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Antigua and Barbuda

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011) - interim

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Outcomes for 2007-2009

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Outcomes:

Very little progress has been made with the integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development Policies, Planning and programming at all levels. There is considerable work ongoing in some sectors and even at the community levels. There has been some progress of note and efforts are ongoing to enhance this requirement. For example at the national level, a National Disaster Committee, an executive, and several subcommittees already exist.

The Disaster Management legislation is under review to legally address specific matters of policy, planning and programming, this will also address issues of harmonization and governance which will widen the scope of the present disaster management focus and embrace the disaster management cycle: Prevention, Preparedness, Response, recovery and Mitigation.

Antigua and Barbuda has already mapped its hazard and vulnerability impact and is presently conducting a micro assessment of each community which when completed, will provide details of specific areas of vulnerability, cost and where possible what options are available.

This will allow for prioritization of intervention and allocation of resources and where possible this will be used to guide development in sectors, communities and any other development at all levels.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Outcomes:

There is a very strong community based disaster management programme in Antigua and Barbuda. There are ongoing programmes at the community level to enhance capacity for the full implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM). The institutional framework is part of the country's disaster management legislation, and consist of a policy group, operations group and the community group. This framework is guided by legislation, disaster plans, and operational procedures and guidelines etc.

The community disaster management programme is divided into seventeen geographic units sixteen on mainland Antigua and one on Barbuda. These committees are primarily responsible for CDM at the community level, they are engaged with the National Office of Disaster services on a regular basis and conduct regular disaster management activities to include training exercises and planning for specific events.

In the pass focus has been on preparedness and response. Since the implementation of CDM, greater focus is on the identification of Hazards at the community level for specific intervention at that level.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of

emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Outcomes:

Antigua and Barbuda has made some progress in the area of reconstruction having been impacted by Hurricanes in 1989 Hugo, 1995 Luis, 1998 Georges and in 1999 Jhose and Lenny. With the help of Argentina and the US crises corps we were able to design low income, low cost buildings that have stood the test of time and the elements.

This process needs to be formalized and enforced at all levels. This project was born out of Hurricane Georges and the need to reduce the level of impact on the poor and vulnerable. A review of older structures that have been withstanding the impacts of these events reveled that we have been moving away from the traditional building techniques

Strategic goals

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is committed to the implementation of comprehensive Disaster Management in the twin Island state. This process will be challenging especially at this time when the economy is quite sluggish. However, the government intends to focus on reducing the country's risk over time and where possible manage those risks that cannot be reduced.

The government is uniquely aware of the many challenges that will be faced during this process and the need to build capacity at the levels of the National office of Disaster Services and the other public sector support partners, private sector and civil society. This will require a national frame work clearly defining strategies and adequate support and well coordinated implementation, monitoring of the overall outcomes.

This process will require that we change the way we have been dealing with disaster management not only in Antigua and Barbuda but across the Caribbean and more specifically all of the CDEMA member states. We need to move to that place where disaster management is part of the language in our schools, at community activities, even in our offices. In other words, speaking the language is just the beginning. Taking part in disaster management exercises, training and awareness events will make us all more aware and better equipt to deal with the challenges that hazardous events present.

The government and the private sector must work closer together if this process is to bring the benefits that will see the country's risk reduced to an acceptable level. We are convinced that sustainable development can be achieved in a comprehensive manner under the risk reduction approach as outlined in the CDM strategy and framework.

The people of Antigua and Barbuda deserve to be safe at work, in their homes where ever they may be. This is a fundamental right that all of us must share. The National Office of Disaster Services has been mandated to pay closer attention to our schools and places of mass gathering, to ensure that whatever

can be done to make our citizen safer at these places must be identified so actions can be taken to address these matters.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement:

This multi-year programme creates an opportunity for the implementation of systematic programmes and projects with a focus on preparedness for, response to, recovery from, and mitigation against, in a framework that may see some programmes and projects implemented incrementally over many years. This process would require a clear disaster management policy, a plan that outlines clear roles and functions. It outlines operational procedures and established standards. This will require strong partnerships with commitment that is sustained.

