Hub

The COVID-19 pandemic redefined the term *disaster* across the globe. Agencies such as CDEMA were called to step up to assist the Caribbean in fighting the pandemic. Global Affairs Canada played a key role in supporting the biggest initiative taken on by CDEMA this year; the **Integrated Regional Logistics Hub (IRLH)**. A total of CAD\$401,359.53 was reallocated from the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project budget to assist with the establishment and operations of the hub.

The regional hub based in Barbados facilitated the shipment of thousands of COVID-19 relief supplies including coveralls, masks, gloves and test kits throughout the region in 2020. It plays an integral role in supporting the frontline workers of the 19 CDEMA Participating States. The success of the hub has shown how strategic partnerships and a commitment to resilience can bring together countries around the globe to make a positive humanitarian impact.



Check out our Integrated Regional Logistics Hub Documentary:

https://youtu.be/0jUeoDX_DO0

Staff Highlight

Ms. Gayle Drakes

Education and Training Specialist at CDEMA



The Education and Training Specialist (ETS) oversees the education and training portfolio at the Coordinating Unit. The portfolio is a wide one and includes the CDEMA Regional Training Centre which delivers standardized training to National Disaster Organisations. The RTC training programme offers courses and other learning initiatives in areas required for a strong CDM programme: Emergency Operations & Contingency Planning, Disaster Risk Management, and Strategic Programme Development and Management for CDM. However, the ETS role extends beyond training to other spaces- developing regional standards for DRM competencies, supporting the Caribbean safe school programme and promoting greater integration of CDM in the Education sector through partnerships and collaboration. The work of the ETS supports the CU's mandate to ensure that CDEMA PS have, and can sustain, the capabilities for implementing CDM and directly contributes to advancing Priority Area 2 of the Regional CDM Strategy 20214-2024.

The Targeted Support to CDEMA Project funds a number of staff at CDEMA to assist in achieving its mandate

Did You Know?

The project has supported raising awareness of the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). This includes social media posts with the new RRM identifier.



Project funds Remote Working Arrangements

The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken up livelihoods across the globe, from economics to health care. One major change that many are still adapting to is Remote Working or Working from Home. The staff at CDEMA were no different, and provisions had to be made to ensure that each person could carry out his or her role efficiently. Global Affairs Canada saw the need to support staff through the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project, and **CAD \$94,321.52** was approved for the remote working arrangements. Here are some ways the funds contributed to easing the transition to remote working:

- **Purchasing Anti-Virus Software:** The risks of cyber attacks became greater as employees began working their home networks. ESET Anti-virus was installed on all laptops distributed to staff to ensure they could work safely
- **Increased VPN Licenses:** Additional licenses were purchased to create a secure path between the laptop and the office network. Thirty Cradlepoint licenses were acquired, to make the number of licenses 60.
- **Installation of Microsoft Office 365 Suite:** The full suite allows for more flexibility of use, because staff can access it from their laptops and office desktops.

- **Provisions for the Finance Department:** The finance staff needed to access the QuickBooks and payroll system from home, and this was made possible through Team Viewer Remote Access. This allowed them direct access to their desktops from their laptops at home
- **Provisions for the I.T Department:** Purchasing the full version of the Team Viewer Software allowed the I.T staff to troubleshoot, install programmes and give assistance to staff where needed.
- **Purchase of Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) software:** The UPS software was ideal for the finance staff because it accounted for any loss of data caused by a trip in power.
- **Backup Software:** The Acronis software was purchased to back up data

