
2013 Annual Report

Trough on the National Emergency Management System of Saint Lucia

2013 Annual Report on the National Emergency Management System of Saint Lucia

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	5
THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	5
<i>NEMS Structure</i>	5
ACHIEVEMENTS.....	5
<i>Staffing (Core)</i>	5
<i>Staffing (NICE)</i>	6
<i>Reports</i>	6
<i>Collaborations</i>	7
<i>Reviews</i>	7
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MEASURERS.....	7
<i>Trainings & Meetings</i>	7
<i>Information Management</i>	7
<i>Early Warning Systems</i>	8
PROGRAM AREAS.....	8
<i>Program Area: Admin and Finance</i>	8
<i>Program Area: Maintenance</i>	9
EVENTS OF 2013	11
<i>Dry Event</i>	11
<i>April Rain</i>	12
<i>May Rain</i>	12
<i>Tropical Storm Chantal</i>	12
<i>Tyre Fire</i>	13
<i>Christmas Eve Trough</i>	13
CHALLENGES.....	14
WAY FORWARD	15
<i>Staffing</i>	16
<i>Mitigation</i>	16
CONCLUSION	16
COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 2013.....	18
INTRODUCTION.....	19
NATIONAL DISASTER COMMITTEES	19
<i>Emergency Shelters National Committee</i>	19
<i>NEMO Auxiliary Corps</i>	21

DISTRICT DISASTER COMMITTEES	22
<i>Gros Islet Disaster Committee</i>	22
<i>Choiseul Disaster Committee</i>	24
<i>Laborie Disaster Committee</i>	26
<i>Babonneau Disaster Committee</i>	27
<i>Soufriere Disaster Committee</i>	28
<i>Vieux Fort/South Disaster Committee</i>	29
LIAISON OFFICERS	31
<i>Ministry of Education</i>	31
<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>	33
<i>Ministry of Tourism</i>	35
<i>Saint Lucia Fire Service</i>	38
<i>Attorney General's Chambers</i>	40
<i>Ministry of Health</i>	40
<i>Royal Saint Lucia Police Force</i>	42
<i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i>	43
<i>Ministry of External Affairs</i>	44
<i>Office of the Prime Minister</i>	45
<i>Ministry of Infrastructure</i>	45
<i>Ministry of Social Transformation</i>	46
APPENDICES	49
APPENDIX 1: SECRETARIAT ANNUAL BUDGET	49
APPENDIX 2: SECRETARIAT STAFFING NEEDS.....	50
NOTES.....	51
GOVERNMENT'S BLUE PRINT FOR GROWTH	52
PILLAR 3:.....	52
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.....	52

Introduction

This is the fourteenth annual report and is a requirement of the Disaster Management Act of 2006. The annual report of the various sections of NEMO presents the national progress in the areas of mitigation and where needed response and recovery.

This report covers the period January to December 2013.

Each year Saint Lucia faces a diverse set of hazards that challenge the collective to prepare and eventually respond to. These hazards increasingly have the potential to cause significant loss of life and property, as well as serious damage to the environment and the economy. At the same time, the national and regional interdependencies resulting from globalization increase Saint Lucia's vulnerability to the impacts of events caused by natural and technological hazards both at home, and abroad.

The National Emergency Management System

NEMS Structure

The National Emergency Management System of Saint Lucia is made up of the following components:

- The National Emergency Management Advisory Committee
- The National and District Disaster Committees
- The National Emergency Management Organisation Secretariat

All of which are supported by the Disaster Management Act and the National Emergency Management Plan. These many components work together to develop, test and implement adequate measures to protect the population of Saint Lucia from the physical, social, environmental and economic effects of both natural and man-made disasters. Its responsibility is to ensure the efficient functioning of preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response actions.

The vision of the NEMS is to have;

A nation highly resilient to hazard impacts and adaptable to hazard risks.

Achievements

Staffing (Core)

- Deputy Director – For the entire period under review the office remained without a Deputy Director.
- Communications Specialist - There was a reassignment of a number of information officers and technicians out of the Government Information Service into other ministries. Despite written and verbal requests, NEMO was not provided with a Communications Officer.

- Accounts Clerk – The Administrative Secretary is not trained for the duties of accountancy and continues to be overburdened with an increasing demand from the Accounts Department and the Treasury Department.

Staffing (NICE)

Under the National Initiative for the Creation of Employment (NICE), the contracts for the three temporary officers assigned to the NEMO Secretariat were renewed. They are:

- Mass Crowd Events Officer
- Assistant Librarian
- Office Clerk

All are assigned to NEMO on one year contracts; it is the hope that the Office of the Prime Minister as the parent Ministry for NEMO may find a way to have these temporary officers become full time.

Reports

1. Annual Country Report -- In keeping with the Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006, an Annual Report is prepared, for forwarding to the Prime Minister, on the Disaster Management activities.

The Disaster Management Act 30 of 2006 has set deadlines.

Annual Report

10.— (2) The Director shall submit the Annual Report to the Minister and shall, on or before 1st June in every year, publish the Annual Report in the Gazette.

2. Annual Tsunami Report – As a member of the Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission Saint Lucia took part in the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS-VI) in the Dominican Republic. All member states are expected to submit a country report. The latest reports from Saint Lucia as well as past reports are hosted at <http://nemo.gov.lc>

3. Country Report: Hyogo Framework of Action – This country report is prepared every two years.

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses. It was developed and agreed on with the many partners needed to reduce disaster risk - governments, international agencies, disaster experts and many others - bringing them into a common system of coordination. The HFA outlines five priorities for action, and offers guiding principles and practical means for achieving disaster resilience. Its goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 by building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. This means reducing loss of lives and social, economic, and environmental assets when hazards strike.¹

¹ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa>

Collaborations

School Safety Program: this is led by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with USAID/OFDA, however many of NEMOs members provide strong support to the program.

Reviews

During the year under review strategies were examined for effectiveness towards the improvement of the emergency response. These included reviews of:

- *Guidelines for National Recovery Plan*
- *Disaster Management Act*
- *Mass Crowd Events Bill*
- *National Emergency Management Plan (Hydro-Met Sections)*

Disaster Preparedness Measurers

Trainings & Meetings

The NEMO Secretariat and its members attended a number of training sessions and meetings both in Saint Lucia and abroad. Some of these sessions include:

1. CDEMA Annual General Meeting in Belize
2. CDEMA Technical Working groups (Planning, Climate Change etc.)
3. Series of Technical Missions with World Bank
 - a. Hurricane Tomas Reconstruction Project
 - b. Review of DMP II
 - c. Pilot Program for Climate Resilience/ Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project [PPCR/DVRP]
4. Series of Meetings hosted with the Ministry of Education on the CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme - Living Schools and Emergency Response Capacity Building
5. CARIBE Wave 2014 Tsunami Regional Simulation Exercise
6. With CDEMA CU, assisted with Missions to Jamaica and Bahamas for review of the National Evacuation Plans
7. Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions in Trinidad
8. Seventh Annual CDM Conference in Jamaica

Information Management

1. Documentation Centre - With assistance of the National Initiative for the Creation of Employment (NICE) the NEMO Secretariat benefited with the hiring of an Assistant Librarian for a second year ending September, 2014.
2. It remains a significant challenge to maintain the contact data base of the members of NEMO as many times assignments change and the information on the replacement officer is not imparted.

3. During the period under review there was shuffle of Permanent Secretaries as well as the hiring of new Permanent Secretaries, they were all written to with the standard welcome memo. The memo described their role and that of their ministry in the National Emergency Management System.

Early Warning Systems

Together with the Government of Japan and CDEMA the Community of Corinth completed a three year program that allowed the community to benefit from a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS). Together with CDEMA work has begun on a similar system on the Soufriere River. In 2013 the topographical survey was completed. In 2014 modelling of the flood zone is expected to take place.

PROGRAM AREAS

Program Area: Admin and Finance

1. **Achievements for the period under review: January - December, 2013**
 - a. During the period under review, staff members of the NEMO Secretariat participated in a three (3) day training exercise in First Aid/CPR from April 3-5th, 2013. This training was organized by St. John's.
 - b. In May 2013, Ms. Patricia St. Croix, the Administrative Secretary at NEMO proceeded on pre-retirement leave and was replaced by Ms. Kim Bradley.
 - c. July 2013 Ms. Zinni Cowing, was assigned as a Volunteer with our organisation for the period July-August, 2013.
 - d. During the period July - September, 2013 Mr. Nabi Tomy, student intern studying in Trinidad, was assigned to N.E.M.O. through the Ministry of the Public Service, Summer Employment Programme from July - September, 2013.
 - e. In December 2013, Ms. Diane Popo, student of the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School was assigned to NEMO for three (3) weeks on a Job Evaluation Programme.
2. **Social Activities**
 - a. In October 2013, the Staff of NEMO held their Jounen Kweyol activity with a breakfast and lunch. Later that year, members of staff participated in an exchange of gifts and a drink up activity to celebrate the festive season.
3. **Challenges**
 - a. Lack of communication from Ministries - NEMO is not informed when there are staff changes e.g. when Government Liaison Officers are transferred and as a result the NEMO contacts database system is not updated and this creates a challenge.
 - b. There should be more staff meetings for staff of NEMO
4. **Targets for the next period (January - December 2014)**
 - a. Liaise with Ministries/Departments to ensure NEMO contacts are updated

- b. Appointment of a temporary Accounts Clerk to handle the financial matters of the organization will undoubtedly ease the workload experienced by support staff, especially during the times of disasters.
- c. Organizing more training sessions for members of staff, not only in the areas of disaster management, but in other areas such as Customer Relations, Interpersonal Relations, etc.
- d. Monthly staff meetings should be held in order to keep staff updated on any latest developments
- e. It is hoped that the temporary appointment of the Clerical Assistant under the NICE programme will be appointed as permanent staff

Program Area: Maintenance

ACHIEVEMENT

In 2013, the Operations and maintenance department at NEMO accomplished the following:

- Three ceiling extractor fans were installed in the main NEMO Warehouse to reduce the extreme heat in the building.
- LIME Saint Lucia installed, in kind, of four network points (internet and telephone) at the NEMO Secretariat, which enhanced the capacity to accommodate volunteers, consultants and new staff.
- The United States Southern Command donated five chainsaws to the organization.
- The unit procured furniture and projector screen for the conference room with minor capital funding for the financial year 2012/2013.

