

Country Declaration on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago

The National Disaster Office of Trinidad and Tobago is the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) and is a division of the Ministry of National Security. The organization is not a legislative authority and has challenges in achieving its mandate. The ODPM has submitted a Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Proposal for the Cabinet of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) for the transformation of the ODPM to an authority with a Comprehensive Disaster Management Legislation. Approval is pending and it is expected that initiation of this process will commence in the short term. This is our way forward to achieve

The ODPM has identified THREE pillars in its five year strategic plan achieving:

1. Legislative Authority
2. 100% Readiness
3. 100% Risk Reduction

Using a series of cascading dashboards, the current status of our National Disaster CDM is yellow, with red being poor and green being satisfactory.

Our Pillars are aligned to the Ministry of National Security Four Pillars and the GORTT's nine pillars and to the the regional CDEMA Enhanced CDM Implementation Work Programs and the UNISDR Hyogo Framework of Action (2005).

The ODPM spent over six million US dollars/per year on achieving its goals for the past three years. With a staff of twenty six the ODPM also works closely with the Trinidad and Tobago First Engineer Battalion which is a division of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF).

1. Legislative Authority

- a. A Comprehensive Disaster Management Legislation has been proposed by ODPM which will include climate change and variability and 36 pieces of associated legislation that now resides in other bills and acts and that needs amendment in keeping with modern concepts of DRR/DRM and CCA – Process expected to commence in 30 days
- b. The ODPM is a centrally poised organization and works closely with Disaster Management Units (DMUs) of the Municipal Corporations (14) and with the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) – Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). The DMUs work under the Municipal Act and report to Chief

Executive Officers (CEOs) in all corporations and a Director of TEMA

- c. The ODPM has now reviewed all national policies and has coded and standardized all related Standard Operating Procedures and Instruments, forms and tools that are associated to the policies. The current status is sharing the documents and this is being done through:
 - i. Daily communication with DMUs and other stakeholders
 - ii. Monthly meetings with Four Standing Sub-Committees of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee and quarterly meetings with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee
 - iii. Posted on ODPMM TT Website
 - iv. Focus Group Meetings with relevant stakeholders (10 Hours engagement per week)
- d. Mandated meetings by Chairman of National Security Council (NSC) with all Sector Ministers and Permanent Secretaries to discuss and identify DRR and CCA requirements and Business Continuity Protocols – 10% Sectors

2. Readiness

- a. The implementation of the National Disaster Response Coordination Center (NDRCC) in June 2012 allows daily reporting of all relevant sectors e.g. DMUs and TEMA, police, fire, army, ports, ambulance providers, public works, hospitals and health care service facilities etc. – 65% of all sectors and agencies reporting daily on emergency status providing daily situational awareness
- b. The Implementation of the National Security Operations Center (NSOC) which is a 24-hour situational awareness center that brings an integrated interoperability of intelligence, security and public safety (ODPM) using appropriate ICT and integration of existing call centers (999-Police, 990- Fire, 811- Ambulance, 511- ODPM Emergency Customer Care Center and 211- TEMA Emergency Call Center) that will soon be transformed into an integrated 911 system-
- c. The provision of satellite phones to (i) President of Republic (ii) Prime Minister (iii) Attorney General (iv) Chief Justice and (v) Minister of National Security to ensure Continuity of Government – phones issued to Security Personnel with officials 24/7 and tested weekly using a random and scheduled testing program – 60% of times contact is made – SOPs delivered- National Drill Planned for March 2013. Satellite phone directory with all major sectors being created- 20% completed e.g. Diplomatic Corp Dean, Water, Environment, Energy Installations etc.
- d. Launch of CORE – Communities Organized and Ready for Emergencies with the new slogan “LETS GET READY”. Over \$80,000 USD is spent per month on Communications, Branding and Public Education. The “Lets Get Ready” program is intended to be used as a push factor to engage and sensitize the entire country to get ready for a massive earthquake and

