



CCRIF Members Renew their Parametric Insurance Policies for Policy Year 2020/21



CCRIF is pleased to announce that its member governments have all renewed their parametric insurance coverage for tropical cyclone, excess rainfall, earthquake and fisheries ahead of the upcoming 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season, ceding over US\$1 billion in risk to CCRIF and increasing overall coverage by 8 per cent. As the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins, CCRIF's 22 members – 19 in the Caribbean and 3 in Central America – are assured that they are covered for another year against tropical cyclones as well as excess rainfall events that occur throughout the year and earthquakes that may occur at any time.

For the 2020/21 policy year, CCRIF members in the Caribbean and Central America purchased a total of 61 policies: 22 tropical cyclone (TC) policies, 15 earthquake (EQ) policies, 22 excess rainfall (XSR) policies and 2 COAST policies – an increase of two policies compared with 2019/20. The Bahamas has more than one tropical cyclone and excess rainfall policy, each of which covers a portion of the archipelago. For 2020/21, the northwest region was split into two smaller regions for the excess rainfall policy and therefore the country has three tropical cyclone policies and four excess rainfall policies – each covering a different section of this archipelago nation. Trinidad & Tobago has two tropical cyclone and excess rainfall policies – one policy for each island; in 2019/20 there was one single tropical cyclone policy for the whole country, which was split into two separate policies for each island for 2020/21.

There is scientific consensus on an above-average Atlantic Hurricane Season this year. The National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) forecasted a likely range of 13 to 19 named storms (with winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (with winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes

(category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). In addition to TC, EQ and XSR policies, CCRIF also offers a product for the fisheries sector called COAST (Caribbean Oceans and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility). Two members – Saint Lucia and Grenada – have COAST policies and additional countries have expressed strong interest in participating in COAST.

The renewal of countries' catastrophe risk insurance policies at this time when they are faced with the many socio-economic impacts posed by the COVID-19 pandemic signals the strategic importance they are placing on disaster risk financing as key to advancing their sustainable development prospects. CCRIF is a working example of a disaster risk financing instrument and one of a suite of such instruments available to governments to assist in post-disaster recovery and to help close the protection gap.

CCRIF Member Governments Receive Support in Response to COVID-19

US\$11 Million from the European Union for Caribbean Members



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



To support Caribbean governments whose social and economic sectors have been significantly disrupted by COVID-19, the European Union (EU) under its Global COVID-19 Response, has provided a grant of **€10 million** (US\$11 million) to CCRIF for premium support or for increasing coverage for its Caribbean members. This financial assistance to CCRIF is channeled through the EU Regional Resilience Building Facility managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the World Bank. The GFDRR, the World Bank and CCRIF will continue efforts to secure further potential discounts to CCRIF member countries.

The EU-funded support that is available for each member country provides a 26 per cent discount on total gross premium or an increase in policy coverage under their CCRIF parametric insurance policies. Member countries were given the option of utilizing the EU-funded discount during the 2020/21 and/or 2021/22 policy years. The decision to allow for use of the funding in 2021/22 was based on projections of low or negative growth in Caribbean countries next year, which undoubtedly will have an impact on their fiscal space.

Daniela Tramacere, EU Ambassador to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM, has reaffirmed the strong partnership with the Caribbean in these difficult times: *“Mitigation of COVID-19 impacts ahead of the hurricane season that already started in the region requires extraordinary and coordinated measures. EU is strongly committed to stand together with its partners in the Caribbean, providing emergency support and participating in the social/economic recovery process. The €10 million support has been provided to CCRIF SPC to ease payment of member countries’ premiums and improve their risk coverage against natural hazards.”*

CCRIF Provides Support to Central America and the Dominican Republic

Member countries of the Council of Ministers of Finance of Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic (COSEFIN) have received special benefits on CCRIF SPC parametric insurance policies for policy year 2020/21 as part of the Facility's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These benefits include a 50 per cent reduction in premium costs on their parametric insurance policies or a mutually agreed increase in CCRIF coverage at no additional cost or a combination of both. This effort is supported by a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), administered by the World Bank.

For policy year 2020/2021, CCRIF members Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama have renewed their policies and will be increasing their coverage as a result of the benefits offered this year. Other COSEFIN countries are eligible for these benefits, with CCRIF SPC maintaining dialogue to support countries in understanding parametric insurance products and joining the Facility.

“I am encouraged by the fact that our Central American members have not only renewed their policies but also are considering increasing their coverage, indicating that they recognize the important role of catastrophe risk insurance in reducing budget volatility after natural disasters.” – CCRIF CEO, Mr. Isaac Anthony

CCRIF and its parametric insurance products are crucial to ensuring that countries are better able to manage the fiscal impacts associated with natural disasters. CCRIF's insurance products can offer timely and predictable access to needed resources and ultimately mitigate long-term fiscal impacts.

In 2015, CCRIF and the Executive Secretary of COSEFIN signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow COSEFIN member countries to have access to CCRIF's low-cost, high-quality sovereign parametric risk insurance. Over the last five years, CCRIF has worked closely with COSEFIN member countries to support the increasing role of ministries of finance in disaster risk financing. In November 2019, CCRIF, in partnership with the Executive Secretariats of COSEFIN, CEPREDENAC and the Regional Committee on Hydraulic Resources (CRRH), and the World Bank, hosted a regional workshop in Mexico City on disaster risk financing and parametric insurance to further increase capacity in these countries.

CCRIF ODA-Eligible Members Receive Support from the Canada-CARICOM Climate Adaptation Fund

Nine countries in the Caribbean have benefitted from a total of US\$12.4 million under the Canada-CARICOM Climate Adaptation Fund. Seven of these countries – Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – will be able to use their allocation to cover a portion of their premium costs for their CCRIF parametric insurance policies for policy year 2020/21 or 2021/22. Two countries – Guyana and Suriname – which are not yet members of CCRIF – will be able to use their allocations towards their participation fees as well as for premium support for policy year 2021/22.