PREPAREDNESS

The activities undertaken to ensure that the country is in a state of readiness in the event of disaster include the following:

- Memorandum of understanding (MOU's) was established between merchants and NEMO (including District Disaster Preparedness Committees) for the easy access of goods and services in the event of a disaster
- Supplies were prepositioned at satellite warehouses for accessibility at the district level in preparation for and response to disasters.

To promote professional and personal development, the staff attended workshops which arm them with the necessary skills required for effective execution of their tasks

- Writing Memos to Cabinet
- First aid and CPR Training

- Comprehensive Disaster Management Work Programme Consultation
- Effective Writing and Communication Skills
- Logistics Support Systems (LSS) Training
- Livelihood Protection Policy Consultation
- Sustaining Energy Workshop
- Waste Water Management

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The department invited students of the La Croix Maingot Combined School to the office, where they were exposed to the telecommunication operations. Discussions were held on the responsibilities and duties of the organization as well as discussions on essentials of life.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The staff was on standby for Tropical Storm Chantal in July, 2012. Thankfully the island was not impacted.

The unit assisted with the response of the December Trough 2013, coordinating the receipt and distribution of items in order to bring some relief and normalcy to the victims.

CHALLENGES

Ministry of Infrastructure hired contractors to repair roof leaks in the office building, however the problem still exists.

The road access to NEMO's compound is in a deplorable condition. Efforts have been made to address the matter, but to no avail. It has become difficult for some of the heavy trucks to make deliveries. As a consequence, container trucks have to be offloaded off site and then transported to NEMO's warehouse. This is time consuming and stretches the limited resources of the unit.

Satellite warehouses are in dire need of renovation and maintenance; however the finance is not available.

The finance received for the response of the December Trough 2013, was limited, and as a result outstanding invoices have not been paid.

It has been a challenge to adopt the LSS inventory control system as the computers is not compatible with the programme. Technical assistance was sought from Computer Centre Limited, but the problem has not been resolved.

WAY FORWARD

NEMO will endeavour to repair the roof leaks with financing from Post Hurricane Thomas Recovery Project, through the Project Coordinating Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

With the replenishment of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Bank Account, outstanding invoices will be paid.

The department will continue to rally to get the road repaired by the Ministry of Infrastructure.

District Committees that did not submit any MOU's will be urged to do so.

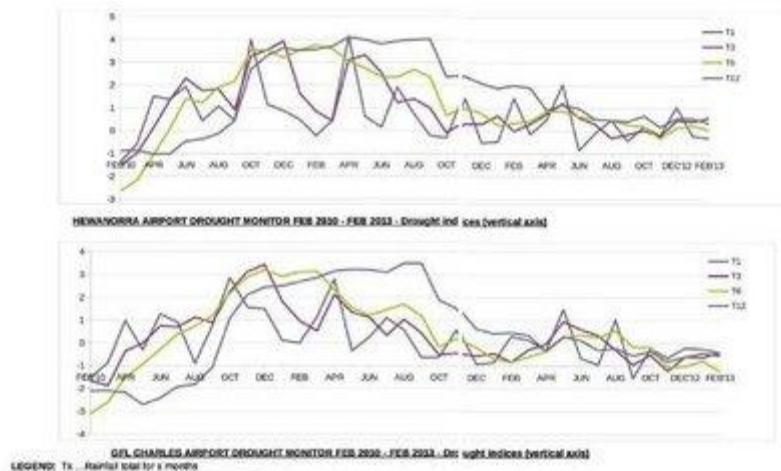
Some District Disaster Committees are not functional or no longer existent. Therefore no one in the community takes charge of the satellite warehouse and its stock. It is the hope that these committees will be revamped so that the people can benefit from the resources, services available and opportunities that may exist.

Events of 2013

Key events during 2013 included the extremes of dry and wet seasons as well as...

Dry Event

The week of 10th March, 2013 the sole water company in Saint Lucia, WASCO invoked conservation measures on the island. The drought monitor is maintained by the Saint Lucia Met Services (SLMS). The following is the drought monitor chart for February 2013.



The National Emergency Management System in the form of the National Drought Task Force was not activated. It should be noted, however, that the deceleration of a “water related emergency” as declared in 2010 has not been repealed and therefore remains in effect.

April Rain

The week of 15th April the Saint Lucia Met Services stated... that the Atlantic high pressure system would continue to generate moderate to brisk easterly winds across the eastern Caribbean. That patches of low level cloud embedded in this wind flow, would cause some showers to develop over the Lesser Antilles. An Initial Situation Overview was conducted (ISO) was conducted but there was minimal damage.

During this period the Marine Police had to respond to two vessels in distress.

At about 12:45 pm on 21 April, 2013, a vessel encountered difficulties somewhere northeast of Cap Estate. There were several persons on board. Response came from Saint Lucia and Martinique as well as civilian vessels. Darkness forced the search to stop, however the search resumed on 22nd April. All were found battered but safe.

May Rain

Saint Lucia experienced an extended period of instability associated with a trough system which generated heavy rains and isolated thunderstorms. The continuous rainfall caused landslides and flooding. WASCO reported that the water distribution system had been adversely affected. An Initial Situation Overview was conducted (ISO) was conducted by the District Disaster Committees but there was minimal damage.



Tropical Storm Chantal

9th July, 2013 Tropical Storm Chantal affected Saint Lucia. Maximum sustained winds were near 60 mph with higher gusts. The Prime Minister instructed a national shut down for the morning only. An earlier lightning strike continued to hamper the HF Communications between the NEOC and the DDCs. An Initial Situation Overview was conducted (ISO) was conducted by the District Disaster Committees and revealed a small landslide at Millet and a downed



electricity pole on the road to the Vigie Lighthouse.

The National Emergency Operations Centre was partially activated.

Tyre Fire

On Sunday August 24 at 7:50pm the Fire Service was responding to an ambulance call to St Jude Hospital when the team sighted a fire at the Vieux Fort landfill. The Fire Service responded to the scene. Upon arrival, the crew chief reported that there was large fire involving a significant number of tires in a heap, making access difficult due to the high flames and intense heat generated.

A section of the burning pile would be sectioned off where an excavator would be used for separating burning tire piles to allow extinguishment.

Because a tire pile fire is very different from a typical structure fire, non-standard firefighting equipment was necessary to effectively combat the fire. This non-standard firefighting equipment includes a variety of heavy equipment and HAZMAT trained equipment operators.



Christmas Eve Trough

Christmas 2013 was cancelled for many, when a Trough passed over the island and left six dead.

The Saint Lucia Water Resources Management Agency has reported the following rainfall amounts for the 24 hour period ending at 9am on 25th December, 2013.

- Union 186.3mm
- Bouton 318mm
- George V Part 190mm
- Government House 188.6mm

The main areas impacted were Bexon/Marc, Anse la Raye, and Vieux Fort.

Challenges

Unfortunately the challenges to the program of Disaster Management in Saint Lucia remain that of resourcing. Presently the national program is donor funded, however the Secretariat remains committed to dialogue with the Ministry of Finance to seek strategies to address this gap.

The following are citations on the present state of staffing at the NEMO Secretariat:

1 - Saint Lucia Second National Communication on Climate Change to the United Nations (2012)

Inadequate Information and Communications Technology Management: ICT

Management on the part of NEMO is hampered by an absence of the requisite trained staff as well as associated resources. This is currently supported by other agencies on an ad hoc basis. (page 217)

6.6 Capacity Building Needs Other Than Those Identified

1. Information and Communications Technology Management in NEMO

According to (SNC V&A, Disaster Management, 2010) NEMO has no Information Technology specialists on staff. Information Technology support is provided on an “as needed” basis by local service providers. The Secretariat also receives support from government Information and Communications Technology specialists (from the e-Government Unit and the Government Information Service), but that appears to be an informal rather than structured arrangement. There was no indication that either of the government departments offered any formal guidance to NEMO with regard to the implementation, support or use of Information and Communications Technology as it relates to disaster management. (page 255)

2 - NEMO GIS Assessment - to World Bank (2012)

One of the components of the assessment was a review of the ICT practices, computer information systems, communication technology, Local Area Network (LAN) and other infrastructure at the NEMO Secretariat with respect to the secretariat’s ability to fulfill the various tasks relating to disaster response and disaster mitigation through the use of ICT.

The organization’s capacity was weighed against 3 predefined levels, Levels I, II and III. Level I being that the NDO was operating below the minimum recommended Level, Level I, and as such needs to take urgent action. The assessment revealed that in 2010 NEMO had been operating at a Level I.

Extracts from the content of the report have been used to determine the current level NEMO is operating at and to highlight possible improvements since the assessment was conducted in 2010 and to reveal and deficiencies which still exist. (Appendix VII refers).

