



ODM NEWSLETTER

DISASTER FACTS AND TIDBITS

OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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JANUARY - MARCH

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS UPDATES

The Office of Disaster Management (ODM) collaborates with Local, Regional and International partners to implement projects aimed at building capacity in disaster management and to support Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives. These projects address the enhancement of District and Community resilience outlined in the 2021-2025 Country Work Programme (CWP) and the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP).

Projects currently being implemented include the construction of two (2) Regional Emergency Shelters at Castle Bruce and Jimmit, respectively; A Mini Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Disaster Relief Warehouse at Castle Bruce; A Mini EOC at Capuchin and a Communication Enhancement Project that links essential communication along the north and west coasts and the Main EOC at Jimmit.

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1. CONSTRUCTION OF RESILIENT REGIONAL EMERGENCY SHELTERS IN CASTLE BRUCE AND JIMMIT

These Regional Emergency Shelters are funded by the European Union through the National Authorizing Office (NAO) Dominica, at a cost of just over 31 million Eastern Caribbean dollars.

The Objectives of the Regional Emergency Shelter projects are to:

- To provide purposefully built emergency shelters for Jimmit and environs and the District of Castle Bruce
- To provide resource centers for Jimmit and environs and the District of Castle Bruce
- To enhance the resilience of the District of Castle Bruce and the Jimmit area through the provision of resilient multi-purpose facilities

The Regional Emergency Shelter in Jimmit has an estimated capacity of 500 persons and should be completed by year end. Communities that are projected to benefit from this shelter include: Jimmit, Belfast, Mahaut, Massacre, Warner, Campbell, Sibouli, Checkhall, Despot, Springfield, Sylvania, Cockrane, Brantridge.

Works completed on the Jimmit Regional Emergency Shelter up to early March:

- Construction of the basement cistern water storage
- Installation of necessary underground mechanical, electrical, plumbing infrastructure and soil drainage elements
- The ground, first and second floors of the superstructure
- Excavation works for the access road and ground works.

Overall, the work is 40% completed whereas the projection to that point was for 39% planned completion. This means the work is on schedule.

"Preparedness saves lives and lessens chaos, suffering and economic destruction. It is a lifestyle choice that requires commitment, action and a little money." (iL)



*Jimmit Regional
Emergency Shelter
as of January 2021
south view*



*Jimmit
Regional
Emergency
Shelter as of
January
2021 west
view*



*Jimmit
Regional
Emergency
Shelter
earlier in
March
2021 west
view*

(Source of images: ODM site visit; cover image: NH)

Works completed on the Castle Bruce Regional Emergency Shelter up to early March:

- The basement cistern water tanks
- Installation of underground mechanical, electrical, plumbing infrastructure and soil drainage elements
- Install Forsa forms / reinforcement followed by concrete
- Construction works on ground floor
- Drainage works on main road to redirect surface water offsite.

Overall the work is 20% completed whereas the projection to that point was for 19% planned completion. This means the work is on schedule.

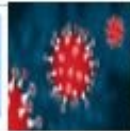
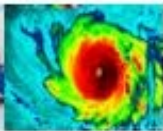
***"Ensuring climate
resilience is a
continual process
throughout the life
of an asset or
infrastructure"
(OECD)***



STAY INFORMED.

MAKE A PLAN.

BE PREPARED.



The Regional Emergency Shelter in the District of Castle Bruce has an estimated capacity of 300 persons and should also be completed by year end. Communities that are projected to benefit from this shelter include: Castle Bruce, Petite Soufriere, San Sauveur, Good Hope, Mopo, Dix Pas/ Tranto and Kalinago Territory.



Images above of the Castle Bruce Regional Emergency Shelter in early March (Source of images: ODM site visit)

2. CONSTRUCTION OF A MINI EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC) AND DISASTER RELIEF WAREHOUSE AT CASTLE BRUCE

The project began in December 2020 with tentative date for completion set for June 2021 barring delays. The cost of the project is US \$900,000 funded by the United States SOUTHERN COMMAND (US SOUTHCOM). AKEA Inc is the Consulting Firm providing supervision of the project that was contracted to OYO Construction. Up to March, the site has been cleared of debris and foundation work has begun.

