

Saint Lucia

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)

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Outcomes for 2007-2009

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Outcomes:

Activities (targeting both public and private sectors, and civil society) was undertaken to mainstream the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy into the overall planning process including legislative review.

A Draft 5-year work plan was prepared to promote the CDM Strategy as well as to include the Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change studies undertaken for all productive sectors.

A Partnership was established with the Bristol University to adopt low cost strategies aimed at reducing the disaster risk of vulnerable poor communities.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Outcomes:

A Programme was pursued, targeting public and private sector agencies and community volunteers; it aimed to sensitise, train and help them develop continuity of operations plans as well as to conduct regular emergency exercises.

A new National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was constructed and furnished.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Outcomes:

A Draft Recovery Plan was completed and one (1) review activity held.

Legislative amendments were proposed which incorporated issues related to recovery and reconstruction.

Strategic goals

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies mainstreamed into national (public and private sector) development programmes: to include planning, approval, monitoring and enforcement. The Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy will be the main driver in this process.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Strengthened capacity of District Disaster Preparedness Committees, Social Agencies and private and public sector organizations to build resilience by incorporating hazard risk reduction and post disaster recovery strategies.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Policies and Plans developed and mechanisms established and institutionalized for effective post disaster community recovery and reconstruction.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

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

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is DRR included in development plans and strategies?

Yes

Means of verification:

* No: National development plan

* Yes: Sector strategies and plans

> National Emergency Management Plan (Sector Plan) (2010)

<http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/#SectorPlans>

* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy

> Saint Lucia's Second Communication on Climate Change being implemented (Project Proposal)

(2010) http://ncsp.undp.org/sites/default/files/Saint_Lucia_SNC_Prodoc.pdf
> Saint Lucia's Initial Communication on Climate Change (2000)
http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13471_natcomst.lucia.pdf [PDF 3.93 MB]
> Saint Lucia National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan (2003)
http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13471_nccpolicyadaptation27june200302.pdf [PDF 268.37 KB]

* Yes: Poverty reduction strategy papers

* No: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Description:

The 2007 -2009 HFA Assessment includes a listing of a number of laws enacted, and regional and international conventions to which St. Lucia is a party. In addition the following advances have also been made:

- The Disaster Management Act # 30/2006 came into effect in 2009. It is currently under review to incorporate the institutionalizing of the CDM.
- National Emergency Management Plan continues to be upgraded.
- National Water Policy adopted and approved.
- A Coastal Zone Management Plan developed and approved.
- 2nd National Communications for Climate Change addressed.
- National Land Policy developed
- Special Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC) pursued.
- Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR) undertaken.

Given these expressed commitments Saint Lucia's intentions regarding DRR are clearly articulated.

Context & Constraints:

Absence of spirit of volunteerism on which DRR is built.

Lack of capacity (human) for promoting DRR.

DRR Champions need to be identified/developed and mechanisms established to motivate individuals to become volunteers within the DRR network.

Reference document:

> Poverty Reduction Fund Act (2002)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13471_povertyreductionfundactcap.16.pdf [PDF 70.89 KB]

Related links:

> A Review of Saint Lucias Agricultural Policies

http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community/agribusiness_forum/agri_policy_st_lucia.pdf

> Saint Lucia National Land Policy <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/docs/NationalLandPolicy.pdf>

> Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan <http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp>

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Unknown % allocated from national budget
- * Unknown USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund
- * Unknown USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)
- * Unknown USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)
- * Unknown USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

Direct annual budget for DRR actives is approximately US\$200,000 which is the recurrent budget for the National Emergency Management Organization's administration; Support Agencies such as the Ministry of Physical Development and the Ministry of Communications & Works also have budgetary allocations which would indirectly address many DRR concerns, however specific allocations are not available. The country is now signatory to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) agreement. Although financial contributions have increased, so has the level of assistance available to the country from this Agency.

