

2010

National Emergency Management Organization Annual Report



Organisation Structure of NEMO

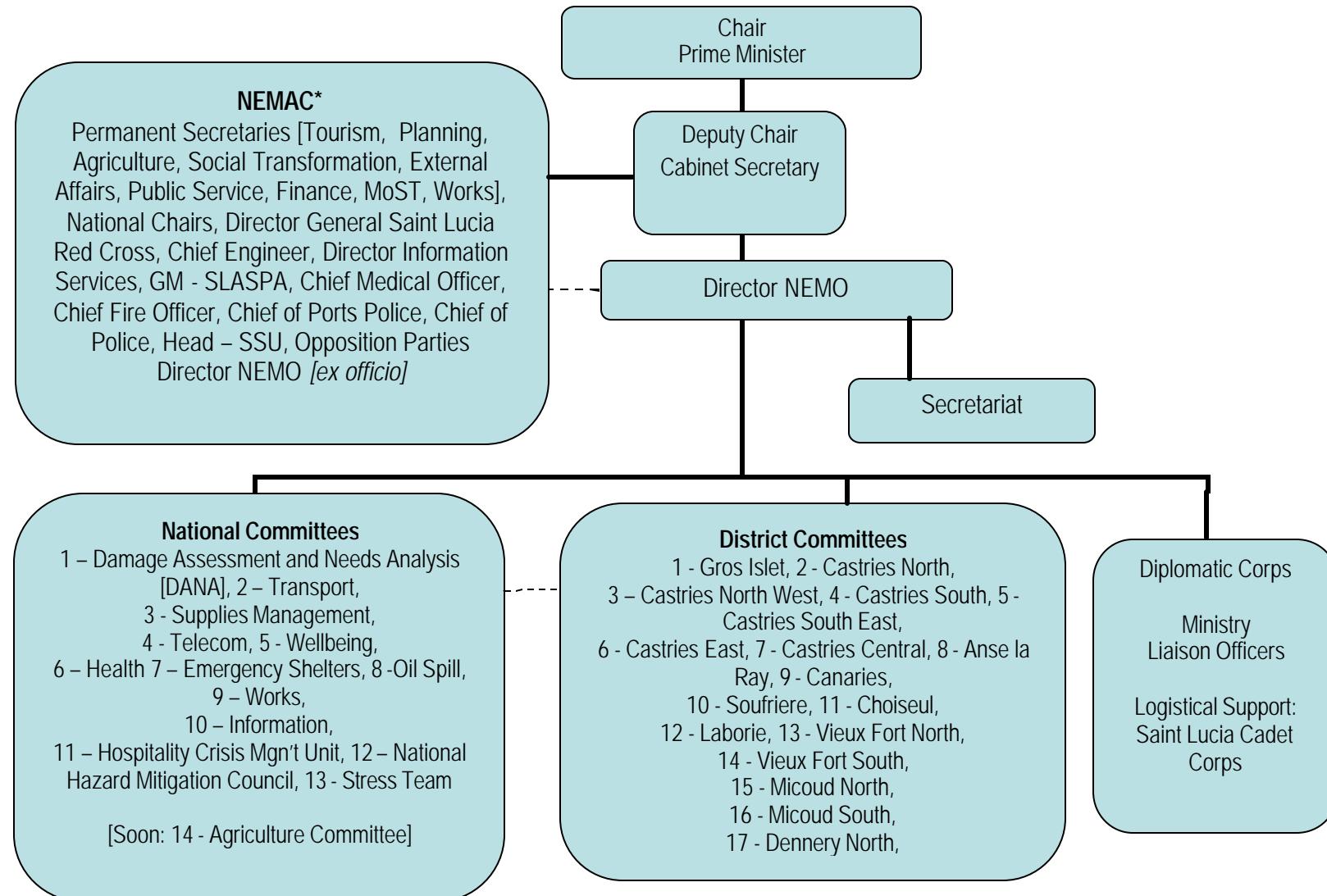


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*Cover Page: NEMO Volunteers in Soufriere after Hurricane Tomas
Photos by NEMO Volunteers*

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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period January to December 2010.

2010 in Saint Lucia proved active as responses from 2009 rolled over into 2010 namely the Dennery flash flood. The Caribbean was soon shocked by the earthquake in Haïti.

As far as the Atlantic Hurricane Season was concerned the forecasts of the various Met Offices proved correct and 2010 was the year Hurricane Tomas devastated the central zone of Saint Lucia eventually killing seven.

THE ORGANIZATION

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) is mandated to have the nation in a state of preparedness deal with any disaster eventuality and to coordinate the response to the impact of any hazard. In pursuit of this mandate NEMO relies upon the support and effort of its eleven (11) National and eighteen (18) District Disaster Management Committees primarily comprising volunteers.

Hazard analysis and experience shows that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to:

- **Rapid Onset/Natural Hazards:** Fire, Seismic, Volcanic, Tsunami [marine and land based], Flooding, Landslide, Storm, Hurricane, Medical
- **Rapid Onset/Manmade Hazards:** Dam Collapse, Explosion, Oil/Chemical Spill, Mass Casualty, Nuclear spill, Civil Unrest
- **Slow Onset/Natural Hazards:** Drought, Famine, Plague;

And although not exhaustive, mitigation of and response to these hazards form the basis for most of our disaster management planning. This planning is guided in great measure by the Hyogo Protocol and the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy, disaster risk reduction instruments which Saint Lucia have expressed commitment to.

The key responsibilities of the NEMO are to:

- Coordinate Disaster response and recovery activities
- Increase the planning activities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen response capabilities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen the planning and response capabilities of the NEMO Secretariat
- Review Disaster Plans for Saint Lucia
- Widen the Disaster Management Network by incorporating new partners
- Increase the mitigation activities of the National and District levels
- Assist with Disaster Plans for Government Ministries
- Advise on Disaster Plans for Private Sector
- Conduct, support and evaluate simulation exercises
- Research and document disaster related activities and events impacting Saint Lucia
- Conduct Public Education activities
- Conduct Volunteer Training

ADMINISTRATION

In 2010 a Training Officer was confirmed. The Officer's work load is a heavy one as he addresses his substantive duties of Training but also seeks to fill the void in the areas of Mass Crowd Events safety and Business Continuity Planning.

And so it is that the inadequacy of NEMO's staffing continues to affect its ability to effectively realize its mandate as the demands of the public increase. In addition to the Director and Deputy Director, NEMO has two other technical officers, (an Inventories Officer and a Training Officer); two administrative staff (a Secretary and an Office Assistant/Driver) and a part-time Janitor. As the Agency endeavours to meet the objectives prescribed by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy, the need to expand the staffing compliment to include Planning Officers and Safety Officers has become increasing imperative.