This current assessment has indicated that NEMO is still at ***Level I*** (below the minimum recommend Level and needs to take urgent action). (page 15 & 16)

3 - Annual Report on the National Emergency Management System of Saint Lucia (2011)

The telecoms team remains hopeful of the assignment to the NEMO Secretariat, of a full time telecoms officer. - National Telecoms Committee (page 24)

The Committee wishes to endorse the recommendations from the Review of the Response to Hurricane Tomas, namely: that the time has come to increase the technical staff of the NEMO Secretariat. - Gros Islet District Disaster Committee (page 30)

The CADM II National Team remains hopeful of the assignment to the NEMO Secretariat, of a full time GIS Specialist. CADM II National Team (page 42)

4 - After Action Review of Saint Lucia's Response to Hurricane Tomas of (2010)

Recommendations - Strengthen the Management Capacity of NEMO through the appointment of Media personnel, Telecommunications Officer, Business Continuity Plan Officer, Mass Events Coordinator, etc. (page 73)

5 - Capacity Assessment of National Meteorological Services (NMS) and Disaster Risk Management Agencies (DMA) of Caribbean SIDS

2.1.2 Institutional resources (human, financial) to implement MHEWS and DRR -- All countries reported the need for additional human resource capacity both in terms of number of staff and professionally trained staff. Most of the countries need to strengthen institutional and human resources in climatology, meteorology and hydrology (for example Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, Suriname) including hydrological monitoring and modelling (Jamaica, Belize, Suriname). Professional expertise is needed for analysis of hazard maps and of risk information in Grenada, information management and technology including GIS in Jamaica and Saint Lucia; and radar observation in Jamaica. (page 3)

2.1.4 Risk mapping based on historical data - Where risk and hazard maps exist, both financial and human resources are needed to produce updates (Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis). (page 5)

6 – Hurricane Tomas: “A STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR RECOVERY”

Report by Hugh Cholmondeley, Early Recovery Adviser - May 1, 2011

Third, MATCHING RESOURCES WITH NEEDS. Policymakers, charged with managing emergency and recovery activities, must ensure that funding is available for a comprehensive and coherent work programme jointly prepared and implemented by all implementing agencies. (page 1)

Way Forward

It should be noted that some aspects of the 2013 report may be repetitive from the report of the year before. Such is the case for the way forward as the NEMO Secretariat seeks to secure the following posts.

Staffing

It remains the hope that the Secretariat receives the human resources needed to take disaster management to the standards demanded by the people and government of Saint Lucia. To achieve stage one of the staffing of the Secretariat with the addition of:

1. Social Transformation Officer (re Field Officer) (1) G13
2. Mass Crowd Event Officer G12
3. Business Continuity Officer G12
4. Telecommunications Officer G12
5. Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) Specialist G9

Mitigation

Another area that Saint Lucia's Disaster Management Program needs to aggressively move into is mitigation. This country needs to reduce the vulnerability of communities and in doing so reduce the impact of hazards. The "sexyness" associated with response needs to be broken. The obsession of policy makers to only deal with disasters "after the fact" needs to be eliminated citizens cannot afford the knee jerk reaction that has dominated for centuries.

Conclusion

In 1991 the Heads of CARICOM in their collective wisdom used the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Project as a stepping stone for the launching of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency². Sixteen CARICOM States, including Saint Lucia, established National Disaster Offices. Though many offices started with one Coordinator and one Secretary, over the years some offices have increased staffing while some have not.

Twenty years later, the resources that were first injected into the National Disaster Offices remain at the same levels while the demands on the Offices have increased significantly.

This model is no longer sustainable.

In 1991 the primary focus was that of response to hurricanes. Twenty years later the focus is all hazards – all phases – all people³. The concern is no longer solely hurricane focused, and the mandate to be prepared now includes: pandemic influenza, cholera, earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, mass crowd events, mass causality incidents and the list goes on.

As with many other Member States of CDEMA; Saint Lucia has arrived at the stage where the ability of the Office to function is being so compromised that coordination will be severely impacted to the point of paralysis.

The Global Assessment Report (GAR) of 2011 has placed in perspective the decision facing Caribbean Nations, that:

² In 2010 CDERA transitioned into CDEMA.

³ Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy

1. The sheer scale of recurrent and probable maximum losses should be enough to shock governments into action.
2. Governments are liable for a significant part of total expected losses – and they rarely have the contingency financing to match this liability.
3. Governments need to decide how much risk they are willing to retain and how much they can afford to transfer.
4. A balanced portfolio of prospective, corrective and compensatory risk management strategies is the most cost-effective way to reduce disaster risks and support development.

A new injection of resources (human, financial, equipment) is needed that will sustain the work program of the office for the next twenty years. Without this the disaster management program of Saint Lucia and by extension the region, shall become stunted.

Disaster management will need to be viewed within the frame work of sustainable development as a tool that can be used to strengthen every aspect of growth. The popular definition of insanity is "to repeat the same action over and over with the expectation of a change in outcome" despite the advice of disaster managers, despite the mountain of evidence in a multitude of reports, despite the suffering witnessed there is a continued disregard to disaster management and a view of its practitioners as a botheration and only available to be blamed when the disaster happens and all the weaknesses emerge.

Director NEMO
13 March, 2014

Committee Reports for 2013

Introduction

In keeping with the Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006, which requires that an Annual Report be produced the first call for reports was issued in December 2013, and the second in January 2014 each notice carried a deadline of 13 March, 2014.

For the period under review January – December 2013 the following reports were received:

Number of Committees	Reported for 2011	Reported for 2012	Reported for 2013
13 National	4	2	2
18 District	3	6	4
20 Liaison Officers	3	8	5

Overall an abysmal level of compliance.

National Disaster Committees

Emergency Shelters National Committee

Reporting Officer: Marcus Edward Chairman

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Living Schools Project (II): Audit of schools' emergency supplies:

The objective of the audit of the schools' emergency supplies was to determine whether schools are adequately prepared and have the necessary equipment/supplies to deal effectively emergency situations during school hours and as emergency shelters. The audit focused on:

- emergency preparedness protocols and plans
- training needs and activities in emergency response
- first aid and emergency supplies

2. Procurement and distribution of emergency management equipment and supplies under the World Bank Hurricane Tomas Recovery Project.
3. Increase in the number of schools having floor plans identifying areas which can be accessed by the public once shelter is activated.
4. Shelter Management Workshop held in June 2013 for all new principals.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

1. During this reporting period one (1) shelter (Vieux Fort Technical Secondary School) was activated due to the weather system which affected the island on December 24, 2013.
2. As a result of the weather system which impacted the island the following schools were affected by severe flooding:
 - a. Bexon Primary
 - b. Dame Pearlette Louisy Primary
 - c. Canaries Primary
 - d. Canaries Infant
 - e. Anse La Raye Primary
 - f. Vieux Fort Primary
 - g. Vieux Fort Special Education Centre

Due to the severity of damage sustained to the physical structure of the Canaries Infant School, the school had to be relocated to the Parish Centre in Canaries.

CHALLENGES

- ✚ Communication – there is need for closer collaboration between the District Disaster Management Committee and the school principals/as shelter managers
- ✚ Resources – inadequate number of stand-by power generators which can be easily moved.
- ✚ Human resource - insufficient number of security personnel at shelters.
- ✚ Alternative housing – identifying alternative housing for shelterees to allow the expeditious reopening of schools in most instances, post disaster.
- ✚ For the second year running the Ministry of Infrastructure has not produced a listing of the emergency shelters on the island.

WAY FORWARD

1. Shelters Management Course for all new principals/shelter managers and Disaster Coordinators.
2. Updated list of shelters with current contact information of all shelter managers.
3. Revision and circulation of protocols for activation of shelters.
4. Distribution of additional emergency supplies and equipment to all schools/shelters to include the following items:

- Cots
- Blankets
- Hurricane lamps
- Lamps
- Petrol cans
- Chest coolers
- AM/FM radios
- Water filters

NEMO Auxiliary Corps

Name of Reporting Officer: Dalia Phillip, Secretary

ACHIEVEMENT

Two (2) meetings were held: March 15 and October 25 in 2013. A new Executive was elected on March 15, 2013. The newly elected executive members were as follows:

Chairperson-	Kerri Mills	-	Ministry of Health
Vice Chairperson-	Darin Solomon	-	Customs & Excise Department
Secretary-	Dalia Phillip	-	Ministry Of Agriculture
Assistant Secretary-	KeashiaMelius	-	Blue Coral Ltd.
Treasurer-	Sharon Maturine	-	Sea Island Cotton

An email was set up by the new secretary Ms. Dalia Phillip- nemocorps@gmail.com. To future facilitate and enhance communication among NAC members and NEMO administration.

PREPAREDNESS

Training undertaken by members

- Risk Program Management Workshop

Simulations

As it is customary that the island undertakes National Stimulation Exercises, NAC members actively participated in the exercises listed below;

- Tsunami exercise - staged in Vieux Fort
- Plane Crash Exercise -staged at the George F.L. Charles Airport, Vigie

Other

- Stakeholder meeting regarding Volunteer Regulations at NEMO, Bisee

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Brochures distribution

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- *Hurricane season*-Routinely NAC members were on standby during the season

- ***Christmas Trough***- NAC members reported to NEMO headquarters during and after the trough to take up any activity geared towards alleviating the plight of our citizens. Members were based at NEMO HQ daily while others went out with the distribution crew. Members also carried in donations from self, family, friends and corporate houses. School exercise books were acquired from Brydens through NAC for the *Return to Happiness Program* of the Ministry of Social Transformation.

CHALLENGES

- ***Training for staff***- This aspect has been lacking for the past few years but as with the establishment of our email address; the dissemination of information especially of a training nature will be passed along to all active members. Also, members have identified the training areas of interest and necessity.