CCRIF Provides Discounts to Caribbean Members

CCRIF also provided to its Caribbean members a 5 per cent discount on gross premium for Tropical Cyclone coverage, and a further discount of 15 per cent on additional

coverage purchased by members for increased Tropical Cyclone and/or Earthquake coverage for the 2020/21 policy year. Overall coverage among Caribbean members increased by 8 per cent for this policy year. CCRIF has been providing discounts to member governments since 2012. For example, in the 2018/19 policy year, member governments benefitted from a discount of 5 per cent of the gross premium for the TC and EQ policies. Discounts have differed over the years and are based on the amount of surplus made by the Facility in the previous year. As a not-for-profit company, surpluses made by the Facility are utilized in two ways – providing members with discounts on their premiums and funding the Facility’s Technical Assistance Programme, which focuses on support to our member governments in the areas of disaster risk management, environmental management and capacity building.

5 Payouts Made by CCRIF in 2019/20 Policy Year

CCRIF made five payouts totalling approximately US\$17 million in policy year 2019/20 which ended May 31, 2020. These five payouts were as follows: two to The Bahamas totalling US\$12.8

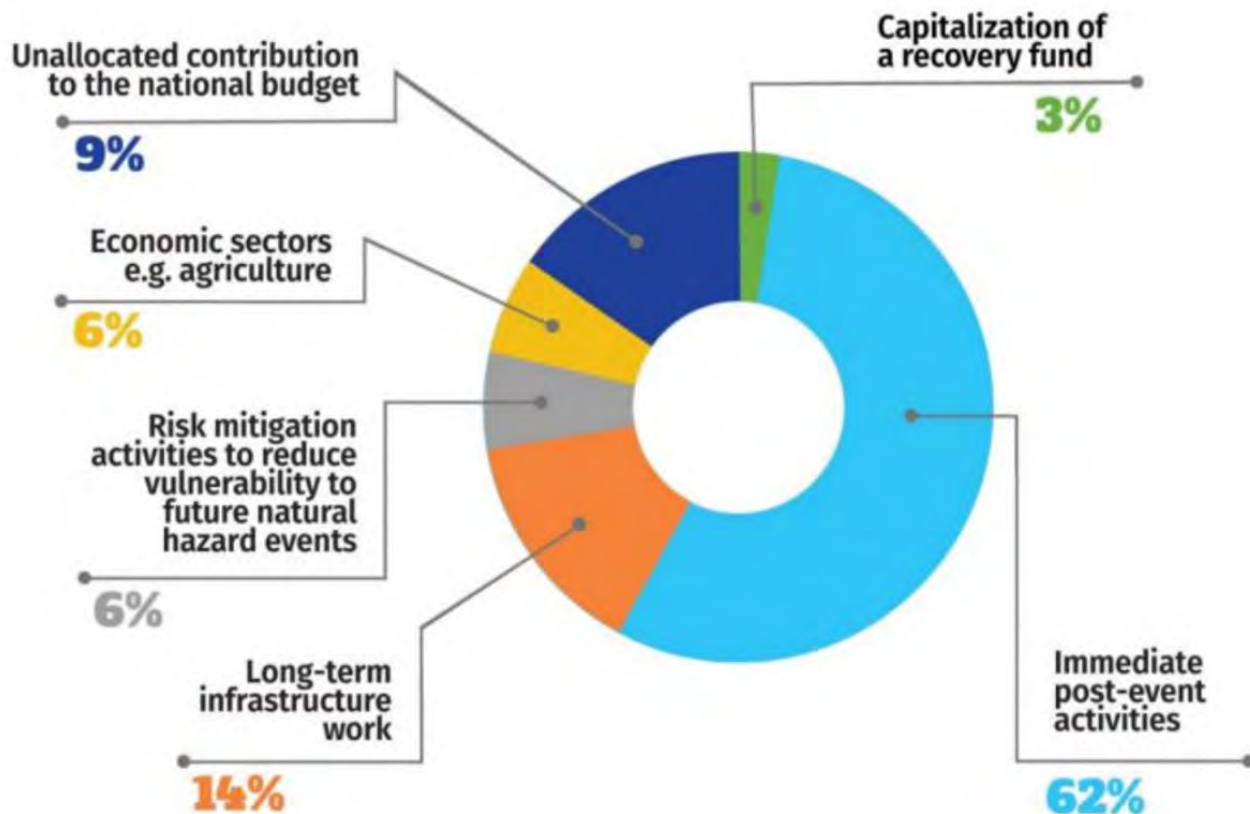
million following Hurricane Dorian, which battered the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama in September 2019; one to Trinidad and Tobago with a value of US\$362,982 for its excess rainfall policy, which was triggered due to rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Karen in October 2019; one payout of US\$3.6 million to Guatemala and one to Belize of US\$203,136 due to rains from Tropical Storms Amanda and Cristobal. All payouts were made within 14 days of the events, except for The Bahamas which on the request of the Government received about 45 per cent of the payout on its tropical cyclone policy within 5 days of the event.

Since its inception in 2007, CCRIF has made a total of 43 payouts for 21 events (earthquakes, tropical cyclones and excess rainfall events) to 14 member governments totalling US\$155.8 million. CCRIF’s payouts are made within 14 days of an event, allowing governments to begin to address their most pressing needs and close the liquidity gap.