The lack of staff, the increase of expectations, the increase in projects as well as the budgetary allocations from Central Government are becoming more limited, the NEMO Secretariat will need to target project funding for its programs from external local, regional and international donor Agencies.

In order to effectively do so, Project Development Officers will have to be employed. The inability to source a Project Development Officer means that Saint Lucia is fast approaching the point where participation in capacity building projects shall no longer be possible. It is anticipated that the 2010 National Budget shall address the immediate staffing needs. (See Appendix 3 for the Staffing Needs of the NEMO Secretariat)

PREPAREDNESS

In June 2010 the Prime Minister held his pre hurricane Annual General Meeting of NEMO. Discussions surrounded the apparent lack of preparedness of the Membership. This lack of preparedness was to manifest five months later when Hurricane Tomas struck Saint Lucia.

NEMO has been able to develop a compendium of Disaster Management Policies, Plans and Protocols which collectively make up the Saint Lucia Emergency Management Plan. This is available for perusal on the URL: <http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp>

The Contingency Plan for Civil Unrest was completed and approved by the Government.

The National Emergency Management Plan printed under the Disaster Management Project – Phase 2 (DMP-II) was delivered and distribution to the Chairs of the various commenced. In the meantime with support from traditional partners and new partners specific plans were printed and distributed to the general membership of NEMO. Distribution of the non-technical version of the NEMP continued at every opportunity.

Every Permanent Secretary has been issued with a CD of the plans relevant to their Ministry. The CD is also shared when a new Permanent Secretary assumes duties at a Ministry.

Support from our partners continued as a number of emergency response documents were addressed. (See Appendix 3 for the Projects taking place in Saint Lucia)

The NEMO Secretariat was represented in the planning at the usual events:

1. Jounee Kweole,
2. Carnival 2009,
3. CARIFTA Games 2009
4. Assou Square 2009,
5. Caribbean Marketplace 2009,

With no Officer available to dedicate to the coordination of the Emergency Services and the safety of the public at events, the NEMO Secretariat is unable to meet its mandate at such events. However strategic events are targeted and support given as indicated above.

Simulation Exercises

Support was provided for the organization and/or the execution of a number of simulation exercises inclusive of;

- i. The annual Saint Lucia Air and Seaports Authority Airport Exercise which was held at the Hewanorra International Airport:
- ii. Evacuation drills were conducted and evaluated with an increasing number of Businesses. Government Ministries have also begun to request Evacuation Drills.
- iii. Hess Oil Ltd. oil spill simulation.
- iv. Planning commenced for the Caribe Wave 11 Tsunami Exercise scheduled to take place in March 2010
- v. Annual Exercises of FA HUM and Region Rap

Training

NEMO conducted, supported, facilitated or organized a number of training exercises during the year:

- i. Training for Instructors (TFI)
- ii. Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA)
- iii. Organization Administration Skills Capacity Building Workshop
- iv. Shelter Management Hand Off
- v. School Safety Hand Off
- vi. Advancing Disaster Risk Reduction
- vii. Results Based Management
- viii. Use of Fire Extinguishers
- ix. Business Continuity Planning
- x. Simulation Exercises [Drills, Table Top, Full Scale]

Projects

Saint Lucia continues to benefit from a number of projects: (See Appendix 3 for the Projects taking place in Saint Lucia)

1. **Institutional Support and Capacity Building for Disaster Management in the Caribbean Project¹** - As part of the European Development Fund No 9 ACP RCA 9, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA now CDEMA) implemented a three (3) year project that provided institutional and capacity building support for disaster management in the Caribbean.

The project started August 13, 2007 and ended December 31, 2010 one component was for Disaster management legislation and regulations developed in support of CDM.
2. **Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project²** - The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS-OAS), with the support of the World Bank, is the executing agency for the Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project (CELP). The objective of the project is to build legislative capacity to enhance legal and institutional frameworks for state of emergency and budget appropriation in eleven CARICOM countries and the Dominican Republic. Further, the project aims to make recommendations on how to improve legislative channels and administrative procedures during, and immediately after, the occurrence of a natural disaster.
3. **Schools Safety Program** – The School Safety Program is being promoted by USAID/OFDA a partner in risk management planning. It is focused on the formulation of strategies for addressing school safety and requires broad community participation and involvement in school safety planning, the development of model plans and the replication of best practices. The program was presented to and received the endorsement of the Ministry of Education. A Committee has been setup to coordinate and promote the implementation of the program.
4. **Special Program on Adaptation to Climate Change [SPACC]** – NEMO continued as a partner in GEF-World Bank sponsored SPACC. NEMO collaborated with the Sustainable Development Section on the SPACC by providing a structure, the Castries East Satellite Emergency Supplies Warehouse, for retrofitting to *climate change specifications* under the Project. It shall serve as model for information sharing.
5. **Caribbean Disaster Management Project [CADM] Phase 2** – The CADM is a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sponsored project which aims at hardening the resilience of the CDERA member states to floods. During the year a Country visit was conducted by the sponsors and consultants and the project contract signed by the Government. Various components of the project are to be implemented during the ensuing year.

¹ <http://www.cdera.org/projects/erdf/index.php>

² <http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentLaw/CaribbeanLegislationProject/DefaultCLP.htm>

6. **Earthquake Readiness Capacity Building Project** – Although not one of the pilot states for this project, Saint Lucia's earthquake readiness capacity was assessed with interesting preliminary results. A number of recommendations are being made with the aim of building resilience to earthquakes within the Region. The draft assessment was circulated for comments and the final is soon to be released. The expected outcomes under this project are:
 - i. An Earthquake Preparedness assessment
 - ii. Improved capacity for Earthquake contingency planning
 - iii. An Earthquake Awareness and Education Initiative.
7. **The Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for Risk Management in the Caribbean Tourism Sector** – Funding for the Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for Risk Management in the Caribbean Tourism Sector, a follow-up project to the Regional Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean Project was secured by CDERA from Inter-American development Bank. This project will aim to implement the products developed under the former project. Though approved during this year it is expected to be implemented during the ensuing year.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Annual Report

The Annual Report shall continue to be distributed to a list of over 200 persons and agencies, including public libraries. It will also available via the Internet at <http://stlucia.gov.lc>

Website

A website dedicated to disaster management in Saint Lucia remains an illusive goal. The URL www.nemo.gov.lc which hosted a list of links is now no longer available. With the assistance of the Government Information Service the Annual Report, National Emergency Management Plan, Model Disaster Plans and the Mass Crowd Events Guidelines are hosted on their website. Editing of any kind cannot be done by the NEMO Secretariat. Maintenance must be done through the GIS also PSAs, print material and advice is not available to the public.