In the area of electrical power supply there are allocated funds through the Caribbean Electric Utilities Services Corporation (CARILEC) [a Caribbean Association of Electricity Companies] annual membership which cater for post disaster reconstruction. Resources (human, in-kind and financial) are made available to rebuild the electricity network at all levels. Also in existence is insurance of the system.

Context & Constraints:

In the National Budget negotiations, various departments are vying for very limited available resources for public sector programs based on national priorities and political influence. Thus many important programs and activities do not attract adequate financing. Further, staffing constraints limit the ability of NEMO to develop funding proposals seeking support from external sources.

With respect to electrical power, one challenge is in obtaining insurance coverage for the Transmission and Distribution network. However self insurance is currently being considered.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Legislation

* No: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

The NEMO organizational structure allows for the involvement of Community Development Officers as Ex-Officio members of the District Disaster Management Committees. The Local Government Councils are also intergral to the functioning of the District Committees.

The day-to-day operations of the Local Government Councils involves addressing DRR concerns on an on-going basis.

However volunteers are the primary actors in Community Disaster Management Operations in Saint Lucia.

Context & Constraints:

The challenge for the NEMO mechanism is the level of attrition of trained individuals relative to the rate at which they get trained; thus there is the need for enhanced training for the volunteers. Further many agencies are of the view the DRR is the business of NEMO; to realize behavioral and attitudinal changes in the realm of Disaster Management, the understanding and appreciation of these agencies are of paramount importance.

The lack of dedication / commitment by community members (volunteers) is also increasingly becoming a challenge.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are civil society organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform?

No

Means of verification:

* 0 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 0 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

* 0 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

Description:

NEMO continues to promote DRR approaches however the actual implementation of policies is challenged by a lack of commitment, to varying extents, among multi sectoral agencies.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need for more awareness raising and education among multisectoral agencies and the public in general on the principles of DRR. Lack of capacity with regard to preparedness, mitigation and risk transfer is also a major issue.

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 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: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

> Status of Hazard Maps, Vulnerability Assessments and Digital Maps for Saint Lucia (2003)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13471_saintluciahmvdadm.pdf [PDF 76.61 KB]

> TAOS Statistical Analysis Package (TSAP) Report for Saint Lucia (2005)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13471_stluciatsap.pdf [PDF 583.27 KB]

> Saint Lucia Risk Register (2006) <http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/general/NationalRiskRegister2006.pdf>

> B-Tool Assessment Report (2009) <http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/general/BToolReport.pdf>

> Bench Marking Tool (2009) <http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/general/BtoolFAQ.pdf>

* Unknown % of schools and hospitals assessed

* Unknown schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

The importance of the vulnerability assessments and other tools identified in the previous 2007-2009 HFA report are recognized but the responsible agencies are faced with human capacity and other resource constraints which have affected their ability to utilize these.

Some risk assessments have been conducted but not all hazards have been mapped for the country. Also the resolution (1:25,000) of some of the available maps may not be appropriate for the required level of decision-making.

Some schools and hospitals have, been assessed for some hazards.

Context & Constraints:

The development of multi-hazard risk assessments may be constrained by the unavailability of requisite resources; however, human capacity constraints may be overcome through training.

Further, development planners need to be motivated to utilize developed risk assessments to inform their decision making.

There is also need for the sensitization of policy makers and middle managers to the importance and need for DRR.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Disaster loss database

* No: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

The Saint Lucia Met Service (SLMS) provides a 24 hour weather monitoring and forecasting service supported by the National Hurricane Center in Miami and other regional and international weather institutions and networks. The SLMS maintains an archive of weather data collected from multiple manned and automatic platforms in various time scales (minutes, hourly, daily, etc). Comprehensive archive of local effects e.g. floods level and area, extent of wind damage (area and severity) etc need to be established. Weather data is disseminated on various networks in accordance with established regulations. Improvements in local dissemination are necessary especially in real time.