The objectives of this project are to construct a mini EOC and warehouse facility in the District of Castle Bruce and to outfit the building with the requisite equipment to support emergency operations within the district. Project beneficiaries include the District of Castle Bruce and the Kalinago Territory as well as the National Disaster Management System. In addition to this major project, the ODM has been carrying out activities to strengthen preparedness and response in the District through the establishment of a District Disaster Management Committee. Work is also ongoing to build capacity in the operations and maintenance of the EOC and warehouse facility. These capacity building interventions will run concurrent to the construction to ensure that upon completion, the facility will be immediately commissioned with functional staff.



Castle Bruce EOC and Warehouse site cleared of Debris in January



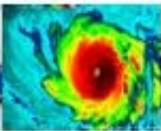
Foundation works began at the Castle Bruce EOC and Warehouse site in March (Source of images: ODM)

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY EOC IN CAPUCHIN AND A NORTH AND WEST COASTS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

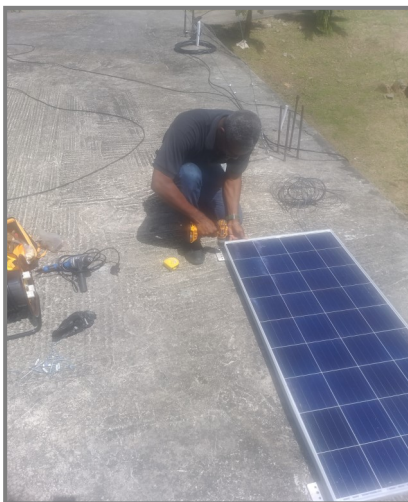
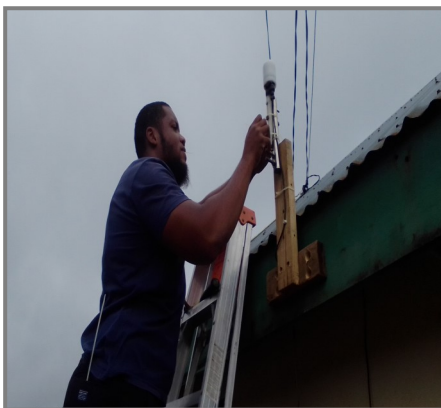
This project is an illustration of active learning as the ODM seeks to engender a culture of safety by implementing best practices and lessons learned from previous emergency or disaster events. The devastation inflicted on Dominica by Major Hurricane Maria in 2017 reinforced the need to establish a robust communication system that incorporates multiple back-up communication modalities. The project cost just over \$166,000.00 XCD and is funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and aims to enhance the preparedness and response capacities in the communities of Capuchin, Dublanc and Bioche. The activities of the project include:

- Establish a communication network (Expandable Conventional HF/VHF/UHF Radio System with repeaters) from a small Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at the Capuchin Emergency Shelter in the north and along the west coast to the primary National Emergency Operating Center (NEOC) at Jimmit.
- Upgrade the emergency response capabilities and amenities at the multi-purpose facility in Capuchin. This includes installation of radio communications equipment, installation of backup power system, and installation of backup water system and enhancement of the security of the facility.
- Train a cadre of community personnel in the use and operations of the upgraded facility in Capuchin.

"The systemic nature of risk presents a great challenge to Disaster Risk Reduction. Adopting a prepared lifestyle in a multi-hazard environment is critical as we seek to build resilience and to foster a culture of safety." (ODM)



CAPUCHIN PROJECT



Installation of communication system at the small EOC at Capuchin



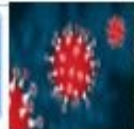
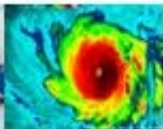
Installation of back-up water system at the small EOC at Capuchin



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ODM PARTICIPATES IN CARIBE WAVE 21

The Office of Disaster Management (ODM) carried out an earthquake and evacuation drill in schools on 11th March in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence. The earthquake drill was one of the key activities in support of Caribe Wave, the annual tsunami exercise of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