Notwithstanding the constraints the internet is also used as a clearing house for the application forms needed to host a Mass Crowd Event. The site <http://stlucia.gov.lc/mce> hosts application forms and information from agencies such as the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, Solid Waste Management Authority and the Labour Department to name a few.

Presentations

A number of disaster awareness and sensitization presentations were conducted for school principals, churches, youth groups, communities and public and private sector agencies over the year.

Press Releases

Utilizing the Yahoo! eGroups, NEMO distributes its Press Releases via emails to the media, the GIS and a number of interested individuals. The matrix below gives an idea of production

trends. The archives are public and may be accessed online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/slunemo>

Additionally, the NEMO Secretariat and the District Committees continued public information sharing and sensitization utilizing TV, Radio, Newspapers as well as Town Hall Meetings. It has been realized that although the citizens do increasingly consider the information imparted, the increase has been much too slow.

DISASTER EVENTS

Saint Lucia recorded the following:

Drought

On Tuesday 5th January 2010 the Saint Lucia Met Service issued a report indicating that Saint Lucia may be in the early stages of the onset of a drought.

Sunken Ship at Moule á Chique

On Sunday February 21, 2010 between 10pm and 12midnight a cargo vessel MV Ageln sank in 105feet of water approximately 1mile off Moule á Chique.

Fire at Petit Piton

The fire at Petit Piton was first observed on Monday March 1st 2010, at about 10:30 AM, when smoke was seen originating from the summit.

Pandemic Influenza

Saint Lucia continued to monitor the H1N1 virus as Mexican officials confirmed the first mutation of the A(H1N1) flu virus in a girl who had first survived the infection.

Oil Spill

A spill of a pollutant occurred in the Corinth River on March 16, 2010. The National Oil Spills Committee was activated and responded.

Oil Spill

On April 20, 2010 the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana killing 11 workers. Thousands of barrels of oil, as well as gas spewed for weeks from a deepwater well in the Gulf of Mexico. The entire Caribbean including Saint Lucia monitored the situation. A response in saint Lucia was not needed.

Hurricane Tomas

On October 30/31, 2010 Saint Lucia was hit by Hurricane Tomas. The central zone [from East to West] was severely impacted.

NEXT STEPS

Simulations:

1. The Annual Airport Exercise is scheduled for October 2011 at George Charles Airport

2. The Annual Regional Communications Exercise Region Rap is scheduled for June 2011
3. The Regional Tsunami Exercise called Caribe Wave 11 is scheduled for March 2011

Preparedness:

1. Review of the response to Hurricane Tomas.
2. In collaboration with CDEMA a public education campaign to educate the public on tsunamis is scheduled to be launched in 2011
3. The testing of a Tsunami Training Package for the National Tsunami Focal Point and the alternates was scheduled for November 2010 but had to be rescheduled for 2011.
4. Trainings and meetings shall continue.

CONCLUSION

As stated in previous annual reports NEMO shall continue to work toward achieving its mandate of having the Nation prepared for a disaster, with efforts such as training, PSAs, capacity building projects and the development of guidelines and strategies. With respect to disaster risk management, the stresses on capacity and resources effective actualization are becoming increasingly and more glaringly acute; increasing NEMO's staff compliment needs to be made a priority.

NEMO's continues to strive for improvements and over the years the Office and Organisation continue to have:

1. The need for Disaster Risk Management to be mainstreamed. A Five Year Strategic Plan has been crafted. With 2010 being an election year the Five Year Strategic Plan has been shared with the four political parties.³
2. The need for hosting and maintaining a website with relevant disaster management information Discussions have been held for possible accommodation by the Government of Saint Lucia Web services provider but the lack of a viable website remains a challenge.
3. The Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006 has been assented to. What is needed now are regulations
4. The need to review and consider signing the Organization of American States (OAS) '*Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance*' and the '*Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations*'

Original signed by Dawn French

.....
A. L. DAWN FRENCH
Director – NEMO

³ United Workers Party, Saint Lucia Labour Party, Organisation of National Empowerment and Lucian People's Movement

Appendices

Appendix 1: Annual Reports of District Disaster Committees

Appendix 1a: Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Reporting Officer – Jennifer Gaston (Chairperson)

The Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee participated in a number of training exercises and meetings held by NEMO during the year 2010. The Committee was represented by its members in the following:

1. Stress Management
2. Damage Assessment
3. Meetings with the JICA Consultant regarding the Flooding in the Corinth District
4. Shelter Management
5. Disaster Management
6. Tsunamis Training/Exercise
7. One member conducted training for Disaster management on behalf of NEMO

The committee ensured that the following were prepared:

1. MOU Business houses/Gas Stations
2. Listing of Shelters/Supplies
3. Communication/Ham Radios GI Fire Station
4. HQ in Emergency – GI Fire Station
5. Plans for the Corinth, Rodney Bay, Cap Estate & Monchy
6. Town Hall/Community/NEMO Meetings
7. Working with the Gros Islet Town Council re preparation

The Committee continues to work with Ms. Garcia on the Corinth Flooding issues and the Evacuation plan for the residents. Meetings with the Committee and the Residents were held in 2010. A site visit was also done by members of the Committee and Ministry of Communication & Works in preparation of the Plan and issues relating to the flow of water.

The Committee conducted meetings in the different communities and fishermen within the Gros Islet Constituency (Monchy, Grand Reviere, Corinth, Gros Islet) to update and forward information on:

1. Evacuation process
2. Shelters
3. Waves and effects
4. Tree trimmings

Visits to all Shelters within the Districts where done to ensure all was in place to accommodate victims in the event of a Disaster as well as meetings with the Shelter Management Team. All

School Principals and Church Administrators must be commended on their co-operation regarding the use of their facilities.

The Committee participated/assisted NEMO in the following:

1. International Cricket – Members were onsite to ensure assistance in the event of a Disaster.
2. Mass Crowd/Public Events within the Gros Islet Area
3. Assessments of the different communities following Hurricane Tomas

The Committee is still faced with the following challenges:

1. Flooding in the Gros Islet, Rodney Bay, Bois d'Orange and Corinth community. Due to the lack of drainage (cleaning of drains), residents continue to experience flooding with heavy rains especially after Hurricane Tomas.
2. The lack of preparedness by residents are also an issue as some damages are done through lack of tree trimming, drain cleaning and ensuring that roofs are secured.
3. The Committee recommends that the different Government Agencies/Ministry ensure that these issues are dealt with.

