



ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016

VISION

*A proactive world-class agency
building a disaster resilient nation.*

MISSION

*ODPEM is committed to leading
the process of reducing the impact
of disaster on Jamaica through
Comprehensive Disaster Management.*

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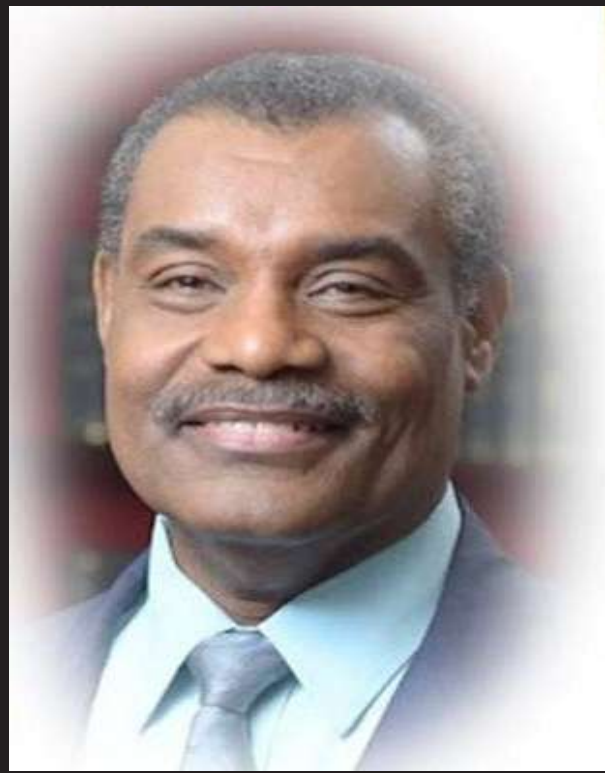
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Message from the Chairman

Lawrence Adamson



In commemorating its 35th year of service to the nation, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management invested much of 2015/2016 reviewing and pursuing its strategic imperatives. This allowed the Agency to reflect on its accomplishments and milestones while determining how to best address the challenges that lay ahead.

The ODPEM placed particular emphasis on the development of a Strategic Business Plan 2016-2019 that would satisfy the need for sustainability planning. It also sought to encapsulate primary cross-cutting themes to include Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building. This was with a view to empowering and energizing the national and parish level capacities to support and execute Disaster Risk Management processes. The integration of Government-based Disaster Risk Management practices and programmes into key sectors of the economy was also prioritized. The document also identified the urgent need for: (i) strengthened community support sys-

tems for safety and social factors, (ii) increased use of DRM Tools, Models, Research and strategies to influence decision making processes, (iii) enhanced early warning systems and emergency communication capabilities and (iv) reinforcement of disaster recovery planning practices.

In a bid to retain the relevance of its programmes to the regional and international Disaster Risk Reduction sphere, the ODPEM in its unique role as Jamaica's National Disaster Management Agency continues to adapt to the ever-changing risk and vulnerability demands of our natural environment and social existence. Under a legislative reform initiative undertaken by the Government of Jamaica, the Agency is poised to be legally guided by the Disaster Risk Management Act of 2015 in mainstreaming its Disaster Risk Reduction programmes. The Act represents a milestone achievement not only for the ODPEM, but Jamaica, given issues of natural resource management and climate change. Having identified challenges associated with the physical planning system and land use practices and inadequate institutional cohesion, the legislation seeks to address areas such as settlement, emergency evacuation, empowerment of local level capacity to plan and respond to emergency events and the power of the Prime Minister to declare an area as being a Disaster Area or a Threatened Area.

Of equal importance was a review of the ODPEM's Organizational structure. Without doubt the primacy of the exercise was to strengthen and expand where necessary, the existing National Disaster Management Programme, and to this end a review of the legal and operational frameworks was undertaken. This sought to identify the adequacy and or relevance of programmes as well as the roles and responsibilities of functionaries associated with the initiatives. The Agency is hopeful that this exercise will realize optimal staff levels in order to fulfill our mandate.

Going forward, it is our vision that the ODPEM continues to review and update its processes thereby building on achievements over the past 35 years. We are particularly interested in seeing the Agency take steps to further embrace a Comprehensive Disaster Management approach to Disaster Risk Reduction as well as to assume a more active role in sustainable development, especially given the challenges of global climate change threats and related issues.

Message from the Director General

Major Clive Davis



“A proactive world class Agency building a disaster resilient nation” is the Vision Statement of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). This has continued to guide the Agency to strive for excellence in all we do.

The team acknowledged that it could not deliver to its external customers quality service, where lives are most times at risk, without addressing its own internal systems. It became necessary to review and strengthen the organization’s internal customer service processes.

