



TARGETED SUPPORT TO CDEMA PROJECT YEAR 3 IN REVIEW





Message from the Executive Director of CDEMA Elizabeth Riley

The Targeted Support to CDEMA Project (TSCP) has made tremendous strides since its commencement in 2019 thanks to the generous support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC). With a specific focus on strengthening Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) across the 20 CDEMA Participating States (PSs), the project has achieved a number of key objectives.

The technical capacity of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) has been strengthened through the recruitment of essential human resources. Nine (9) key staff positions, aimed at the achievement of specific objectives for CDM, are funded by the project. These include the agency's first Gender Specialist, the Senior Programme Officer (SPO) - Telecommunications, the Senior Programme Officer in the Preparedness & Response Department and Education and Training Specialist (ETS). This has seen a range of improvements to the operations of the agency including:

- The integration of gender considerations into CDM Audit Tools for more inclusive monitoring and evaluation
- An enhanced Telecommunications Strategy and Plan which is critical during hazard impact
- Delivery of training to the PSs on the GeoCRIS

- The deployment of the SPO Preparedness & Response under the CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST) to St. Vincent and the Grenadines following the explosive eruption of the La Soufrière volcano.

The Targeted Support to CDEMA 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 further underscored the need for strong ICT systems and the project has supported the expansion of the Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) which hosts a wealth of information for evidence-based disaster management decision making in CDM. This support has also seen the establishment of an E-Learning Platform, to increase the reach of the CU's training programmes.

Canada has been a longstanding partner of CDEMA and while I am pleased with its successes thus far, I know that many more outcomes will be achieved through this partnership.

Project Beneficiaries

The following groups and organizations have benefitted 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.



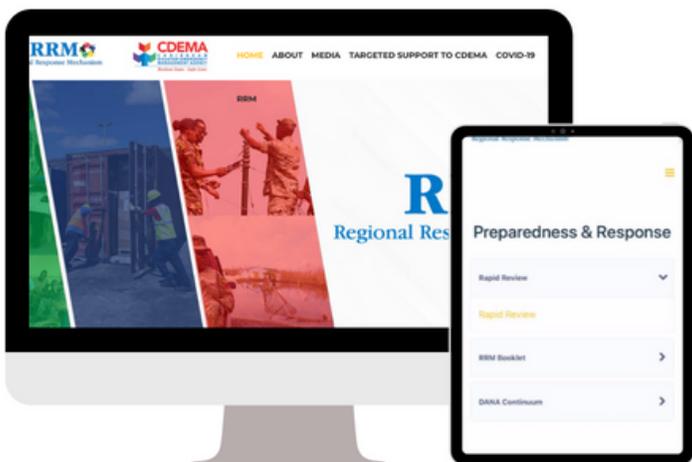
Message from the High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados Lilian Chatterjee

Canada values the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, created in 1991. Our provision of CAD\$8M for this targeted initiative demonstrates our commitment to this partnership. 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 already resulted in critical and timely support by: enabling the Coordinating Unit to function remotely during the pandemic; responding to the request from the CARICOM Secretariat to

facilitate the distribution of donations and purchases through the establishment of the Integrated Regional Logistics Hub; financing the core team who have provided invaluable support to affected countries such as St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, and Haiti; and building capacity for use of the geographic mapping elements of the Caribbean Risk Information System (GeoCRIS). We look forward to our continued collaboration with CDEMA.

[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 receives Deployment Package from Global Affairs Canada

The High Commission of Canada to Barbados and the OECS officially handed over a Deployment Package to CDEMA to support its Response Units on May 19, 2021. The package, worth over CAD\$15,000, was funded through the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project and equips teams with backpacks, hats, insulated water bottles and waterproof mobile phone cases.

Executive Director of CDEMA, Ms. Elizabeth Riley, expressed her appreciation for the ongoing partnership saying, “Canada has been an excellent partner of CDEMA, and this is a statement from my heart...the first multi-year project that I managed at CDEMA was a Canadian Finance Project and it was a game changer in what we were able to bring to the table in pushing the resilience conversation.

