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

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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