The life of the then current Corporate Strategic Plan of the Agency had expired and so a new one had to be put in place. The team was careful to ensure that in crafting the Plan every and all aspects of the international, regional and national imperatives were considered.

The man power requirements of the ODPEM have never been able to keep pace with the ever expanding role of the organization. Based on the challenges (past and present) the team refocused our attention on the reclassification and reorganization programme of the Agency.

As the national disaster coordinating Agency, we are not classified as Response Agency. However, whenever an adverse event threatens or occurs, the Agency has a critical role to play. Hence, it became necessary for us to examine our “*RESPONSE-ABILITY*”. The process has commenced to review our internal mechanisms which, when triggered, facilitates the activation of the operatives of the ODPEM.

Training and development of Staff is not only seen as a priority for all but in particular the training and exposure of all categories of staff to Disaster Risk Management related training. This does not only serve to enrich knowledge but also to build capacity within the agency.

The local authorities are easily our closest partners in the area of Disaster Risk Management. As their roles expand, it is deemed necessary to invest in these entities so that they can achieve improved capacity to better manage activities at the local level. The ODPEM remains committed to providing all the support possible to our local authorities.

The Disaster Risk Management Act was signed on the 19 February 2015. The Act repealed the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Act (1993) and has made “*new provisions for the management and mitigation of disaster; the reduction of risks associated with disasters; and connected matters*”. The task of operationalization of the DRM Act commenced with the sensitization of the management and staff of the ODPEM and later included other Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the State.

The period under review was not without adverse events which occurred both national and regionally.

These included fires at the Riverton Landfill in Kingston which burned for in excess of one week.

While there were no casualties, domestic, social and economic activities in the City of Kingston were impacted. The ODPEM working in collaboration with public and private sector entities managed the situation and return the City to normalcy.

By the summer of 2015, a number of bush fires razed across the island. The Jamaica Fire Brigade was on the line. With support from the Jamaica Defence Force and other partners a number of operations were launched and successfully managed. While there was damage to property and crops, there was no loss of life.

As a regional focal point for the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Jamaica, through the ODPEM and supporting agencies of the State, mounted operational responses to the impact of Tropical Storm Erika in the Commonwealth of Dominica and Hurricane Joaquin in the Bahamas.

Jamaica, through the ODPEM, continued to re-assert itself in the regional and global Disaster Risk Reduction arena. We continued to provide strong leadership and support to CDEMA. A Jamaican delegation led by the then Portfolio Minister attended and participated in the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan. Here we sought to not only support but to participate in the global agenda for disaster risk reduction. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted.

All of this would not have been possible without the supportive and dedicated management and staff of the national disaster office to whom a debt of gratitude is owed.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Divisional Background

Office administration is the arm of the Corporate Services Division that deals with:

- Procurement of all services.
- Operation of the registry.
- Inventory management for all goods and services.
- The Management of ancillary, support and security services.
- Implementation and Monitoring of cost saving measures.
- Building maintenance and improvement.
- Fleet vehicle maintenance and management.

Rentals

ODPEM's Economy Rental was established in 1995 and has since been in the business of providing highly competitive, quality rental items including tents, tables, chairs, portable toilets, bounce-a-bout, to a wide range of clientele including government agencies, private sector organizations, schools, churches among others.

Institutional Capacity Strengthening

The fiscal year 2015/2016 saw mainly the development of the agency's Strategic Business Plan, focusing on the alignment of the International, Regional and National strategic priorities.

The institutional capacity was further strength-

ened by way of a revision of our internal procurement processes. The revised procedures were approved and institutionalized in keeping with the organization's internal approval process.

The procurement of the Solar Energy System was finalized by the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica Ltd; the installation is scheduled to be completed in 2016/2017 financial year.

Corporate Commitment

Reports were submitted to the Ministry of Local Government & Community Development, Ministry of Finance & Planning, and to the Office of the Contractor General.

The following reports were submitted:

- Quarterly Contracts Awards Reports
- Quarterly Performance Reports
- Annual Reports for 2014/2015
- Strategic Business Plan and Matrix 2016-2019
- Operational Plans/Budget for year 2015/2016

Board of Management Retreat

The Board of Management convened a one day Retreat in September 2015 with participation from the Board of Management and senior managers of the agency.

The primary objective of the retreat was outlining the strategic priorities of the agency from the Board while reviewing the ODPEM's fulfillment of responsibilities to all local and international Disaster Risk Management frameworks.

Annual Management Retreat

The organization convened a three-day Management Retreat from September 2015 with participation from middle and senior managers of the agency.

The objective of the activity was to finalize the Strategic Plan for the period 2016/2019. The objective was not met however and a series of meeting following the retreat led to the successful completion of the Strategic plan.

National Disaster Committee

The National Disaster Committee Meeting was convened on June 3, 2015 at Jamaica House. The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister, the Most Honorable Portia Simpson Miller. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of preparedness and the need for continuous commitment of stakeholders.

