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Trinidad and Tobago: National Progress Report on the Implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)

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Strategic goals

1. Integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning

Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:

National Disaster Management Authority

Provide National Disaster Office with the required legislative authority to integrate Comprehensive Disaster Management nationally; drive adoption and adherence to standards and systems that reduce risk and build resilience.

2. Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards .

Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:

Disaster Readiness

Achieve national preparedness for emergencies and disasters at all levels through capacity building, information management, critical facilities protection and business continuity.

3. Systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:

Disaster Risk Reduction

Integrate identification, monitoring and risk reduction and mitigation mechanisms in development plans and projects nationally and sectorally and establish national platform for DRR.

Priority for action 1

1. National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

The National Policy Framework for DRR has been aligned to International (HYOGO Priorities for Action) and Regional (CDEMA) Policy Frameworks, and the National Strategy (7 Pillars for Sustainable Development). DRR plans and activities across national and local levels require further framework alignment, and improved levels of execution.

A comprehensive review of the Disaster Management Act and related legislation is in process. Draft Comprehensive Disaster Management Legislation has been codified to establish an effective Disaster Management Authority, and is pending Cabinet approval. Legislative reform will reinforce Trinidad and Tobago's existing disaster management infrastructure to effectively and authoritatively achieve the nation's disaster management objectives. Comprehensive Disaster Management legislation will support the ODPM in building a culture of safety and resilience across Trinidad and Tobago by empowering the National Disaster Office to fulfill its mandate for national comprehensive disaster management.

Disaster risk has been considered in public investment decisions via consultation and review of Plans and Policies by the ODPM. The ODPM has provided technical advisory services for national development plans, sector strategies and plans, climate change policy and strategy, poverty reduction strategy papers, civil defense policy and strategy & contingency planning. Disaster Risk has also been incorporated within Trinidad and Tobago's Common Country Assessment under the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) – Country Programme Outcome 1.3.2: improving disaster preparedness and response systems.

Legislative and regulatory provisions have been made for managing disaster risk via the Disaster Measures Act Chapter 16:50 (Act 47 of 1978), and no fewer than 35 other items of related legislation.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Major challenges include limited resources and human resource capacity of all disaster management stakeholders for policy implementation, especially the ODPM. Several agencies underestimate the importance of their roles in Disaster Risk Reduction. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) provides the platform for regular periodic reviews of National DRR policy documents, but there is a further need to improve the resources available and capacity of DRR stakeholders to implement policy.

The ODPM has established a Document Architecture Process (DAP) to improve its capacity for policy review and knowledge management to optimize its existing capacity to ensure policy readiness, but further institutional commitment is required to sustain policy initiatives at all levels.

There is an urgent need to integrate all existing related legislation and fill critical gaps in regulatory frameworks, including lifting existing building codes to a compulsory standard. Current legislation is outdated and does not mandate all relevant authorities to ensure public awareness and resilience.

Recommendations

- Statutorily underpin the ODPM as a regulatory body responsible for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk management activities across Trinidad and Tobago.
- Establish a clear legislative and policy framework that clarifies 'mandates, responsibilities, protocols, linkages, coordination structure between different actors both horizontally and vertically' to support disaster preparedness planning.
- Accelerate development and implementation of National Policies in Key Areas including the National CDM Policy, National Response Framework, and the National Hazard Mitigation Policy.
- Transition the National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) to a Cabinet approved body to improve consistency of attendance of member agencies and platform sustainability.
- Convert Inter-Ministerial Committee for Flood Response to Inter-Ministerial Committee for CDM.

2. Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2

Description:

The Ratio of the ODPM's Budget Allocation to Risk Reduction / Prevention versus Disaster Relief and Reconstruction is 2:3.

The total USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g Transport, Agriculture, and Infrastructure) is difficult to ascertain, as disaster risk reduction project expenditure is not always delineated as such in national and sectoral budgets. As a result, the figures provided are estimates based on the 2012 National Budget. Resources have specifically been allocated for disaster risk reduction actions at the National Disaster Office level – the budget for Mitigation activities totals approximately 1.5 million USD.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Limited resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels. In 2012, the ODPM received approximately 1/3 of its requested budget allocation for DRR activities. Though budgets have been constrained, additional avenues of funding have been pursued for DRR Projects, including UNDAF-UNDP and IDB Funds. Resource allocation that embeds disaster risk reduction into institutions' day-to-day business is disaggregated by CDM components solely at the ODPM level. Risk is considered in development investment decisions and in the design of projects through ex-ante evaluations conducted by implementing agencies, though disaster risk has not been mainstreamed across all sectors.

Recommendations

- Work with Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Finance to Include mandatory disaster risk and vulnerability assessments for physical development projects..
- Pursue additional sources for resource and project funding, including national and international institutions.

3. Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Local governments have legal responsibility and regular / systematic budget allocations for Disaster Risk Reduction. Each regional corporation is equipped with a Disaster Management Unit (DMU), which manages its own budget allocations and is able to deploy resources to prevent, mitigate, prepare and respond to emergencies and disasters within its municipal jurisdiction.

Specific legislation for local governments with a mandate for DRR exists under the Local Government Act Chapter 25:04. Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government through the Disaster Management Units (DMUs) of each Regional Corporation (RC) total approximately 10 million TTD.

The National Disaster Office manages Communities Organized and Ready for Emergencies (CORE), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and other community outreach and education activities in concert with other stakeholders, including Local Government and Tobago Emergency Management Authority (TEMA). These programmes provide additional resources and support at the Community level. The ODPM hopes to fully transition execution of the CORE Programme to the Local Government Level through engagement of the DMUs by the end of 2013.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

DMUs at the Local Government Level require additional resources to improve their human resource capacity and DRM competencies, and requisition additional assets (including safety and emergency equipment, disaster supplies and inventory) required for effective response and recovery across Trinidad and Tobago's Regional / Municipal Corporations.

Recommendations

- Complete devolution of responsibilities for managing CORE to the Disaster Management Units to ensure the decentralization of community outreach capacity and resources.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Local Government to recommend sources of additional funding for the Disaster Management Units (DMUs).