WAY FORWARD

- We have revived our adoption of the Preschool in Gros-Islet. In the near future we will begin actual work with the school. Looking forward to a promising relationship.
- Conduct NAC meetings on a weekend due to the minimal participation on the Fridays.

District Disaster Committees

Gros Islet Disaster Committee

Reporting Officer – Jennifer Gaston (Chairperson)

THE COMMITTEE:

The Committee consists of volunteers from the Gros Islet Community i.e. Cap Estate to Choc Bridge which includes Grande Riviere, Corinth and Monchy and essential services:

THE COMMITTEE:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gros Islet Police • Gros Islet Fire Service • Gros Islet Polyclinic • Religious Groups • Gros Islet Vendors Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gros Islet Town Council • Qualified Tree Cutters • Transportation Organizations • Volunteers • Ministry of Health |
|---|---|

ACHIEVEMENT:

The Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure was able to desilt drains in Beausejour, Bois d' Orange and Corinth areas which assisted in less flooding effects on homes during the Through in December 2013.

The Ministry of Health and Environment is also working with the Committee regarding health issues from Farmers and Pig Farmers in certain areas.

MEETINGS & TRAINING:

The Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee participated in a number of training and meetings held by NEMO during the year 2013. The Committee was represented by members in the following:

1. Damage Assessment (DANA) Workshop – Paul Lord, Gerald Louis, Ian Labadie, Kenvin Mc Phee
2. Micro Insurance Climate Change Sensitization – Kenvin Mc Phee, Melanie Pamphile, Angela Alphonse
3. Natural Disaster Management Team and Capacity Building – Jennifer Gaston
4. CDM Legislation & Regulations – Jennifer Gaston
5. Mass Crowd Events Bill – Jennifer Gaston
6. Risk Programme Management – David Jordan, Angela Alphonse
7. Radio/Telecommunication Workshop – Kenvin Mc Phee, Jermaine Williams
8. Meeting at Ministry of Infrastructure – Jennifer Gaston, Gerald Louis
9. Relief Supply Management – Linda Ambrose

LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS:

1. The Committee ensured that the following were prepared:
2. MOU Business houses/Gas Stations
3. Listing of Shelters/Supplies
4. Communication/Ham Radios GI Fire Station
5. HQ in Emergency – GI Fire Station
6. Plans for the different communities in particular those affected by flooding
7. Working with the Gros Islet Town Council re preparations

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

- Town Hall/Community/NEMO Meetings

The Early Flood Warning System which was installed in the Corinth and Monier areas are not working due to technical problems and therefore persons are not alerted to flooding problems.

Visits to Shelters within the Districts were done to ensure all were in place to accommodate persons in the event of a Disaster as well as meetings with the Shelter Management Team. All School Principals and Church Administrators are co-operating with the Committee regarding the use of their facilities and much be commended for their assistance.

The Committee participated/assisted NEMO in the following:

- International Cricket at the Beausejour Cricket Stadium – Members were onsite to ensure assistance in the event of a Disaster
- St. Lucia Jazz Festival
- Mass Crowd/Public Events within the Gros Islet Area.

CHALLENGES:

The Committee is faced with the following challenges:

1. Flooding in the Bois d'Orange and Corinth Communities. A massive clearance was done in the Beausejour Bois d'Orange and Corinth drains which assisted in ensuring that there was no major flooding in 2013 but due to the blockage of drains in some areas residents are still affected by floods due to heavy rains.

2. The lack of preparedness by residents such as tree trimming, drain cleaning and securing of roofs are also some challenges.
3. The Committee recommends that the Government Ministries ensure that the rivers and drains be cleared on a quarterly or half year plan to remove the stilts.
4. The members of the Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee as part of its year programme undertook trips through the Constituency of Gros Islet to access areas which are vulnerable to damage due to heavy rains or Hurricanes. A tour of the Constituency was also done with the Gros Islet District Representative Miss Hippolyte to inform her and feature the issues affecting the different communities. The Committee will continue to implement programmes to update and inform residents on plans and process.

WAY FORWARD:

Assessment trips will continue in the preparations and a report will be submitted to NEMO regarding damages and needs. Meeting with the District Representative and other Organisations will be organised to highlight the issues and work on priority areas.

The Committee continues to have its regular meeting every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month during the Hurricane Season and the 3rd Wednesday of the month outside of the Hurricane Season. Communications is done via emails and presentation to update members of plans and issues affecting the District.

The Committee would like to extend its Thanks and Appreciation to its members for their commitment, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Health and Environment, Ministry of Housing, Fire Service, Gros Islet Police, Gros Islet Town Council and all the Business and Community individuals who have assisted in ensuring that it can function effectively. Appreciation and Thanks also to NEMO for their support and assistance in ensuring that the Committee functions effectively.

Choiseul Disaster Committee

Reporting Officer:- Theophila Charles

THE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee consists of the Following:

Chairperson:- Theophila Charles
 As. Chairperson:- Mrs Clara Edwards
 Secretary:- Esther Theophane

Sub Committees:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Communications:--- | Valsin James |
| 2. Shelter Management: - | Fessa Charles |
| 3. Supply Management: - | Jenny Duguillard |
| 4. Immediate Works: - | Choiseul Village Council |
| 5. Health & Welfare | Marie Joseph |
| 6. Damage Assessment | Peter Philip |

7. Transportation:- Annika Jean

MEETINGS & TRAINING:

The CEPO organized several Training programs and meetings during the period under review. In addition to this members attended/participated in program organized by NEMO:-

1. Telecommunication Training program for the Communications Committee. Two sessions were held with facilitators contracted by CDEMA.

In addition to these sessions CEPO received direct support from CDEMA and received equipment and related training. Equipment included:-

1. 6500 Honda Generator with related accessories
2. 3 LENOVO Lap tops including 1 Computer bag and jump drive.
3. 1 DELL Printer
4. 12 handheld Radios and related accessories

LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS:-

CEPO carried out a few mitigation exercises to ensure that a level of preparedness was maintained. These included among other things:-

1. Inspection of Warehouse to ensure that stored equipment are current and in good working order.
2. Visits to 60% of Emergency Shelters for update on their status and to confirm management arrangements.
3. Review contractual terms with all service providers for emergency goods and services.
4. Meetings with sub-community groups to reaffirm commitment and to recruit new volunteers.
5. Regular testing of HAM Radios.

CHALLENGES:

CEPO continues to face some challenges:-

1. The Communications system set up is still non-function.

WAY FORWARD:-

1. The District plan needs to be reviewed and presented to the general public.
2. Establishment of Sub-community groups is paramount at this time. The topography of Choiseul dictates that every ridge should have people directly linked with the Central Committee.
3. Immediate attention should be given to complete the Communication net-work which has been set up.

Laborie Disaster Committee

Name of Reporting Officer: Ulric Alphonse

PREPAREDNESS

1. Committee meetings were held which included discussions on various aspects of disasters and disaster management
2. Community walk was undertaken to identify possible hazards and to make recommendations for corrective action. Liaised with the Laborie Constituency Council in that regard
3. Chairman participated in consultations and facilitated training sessions locally and regionally
4. Committee members facilitated sessions in various OFDA courses
5. Installed seventeen 1000 gallon water tanks throughout the community for use in times of water shortages. Project was financed by USAID/OFDA at a cost of US\$30000.00
6. Rehabilitated the roof of the satellite warehouse to facilitate rain water harvesting.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

1. Committee assisted Constituency Council in distributing printed material about Dengue Fever

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Christmas Eve trough

1. opened a shelter so individuals stranded by the collapse of the Piaye bridge could overnight
2. distribution of water, mattresses, groceries, toiletries and other supplies to affected individuals
3. made water available to the community from the rain water harvesting systems after the Christmas trough disrupted water supplies

CHALLENGE

1. Finance: the lack of finance affects the independence of the Committee and its ability to do more to help reduce the negative consequences of any impact.
2. To make community persons understand that the priority for the Committee re the distribution of relief supplies after an impact is the affected and most vulnerable

WAY FORWARD

1. More community sessions to explain the modus operandi of the Committee
2. Need to complete the disaster plan for the community.
3. Need to prepare and submit project proposals to various agencies for projects that have been identified.

4. Committee needs to develop and maintain networks and links with potential donors to reduce dependence on NEMO. This became obvious after we were able to secure assistance from several establishments: St Lucia Yacht Club, Rotary Club of Saint Lucia South, Club Legacy, Pan American Life Insurance, Big Bamboo Café, Mama Rose Restaurant.

Babonneau Disaster Committee

Reporting Officer: Sarah Jules - Committee Chairperson

Achievements:

1. VCA done in the communities of Garrand and Fond Assau (disaster mitigation project undertaken in both communities).
2. Hazard mapping done in upper Chassin and Typie Town in Cacao (Ministry of Infrastructure undertook drainage project as a result of problems identified by the Committee)
3. Sensitization programme was carried out mostly at the Health clinics. Committee organized a booth during the Babonneau Health Fair. This provided an opportunity for the public to meet members of the Committee and also for the Committee to sensitize the public on its role in disaster management.
4. Contracts with shops and supermarkets were renewed.
5. Revitalization of Warehouse Management Sub Committee. Inventory done and warehouse keys handed over to the Committee.
6. Health talk on “Purification of rain water” and Chikunguna with member. Talk done by Ministry of Health Official.
7. VCA done in the communities of Fond Assau and Garrand by the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society. Two Community Disaster Response Teams were formed and disaster mitigation projects undertaken in the communities.

Preparedness:

The committee did not undertake any training or simulation exercises during the reporting period; however at January's meeting members requested training in Shelter Management and Telecommunications. (a formal request will be made)

Public Education:

Activities included:

- Talks/discussion at health clinics at the Babonneau, Fond Assau and La Guerre Health Facilities.
- Dissemination of information at the Babonneau Health Fair.
- Distribution of flyers and other educational materials during community visits and transect walks and hazard mapping exercises.