Ministry and agency representatives were in attendance. In addition to the re-cap of the 2014 Rainfall and Forecast for the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season, select agencies representatives and the delegates spoke to their level of preparedness for the hurricane season.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Divisional Background

The Human Resource Unit is responsible for the management of all human relations and staff development matters within the organization, to include: recruitment, selection and orientation and training of staff, performance appraisal, performance review and processing. The unit examines areas that may be encapsulated under the following:

- Leave administration
- Maintaining personal data entry and records

- Staff welfare and compensation such as employee and health benefits, salaries, work experience programmes, and pension schemes.
- Coordination of in-house and off site training.
- Arrangement for officers for official visits, overseas workshops and seminars.
- Guiding the implementation of approved human resource related policies and programmes.
- Facilitating harmonious productive management/staff relations.

Organizational Review

During the year, several meetings were held with the Corporate Management & Development Team and the Ministry of Finance & Planning to discuss and finalize the functional profile of the organization. This has been completed. The next phase will include writing of job descriptions for new and existing positions within the Agency.

Recruitment & Selection

Several positions were filled including the position of Director General for the Agency. During the year, it became evident that for the organization to effectively carry out its mandate, the technical capacity of the organization would have to be increased. The organization therefore made application to the Ministry of Finance & Planning for the operation of temporary posts namely – Project Manager and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. The positions were temporarily approved for one year.

Several persons also volunteered their services to the organization.

Internship

The organization has partnered with the University of the West Indies, the University of Technology and The College of Agriculture, Science and Education and has facilitated several interns in the areas of Urban & Regional Planning. The partnership is designed for students to gain experience in their areas of studies. During their period of internship, the students are exposed to the different areas in Disaster Risk Management and have gained valuable experience which will prepare them for the future. The ODPEM also extended opportunities for high school students to serve community service projects during this period.

Training & Development

The organization continues to train and develop the capacity of its employees. During the year, employees attended several training programmes and workshops locally and abroad. Areas of training included:

- Leadership Development
- Disaster risk Management for Physical Planning & Infrastructure in the Caribbean
- Oil Spill Preparedness
- Supplies Management
- Fundamentals of Project Management
- GIS/GPS Training
- Certificate in Administrative Management
- Records Management
- Essential Elements of Public Sector Procurement

INFORMATION AND TRAINING

Divisional Background

As new hazards emerge and global atrocities occur at greater intervals, it is critical that a robust information portal be in place to mitigate against and respond to ensuing eventualities. Cognizant of the environmental dynamics with which Caribbean States operate, the Information and Training unit remains fully aware of the role that it must play in order to equip the Jamaican populace with the information and skills to combat disastrous events.

During the financial year April 2015 through March 2016 rigorous focus was placed on the message being disseminated via the annual campaigns utilizing traditional and social media outlets.

Campaigns

- **Disaster Preparedness Month (June) - DPM** was broadened to incorporate Hurricane Preparedness Month, traditionally observed in the month of May. Guided by the theme “**Connect to protect: advancing emergency telecommunication, strengthening community mobilization**” emphasis was placed on the Telecommunications Sector in general and Emergency Telecommunications in particular. The twinning of Disaster Preparedness Month with the start of the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season presented the ODPEM with the opportunity to employ a multi-hazard focus in partnership with the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining (MSTEM) and Landline, Internet, Mobile & Entertainment (LIME).
- **Press Conference –**
Representations were received from the Honourable Noel Arcsott, Minister of Local Government and Community Development and Mrs Hilary Alexander, Permanent Secretary, numbered among critical stakeholders who were in attendance at this important activity. Information was disseminated on a wider scale on the forecast for the 2015 Hurricane season by National Meteorological Service and the ODPEM on the nation’s state of readiness for possible hurricane impact, through the media houses which were in attendance.
- **Disaster Preparedness Day for Schools –**
The Knockalva Agricultural School in Hanover served as the venue for the customary day for schools. The ODPEM partnered with the institution as it observed 75 years of serving students with an Agricultural focus.



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- *Photo caption (top): Director General,*

Major Clive Davis and Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Honourable Noel Arscott engage each other at the Press conference for Disaster Preparedness month.

- *Photo caption (bottom) Director General, Major Clive Davis speaking at the Disaster Preparedness Day for Schools held at the Knockalva Agricultural School in Hanover.*



- **Community Preparedness Exposition** – Coastal areas such as the town of Falmouth are always on the fore front of impact from hurricanes' waves and other coastal induced hazards. With this in mind, the community was the target for the annual expo. Support was received from the Local Authority and more than twenty (20) public and private sector entities. The information dissemination fair was executed with tremendous response from the community. Some fourteen communities within the geographic locale (estimated at over 3,000 persons) were present to participate in the day's activities.