4. A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

The ODPM has designed and implemented the National Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) to establish an institutional platform for disaster risk reduction and drive disaster preparedness and management initiatives across Trinidad and Tobago. The platform consists of 5 sub-committees – one representing each HFA Priority – which meet on a monthly basis to share information, identify gaps and collaborate on interventions to improve disaster management capacity across the country.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the coordinating lead institution for disaster risk reduction – the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) is located within the Ministry of National Security. Civil society organizations, national finance and planning institutions, key economic and development sector organizations are represented on the national platform. The platform is comprised of a total of 66 member agencies; a breakdown of these organizations by type appears below:

- 24 Civil Society
- 3 National Finance and Planning
- 30 Sectoral
- 2 Private Sector
- 5 Science and Academic
- 0 Women's Orgs

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

While significant work has been done to establish the National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) as the national platform for institutionalizing disaster risk reduction, Sub-Committees experience inconsistent attendance and a high turnover of individual representatives from member agencies. Consistent representation from member agencies is a requirement for effective Sub-Committee meetings and active participation in strategic DRR interventions.

Recommendations

- Work with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of National Security to transition the NDRRC to a Cabinet Appointed Committee to improve mechanisms for accountability and strengthen Committee Membership for sustainability.

Priority for action 2

1. National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

2

Description:

Hazard data and vulnerability information has been incidentally collected by a number of government agencies during the course of their work. There is need for improved harmonization of indicators, systems and data inputs across stakeholders to facilitate compilation of this data by the National Disaster Office. Risk Information is currently held in multiple repositories, though the lead institution has initiated the development of a Hazard Information System (HazIS) which will reside on its premises. Through their regular operations and projects, IMA, EMA, & UWI SRC have collected hazard data.

A Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Tool (RVAT) has been developed with the objective of standardizing multi-hazard risk assessments across the country, and will be deployed through the ODPM's Readiness Project. Limited customization of this tool for end-users has taken place –

stakeholders have yet to fully adopt the tool. The ODPM has conducted Preliminary Vulnerability Assessments across 7 of the country's 15 municipalities (45%) – & 44% of schools have been assessed and deemed safe via the shelter inspection and safer schools initiatives. <25% of hospitals have been assessed using multi-hazard risk assessments.

While gender sensitivities have not been integrated into vulnerability and capacity assessments, the ODPM has partnered with the UNDP to disaggregate vulnerability and capacity assessments by gender through the recently initiated National Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Management Project.

National multi-hazard risk assessment information is available to inform planning and development decisions, but a limited number of sectors / agencies have used disaster risk assessment as a precondition for sectoral development planning & programming. The Town and Country Planning (TCPD) Division of the Ministry of Planning regularly engages the ODPM in assessing disaster risk as a precondition for local and sectoral development planning. Future and probable risk are assessed by several stakeholders, including the IMA & UWI Geomatics.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Hazard data and vulnerability information for quality risk assessments is limited – low availability, timeliness, accuracy. The need for common repository and format / method for risk assessment has been recognized and acknowledged by the lead agency and its stakeholders. The proposed ODPM hazard repository (HazIS) seeks to establish baseline of hazard data and consolidate where necessary all workflows that relate to hazard data (collect, store, query, analyze, report, disseminate) and ensure mechanisms are in place to accommodate these. Implementation of this system will enhance the quality of vulnerability and risk information for assessments at the national level. A National Risk Assessment is also underway, through the support of the IDB for the development of a Country Risk Profile for Trinidad and Tobago.

While multiple sectors are using risk and vulnerability information in planning decisions, agencies often work in silos, and engage each other collaboratively with varying levels of commitment. Some private companies – particularly within the energy sector – are more pro-active, yet their programmes leverage custom tools and methodologies which may not always be accessible to stakeholders in other organizations and sectors. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) – the national platform for institutionalizing DRR – is being harnessed to address multi-sectoral issues.

Recommendations

- Engage NDRRC to accelerate MOU Development process between stakeholder agencies to strengthen information sharing to improve the capture, accessibility, and harmonization of risk and vulnerability data.
- Accelerate development of the Hazard Information System (HazIS).
- Leverage existing hazard maps to develop vulnerability maps for use in development and disaster planning and policy initiatives across Trinidad and Tobago.

2. Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Disaster losses and hazards are systematically reported, monitored and analyzed across Trinidad and Tobago by a number of agencies, including the ODPM, MOWT, WRA, Land Settlement Agency, UWI Seismic, TCPD – Ministry of Planning, ATTIC, and the EMA. There is a recognized need to establish a baseline that will allow creation of a sustained and comprehensive picture of national hazard occurrence for a 12 year historical period (2000 – 2012). This depth of historical data will facilitate more in-depth analysis and provide an improved contextual background for decision making for enhanced hazard risk reduction and management. There are several hazard / disaster databases that exist for Trinidad and Tobago, but few are comprehensive. Available databases such as Desinventar are limited in scope and currency, and require more regular updates.

The ODPM is leading an initiative to develop a robust hazard repository which will consolidate and facilitate workflows that relate to hazard data (collection, storage, querying, analysis, reporting, dissemination). ODPM currently facilitates requests for disaster / hazard data from other agencies

and sectors, including Planning, Local Government and National Security. Although this has improved over the last 2 years, data is also not immediately available to these agencies.

WebEOC is currently used for monitoring and reporting hazards across localities and territorial boundaries by ODPM and the DMUs. Other means of gathering hazard information include the ODPM Emergency Customer Care Call Centre, location reports, daily briefings, compliance monitoring and sit-reps. Stakeholders play a key role in this process – ESFs, DMUs, MET Services, IMA, WRA, Land & Marine Affairs and EMA. Reports are filtered into ODPM's current repository from which hazard data is frequently updated and mapped. The ODPM's repository archives historical hazard data for the years 2005 to 2011, and maintains 2012 hazard data.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Current systems for monitoring, archiving and disseminating hazard and vulnerability data are limited. Users cannot readily query data, and data dissemination is dependent on the ODPM. Data sources and collection/compilation methodologies are disparate – a number of different approaches, methodologies and tools for recording hazard data have been designed and subsequently deployed on the basis of specific or sectoral criteria, and use different formats. Processes and data formats for monitoring and reporting hazard and vulnerability also vary by agency.

Several improvements have been made in the parameters recorded; reporting has also become more streamlined, though further improvements are necessary to standardize and improve the overall quality of reporting – Standard Operating Procedures need to be established to formalize these standards.

A number of quality issues have been identified across the reported information - accuracy, currency, completeness; low level of confidence in outputs. This limited reliability constrains its use in analysis and policy formulation or decision making at the national level.