Emergency Response:

Members went out on two occasions after heavy rains. Clearing of bridges and roads were undertaken by the Constituency Council. Some members responded to a distress call from a house owner who had a fallen branch on her house but upon arrival, a chainsaw owner/operator was already assisting her. After the Christmas Eve trough, we visited some communities and persons we have listed as vulnerable households.

Challenges:

Our Committee's goal is to build resilience in every community in Babonneau as it relates to Disaster management. Most if not every one of our team members are employed full time and also have families to care for so the time and attention that our activities demand is not always available. Members who are always willing to work sometimes lack the capacity to do what is required. The Committee recognizing this situation will arrange in collaboration with other agencies, training programs which will build the capacity of team members and so enhance their capability within the Committee.

Way Forward:

The following activities were suggested at our last meeting.

1. Clearing of drains to allow free flow of water (to be done in collaboration with Council)
2. Trimming of overhanging branches (to be identified by team members from the various communities)
3. Ensure that signs are placed on all Emergency shelters
4. Continue educational outreach programme (Health clinics, schools, and at least 2 communities)
5. Election of a new executive to manage the affairs of the Committee.

Soufriere Disaster Committee

Reporting Officer:- Simone Mondesir

Achievements:

Activities identified last year under the way forward was achieved, with the exception of the Business continuity plan workshop.

Preparedness:

Committee members received training in:

- Damage Assessment
- Family Disaster Plan
- Listing of shelters

Public Education:

School visits, committee members conducted sessions at all schools in the Soufriere area on landslides, and earthquakes.

Community meeting was held to sensitize residents about various hazards and disaster preparedness.

Emergency Responses:

- Committee members responded to the Christmas Eve trough in Soufriere and Canaries 25 persons were affected with one (1) house being completely destroyed in Etangs.
- Boats were sent to Canaries to transport persons who were trapped in canaries due to landslides.

Challenges:

The committee is still faced with the following challenges:

- Tree trimming in and around Soufriere
- The committee needs to mobilize new members as most of the previous members who were trained have left the committee and the country.
- The lack of preparedness by residents, such as drain cleaning, securing of roofs and again tree trimming.

Way Forward:

- Training for new volunteers
- Business continuity plan workshop for small business owners
- Awareness campaign in and around Soufriere.
- Tsunami exercise and public education

Vieux Fort/South Disaster Committee

Name of Reporting Officer: Lindy Eristhee

ACHIEVEMENT

“Greater membership mobilization” was one of the activities identified in the way forward for 2013 by the Committee. Since then, the Committee has been able to increase its membership and has highlighted the need for members to become more committed and trained in various areas of disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

PREPAREDNESS

Training your Committee/Agency took part in

- Mass Crowd Events
- Risk Programme Management
- Adaptation to Climate Change and Risk Reduction

Simulations your Committee/Agency took part in.

- Airport Simulation of a plane crash at the Hewanorra International Airport and Beanfield, Vieux Fort
- Tsunamis Simulation to determine the state of preparedness of the key stakeholders in the community of Vieux Fort South

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Monthly stakeholder meetings
- School Visits to sensitize students and teachers on disaster preparedness

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- Multi agency meeting in preparation for 2013 Hurricane Season
- Committee responded to a house fire at Belvedere, Vieux Fort in September 2013, which resulted in the death of an elderly man whilst three other senior citizens were rescued and made homeless.
- Assisted and continues to assist many residents of Vieux Fort South (Bruceville, Barcadere and La Ressource) who were severely impacted during the passing of the Christmas Eve Trough of 2013. Many had to be evacuated to an emergency shelter for six days after which they returned to their homes. Three homes were completely destroyed in the La Ressource area whilst several others were flooded out by water and mud resulting in the loss of if not, all but most of their personal belongings, documents, clothing, household appliances, beds, school uniforms and books, animals and pets. Since then members of the Committee have been and continue to be actively involved in the distribution of relief supplies immediately following the trough into March 2014. The Committee was also able to carry out a DANA which facilitated the provision of data to NEMO and other agencies and individuals from the private sector which have assisted in the provision of food items, appliances, food hampers and clothing to the impacted families.

CHALLENGES

One of the Committee's major challenges is the lack of training for its members in various areas of disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Such training will build capacity, strengthen the knowledge of members, increase membership and heighten awareness of the vulnerability of the community to different hazards and the role of the Committee prior to, during and after a disaster.

WAY FORWARD

The Committee intends on forging a deeper relationship with the residents of Vieux Fort South through the hosting of town hall meetings to create an awareness of the vulnerability of the community of different hazards, establishment of sub-committees which would be informed and capable of responding to an event prior to the arrival of the Committee or essential services thereby reducing the loss of lives and property and enhancing members' knowledge and capabilities to responding to a hazard by providing the necessary training . Another is establishing a well-structured and functioning Executive. Foster greater synergy with key stakeholders thereby increasing attendance at meetings and knowledge on risk reduction and disaster preparedness

Liaison Officers

Ministry of Education

Name of Reporting Officer: Mr. Bernez Khodra— *School Safety Coordinator/ Liaison Officer NEMO*

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2013 the Ministry of Education (MOE) kept disaster management at the fore in the delivery of education services. The Ministry successfully implemented a number of initiatives geared towards improving the level of disaster preparedness and response at the school and Ministerial levels namely:

- Procurement of First Aid & Emergency supplies under the Living Schools Project Phase II.

The following was accomplished under this project:

1. *First Aid coordinators meeting to plan for the academic year 2013-2014.*
2. *Distribution of First Aid & Emergency Supplies to all schools.*



- An increase in the number of schools formulating Emergency Plans and conducting evacuation drills and simulation exercises.

- School Safety Programme. The following was achieved during 2013:

1. *School Safety Training Course for thirty educators in the south.*
2. *Training of twelve (12) persons as School Safety Instructors (Training for Instructors Course).*
3. *School Safety brochures printed and distributed to schools.*

PREPAREDNESS

The Ministry's Liaison Officer participated in the following:

- ⊕ Training for Liaison Officers at the NEMO Secretariat
- ⊕ Tsunami Drill in the south of the island
- ⊕ Facilitated a two day workshop to stakeholders in St. Kitts, in August 2013 on the school safety plan and policy.
- ⊕ Comprehensive Disaster Management Conference (Jamaica)
- ⊕ National Committee Caribe Wave 2013.
- ⊕ Professional Development day facilitator on "Developing an Emergency School Plan."



During these forums participants engaged in discussions on managing disasters within their various sectors, shared best practices and forged networks among participants at the local and regional levels. A core committee comprising representatives from NEMO, MET Office and Education met once monthly to plan a regional tsunami simulation exercise.

Members of the MOE Internal Disaster Committee were trained in First Aid & CPR.

Four members of the Internal Committee attended training organized by the Public Service Ministry during Health and Safety Awareness Week in May 2013.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Tsunami Education

Schools in District Six (Vieux Fort) participated in this exercise in March 2013. Schools in the south reported success with the sensitizing and educating of parents and students on tsunamis. Educational resource material entitled "Tsunami Smart" comprising of students' workbooks and teacher resource kit were disseminated to participating schools. A similar exercise is scheduled for Soufriere in March 2014.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

An audit of schools emergency supplies was conducted. The information derived from this audit will be used to guide the planning of capacity building and training in the area of disaster management and will further assist in the distribution and replenishing of emergency supplies. To date, the MOE has procured one hundred and fifty (150) fire extinguishers and is in the process of distributing them to schools. Further, under the World Bank Hurricane Tomas Emergency Recovery Project, first aid and additional emergency supplies have been procured.

CHALLENGES

1. **Human resource:** disaster management is evolving and dynamic in nature which requires a full time officer to coordinate efforts in the planning and implementing programmes at the school and ministerial levels which are geared towards reducing the risk of disasters.
2. **Financial:** there is a need for increased financial resources to purchase additional equipment and undertake training exercises to assist in mitigating the impact of emergencies.

WAY FORWARD

Based on the findings of the recently completed “Audit of schools’ emergency supplies”, the MOE undertook the following activities to assist in generating greater awareness and reducing the risk of disasters in 2013:

1. Conduct training and workshops in “School Safety” and “Hands Off” for principals and teachers in Districts one to eight;
2. Support First Aid instructors in delivering first aid training courses at the school level and formulating Red Cross Uniform groups at schools;
3. Replenish all schools’ first aid kits
4. First Aid/ CPR Training for all members of the Internal Disaster Committee;
5. Conduct school visits to provide the requisite support in the formulation of Emergency Plans;
6. Finalize the draft National School Safety Policy;
7. Conduct regular emergency drills in schools and MOE;
8. Review draft School Safety Policy;
9. Establish Minimum Safety Standards for all schools;
10. Procurement and distribution of educational materials on disaster management.



Ministry of Agriculture

Name of Reporting Officer: Anthony Thomas, Liaison Officer for *Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development*

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) assisted the local Agricultural Sector in designing an early warning information system for Food and Nutrition Security in Saint Lucia.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development developed a national food plan for St. Lucia based on the food dietary

guidelines in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The plan is to help reduce the nation's food import bill while at the same time ensuring the availability of a balanced diet to all.

3. There was a meeting of Government agencies responsible for an improved nutritional programme for schools involving Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture.