The members of the Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee as part of its year programme undertook a number of trips through the jurisdiction of Gros Islet to access areas which are vulnerable to damage due to heavy rains or Hurricanes. Two assessment trips were conducted after the Hurricane Tomas and a report submitted to NEMO regarding damages and needs.

The Committee would like to focus on the major flooding which is presently affecting the residence of Bois d'Orange and Corinth with assistance from Government and other Agencies. The Committee will continue with its education programme to update and inform residents on plans and process.

The Committee continues to have its regular meetings every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month during the Hurricane Season and the 1st Wednesday of the month outside of the Hurricane Season. Communications is done via emails and presentations to update members of plans and issues affecting the District. The Committee would like to extend its Thanks and Appreciation to its members, Fire Service for their commitment and all the Business and Community individuals who have assisted in ensuring that it can function effectively.

Appendix 1b: Soufriere Disaster Committee

Reporting Officer: Simone Mondesir

Preparedness

Committee members received training in the following:

- Shelter Management
- Disaster Preparedness
- First Aid & CPR from St. Johns Ambulance
- Proposal writing
- DANA

Public Education

- Committee meetings
- Lecture to teachers of the Soufriere Comprehensive School on Disaster Preparedness
- Distribution of education materials to students, on Family Emergency plans

Emergency Responses

The Soufriere Disaster Committee was confronted with the challenge of responding to hurricane Tomas. Members and volunteers, Police and the Fire service assisted in search & rescue, evacuation of victims, damage assessment, transportation of food supplies and water and also assisted at the various shelters, caring for children and the elderly.

Challenges

The lack of preparedness by the community, “they don’t listen to warnings”. A lot of damage was done through lack of cutting and trimming of trees, drain cleaning and ensuring that roofs are secured. Lack of trained personnel to manage shelters at the different locations.

Way Forward

Disaster risk reduction is about saving lives and livelihoods by changing people’s mindset. It is about shifting from response to prevention and reducing communities’ vulnerability.

April – June:

Preparation for 2011 hurricane Season

Lessons Learned:

- **Public Education on Tsunami**
- **Exhibitions and community meeting in and around Soufriere**

July – September:

Training in Disaster Management, First Aid and CPR for new volunteers

October – December

Business continuity workshop for small business owners. Preparation of new hazard maps for Soufriere and Fond St. Jacques

Appendix 1c: Babonneau Disaster Committee

Disaster Preparedness Committee Annual Report.

AREA: Babonneau

Date of Report: March 4, 2011

The Committee's first meeting for the year was in the month of March. At that meeting a works schedule to guide the activities of the group was drawn up.

Activities included in the work schedule were:

1. Sensitization programme to cover the schools, churches, health clinics and communities.
2. Identifying and recording hazards within the communities
3. Identifying and recording all disabled and older persons within the communities who lived alone.
4. Renewal of contracts with shops and service providers.
5. Training for committee members.
6. Ensure that all sub committees were in place.
7. Inspection of shelters and review of shelters list.
8. Election of a new Executive to run the affairs of the group.

Activities engaged in during 2010

The Committee held regular meetings through the year and the sensitization meetings were held in the communities of Cocoa Girard, Plateau, Balata, Paix Bouche and Garrand/Resinard. Presentations were also made at the Babonneau, Fond Assau and La Guerre Health facilities. The Gospel Baptist Church as well as the S.D.A churches in Boguis and Cocoa Girard as well as the Deliverance Pentecostal Churches benefited from the programme. The sensitization programme was to give basic tips to persons on their role and responsibilities in the prevention, mitigation and preparation process as it relates to disasters. Information was given on the location of shelters and that the Committee would try not to open any shelter prior to a hurricane. Persons were asked to make their house safe and if they felt it was not safe enough, to seek shelter with relatives or friends before the hurricane.

The programme participants were about 200 persons. Information on vulnerable persons was collected at every meeting.

In preparation for the 2010 hurricane season, the Committee through NEMO signed contracts with five supermarkets (located in various communities within Babonneau), one Shell service station as well as four heavy equipment/truck owners and a caterer.

The election for the new executive was scheduled for the month of November but due to hurricane Tomas this activity never materialized. Efforts were concentrated on the relief effort. The Committee worked closely with NEMO in the distribution of relief supplies. Distribution was done in communities, through the Health Centres as well as at the Council's Office. Distribution was supervised by committee members. The committee also got supplies from the St. Lucia Red Cross.

Training

In collaboration with the St. Lucia Red Cross, a vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) was done in the community of Des Barras. The training was done over a period of 4 months and a Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) was established.

This process also started in the community of Balata. Training is completed but the graduation ceremony has not taken place.

Future Plans

1. Sensitization programme to be continued. Continue process of collecting relevant information on communities.
 2. Renewal of contracts.
 3. Election of a new executive for committee
 4. Continue with the revitalization of sub committees
 5. Training for members.
 6. With the assistance of the St. Lucia Red Cross, conduct VCA in at least one community (to be identified)
 7. Work closely with Community Disaster Response Teams.
 8. Tour of designated shelters. Recommend buildings to be used as designated shelters.
 9. Dialogue with school principals to resolve the issue of shelter managers within schools.
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Appendix 2: Annual Reports of National Disaster Committees

Appendix 2a: Emergency Shelters Committee

NAME OF AGENCY/COMMITTEE: Shelter Management

Report for the period January – December, 2010

Name of Report Officer: Augusta Ifill (Chair)

Training Exercises:

Last year January –December 2010, shelter managers took part in the following:

- Train the trainers workshop for shelter managers

Public Education:

Public education continues to be via the media. Names and locations of all Emergency shelters were published in newspapers as well as guidelines for correct use of shelters. The National Television Network (NTN) played a pivoted role in disseminating information as well.

Guidelines were also published regarding the following:

- Items required for use at shelters

- Prohibited and non prohibited items at shelters

Individual District Disaster Committees held meetings at the district level.

Emergency Response:

The year in review 2010 was an extremely busy one in terms of shelter responses.

1. Dennery Flooding

First, there was the flash flooding in the Dennery village where many homes and schools in the low lying areas were completely flooded leaving all appliances and furniture damaged. Homes and schools were filled with thick layers of mud and silt left behind as the river overflowed its banks. This meant that at least one shelter had to be activated albeit for a short period of time, to enable cleanup and restoration of homes.

