

# **REGIONAL FORUM: CATALYZING INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS TO BUILD LOCAL DISASTER RESILIENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES**

**Topic: “How can we catalyse and empower Caribbean Civil societies and Communities to build resilient to hurricanes and other Climate extremes?”**

**Dominica’s Experience**

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# Vulnerabilities of Communities in Dominica

- Rugged Terrain
- Landslipage/Landslides
- Water Streams/Rivers – Flooding
- Coastal Settlement – Risk of costal damage due to sea level rise



# Recognizing the vulnerabilities

There are some points for consideration:

- Economy
- Physical space/Environment – eco systems
- Social Asset/Social Capital
- People's relations
- The importance of stakeholder and civil society in building resilience
- The structure of the communities – what exist and how well are they structured
- Are communities empowered to get involve in resilience planning? Are there advocates for change re vulnerable groups?



# Challenges facing communities and Civil Society in Building community Resilience

- ⦿ Limited Technical expertise
- ⦿ Resource limitations (financial)
- ⦿ Limited capital for investment
- ⦿ Regulatory issues
- ⦿ Resources may be available but the inability to attract such resources due to lack of capacity (Technical and otherwise)
- ⦿ Limited knowledge of International Financial management practices

# Community and Civil Society Update

- Good network of Civil Society organisations
- Structures of community Organisation not well defined
- Very few umbrella Organisation representing community resilience building to climatic and other shocks

# Lessons learnt from Hurricane Maria

- ⦿ Food storage
- ⦿ Shelter Management – Resilient housing stock
- ⦿ Water storage
- ⦿ Communication
- ⦿ Medical Supplies
- ⦿ Alternative source of power
- ⦿ Strengthened Community Structures

# Priority needs and key action taken

- Implementation of the community Emergency Readiness Initiative (CERI)
  - ⦿ Capacity building – Institutional Strengthening of Communities Disaster Committees and Civil Society to respond to climatic and other shocks
  - ⦿ Enhanced Local Communication



# Priority needs and key action taken cont.

- Food Storage
- Medical supplies
- Shelter Management – Regional Shelters
- Improved housing stock – construction of resilient apartment complex
- Private sector and civil society collaboration
- Private sector and civil society collaboration. REZDEM – Resilient infrastructure and community enhancement

# Conclusion

A successful Community Resilience Strategy cannot be successful if community and Civil society are not involved in the planning, executing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation. This process helps to build trust, confidence, relationship and ownership of the entire process.