The Seismic Research Centre (SRC) based at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad monitors seismic (volcanoes and earthquakes) activity in Saint Lucia. There are 7 seismic monitoring stations on the island. The SRC archives seismic data which is available online. A local database/archive of seismic activity would improve the current system.

Work towards establishing a Tsunami Early Warning System is currently ongoing at the local, regional and international level. A Tsunami National Focal Point and Contact Point have been identified and efforts are ongoing for establishing community level warning mechanisms and protocols, which should be completed soon. Currently there are two wave and sea level monitoring stations within Saint Lucian territorial waters one of which is owned by the French government. Data from these sensors is expected to all feed into the Global Tsunami Monitoring Network.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Quarantine Department has a system in place to deal with biological risks.

The Ministry of Health has a surveillance system in place for monitoring for infectious diseases.

Context & Constraints:

Comprehensive national multi hazard database / archive should be established with protocols and mechanisms to inform the local and regional DRR effort.

Mechanisms for the systemic research, recording and analysis of the hazards which have impacted Saint Lucia and the impacts of these hazards need to be established.

Effort should be made to encourage Saint Lucian graduate and under-graduate students to undertake research focused on disaster mitigation, response and preparedness.

Related links:

> Seismic Research Unit <http://www.uwiseismic.com/>

> Saint Lucia Met Office <http://www.slumet.gov.lc/>

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Early warnings acted on effectively
- * Yes: Local level preparedness
- * Yes: Communication systems and protocols
- * No: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

A functional early warning system is in place for weather related hazards and volcanoes down to the community level; however, this level of functionality should apply to early warning of other hazards. A comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system needs to be established to address all deficiencies in current systems. Although efforts are afoot to establish an early warning system for tsunami on a national scale and for floods due to rain on a community level. These are both being pursued under regionally promoted projects.

Some monitoring of infectious diseases is currently being undertaken.

Context & Constraints:

Early warning systems is not applicable to all hazards and the country is challenged by the unavailability of adequate resources (human and financial) to establish and maintain a multi hazard (including monitoring for infectious diseases) early warning system.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 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: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
 - > Comprehensive Disaster Management (2005)

http://www.cdema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=62&Itemid=81
- * Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- * Yes: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms

* Yes: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

Regional co-operation exists in disaster risk reduction, as Saint Lucia is a member of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) a regional disaster management organization. A security agreement 'the Regional Security System (RSS)' also provides security and other support in disaster response. An MOU with Martinique caters for the provision of air-lift for medical evacuations from Saint Lucia to Martinique and other such air services by the Martinique military.

Seismic activity in Saint Lucia and the other CDERA Participating States is being monitored by the Seismic Monitoring Unit in Trinidad.

Avian Influenza (and other infectious diseases) monitoring and testing is being conducted on a regional basis by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO); thus the confirmation of the initial suspicion of any outbreak is done by this regional agency.

Regional and international institutions such as the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), etc. have undertaken regional programs and projects with DRR themes encouraging collaboration and shared learning.

Context & Constraints:

Financial resources to sustain and improve the existing systems remain a challenge for national governments.

Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 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: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?

No

Means of verification:

* Yes: Web page of national disaster information system

> Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan (2009) <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/nemp>

* No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

Information is generally available and accessible as all forms of media is used to reach the target audiences. This includes TV, posters, newspapers, radio, internet, text messaging, libraries, town criers, loud hailers, fliers, etc. However being sensitized informed does not guarantee any change in attitudes and behavior.

Context & Constraints:

The actual challenge is how to derive behavioral change from the myriad attempts at public awareness and education. Continued use needs to be made of the formal education system and media practitioners need to see behavioral change as opposed to information sharing as the ultimate goal. Technological advances including web based information systems need to be utilised to ensure that not only is the information properly archived but the intended public need to be made aware of its existence and motivated to use it.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Primary school curriculum

* Yes: Secondary school curriculum

* No: University curriculum

* No: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

A Safer Buildings Program is being taught at a tertiary level institution. With the support of USAID-Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) a 'Safer Schools Program' is being introduced into the Saint Lucia Education System and a Safer Schools Policy is being developed.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need to incorporate DRR concepts and ideas into the primary, secondary and tertiary level schools beyond what has been achieved so far. These concepts may be made part of the Social Studies syllabus and DRR examples may be used to build content for subjects such as English Language and Mathematics.