PHOTO CAPTION: ODPEM staff member engages with the public at the annual Disaster Preparedness Expo in Falmouth, Trelawny

- **Earthquake Awareness Month “Don’t be scared be prepared”**



For the second consecutive year, Earthquake Awareness activities were extended to take in the entire month of January given the significance of the hazard and the strong emphasis on seismic resilience. A number of activities were undertaken to commemorate the occasion.

- The views of Central Jamaica were sought as the ODPEM and the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) examined Mandeville’s level of preparedness for a strong earthquake. A Vox Pop, with reference to the March 1, 1957 earthquake was conducted and revealed that several Jamaicans continue to trivialize the likely impact that could result should there be a recurrence. Through the Local Authority, sensitization sessions have been ramped up to ensure greater levels of awareness.

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- Day for Schools – the historic earthquake site of Port Royal (Fort Charles) was again home to the annual Earthquake Awareness Day for Schools Open Day. Approximately four hundred (400) students representing almost twenty schools from the Kingston Metropolitan Region and St. Thomas were in attendance. Information dissemination was enriched with the participation of several primary response agencies and community groups. Students also had the opportunity of gaining first-hand view of the remnants of Port Royal, brought about by the devastating effects of the 1692 and 1907 quakes.



PHOTO CAPTION: *Students from Greater Portmore Primary school in St. Catherine executing an Earthquake drill.*

A major activity of the 2016 Earthquake Awareness Campaign was the Organization's support of the Office of the Prime Minister in the unveiling of the renovated 1907 Earthquake Monument, located in Bumper Hall, St. Andrew. The Monument represents the resting place of more than five hundred (500) bodies from the Great Kingston Earthquake.



Photo Caption: *Director General, Major Clive Davis with the media during the commemorative activity in Bumper hall, St. Andrew*

Anniversaries and Observances

- ODPEM's 35th Anniversary – July 2015 marked thirty five (35) years since the existence of the ODPEM, formerly Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Relief Coordination (ODiPERC) and Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP). As the Organization evolved from merely response and relief coordination, the 35th anniversary highlighted the achievements of the ODPEM over this milestone. Among the activities of the 35th year were:
 - An outside broadcast highlighting the strength, wisdom and expertise of former and current governmental representatives as well as present and past Directors General
 - Staff recognition ceremony with the longest

serving member of staff also celebrating 35 years with the ODPEM

- Hurricane Allen – the 35th anniversary of Hurricane Allen during this reporting period was of particular significance, as this hurricane was the first test of the mechanisms that were put in place to create a National Disaster Office. Stand-alone displays were placed in select parish libraries for access by the general library users.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION, DEVELOPMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION DIVISION

Divisional Background

The Projects Implementation, Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Division is responsible for providing optimum services in the development, execution, monitoring and evaluation of projects in fulfillment of ODPEM's core mandate to coordinate and provide services in Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. Established in 2002, the objectives are:

- To identify and seek opportunities for the funding of projects and programmes in vulnerability reduction and disaster management.
- To carry out an analysis of the local context and project situation.
- To promote the underlying principles of vulnerability reduction and sustainable development.
- To coordinate and monitor projects and programmes within the organization.

1. The ABACUS Project

To enhance emergency telecommunications across ten (10) communities in Jamaica leading to a reduction in the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

During the reporting period, One Hundred and Thirty Seven (137) community volunteers were trained in the use of Basic Radio Telecommunications. The training aimed to equip community members with the capacity to access emergency services for their communities before, during and after disaster events. The Abacus project trained over 100 persons in five communities, to include:

Rocky Point: 30

Portland Cottage: 30

Annotto Bay: 30

Jeffrey Town: 20

Port Maria: 27

2. National Volunteer Programme

The main objective of this programme is to enhance the local preparedness, mitigation and response mechanisms through the development of a sustainable framework of national volunteers. This group will be required to support the national, parish and community-based mechanism within the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) framework (preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery).

Status:

- Two database experts from the White Helmets Initiative visited Jamaica from July 5 -10, 2015 and assisted with the development of the blue print for the database. This database is now being developed by local consultants in 2015.
- Framework for the programme was finalized in consultation with a wide cross section of stakeholders in 2015.

3. Community Based Landslide Risk Reduction Project – CBLRR Project

The CBLRR project officially came to an end on August 31, 2015. During the reporting period, the following deliverables were completed:

- A short documentary on the Management of Slope Stability in Communities (MOSSAIC) experience in Jamaica.
- Construction of drains in Harbour Heights, Bedward Gardens and Melbrook Heights.
- A Toolkit on the Management of Slope Stability in Communities (MoSSaiC) experience in Jamaica.