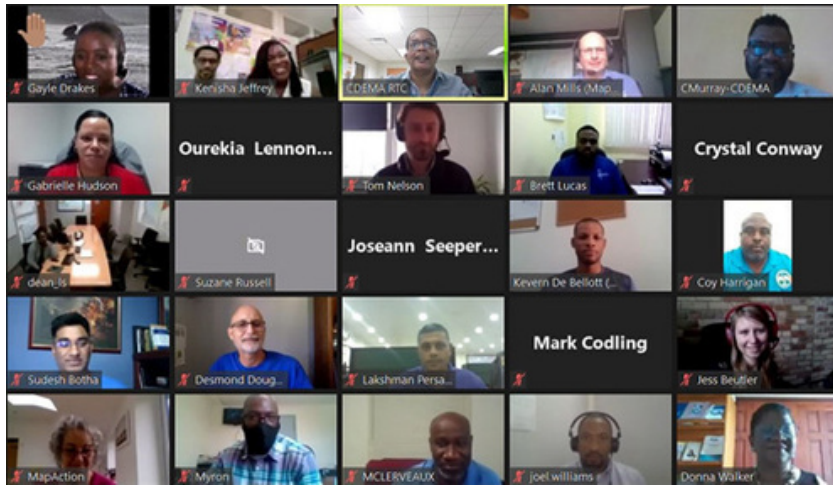
The additional resources have played a key role in the digitalization of CDEMA CU operations. It also benefitted the agency by allowing the virtual activation of the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) during the 2020 Hurricane Season and for the effusive eruption at La Soufrière Volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Deployment Package for CDEMA Response Teams



CDEMA Response Units will be gifted with a small deployment package funded by the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project. Over CAD\$15,000 was spent on the package to equip teams with backpacks, hats, insulated water bottles and waterproof cases for mobile phones.

CDEMA successfully hosts GeoSpatial online training for Participating States



Participants in the GeoSpatial online training

CDEMA successfully hosted an online training programme and simulation exercise in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for disaster risk management (DRM) in the Caribbean region. The training programme was delivered between January 11th and 28th 2021, with the final two days dedicated to a simulation exercise where the participants' learning was tested in a controlled scenario, under time constrained conditions.

Twenty-seven (27) participants from across 17 CDEMA Participating States were introduced to the geospatial platform of the Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) called the GeoCRIS. The course focused on the geospatial datasets available within the GeoCRIS and how to use these geospatial datasets in the creation of mapping products to support disaster response activities in the Caribbean. Speaking during the opening session of the simulation exercise Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director (ag) at the CDEMA Coordinating Unit said, "I am heartened that 17 of 19 (approximately 90%) of CDEMA Participating States are represented at today's training. I want to congratulate you the participants who have completed the training programme".

"The CDEMA Coordinating Unit recognizes that digital transformation is essential to positioning our CDEMA system for the future. It is within this context that CDEMA developed over a period of time and launched the Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) in November 2020", remarked Riley. The purpose of the course offering was to introduce the the CDEMA Participating States to the geospatial platform – the GeoCRIS – of the CRIS. The CRIS is a multi-faceted virtual platform that hosts risk management data and information accessible to stakeholders to facilitate analysis, research, and greater awareness of disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in the region. The CRIS also contributes to the region's sustainable development efforts by enhancing and strengthening disaster risk and climate change information sharing to drive evidence-based decision-making processes at all levels.

"The CRIS will play a vital role in building disaster resilience across the Caribbean region and we are delighted to have been able to support its creation and rollout," said Alan Mills, Preparedness Coordinator at MapAction. "Having partnered alongside CDEMA following several devastating hurricanes in the past five years, and with a lot of experience of building similar systems, we were well placed to help define the needs for data and tools to best support the rapid-response mechanisms within CDEMA."

The main outcome of the simulation exercise was for participants to apply the information management tools within and around the GeoCRIS to tackle an emergency response by providing a simulation of a potential real-world scenario where remote assistance may be required for Information Management (IM) support to CDEMA or a member state following a disaster. The simulation also tested the learning on the GeoCRIS, the OpenStreetMap (OSM) tools and remote mapping (QGIS) in a scenario.

"The simulation exercise was instrumental in highlighting the strengths of shared response coordination for effected management of a disaster event. It shows how time can be saved by outsourcing some critical actions to external partners. Typically most of the geospatial tasks are assigned to one or two individuals, which significantly reduces the number of products that can be produced in a timely manner", commented one participant.