PREPAREDNESS

Capacity building

1. The Ministry through its information unit continued to sensitize the public of the invasive species of the flora and fauna of Saint Lucia and efforts to be taken by the fisheries, livestock and crop sub- sectors to mitigate against the effects of natural disasters.
2. The Ministry continues to assess policies for drought and hurricane disaster management for the sector.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture through the assistance of the Taiwanese Technical mission and through the development of a Black Sigatoka disease management programme has been successful in bringing stability to the banana industry. There is now an increase in the number of farmers returning to the industry and increases in the acreage under banana and plantain cultivation.
4. There has been a collaborative effort amongst the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Infrastructure in the monthly Agromet Bulletin production which provides data on weather forecasts, drought and food production.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

1. The Ministry of Agriculture has and continues to facilitate meetings with farmer and fisher organizations, agricultural enterprises and producers on issues relating to animal and plant disease management, food security, land management, hurricane, drought, invasive species and biodiversity in agriculture.
2. The Ministry in its television programme "Agriculture on the Move" and radio programme dubbed "Agricol en Mouvman" informed the public on matters regarding disasters including the December 24, 2013 trough assessment.
3. Ministry of Agriculture continues to sensitise farmers and fishers on various ways of safeguarding their enterprises prior to disasters.
4. Posters on disaster preparedness have been placed in strategic places throughout the building and offices occupied by the Ministry.
5. The Ministry has been educating the public on the Lionfish, an invasive species which has been discovered in St. Lucian waters. A campaign dubbed "Eat Them to Beat Them" was launched to help reduce its population. Training was conducted with dive operators the fish caught by them was used in teaching the public how to cook it. A five day training workshop on management and control of Lionfish involving various stakeholders was held September 2- 6, 2013 by this Ministry in collaboration with University of the West Indies, Mona and Sandals.
6. The Fisheries Department is providing training for fishers in boat handling and safety.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

To help stabilize the Agricultural Sector in the aftermath of Hurricane Tomas in 2010:

1. Assistance was given to farmers from the Government of Saint Lucia and the Government of Taiwan.

2. Assistance was provided by the Australian Government for the stabilization of river banks and slopes.
3. Desilting was done for some rivers in the various agricultural regions, however the trough of December 24, 2013 left the rivers (Marquis, Cannelles, Trou Masse and Canaries) silted and the banks unstable. This will place the Agricultural Sector under severe pressure
4. Medium and long term assistance is being made available from the European Union through the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM) Project to repair farm access roads and to stabilize river banks.

CHALLENGES

1. The Ministry now has to further develop its technical staff and improve / increase its resources (financial and infrastructural) since it now has Food Production, Co-operatives and Rural Development as additional portfolios.
2. There is need to quickly diversify into agricultural commodities, while sustaining the domestic market and expanding export markets.
3. Further training is required in rapid damage and loss assessment following natural disasters in the Agricultural Sector.

THE WAY FORWARD

1. The Ministry along with partner agencies and other stakeholders should commence dialogue on the best approach to deal with the challenges in the sector.
2. It is hoped that an increased budget allocation will help prepare and alleviate some of the conditions that are plaguing the farmers.
3. The Ministry implements the recommendations of the Disaster Risk Reduction Project of the FAO.
4. The Disaster Plan and the Standard Protocol Guide in Response to Disasters for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Sector should be completed and a committee is established to ensure the disaster plan is followed along with organising simulations and training.

Ministry of Tourism

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The activities proposed for 2013 were achieved with the exception of the Ministry's BCP.
Total number of Marine Operators trained in Multi-hazard Planning – 13
Total number of Sites and Attractions Owners/Managers trained in Multi-hazard Planning – 14
Both groups applauded NEMO and the Ministry of Tourism, Heritage and Creative Industries for its efforts in building resilience for unforeseen events and recommended that this training for their sub-sectors continue.
- Due to Budgetary constraints, the Ministry has not been able to conduct First AID training for its BCP Committee members, a requirement of the BCP.

PREPAREDNESS

Training your Committee/ Agency took part in.

- Workshop/Consultation on Risk Programme Management
- Disaster Management Training – for Disaster Preparedness Liaison Officer Disaster, September 2013
- DANA
 - Due to the absence of human resource, the candidate nominated to receive training was unable to attend.
- Disaster Risk Reduction Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop, December 2013

Simulations your Committee/ Agency took part in

- Ministry participated in Airport Simulation exercise held earlier in 2013
- Ministry also participated in Tsunami Simulation Exercise for Schools in the South (9 out of the 22 persons at work evacuated and survived)
- Ministry participated in Fire Drill Simulation Exercise which was conducted for Sir Stanislaus James Building, March 2013.(one co-worker refused to exit the building because she was watching budget on television)

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- During site visit to various properties and new properties which requested endorsement to be advertisement on the World Wide Web managed by Saint Lucia Tourist Board were asked to develop their BCP as a requirement to be enlisted.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- Tropical Storm Chantal – July, 2013. A bbm network was established amongst members of staff who all gave periodic update of the weather condition in their residential area. The Crisis Hospitality Management Unit was activated and an email was sent out to all properties for feedback on damages sustained from Tropical Storm Chantal. All Tourism Stakeholders had taken due care in securing their properties and guests in preparation for Tropical Storm Chantal. Properties on the coastal locations experienced the deposition of sand on the pool area from storm surges.
- Trough Event - December 2013. The Crisis Hospitality Management Unit was activated and the PR component of the Unit remained very active until there was a return to a state of normalcy. All Tourism Stakeholders had taken due care in securing their properties and guests in preparation for Tropical Storm Chantal because sufficient notice had been given to them. Some properties such as St. James Club Morgan Bay did experiencing some flooding. Information on the impact of the trough are still forthcoming from property owners.
- The SLHTA donated an estimated EC\$230,000.00 to aid victims of the December 2013 Trough event.

CHALLENGES

Public Education/Capacity Building for Resilience to Natural Disasters and Events

Maximizing participation in the conduct BCP continues to be a challenge since targeted participants do not or choose not to recognize the importance of having a BCP in place or the scheduled date is never appropriate for them to attend.

Ministry's BCP

Lack of funding to finalize the Plan continues to be a hindrance in completion of the BCP. The Ministry will seek alternative sources of funding for the training of its members in First Aid Procedures.

General Participation in Conferences/Seminars (out of State)

Budget constraints limit the Ministry from participating on Regional and International Conferences/Seminars.

WAY FORWARD

The Ministry will continue to play its part in public awareness through the sensitization and training of the preparation and implementation of a multi-hazard contingency plan in place. The tasks set out for this year are as follows:

- a. Risk Management for Marine Base Operators Sites and Attractions and Car Rental Sector
- b. Continuous Review of tourism businesses listed on the SLTB website to ensure that minimum standards are met including the presence of endorsed BCP's in their management policies or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This review will require the conduct of site inspections.

The Ministry in its framework design for the Certificate and Licensing Regime will include the Business Continuity Plan as part of the criteria which must be met before a license will be granted to operate as an approve tourism product.

The Ministry in its review of the Tourism Incentives Act, recommended that a Business Continuity Plan be included in the list of documents which must be submitted when applying for Fiscal Incentives.

Saint Lucia Fire Service

Reporting Officer: Leslie Fontenelle, **CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

The following is a brief summary of activities engaged and undertaken by the Fire Service for 2014.

Public Education

- Number of training sessions conducted - 58
- Civilians trained – 4,293

Drills conducted

• Evacuation	–	10
• Fire alarm / firefighting equipment testing	–	4
• Tsunami drills	–	1
• Airport exercise	–	1

Fires

• North	–	321
• South	–	<u>229</u>
Total	=	550

Estimated Fire loss

• North	–	2,658,004.32
• South	–	<u>599,997.00</u>
Total	=	3,258,001.32

Ambulance response

• North	–	5,471
• South	–	<u>4,196</u>
Total	=	9,667

Oil Spills

• North	–	40
• South	–	<u>13</u>
Total	=	53

Training sessions at shift level

• North	-	221
• South	-	914
Total	=	1,135

Departmental training programmes conducted

- Leadership, strategy and tactics
- Emergency Medical Technician Recertification
- Emergency vehicle driver instructor
- Emergency Medical Technician refresher
- Driver training
- Safety handling of pesticides
- Control room attendant workshop

Training Division Course

- Supervision and people management

Overseas training

• Self-contained breathing apparatus	-	1 (Wisconsin U.S.A)
• Certified training	-	1 (Barbados)
• Executive Fire Officer	-	1 (Maryland U.S. A)
• Chemical Emergency planning for Caribbean States	-	1 (Jamaica)
• Management of mass incidents	-	2 (Columbia)
• Junior Officers training course	-	2 (Dominica)

Challenges

The most critical challenges faced by the department include:

- Inadequate staffing levels
- Proliferation of uncertified sick leave
- Old or decaying firefighting equipment
- The absence of an ambulance budget to address the purchase ambulance supplies etc. Ambulance supplies are being sourced from the same funds allocated for fire equipment
- Inadequate training budget
- Inadequate mass public education
- Industrial relation unrest
- Inadequate systems to manage ambulance responses

The way forward

Effort will be focused on public education in the New Year. However, with the financial uncertainties, it is difficult to institute systematic initiatives. The new strategic plan completed in 2013, will be the driver for future initiatives.

Attorney General's Chambers

Name of Reporting Officer: DEANA TERTULLIEN

ACHIEVEMENT

- Nil

PREPAREDNESS

Training your Committee/Agency took part in

- Evacuation plan

Simulations your Committee/Agency took part in

- Nil

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Nil

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- Nil

CHALLENGES

- n/a

WAY FORWARD

- Finalising the Evacuation Plan
- Training for Staff

Ministry of Health

Name of Reporting Officer: Dr. Alisha D. Eugene, Disaster Officer

Achievement

1. Collaboration with other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on Fire, Crime Prevention.
2. All Health Facilities inspected and all fire response equipment replaced or repositioned as advised by the Saint Lucia Fire Service.