According to Mr. Isaac Anthony, *“The truth is what we do at CCRIF is about supporting governments to help their populations – communities, businesses and key sectors such as education, agriculture, and tourism. An assessment of the beneficiaries of CCRIF payouts show that over 2.5 million persons in the Caribbean and Central America have benefitted directly and/or indirectly from these payouts after a natural disaster.”*

The following pie chart shows how CCRIF payouts have been used by governments throughout the years:





Brief on Some Webinars we Participated in – April to June 2020, under “The New Normal” Posed by COVID-19

Recently, the CCRIF Management and Team participated in and delivered presentations at over 9 events. Of course, due to the global pandemic, these events were conducted as webinars. Some of these events were:

1. **The Perfect Storm: Global Pandemic, Recession, and Hurricanes** - hosted by the Atlantic Council/AARFRC
2. **COVID-19: Roadmap to Recovery (series) Saint Lucia** - Disaster Risk Financing
3. **Webinar on Understanding Disaster Risk Financing within CARICAD’s webinar Series**
4. **Workshop on Strategies and Instruments to Strengthen Fiscal Resilience After Disasters** – hosted by Ministry of Finance, Panama
5. **18th Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum** - hosted by CRFM
6. **Outside COVID-19 Business Threat for Caribbean and Diaspora Entrepreneurs** - hosted by Magate Wildhorse
7. **Scholarship Webinar** hosted by Jamaica’s Ministry of Education Youth & Information (MOEYI) and the Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission
8. **COVID 19- A Wake-up Call for Regional Food Security** – hosted by UWI Faculty of Food and Agriculture
9. **Resilient Power 2020: Insurance Considerations for a Resilient Electric Power Industry** - hosted by the CAREC Community

The following provides a snapshot of some of these events and links to the webinars for

viewing at your convenience.

The Perfect Storm: Global Pandemic, Recession, and Hurricanes - hosted by the Atlantic Council/AARFRC – June 1, 2020



On the first day of the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season, June 1, the Atlantic Council and the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center Partnership (AARFRC) hosted the webinar “*The Perfect Storm: Global Pandemic, Recession and Hurricanes*”. CCRIF CEO, Isaac Anthony was one of the speakers at this webinar, which focused on the various finance, risk and policy strategies storm-prone countries can to reduce and cover those risks, particularly in light of the economic fallout of a global pandemic.

The full webinar is available at: <https://youtu.be/gbtYpIBAbE>. The other speakers were Hon. Allen Chastanet, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia and Kathy Baughman McLeod, Director and Senior Vice President Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre Atlantic Council. The webinar was moderated by Somini Sengupta, International Climate Reporter with The New York Times.



Speakers focused on various solutions and interventions to reduce climate-related risks to advance resilience. Mr. Anthony throughout the discussion also shared some of the lessons that he believed CCRIF countries have learned over the years with respect to disaster risk financing:

- Disaster risk financing is key to advancing sustainable development prospects
- There are various disaster risk financing instruments that must be used – each having unique and mutually exclusive characteristics – from dedicated reserve funds to contingent credit to catastrophe risk insurance that CCRIF provides
- CCRIF provides quick liquidity and is key to closing the protection gap and critical for addressing that liquidity gap between when the disaster happens and the need for immediate recovery needs at a time when government revenues fall due to a disaster
- Risk pooling is key to making products such as insurance more affordable for small island developing states
- Disaster risk financing/financial protection is one of 5 critical components in a country DRM framework
- CCRIF payouts allow governments to quickly support the most vulnerable in their population immediately after a disaster
- CCRIF payouts play a key role in reducing budget volatility, which has overall good socio-economic and development benefits

“The importance of catastrophe risk insurance – at the sovereign and micro levels – in the face of a changing climate cannot be overemphasized and this insurance must be made available both directly and indirectly to as many as 400 million persons towards closing the protection gap and ‘leaving no one behind’. We must ensure that government budgets and policies including social protection policies are so designed to ensure that we can close the protection gap recognizing that the absence of insurance will have negative consequences for the scale and duration of the economic impacts of disasters.” Isaac

Anthony, CEO, CCRIF SPC

In late 2019, CCRIF signed an MOU with the **Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center Partnership** – the main purpose of which is to seek to reduce climate-related risks and build resilience in CCRIF member countries, with a focus on replication and scaling up. The key initiatives that would be pursued under the MOU include among others:

- Enhancing Risk Literacy of Senior Influencers in CCRIF member countries
- Building Cooler Cities Finance Facility to address extreme heat in 5 global cities initially, then scale up to other areas
- Identifying and Communicating Proven Risk Reduction Interventions
- Developing innovative risk transfer products including new migration and hybrid primary insurance products

CAREC Resilient Power Series 2020: Insurance Lessons to Support a Resilient Electric Power Industry

CAREC RESILIENT POWER SERIES 2020: Insurance Lessons to Support a Resilient Electric Power Industry



The Panelists



Sandra Bailey
Group Chief Operating Officer
Gallagher Insurance Brokers
(Jamaica)



Karen Holder
Senior Vice -President
Property & Casualty
Gallagher Insurance Brokers
(Barbados)



Roger Blackman
Managing Director
The Barbados Light &
Power Company Ltd.



David McGregor
President & COO
Grand Bahamas Power Company



Peter Doig
Vice President Risk & Insurance
Emera Inc.