The flexibility of how the Government of Canada interfaces with us as an implementation agency has really allowed us to do our jobs that much better.” High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados, Lilian Chatterjee, said, “We are very happy to support CDEMA, a long-term partner for almost 30 years, and this is just one of the outcomes of the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project. I think CDEMA is the perfect example of an agency that walks the walk... and I believe that CDEMA is a jewel and an agency that should be treasured.”



Executive Director of CDEMA Elizabeth Riley and High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados, Lilian Chatterjee

CDEMA hosts Exercise SYNERGY 2021

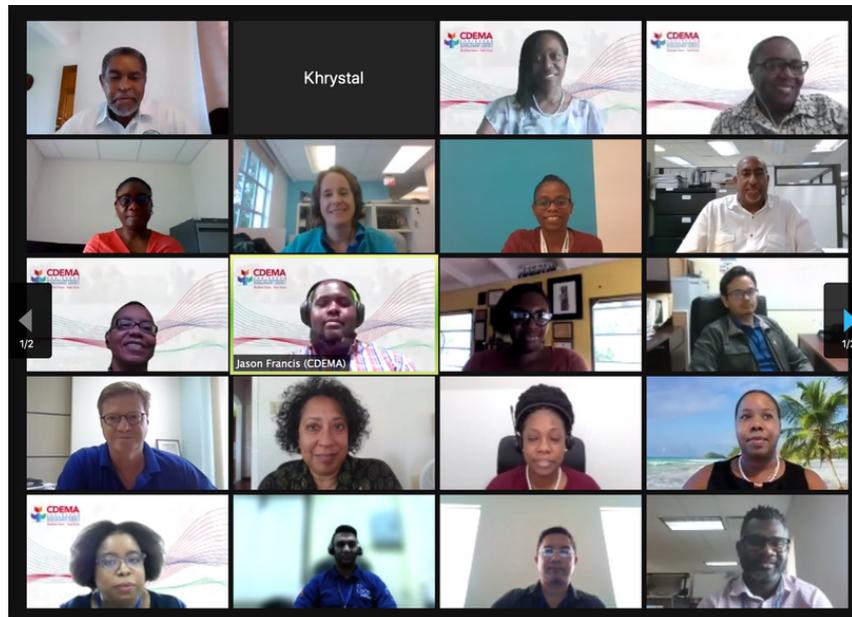
The CDEMA Coordinating Unit hosted its third annual Exercise SYNERGY on July 28, 2021, to facilitate coordination of emergency response operations with partners of the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). Over 70 regional and international stakeholders participated in the online “War-Gaming” discussions to review operations in response to the fast onset hazards of tropical cyclones and earthquakes.

Participants of SYNERGY were re-oriented to the RRM and Regional Protocols for the Management of COVID-19.

The War-Gaming discussions allowed each sub region in the RRM to exercise operational plans to address the multi-island impact of hurricanes and earthquakes to enhance the Regional Coordination Plan.

Executive Director of CDEMA, Ms. Elizabeth Riley, lauded the level of stakeholder participation, noting that it signaled the commitment to resilience in the Caribbean through operational readiness. Riley said, “The delivery of timely humanitarian assistance to CDEMA Participating States remains at the forefront of what we do. In the last 16 months as you know our region has battled a plethora of hazards, both natural as well as technological and biological.”

Exercise SYNERGY received financial support from Global Affairs Canada through the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project. Senior International Assistance Officer at Global Affairs Canada, Natalie Hutchinson, explained the importance of SYNERGY saying, “The 2020s are truly demonstrating the depth and breadth of this multi-hazard environment which we’re living in.



The limited resources available increases the need for effective and efficient collaboration across the region, something we hope that this exercise will help support.”