4. Hurricane Sandy Recovery Project.

The aim of this project is to provide support to schools that experienced damages during the passing of Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The Rock River Primary and the Highgate Primary and Junior High schools were identified by the Ministry of Education to benefit under this project.

The following works were identified:

- Rock River Primary - re-sheeting of entire roof and . This contract was assigned in November 2015 and work is ongoing.
- Highgate Primary & Junior High – re-sheeting of entire roof. Works assigned and ongoing.

PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION

Divisional Background

The Preparedness & Emergency Operations Division through its support Units and external partners executed a number of activities during the financial year April 2015 –March 2016, all aimed at improving the country's ability to prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies. The areas of emergency response and early recovery were major tenets of the Division's strategic focus.

Key Strategies and Tactics:

1. Provision of critical and strategic analysis, while encouraging participation and coordination in all activities and at all levels of preparedness and response.
2. Adapting a Project Management Approach to the implementation of all Disaster Risk Management (DRM) programmes, projects and activities.
3. Maintaining a focus on the core functions and mandate of *Facilitation and Coordination*
4. Maintenance of professional, courteous

and supportive relationships with key partners at the national, regional and local levels.

5. Ensuring that systematization, order, flexibility and collaboration are at the root of our efforts of preparedness and response

Main Highlights and Achievements

Mass Rescue Operations (MRO) Assessment and Plan development

The Preparedness and Emergency Operations Division (PEOD) in executing the ODPEM's mandate provided support and coordination towards the review of existing arrangements and resources in the area of Mass Rescue Operations (MRO), in the area of emergency response in relation to an aircraft or large marine vessel (such as a Cruise ship) in distress or an incident occurring in the marine environment (the shoreline to territorial waters of Jamaica). The initiative which begun in 2014, has the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) as operational lead, with support from the ODPEM and a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising a number of key agency representatives. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) 7th District out of Florida United States is an essential contributor to the process by way of constant dialogue and guidance.

In support of the MRO planning process, several facility/sector-based activities were undertaken to include the staging of a Tabletop exercise with airports and seaports (cruise) along Jamaica's North Coast, the actual first draft of the plan and a process whereby critical elements of response to a major incident have been documented.

Development of a National Chemical Emergency Risk Management Plan (NCERMP)

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) through the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF) Project was embarked on to build local capacities in the area management of hazardous waste to include chemicals. The Overall Project is being led by the Environmental & Risk Management Division (ERMD) out of the Portfolio Ministry with responsibility for the Environment and has 6 Components. Of these components, the ODPEM is responsible for the execution/development of component #5 which surrounds the development of the National Chemical Emergency Risk Management Plan (NCERMP). Subsequent to the finalization and approval of the National Chemical Emergency Response Protocol in 2014 the need arose for additional work and a system that would facilitate better understanding of the potential danger of chemicals to the public.

The first draft of the NCERMP has been prepared and several consultations have taken place with stakeholders in the Public and Private Sectors.

Improvement of Emergency Communication System in Jamaica

This initiative remains a project proposal and is still in its early stages of design for final approval with funding anticipated from the Government of Japan through the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA). The Project aims to improve emergency communication infrastructure in Jamaica through the installation of wireless communication system and relevant equipment, thereby contributing to swift and robust communication between Government offices and Jamaican people to respond to disaster emergencies. Given Jamaica's vulnerability to, past challenges from and resultant effect on communication across agencies, it was widely agreed on by the

Governments of Jamaica and Japan that an intervention to improve communication capabilities is necessary as it is timely.

In July 2015 the JICA Survey Mission conducted a preliminary site visit for the requirements, design and justification of an improved emergency/disaster communication system for Jamaica. The site visit highlighted and confirmed the needs articulated by the ODPEM/Jamaica to conduct 2 additional and more detailed survey missions for the finalization of the project design and agreement between both countries. A second survey mission was embarked on in February 2016 to April 2016 with the understanding that a final agreement should be reached in the 2016-2017 financial year with implementation soon after.



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Radio Operation Room

Site Survey of Portmore (Waterford) Fire Station

Earthquake & Tsunami Readiness in the Tourism Sector – Ocho Rios Resort Area

The Tourism sector continues to play a critical role in the nation's economic profile. Equally true, is the fact that several of the major resort towns are located along the coastline. In this regard, a sector specific disaster risk management framework is priority. The ODPEM, in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and other sector interests have been part of an ongoing

drive to build awareness through trainings, sensitization and exercise testing. A major earthquake and tsunami simulation exercise was carried out in the Ocho Rios Resort Area during 2015. Through the exercise, ODPEM and the MOTE examined:

- Evacuation protocols at select properties in the Ocho Rios Resort Area
- Response protocols of the Tourism Emergency Operations Centre (TEOC) via desktop simulation.
- Emergency procedures properties in the



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Ocho Rios Resort Area (ORRA)

- Communication capabilities between the TEOC and the Parish Emergency Operation Centre (PEOC), and the Resort Area Emergency Management Committee (RAEMC).