CCRIF Board Member, Sandra Bailey participated as a panellist in the CAREC Resilient Power Series 2020, on the topic Insurance Lessons to Support a Resilient Electric Power Industry. Mrs. Bailey provided a brief on CCRIF SPC emphasizing:

- How the Facility got started
- How CCRIF works and CCRIF's parametric policies and models
- The members
- The governance structure
- Differences between parametric and indemnity insurance
- CCRIF parametric insurance products, payouts made to date and use of payouts
- New products being developed including products for the electric utility sector

CCRIF Product for Utilities	Product for Utilities
<p>CCRIF engaged with the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) to develop parametric insurance coverage for power supply companies in case of tropical cyclone-induced losses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on tropical cyclone risk model that computes losses caused by wind and storm surge to transmission and distribution lines• Model being developed and tested on 3 pilot countries (Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands and Cayman Islands)• Expected to be completed during 2020• To be expanded to other countries	<p>How is it possible for CCRIF to provide such a product?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCRIF was not set up to compete with the current insurance markets in the Caribbean or Central America. Where the private sector insurance markets are clearly not providing coverage for a particular market segment that is of vital importance CCRIF can provide support, both technical and financial, to develop parametric insurance solutions.• The case of regional utilities – electric, water and wastewater is an example of where insurance is either too expensive or nonexistent.• We can work with CARILEC and local electric utility companies to develop a stand-alone insurance product to provide such coverage, utilizing CCRIF's technical expertise, modelling capacity and operational experience.• A segregated portfolio for utilities or tied to the Caribbean SP• Would provide rapid payments to assist with immediate repairs (Recall Hurricane Maria in Dominica and Dorian in The Bahamas – vast majority of T and D lines destroyed)• Minimize interruption of critical services

Other panelists were Roger Blackman, Barbados Light and Power; David McGregor, the Grand Bahamas Power Company; Pete Doig, Emera Inc.; and Karen Holder, a colleague from the CGM Gallagher Groups of Companies, Barbados office.

A copy of the presentation can be found here.

CCRIF CEO, Isaac Anthony participated in a seminar/webinar that focused on disaster risk financing and the tools that should constitute a country's disaster risk financing policy to respond to natural disasters as a means of reducing budget volatility and advancing a country's growth prospects. Guest panellists were: Deputy Director for Financial Administration, Mr. Matthew Branford; CEO of CCRIF, Mr. Isaac Anthony; Chief Economist in the Department of Economic Development, Mr. Tommy Descartes; and Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Ms. Mary Boyer, of The World Bank Group. The full seminar can be assessed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RUrQ9OiuRc>



Mr. Anthony responded to a range of questions posed to him. Two questions and responses are presented below:

Question: *Should Saint Lucia and countries within the Caribbean all be affected by the same disaster simultaneously are there any risks to CCRIF being able to make payouts to these islands within the same period?*

Answer: *“This question was raised in 2017 after CCRIF made payouts to 9 of its members following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. We are pleased to say that CCRIF is sustainably financed and that CCRIF members are not at risk of not receiving payouts if their policies are triggered. This is one of the reasons that CCRIF was formed as a multi-country risk pool. Also, by pooling the catastrophe risks of our Caribbean members into a single diversified portfolio, we are able to save our members approximately 50 per cent in individual premium payments compared to if they were to purchase identical coverage individually. In this regard, I must say that the role of the international donor community cannot be overemphasized. Our development partners have supported the buildout of the facility's risk bearing capacity assuring its financial sustainability as an independent entity over the long term and above established national benchmarks for catastrophe insurers.”*

Question: *Given that secondary to the tourism sector, the agriculture sector contributes significantly to the GDP of Saint Lucia, would CCRIF be looking into providing*

Gina Sanguinetti Phillips of the CCRIF Technical Assistance Team participated in a webinar hosted by the Faculty of Food and Agriculture at The University of the West Indies St. Augustine campus titled **“COVID 19- A Wake-up Call for Regional Food Security”** on May 5, 2020. The webinar focused on the importance of the agriculture sector and generated much needed recommendations and advice in response to the regional challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Ms. Phillips’ presentation “Disaster Risk Financing – the Case of CCRIF SPC”, described CCRIF’s parametric insurance products, and role of the Facility in contributing to food and nutrition security in the region. The presentation highlighted the CCRIF product for the fisheries



sector called COAST (Caribbean Ocean and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility) – and the microinsurance product the Livelihood Protection Policy (LPP) which provides coverage for livelihood losses by small farmers and other vulnerable individuals. The webinar was broadcast on UWI TV and Facebook with up to 560 persons – from the private sector, farming community, general public and agriculture networks (students, agencies, stakeholders) – participating from 26 countries in the Caribbean and beyond.

CCRIF and UWI Sign New MOU and begin Implementing New Work Plan



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ORIENS EX OCCIDENTE LUX

CCRIF and The University of the West Indies (The UWI) recently signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU), for five years, which outlines the framework for their collaboration in the areas of: disaster risk management, including modelling and disaster risk financing, climate change adaptation and importantly research and capacity building towards creating a cadre of individuals who can effectively support the development priorities of countries in the region.

This agreement between CCRIF and The UWI forms the basis of the complementary approach to enhancing the sustainable development and prosperity of the Caribbean by the two institutions. The objective of the MOU is therefore to strengthen and expand

common or mutual efforts of the institutions towards the promotion and facilitation of disaster risk management and resilience-building initiatives that will support and advance the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM's) ambition of making the Caribbean the world's first climate-resilient zone in keeping with Agenda 2030 and the global ambition of "leaving no one behind" in development.

Under this MOU, both institutions will engage in activities that centre around 5 core areas:

1. The CCRIF Technical Assistance Programme which includes the CCRIF-UWI Scholarship Programme; CCRIF Scholarship Programme; CCRIF Regional Internship Programme; and the CCRIF Small Grants Programme in which CCRIF will continue to provide scholarships and internships to UWI students; provide interns to various departments and provide grants to departments to undertake disaster risk management and environmental management projects across the Caribbean that are underpinned by innovative and pioneering research
2. The institutionalization of CCRIF's flagship training programme titled "*Understanding Disaster Risk Financing, CCRIF Parametric Insurance Policies and the Relationship with Fiscal and Economic Policy*" that is currently delivered by CCRIF to its member governments, which has been designed as a 45-hour course which is a possible candidate for institutionalization in degree programmes at the University including the four residential campuses and open campus
3. Sharing of data and research by both entities to further advance the work in disaster risk management, disaster risk financing and climate change adaptation
4. Collaboration on areas through research and practical application towards enhancing capacity for comprehensive disaster risk management, disaster risk financing and climate change adaptation as a means of reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience in the region and also contributing to the development agendas of the region
5. Facilitating the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices in disaster risk management, risk financing, climate modelling and insurance within the context of advancing sustainable development in the wider Caribbean region

Prior to this MOU, CCRIF and The UWI had an MOU arrangement between 2013 and 2019 which outlined the framework for the administration and management of the CCRIF-UWI Scholarship Programme, which now is part of the wider CCRIF Technical Assistance Programme.

