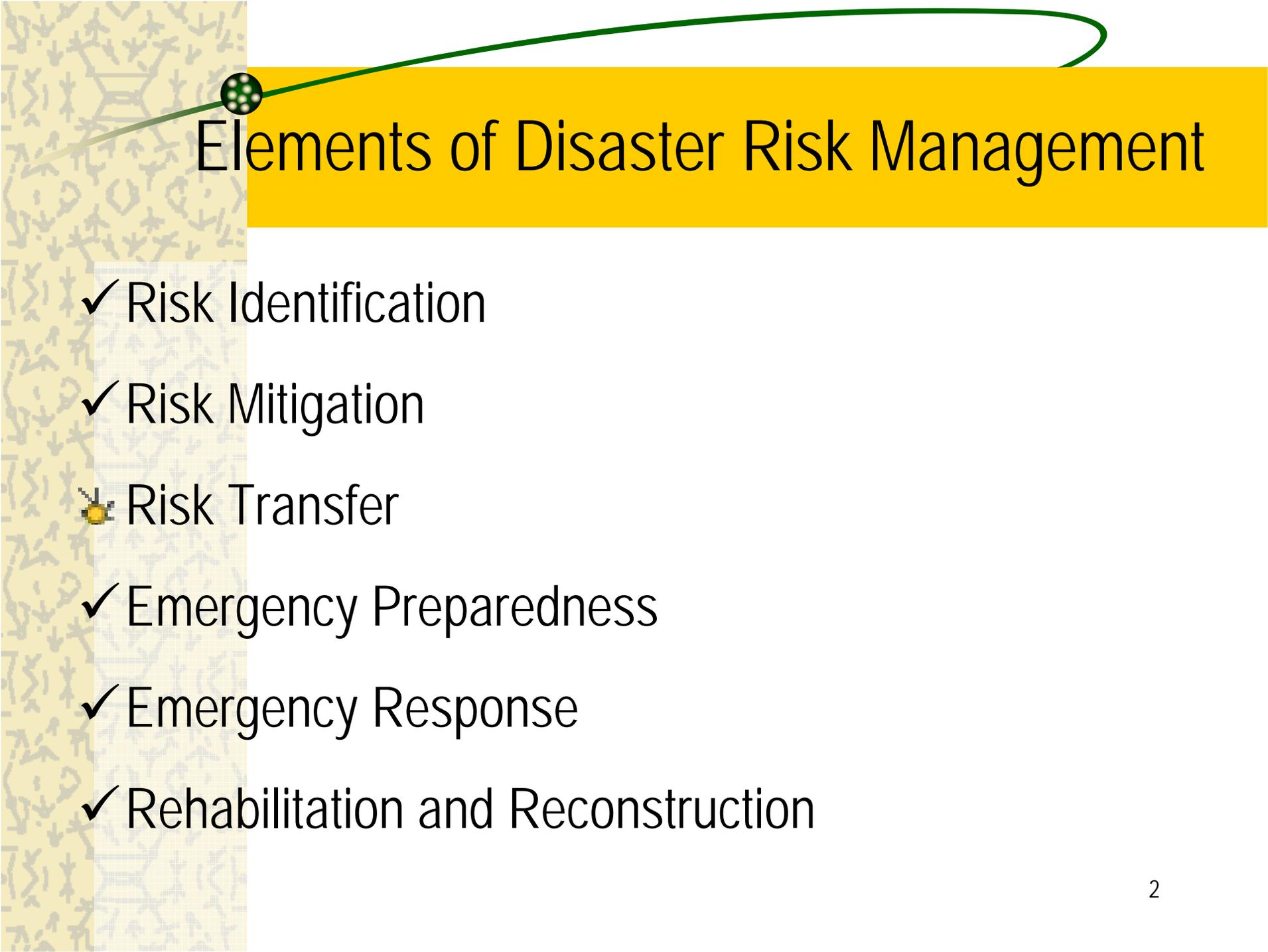




# Caribbean civil society as agents of change in regional DRM Strategies

Dr. Marlene Attzs  
Department of Economics  
UWI St. Augustine

Presentation to the OAS Civil Society Forum  
September 19<sup>th</sup> 2006, UWI St. Augustine



