

# SHELTER - STAYING SAFE WHERE YOU ARE

## GRENADA GRENADA RED CROSS SOCIETY (GRCS) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM (CDRT)

### Lessons Learnt:

Some of the lessons learnt and what to do differently includes:

- Review the persons whose houses are to be done, based on community guidelines or input
- Get background information of selected person in terms of social standing and community interaction and land ownership or permissions
- Provide small stipend for some key volunteers
- Get the private and public sector and community base groups including the church more engaged and involved
- Physically assess each house thoroughly
- Secure commitment from householders
- Work along and get commitment from local partners including key Government Ministries
- Be prepared for drop outs and loss in interest
- Get commitment from suppliers regarding availability of materials

### Beneficiaries

30 households of approximately 100 persons from the direct communities.  
5 disabled and 10 elderly were among the 30 houses.

Both males and females participated in the safer house training in the communities of Pearls and Telescope. In particular men and boys learnt new techniques in the use of straps and bracing of houses, compared to traditional construction techniques. Their knowledge in disaster management was enhanced, as well as learnt first aid skills and a community approach to responding to emergencies during the CDRT training and climate change session. Women Empowered themselves through carpentry skills and built confidence in the use of tools in construction. They were engaged in a simulation exercise organised by GRCS and also the National Disaster Management Agency to test their skills. They will now be part of a focal point of contact for any training intervention or community emergency response and the flow of information to and from community and GRCS. The males were also part of the exercise, however the women are now more aggressive and eager to work as community mobilizers and for information sharing.



## SURINAME SURINAME RED CROSS

### Lessons Learnt:

- Collaborate intensively on identifying Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS). To do so it is advisable that enough time is allocated for this purpose and all parties should be involved. All parties should understand the importance of a CEWS and community resilience. A workshop in CEWS should be added to understand the concept of such a system.
- Make sure that the needs of the communities and the priorities of their local government match somehow if you want to have the buy in from the local government and their full and committed participation. The results achieved will have an added value to their district work plan.

### Beneficiaries

25 Climate Change Awareness educators trained from 6 communities including 5 SRCS volunteers in Paramaribo. Gender balance 15 females and 10 males. 35 community members from Para, Marowijne and Commewijne trained in safer houses construction. 45 houses were retrofitted in 4 communities:  
• 27 in the district Marowijne; Tap'uku and Marijkedorp  
• 18 in the district of Para; Witsanti and Hollandse Kamp

Both men and women were able to participate in all project activities without exceptions.

- They had the opportunity to increase their knowledge through training sessions.
- During the retrofitting of the houses, they were completely involved in the process.
- They were involved in designing and making decisions (Safer Houses module / Climate Change awareness poster etc.)



## BARBADOS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

### Lessons Learnt:

Enhancing the resilience of shelters-in-place for persons with disabilities is critical. Prior to the start of the project, a study was conducted to see which members of the MSSB were prepared to go into a hurricane shelter in the event of an extreme climatic event. It was found that all members had made a decision that they would not even attempt to relocate to a shelter because the necessary infrastructure was not in place. At that time, none of the shelters had water tanks. Also one must make sure to have prior knowledge of the state of beneficiaries' electrical supply before committing to providing them with tanks and pumps. Lastly do not feel disempowered because you have a disability.

### Beneficiaries

Families that care for disabled members are faced with the challenge of meeting most of the associated medical and maintenance costs. For families with limited means this can be an overwhelming burden. This project addressed the risks to the health and wellbeing of disabled persons that can result from an interruption in water supply during or after an extreme weather event or disaster, but will also reduce the financial burden of care to the disabled individual and other household members. Opportunities will also be used throughout the year by the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Barbados to promote disaster preparedness among the MS population. The project offers men, women, senior citizens and children as well as caregivers, a level of safety and independence during and after a disaster.

Multiple sclerosis affects more women than men and this is reflected in the membership of the Society, however, equal encouragement is given to all ages and both sexes.



## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - PROJECT CARE

### Lessons Learnt:

The community is very poor with little concentration on investment and entrepreneurial activities. Therefore the assessment needed to be conducted at minimum 12-18 months in advance of proposal writing so that a holistic solution can be proposed, with possible multiple donor partnerships with specific foci. In future more detailed investigations need to be conducted of both the buildings and construction sites. cursory inspections will not reveal termites; parts of the roof must actually be removed to fully examine the extent of the damage and obtain a more accurate assessment. Other types of information required include technical surveys and audits such as a geometric survey of soil. In depth inspections are necessary despite the additional cost, as they lead to a more accurate costing and timeline of the projects.

### Beneficiaries

33 families received roof repairs.  
In the one community of Cumana: 65 women, 43 men, 41 children, 2 persons with disabilities (PWD)  
A total of 151 persons benefitted.

Many women participated in the Construction Training.



"We were happy that we were educated on knowing how to respond in disasters"

CEO Of Portmore Self-help Disability Organisation  
BRIDGETTE JOHNSON

Canada

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