

Response and Recovery from Hurricane Ike – The Turks and Caicos Islands Experience



Joint Presentation by Ministry of Finance (MOF) and
Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies
(DDME) , Turks and Caicos Islands

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Outline

- *Overview of the Islands*
- *Past Hurricane Experience*
- *Response*
- *Recovery*



Overview of the Islands

- *Location of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) - north of the island of Hispaniola and southeast of the Bahamas archipelago.*
- *Geography of the TCI – the terrain is low, with flat limestone and has extensive marshes and mangrove swamps.*



Past Hurricane Experience

- *During the period 1900-2004 six (6) Category 4 hurricanes have passed within a 300 km distance of the islands.*
- *Hurricane Wilma - 2005*
- *Stationary trough May 2007*
- *In 2008 - Tropical warnings for Faye and Gustav.*



Past Hurricane Experience Cont'd

- *August 2008 – Tropical Storm Hanna*
- *September 2008 – Hurricane Ike which was a category 4 system with sustained winds of 135 mph.*



TCI Response

- *Communication*
- *Coordination*
- *Relief Distribution*



Communication

Pre-Ike Technology Available

- *VHF & HF Radios*
- *Email*
- *Satellite, Land-line, & Cellular Phones*

Post-Ike Technology

- *Satellite Phone*
- *Cell Phone (limited)*
- *VHF Radio (limited)*

Result

- *Hampered Coordination*



Coordination

NEOC

Executive Policy Group

- *Daily Meetings*
- *Multi-Island Nation*
- *Decision makers often Separated*

Operations Group

- *Nightly Meetings*

Evacuation

Regional & International Assistance



Relief Distribution

Pre-positioned Food Stocks

Warehousing

Transportation

Coordination System

- *Distribution Point*
- *Targeted Distribution*
- *Soup Kitchens*



The Recovery Process

- *The absence of a recovery plan.*
- *Government immediate intervention was the establishment of a National Rebuilding Unit.*
- *The most affected islands (Grand Turk, South Caicos and Salt Cay) were declared duty free zones.*



Recovery Process Cont'd

- *Draft Recovery Planning Framework developed by CARICAD. Highlighted in this document is the rationale for priority ranking of recovery projects.*
- *The framework also focused on the priority sectors.*
- *The establishment of a Recovery Task Force.*



Financing Strategy for the Recovery Process

- *Budget reallocations*
- *Donor contributions*
- *Contingent lines of credit*
- *Parametric Insurance – TCIG
received \$6.3m from the CCRIF.*



Challenges

- *Limited borrowing options*
- *Limited experiences*













THANK YOU