

Goal of Approach:

The Climate Smart Community Disaster Management (CSCDM) Programme is an initiative of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to promote and build capacity for the inclusion of climate change considerations in community disaster management initiatives in the Caribbean. As such, it contributes to and complements the wider policy environment that guides climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the region, including the United Nations *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*; CDEMA's *Enhanced Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programme Framework 2007 – 2012*; and the, *Climate Change in the Caribbean: A Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change 2009-2015*, which is being implemented by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC).

The need to make DRR initiatives 'climate smart' is premised on the growing evidence that global climate change as a result of human activity is already affecting the Caribbean and is predicted to have even more serious consequences over the longer term. Climate change will disproportionately affect individuals and communities that are already vulnerable as a result of other factors, such as poverty or degraded environment. While the impacts of climate change on disaster risks are complex and still somewhat uncertain, it is clear that climate change tends to exacerbate disaster risk because it frequently compounds the existing vulnerabilities within a community. It is therefore critical that community members be engaged in, and provided with technical and financial support for, DRR and CCA initiatives designed to reduce the level of vulnerability. A participatory approach is therefore recommended at all stages of Programme implementation, recognising that community traditional knowledge and experience can bring new insights and useful capacities to the CSCDM Programme. Tips are also provided for making the CSCDM Programme gender sensitive and livelihoods oriented.

Input provided by: CDEMA Coordinating Unit

Main elements of the implementation strategy

The Programme document is divided into two parts: Part A, which considers the Programme context, rationale and enabling framework necessary for effective Programme implementation; and Part B, which outlines the seven key steps CDEMA recommends for implementing the Programme. Under each of these, there is an overview of the rationale for and scope of the step; a list of key tasks and responsibilities; a list of critical success factors; and a list of resources (including where possible examples of Caribbean CSCDM good practice though few have yet been identified).

The seven recommended steps for implementing a comprehensive CSCDM Programme at the regional and national level are:

1. Build capacity to deliver the Programme at the national level (i.e. in the NDOs and other DRR agencies).
2. Identify vulnerable communities in each country and prioritise where to act.
3. Conduct (or review existing) vulnerability and adaptive capacity assessment

(VCA) in the selected community or communities.

4. Build community capacity for climate change adaptation (in particular through facilitation of CDEMA's CSCDM Module and Handbooks).
5. Develop and implement a climate smart disaster management plan.
6. Promote and facilitate networking and information sharing at the regional, national and local levels.
7. Conduct participatory monitoring and evaluation.

Targeted beneficiaries

This CSCDM Programme document is designed primarily for use by National Disaster Offices (NDOs) and other national disaster risk reduction organisations involved in implementing disaster management initiatives at the community level in the Caribbean. It also contains material that will be of value to partner organisations at the community level. It is intended to build on and complement existing programmes and can be used both in situations where disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts are already underway in a community and in cases where a new initiative is being designed.

Any significant lessons learned

The success of the CSCDM Programme will also depend on improving the enabling environment, including:

- development of a policy environment that actively promotes integrated DRR and CCA approaches and the opportunities these present for improving livelihoods;
- explicit integration of climate change into national disaster risk reduction programmes and vice-versa;
- an institutional mechanism to facilitate integrated implementation of the Programme by multiple departments and agencies, to share experiences and best practices, and to jointly monitor and evaluate outcomes;
- adequate funding to build the capacity of those charged with facilitating the CSCDM Programmes at the national level and resources to implement the Programme over a period of a minimum of three years in any given community (and possibly longer depending on the capacity at the outset and the scale of the problems). This is only likely to be feasible in practice if agencies are willing to pool resources.
- Because of the level of uncertainty surrounding climate change, it is also important that the organisations involved in CSCDM develop a culture of flexibility and adaptive capacity and apply this as they monitor and evaluate their CSCDM projects

Resource requirements

Potential for replication or scaling-up

The tool can be utilized by any country and is located at the link below:

http://www.cdema.org/ccdm/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=2:national-programming&Itemid=67

Any additional information

Contact CDEMA for any further information.

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