Over the period 2010 – 2019, support to The UWI totalled **US\$831,476**, distributed among the three residential campuses as follows: Mona (Jamaica): US\$370,107; St. Augustine (Trinidad): US\$319,469; and Cave Hill (Barbados): US\$191,900, and is related to activities under the following programmes - the CCRIF Scholarship Programme; the CCRIF Regional Internship Programme; the CCRIF Small Grants Programme; a memorandum of understanding with the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (SRC); and a contract with Lumin Consulting for work related to the CCRIF-Caribbean Development Bank Integrated Sovereign Risk Management Project. With respect to scholarships, CCRIF provided scholarships to 61 students at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels – across four faculties for postgraduate scholarships and nine faculties for undergraduate scholarships at the three residential campuses totalling **US\$521,000**.

Under the current work plan, CCRIF and The UWI will launch a train-the-trainer course for its lecturers and other faculty on July 1, 2020. The train-the-trainer is based on the CCRIF course *Understanding Disaster Risk Financing, CCRIF Parametric Insurance Policies and the Relationship with Fiscal and Economic Policy* which was originally designed for CCRIF member governments. The train-the-trainer has been designed to equip UWI lecturers to be able to facilitate the introduction of a new course titled “Fundamentals of Disaster Risk for Advancing Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)”, which is adapted from the CCRIF course mentioned above.

This workshop is one of the key activities towards institutionalization of the CCRIF course at The UWI. The course which will run for 5 days will provide an in-depth understanding of the following topics:

- Disaster risk financing and the range of tools available to countries as well as disaster risk financing within the context of disaster risk management
- Ex-ante and ex-post disaster risk financing and associated instruments and the rationale for countries to have in place disaster risk financing policies and strategies to complement disaster risk management policies
- Linking disaster risk financing, parametric insurance and social protection towards closing the protection gap
- Introduction to integrated risk management and the role of country risk officers
- The differences between parametric and indemnity insurance within the context of risk transfer
- CCRIF’s products and services and the elements of CCRIF insurance policies
- CCRIF’s parametric insurance models that underlie its policies and how payouts are triggered for a given policy – understanding concepts such as attachment point, exhaustion point ceding percentage, among others
- Modelled losses vs losses on the ground
- How country risk profiles are used for CCRIF policies and how the data could be employed in other areas of national development such as spatial planning or development planning
- Introduction to CCRIF’s Web Monitoring Application (WeMAp) – Real-Time Forecasting System and Tropical Cyclone, Earthquake and Excess Rainfall Monitoring Tools
- How to use the data produced by WeMAp to support emergency and disaster managers in their planning

It is expected that at the end of the training, participants will be able to deliver this content in new courses as well as to share with CCRIF what areas can be integrated into existing courses and programmes on offer throughout The UWI.



**Surviving COVID-19: Perspectives from CCRIF
2019 Scholarship Winner Herona Thompson of
Jamaica**

*As Interviewed by the CCRIF
Technical Assistance Manager*

1 . Tell us about your experience at

the University of Leeds before the COVID-19 pandemic emerged.

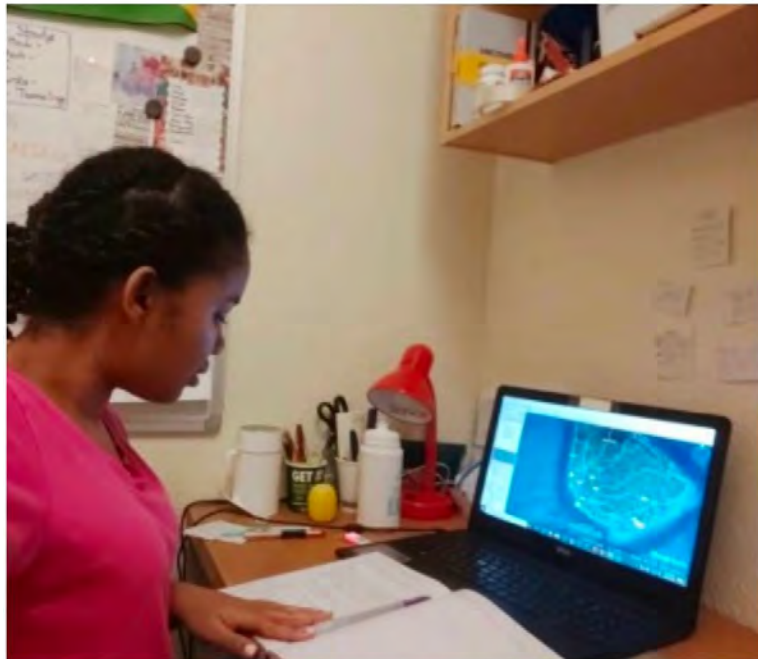
I would say it was brilliant and more than I expected. I spent the time adjusting to the university and academic world after working for 5 years, made some new friends, visited new places in England, took part in campus activities and enjoyed the British Christmas culture. The education and experiences offered in this town were wonderful, involved a lot of practical exercises, allowed me to interact with members within the engineering geology industry and with many international students through social events. The support offered by the university and other groups to make the transition to studying abroad were most helpful.