Limited facilities currently exist for independent consultation of hazard / disaster data (Desinventar). Some agencies/sectors do not clearly see where they fit into DRR / DRM strategies and therefore may not actively consult hazard/disaster data in their work.

Recommendations

- Engage NDRRC to accelerate MOU Development process between stakeholder agencies to strengthen information sharing to improve the capture, accessibility, and harmonization of risk and vulnerability data.
- Engage Ministry of Planning, TCPD and other stakeholders to develop a database for existing structures and new building projects.
- Align and integrate WebEOC platform at the National (ODPM) and Sub-National (Local Government – Disaster Management Unit) levels to improve processes and procedures for hazard and risk data gathering and information sharing.
- Develop quality standards and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for reporting of hazard and vulnerability information to improve the reliability of outputs for decision making.

3. Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

Risk prone communities currently receive timely and understandable warnings to hazard events. However, early warnings are acted on with limited effectiveness at the community level – there is a lack of infrastructure at the community level to facilitate the early warning of citizens: there is no robust multi-hazard early warning system / mechanism outside the emergency SMS – text messaging system. Local levels of community preparedness are perceived to be low – 24% of the National Baseline Disaster Preparedness Survey (2011) participants reported that they were not prepared, 46% reported that they were only somewhat prepared for disasters. Communication systems and protocols are used and applied, yet inconsistently, with some areas having better access and availability to these systems than others.

The media is actively involved in early warning dissemination – the lead agency has established relationships and agreements with media houses and radio stations to facilitate the dissemination of early warning information to the public via these channels. Social media is being used increasingly to

facilitate early warning, though its reach is limited to those with access to this technology.

Several early warning initiatives are underway, yet require integration to ensure a comprehensive, multi-hazard approach early warning is adopted. These include the San Juan River Basin Early Warning Project, Tobago EW Sirens, SMS Text Messaging System, MET Office EWS, Land and Surveys Division Tidal & Storm Surge Projections, and the WRA Rain & River Gauge Monitoring System. Sirens were being explored for major cities – though plans for San Fernando and POS are currently on-hold.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

There is an urgent need for a National Early Warning Policy. The availability and reliability of monitoring and warning services for all identified hazards is limited, with the exception of meteorological hazards. Risk knowledge has been addressed through Vulnerability and Risk assessments and mapping exercises, but other methods of message transfer and multiple communication channels need to be explored more comprehensively to ensure effective dissemination and communication of warning information.

ODPM is developing Tenders for a Comprehensive EWS system integration that will allow the delivery of warning messages through geospatial SMS targeting and a mobile application that disseminate all EWS information and deliver interactive public education programming before, during and after disasters e.g. First Aid, Evacuation, Shelter Locations, Weather Systems, etc.

The extent of reach at community / grassroots level requires improvement. Education and preparedness programmes, such as the C.O.R.E. (Communities Organized and Ready for Emergencies) Programme, TEMA CERTs and Trinidad and Tobago Emergency Mutual Aid Scheme (TTEMAS) facilitate the effective communication of educational and preparedness messages, but more targeted information is needed on actions to be taken when a warning is received to improve community response capability.

Recommendations

National Disaster Office to formalize stance on EW/EWS including identification of needed Procedures, SOPs, Protocols and Plans. Review / Update ODPM Crisis Communications Plan, particularly on EW public interaction. Leverage NDRRC platform to develop / formalize National EW Strategy.

4. National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Trinidad and Tobago actively participates in regional and sub-regional actions to reduce disaster risk through its relationship with CDEMA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency). The lead agency has established and continues to maintain its region-level hazard monitoring programme, which leverages inputs from the MET Office, UWI SRC, Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), and Water Resource Agency. A regional or sub-regional risk assessment has been completed, and the ODPM is actively involved in regional or sub-regional early warning – regional hazard monitoring and early warning are in place for specific hazards - seismic, hurricanes, tsunamis, and oil spills.

Regional hazard monitoring activities are conducted by a range of agencies, including the MET Office (hydrometeorological hazard monitoring and Tsunami monitoring through the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center) and UWI SRC (seismic and volcanic hazards). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and Ministry of Housing and the Environment - Water Resources serve as National Focal Points for a number of treaties for maintaining Trinidad and Tobago's obligations for regional hazard monitoring, including the BASEL Convention and UNFCCC / Kyoto Protocol. UWI SRC has also collaborated with the Disaster Risk Reduction Centre at Mona Campus, Jamaica to produce a Caribbean Risk Atlas.

Trinidad and Tobago has established and implemented protocols for trans-boundary information sharing. We have adopted and aligned our strategic plans to regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks for disaster management. Responsibility for sub-regional focal points includes Grenada, Suriname, and Guyana. Several CDEMA funded projects have also been undertaken locally, including the Safer Buildings, and School Retrofitting Projects.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Capacity to fulfill regional and international obligations through active participation is limited.

Recommendations

Work with Ministry of Finance and other funding agencies to improve the National Disaster Office's allocated resources for regional and international collaboration.

Priority for action 3

1. Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)**Level of Progress achieved:**

3

Description:

The ODPM has established mechanisms for access / dissemination of disaster and risk information through public information broadcasts via television and radio, website, and online social media platforms (both Facebook and Twitter).

While National Disaster Information is currently available by written request, there is a need for an automated, electronic Information Management System to improve accessibility and ensure efficient management of the high volume of requests. Direct access to Disaster Information via the National Hazard Database is not currently available to the public. This information will be made available through the implementation of the proposed HazIS (Hazard Information System).

ODPM is working to improve public information systems by setting up a dedicated Cable Channel that will focus on information dissemination and public education. Work on this system is in process. Once implemented, it will provide information on local regional and international hazards of all types, and establish feedback mechanisms for gathering information about current and on-going hazard events.

Disaster information is proactively disseminated through a number of initiatives. The National Public Awareness and Education Programme has been developed to The Community Outreach Programme (Communities Organised and Ready for Emergencies – CORE) is the primary national mechanism for disseminating disaster risk information at the community level. Preparedness information is provided with proactive guidance to guide the management of disaster risk at all levels.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

WebEOC has been implemented at the ODPM, TEMA and across the Disaster Management Units (DMUs) at the regional corporation level. Utilization of the tool is ad-hoc and agency-specific. This network for information sharing must be fully integrated to improve utilization of this system for information sharing and reporting across Trinidad and Tobago.