2. Hurricane Tomas

The eye of Hurricane Tomas a category 2 hurricane passed south of the southern tip of St. Lucia on the night of October 30, 2010. Tomas left a trail of destruction in its path. Roads, water supply, electrical infrastructure, schools and homes were destroyed and worst of all was the loss of at least 7 lives.

Nineteen (19) shelters were activated from Castries to VieuxFort with an initial overall total of 462 persons. Eight of the 19 shelters were in Soufriere / Fond St. Jacques which had the bulk of the population (329).

Because of the magnitude of the emergency, there were buildings that were not officially designated shelters as well as some private residence that were used as shelters. By mid November about sixty six (66) persons were accommodated in tents erected on the Fond St. Jacques field. Deactivation of shelters began about the second week in November with every effort made to obtain schools for reopening. Shelters were all deactivated by the 20th Dec 2010.

Challenges:

The biggest challenge continues to be co-ordination with the District Disaster Committees. These committees play a pivotal role in the shelter management process since they are onsite when an emergency arises and they know the needs of the community. Since these are voluntary groups it is often difficult to get them to attend meetings with the Chair prior to a disaster. Members of the Shelter Management Committee themselves are also reluctant to attend meetings. This implies that in the event of a disaster such as Tomas some of the shelter managers were ill prepared for their roles and in some cases this created confusion at some shelters. Persons who were not part of the district disaster committees offered to help but in every effort to “help themselves”.

It was difficult to get reliable data from the shelters after Tomas.

Recommendations/Way Forward

- Reorganization of District disaster Committees (assisted by Town Councils) including names and mobile numbers of all persons for submission to NEMO
- Meeting of District Chairs and shelter personnel with School Principal/School Shelter Managers
- Clearly define roles of all key players
- Review of National Emergency Shelter Plan with all key players

Appendix 3: Annual Reports of the Government Liaison Officers

Appendix 3a: Ministry of Education and Culture **ANNUAL REPORT for 2010**

Reporting Officer: Ann Jean Baptiste

PREPAREDNESS

Ministry personnel and NEMO Liaison Officer received training in the following areas during the year:

- Shelter Management Hand Off
- School Safety Hand Off
- Advancing Disaster Risk Reduction
- Results Based Management
- Use of Fire Extinguishers

Simulation Exercises

The Internal Disaster Committee of the Ministry of Education and Culture continues to generate awareness among staff on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that ought to be exercised in the event of an emergency. In 2010 committee members met with staff of individual units to sensitise persons on the Standard Operating Procedures for evacuating the building in the event of an emergency. In those sessions, staff members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and provide suggestions for amendment to the SOPs. Subsequently, the procedures were revised to incorporate changes. The committee continues to work closely with the National Insurance Corporation (NIC) Disaster Committee in planning simulation exercises for tenants of the Francis Compton building on the Waterfront. On February 23, 2011 the NIC conducted an evacuation drill for all tenants in the building. An assessment of the exercise was undertaken by all agencies to further revise their respective SOPs for evacuation.

In 2010, the Internal Disaster Committee reviewed the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and made the necessary adjustments to reflect resource capacity of the Ministry of Education to respond to an emergency on location. The revised COOP will be circulated to all Heads of Department for comments before finalization. The finalised draft of the COOP will be forwarded to the Permanent Secretary for comments and approval and subsequently to NEMO for validation.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education is cognizant of the immense benefits that can be derived when school and community partner in undertaking initiatives. In that regard, the Ministry of Education through the support of USAID/OFDA, has strengthened its capacity to advance the School Safety initiative within the school system. In 2010, three persons were trained to conduct the training locally. Community consultations will form a critical component as this initiative is implemented throughout the school system.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Hurricane Tomas

The passage of Hurricane Tomas on October 31, 2010 with its high sustained winds and heavy incessant rain caused massive flooding and landslides all over the island. As a result, there was extensive damage to the education sector. The hurricane ravaged school buildings, including roofs, windows, equipment, furniture, supplies, instructional materials, electrical appliances, water tanks, fencing, playgrounds and access roads. In the aftermath, many schools were left extremely vulnerable to other potential landslides. As a result of this hurricane, principals, teachers, ancillary staff and students also experienced tremendous individual losses. Some lost their homes, personal belongings, books, school uniforms and even loved ones. In the aftermath of Hurricane Tomas, schools remained closed for approximately three weeks.

Response to the recovery process within the education sector from corporate donors and international agencies was overwhelming. To facilitate this process the NEMO Liaison Officer worked on assignment in the Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) at the NEMO Headquarters for a two week period. In response to the water shortage immediately after the hurricane, the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) made available water tanks to all schools to augment their water storage capacity.

Emergency Shelters

In the aftermath of Hurricane Tomas emergency shelters in the most affected areas had to be activated. Consequently, the following schools were used to accommodate displaced persons: Ti Roche Combined, Bexon Infant, Vide Bouteille Secondary, and Fond St. Jacques Combined. In some cases, alternative accommodation had to be secured for sheltrees to facilitate the reopening of schools. An assessment of schools used as shelters will be conducted to ascertain their eligibility as shelters.

CHALLENGES

The workload of school principals allows very little time to pursue a structured and proactive approach to school safety and emergency planning. In addition, budgetary allocation to address disaster preparedness issues at both the Ministry and school levels has not been given consideration. Consequently, the sustainability of initiatives in the area of disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction remains a challenge.

WAY FORWARD

The Ministry of Education will in 2011 institute measures to generate greater awareness of disaster risk reduction through the School Safety Programme. In this regard, the Ministry will focus on the following:

- Conduct consultations with principals, teachers, students and other residents of Districts 7 & 8 on issues of school safety in the Soufriere and Choiseul areas.
- Conduct school visits in collaboration with NEMO to monitor and provide the requisite support for the implementation of strategies garnered from the School Safety Programme.
- Ensure that every school develops and make available emergency and evacuation plans

- Conduct training in school safety for principals and teachers.
 - Provide guidance on Disaster Planning and Management in the formulation of a Design Guide for Primary Schools.
 - Develop Draft National School Safety Policy to incorporate feedback from consultations as well as examples of best practice in the region.
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Appendix 3b: Forestry Department

Annual Report (2010) on Disaster Management

Name of Reporting Officer: John David Lewis

Preparedness

Capacity building;

- The Forestry Department's Mapping Unit in collaboration with the Watershed and Research Unit, within the same department, facilitated GPS training activities for junior and senior Forestry technicians, as well as WASCO and Water Resources personnel.
- In collaboration with the Saint Lucia Fire Service, the Forestry Department developed and submitted to NEMO, a comprehensive budget for securing funding to procure Wild-Fire, Fire Fighting Equipment, to obtain wild-fire fighting, training and to implement a public awareness campaign to assist in sensitizing the public, on the impacts of wildfires.
- The Forestry Department was and is actively involved, with a regional and international network, The Caribbean/Florida Fire and Invasive Species Learning Network, and is the liaison for Saint Lucia. Forestry coordinated activities, in order that two other agency's representatives, the Saint Lucia fire Service and the Saint Lucia National Trust, as well as the Forestry department, attended a one week workshop on the subject of wildfires and invasive species management. (December)
- The Forestry Department developed, internal wildfire and drought management plans and hurricane disaster management plans.
- The Forestry Department requested from government, at least five chainsaws, and received those chainsaws.