Herona receives a warm sendoff from CCRIF Board Member Saundra Bailey last year following a ceremony at the Ministry of Finance, Jamaica to present to her the CCRIF Scholarship which was valued at US\$40,000

2. Share with us what happened at the university in response to the pandemic – regarding lectures, assignments, access to university facilities.

The University and all their facilities, excepting campus accommodations have been officially closed since March 20, 2020. This proved a bit challenging to students, especially myself as the library and computer labs were my go-to places for assignments and exams. All social activities were cancelled, and all were advised to adhere to the



Spending most of my time confined to a small room

Government's lockdown measures. My final graded fieldwork trip to Cyprus was cancelled at short notice, assignments had to be changed to suit online submission, all outstanding lectures were held online, and one-week extensions were granted for all assignments. Final exams were held online, and all students were assured by the university that considerations would be made for this unprecedented situation. Currently, my course coordinator is trying to allow us to do a virtual field trip in place of our fieldwork to Cyprus. However this is a new concept as are most of the measures taken. As the entire university was closed, the once-bustling campus became more like a ghost town with their current highest population being rabbits, birds and squirrels. Thankfully CCRIF kept in touch with their scholarship awardees to ensure us that they were also monitoring the situation and would assist us in this time.

As the university has never dealt with such a situation before I believe they did their best to adjust to the situation and tried to keep us up to date with the relevant government guidelines as best as they could. As time went on, the university and student union provided additional services such as virtual fitness programmes, mental health programmes and online social programmes to help students to prepare for online learning and exams and to cope with the pandemic and give feedback on how they were managing.

3. Share with us what happened with respect to your living conditions – e.g. lockdowns, access to essential services etc.

Over the last three months, my living conditions changed in a way I could have never imagined when I was both planning to attend university and when I first came to Leeds. The British have always told us international students that the best times of the year were Spring and Summer – sadly the time of the lockdown. Since the start of the lockdown, there were some disruptions with



Enjoying the sun and springtime flowers on the empty campus

accommodation services, accessing places to study and do work, reduced times to shop for groceries and a greater use of online services. Many of the international students and some of my flatmates left the country during the early part of the situation to ensure they would not be caught in the travel restrictions and lockdowns of their respective countries. The remaining flatmates and I chose to take extra precautions with keeping our environment clean and keeping to the government guidelines as we tried to make sense of this situation. Initially, I could have never dreamed that such a lockdown would have lasted so long. I thought that it may probably last up to a month with a greater emphasis on personal hygiene and safety.

The restrictions of the lockdown measures, the uncertainty of the entire situation, the closed campus and my accommodations ensured that I was mostly confined to my room for three months which affected my mental health both during the process and during my final exams, which also was experienced by my flatmates who are also from other countries. The initial thought was that the lockdown would be beneficial for focusing on assignments. However, adjusting to doing everything, including doing final exams while confined in a small room during a pandemic was a challenge. Not only for focusing and studying but it made me have a greater appreciation for the freedom I once had before the pandemic. The level of concentration required to switch to online learning, online exams and motivation during these uncertain times was never anticipated and required time to adjust and seek support. The university tried to facilitate the switch to reporting any internet issues, additional equipment to ensure that we could scan and submit our exam material and knowledge on how to use the virtual platform for the exam – this was a new way for all.

4. What have been some of your coping strategies?

My coping strategies have changed from

the start of the lockdown in the UK as more information has been released and with the easing of restrictions over time. Initially communicating with family, friends, the Jamaican High Commission, CCRIF, the church community and tutors were the best coping strategy as the situation progressed and as the death rates increased both locally and internationally. Currently, some of my other strategies include exercising at nearby parks and within the empty university, sunbathing in the backyard, limiting my news intake, watching stand-up comedy, keeping in contact with my church community and organizing games nights with my flatmates.



Exercising on an empty campus

5. Please share some tips for students as they prepare for the 2020/21 academic year, taking into account the possibility that there may be a second wave of COVID-19

Be positive and encouraged. Be aware that online learning is the way of the future and learning and practising on how to engage with the technology is a must. Here at the University of Leeds, many postgraduate students will start the 2020/2021 academic year with online learning with the possibility of having face-to-face learning during the second semester. Also, do not fear this crisis but seek the opportunities that arise from this. There may be more opportunities to get an education online now and 2020/2021 may be the best and cheapest time to do this. However, there may be a second wave so keeping yourselves and those you live with as safe as possible is not only the best way to manage and prevent the spread, but to get you starting the new academic year in the best way.

6. Finally – as a young professional – please share some recommendations for policy makers on how they could have handled the COVID-19 crisis better.