Through the CAD \$100 million pledged to support the region after the 2017 hurricane season, the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project has played a key role in enhancing the RRM, namely the establishment of CDEMA’s Integrated Regional Logistics Hub. Plans are ongoing with the World Food Programme to make the hub a permanent resource for movement of humanitarian supplies, creating opportunities for logistics training to build regional capacity.

Findings from SYNERGY were used to revise the joint coordination of emergency operations for COVID-19 and strengthen protocols of the regional and national multi-hazard plans for operating within a pandemic.

The Targeted Support to CDEMA Project supports St. Vincent and the Grenadines

On April 9, 2021, the La Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines erupted explosively for the first time since April 13, 1979. The CDEMA CU response began in December 2020 at the first sign of activity when the alert at the volcano upgraded to orange.

Senior Programme Officer in the Preparedness & Response Department, Captain Robert Harewood, was deployed on April 11 to the island under the CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST) to support the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC).

Captain Harewood's deployment was supported by the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project, and a donation of \$500,000 CAD was allocated to recovery efforts on the island.

Captain Harewood commended the team at the NEOC which was tasked with managing the operations of an eruption for the first time.

The pre-planning support offered by CDEMA included virtual meetings from January 2021, the deployment of Superintendent Sylvan McIntyre in March 2021 and the revision of the volcano evacuation plan.

While on the ground, Captain Harewood's supported the NEOC in various ways:

- Recommendations on logistics, management, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the special ministerial committee organized for the event
- Assistance with the preparation of the needs list of emergency supplies
- Collaboration with PSs on shipments into the island
- Collaboration with the World Food Programme on the logistics process and development of a proposal for the design of the Arnos Vale Logistics Hub
- Revision of the 2014 NEOC Standard Operating Procedures

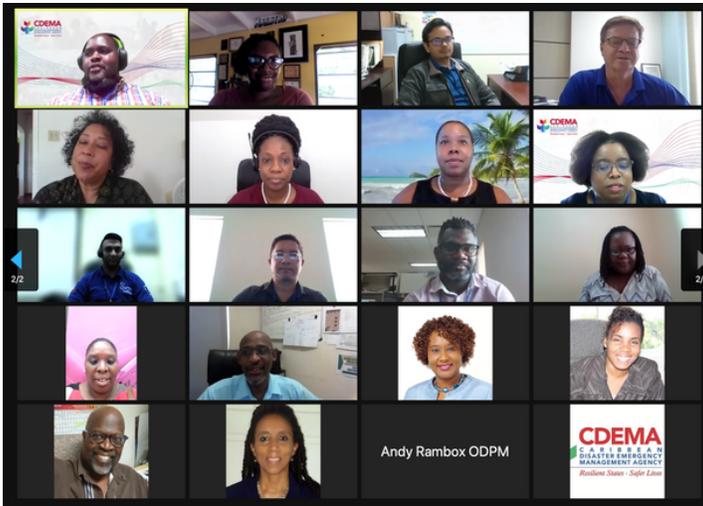


"The situation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines was certainly a stark reminder of the multihazard nature of the region. As a country while dealing with the pandemic, was impacted by a volcanic eruption on the heels of the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane season."

~ Senior Programme Officer in the Preparedness & Response Department, Captain Robert Harewood



CDEMA hosts the 12th Meeting of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination and Harmonization Council



The CDEMA Coordinating Unit recently hosted the 12th Meeting of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination and Harmonization Council (CDM CHC), funded by the Targeted Support to CDEMA Project. Nine regional institutions, seven development partners and representatives for two sub regional focal points came together virtually to further the CDM/Resilience conversation in the Caribbean.

Executive Director of CDEMA, Ms. Elizabeth Riley, said that the first meeting of the CDM CHC was hosted in 2007, to transform the implementation of CDM to a multi-stakeholder process. “We as partners had recognized through the consultative CDM process, that building resilience required the mainstreaming of CDM at the sector level, the definition of CDM spaces for technical agencies and the institutionalization of CDM within the agenda of development partners. Simply put, we are here because resilience building through the CDM continues to be a multi-stakeholder agenda.”