Further, undergraduate and graduate scholars need to be encouraged to undertake research in DRR topics relevant to Saint Lucia.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget?

Yes

* Yes: Research outputs, products or studies

> Saint Lucia Wind Guidelines (2008)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13471_sluwind.guidelines.pdf [PDF 1.08 MB]

> Climate Change Technology Needs Assessment for Saint Lucia (2004)

<http://unfccc.int/ttclear/pdf/TNA/Saint%20Lucia/Climate%20Change%20Technology%20Needs%20Assessment%20for%20Saint%20Lucia.pdf>

* Yes: Research programmes and projects

* Yes: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:

Studies have been undertaken (including modeling, mapping for sea level rise using various climate change scenarios) to improve the knowledge base with respect to disaster risk.

Coastal habitat mapping has also been completed and this can enhance knowledge of vulnerable areas.

Projects are on-going (Investment and Financial Flows for Climate Change) and on financial and economic costs of adapting to the impacts of climate change

Context & Constraints:

A number of initiatives are donor-driven and although of national value may not be synchronised with national priorities and available capacity.

There is need for some mechanism for transitioning from donor-driven projects to programs and sustainable activities in the area of DRR.

Reference document:

> Coastal Capital - Economic Valuation of Coral Reefs in Tobago and Saint Lucia (2008)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13471_coastalcapital.pdf [PDF 1.00 MB]

Related links:

> Coastal Habitat Research Project Inception Report

http://www.bananatrustslu.com/doccentre/Coastal_Habitat_Mapping_Project/Inception%20Report.pdf

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Public education campaigns.

* Yes: Training of local government

* No: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

NEMO continues to provide Public Service Announcements (PSA's), both audio and video for all major hazards to all major media houses for public sensitization. Ad-hoc expert presentations are done for specific hazards via radio and TV; and NEMO staff and volunteers also engage in presentations to communities, public and private sector agencies and town hall meetings sensitizing citizens to DRR.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need to engage in more educational activities where a change in people's behavior is the goal; and further these educational activities need to be organized and conducted in a structured and systematic way, with clear objectives, targets and goals. Thus, the development and execution of a DRR Public Awareness and Education program need to be pursued, with greater use being made of experts in the relevant fields

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 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:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc)

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Protected areas legislation
- * No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- * No: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)
- * Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)
- * Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes
 - > Climate Change Policy <http://www.climatechange.gov.lc/lpolicy.htm>
 - > Saint Lucia's first Communication on Climate Change (2005)
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/lucnc1.pdf>

Description:

DRR is not always the integral objective of the related plans and programmes although by their very existence DRR is implied. Protected areas legislation does not afford adequate protection or restoration to mangroves and wetlands and although a number of strides have been made with respect to coastal zone management integrated development planning is not currently practiced.

Further the political approval system is such that the recommendations from EIAs are sometimes circumvented.

Context & Constraints:

The development and approval of policies and plans is only part of the resolution. Commitment to and the enforcement of these policies, plans and regulations is a grave issue; for example the enforcement of existing regulations regarding land use planning is a challenge and both with respect to human capacity and cultural mores.

Related links:

> Saint Lucias Climate Change Web Site <http://www.climatechange.gov.lc>

> Saint Lucias First Communication on CLimate Change <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/lucnc1.pdf>

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities?