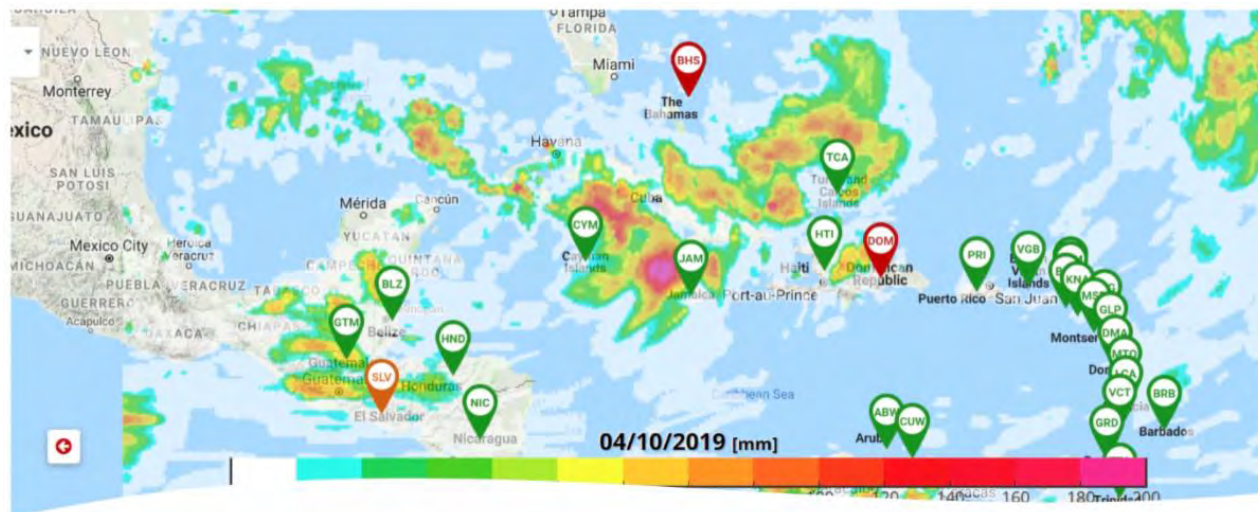
I believe that the best was done as much as possible with what was provided initially. However, in hindsight, I think the fear of the virus outweighed the practicality of the execution of a lockdown. Certain aspects of life such as mental health, considerations for international students and the disabled, how to implement social distancing and manage overall panic are things that could be improved upon in the future. I believe that enforcing mask-wearing and increasing testing at the start of the pandemic were the more practical initial responses before enforcing a country-wide lockdown. The panic reactions that ensued contributed to the mental issues and may have been

managed better if a lockdown was more phased in. Economic woes and the recession are now the current fears of the graduating class and other young adults and it is believed that that was not properly considered initially in this process. In doing research for my dissertation and during my postgraduate course, strategic asset management and risk-based approaches are emphasized in how to deal with hazards where all stakeholders and aspects of society are considered. The cost-benefit analysis of the social and economic impact in the aftermath of a lockdown may also need to be improved upon as the greatest demographic impacted and the most concerned demographic during and post COVID-19 are the young adults and recent graduates according to the BBC. However, again I do know that the British Government did the best it could with the information it had at the time.



Heading out to shop in the town, ensuring that I have my mask on

CCRIF Invites Users to Access WeMAP in 2020



Last year, CCRIF launched WeMAP, its web-based platform through which members can monitor earthquakes, as well as the development of potentially damaging heavy rainfall and tropical cyclones, analyze their intensity and assess their impact.

WeMAP includes four components:

- the Tropical Cyclone (TC) Monitoring Tool for wind and storm surge events induced by tropical cyclones
- the Excess Rainfall (XSR) Monitoring Tool for rain events (including but not limited to cyclonic events)
- the Earthquake (EQ) Monitoring Tool for seismic events
- the Real-Time Forecasting System – a storm impact forecast tool which provides users with real-time hurricane hazard and impact information. It can produce

detailed information on the expected hazard levels and their impacts from tropical cyclones for the entire Caribbean region.

Currently, there are more than 300 persons with access to the system. Users who were provided with access in 2019 can continue to use the system with the same credentials.

CCRIF invites interested persons to request access by sending an email to: pr@ccrif.org.

Notice: CCRIF Postpones Start of 2020 Internship Programme

Continue to visit our website <https://www.ccrif.org/en/regional-internship-programme> for information pertaining to the new application deadline and start of the programme. For those persons who have applied we have your applications and will contact you as the programme opens up. To our host organizations, we will be contacting you to assess your needs and the programmes and projects that interns will engage in this year.

Notice: Calling all Graduates and Young People: Register for CCRIF's Online Summer Course in Disaster Risk Financing



Apply Now

Apply Now

Apply Now

Visit our website at <https://www.ccrif.org> and look out for the application form to register for CCRIF's flagship course in disaster risk financing that will be delivered online and for which participants will receive a certificate of participation. Registration begins July 10, 2020 and the course is expected to begin on July 30, 2020, on 5 days over a five-week period. Topics to be covered include:

- Understanding Disaster Risk Financing
- Disaster Risk Financing Tools – parametric insurance, CAT bonds, contingent credit

- facilities, dedicated reserve funds
 - Relationship between disaster risk management and disaster risk financing
 - The linkages between insurance and social protection strategy – case study on the Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance in the Caribbean Project
 - Introduction to CCRIF's Parametric Insurance Policies and Models
 - Differences between Parametric Insurance and Indemnity Insurance
 - CCRIF's Models: TC, EQ, XSR, Fisheries/COAST
 - CCRIF's Parametric Policies
 - Overview of CCRIF's Country Risk Profiles and Applicability to Development Planning and Spatial Development
-

Spotlight on CCRIF Small Grants Programme... *building the resilience of the small island and coastal states of the Caribbean*