The programme will focus on intervention at the national level, community level and provide support for the regional disaster management mechanism. Building capacity at the national and community levels will be one of the major focuses of our work programme activities. Adequate retooling of the NODS and its support partners must be a front burner issue with the relevant support. Things like communications, emergency operations tools and the training that goes with these support processes are important, however, making that link between development and disaster management is the key that will open the door to reduce risk and sustainable development.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement:

The routine activities of the NODS are well established and are serviced annually by the nods, these are budgeted for annually however from time to time it has become necessary to seek assistance from our support partners in order to fully execute these activities.

Routine activities are those that are absolutely necessary for emergency operations such as : Shelter and Shelter Management, Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis, Mass Casualty Management, Search and Rescue, Telecommunications, Relief Management among other similar activities.

The state of disaster management in the twin Island state of Antigua and Barbuda has come a long way, since 1984 when it was first established. Unlike those early days when disaster management was focused only on preparedness and response, the region and more specifically Antigua and Barbuda has now accepted comprehensive disaster management as a new approach. This new focus is well established in a strategy and framework that addresses all hazards and all phases of disaster management.

As we move forward the establishment of harmonization at the national level is of critical importance, even more importantly is the matter of monitoring and evaluation of all the activities on the ground. Coordination and collaboration is of equal importance since this process is about all agencies executing their roles and functions as outlined in accordance with the national disaster management policy and plan.

The National Disaster Management Plan is presently under review and the national policy needs to be developed in accordance with the new CDM approach and links need be made to the disaster legislation, emergency operating procedures, infrastructure, tools and human resources adequate for today's, disaster management expectation.

The implementation of the CDM has created the opportunity for national activities to be prioritized, by sectors and agencies and focus will be on activities at the national and community levels. The monitoring mechanism will allow early identification of success or failure and provide the environment for changes to take place at an early stage to abort undesirable outcomes.

The Result Base Management framework is a new mechanism identified as a tool to manage work programme activities and project management. If this tool is properly used it will allow for better coordination and collaboration and enhance monitoring at all levels.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is DRR included in development plans and strategies?

No

Means of verification:

- * No: National development plan
- * Yes: Sector strategies and plans
- * Yes: Climate change policy and strategy
- * Yes: Poverty reduction strategy papers
- * Yes: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Description:

The cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda approved the implementation of CDM as the framework and strategy to guide this country's disaster management programme. This process includes an oversight ministerial committee and a technical committee.

This process involves bi-annual meetings primarily to review progress and set priorities with a feedback mechanism into the cabinet.

National development is a work in progress, and the country's Disaster management policy, plans and strategies are under review to bring them into conformity with the legal and administrative requirements.

Context & Constraints:

Major focus is on the following sectors: Health, Agriculture, Tourism & Education. This is as a result of the CDEMA lead CDM mechanism which involves the regional sector. A national mechanism for country specific monitoring and measurement is being examined to create better harmony at country level.

A national Climate change policy is in its final stages, the environment unit is the agency with lead for this activity.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda with the assistance of the Caribbean Development bank CDB has completed a Poverty assessment of the country and work is ongoing to address some of the issues as out lined in the report to reduce poverty.

Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?

No

Means of verification:

* 800,000.00 % allocated from national budget

* 75,000.00? USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund

* 10,000.00 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)

* 3,000.00 USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)

* 000000 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

Much of the country's budget is still being allocated based on the traditional line items and in the absence of a clear disaster management policy this poses a major problem as ministries are not able to implement any meaningful Mitigation programmes. This situation creates concern of note that when projects are completed that require continuation it is usually difficult at best, but impossible most of the time to followup these activities which usually results in very important work going to waste

Context & Constraints:

Where as the disaster management focus has been on preparedness and response, a new disaster management platform is needed to move CDM/HFA forward.

Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Legislation

* No: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

There is no direct budget allocation for community disaster management. Antigua and Barbuda does not have a local government system. The community disaster management programme is comprised of Volunteers and some government employees, civil society and the private sector.

Context & Constraints:

The activities of the community disaster management programme are supported by the national budget through its work programme activities and support from US/AID, CDEMA and other support partners.

Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are civil society organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform?

