



VULNERABLE GROUPS INTEGRATED INTO EWS IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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OUTLINE

- ❑ IDENTIFICATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
- ❑ EXISTING MECHANISMS AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL FOR EWS
- ❑ HOW TO INTEGRATE VULNERABLE GROUPS INTO EXISTING MECHANISM?
- ❑ EMPOWERING VULNERABLE GROUPS TO BE INTEGRATED INTO EWS
- ❑ RECOMMENDATIONS

VULNERABLE GROUPS IN SVG

- 32 Islands and Cays (9 inhabited)
- Petit St. Vincent, Palm Island and Union Island – Most Southern islands closer to Grenada – each island is vulnerable and considered a vulnerable group or
- Vulnerable groups (youth, elderly, disabled, physically and mentally challenged)
- Vulnerable communities based on history, geology, topography



EXISTING MECHANISMS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- Risk Knowledge – Done very well in schools and communities through hazard and public awareness programmes
- Institutional Arrangement and supporting documentation - National Emergency Council and Sub-Committees, National Plan and Legislation
- Dissemination and Communication – National Broadcast Protocol – Radio Stations
 - ❑ By emails, telephone and fax to all media and on Face Book (young people)
 - ❑ District Emergency Committees and leaders (Community Plan takes into consideration the elderly, physically challenged)
 - ❑ Communicating with key agencies
- National Emergency Warning System – First phase with the installation of server and RDS receivers , capability for email alerts
 - ❑ Protocols, Alert Zones, and guidance
 - ❑ Tsunami protocols (Draft),
 - ❑ Enhancing Radio Communications Network



INTEGRATING VULNERABLE GROUPS INTO EWS

- CERTS and CDRTs integrated into the district emergency structure – part of mandate is to alert communities and vulnerable groups/persons
- Training must be tailored for different vulnerable groups
- PSAs must be user friendly for vulnerable groups
- Bring vulnerable groups to table and include them in planning and legislation



HOW DO WE EMPOWER VULNERABLE GROUPS IN EWS?

- Community Early Warning Systems developed
 - RDS distributed to key community leaders and institutions – e.g police stations
 - Monitoring of EWS by communities – Monitoring of river flows in Vermont and South Rivers as a component of the DIPECHO/UNDP initiative
- Training and Risk knowledge transfer for all vulnerable groups
- Engage vulnerable groups in identifying their needs regarding EWS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- EWS need to be more community focused and driven
- Knowledge management is key – learning from past events and feeding into the STM for assessment of communities to guide planning of priority communities
- Disabled and other special groups must be at the table and included in deciding the best methodology for disseminating risk knowledge and early warning to their populations
- Legislation and national plans need to reflect the integration of Community EWS and vulnerable groups