Five hotels (Jewel Runaway Bay Beach & Golf Resort, Jewel Dunn's River Beach Resort and Spa Hotel, Grand Bahia Principe Jamaica and The Cardiff Hotel and SpaMystic Ridge Hotel) volunteered to participate as evacuation sites by

for a Tsunami evacuation exercise. The properties used the exercise as an opportunity to test varying levels of their evacuation procedures while incorporating critical aspects of a major event, such as medical injuries simulation, tsunami (offsite) and assembly point management. Concurrently, desktop simulations were scheduled at the host resort Jewel Runaway Bay, among the main Emergency Operating Centres; the Tourism Emergency Centre (TEOC), the Parish Emergency Centre (PEOC) and the Resort Area Emergency Management Committee (RAEMC).

The exercise highlighted a number of important areas such as training in emergency management, multi-hazard sensitization, greater coordination and collaboration and more effective communications

Building Disaster Resilient Communities Programme

The Building Disaster Resilient Communities (BDRC) Programme continues to be a hallmark programme for the ODPEM and a critical delivery area for the PEOD. Underpinned by the BDRC Model is the fact that Jamaica's ability to boost disaster resilience is contingent on localized resilience being achieved at the personal, family and community levels. Community-based activities over the period included extensive training for more than 35 communities in the areas of:

Efforts at BDRC for the 2015-2016 year had major successes as follows:

1. More than 35 communities trained in disaster risk management areas across all

parishes. Such Training activities included:

- a. Shelter & Shelter Manager
 - b. Initial Damage Assessment
 - c. Emergency Radio Telecoms
 - d. First Aid
 - e. Basic Search & Rescue and others
2. Over 20 communities and 50 organizations across the island benefitted from drills, simulations, and tabletop, Disaster Risk Reduction discussions.

MITIGATION, PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Mitigation and Research Division (MPRD) in keeping with the primary goals and objectives of the ODPEM has over the financial year 2015/16 taken steps towards achieving the Organization's mission of providing leadership in Disaster Management nationally. The MPRD remains steadfast in its role to "contribute to the development of the ODPEM through the promotion of the Risk Management Framework, employing modern technology and relevant research geared at providing a solid platform for implementation of policies, plans and programs."

On an annual basis numerous communities are affected by various hazards, the MPRD has sought to ensure that mitigation plans are developed and implemented for key sectors. The Division continues to work within the ODPEM, in partnership with the relevant governmental agencies, the Local Authorities as well as several multinational and bilateral agencies as joint stakeholders towards the reduction of disaster risks and the enhancement of national disaster

recovery initiatives.

MPRD Objectives:

1. To collect and digitize hazard information for vulnerable communities and develop community hazard maps.
2. To strengthen community resilience through training and capacity building while implementing micro mitigation projects in building disaster resilient communities.
3. Establish a uniformed approach to assessing and monitoring disaster risks that will inform disaster risk management planning by state and other stakeholders.

Micro-Mitigation Project

The ODPEM has continued to use the medium of micro mitigation projects as a means of implementing DRR interventions in communities. This has proven to be an effective strategy, particularly where limited funding is available.

INSTALLATION OF SHUTTERS AND DOORS AT BUSTAMANTE HIGH SCHOOL

The Bustamante High School in Lionel Town, Clarendon features as a priority shelter, particularly for flood prone communities to include Lionel Town, Rocky Point, Alley and the general surroundings. The micro mitigation project for the shelter involved:

- i. Installation of accordion shutters on the eastern wall face of the designated emergency shelter block.
- ii. Installation of 2 solid core 75mm thick hardwood doors lipped on both edges with hardwood in western wall of designated shelter block.

Adopting a multi-agency approach, the proj-

ect had parish-based support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security the Jamaica Red Cross, the Local Authority and the Ministry of Education. Expenditure associated with the venture amounted to Eight Hundred and Ten Thousand (\$810,000.00) Dollars and had the support of a contribution agreement between the ODPEM and the Clarendon Parish Council.



Fig: 1 Breather blocks in eastern wall that through which rain enters the shelter block before retrofitting



Fig: 2 Missing double-door on western wall of shelter block before retrofitting.

PROJECT IMPACTS

As part of its service delivery, the ODPEM and by extension the MPRD provided technical guidance of several disaster risk management projects. The Organization's technical team made contributions as follows:

A. SEISMIC RETROFITTING FOR CRITICAL FACILITIES:

This initiative was supported through Caribe Risk Cluster Partnership Agreement established with Martinique General Council. The role of ODPEM was to compile and prepare where necessary, the preparatory work documentation required for the retrofitting of critical facilities.