Yes

Means of verification:

* 6 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 5 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

* 2 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

Description:

This ranking is not an indicator that work is not on going but until the disaster management legislation, policy, strategy, plans and a review of roles and functions is completed, it would not be practical to continue to approach CDM/HFA implementation with out this very important update.

Context & Constraints:

Civil Society members on the disaster management committees are eg Agriculture, Tourism, Health,

Education and chambers of commerce.

Reference document:

> Disaster Management Legislation (2002)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15285_disasterlawsofantigua2002.pdf [PDF 282.07 KB]

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

* 100 % of schools and hospitals assessed

* 5% schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* Yes: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

The lack of finance, and the absence of clearer commitment to the risk reduction process.

Context & Constraints:

A comprehensive assessment of all schools, Clinics, and other critical facilities has been completed and reside in a data base. This assessment is an ongoing activity

Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Disaster loss database

* No: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

A disaster loss data base is maintained by the NODS. However more work is needed to mandate the use of this information into the development process.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of adequate equipment, skills and other resources are responsible for the low level of achievement. An annual report will reflect any damage impact report in Antigua and Barbuda.

Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Early warnings acted on effectively

* No: Local level preparedness

* Yes: Communication systems and protocols

* Yes: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

The vast majority of those living in vulnerable areas are usually targeted by the media houses, with strong support from the community and community leaders.

Context & Constraints:

Like any society, there is usually a small element that waits until the last minute to take any action.

Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- * Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- * No: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- * No: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

The region is made up of a lot of small Islands with limited resources and how much assistance one can give to its neighbor is usually very limited, yet there is a system to do just this. This system needs to be expanded to enhance trans-regional issues and by doing so will strengthen our overall disaster management system

Context & Constraints:

The region is constrained by language, geography, lack of technology, etc.

Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Web page of national disaster information system
- * No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

Antigua and Barbuda has formally established a website (NODS.gov.ag) where disaster management information can be found, this is in addition to the weready.org website which has been set up at the regional level to keep the people of the region informed. These are in addition to regular public information dissemination and training in the schools, work places and communities. Posters and brochures are distributed regularly to the general public and daily public announcements are on radio and television. News paper ads though less frequent are placed in the public's domain frequently.

In Antigua and Barbuda all the schools have received multi-hazard information and regular evacuation

drills are conducted in a relatively short period. Recommendations will be made for mandatory specific disaster management activities over the calendar year.

Ongoing research continues to occupy the focal point attention as we analyze and update multi-hazards data for prioritized intervention and cost benefits. This includes updating of data bases, hazard Maps and other critical information across sectors, ministries and other agencies.

This process is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2011.

Context & Constraints:

Due to the limited staff and budgetary constraints, this process will take longer than anticipated, other nontraditional means of support are being explored.

Core indicator 2

School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?

No

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Primary school curriculum
- * Yes: Secondary school curriculum
- * No: University curriculum
- * No: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

Disaster Management is part of the national schools curriculum. However, this needs to be formalized to truly reflect DRR. As it stands now it is not clear who sets the standard and monitors the scope.

As part of the wider Caribbean intervention, through CDEMA, the University of the West Indies has developed and introduced specific information for the class room and teachers as part of the recently concluded Tsunami warning protocol for the Caribbean of which Antigua and Barbuda was a pilot country.

The issue of standards for the different grades is a matter of concern that needs to be addressed and reflected across the education institutions.

Context & Constraints:

This may require a revisit of the education policy and strategy to give full and unambiguous guidance to this process. The ministry of education may be unwilling to go out on its own to fully implement DRR in the schools and other educational institutions since most of the region's curriculum is set by the regional body.

Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget?

No

* No: Research outputs, products or studies

* No: Research programmes and projects

* No: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:

Multi risk assessment tools are slowly being introduced. However, the skill sets are moving to private sector, and replacement has been an issue. Great progress has been made as the NODS, fisheries, agriculture, land and survey dept, statistical unit, Public works Department. The environment division has started a process that allows us to share information and analysis between these agencies.

The information is being used to assist with cost benefit analysis in DRR related matters. Where we are and where we need to be is a gap that needs to be filled.

Context & Constraints:

The information sharing process is still very challenging, the gains made so far must be enhanced for maximum benefit.

Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Public education campaigns.