No

Means of verification:

* Yes: Crop and property insurance

* No: Employment guarantee schemes

* No: Conditional cash transfers

* No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes

* Yes: Microfinance

* No: Micro insurance

Description:

Efforts have been made to develop a Social Policy; however it is yet to be approved. Notwithstanding a number of Government and private sector agencies and non-governmental organizations are involved in the implementation of social interventions with DRR considerations. Some of these include:

The Poverty Reduction Fund

The Basic Needs Trust Fund

National Community Foundation

Ministry of Social Transformation

Further, policies and plans for response to Avian Influenza and such other possible pandemics are currently being developed.

Context & Constraints:

The supporting resources and in some instances commitment by the decision makers for realizing these policies and plans are absent. Thus there is need to source the resources to support these initiatives. Also there is a need to target the more immediate issues of poverty such as food security and persons' employability, in an effort to elevate DRR issues on the scale of priorities.

Related links:

> Social Protection Review

<http://www.stats.gov.lc/ST%20LUCIA%20%20SOCIAL%20PROTECTION%20OCTOBER%20%202004.pdf>

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment?

No

Means of verification:

* No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

* Yes: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

General insurance coverage for Hurricane and Seismic impacts has been secured under the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Scheme (CCRIF).

Some investment has been undertaken to retrofit some schools and other critical facilities like the main hospital and police stations; however the systematic protection of the economic and productive sectors (re: DRR) is still lacking.

Context & Constraints:

Policy makers apparent lack of appreciation for DRR considerations at all levels is a challenge which may be surmounted by DRR cost-benefit presentations being made to them.

Related links:

> Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility <http://www.ccrif.org/>

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas

* Yes: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas

* Yes: Training of masons on safe construction technology

* Yes: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:

The Physical Planning and Development Act covers some DRR considerations and requires the enforcement of some building codes; it also allows for the review of development plans by NEMO where DRR considerations may be addressed. The Ministry of Housing undertakes some regularizing of squatter settlements in the country under the Project for the Regularization of Unplanned Developments (PROUD) and in its activities it does consider DRR issues.

Context & Constraints:

The existing building codes need revision and update. Additionally they need to be enforced more stringently.

The Development Control Authority need to solicit input from relevant expert Agencies more frequently, when they review development plans, to facilitate more effective decision making.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5

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

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR?

No

Means of verification:

* 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

* No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

Investment in the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) provides some level of funding, when the Country qualifies for a payout; however there is no explicit budget for DRR in post-disaster recovery programmes.

A Recovery Plan is being developed.

Context & Constraints:

It took Grenadians about 7 months (of suffering) before they were able to establish a Recovery Agency after they were impacted by Hurricane Ivan in 2005. Such experiences need to be used to impress upon the policy makers of the need to establish post-disaster recovery mechanisms with the requisite budget support.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

* Yes: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Description:

The current development approval process requires that the Environmental Impact Assessments be conducted for development proposals of a certain size and / or locates in certain locales.

With respect to electrical power supply, one of the company targets is to assess the level of impact its operations has on the environment. This has to do with the impact of fuel oil, lubricating oil and transformer oil leakage into the environment, and the extent of tree clearing undertaken and tree replanting exercise.

Construction standards exist to guide the manner in which the electricity system is constructed, and maintained, to withstand category 3 hurricane force wind.

Context & Constraints:

Although conducted, the risk assessment are not always respected in its entirety and recommendations are no always conformed to. Enforcement is often times a challenge.

One challenge faced is that of deforestation to run power lines. To minimize tree cutting tree conductors are increasingly used in forested areas.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 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:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

* Yes: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:

A Schools Safety Programme has been endorsed and is being developed. Emergency Contingency Plans have been developed for all Medical Facilities.