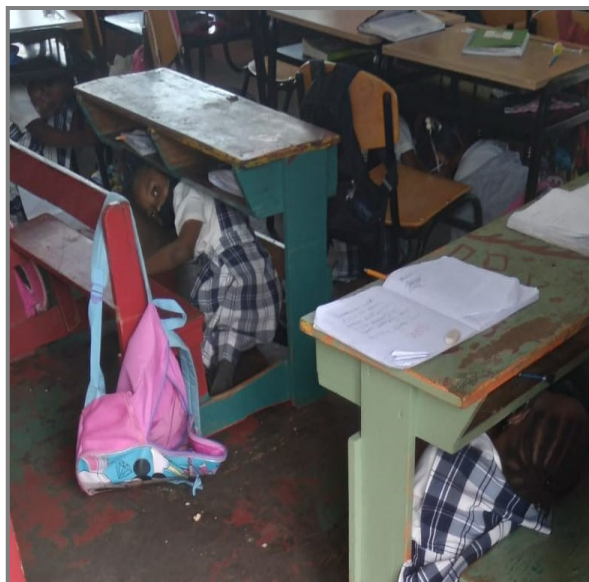
The objectives of the earthquake drill were to test and exercise the earthquake safety protocols of schools; test the evacuation protocols of schools and to assess the effectiveness of the earthquake and evacuation protocols of schools in a pandemic environment. Following evacuation from the school buildings, teachers and students were encouraged to discuss their experience and their school tsunami safety protocols particularly for schools located in coastal low-lying areas. The ODM expresses appreciation to the Ministry of Education and all schools who were able to support the promotion of earthquake and tsunami safety.

The ODM also collaborated with key stakeholders, including the Dominica Police Force, Fire and Ambulance Services, Dominica Red Cross and Petro Caribe, on March 11 to execute a communication testing exercise with a view to assess the emergency com-

Scenes from Caribe Wave 21 Earthquake Drill In Schools



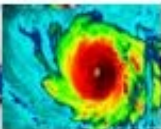
St Lukes Primary



Massacre/Canefield Primary



Social Centre Model Preschool demonstrating Drop, Cover, Hold On



Scenes from Caribe Wave 21 Earthquake Drill In Schools



Multiple
"MUSTER
POINTS" to
satisfy
COVID 19
protocols

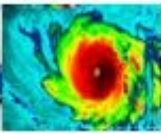
Isaiah Thomas Secondary School



Roosevelt Douglas Primary School



Ebenezer SDA—Roseau



BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



USSOUTHCOM DONATED FORKLIFT TO ODM

The Office of Disaster Management (ODM) received support to strengthen operational capacity through the donation of a forklift from the USSOUTHCOM Humanitarian Assistance Programme (HAP) Project on Friday January 8, 2021. Maintenance and management of the ODM's warehouses is essential for the optimization of preparedness, response and recovery post hazard impacts. Storage and distribution of emergency supplies and relief items require the use of a forklift to ensure that these functions are carried out effectively and efficiently while reducing the exposure of workers to occupational harm when handling bulky items.

Fitzroy Pascal, National Disaster Coordinator, in expressing gratitude to the USSOUTHCOM stated that *"The ODM is indeed grateful and appreciates the donation of the forklift from the USSOUTHCOM which will significantly improve the efficiency of operations in the warehouses at the ODM and contribute to the enhancement of the national relief, logistics and warehousing programme on a whole"*. He also indicated that *"the forklift was put into operation immediately upon receipt by the Disaster Office"*.

The ODM, on behalf of the National Disaster Management System, expresses thanks to the USSOUTHCOM HAP for their continued support and dedication to the advancement of Comprehensive Disaster Management in Dominica



Forklift donated by USSOUTHCOM to the ODM

ODM CONVENED WORKSHOP FOR DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The ODM continues efforts to develop and strengthen District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC). In February, the ODM convened a workshop for DDMC Members of Castle Bruce and Grand Bay, to sensitize them about their roles and responsibilities, to reiterate their importance to the national disaster management system while providing assurance of the support of the ODM. Participants were also introduced to the 2021-2025 Country Work Programme (CWP) which is a results-based, climate smart, systematic approach to Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Dominica. These committees are expected to provide tremendous support to national preparedness, response and recovery activities while broadening the reach of the Disaster Office in the Districts. Grand Bay and Castle Bruce Districts are the first 2 of the projected 8 committees to be established. Work is ongoing to establish DDMCs in the 5 remaining districts and the Kalinago Territory. Ensuring that DDMCs and Community Disaster Management Committees are established and remain vibrant are critical activities in the process of building national resilience.

