

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Education Sector St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG)



#SendaiAmericas

8 y 9 de Junio, 2016 | Asunción, Paraguay

1ª Reunión Ministerial y de Autoridades de Alto Nivel sobre la Implementación del Marco de Sendai para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 2015-2030 en las Américas

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Background – St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Education Statics
- Disasters and Education
- SVG DRR & CC in Education Programme
- SVG Achievements in DRR & CC
- Challenges in implementing DRR & CC in Education
- Priorities for DRR & CC in Education

SVG BACKGROUND

- Over 30 islands, islets and cays, 389 sq.km/
150 sq. mi
- Largest Island: St. Vincent – 344 sq.km/
133 sq. mi
- The Grenadines - 45 sq.km/17 sq. mi
- Closest Neighbours : St Lucia – 25 Miles North
Grenada – 75 Miles South
Barbados – 100 Miles East

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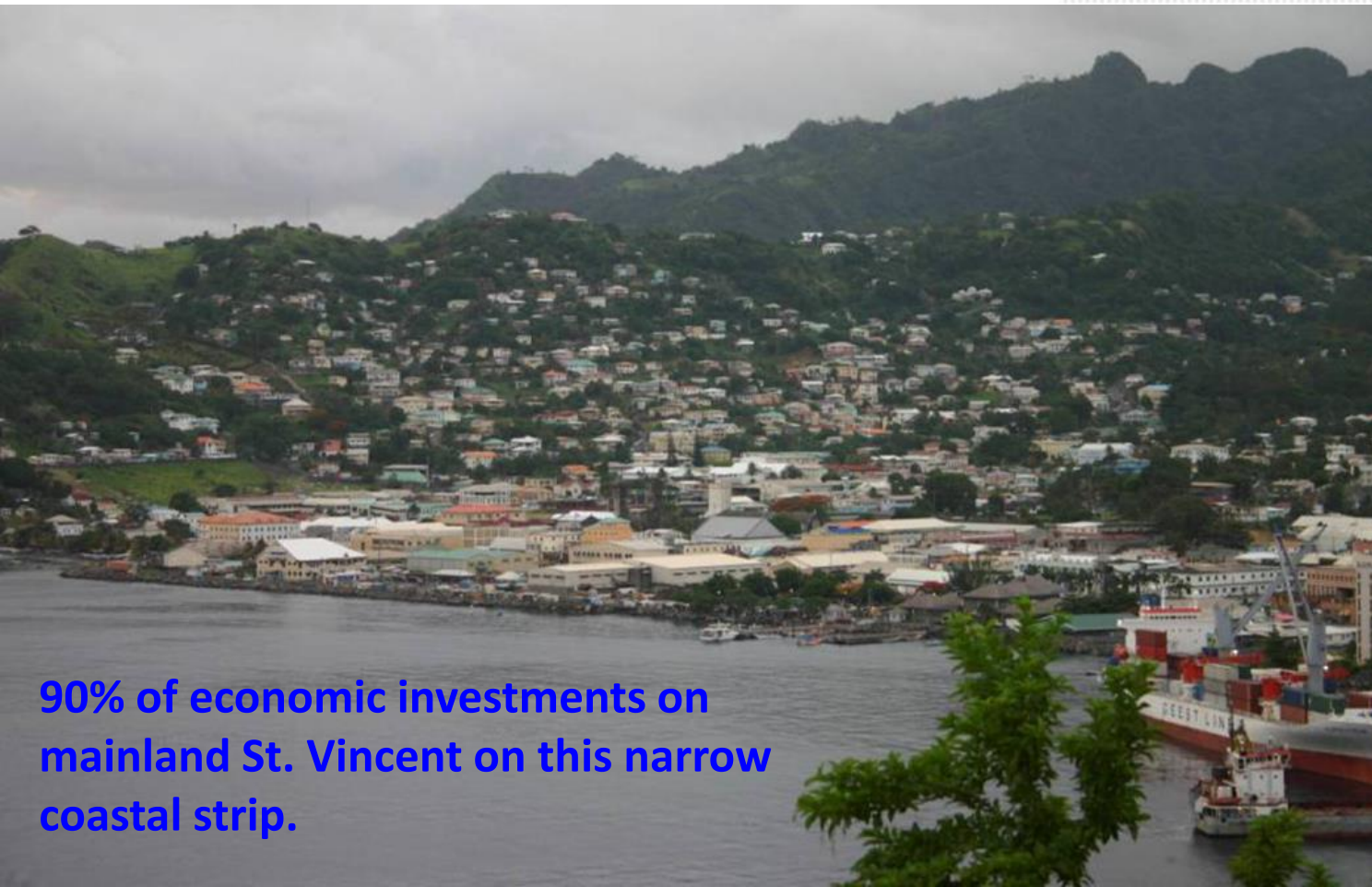
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Source: Ontheworldmap.com

SVG BACKGROUND

SVG is characterised by a steep rugged interior with only a narrow coastal strip of flat land.



90% of economic investments on mainland St. Vincent on this narrow coastal strip.

85% of the population live on this narrow strip 5m above sea level and less than 5km from the high-water mark.

80% infrastructure is on this narrow strip.