Context & Constraints:

Though slow the process of 'hardening' medical facilities and schools is on-going. These programmes are being promoted and funded under both local and regional projects.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 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:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities
 - > Disaster Management Act (2009) <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/general/30of2006.pdf>
 - > National Emergency Management Plan (2009) <http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp>
- * Yes: Operations and communications centre
- * Yes: Search and rescue teams
- * Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies
- * Yes: Shelters
- * Yes: Secure medical facilities
- * No: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:

A National Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and 18 District EOC's exist to support response to District and National disasters. Urban Search and Rescue (SAR) Teams exist within the Saint Lucia Fire Service and Marine SAR Teams within the Police Marine Unit. Most Schools, Churches and some Community Public Buildings are used as Emergency Shelters. These are inspected annually to ascertain their appropriateness to be used as shelters. Satellite Warehouses are located in each District (18) with a stock of emergency supplies and equipment to facilitate quick local response.

NEMO continues promoting the development of contingency plans for various hazards for the Country as well as encouraging many public and private sector agencies to develop their contingency and continuity of operations plans.

Few drills and emergency exercises are held. Annually NEMO supports an exercise with the Air and Sea ports Authority and participates in two regional exercises; however, other exercises are held and participated in on a more ad-hoc basis.

Context & Constraints:

There is need for the enhancement of the stock of supplies pre-positioned in the Districts. Further, the shelters should be hardened to better serve in Hurricanes and Storms.

Agencies without contingency plans need to be encouraged to develop these plans. More drills and exercises need to be organized; however the resources required do so need to be provided.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: National contingency funds

* Yes: Catastrophe insurance facilities

* No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

An allocation is made from the National Consolidated Fund for the initial response to any declared disaster. This allocation is augmented based on the magnitude of impact and the scale of the response. Saint Lucia, being a CDEMA Participating State makes an initial pre-agreed contribution to any impacted member; additional contributions (in-kind or finance) would usually follow.

Saint Lucia's investment in the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) also provides some finances for initial response, based on the magnitude of impact of Hurricanes and Earthquakes and will soon be covering excessive rainfall.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need for better recovery planning, including the need for the allocation of funding for recovery activities.

Related links:

> Caribbean Disaster Management Emergency Agency <http://www.cdema.org/>

> Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility <http://www.ccrif.org/>

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
> Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Policy (2007)
<http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/policies/DANAPolicy.pdf>

* Yes: Post disaster need assessment methodologies
> DANA Plan <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/plans/DANAPlan.pdf>

* No: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects

* Yes: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

Within the National Disaster Response Mechanism, eighteen district committees all report to the NEMO Secretariat. Communication is maintained via VHF, HF & CB radios and telephone, text messaging and email. Additionally, a National Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) Committee is provided information by eighteen district level DANA committees. These committees are responsible for making the required assessments pre and post disaster events.

Context & Constraints:

The capacity of these district committees needs to be enhanced and additional administrative staff needs to be provided at the NEMO Secretariat to support the activities of the National and District Committees.

Drivers of Progress

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

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

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?:

No

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

Reports exist for some hazards; A volcanic atlas exists for the subregion. Not currently being used for development planning or informing policy but may be useful for response.

Caribbean (Guyana to tip of Florida) marine atlas includes terrestrial and marine data and information on vulnerability to cyclones and seismic influences. There is need for more data to be collected and made available; and an even greater need for it to be utilized to inform decision making.

Related links:

> Drought Hazard Maps for Saint Lucia <http://www.drmonline.net/drmlibrary/droughtsaintlucia/index.htm>
> Volcanic Hazard Atlas Supplement <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/plans/ScientificSupplement.pdf>

> Volcanic Hazard Atlas <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/nemp/plans/VolcanicHazardAssessment.pdf>

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

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

Framework for Action on Gender and Disaster Management is being developed by the Division of Gender Relations (through the OECS Secretariat) and this will guide the work within the public sector with regard to disasters and its impacts on vulnerable groups.

In disaster response planning, information regarding gender demographics is usually taken from the National Census Statistics to guide certain activities which make it important to consider gender issues to ensure equity.

Related links:

> Statistics Department <http://www.stats.gov.lc/>

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

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

Some capacity exists but it needs to be enhanced, as it appears to be ancillary to some other key function (e.g. Technical Officers of the Ministry of Communications & Works would give some consideration to DRR approaches in the day-to-day activities, but the main concern would be the maintenance of national infrastructure). There is need for a more systematic approach to providing capacity for risk reduction and recovery, and DRR generally.