The development of the GeoCRIS and the Geospatial Online Training was facilitated in collaboration with the World Bank, MapAction and Humanitarian OpenStreetMap, with financial support from the European Union (EU) in the framework of the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program, managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. Additional resources are also provided by the Canadian Government through Global Affairs Canada to further the development and awareness of the CRIS.

[Visit cdema.org/cris/ for more details](https://cdema.org/cris/)

First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project held its first official meeting on December 16, 2020. The introductory meeting addressed the overall Project Implementation Plan, underscoring results and achievements in the project's first year. Consideration of the current COVID-19 environment was also discussed as the committee looked to the future of the project.

Mandela Christian, from the Office of Disaster Management in Dominica, was selected as the first committee Chairman. Christian explained, "This project is a huge benefit to the CDEMA system as it will provide needed support to the region with the implementation of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy in targeted areas such as the enhancement of the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM), the Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) and the mainstreaming of gender considerations in disaster management."

"I wish to thank my colleagues and esteemed peers for their vote of confidence by electing me as the first Committee Chair, to get the ball rolling on this project," he added.

Anwar Baksh, Planning and Development Officer of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management in Trinidad and Tobago was selected as Deputy Chairman of the committee. He said, "For me, as an advocate for change and capacity building in those communities and populations that are most vulnerable and often neglected, I am happy to be part of the conversations."

It is a renewed sense of purpose and impetus to continue the passion and contributions to Comprehensive Disaster Management delivery within the region."

The Project Steering Committee acts as the body overseeing the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project, giving guidance to improve Comprehensive Disaster Management in the Caribbean. It comprises of experts from around the globe in disaster management, gender, regional security and international development. Agencies include:

- Global Affairs Canada
- The CDEMA Coordinating Unit
- Delegation of The European Union to Barbados, The Eastern Caribbean States, OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the Government of the United Kingdom
- USAID Eastern and Southern Caribbean
- The Regional Security System
- A representative from each of the four CDEMA Sub-regional Focal Points

Gender Equality in Disaster Management

Women and girls are uniquely affected by the damaging effects of climate change. The project is aligned to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality**. Climate Change has a disproportionate impact on women and children, who are **14 times as likely** as men to die during a disaster. Canada pledges to ensure that climate-related planning, policy making and financing acknowledge the challenges faced by women and girls.

CDEMA's Gender Process Taking Shape



Gender Specialist at CDEMA Karen Small

The Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy 2014 – 2024, championed by the CDEMA, embodies the region's commitment to the strategy of promoting progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) including Goal 5 – “Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls”, through its integration of gender equality and human-rights based approaches into disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change (CC) adaptation and environmental management frameworks.

Advancement on this gender work started in earnest in October 2020 when the Agency’s newly appointed Gender Specialist began guiding the integration of gender equality considerations for improved gender-sensitive approaches to regional projects within CDEMA Participating States (PS).

The Agency’s gender process is taking shape across a number of CDEMA projects mainly the Targeted Support to CDEMA project supported through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), but also includes other IDPs-funded projects such as the Enabling Gender- Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) also funded by GAC and DFID,

USAID’s Caribbean Climate Resilience Initiative, the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Project - Building the Resilience of the CARIFORUM States to Disaster Risks and Climate Change Impacts and the Country Directed Fund, funded by the 11th EDF under the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP).

CDEMA’s gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches include development of a gender integration framework and associated log frame (in train), guiding the development of gender indicators process, guiding the development of contextual and relevant gender-sensitive messages for communication products and facilitating the routine application of a Gender Equality tool kit. In addition, supporting the project management team to ensure the treatment of gender thematic classifications is a priority to reflect that gender considerations will be addressed as part of the application process for funding under the Country Directed Fund (CDF) and the Caribbean Disaster Response Local Fund. These incorporations ensure progress is made on CDEMA’s regional projects’ gender results and impacts to support early recovery.

As a major regional implementing partner of the EnGenDER Project, CDEMA is progressively working towards an improved capacity for gender-responsive resilience planning and recovery action.