While there is broad institutional support for a Hazard Information System and a central, shared hazard database hosted by the lead agency, formal arrangements, processes and protocols for information sharing and reporting amongst stakeholder agencies are extremely limited. The need for Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to guide the sharing of information between stakeholders has been identified and is being addressed through the execution of ODPM's MOU Project.

Overall, there is low public awareness of functions and responsibilities of coordination and responder agencies and their roles in national DRR. This lack of awareness may prevent end users from accessing information from the relevant sources. Several Municipal Corporations experience resistance from communities during outreach activities, resulting in a lack of information sharing and limited knowledge transfer at the community level.

Recommendations

- Develop MOUs for information sharing and reporting between stakeholder agencies.
- Design and implement HazIS to improve accessibility of disaster information to stakeholders and the public, and enhance ODPM's knowledge management platform.
- Strengthen existing programmes by increasing stakeholder participation in CORE and the Public

Awareness & Education Campaign to increase preparedness and DM capacity at the community level.

- Increase dissemination of information about different agencies' roles in Trinidad and Tobago's Disaster Risk Management System.
- Utilize television more heavily in media campaigns since this is the preferred choice for citizens.

2. School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved :

3

Description:

There is limited inclusion of disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices in the national educational curriculum. Only 57% of persons surveyed during the National Disaster Preparedness Survey had knowledge of an existing Disaster Plan in the schools their children attended. DRR concepts and practices have been incorporated in Trinidad and Tobago's primary and secondary school curriculum - disaster preparedness and risk reduction through CAPE & CSEC Syllabi, and Geography and Social Studies capture some basic elements of DRR issues for the Caribbean. There is a degree of secondary school readiness, but these concepts have yet to be included in university and professional DRR education programmes.

The Safer School Programme has been developed and implemented to aid in the sensitization of youth to DRR across Trinidad and Tobago. Greater institutional commitment is required to fully integrate disaster risk reduction across school curricula, educational material and relevant training at the required levels to effectively promote a culture of safety and resilience.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

While interventions are underway at the primary and secondary school levels, further institutional commitment is required to incorporate DRR into national curricula as an urgent matter of policy. As evidenced by the results of the National Disaster Preparedness Survey conducted in 2012, younger persons (ages 14 to 19) are less prepared than older persons, indicating a need for improved integration of disaster risk reduction throughout the national curriculum.

Recommendations

- Collaborate with stakeholders to accelerate and improve the delivery of educational interventions and enhance the knowledge of students and teachers on disaster preparedness as well as the hazards which are likely to affect Trinidad and Tobago.
- Formally recommend the integration of DRR concepts and practices into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula at the regional and national level.
- The inclusion of these projects/initiatives should take effect formally / informally in school curricula to aid in the sensitization of young students to DRR concepts.

3. Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved :

2

Description:

Disaster Risk Reduction has not been directly included in the national scientific applied-research agenda or budget. DRR research programmes and projects have been initiated – typically driven from the agency level, rather than from the National Agenda. Primary Research in the area of DRR is therefore limited. Examples of research projects currently underway include the University of the West Indies (UWI) Seismic Unit's Microzonation Project, which will provide critical inputs for physical development planning across Trinidad and Tobago.

Research outputs, products and studies from DRR research initiatives are applied / utilized by public and private organizations as key inputs in developing multi-risk assessments and conducting cost benefit analyses through consultation with the ODPM. Research methods and tools have been developed and deployed by the ODPM to conduct multi-risk assessments - these include a Benchmarking Tool (B-Tool) and the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Tool (RVAT).

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

The DRR research agenda requires focus and adequate resourcing. Disaster Risk Reduction has not been incorporated in scientific applied-research agenda at the National level. Few cost studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR have been completed in Trinidad and Tobago – inputs for these studies are usually limited to data from loss and damage assessments post-incident.

Recommendations

- Recommend DRR Inputs to the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Ministry of Science and Technology for inclusion in the National Scientific and Applied Research Agenda for Trinidad and Tobago.

4. Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

The ODPM's countrywide public awareness strategy incorporates several programmes and projects to sensitize the public – Including urban and rural communities – to disaster risk reduction information and practices. These include the Communities Organized and Ready for Emergencies (CORE) Programme and other public and community outreach programming. Public education and outreach activities are prioritized to focus on risk-prone communities and local authorities involved in Disaster Management operations. The National Public Awareness and Education Programme constitutes a series of public education campaigns for enhanced awareness of risk. The programme leverages multimedia, online and printed programming and advertising, information booths at public events and community-based training projects to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience.

The National Stakeholder Training (NST) Programme provides training to DRR practitioners to improve Disaster Management (preparedness and emergency response) competencies for all Emergency Services Functions (ESFs) including First Responders, Local Government Officials, Volunteers, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and other Stakeholders. The Volunteer Programme continuously trains community members to provide a greater level of support for disaster management activities, including first response to emergencies and disasters.

Preventative risk management is practiced through the conduct of risk and vulnerability assessments across Trinidad and Tobago's most-at-risk communities. Preliminary Vulnerability Assessments (PVA) have been completed in 8 of Trinidad and Tobago's 14 municipalities. Outreach materials and training programmes include guidance for risk reduction, and information on DRR practices at the community level is disseminated through community visits, publications and brochures.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

While the National Stakeholder Training (NST) Programme meets current national disaster training needs, the programme could be expanded to include a wider range of agencies and cover a further range of disaster management topics. Improving the coverage and reach of the programme requires increased funding and a greater commitment from institutions to enroll participants. Training, exercises and simulations should be increased to further assess training needs and improve disaster management competencies for all DM operators.

Recommendations

- Continue to educate the public and provide demonstrations on simple, cost effective disaster preparedness activities and strengthening their existing structures.
- Increase the training that is made available to our first responder agencies to improve overall response capability.
- Prepare and certify volunteers to provide a greater level of support for first responder agencies in emergency operations.

Priority for action 4

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.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Several mechanisms have been put in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services associated with wetlands, mangroves and forests. Protected areas legislation has been signed into law, and four (4) National Policies have been developed including a National Protected Areas Policy (2011), the National Environmental Policy (2010), Draft National Forestry Policy (2012), and the Northern Range Hillside Policy.

