

The Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management – experiences from Hurricane Dean

Jens Grimm

WFP

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Objectives

- Facilitate an **effective, timely and coordinated response** operation, in the event of a rapid onset emergency and **request from an affected Member State** and in support of the existing regional mechanism.

Specific Objectives

- To carry out **initial assessments** after the occurrence of a hazard
- To **assist affected Governments in coordinating the assistance** in response to an emergency situation
- Enhance and support the regional mechanism for disaster response in the Eastern Caribbean

ECDGDM

- Countries served
 - *Anguilla*
 - *Antigua and Barbuda*
 - *Barbados*
 - *British Virgin Islands*
 - *Dominica*
 - *Saint Lucia*
 - *Grenada*
 - *Montserrat*
 - *St. Vincent and the Grenadines*
 - *St. Christopher and Nevis*

Composition

- Chaired: Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System
- Co-Chair: CDERA
- Members: IOs, UN agencies, bilateral assistance agencies; NGOs; national agencies

RNAT

Purpose of RNAT

To support the affected Government in rapid assessments to identify damages and immediate needs in order to provide decision makers at the national and international levels with critical information in a coordinated manner

RNAT

- Led by CDERA
- In country within 48 hours of hazard impact
- First report in 24 hours of arrival
 - Distributed by UNDP on behalf of UNRC
 - Common template
- More comprehensive report to follow by next 2 or 3 days as necessary

Hurricane Dean

- ECDGDM met on 16 August at 1030h
- Two RNATs were stood up (one on stby)
- Reports (different sources) from St.Lucia and Dominica indicated moderate damage
- No request at that time from Governments for support in damage and needs assessments
- After confirmation of reports by Governments, on 17 August the RNATs were stood down

Hurricane Dean

- Hurricane Dean moved on to Jamaica and Belize
- UNDAC deployed in both countries
- Media focus shifted
- Donor focus shifted
- “Relief Window of opportunity” for the Eastern Caribbean contracted

Hurricane Dean – Follow up Assessments

- FAO – Agriculture Sector – Dominica
- PAHO – Vulnerability Assessment of General Hospital – Dominica
- UNECLAC – Sectoral Assessments - Dominica and St. Lucia
- Oxfam – Assessment of building resilience in the agricultural sector – Dominica and St.Lucia
- IICA . Agriculture Sector – St. Lucia
- None of the assessments carried out by external actors addressed immediate humanitarian needs!

Issues

- National level capacity for rapid needs assessments
- Where RNAT deployment not required –still a need for coordination in info flows and support to affected countries, including in assessments and recovery strategies
- Requirement of immediate provision of assessment findings by national Governments

Issues contd.

- Well developed systems for initial (needs) assessments were introduced to the region, yet the information and data expected in a timely fashion was not available – are these systems established?
- International disaster assistance often linked to declaration of state of emergency
- ECDGDM represents a valuable coordination mechanism and complimentary structure to the regional as well as the international response mechanisms