Congratulations to the recently elected Chairpersons and Deputy Chairs of the newly formed District Committees - Ms. Royette George (Chairperson) and Mr. Ashille Grove (Deputy) for Castle Bruce; Mr. Armour Thomas (Chairperson) and Mrs. Shakina Dorival (Deputy) for the Grand Bay District. The ODM encourages the public to volunteer and to be a part of the team for District and Community Disaster Management Committees.

"I commit to continue to work diligently to ensure that the district team work toward a safe environment" (Royette George, Chairperson of Castle Bruce DDMC)



Members of the Grand Bay DDMC



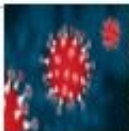
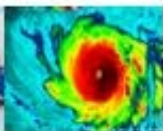
Members of the Castle Bruce DDMC



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ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2021 HURRICANE SEASON

The Hurricane season is fast approaching. You are encouraged to give some thought to your preparedness for the season. Taking the time to put plans in place will help to reduce anxiety and becoming overwhelmed whenever the island is under threat from a tropical cyclone.

Here are 5 activities YOU can DO NOW

1 MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Write down the details and assign tasks



4 CHECK ON YOUR INSURANCE POLICY

Home and contents and your business



2 CREATE A COMMUNICATION PLAN

Write down important numbers, share them among family members and know where to meet family should you become separated in an emergency

3 PACK YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY KIT

If you have one check on the condition of the contents and ensure you have the necessary items



5 INSPECT YOUR PROPERTY AND HOME

Identify issues that may need to be addressed such as roof, windows, doors, overhanging trees, drainage around property



KEEP UPDATED ON INFORMATION

GET YOUR INFORMATION FROM THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Be In The Know

The Official Start of the Atlantic Hurricane season **DID NOT CHANGE TO MAY**. What is new this year?

The Atlantic Hurricane season officially begins on June 1st. However, tropical cyclones sometimes form on or prior to that date. To provide more consistent information on the potential for late May and early June systems, the **NHC will now begin the routine issuance of the Atlantic Tropical Weather Outlook on May 15.**

HURRICANE FAST FACTS

JUNE 1 IS THE OFFICIAL START OF THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON AND IT ENDS ON NOVEMBER 30

Climate Change is projected to support the formation of more intense storms and more extreme rainfall events.

The hazards associated with hurricanes are :

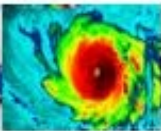
⇒ LIFE THREATENING **FLOODS**

⇒ DESTRUCTIVE **WINDS**

⇒ DANGEROUS **STORM SURGE**

The hurricane cone does not represent the size of the storm but only represents the probable track of the center of a tropical cyclone

Hurricanes can undergo rapid intensification moving from a weaker system to a strong cyclone in a short Time, as shown by Hurricane Maria in 2017 . **Do not delay preparation!**



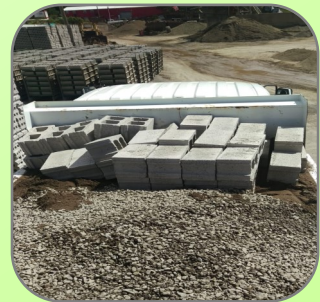
ODM's Gallery– Supporting Stakeholders



ODM Logistics and Maintenance Staff assisting with the installation of appliances at the Layou Regional Emergency Shelter



Supporting the Ministry of Health with Storage and Logistics Management for the COVID Centre maintenance



Transportation support to Ministry of Environment in the reforestation project



Supporting the Ministry of Health in the National Vaccine Campaign

Source of images: ODM

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

APRIL

- ⇒ Work to commence on upgrading Seismic Network
- ⇒ Arrival of 40-bed Field Hospital in Dominica donated by USSOUTHCOM through ODMs Resource Mobilization efforts

MAY 24 – 30 2021

- ⇒ HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK
- ⇒ Hurricane Simulation Exercise

La Soufriere Eruption—St .Vincent

The Government and people of The Commonwealth of Dominica Stands in Solidarity with the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines during the volcanic eruption crisis.

The Government, through the ODM and the relevant sub-committees of the National Emergency Planning Organization (NEPO) of Dominica, continues to coordinate the national relief and evacuation operations in response to the crisis.

We thank the public for their continued support to the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines.



Contact the Office of Disaster Management for your preparedness support

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