

The Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project

Regional Workshop

‘Report of the Working Group sessions of the National Workshops’

Michelle-Ann Williams
Legal Specialist/Project Coordinator
Department of Sustainable Development



Organization of
American States

Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia, May 20, 2010



Overview

- National workshop venues
- Objective of national workshops
- Working group sessions
 - Themes, composition, and structure
 - Findings



Selection of national workshop venues

- Grenada
 - Hurricane Ivan (2004)
- Jamaica
 - Disaster Management Act under review
 - Developed legal and institutional framework



Objective of the National Workshops

- provide an overview of key issues in disaster legislation and the CELP, and serve as forum to share project findings and national experiences regarding disaster and emergency management, budget appropriation and execution, transparency and accountability, and disaster risk reductions tools such as insurance



Working groups – Questions considered

Legal and institutional framework

- What are the factors contributing to delay in adopting legislative amendments?
- What are the critical legislative deficiencies in the Caribbean?
- Are the institutional frameworks being used in the Caribbean sufficient to meet disaster management requirements?
- How can the institutional structure be reformed to better accommodate the current circumstances with respect to disaster management?

Financial mechanisms

- Identify and list the funding sources available for disaster management?
- What are the best mechanisms for sustainable disaster funding?
- How can donor funding be converted into sustainable disaster funding?
- How can the private sector in the Caribbean contribute/share the costs of disaster funding?



Working groups – Questions considered contd.

Transparency and Accountability

- What is an appropriate structure for disaster management activities?
- What should be the role of the central and local governments in transparency and accountability?
- How should the role of the central and local government in transparency and accountability be limited?
- What are the key factors that lead to deficiency in accountability and transparency?
- Does the transparency and accountability framework incorporate civil society and the private sector?
- How should transparency and accountability framework be extended to civil society and the private sector?
- What is the role of transparency and accountability in short-term and long-term disaster management activities?



Key recommendations of the Working Groups

Grenada

- Establish a legislative framework for NaDMA
- Clarify and define functions of the GRCS and ad-hoc organizations
- Provide continuous training for community volunteers and conduct simulation exercises in schools and communities.
- Share the cost of disaster funding
- Build sensible partnerships with the private sector and introduce disaster management incentives to encourage investment and participation in community projects.
- Remedy the issue of inconsistent decision making especially when senior public officers are transferred to other ministries
- Implement short and long term disaster management activities



Key recommendations of the Working Groups

Jamaica

- Establish guidelines/regulations to complement existing legislation
- Update or amend relevant legislation where necessary
- ODPEM should complete the checklist for declaring a disaster and a comprehensive disaster management policy
- Encourage movement towards individual responsibility, and create awareness among families, and communities on how to react when an emergency has been declared.
- Encourage the private sector to make more donations.
- Create incentives for the private sector to give money
- Establish a national disaster funding scheme similar to those established for education and housing, and insure the fund
- Establish a Mitigation Fund
- Create a mechanism whereby everyone contributes to the National Disaster Fund
- Clearly define, as it relates to disaster management, the relationship between the Department of Local Government and the local government authorities
- Develop objective guidelines and procedures for the distribution of relief to mitigate prevent real or perceived political influence
- Disaster reporting at the Parliamentary level



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Thank you!

www.oas.org/dsd

mwilliams@oas.org