**By Karen Small
Gender Specialist at CDEMA
for the December 2020 Engender Newsletter**

Staff Highlight

The Targeted Support to CDEMA Project funds a number of staff at CDEMA to assist in achieving its mandate



Dr. Nicole Greenidge

Disaster Risk Management Specialist

Dr. Nicole Greenidge is the Disaster Risk Management Specialist (DRMS) at CDEMA. She focuses on incorporating considerations of disaster risk (inclusive of risk associated with climate change) into the programming of the CDEMA CU and Participating States. Specifically, the DRMS works to strengthen risk considerations at the sectoral level and into the mitigation and early recovery components of national programmes and the Corporate Plan of the CDEMA CU. She provides support to Participating States (PS) in the identification and treatment of critical and core disaster mitigation priorities as a component of national CDM programmes.

The DRMS is contributing to the achievement of five of the six outputs of Component 3.2 of the CDEMA CU Corporate Plan- Disaster Risk Reduction/CCA under Priority Area 3- Integrated Risk Management. She provides technical assistance to projects at the CU that are financing these areas of the Corporate Plan particularly EDF 11, the Government of Norway for Support to the Advancement of Comprehensive Disaster Management in the CDEMA Participating States and USAID.



Ms. Shannon Leacock

Senior Programme Officer: Research (ag)

The role of the Senior Programme Officer: Research includes:

1. Provide support to the Office of the Executive Director (OED) in the conduct of research to support policy positioning of the agency, to inform high level engagement, as well as the preparation and reporting on matters related to meetings of the Organs of the Agency.
2. Conduct research to coordinate and produce presentations, remarks, reports, briefs, correspondence, concept documents and other written materials on behalf of the Executive Director.
3. Undertake relevant and appropriate data analysis to inform policy and other applicable issues as required.
4. Undertake application of available tools to contribute to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting of the CDEMA CU Corporate Plan and Annual Work Plan
5. Lead the production of the Agency's Annual Report in collaboration with the relevant departments.
6. Lead the administration and synthesis of the CDM Audit Report
7. Represent the CDEMA CU at meetings, functions and events.
8. Participate in the disaster response activities of the Agency;

Launch of The Caribbean Early Recovery Fund

The Caribbean Early Recovery Fund (CERF) was established under the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project. The fund supports local projects in affected Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries, in the recovery period after impact. The fund aims to provide national and community level support for early recovery and livelihoods restoration on a needs basis. Priority will be given to initiatives addressing the needs of women and girls, with resilience building to safeguard vulnerable communities as the main goal.

How can the fund be accessed?

After a disaster occurs in an eligible Participating State, CDEMA will verify the situation in country with national representatives. Global Affairs Canada will be notified by the Executive Director and national disaster management office. CDEMA will liaise with the affected country to determine the nature of the support required and identify the most suitable partners for delivery. A maximum of \$250,000 is disbursed per project. The fund can support:

- Livelihood restoration
- Restoration of critical services (water, electricity, health or education)
- Restoration of safe shelter
- Repair or replacement measures to protect and restore vital economic infrastructure which are necessary to resume social and economic activities
- Installation of mitigation measures or removal of post-disaster threats to the affected population that will facilitate early recovery or restoration of economic activity, e.g. debris clearance and waste management
- Other response and early recovery activities of that nature

Beneficiaries

Relevant governmental agencies, local Non-Governmental Organisation or reputable regional or international organization experienced in disaster relief activities in CDEMA Participating States which are ODA eligible may apply for use of the Caribbean Early Recovery Fund through the National Disaster Management Offices. In situations where governments maybe overwhelmed, they can designate this function to reputable local, regional or international organizations experienced in disaster relief activities.

For more information contact the Project Officer of the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project at (246) 434-4880 or CERF@cdema.org



Canada

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

Resilience Way

Lower Estate, St. Michael

BARBADOS

(246) 434 4880

(246) 271 3660

www.cdema.org

www.cdema.org/rrm/