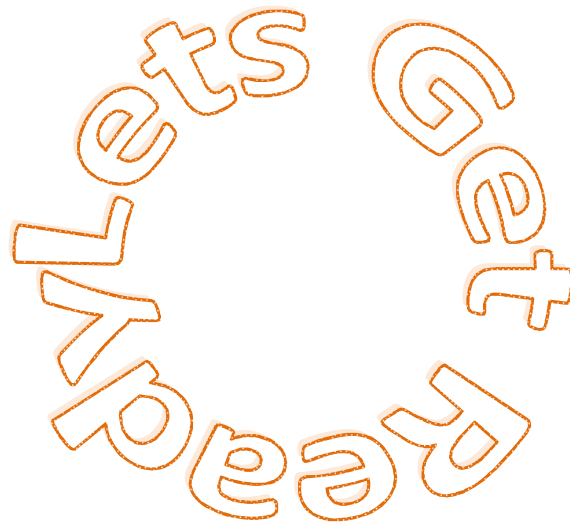
build institutional capacity and a culture of resilience in all communities

- e. With the policy development for (i) Water Resource Management (ii) Food (iii) Shelter (iv) Post Disaster Debris Management (v) Logistics Management e.g. warehousing, supply chain management, MOUs and pre-positioning –
 - i. visits to shelters have been initiated with DMUs and Local Fire Officials
 - ii. Certification of shelters with DMUs and Fire Officials
 - iii. Drills of schools with Fire Officials and Education Officials
 - iv. Inspection of Critical Facilities with Fire Officials and Building Inspectors
 - v. Development of SOPs with Ministry of Energy for Oil Spill and Critical Facility Protection
- f. ODPM has commenced working with Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development on Urban Risk Programs by developing CERT teams in schools at secondary and tertiary levels and regional corporations for villages and towns
- g. ODPM has commenced work with Ministry of Public Administration to develop a robust Business Continuity Management Program for all Government facilities

3. Risk Reduction

- a. Early Warning System upgrade –
 - i. the ODPM has worked closely with the Water Resources Agency for River Level Meters, the Seismic and Meteorological Center, the Coast Guard and Air Guard for radar and has set up a dedicated 511 Emergency Call Center.
 - ii. The ODPM has initiated the procurement process to acquire a comprehensive EWS that has WEA/CMAS system of mobile phone SMS and dedicated APPS for android, blackberry and IOS formats integrated with other EWS such as Sirens, Landslide Sensors, Water Level Meters, Coastal Radar etc.
 - iii. The ODPM has used Social Media e.g. Twitter, U Tube, LinkedIn and Facebook to engage and monitor EWS messaging
- b. IDB and UNDP programs to improve Country Risk Mapping and Needs Assessment as well as National Institutional Capacity Building underway. IDB also with Safer Cities Program for Urban Sustainable Development with Port of Spain as a city in the program
- c. ACS/ACP program with launch of Green Response in Disasters project
- d. National Non-Governmental Platform created that has over 60 hours/year of engagement of Civil Society, private and business sector, state sectors and Diplomatic Corp and professional

- bodies e.g. geological society, Engineering, medical, nursing and mutual schemes
- e. CORE works at the street and village level to educate and engage established institutions for building a culture resilience e.g. Red Cross VCA, DIPECHO, CERT Teams



The Office of Disaster Preparedness & Management

CURRENT STATE – SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



KEY INDICATOR	PROGRESS / STATUS
PRIORITY 1 - Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation	
1 National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels	4
2 Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels	3
3 Community participation and decentralization are ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels	4
4 A national multi-sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning	3
PRIORITY 2 - Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning	
1 National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors	2
2 Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities	4
3 Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities	3
4 National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans-boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction	4
PRIORITY 3 - Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels	
1 Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders	3
2 School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices	2
3 Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened	2
4 Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban & rural communities	4
PRIORITY 4 - Reduce the underlying risk factors	
1 Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use, natural resource management and adaptation to climate change	4
2 Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk	3
3 Economic and productive sectoral policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities	3
4 Planning & management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes	3
5 Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes	3
6 Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure	3
PRIORITY 5 - Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels	
1 Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place	2
2 Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes	4
3 Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required	4
4 Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events & disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews	4
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IMPLEMENTATION OF HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION	4