Environmental Impact Assessments are a requirement for capital and infrastructure projects, as established by the Environmental Management Act Chapter 30:05. Climate Change Adaptation Programmes and Projects are underway; e.g. UWI Geomatics, through several projects in collaboration with the Life Sciences Department to measure climate change impacts.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

One of the greatest challenges encountered is that institutional commitment is inconsistent, and varies by geographic area. In many cases commitment is limited to public sector, with limited involvement from the private sector. Within the public sector, work is often done in silos. Coastal planning and management is sporadic, and the enforcement of existing environmental regulations is weak due to limited resources and institutional capacity.

Payment for ecosystem service remains a challenge, as incentive systems are not driven by a comprehensive national accounting mechanism. Many citizens are also unaware of monetary incentives for conservation – utilization remains low. Trinidad and Tobago is a pilot country in the GEF funded PROECOSERV Project, which seeks to integrate ecosystem assessment and economic valuation of ecosystem services into sustainable national development planning. This project will increase the capacity of decision makers to develop incentives for the protection of regulatory ecosystem services and improve existing policy and implementation frameworks.

Recommendations

- Mainstream disaster risk reduction and sustainable development practices across national development plans and policies.
- Work with relevant stakeholders to improve awareness of the linkages between disaster risk reduction and sustainable development practices.
- Continue to engage National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) and other national committees which incorporate key stakeholders in the review of key disaster-related plans and policies.
- Improve enforcement of existing environmental legislation and regulations to promote disaster risk reduction across Trinidad and Tobago.

2. Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.**Level of Progress achieved:**

3

Description:

Social assistance programmes or "safety nets" have been designed to ensure that citizens can access the means to increase their resilience, particularly the most vulnerable members of society who occupy marginal lands or high risk areas. Temporary employment guarantee schemes have been implemented to offer a range of solutions for reducing unemployment risk, including temporary employment, skills development, job placement and unemployment benefits. These programmes are made available through the Community Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP).

Conditional and unconditional cash transfers and grants are also available for disaster victims through the Ministry of the People and Social Development; grants are also available for activities such as household retrofitting and maintenance (IDB Home Improvement Subsidy). Crop and property insurance is available across the country, though citizens living in risk prone areas may not be able to access these mechanisms due to inadequate resources.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Low availability and utilization of micro-finance and micro-insurance facilities. Over-dependence on social assistance schemes may reduce preparedness and increase vulnerability when beneficiaries believe that the responsibility for preparedness, recover and rehabilitation resides solely with institutions. In some cases grant programmes have not been reviewed and maintained, resulting in inappropriate individual grant levels for activities such as home maintenance and retrofitting.

Recommendations

- Social assistance schemes should be supported more closely by community outreach initiatives such as Communities Organized and Ready for Emergencies (CORE) to equip and empower citizens to understand their role in disaster preparedness and promote resilience.
- Work with stakeholders to reduce / subsidize the cost of crop and property insurance to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities.
- Collaborate with relevant government agencies to ensure review and currency of existing social development plans and policies; monitor grant programmes to verify improvements in structural mitigation practices at the community level.

3. Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

While costs and benefits of DRR have been incorporated into public investment planning, the process for inclusion of DRR priorities in planning decisions is driven primarily by the National Disaster Office. While the value of incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction concepts and practices into public investment planning has been recognized, mainstreaming DRR throughout processes for public investment planning has not been achieved, and prioritization across economic and productive sectors remains a challenge. Development Control Standards and Planning Policies designed by the Town and Country Planning Division (TCPD) guide physical development, and incorporate the costs and benefits associated with risk management.

Emphasis is placed on public sector investment through key productive sectors such as the energy sector. National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR include public infrastructure and energy sector planning. Grants for retrofitting exist, but are underutilized in the education and health sectors. At the Small and Medium Enterprise Level, OSHA provides compliance assistance to small businesses in an effort to reduce vulnerability to hazards.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Limited success has been achieved in engaging planning and energy sectors in DRR mainstreaming activities. Linkages between disciplines must be understood by all stakeholders in economic and productive sectors to close these gaps and ensure the systematic inclusion of DRR practices in national public sector investment programmes.

Recommendations

The ODPM and its stakeholders must work to further highlight the impact CDM can have on preserving and improving the resilience of national assets to encourage greater consideration of public investment in DRR. e.g. Protection of energy sector critical infrastructure to reduce the likelihood of an earthquake destroying oil refineries or gas pipelines.

4. Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

Efforts have been undertaken to ensure risk reduction is achieved within vulnerable urban settlements; however there is still much work to be done. Trinidad and Tobago does not have a national building code, and current legislation does not require man-made structures to adhere to any standards for safety or disaster risk reduction. Efforts to promote safer building have been undertaken through strategic partnerships between the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management and Habitat for Humanity.

Investments to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements include development of drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas through the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, and stabilization of slopes through the construction of gabion baskets and retaining walls in landslide prone areas by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Corporations. Masons and other are trained in the area of safe construction technology through Habitat for Humanity's Training Programme for small contractors. ODPM has also initiated Phase 2 of the Communities Organized and Ready for Emergencies (CORE) Programme, which promotes better building practices through its Safer Buildings education, training and outreach events at the Community Level.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Current legal and regulatory frameworks for land use and planning lack comprehensive disaster risk sensitivity. While safe land and housing for low income households and communities are provided through the National Housing Programme (Housing Development Corporation - HDC), there is a need for the application of building codes and risk assessments across the public housing sector. This lack of risk sensitivity in land use planning extends to land zoning and real estate development activities and has contributed to the trend of increasing settlement on marginal lands. While land titling is provided through the Squatter Regularization Act of 1998 and the Land Regularization Programme there is a further need to sensitize implementing agencies in this area to disaster risk reduction concepts. These gaps in legislation and enforcement exacerbate the impacts of hazards and directly heighten the level of disaster risk.

Major emphasis has been placed on structural hazard mitigation practices to reduce the effects of flooding. Recent flood and mudslide events in Maraval and Diego Martin have highlighted the need for a multi-hazard approach to hazard mitigation; including slope stabilization and reforestation.

Recommendations

- Engage Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development in review of existing legislative and regulatory framework for land use planning and development of a National Building Code.
- Hazard mitigation should be conducted based on established hazard priorities, and not restricted to structural changes.
- Expand non-structural mitigation activities, such as public awareness and education, sensitization, and training to improve risk reduction competencies across Trinidad and Tobago.

5. Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

Post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate disaster risk reduction practices and budget for resilience and recovery. The percentage of the ODPM's allocated recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to risk reduction is approximately 0.032% of the national budget.

Disaster Risk Reduction capacities of local authorities for response and recovery are strengthened through the ODPM's National Stakeholder Training (NST) Programme, which provides DRM competency development training to national responders, relief workers and volunteers. Risk assessments are undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning on an ad-hoc basis. Measures are currently being taken to address gender based issues in recovery through the UNDP Capacity Building Project. ATTIC also conducts internal assessments of historical hazard occurrence trends, which measure past severity, frequency, and loss assessments for local and international hazard events.

Local authorities are well equipped to deal with the impact of disasters; recently CERT teams have been established within 'most-at-risk' communities in Trinidad and Tobago. Protocols for conducting the Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) and Damage and Needs Assessments (DANA) as well as Damage and Loss Assessments (DALA) have been implemented, and at present, projects for conducting a country wide risk assessment are underway.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Significant limitations in capacities and resources exist. The National Disaster Office and Ministry of Local Government through the Disaster Management Units (DMUs) at the regional corporation level

are currently understaffed, and require additional funding for the development of Disaster Resource Centers, including response and recovery equipment and supplies.

Recommendations

- Work with GORTT and NGOs to requisition further funds for additional assets and resources. Improve human resource capacity at the ODPM and DMU levels.
- Partner with sectoral agencies to share responsibilities for National Stakeholder Training.

6. Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

The impacts on disaster risk created by major development projects are assessed with varying levels of consistency. Major national and sub-national projects are generally designed with a multi-disciplinary approach, and consider inputs from Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) comprised of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from key agencies and stakeholders across the public and private sectors. The Ministry of Finance Call Circular requires an ex-ante analysis to be conducted on all projects with budgets exceeding 5 million dollars, which incorporates a project cost-benefit and risk assessment components.

Costs and benefits of disaster risk are taken into account in the design and operation of major development projects by national and sub-national authorities and institutions and international development actors through technical consultation with the ODPM.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

Methodologies for the development of these projects differs across the public sector – projects often occur in silos and remain unshared amongst stakeholder agencies. Impacts of disaster risk are a key input in Environment Impact Assessments (EIA), though Procedures for the assessment of these disaster risk impacts are not completely aligned to national standards for the assessment of disaster risk. The EMA's CEC / EIA process requires that potential hazard impacts are identified and that a mitigation plan is submitted – every EIA is not vetted for DRR due to capacity constraints. Zoning and building regulations often go unenforced post-assessment, resulting in poor adherence to disaster risk reduction recommendations.

Recommendations

- Standards for risk assessments need to be aligned to international best practice. Improve capacities for review of EIAs by DRR experts.
- Procedures for ex-ante risk assessments of development projects should include disaster risk assessments through engagement of the ODPM.
- Work with stakeholders to develop required MOUs to improve information sharing.
- Zoning and building regulations require enforcement.

Priority for action 5

1. Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

2

Description:

Disaster risk reduction has been successfully incorporated in national programmes and policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response through the development of National Policies and the ODPM Document Architecture Programme (DAP). Completed policies include the National Shelter Management Policy, Critical Infrastructure Policy Framework, Hazard Mitigation Policy and CDM Policy Framework. The ODPM has also established the National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) in 2011 as the national platform for institutionalizing disaster risk reduction. The committee convenes stakeholders from the public, civil society and private sectors to collaborate on DRR issues, interventions and initiatives.

Other initiatives adopted to achieve rapid mobilization of resources in a disaster include the National Response Coordination Function: Daily Operational Briefs and the introduction of the National Incident Management System. The National Response Framework (NRF) outlines the required institutional mechanisms for the rapid mobilization of resources in a disaster, and has been adopted by critical Disaster Management Coordination and Response Agencies at the National Level.

Initiatives to make schools and health facilities safe during emergencies are being undertaken through the Critical Facilities Protection Programme and the UNDP National Capacity Building Project. These projects include the assessment, ranking and mapping of critical facilities across Trinidad and Tobago. Training and emergency drills in schools are conducted as part of the Safer Schools Programme, which brings together stakeholders from the ODPM, Fire Services and the Ministry of Education to drive emergency preparedness.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

While Trinidad and Tobago has made significant progress in the development of policy, technical and institutional capacities, a greater level of commitment is required from institutions for policy development and implementation. While many stakeholders currently participate in multi-disciplinary reviews of national DRR policy documents, there is a greater need for substantial, documented contributions from these agencies to the development of these policies from partner agencies. The National Disaster Office is leading charge to ensure strong institutional capacities and mechanisms for DRM by developing a Tender for the Comprehensive Gap Analysis of all sectors and agencies with respect to DRR requirements for interoperability and mainstreaming.

Though the development of potential risk scenarios incorporating climate change projections was achieved by the FA-HUM Exercise, alignment of preparedness plans to changes in future risk is limited, and levels of integration vary across stakeholder agencies.

Recommendations

- Establish NDRRC as a Cabinet appointed body to make participation mandatory for required stakeholders to ensure sustainability and consistent membership.
- Accelerate ODPM transition to Legislative Authority status and increase technical advisory capacity, including strategy and policy development capabilities.

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.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

ODPM Strategic Goal of 100% Disaster Readiness sets the target for disaster management capacity building through the development of contingency plans, development of procedures for effective response and relief and stockpiling resources to build national resilience to major disasters. ODPM's Stakeholder Plan Development Project is designed to ensure the development of risk management / contingency plans for continued basic service delivery. This includes the development of several plans including the Financial Sector BCP, POS General Hospital Emergency Plan, Energy Sector Security and Contingency plans, Municipal Corporation Egress Plan and Trinidad and Tobago NIMS Plan.

Key resources for disaster response and relief coordination include the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) and the alternate NEOC. Several Continuous Improvement Projects have been established for NEOC Management, creation of a ODPM Emergency Customer Care Call Centre, WebEOC Integration and implementation of the National Response Coordination Function that produce National Daily Situation Reports.

Training for first responders in Search and Rescue has been made available through the ODPM's National Stakeholder Training Programme. Further capacity for Search and Rescue teams has been added through the implementation of CERT teams across communities within Trinidad and Tobago. Stockpiles of relief supplies have been developed and are maintained through ODPM's Warehouse Management and Procurement initiatives. Shelters have been established across the country's 14 municipalities and a Draft National Shelter Management Policy has been developed to guide their activation and management.