Public Education

- The Forestry Department facilitated many meetings, both internal and collaborative, with external agencies, dealing with issues related to drought, wildfire, and hurricane, and pollution management. Agencies collaborated with were, NEMO, Ministry of

Social transformation, the Saint Lucia Fire Service, WASCO, the Saint Lucia Police Force Water Resources Management Agency etc.

- The Forestry participated in inter-ministerial/stakeholder consultations, meetings and field exercises to discuss and collectively arrive at appropriate solutions to problems. These activities involved agencies mentioned above and more, for example Ministry of Communications and Works, Ministry of Physical Development, Planning and the Environment etc.
- The Forestry Department initiated and participated in media activities, electronic, print and iterative. Television and Radio interviews and panel discussions, preparation of newspaper articles, information posted on department's website.

Emergency Responses

Hurricane Tomas

- The Forestry Department, were one of the first responders, when Hurricane Tomas devastated parts of Saint Lucia, involved in, chainsaw activity as regards, clearing of roads, rivers and other waterways.
- The Forestry Department was intricately involved in the 2010 drought situation, experienced by Saint Lucia, participating in activities dealing with the identification of alternate water sources.
- The Forestry Department was also involved in responding to wildfires during the dry season, for example, collecting GPS points at wildfire hot spots, to facilitate mapping and the development of early warning systems.

Challenges

- The Forestry Department needs to develop its capacity (human resources, technical capacity, financial resources) in order to improve its efficiency, as regards disaster management.
- The Forestry Department in consultation with the Water Resources Management Agency, Metrological Services and the Saint Lucia Fire service started work in relation to the development of early warning systems for wildfires, landslides.

Way Forward

- The Forestry Department, although, requires, multiple capacity development components, and apart from obvious and fundamental activities, which has to be embarked upon, would also like to see the Wildfire Management Budget submitted to NEMO in 2010, be approved for funding.

**Appendix 3c: Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Investment
ANNUAL REPORT for 2010**

Name of Reporting Officer: **Beatrice Mac Donald .Deputy Permanent Secretary**

1. PREPAREDNESS:

Training your Committee/Agency took part in:

- One staff member attended the workshop on Continuity of Operations

3. EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- The Ministry was engaged in Hurricane Tomas Relief Efforts by establishing links with overseas missions, donor organizations and governments to obtain assistance for Saint Lucia.
- Attended the NEMAC pre and post Hurricane season meetings

4. CHALLENGES

- The Ministry is now located in new premises and is unaware of the Disaster management plan for the building;
- Difficulty in arranging a meeting to discuss disaster management for the new office.

5. WAY FORWARD

- Arrange a meeting with the Landlord to identify the disaster management plan for the building
- Organize a simulation exercise for the staff of the Ministry. This will be done in conjunction with NEMO and the Fire Department
- Review our Disaster Management Plan to make it relevant to our new premises (circulate the revised plan to members).
- Organize a short session on the disaster management for the staff

Appendix 3d: Saint Lucia Cadet Corps

Name of Reporting Officer: Captain Sean Wells, Corps Disaster Officer

3 EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- a. Duty station at:*
 - i. Saint Lucia Jazz*
 - ii. Cricket Matches*

- b. Response to*
 - i. Dennery Flash Flood*
 - ii. Hurricane Tomas*

4 CHALLENGES

There is a need for:

- a. Uniforms and boots,*
- b. Head Quarters*
- c. Release of officers for National Service*