B. ODPEM in consultation with the Jamaica Fire Brigade selected the Falmouth Fire Station to benefit from such a study for retrofitting. This data is intended to facilitate the preparation of a proposal to the European Development fund (EDF) for their 2016 call.

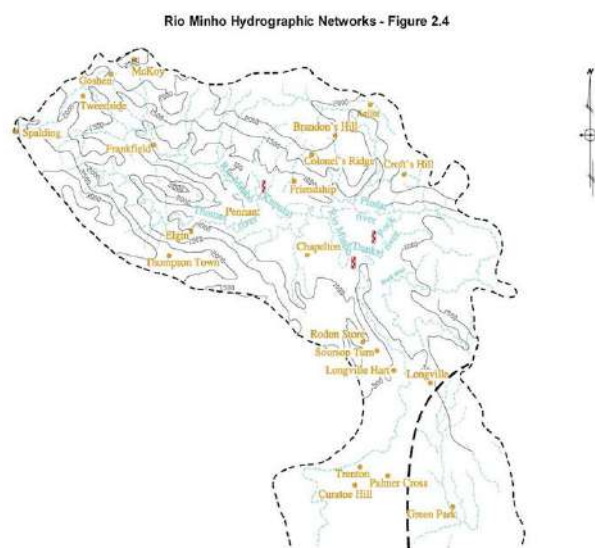
C. JAMAICA VULNERABILITY DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECT (JVDRP).

The project, with its primary goal of reducing Jamaica's vulnerabilities to disasters and climate change is a multiagency initiative and is being implemented under four components. The ODPEM has primary responsibility for implementing Component 1 - Understanding Risks. This will include National Risk Information Platform to include Coastal Risk Atlas, Coastal Multi- hazards Risk Assessments, Micro zonation studies and Ecosystem based assessments. The Contingency Emergency Response, a feature of component 3 also has the ODPEM's involvement. The project is being implemented through the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

D. ANNOTTO BEACH FRONT REHABILITATION WORKS: REPAIRS TO THE MOTHERFORD DRAIN

AND CONSTRUCTION OF GABION BASKETS.

The aim of this initiative is to improve response capacity and reduce the frequency of flooding in the town of Annotto Bay and the Motherford drain by improving and rehabilitating the drain at its outfall by the sea. In light of deteriorated gabions heavy siltation with sand from the beach and worsening flooding problems, the ODPEM has provided technical guidance to the community disaster risk management committee and has supported the development of the project appraisal document (PAD).



MULTI HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT (PPCR) PROJECT UPPER RIO MINHO WATERSHED.

Strategic Program for Climate Resilience under the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR). The program provides support for integrating climate risk and resilience into national planning and is being funded by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Jamaica's engagement under the project includes (i) Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in Local Sectoral and National Plans, and Implementing Integrated Adaptation Strategies in targeted River Basin Planning and Management, (ii) Financing Mechanisms for Sustained Adaptation Initiatives by the public and

private sectors; and community-based Organizations), (iii) Knowledge Management, and (iv) Improving Climate Data and Information Management Project..

The ODPEM has responsibility for Multihazard Risk Assessments and the development of Community Disaster Risk Management Plans for 15 communities in the Upper Rio Minho Watershed.

Risk and Vulnerability Studies

These are critical assessments and scientific studies used to arrive at an understanding of risk factors as well as to build awareness. The technique includes an examination of hazards, the elements exposed to the hazards and the resultant risk.

Achievements – Falmouth Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment

The primary objective of this project was to conduct a multi-hazard risk assessment for earthquakes and storm surges in order to devise plans for reduction of impact on coastal infrastructure and population while providing requisite data for improved land use planning and disaster risk reduction.

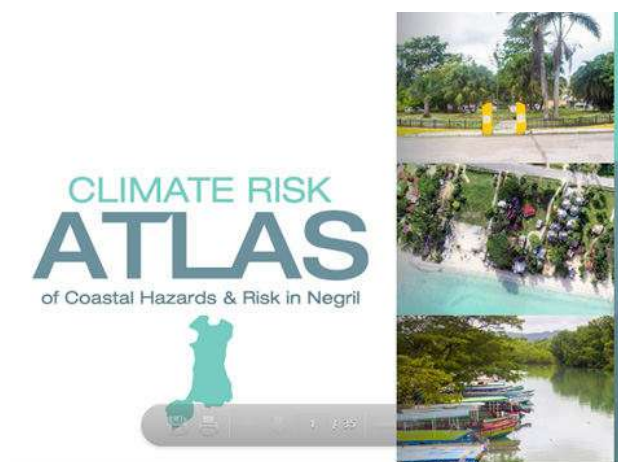
The number of buildings at risk is represented on risk curve by plotting the number of buildings at risk of sustaining damage against annual probability as indicated in Plate: 1