* Yes: Training of local government

* Yes: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

A country wide programme of awareness exists in Antigua and Barbuda, there is an ongoing effort to

constantly update the information to make it fresh and relevant so it appeals to its beneficiary.

Context & Constraints:

The present system works well. However the issue of sustainability is questionable since more than fifty percent of the electronic programmes are done through good will by the management of the media houses.

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc)

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Protected areas legislation
- * No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- * No: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)
- * Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)
- * Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:

While there is no Policy, there is a very strong focus on climate change adaption. In recent times there has been movement towards integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction as a common platform for future projects and programmes. Under the leadership of the environment and fisheries divisions significant work has been done and is ongoing in the areas of: coastal protection, reef health, ridge to reef monitoring, mapping of wet lands, mapping of forest, among other important activities.

Context & Constraints:

The absence of environmental legislation and a clear policy are two very important issues that when completed will see significant changes in the enforcement and overall management of environmental issues.

Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Crop and property insurance

* No: Employment guarantee schemes

* No: Conditional cash transfers

* No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes

* No: Microfinance

* No: Micro insurance

Description:

While a social safety net exists, there is no clear policy in place to guide this process. Property insurance is voluntary and insurance of crops is only now being examined. In January of 2010 the government of Antigua and Barbuda hosted a regional activity with the help of support partners to examine insurance in the agriculture sector, the discuss was at a regional level.

Under the sector lead of F.A.O., the food security initiative task force of Caricom has advanced work in this area and should shortly put a proposal on the table for regional action in which Antigua and Barbuda would be interested.

Context & Constraints:

The lack of resources especially financial, and the fact that some of these activities require meetings to resolve and arrive at a common position, is an issue that if overcome would move the process forward swiftly.

Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment?

No

Means of verification:

* No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

* Yes: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

Retrofitting in Schools and Health care facilities is practiced. However, there is no clear policy and it is not mandatory and as a result it is not sustained. Those facilities used as public shelters are inspected annually for intervention before the hurricane season.

Context & Constraints:

The lack of a comprehensive disaster management plan, policy and a frame work for the Ministry of Education reduces the kind of impact one would expect. When this process is completed it would demonstrate the ministry's ownership for full implementation of DRR in this sector.

Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements?

No

Means of verification:

- * No: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- * No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- * No: Training of masons on safe construction technology
- * No: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:

The development control authority is responsible for the policing and enforcement of development standards. Antigua and Barbuda is presently reviewing for the second time, a Land Use Plan that was not implemented when it was first developed in the 1980s.

Very limited Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas is practiced in Antigua and Barbuda, this is because up until recently Landslides was not an issue

Some training of artisans has taken place, however, this needs to be formalized across the construction companies in a more sustained manner.

The issue of safe land for low income housing and building safer communities needs to be a development policy.

Context & Constraints:

A national development plan with clear policies will address this matter.

Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR?

No

Means of verification:

* 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

* Yes: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

While there are no policies that give effect to this practice, Antigua and Barbuda has been practicing DRR in the Recovery Phase since 1995 when the island was impacted by Hurricane Luis.

There is no recovery fund put aside. However, the practice has been focused on rebuilding better than before. As a result of this a guide book was develop called Build it Strong. This is distributed freely to the public.

Gender based issues are clearly practiced but need to be clear in policy.

Context & Constraints:

When the national disaster management policy is completed these issues will be clearly addressed.

Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

* No: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Description:

Very large projects are usually required to carry out an EIA. However, Hazard impact Analysis is not usually requested and very few projects are referred to the National Office of Disaster Services for assessment.

Context & Constraints:

The scope of analysis needs to be wider if we are going to achieve good DRR benefits.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

* No: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:

There is no policy in place. However, isolated work has been done by different agencies. When work has been completed on the national disaster management policy, this priority will be addressed.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of resources. Implementation of this section has direct bearing on updated legislation and national disaster management policy.

Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster?

Yes

Means of verification:

* No: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities

* Yes: Operations and communications centre

* Yes: Search and rescue teams

* Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies

* Yes: Shelters

* Yes: Secure medical facilities

* No: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:

Antigua and Barbuda has a national disaster plan which clearly outlines the roles and functions of key agencies. This plan outlines the operational framework in which disaster response operations are managed, it also encompasses the relationship between private sector, civil society and government with a strong community focus.