3. Health Care Providers trained on Importance of Immunization.
4. Drafted Emergency Response Plan for Senior Citizen Home (Comfort Bay)
5. Coordinated and collaborated response to aftermath of December 24, 2013 through.
6. Training in Biomedical waste management at National Mental Wellness Center
7. Emergency supplies are available at National Mental Wellness Center
8. Inspection of all health facilities re: fire response equipment (fire extinguisher)
9. Immunization of population against vaccine preventable diseases inclusive of Flu.
10. Review of Disaster Management plan at Mental Wellness Center and plans at other facilities
11. Development of a Disaster Directory

Preparedness

Training your Agency took part in:

1. Training of Disaster Officer in CBRN emergencies/disasters
2. Training of disaster Officer in Damage and Needs Assessments
3. Training in incorporation of Nutrition in Disaster Situations
4. Participation and training in the Lab Strategic Framework Plan
5. Participation and training in Caribbean Disaster Management Framework
6. Training of health care providers on Importance of Immunization.
7. Meetings at the start of the hurricane season to include revision of disaster plans

Simulations your Agency took part in:

1. Simulation of the Air-plane crash at sea organized by Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority and that of the Victoria Hospital with NEMO

Public Education

1. Health promotional activities e.g. Caribbean Wellness Day where the following was discussed:
 - a. Public Education on Fire Safety Measures
 - b. Public Education on Vector Borne Diseases e.g. Dengue Fever, Leptospirosis
 - c. EMS Department of the Saint Jude Hospital conducted training with civic groups, church groups, business houses and schools in disaster management and first aid.
2. Radio talk shows on Leptospirosis, Dengue, Chikungunya
3. Cancer Awareness activities for the Public and staff of the Ministry of Health
4. Renal/Kidney awareness activities
5. LUCELEC Safety awareness wash day
6. Radio and television advertisements on hand washing, water safety , food preparation and storage
7. Radio talk show on Motor Vehicular Accidents and Trauma

Emergency Responses

Responses that the Agency have taken part in include:

1. Medical Coverage in various national and private events e.g. Assou Square, Jazz festival, LUCELEC power walk, etc.

Challenges

1. The need for trained personnel to finalize the Ministry of Health Disaster Plans.
2. More training of staff in CBRN disasters and availability of protective gears and decontamination units at health care facilities
3. Gaps in interagency communication mechanisms in a disaster setting.
4. Limited training in first aid, CPR and disaster management
5. Absence of generators at wellness centers
6. Insufficient human resource and training for staff

Way Forward

1. Training for the Ministry of Health Heads in Mass Casualty Management
2. Review of the Ministry of Health Disaster Management Plans
3. Review of policies and procedures for disaster management
4. Conduct regular training for general staff on disaster preparedness and updates on the disaster plans
5. More emergency simulation exercises for staff at the different health facilities
6. More public education to be done at the work place, schools, churches, etc.
7. Victoria Hospital will be completing the emergency management plan and subsequently the implementation and training plan to include simulation exercise

Royal Saint Lucia Police Force

Reporting Officer: Inspector Lucius Lake & Elvis Thomas Cpl. 86 – Staff Officer

Achievement

- The organization carried out its mandate during the Christmas Eve Trough.

Preparedness

- For the period June 24 – 28, 2013, Const. 15 Alfred of the Police Marine Unit conducted a Basic First Aid Course at the Police Academy for forty two (42) Police Officers.
- On 18th October 2013, the Royal St Lucia Police Force participated in a Mass Casualty Simulation Exercise which was conducted at the George F. L. Charles Airport (see attached report).

Public Education

Nil

Emergency Responses

- The Royal St Lucia Police Force has responsibility for evacuation, response & recovery, search & rescue and security in times of a disaster. During the Christmas Eve Trough of 2013, the organization played a critical role in providing the above mentioned services. Disasters are unexpected events and there was no planning for this event.

Challenges

- There is no officer appointed as a Disaster Liaison Officer to be the point of contact with NEMO.
- The ability to respond to disasters is hampered as many officers/personnel serve with the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps, Saint Lucia Red Cross and NEMO.

Way Forward

- Appoint a Disaster Liaison Officer to be the point of contact with NEMO.
- Disaster management training for Police Officers.
- Conducting drills at the various stations/departments to ensure their state of readiness in the event there is any disaster at the station/department or within their policing area.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Ministry of Home Affairs and National Affairs (Administration)

Reporteing Officer: Ms Venus Alcindor

The Ministry wishes to form that the officer who was assigned as the NEMO liaison has since retired and so a new officer has been nominated.

ACHIEVEMENTS

No activity was identified for 2013.

PREPAREDNESS

Members to staff are familiar with the location of the emergency exits and the assembly point. There is a First Aid Kit on hand in case of injury.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Not aware of any meetings held.

EMERGENCY RESPONES

Due to a number of reports of bombs threats to the different buildings on the Waterfront, in 2013, staff of the Ministry had to evacuate the building on each occasion.

CHALLENGES

None were mentioned.

WAYFOWARD

1. A team approach has been decided on with a representative from each section.
2. To schedule a meeting with the liaison officers of the different Ministries in the Sir Stanislaus James Building on how to handle disaster (bombs, fire) in building and Stanislaus James Building and the evacuation process.
3. To schedule a meeting with NIC (tenant) of the Sir Stanislaus James Building on the disaster management and recovery plan and evacuation exercise.
4. To commence the process of formalizing documentation on the Ministry's Disaster Management and Recovery Plan.
5. To conduct dry run in-house on evacuating the building.

Ministry of External Affairs

NEMO'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

Annual Report for the: Ministry of Home Affairs and National Affairs (Administration)

Name of Reporting Officer: Ms. Venus Alcindor

The Ministry wishes to inform that the officer who was assigned as the NEMO liaison has since retired and so a new officer has been nominated.

ACHIEVEMENT

No activity was identified for 2013.

PREPAREDNESS

Members of staff are familiar with the location of the emergency exits and the assembly point. There is a First Aid Kit on hand in case of injury.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Not aware of any meetings held.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Due to a number of reports of bombs threats to the different buildings on the Waterfront, in 2013, staff of the Ministry had to evacuate the building on each occasion.

CHALLENGES

None were mentioned.

WAY FORWARD

1. A team approach has been decided on with a representative from each section.
2. To schedule a meeting with the liaison officers of the different Ministries in the Sir Stanislaus James Building on how to handle disasters (bombs, fires) in the building and the evacuation process.
3. To schedule a meeting with NIC (tenant) of the Sir Stanislaus James Building on the disaster management and recovery plan and evacuation exercise.
4. To commence the process of formalizing documentation on the Ministry's Disaster Management and Recovery Plan.
5. To conduct dry runs in-house on evacuating the building.

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PERMANENT SECRETARY

Office of the Prime Minister

REPORTING OFFICER: Anonymous

PREPAREDNESS

The Office of the Prime Minister was represented at a meeting organized by NEMO on September 30, 2013; the meeting which was held to review the Standard Operating Procedures within the various Government Departments was attended by Liaison Officers from the various departments. A consultant has been employed by NEMO to review the comments proposed and prepare the final SOP. The meeting was held to chart the way forward for disaster preparedness across all Ministries and Departments of Government.

The Office is in the process of updating/changing fire extinguishers at both of its offices in the Grealham Louisy Building on the Waterfront and at the Official Residence of the Prime Minister. This is being done in collaboration with the Director of Security and the Saint Lucia Fire Service.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Office was represented at a planning meeting with Liaison Officers from the Grealham Louisy Administrative Building on September 13, 2013. The meeting which was conducted by the Director of Security for the building was held effort to compile a joint disaster management plan between the various floors. A follow-up meeting was set for February 2014.

CHALLENGES

Due to the precarious nature of the emergency exit steps at the Grealham Louisy Administrative Building, it is a time consuming process to evacuate staff and visitors from the 5th floor to the ground floor in emergencies.

WAY FORWARD

The Continuity of Operations Plan for the Office which encompasses all disasters is currently with the Training Officer, NEMO for review and approval. Following approval by NEMO it will be circulated to staff.

Ministry of Infrastructure

PREPAREDNESS

The Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport was represented at a meeting organized by NEMO on September 30, 2013; the meeting which was held to review the Standard Operating procedures within the various Government Departments was attended by Liaison Officers from the various departments. The meeting was held to chart the way forward for disaster preparedness across all Ministries Department of Government.

In 2013 the Ministry installed a new Fire Alarm System in Building. The system is almost complete with three (3) Smoke Detectors to be mounted and the installation of the system onto the Elevator. The Ministry is currently awaiting permission from the manufacturer through NIPDEC.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

In January 2013, a power point presentation of the Ministry's Emergency Evacuation Plan was presented to staff attached to the Ministry at the time.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Following the Christmas Eve Trough, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport Technical Team, that is Engineers, Technicians, Potholing Crew responded to the clean-up exercise after the disaster.

Also, following the Trough the Ministry's building, compound including the Materials Laboratory building was assessed by the NIPDEC Technician for damages. There were no major damages to the building.

The Electrical wiring, the plumbing and the air Conditioning Contractors were called in to assess any damages. They all reported that there were no damages.

CHALLENGES

In its Emergency Evacuation plan the Ministry selected staff members to function in the role of Ushers, however, due to the transfer of some staff and the addition of new staff, it would seem that continuous training and circulation will have to be given.

WAY FORWARD

Saint Lucia Fire Service reviewed the plan and its awaiting approval by NEMO following which it will be re-circulated to staff. The Ministry will be requesting that a Fire Drill be done in collaboration with the Saint Lucia Fire Service.