Plate: 1



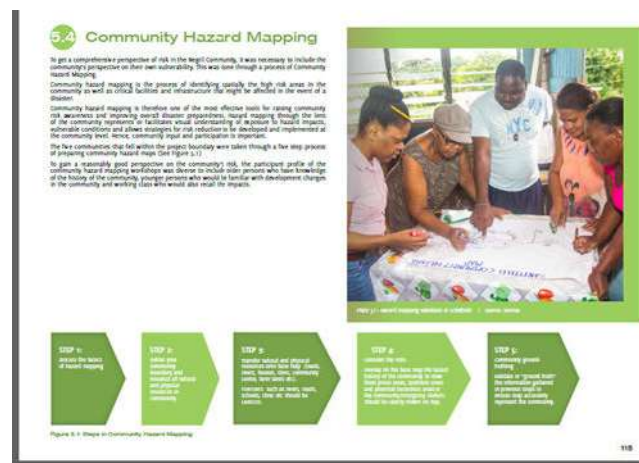
The risk curve shows the total consequences or losses associated with the storm surge scenarios for all the elements at risk in this case, critical facilities exposed to the scenario



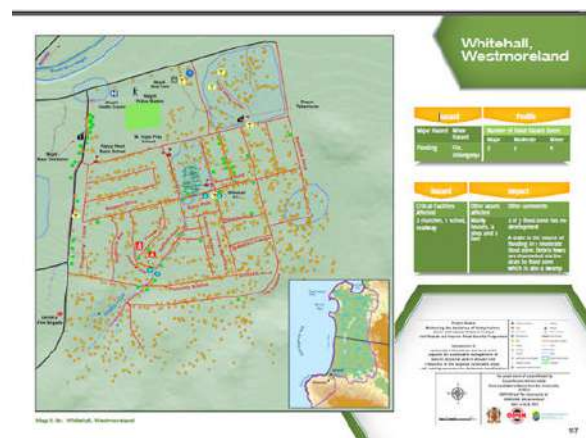
Negril Risk Assessment and Climate Risk Atlas

The project “Enhancing the Resilience of Coastal Communities” with funding from the Adaptation Fund has the Planning Institute of Jamaica as the National Implementing Entity and the ODPEM as one of the Executing Partners. It is intended to facilitate the implementation of options that are integrated into climate change adaptation initiatives for Jamaica. Under this project, the Mitigation, Planning and Research Division completed

a Climate Risk Atlas which, when approved will aid in raising awareness of the presence of, and possible impact from climate change on hazards specifically relating to storm surge and sea level rise in Negril. The Atlas will be used to guide development planning both at the national and local levels, development of adaptation plans and beach restoration guidelines and standards.



A highlight of the Atlas is the involvement of the community and other stakeholders in the development process. Community hazard maps were developed by the community members through a participatory approach for the communities within the project area. Digitized maps now exist for the communities of Sheffield, Whitehall and Red Ground in Westmoreland & Logwood in Hanover.



Agriculture Post impact Damage Assessment Tool

Geo-DAT is a mobile app designed for use on high performing android cellular telephones. Its purpose is to enable real time transmission of damage data collected by National Emergency Response Geographical Information System Team (NERGIST) certified professionals and community assessors to the National Emergency Operations Centre. Funding for the development of the app was provided by the international Non-governmental Organization ACIDI/VOCA with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) Training for Municipalities was a capacity building initiative executed across municipalities to provide the skills, methodology and capacities required to conduct preliminary seismic vulnerability assessments for structures within parishes. This took the form of 2 training interventions (St. Mary and St. James). In addition to the theoretical base, a practical component was also involved that allowed participants to translate their knowledge into actions. A total of six buildings were screened. The results of the assessment revealed that 17% of structures are likely to produce adequate seismic performance in the event of a maximum considered earthquake while the remaining would require detailed structural assessment. The results of these assessments will become the starting point for developing RVS databases of critical facilities at parish and ultimately national level.

Guideline for Preparing Hydraulic Design Reports On Drainage System for Proposed Subdivisions

The guideline sets out the minimum information to be included in the preparation of hydraulic design reports on drainage system for proposed sub-divisions. It is expected that the incorporation of these guidelines in the preparation of development proposal documents will allow for more accurate designs and the ease of application evaluation and approval. It will also further the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into the project planning phase to reduce future impacts and economic losses from disasters in Jamaica. Intended users include the consulting engineering firms and land developers. The guidelines were launched by the National Works Agency (NWA) with support and input by ODPEM and the Water Resource Authority (WRA). The Keynote speaker was the Dr. the Hon Omar Davis then Minister of Transport and Works.

FINANCIAL REPORT