The private sector has made been a proactive partner in planning and delivery of response, particularly through design and implementation of Business Continuity Management (BCM) Plans and the development of MOUs and MOAs with stakeholders in the commercial and communications sectors.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

The ongoing UNDP National Capacity Building Project includes a component on mainstreaming gender sensitivity across preparedness plans, procedures and programmes. Warehouses, shelters and medical facilities have also been identified as critical facilities for inclusion in the Critical Facilities Protection (CFP) Project, which will assess the vulnerability and risk exposure of Trinidad and Tobago's critical infrastructure and recommend interventions to close gaps in disaster preparedness.

Emergency Service Functions (ESFs) and First Responders have up-to-date plans for Emergency Operations – but plans do not follow a uniform format, and components vary by stakeholder. Recent events and exercises have surfaced gaps in Standard Operating Procedures for Shelter Management. The National Shelter Management Policy should be reviewed and SOPs should be updated to include instructions for sensitization and training of Shelter Managers prior to shelter activation, and selecting, assigning, and mobilizing appropriate Shelter Managers during a severe hazard event or disaster.

Recommendations

- Conduct Shelter Management Training for all identified Shelter Managers.
- Work with Key Stakeholders to Review / Update Emergency Operations Plans on an annual basis to ensure the inclusion of Plans for Crisis Communications, ICT Management, Incident Management – Multi-Hazard Contingency Planning, and Mass Casualty Management.

3. Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

In the aftermath of an incident or hazard event, relief/recovery funding may be accessed through insurance, government grants, and international funding facilities. Some financial assistance is available to the general public, while other options are available to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago from international sources.

Financial assistance available to the public can be accessed through property insurance; Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Home Improvement Subsidy Programme; Home Improvement Grant; Minor Repairs Reconstruction Grant and the Emergency Cases Fund (Household Items Grant, Clothing Grant, Housing Repair Grant, Medical Equipment Grant, Home Help Grant, Dietary Grant, Pharmaceutical Grant, Education Grant, School Textbooks Grant, Special Child Grant, Uniform Grant, Burial Order or Funeral Grant).

Financial mechanisms and assistance are available to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT). These include the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF); UN Central Emergency Relief Fund; the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM); Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Heritage and Stabilization Fund (HSF).

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

There is a need to increase the capacity in order to to conduct and document loss and damage assessments required to be utilized as evidence for many of the grants available.

Recommendations

- Educate disaster management stakeholders on the importance of proper post-incident loss and damage assessments and reporting.
- Provide more opportunities for Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) training to improve the number of available DRR stakeholders and volunteers trained in DALA.

- Improve the capacity of the ODPM to deliver DALA Training to a greater number of stakeholders.

4. Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

While an agreed method and procedure has been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur, gender sensitivities have yet to be incorporated across post-disaster needs assessment methodologies. Gender mainstreaming is being undertaken as part of the UNDP Capacity Building Project. Resources for damage, loss and needs assessments have been amplified by identifying and training human resources through the National Stakeholder Training (NST) Programme (NST). CERT Training, ICS Training and Volunteer Training. Standardized Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) training has been made available to increase capacity across state agencies through the programme.

Protocols and SOPs are in place for inter-agency communications during hazard events and disasters – these Protocols and SOPs are initiated through the activation of the NEOC and the National Incident Management System. The ODPM conducts After-Action Reviews post-exercise and post-event to identify challenges and actions to close gaps after simulations and incidents alike.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints

There is a need to increase the capacity to conduct and document loss and damage assessments required to access many of the grants available. Significant challenges have been encountered in improving the effectiveness and standardization of processes of accumulating and documenting loss and damage and need assessments. UNECLAC's Damage and Loss Assessment methodology and tools have been adopted to standardize procedures for exchanging DALA information. There is also a need to improve capacity for conducting AARs by standardizing the AAR process at the national level and training stakeholders to facilitate these Reviews to drive improved participation from relevant stakeholders at all levels.

Recommendations

- Standardize and formalize the AAR Process at the ODPM level and train stakeholders to facilitate AAR across their agencies.
- Strengthen ESFs and Stakeholders by providing training on UNECLAC's DALA methodology and tools to increase capacity across Trinidad and Tobago.

Drivers of Progress

1. a) ♦ Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

2 - Partial/ some reliance

>Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region? Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?: Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy? : Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

While a high-level multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction and development has been adopted by key agencies at the national policy and strategic levels, mainstreaming multi-hazard approaches at operational levels are lagging, and heavy emphasis on hydro-meteorological hazards persists. Some multi-hazard practices have been implemented, and include the development and deployment of the RVAT tool, which integrates a multi-hazard approach in risk and vulnerability assessments. Studies / reports and maps on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country for the sub-region; though no comprehensive atlas has yet been developed.

Hazard maps have been created and can be used to develop vulnerability maps for use in DRR initiatives across Trinidad and Tobago. These maps will inform communities and improve preparedness at this level. These maps are applied increasingly to development planning and policy

by the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development and other agencies; though all relevant stakeholder agencies are not currently using multi-hazard risk information for development planning.

2. b) **Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized**

Levels of Reliance:

1 - No/little reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Gender disaggregated data is not readily available at the National Disaster Office level. Some gender mainstreaming has occurred in other sectors – for example, there is limited gender disaggregated data available through the UNDP Human Development Atlas, via the Ministry of Planning & Central Statistical Office (CSO). Disaggregation has yet to occur across the disaster risk management sector. Limited disaggregation of Disaster Preparedness data by gender was achieved during the National Baseline Disaster Preparedness Survey, conducted in 2011.

This gap is currently being targeted through the UNDP Capacity Building Project, under which gender mainstreaming has been made a priority. The Project will make recommendations to guide the use of gender disaggregated data for decision making, and drive the application of gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery for policy and programme conceptualization and implementation.

3. c) **Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

Levels of Reliance:

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The responsible designated agencies, institutions and offices at the Local Level have capacities for the enforcement of risk reduction regulations. The IDB DRM Project will continue to identify and strengthen capacities for risk reduction and recovery through completion of the National Institutional Capacity Assessment. Local institutions, communities, and volunteers have been properly trained for response through the NST, CORE and CERT Programmes. These organizations include the Regional Corporations – Disaster Management Units (DMUs), and volunteers from International, Non-Governmental and Faith Based Organizations such as the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, ADRA, etc. There is room for improvement – further opportunities for strengthening include increasing the number of volunteers and level of training available to increase capacity for risk reduction and recovery across the country.