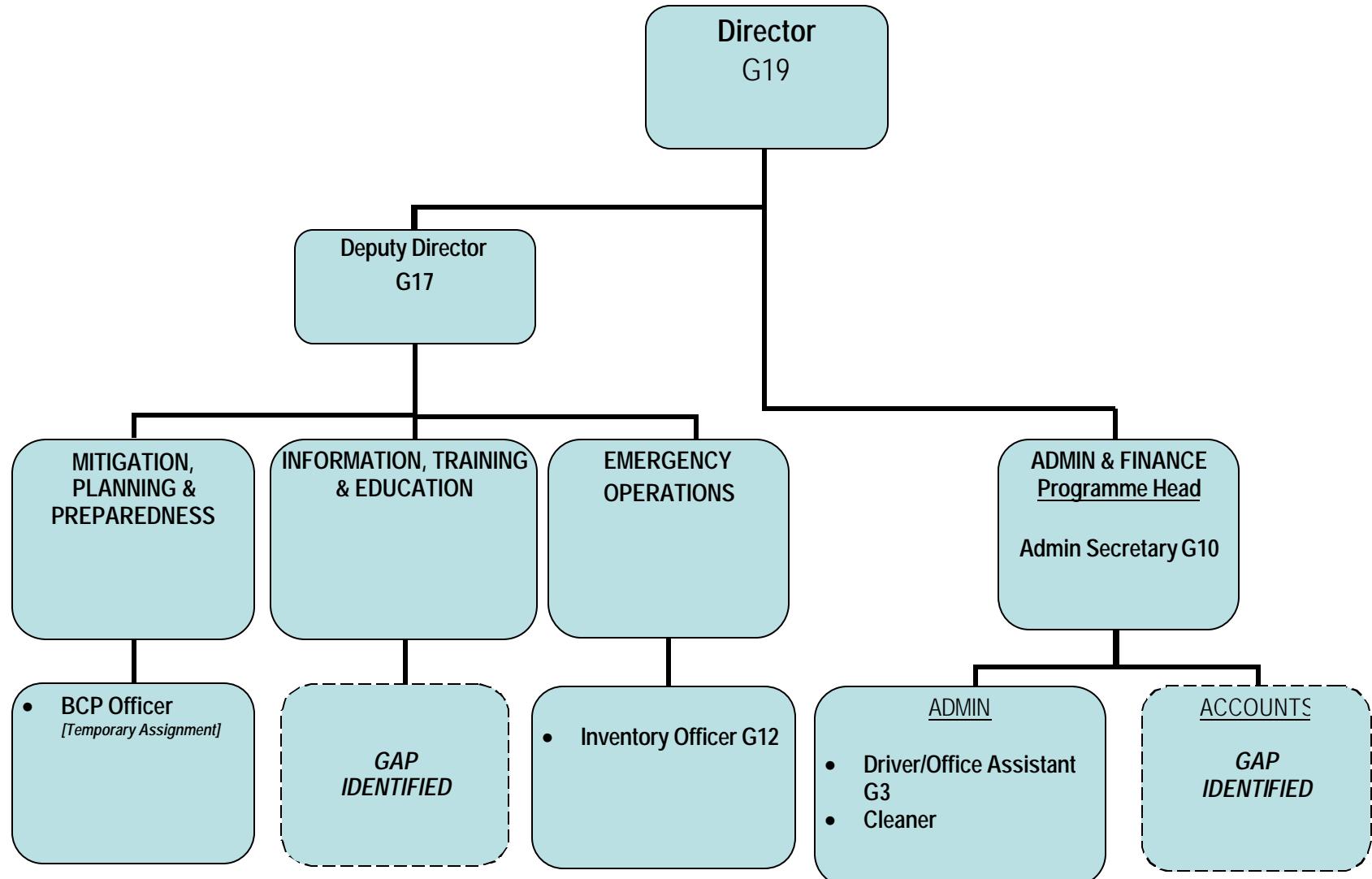
5 WAY FORWARD

The Corps would appreciate training in

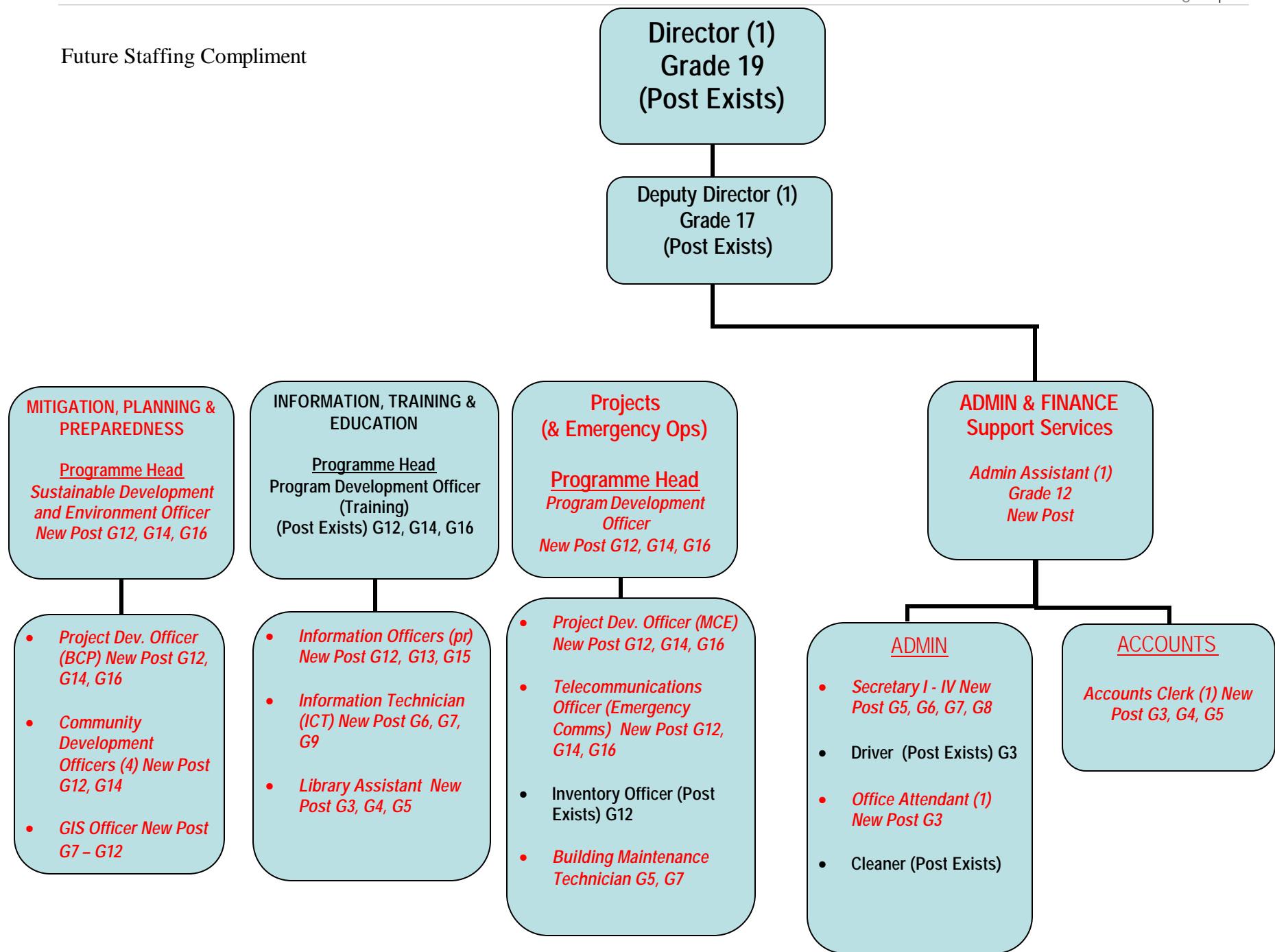
- a. Search & Rescue*
- b. Re-training in ICS, EOC Management etc*