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

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

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

Some attention has been given to providing for vulnerable persons in disaster response planning. For example District Committees maintain inventories of persons who would need assistance to evacuate (such as the elderly, disabled, etc.) and confirm that arrangements are in place for providing them with shelter in the event of a hazard impact.

Additionally, shelters are opened in communities for access by the homeless and 'street-people' after Hurricanes or Storm Warnings have been issued.

However, more needs to be done to cater for more of the needs of and more vulnerable persons

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

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

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

Most agencies have been targeted with varying levels of cooperation and support; however most agencies have been sensitized. There is a need for more effective education regarding DRR thus the process need to progress from sensitization to behavioral change.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

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

The Climate Change (CC) focus is being used as a driver to promote DRR activities; hence in the advancement of many CC programmes, it is ensured that DRR initiatives are effectively considered.

Additional context specific drivers of Progress # 1**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Drivers of Progress:

Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy

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

The CDM Strategy is being used as a vehicle to advance DRR at the National Level; however there is need for a National Champion to ensure that there is buy-in at the policy and political levels.

Additional context specific drivers of Progress # 2**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Drivers of Progress:

The Impact of current Events

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

The impacts of current events affecting the region could be used as educational and other material for advancing DRR. Response to H1N1, Hurricane Ivan in Grenada, the earthquake in Haiti, etc. could all be used to advance minimizing the impacts of such events on us, in a coordinated, systematic and meaningful manner.

Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

The key is achieving behavioral change in society with respect to DRR. Effort and resources need to be provided for realizing that objective.

There is a need for information/knowledge on mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Management;
The provision of funding for training in Disaster Management is a necessity.

Future Outlook Statement:

Given adequate resources and training a more comprehensive contribution could be made by the Division of Gender Relations in advocating for Gender mainstreaming. The Division of Gender Relations is working with NEMO to ensure that gender issues are fully integrated into the CDM Strategy.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

Resources to facilitate training and the sharing of knowledge at the community level continue to be a challenge. The issue of poverty also challenges households' ability to make DRR a priority in the struggle for survival.

Future Outlook Statement:

There is need for some community resilience building initiatives, not currently seen as Central Government responsibilities, to now be considered as such; as in response to disasters the vulnerable structures belonging to the poor, that are impacted, are usually repaired/replaced by Government, at cost greater than that for their initial retrofitting.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

The availability of resources and the ability of the regulators to enforce the requisite building codes are the key challenges.

Future Outlook Statement:

These concerns could be addressed in great measure by the strengthening of the Physical Planning System and Regulations.

Stakeholders

Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

- * National Emergency Management Organization (Gov) - Julian Du Bois, Deputy Director
- * Development Control Authority (Gov) - David Desir, Planning Officer
- * Ministry of Physical Planning (Gov) - David Alphonse, Planning Officer
- * Saint Lucia Electricity Services Ltd. (Private) - Michael Thomas
- * Adventist Development and Relief Agency (NGO) - Figuhr Fabien
- * Ministry of Health (Gov) - Kerri Mills
- * Division of Gender Relations (Gov) - Lindy Eristhee
- * Budget Office, Ministry of Finance (Gov) - Marcus Antoine
- * Saint Lucia Red Cross (UN & Intl) - Hubert Pierre
- * Saint Lucia Meteorological Services (Gov) - Thomas Auguste
- * Ministry of Social Transformation (Gov) - Martha Blanchard
- * Soufriere District Disaster Preparedness Committee (NGO) - Simone Mondesir
- * CARITAS Antilles, Arch-diocese of Castries (NGO) - Marcia Boxill
- * Sustainable Development & Environment Division (Gov) - Judith Ephraim
- * Consultant (Acad & Research) - Deborah Bushell