OUR REALITY? – HAZARD PRONE

- **Multiple Island State exposed to multiple hazards**
 - Hurricanes, Storms and storm surges, Flooding, Landslides, Earthquakes, Drought, Tsunami, Volcanic Eruption, Fires, Chikungunya (ChicV), other pests and diseases
- **History of disasters**
 - Hurricanes: Janet 1955, Allen 1980, Lenny 1999, Ivan 2004, Omar 2008, Tomas 2010 & others
 - Floods: April 2011, December 2013
 - Volcanic Eruption: La Soufriere Eruption 1979
 - Transport Accidents: Rock Gutter Tragedy
 - Recent threats – Suicide, drowning

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SVG

Type of School/Institution	Total No.	No. Students	No Teachers
Early Childhood Centres	125	3,342	319
Primary Schools	68	13,363	897
Special Needs Schools	3	-	-
Secondary Schools	26	10,286	685
Technical Centres	4	223	53
Post-Secondary/College	4	2,542	-
Total	230	29,766	1,954

DISASTERS & EDUCATION

- Loss of lives – students and staff
- Loss of school supplies – records, equipment, furniture, books, personal (staff & students)
- Psychological impact for staff and students
- Damage to physical structure of schools
- Disruption of key services – water, electricity
- **Schools used as shelters - challenge**
- Delays in reopening of schools & continuation of education



It is widely recognized that education can play a critical role in reducing disaster risks, build a culture of safety and helping to achieving sustainable development goals.

IMPORTANCE OF DRR IN EDUCATION

- Promote fundamental right to education for all
- Ensure a safe learning/teaching environment
- Ensure the continuation of education after disasters
- Reduce the cost of disasters
- Promote risk reduction practices in the school, home and community.
- Contribute to a culture of safety.

SVG DRR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- Adapted the World Wide Initiative on Safe School (WISS), 3 Pillars Approach
- Guidance Documents:
 - Disaster Risk Reduction in School Curricula: Case Studies from Thirty Countries (UNESCO/UNICEF 2012)
 - Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Model School Safety Programme for Caribbean Schools Toolkit

SVG DRR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- **Mainstreaming DRR and CC into the Education Sector in SVG - 2014 – 2017**
- **Goal**
 - Safer and more resilient educational institutions in SVG.
- **Aim**
 - To enhance the knowledge of DRR and CC and promote the safety of educational institutions by including DRR in the planning, decision making and practice of the Education Sector.

SVG DRR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- **Objectives**

1. To improve the location, design and structural safety of educational Institutions
2. To enhance knowledge of disaster risk reduction and climate change
3. To incorporate disaster management in the Education Sector and all educational institutions

LOCATION, DESIGN & STRUCTURAL SAFETY

- Develop guidelines for site selection, design and construction of educational facilities
- Develop guidelines for regular assessment, maintenance and retrofitting of educational facilities
- Conduct risk assessment of educational institutions/schools and make recommendations to improve safety

KNOWLEDGE OF DRR & CC

- DRR/CC Training for administrators in the Ministry, Principals, Staff other stakeholders.
- The integration of DRR and CC in the Curricula of students and in Teachers Training.
- Integrate DRR into co-curricula activities of schools – clubs, assembly, debates, public speaking, posters, drama, other activities and competition
- Non formal education of the community e.g. Adult Ed., PTA, community members.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- School Safety Policy and Institutional Framework for DRR and CC in Education
- Formation of School Safety Committees
- Development of School Safety/Disaster Management Plan
- Conduct Regular Simulation Exercises and Drills
- Review and Update Plans

SVG DRR/CC EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

- Review and enhance the 2009 DRR in Educational Institutional plan and policy
- Develop a programme for Comprehensive School Safety
- Draft National School Safety Policy exists and is to be reviewed
- All school sent letters from the Ministry of Education to encourage the development of school safety committee and school safety plans
- Schools disaster/safety plans have been developed by some schools, (Model plan exist)

SVG DRR/CC EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

- An assessment of the existing curriculum to identify topics that presently disaster risk and climate change.
- Identification of DRR and CC topics that can be infused and integrated on the curriculum.
- Draft TOR to contract consultant to develop lessons for students, and teacher training and resource guide for educators, (In final stages)
- One pilot school received supplies and upgrade as part of a regional model safe school project (CDEMA). This was complemented with fire safety training.

SVG DRR/CC EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

- Some schools conduct emergency drills
- Fire safety training done in several schools
- Disaster Management presentations done in some schools.
- Training with staff of Special Needs School on the development of School Safety Plan.
- DRR training for selected schools in vulnerable locations

SVG DRR/CC EDUCATION: CHALLENGES

- Some schools already in vulnerable locations - relocation costly
- Lack of adequate resources for DRR – financial, staff, transport, admin support
- Most schools are emergency Shelters

SVG DRR/CC EDUCATION PRIORITIES

- Tools (new or existing) to guide the assessment of existing and new schools.
 - Location
 - Design
 - Maintenance and Retrofitting
- All schools have disaster management plans and conduct drills by 2017.
- Integrate and infuse DRR and CCA at all levels across various subjects by 2017

Thank You!

Questions?

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