Ms. Riley explained that the agency has seen several changes over the years including the expansion of Participating States and the expansion of sectors focused on resilience including the Private Sector, Energy and Water. The phases of the Disaster Management cycle, under CDM, have also been expanded and CDEMA continues to work with the United Nations Development Programme, Global Affairs Canada and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to operationalize a Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility.

However, the global climate change projections and difficult fiscal situation exacerbated by COVID-19 highlight importance of adjusting the CDM CHC model, to move forward with resilience. The two-day meeting was a starting point to improving the regional capacity of the council.

The CDM CHC is an integral organ to strengthen regional capacity by advancing disaster loss reduction, comprising Development partners, Sector leaders, Participating States and the Private Sector. Among its key responsibilities, CDM CHC will contribute to the implementation of CDM, provide guidance for CDM knowledge sharing and support the achievements of the 2014-2024 CDM Strategy.

Staff Highlight



Courtney King
Senior Program Officer
(SPO) -
Telecommunications

The SPO - Telecommunications leads the development and implementation of the telecommunications programme at the CDEMA. This includes:

- Updating of the CDEMA Regional Emergency Telecommunications Strategy and Plan
- Provide support to the Participating States including the Sub Regional Focal Points in the review and upgrade of their emergency telecommunications plans



Karen Small
Gender Specialist

The Gender Specialist is responsible for improved gender-sensitive approaches to Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) within CDEMA Participating States (PS) and supporting the strengthening of the Coordinating Unit (CU) programming and internal technical capacity with respect to addressing gender equality considerations.

The Gender Specialist is also expected to collaborate with other members of CDEMA to strengthen gender-responsive delivery of CDM Strategy including the monitoring and evaluation of and reporting on gender as a cross-cutting theme.

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

CDEMA hosts the Regional Recovery Symposium

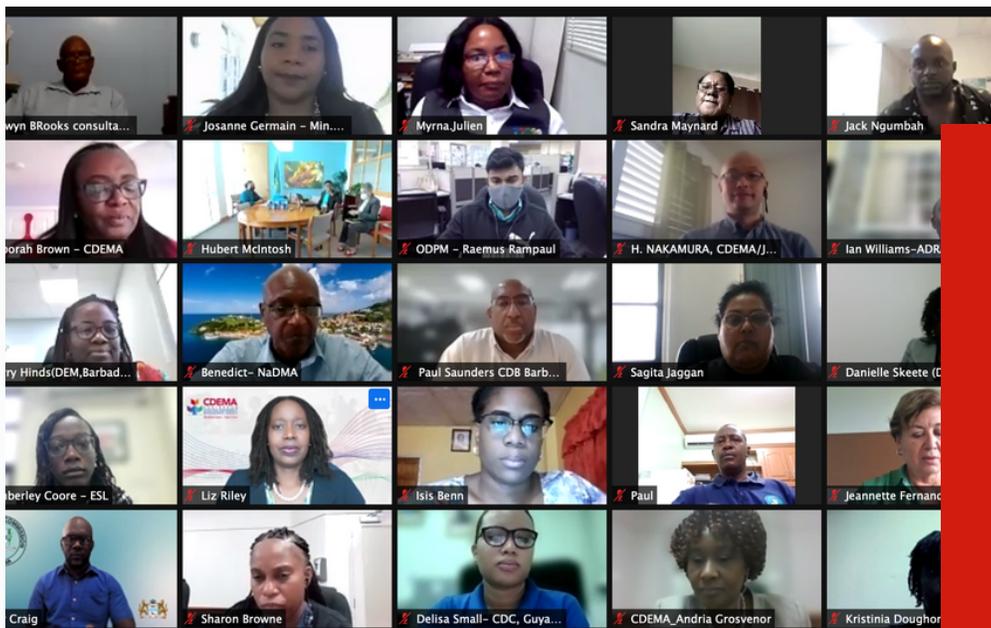
CDEMA, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FDCO) commenced its Regional Recovery Symposium on December 6, 2021. The two-day symposium focuses on the updated Model National Recovery Framework (M NRF) for CDEMA Participating States (PSs) to address recovery in a holistic manner, given the multi-hazard nature of the Caribbean.