Ministry of Social Transformation

Name of Reporting Officer: Velda Joseph, Deputy Director – Social Transformation

Achievement:

This section identifies some of the key achievements of the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment resulting from various initiatives geared towards managing/reducing disaster risks at the ministerial and local levels.

- i. In collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labour, the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment successfully implemented the Return to "Happiness Programme" in communities severely impacted by the Christmas Eve trough. Five hundred and fifty (550) children from the communities of Canaries, Anse La Raye, Bexon/Marc, Micoud and Vieux-Fort South benefitted from this psychological recovery programme. The "Return to Happiness" Programme is designed to help children cope with pain and loss by externalizing their emotions through educational games.

- ii. Thirty (30) persons were trained in Basic First Aid and CPR. Trained persons included Social Transformation Officers and staff of the Community After-School Programme.
- iii. Community After-School Programme centres equipped with Fire Extinguishers and First Aid Kits.
- iv. Community Disaster Response Teams established in Fond Assau, Garrand and Barre Du Chaussee in collaboration with the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society.
- v. Community Clean-up activities undertaken by constituency councils in the aftermath of the Christmas Eve trough.

Preparedness:

While disasters may be unpredictable, the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment recognizes that important preparedness actions can be taken to minimize the threat of damage *from the impacts of hazards*. Some preparedness actions undertaken by the Ministry during the 2013/14 fiscal year include:

- i. Orientation of all Social Transformation Officers and Community Facilitators to various aspects of Basic Disaster Management. Specifically, the orientation session focused on priority actions to be taken before, during and after the following hazards:
 - a. Hurricanes
 - b. Earthquakes
 - c. Floods
- ii. Training of thirty (30) individuals, including Community After-School programme supervisors, in Basic First Aid and CPR during the month of April 2013. The training workshop, which was conducted over a two-day period, was facilitated by St. John's Ambulance.
- iii. Procurement of seven (7) fire extinguishers and twenty-five (25) first aid kits for distribution to Community After-School programme Centres throughout the island.
- iv. Establishment of Community Disaster Response Teams in Babonneau, Fond Assau and Barre Du Chaussee in collaboration with the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society. These teams are expected to play a critical role in disaster risk management at the community level.
- v. Welfare Officers were equipped with basic materials/equipment to facilitate their participation in emergency response operations in the aftermath of a disaster or emergency situation. Officers received rubber boots, raincoats and flashlights.
- vi. The Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment participated in the following training activities:

- a. Evaluation of ECLAC Post-disaster assessments in the Caribbean and Consideration of strategies to link the post disaster needs assessment to the Damage and Loss Assessment Methodology (Saint Lucia).
- b. World Bank Damage & Loss Technical Workshop.

Emergency Response:

- i. In the aftermath of the Christmas Eve trough, Social Transformation Officers coordinated the conduct of initial damage assessments in the following communities:
 - a. Bexon/Marc and environs
 - b. Anse La Raye
 - c. Canaries
 - d. Micoud North
 - e. Castries East Constituency
 - f. Castries South Constituency
 - g. Castries North Constituency
 - h. Choiseul
- ii. Social Transformation Officers and Constituency Councils also assisted with the distribution of relief supplies to families affected by the trough.
- iii. Constituency Councils facilitated community clean-up activities.
- iv. The Ministry also coordinated the “*Return to Happiness Program*” post trough for 500 children.

Challenges:

The primary challenge faced during the period under review was the inadequacy of financial resources to support requisite training activities as well as the implementation of other preparedness and mitigation measures.

Way forward:

The Ministry intends to undertake the following activities in the coming fiscal year (2014/15)

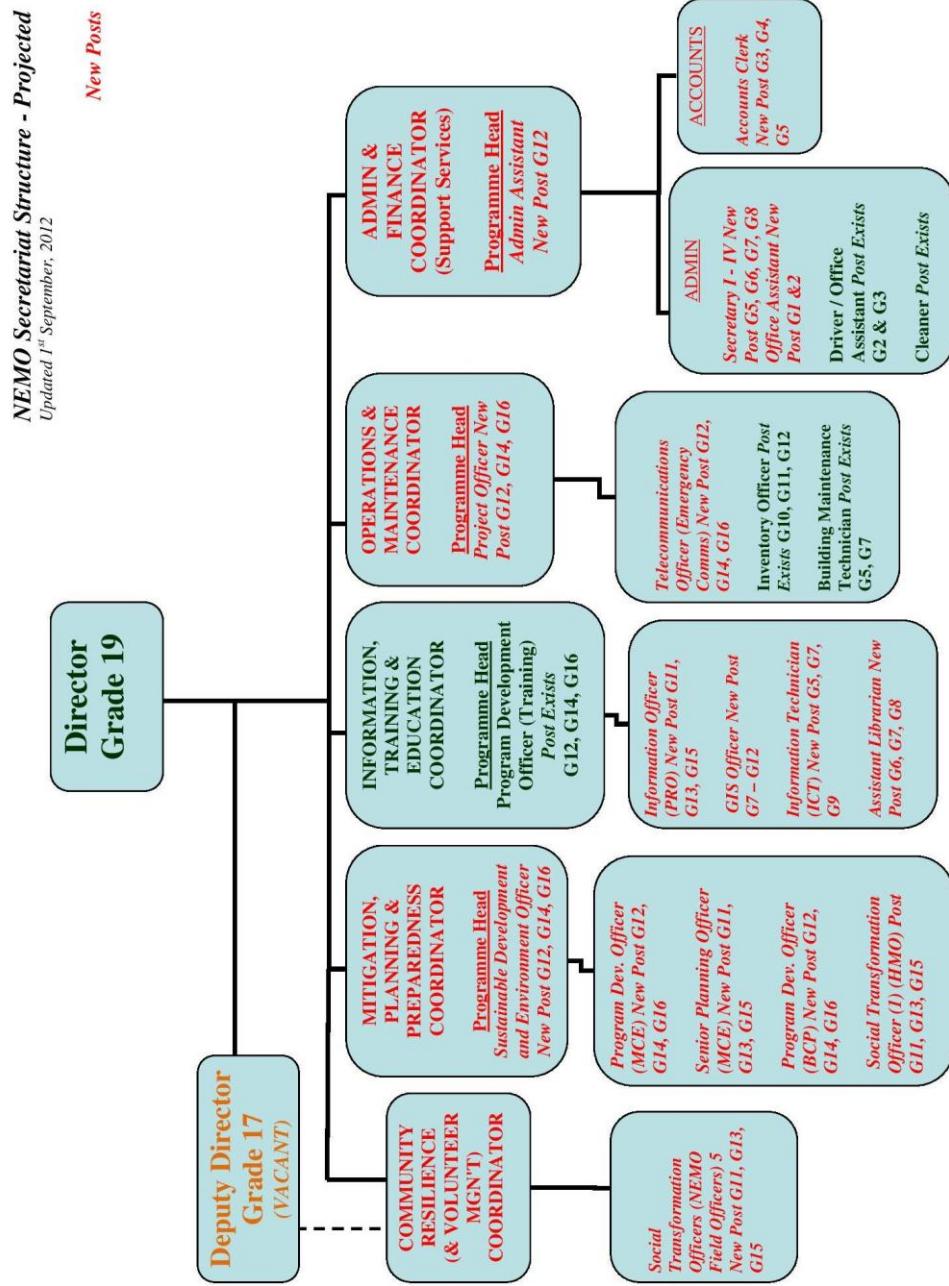
- i. Development of a Disaster Risk Management Plan for the Ministry and its allied agencies (using a multi-hazard approach).
- ii. Training of staff members in various aspects of Disaster Risk Management (including Tsunami Preparedness).
- iii. Conduct of regular simulations/emergency drills.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Secretariat Annual Budget

NEMO Budget		APPROVED	APPROVED	APPROVED	APPROVED
		2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
101	Personal Emoluments	\$328,428.00	\$328,429.00	\$337,187.00	
102	Wages	\$26,503.00	\$41,318.00	\$44,772.00	
105	Travel and Subsistence	\$33,248.00	\$40,248.00	\$28,440.00	
108	Training	\$ 2,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
109	Office and General	\$10,200.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	
110	Supplies and Materials	\$3,672.00	\$3,672.00	\$3,672.00	
113	Utilities	\$94,251.00	\$98,440.00	\$94,980.00	
114	Tools and Instruments	\$450.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	
115	Communication	\$53,345.00	\$35,631.00	\$30,892.00	
116	Operating and Maintenance	\$42,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	
118	Hire of Equipment	\$1,422.00	\$1,872.00	\$1,872.00	
125	Rewards	\$0	\$0	\$0	
132	Professional Consultancy Services	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
137	Insurance	\$23,400.00	\$ 53,500.00	\$53,500.00	
139	Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total		\$619,919.00	\$671,260.00	\$663,465.00	

Appendix 2: Secretariat Staffing Needs



Notes

Government's Blue Print for Growth

Pillar 3: Infrastructure Development Programme

Building Resilience

We will prepare our country to deal with further natural disasters, which are a natural consequence of our geography.

1. We will review and update our hazard maps, making use of a combination of new technology, empirical data and local knowledge.
2. We will develop a national Geographic Information System, which will allow us to use spatial information for better land use planning and risk assessments.
3. Where necessary, we will relocate settlements that are situated in high risk areas.
4. An SLP government will undertake a comprehensive community disaster risk reduction programme.
5. We will restore NEMO's importance in preparing our country to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and coordinating the response to a national emergency.

*SLP Manifesto page 54
Or <http://www.voteslp.com/manifesto/pillar3>*