The plan encompasses several sub-committees, with their roles and functions established. The National Office of Disaster Services facilitates annually public awareness information, disaster management training and disaster management exercises. These activities may be general or specific.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the disaster management program, embraces gender equity, we do not practice discrimination of religion, gender, age or political affiliation, in our administrative or operational procedures.

Context & Constraints:

The community disaster management program continues to be a challenge since this is a voluntary program and attrition rates tend to be high.

Inadequate resources to carry out the expectations of those we provide service for. Access to training in the various disciplines is usually expensive and require overseas travel.

Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?

No

Means of verification:

* Yes: National contingency funds

* Yes: Catastrophe insurance facilities

* No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

There are no specific funds available for response and recovery if Antigua and Barbuda is impacted by a major disaster. However, the financial legislation makes provision for emergency funding, through a process of adjustment of the national budget.

If Antigua and Barbuda were to be impacted by a major event, it is expected that regional and

international assistance would be forthcoming even after adjustments have been made to budgetary allocations.

Context & Constraints:

The absence of a disaster management contingency fund.

Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
- * Yes: Post disaster need assessment methodologies
- * Yes: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects
- * Yes: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

Antigua and Barbuda has a clear damage assessment process, which is in keeping with UN ECLAC and US/AID guidelines. There is a three-tiered assessment system:

Tier 1 is referred to as the ISO(Initial Situation Overview)

Tier 2 is referred to as the IDA (Initial Damage Assessment)

Tier 3 is referred to as DANA (Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis)

The assessment reports are submitted to the national office of disaster services within a prescribed time frame. These are then presented to the national assessment sub-committee, after which they are collapsed into one report.

Context & Constraints:

Damage assessment is usually hampered by the availability of persons to carry out the assessment within the required time frame.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

No

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development is practiced in a very limited way. This process needs to be formalized and institutionalized. When the national disaster management policy is completed, this will be part of that process.

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is no specific policy on gender perspectives on risk reduction in Antigua and Barbuda. However, there is a practice of gender equity with a slight bias towards females especially single parent families with females as the head of the household.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Capacities for risk reduction have been developed and continue to be developed. However, the absence of a formalized system supported by legislation and policy makes it difficult to implement. Though some agencies practice disaster risk reduction, a systematic approach is required to sustain the overall country's risk reduction in a meaningful way.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Some work has been done in human security and social equity especially in public and commercial facilities. A clearer policy guideline where this is concerned is required if we are going to meet the standards outlined in CDM/HFA requirement. The government of Antigua and Barbuda is committed to this process and work to formalize same is ongoing.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is a well established relationship between civil society, private sector and the government of

Antigua and Barbuda the sharing of resources, joint training, and awareness information are just a few of the areas of close collaboration. The relationship between these partners could be classified as very good.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Contextual Drivers of this process could be best explained as the reality of the country's overall vulnerability and perhaps the vivid memories of not so distant past events. The reality that if clear policy supported by law is not implemented, a continued loss of assets and resources will be extremely difficult to live with. The civil society, private sector and the government must now demonstrate a willingness to implement these policies and advance from the stage of talking about it.

Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

Disaster risk considerations into development Policies, Planning and programmes is not yet a part a formal structure although the disaster legislation provides for consultation between the Development Control Authority and the National Office of Disaster Services the frame work in which this will take place is yet to be established. this matter will be fully examined when the National Disaster Legislation is reviewed in November of 2010.

Future Outlook Statement:

A model Disaster legislation for the CDEMA member states is in its final stage of development. this will form part of the Antigua and Barbuda review of its disaster laws.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

Antigua and Barbuda has trained and continue to train key staff in safer building and all that goes with this practice, at the national/ sector and community levels. attached report

Future Outlook Statement:

This process could be strengthen and formalized to enhance and continue to build capacity.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

This is one of the country's strong points as a result of being impacted by many Hurricane between 1989 and 1999 the lessons Identified has been in some cases has been incorporated into emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Future Outlook Statement:

Antigua and Barbuda now need to review these processes and formalize a sustained approach to institutionalize this process.