Executive Director of CDEMA, Ms. Elizabeth Riley, explained that disasters continue to exact a large toll on the CDEMA PSs. She referenced the April 2021 eruption of the La Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the August 2021 earthquake in Haiti which incurred costs of EC \$739million and US \$1.9billion respectively for repair and rehabilitation.

“Within the context of Small Island Developing States, or SIDS, the task of resilient recovery becomes more complex when set against the backdrop of our inherent vulnerabilities and demands that we approach disaster recovery in a strategic manner. Disasters are exacting a huge toll on small island states of the Caribbean because the region faces such diverse hazards ranging from the biological events such as the COVID-19 pandemic to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes to severe flood events and devastating hurricanes,” Riley said.

As the symposium convened to discuss the M NRF, she stated that it is an inclusive tool to guide states in effective recovery planning.

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Participants in the virtual Regional Recovery Symposium

CDEMA received funding, through the EnGenDER project funded by Global Affairs Canada and the UK FDCO, to update the 2015 MNRF and support the adaption of the framework in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The 2021 MNRF is an ex-ante (or before the event) disaster recovery framework that provides guidance for CDEMA Participating States, and is a highly adaptable and versatile tool that can be adjusted to an individual country's conditions and can be revised on a regular basis.

The symposium also oriented policy makers on key recovery tools/instruments to guide the strategic and institutional approaches to advancing recovery and support governments to enhance recovery planning systems that are inclusive (gender sensitive and consider the vulnerable and marginalized).

The Targeted Support to CDEMA Project was a key partner in building capacity for the GeoCRIS



The Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) is an integrated platform for Geo-spatial Data, Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptability information for the 19 CDEMA Participating States. It's 3 components are the:

- Virtual Library
- Databases
- GeoCRIS

[Click here to visit the CRIS](#)

CDEMA launches the Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility

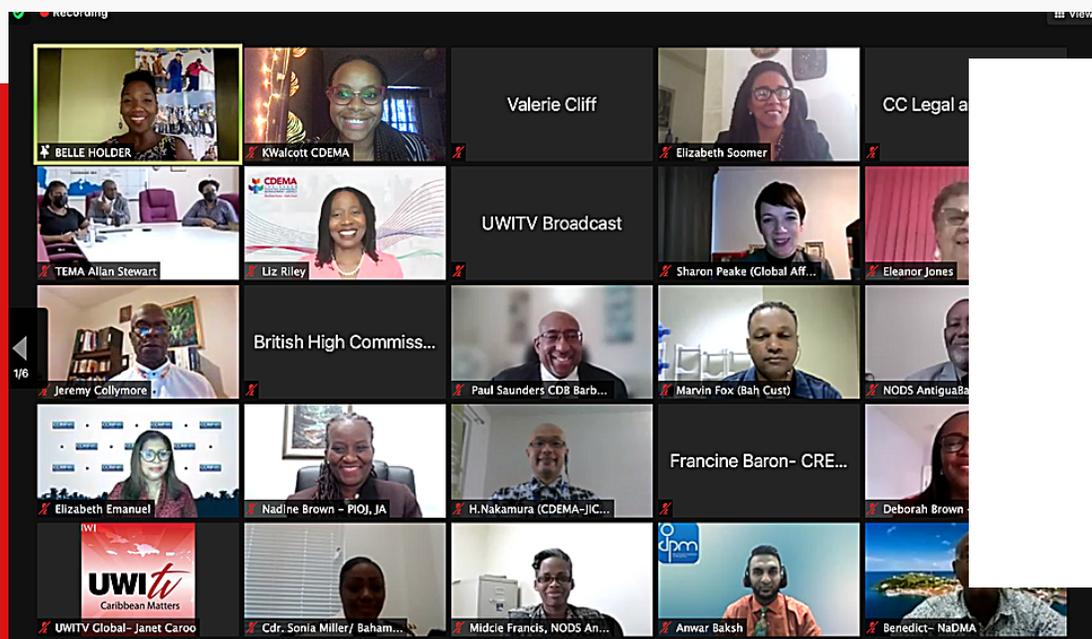
CDEMA officially launched its Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility on December 7, 2021 to build capacity through holistic approaches for climate resilient Caribbean. The facility, launched during the agency’s Regional Recovery Symposium, is aligned to the Regional Response Mechanism and will be a turning point for recovery planning in the region.