# Elements of Disaster Risk Management

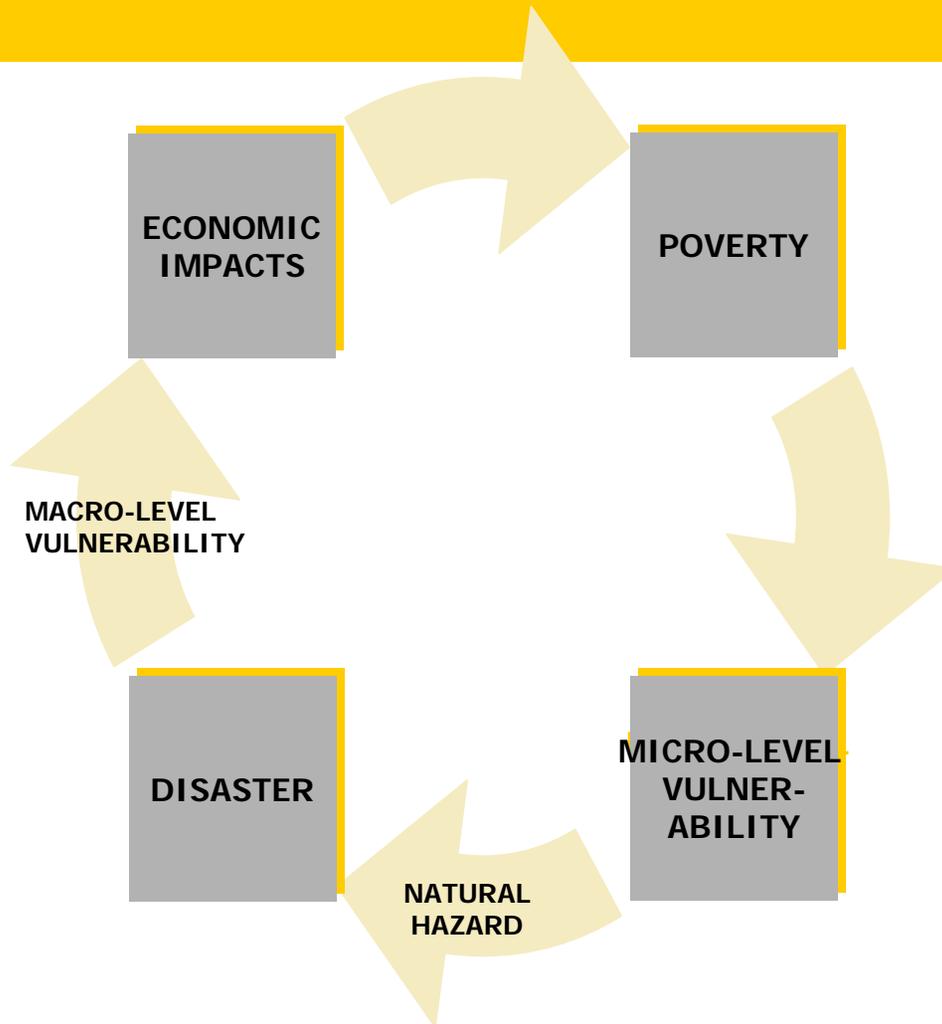
- ✓ Risk Identification
- ✓ Risk Mitigation
- ✗ Risk Transfer
- ✓ Emergency Preparedness
- ✓ Emergency Response
- ✓ Rehabilitation and Reconstruction



# Key elements of effective DRM policy

- ✦ Good governance for disaster risk reduction
  - a commitment to sharing decision-making power among the stakeholders in a process
  - the political will to accept power-sharing and to see the state as a facilitator in development
  - Civil society facilitating local participation, accountability and ownership
  - increasingly recognized that disaster risk management at the local level is a key element in any viable national strategy to reduce disaster risks

# The Cycle of Vulnerability



# Disasters and Development

- ✦ development strategy should include integration of risk/vulnerability reduction measures into development planning
- ✦ risk reduction strategies aimed at communities, should address reductions in the economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities of such communities while simultaneously building on inherent capabilities, skills and knowledge
- ✦ Sectoral/Macroeconomic impacts of Disasters : tourism, agriculture, health etc...exacerbated by climate change
- ✦ Disasters and the MDGs...at least 5 of the 8 MDGs (in)directly affected by disasters

# International Efforts at defining a role for civil society in DRM

## ✦ Regional - BPOA

- ranked the need to address natural and environment disasters as one of its 14 priorities

## ✦ International - Hyogo framework for Action 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters

- Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels



# Benefits of community-based DRM

- Community-based risk reduction programmes designed by and for the people in disaster prone areas are likely to pay greater attention to addressing the community dynamics and priorities and in a more timely fashion.

Greater resident/indigenous knowledge about the localised threats and hazard prone areas. This is not to negate the advantages of scientific approaches to hazard assessment but simply to make the point that community based knowledge should be complemented by the science rather than replaced by it.



Cartoon by [Chris Britt/SJ-R](#)

Driving the message home ...





## Questions for Reflection ...

1. What do you consider the main responsibilities of CS for effective DRM?
2. How can and should CS be involved in the process of DRM?
3. What kind of support does CS require from regional and national entities to support DRM efforts?
4. What are the main challenges concerning local governance and DRM