4. d) **Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

Levels of Reliance:

2 - Partial/ some reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Human Security and Social Equity approaches have been integrated into DRR planning activities through strategic alignment to the National Strategy - Seven Pillars for Sustainable Development. National Policies and Plans for DRR, including the CDM Policy Framework and National Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan, mainstream these perspectives at the strategic level through the alignment of Strategic Goals and Objectives to Pillar 1 (People Centered Development), Pillar 2 (Poverty Eradication) and Pillar 5 (Human and Personal Security). While social assistance programmes have been implemented under these areas, further work must be done to ensure that socio-environmental risks to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups are assessed and targeted for reduction. Appropriate social protection measures and safety nets safeguard against specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities for some groups, additional measures are required to safeguard vulnerable urban and rural populations, and marginalized groups in society.

5. e) **Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

Levels of Reliance:

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee is the chosen platform for engaging the non-governmental, civil society and the private sector in DRR activities, including the identification of

sources to integrate local relevance, community experience or traditional knowledge into DRR interventions. These key stakeholders partner with the National Disaster Office to deliver a number of DRR programmes, including the Safer Schools Programme and CORE, and have provided volunteers and support during relief and recovery activities. Participants have been integrated within local, sub-national and national DRR plans and CORE activities, but there is a need for improved alignment and implementation of stakeholder initiatives. Stakeholders also engage in the development and review of national DRR plans and policies at this level, and through further participation in sub-committee workgroups. The NDO is seeking greater involvement of private sector; particularly the energy and insurance sectors; and a broader spectrum of Faith Based Organizations.

6. Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

2 - Partial/ some reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

In the forthcoming years, increased emphasis must be placed on institutionalizing mechanisms to mainstream disaster risk reduction - particularly prevention and mitigation through the inclusion of these practices in national and sectoral plans and policies. Initiatives targeting these areas include the UNDP Capacity Building Project; transitioning the NDO to the National Disaster Management Authority and obtaining cabinet approval for the CDM Policy. Emphasis must also be placed on increasing resources and building institutional capacities for response and recovery. The ODPM is currently engaged in several interventions for strengthening national preparedness and response capacities through closer alignment of Emergency Response & Contingency Plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These activities will continue through the duration of the HFA's implementation period.

Future Outlook

1. Integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning

Overall Challenges:

Given the scope of the Office of Disaster Preparedness & Management's mandate and requirements for Comprehensive Disaster Management, the ODPM should be more closely aligned to national initiatives for coordination, planning and inter-agency collaboration. This framework is in keeping with international best practice given the Office's centralized functions, broad scope of engagement, and critical role in national coordination and management. The current legislative framework does not provide an effective platform for the coordination of disaster management functions - particularly the organization's monitoring and regulatory roles - and must be improved.

While significant work has been done to on-board stakeholders to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (national platform for mainstreaming DRR across development plans, policies and programmes), there is a need to improve levels of institutional commitment to DRR initiatives by incorporating DRR practices and concepts across national mechanisms for development planning.

Future Outlook Statement:

1 - Engage the Office of the Prime Minister to accelerate the process to obtain the required legislative authority to deliver its mandate.

2 - Engage the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of National Security to accelerate the transition of ODPM the proposed National Disaster Management Authority - a statutory, regulatory body for Comprehensive Disaster Management.

3 - Continue its drive to improve overall management and DRM competencies at National - Sectoral - Community levels to ensure all DRM practitioners have the required competencies to fulfill their roles in Comprehensive Disaster Management.

4 - Implement the new organizational structure for a National Disaster Management Authority to enable organizational and job alignment at the National Disaster Office level.

5 - Transition the NDRRC to a Cabinet Appointed Body to improve reach and sustainability.

2. Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards .

Overall Challenges:

While the ODPM has achieved the minimum required levels of Disaster Readiness to lead effective response activities to emergencies, there is a significant amount of work to be done to improve national disaster resilience. Many strategic partners lack the DRM capacity to achieve the required levels of disaster preparedness and resilience due to resource constraints. Other key stakeholders lack the required levels of focus and urgency on readiness initiatives.

Future Outlook Statement:

1 - Continue to increase the capacity of ODPM's strategic partners and key stakeholders to assume their roles in national disaster management through focused activities such as BCM, Egress and Evacuation Planning; CERT Evaluation Certification for DMUs & ESFs; and further community resilience building initiatives across the country.

2 - Fill key roles vacancies at ODPM and Local Government-DMU levels to ensure these critical organizations are staffed with the personnel required to prepare Trinidad and Tobago adequately for a Level 1 – Level 2 – Level 3 Incidents / Disasters.

3 - Improve the overall alignment of Disaster Plans by developing shared and standardized requirements, templates and formats for Emergency Response Plans which include Crisis Communications, Incident Management (Contingency Planning), Mass Casualty Management and ICT Management, across ESFs.

3. Systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

Overall Challenges:

Institutional commitment at the national level has improved – yet further commitment is required from stakeholders at all levels to systematically integrate prevention and mitigation practices across national development plans and policies.

Future Outlook Statement:

1- Implement the National Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan (NCDMP) to align DRR stakeholders initiatives for CDM.

2 - Enhance capacities for Information Systems and Knowledge Management at the ODPM and DMU levels to improve the quality of risk information available for DRR activities.

3 - Transition the coordination of the C.O.R.E. (Communities Organized and Ready for Emergencies) programme to the Disaster Management Units (DMUs) for roll-out across Trinidad and Tobago.

4 - Transition management of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) to its key stakeholders to institutionalize a sustainable platform for National Disaster Risk Reduction.

5 - Formulate and finalize Key National Policies for DRR and CCA critical to devolution of these roles to stakeholders and the fulfillment of these requirements.

4. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199, requested the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. A first outline will be developed for the next Global Platform in 2013, and a draft should be finalized towards the end of 2014 to be ready for consideration and adoption at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015

Please identify what you would consider to be the single most important element of the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction:

Closer integration of International and Regional bodies for DRR; process for regional sharing of implementation progress - successes, challenges and lessons learned - across Member States.

Stakeholders

Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report.

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