Giving the opening remarks at the launch, Chairman of CDEMA, the Hon. Vincent Byron, Jr., shared that the facility was a response to a call for a regional mechanism to tap into resilient recovery after the unprecedented 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season. He said, “The CRRF is a regionally owned and driven mechanism for the coordination of ex-ante and ex-post

resilient recovery to CDEMA’s Participating States, directly supported by the five interrelated pillars of the 2018 Caribbean Resilience Recovery Framework.”

CDEMA will be the pioneer for strategic guidance to resilient recovery, supported by interested stakeholders. One key goal of the facility is to build capacity in the region, and the Chairman urged local governments to use this opportunity to invest in strong institutional frameworks for each phase of the disaster management cycle.

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Attendees at the launch of the Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility

Secretary General of CARICOM, Dr. Carla Barnett highlighted the extent of impact the region has faced since 2017 and the need for stronger collaboration among the public, private and civil sectors. “Given the magnitude of the disasters, the scope and cost of recovery are huge, overwhelming the capacity of individual states to cope and require regional and international support. This provided the impetus for the CRRF,” Dr. Bennet said.

The CRRF aligns to the five pillars of the 2018 Caribbean Pathway for Disaster Resilience: (i) Social Protection for the Marginal and Most Vulnerable, (ii) Safeguarding Infrastructure, (iii) Enhancing Economic Opportunity, (iv) Environmental Protection, (v) Operational Readiness and Recovery.

It is envisioned to be implemented over a three-year period, supported by the UNDP administered EnGenDER project funded by Global Affairs Canada and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO). Assistance is also provided under the 11th EDF Building Disaster Resilience in the Caribbean (BRIC) and the USAID Caribbean Resilience Initiative (CCRI) projects to support ex-ante recovery.

Expected Project Outcomes

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

Towards a Gender Responsive Approach to Recovery

By Karen Small
Gender Specialist at CDEMA
for the August 2021 Engender Newsletter

Amidst the challenging COVID-19 pandemic coupled with a dengue crisis, the La Soufrière volcano erupted in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) on April 9, 2021. Since then, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) elaborated its gender-responsive approach to the recovery efforts by advancing Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) initiatives and interventions for the country to “build back better.” This approach has been evolving as the need for the integration of gender considerations is more recognized in the development of policies and programmes for the agency’s Caribbean Resilience Pathway to promote the development of more resilient states after the impact of a disaster event.

Women and girls were especially subject to indirect impacts that arose in the aftermath such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) – Measures for improved access to toilets to address the issue of gender-based protection and support suggested that male only security/military officers did not usually increase safety and security.

There was a need for equality of the sexes in this area. In addition, sex disaggregated data can help to inform effective in-shelter educational assessments to prevent youth permanent school drop-outs and contribute positively to reducing vulnerability and enabling greater adaptive capacity.

Access to disaggregated data can be daunting, given the aversion to the routine provision of disaggregated data. Generally, and sex disaggregated data in particular. However, collecting and analyzing gender-differentiated data is particularly effective especially if the entire recovery process, including the shelter management environment, is analyzed from a gender perspective. This helps to ensure that the right questions are asked to capture gender-specific needs, capacities and gaps. If/when these gaps are allowed to continue, they tend to compound the gender-specific impacts (as mentioned above).





In partnership with
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