Appendix 4: Staffing needs of NEMO

Present Staffing Compliment



Future Staffing Compliment



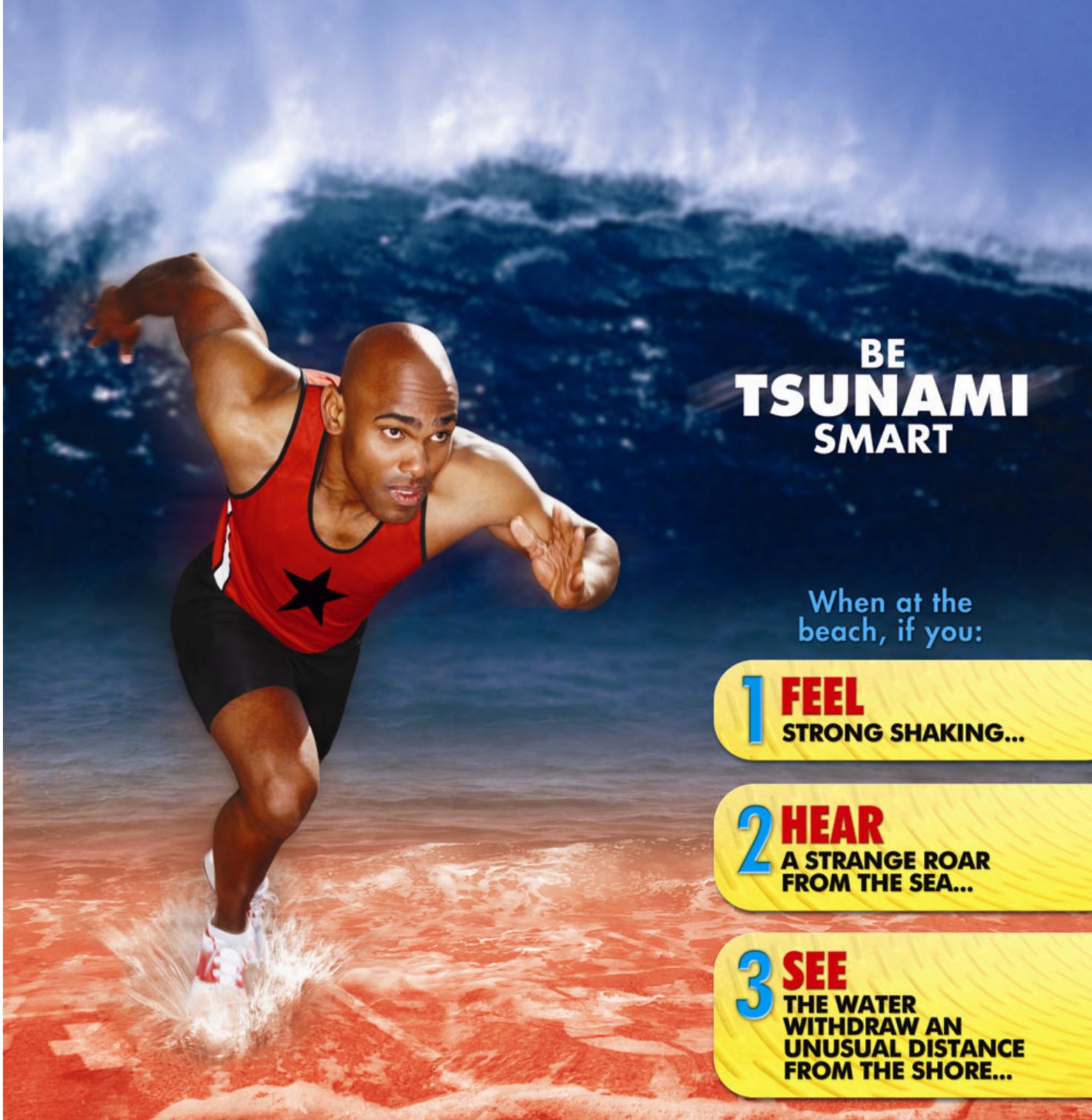
Appendix 5: DRR Elements and Roles⁴

		Pre-Disaster			Disaster/ Emergency	Post-Disaster	
Level	Actors	Prevention	Mitigation	Preparedness	Response	Recovery	Development
Community	District Disaster Committees	Prepare hazard map and disseminate the information	Encourage vulnerability assessment at house hold level.	With the Council prepare Evacuation Plans and disseminate the information	Respond in keeping with the National Plan: SAR, SSM, IDA	Distribute resources as laid out in the National Plan	Advise on how to reduce vulnerability [structural and non-structural]
	NGOs	Provide training	Encourage vulnerability assessment at house hold level.	Carry out awareness campaigns.	Deploy personnel in keeping with the National Plan.	Provide Psychological Counseling and support.	Define local priorities to reduce vulnerability [structural and non-structural]
	CBOs, FBOs etc.	With the District Disaster Committees prepare hazard map and disseminate the information	Encourage vulnerability assessment at house hold level.	Carry out awareness campaigns.	Tap into customary solidarity networks	With the District Disaster Committees mobilise community for joint action.	Provide moral support and advice.

⁴ Modeled upon DRM Systems Analysis: A Guide Book by FAO - 2008

	Micro Financial Agencies	Undertake risk analysis	Promote risk reducing practices.	Spread risk across portfolio	Assist with IDA	Arrange loan rescheduling and other special activities	Integrate DRM in development activities.
District	Local Government	Develop local disaster prevention plan	Promote multi sectoral integrated approaches to DRM	In collaboration with NEMO Secretariat prepare Contingency Plans with the business sector.	Assist Emergency Management Corps in the distribution of resources	Implement Food for Work and Rehabilitation programs	Promote risk reducing practices.
		Undertake risk analysis	Solicit technical assistance on risk reduction.	With the District Disaster Committees prepare Evacuation Plans and disseminate the information	Deploy resources in keeping with the National Plan.	Promote sector specific recovery process.	With the District Disaster Committees prepare risk maps and disseminate the information
National	National Government	Establish EWS, infrastructure, to address various hazards.	Promulgate Building Code and safety regulations.	Prepare National Emergency Management Plan.	Declare Disaster or State of Emergency	Establish emergency and recovery fund.	Prepare Codes for Conduct in relief and development.
		Establish legal and policy framework for	Promulgate Mitigation Action Plan	Treat DRM as an inclusive activity	Coordinate response in keeping with	Promote sector specific recovery	Promote the activation and use of the

		DRM, to address various hazards.	and attendant fund.		National Plan	process.	Mitigation Fund.
		Provide training	Provide technical assistance on risk reduction.	Preposition Resources	Deploy resources in keeping with National Plan	Distribute resources as laid out in the National Plan	Promote the activation and use of the Mitigation Fund.
	Financial Agencies	Undertake risk analysis	Promote risk reducing practices.	Spread risk across portfolio	Assist with IDA	Arrange loan rescheduling and other special activities	Integrate DRM in development activities.
International	Donor Agencies	Raise awareness of DRM	Ensure quality in donor funded infrastructure projects.	Treat DRM as an inclusive activity	Mobilise financial aid as grants and long term loans.	Fund Food for Work and Rehabilitation programs	Mainstream DRM activities in Development Planning
	Development Partners	Provide training	Provide technical assistance on risk reduction.	Preposition Resources	Deploy resources	Distribute resources as laid out in the National Plan	Advise on how to reduce vulnerability [structural and non-structural]



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A STRANGE ROAR
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3 SEE
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