

5 OCT 1995
CS
File: Jamaica

FOR ATTENTION OF

Ms CHRISTINE SCHEIDNER, IDNDR
GENEVA
FAX # 41.22.733.8695

ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE DECADE

Information on Provider
 Name: DR. BARBARA CARBY
 Position: DIRECTOR GENERAL
 Organisation: OFFICE OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/EMERGENCY MGMT.
 Address: 12 CAMP ROAD, KINGSTON 4, JAMAICA.
 State/Province:
 Zip/Post Code:
 Country: JAMAICA
 Phone Number: (876) 928-5111-4, 938-2525-6
 Fax Number: (876) 928-5503
 Email: odpem@cw.jamaica.com
 webpage:

Experience and Recent Disasters

1. Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years.
 Drought 1996, 1997, 1998
 Flood events 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998

2. What was the impact of the above listed disasters? Crop loss, loss of live stock, loss of lives, displaced communities, economic and disruption, health and educational impacts

3. Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster? Drought response measures, flood proofing of structures, river training, relocation of some residents

4. Do you believe there can be improvements in preparing for natural hazards in your country and in preventing negative impacts of such hazards? What sort of improvements? More mitigation projects i.e. soil conservation measures, river training, drain cleaning and reconstruction, flood proofing of structures, water storage measures

5. Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?
☒ Yes ☐ No Explain: THROUGH INCREASED INFORMATION FLOWS, ENHANCED GREATER AWARENESS TO NATURAL HAZARDS, MOTIVATED REVERED ACTION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

6. Please provide an example(s) an achievement (s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a "success story" COMMUNITY FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS CONSISTING OF a) PREDICTION b) ALERTING c) EVACUATION PLANNING, d) CLEARING OF WATERWAYS AS MITIGATION MEASURE
 2. RELOCATION OF VICTIMS TO LESS VULNERABLE LOCATIONS

Progress made, since the inception of IDNDR, in the field of disaster reduction as a component of development planning and risk management

1. Please provide a brief statement of national accomplishment and/or describe current activities related to the achievement of the IDNDR Programme Targets:

(a) Comprehensive national assessment of risks. If an assessment exists, is it published or codified? RISK ASSESSMENT HAS STARTED

(b) Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist? A NATIONAL DISASTER PLAN EXISTS. LAST UPDATED 1997. STRUCTURED MITIGATIONS POLICY & PLANS BEING DEVELOPED. PROCESS IS IN MOTION.

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local early warning systems. Can you provide examples of early warning practices and demonstrated successes? WE HAVE AN AUTOMATED EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON THE RIO COBRE RIVER SINCE '93, AND SEVERAL COMMUNITY BASED WARNING SYSTEMS, UTILIZING THE LOCAL CITIZENS AND RIVER GAUGES

2. What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets? What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles? DEDICATED SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT FUNCTIONING OF NATIONAL IDNDR COMMITTEE

3. To what extent have you established and implemented educational and information programmes aimed at generating public awareness? What methods of information dissemination have been utilized? WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED A PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TALKS / SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS WITH VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, THE DISABLED. METHODS OF DISSEMINATION INCLUDE BOOKLETS, LEAFLETS, POSTERS, TELEVISION DOCUMENTARIES, PSAs, RADIO PROGRAMMES.

4. Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such as local authorities, NGOs, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities. LIAISE WITH MEDIA TO DEVELOP COMMITTEES, PRODUCE AND BROADCAST MATERIAL

5. To what extent have you worked with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction activities into their planning (i.e. insurance, banking, private sector and development agencies)? WE HAVE WORKED EXTENSIVELY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THEY HAVE SPONSORED BROCHURES AND BOOKLETS ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS. THEY HAVE HELD CONTINGENCY PLANNING SEMINARS FOR THEIR BUSINESSES. REGULAR MEETINGS ARE HELD WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO SENSITIZE THEM TO THE ROLE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN PLANNING.

6. The Decade provides an international arena for information exchange as well as an extensive

w

international network of partners, how have these inputs contributed to achieving the goals of the Decade?.....

Structures in Place

1. Is there a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities? If yes, is this authority's commitment to prevention embodied in the government structure, priorities, budget and legislation? YES. THE OFFICE OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & EMERG MGMT HAS THE MANDATE TO IMPLEMENT DISASTER REDUCTION ACTIVITIES. THERE IS THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & EMERG MGMT ACT 1993 WHICH GUIDES THE OFFICE.
2. Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget? YES. EVERY YEAR THROUGH THE O.D.P.E.M. WE ALSO SEEK FUNDS FROM DONOR AGENCIES.
3. Have legislative authorities (national, state or local level) established legal frameworks for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures (ie. land-use planning, water and forest management, building codes)? YES. SEVERAL PLANNING RELATED LAWS ARE IN PLACE. A NATIONAL BUILDING CODE EXISTS. THE MAJOR PLANNING LAW "THE TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT" HAS RECENTLY BEEN REVISED.
4. Have academic institutions and professional schools in disciplines such as engineering, agriculture, architecture, urban planning, business or public administration incorporated in their curricula applicable disaster-reduction concepts and measures? Please provide examples. YES. THE GEOLOGY DEPT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) HAS A COURSE IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY THAT LOOKS AT DISASTER REDUCTION. THE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY HAS A DISASTER MANAGEMENT MODULE IN THE PLANNING DEGREE COURSE.
5. Have networks been build in order to aid in the transfer and application of existing knowledge and technology, information dissemination and international collaboration? Please briefly describe. SEVERAL COMMITTEES EXIST IN COUNTRY THAT FACILITATE THIS EXCHANGE.
6. Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction? PARTNERS INCLUDE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN ALL SECTORS, PRIVATE SECTOR: ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, PLANNERS, MEDIA ETC., UNIVERSITIES, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITY DISASTER COMMITTEES.

Future Requirements

1. Given your experience since the inception of the Decade and the new challenges of disasters in the 21st century, please provide comments as to what you believe are the necessary future requirements needed to successfully carry disaster reduction activities into the 21st century. Listed below are some criteria for your consideration:

- international mechanism for coordination
- budgetary commitments
- policy commitment
- network building
- information dissemination
- communication tools
- local authorities
- links to economic and social development programmes, environmental protection and sustainable development

A MECHANISM SIMILAR TO IANDR SECRETARIAT WHICH CAN COORDINATE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION DISSEMINATION IS NEEDED TO CONTINUE INTO 21ST C.

INTEGRATION OF DISASTER REDUCTION COMPONENTS INTO ALL NATIONAL POLICIES, INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND INTO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

CONTINUED PROMOTION OF INTERNET AS TOOL FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR DISASTER MANAGERS
GREATER USE OF INTERNET AS TOOL FOR TRAINING / EDUCATION OF DISASTER MANAGERS

PERCENTAGE OF ALL AID FUNDING SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO DISASTER MITIGATION SPECIFICALLY

2. What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century?

FORMAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COURSES AVAILABLE BY DISTANCE LEARNING