National Campaign Launch Jamaica:

Global Campaign “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!”
Hurricane Sandy
October 24, 2012

Presented by: His Worship the Mayor
Cllr. Levan Freeman
THE ST MARY EXPERIENCE
St. Mary

Location Map of St. Mary

Legend:
- Red: St. Mary Boundary
- Yellow: Jamaica Parish Boundaries

20 10 0 20 Kilometers
St. Mary

- Located on the northeastern section of the island
- 610 km – fifth smallest parish
- Population: 113,615 (2011 census)
- Bordered by Portland in the east, St. Ann in the West, parts of St. Catherine and St. Andrew in the south
- Eastern section: shale rock
- Western section: limestone
EOC Activation

- Parish EOC activated October 24, 2012 at 6am
- Agencies Represented: SMPC (Mayor, Councillors, Parish Council Staff) MLSS, MOH, JFB, JCF, JDF, Red Cross, Community Volunteers.
- Parish EOC deactivated October 25, 2012 at 5pm
Hurricane Sandy

Effects
Housing
Housing
Housing
Infrastructure
Agriculture
Response

- Shelter Activation: 16 shelters were activated housing 267 persons.
- Persons were evacuated by JFB and JDF
- Roads were cleared by NWA with priority given to main thoroughfare
- Rural/interior roadways partially cleared by citizens
- Crime was kept at a minimum through frequent patrols by the JCF
Rehabilitation/Recovery

- Welfare team started assessments on October 25, 2012
- Welfare team: MLSS, Red Cross, Poor Relief Dept., ADRA, SDC
- Over 3000 households were assessed: 171 houses were totally destroyed
- Items distributed: food packages, mattresses, tarpaulins, hygiene/cleaning kits, blankets, relief cheques
- Assessments ended December 6, 2012
Effects
Town Centre
Car submerged on Stennett Street
Commerce
Education – Port Maria Primary
Port Maria Primary
Housing
Housing
Response

- Shelter Activation: over 200 persons sought shelter at a church as the designated shelter was flooded.
- Persons were evacuated by JFB and JDF
- Crime was kept at a minimum through frequent patrols by the JCF
Welfare team started assessments on November 11, 2012

Welfare team: MLSS, Red Cross

Items distributed: food packages, mattresses, tarpaulins, hygiene/cleaning kits, blankets
Challenges

- Inadequate resources
- Loss of Digicel service during Hurricane Sandy
- Contamination of potable water supply
- Slow restoration of power supply due to blocked/damaged roads
- Parish Council and other agency resources depleted
- Overstressed drainage system
- Extensive damage to roadways – Hurricane Sandy followed by flash flooding
Challenges

- Public Health Scare – consumption of contaminated food
- Damage assessment is still being quantified
- Damage assessment not done in a timely manner
- Emotional distress of citizens due to recurrent flooding
- Main road linking St. Mary and Kingston (Junction Road) under severe stress
Recommendations/Lessons Learnt

- Additional damage assessors needed (welfare and agriculture)
- Relocation of persons living in vulnerable areas (Port Arthur Lane, Paggee, Frontier, Gardener Land, Spicy Grove)
- Major rivers to be dredged and river training done
- Extensive redesign and reconstruction of drains
- Flood Early Warning System to be installed in Port Maria
- Alternative means of communication needed (2 way radios)

**EMPHASIS NEEDS TO BE PLACED ON CORRECTING THE PROBLEM RATHER THAN PROVIDING RELIEF SUPPLIES!!!!**
The End