

National Campaign Launch Jamaica:

Global Campaign “Making Cities Resilient: My
City is Getting Ready!”

Hurricane Sandy

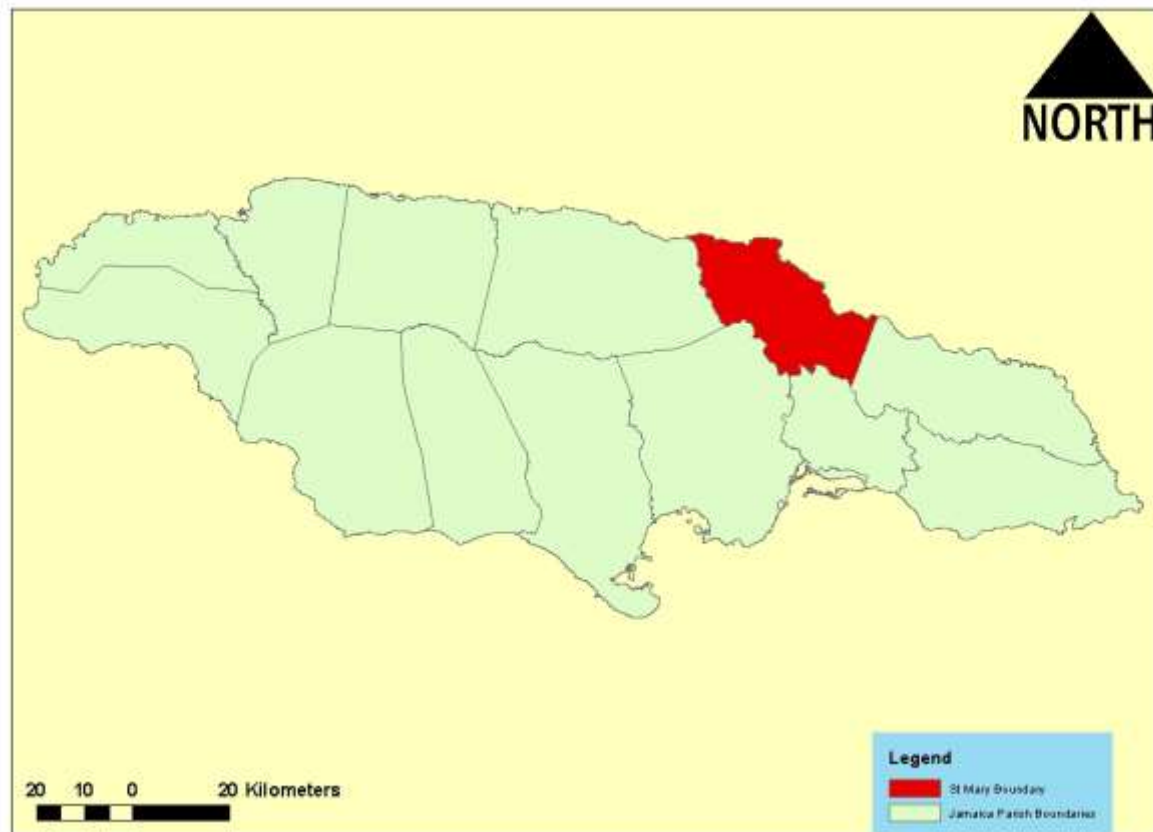
October 24, 2012

Presented by: His Worship the Mayor
Cllr. Levan Freeman


THE ST MARY EXPERIENCE

St. Mary


Location Map of St. Mary



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
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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
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Hurricane Sandy

Effects



Housing



Housing



Housing



Infrastructure



Infrastructure




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
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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
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Flash Flood – Port Maria

November 10, 2012



Effects

Town Centre



Town Centre



Car submerged on Stennett Street



Commerce



Commerce



Education – Port Maria Primary



Port Maria Primary



Housing



Housing




Port Maria Primary






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
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Rehabilitation/Recovery

- ▶ 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
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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
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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!!!!**
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The End