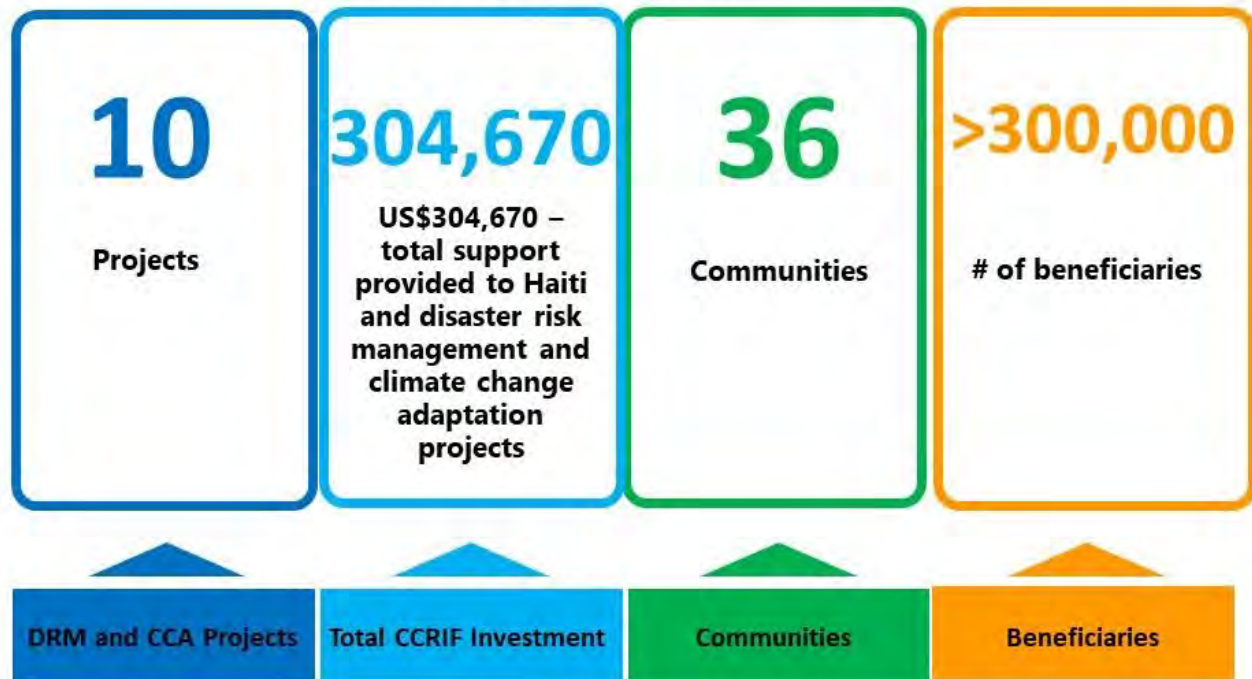
Highlighting 10 years of Support to NGOs and Communities in Haiti 2010 – 2020... towards Building Resilience



Since 2010, CCRIF has been providing support for implementation of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation projects in Haiti – primarily by non-governmental organizations.

CCRIF SUPPORT TO HAITI 2010 - 2020

Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Projects



Support to Groupe Encadré du Nord-Ouest (GAENO)

Funded by CCRIF's Small Grants Programme, Haitian NGO, Groupe Encadré du Nord-Ouest (GAENO), recently completed a 2-phase reforestation project in all 12 watersheds in the North West Department. This area was severely affected during Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and reforestation of these watersheds was undertaken to increase resilience against future storms and rainfall. This initiative built on lessons learned from an initial reforestation project GAENO implemented in the area around the Fond Zombi Pond in northwest Haiti.

To ensure the sustainability of the results, project leaders created plant nurseries in one community in each watershed, each with an NGO responsible for managing the nursery and a nursery manager. The project also included training for teachers who taught their students how to plant the seedlings. Also, the project illustrated to farmers who are mostly illiterate the impacts of climate on their livelihoods and the need to maintain tree cover. Over 20,000 seedlings were provided to farmers and students. There are now "CCRIF" nurseries in 12



communities in north-west Haiti, which are well-known and able to provide seedlings for reforestation efforts. This will make it easier for schools and youth organizations to carry out reforestation activities throughout the department.

GAENO produced a video to show how the nurseries were created and the benefits - and includes interviews with farmers and persons working in the nursery. It can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/iVd5Ic3zM0E>



The completion of this project marked 10 years of support from CCRIF SPC to NGOs and communities in Haiti, beginning from 2010 when the Facility provided technical assistance following the devastating earthquake in January of that year.

Technical Assistance Following the 2010 Haiti Earthquake

Following the earthquake, CCRIF and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) provided technical assistance to support the country's reconstruction efforts. CIMH developed publicly available, fully automated rainfall and flood prediction products and, in collaboration with CCRIF, assisted the international and regional communities with the use of these products. These tools and the data produced helped planners and relief workers to make better decisions about where to re-settle citizens and re-build infrastructure to minimize people's exposure to flooding and landslides, especially in the earthquake-impacted areas.



Throughout the 2010 Hurricane Season, CCRIF and CIMH provided additional support, recognizing the particular vulnerability of Haiti to heavy rainfall, which typically causes flooding and landslides. This support included providing high-resolution rainfall forecasts to government officials and briefings on likely areas of highest impact during Hurricane Tomas, which affected the country in October that year; these briefings helped, for example, in the planning of tent camp evacuations.

Support to Fondation Amour de Dieu (FADA)

Two years later, following Hurricane Sandy, which triggered extensive flooding resulting in widespread damage to homes and crops in Haiti, CCRIF again offered technical assistance to the Government. Following a review of post-Sandy disaster risk reduction projects compiled by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), CCRIF provided a donation of US\$115,305 to **Fondation Amour de Dieu (FADA)**, a humanitarian NGO for a project focusing on soil conservation of flooded arable lands around the Bainet River. Activities also included increasing awareness of hazards and vulnerabilities and preventative actions, thus building capacity and leadership within the community.



The Bainet River Bank - before and after the project

FADA has implemented other projects over the years including:

- Building capacity of farmers in the North Department to address climate change. This included hosting the First Northern Haiti Conference on Climate Change in November 2016. The project also provided technical assistance to community focal point organizations, which are responsible for raising awareness and informing communities about crops and use of agricultural techniques adapted to climate change; and informing communities of the risks of disasters in the most vulnerable areas.
- Construction of a dam from used tyres. This also included awareness raising about climate change and impacts on flooding etc.
- Training and awareness about earthquake- and hurricane-resilient construction for construction workers



Support to Urgence Rehabilitation & Development (URDev)

URDev implemented a project to reduce water vulnerability in the community of Boucan Richard in Gros-Morne by rehabilitating the Derboyé catchment area. Reforestation of the watershed was conducted by community members and a new water collection facility constructed.



CCRIF Payouts to the Government of Haiti

In addition to the technical assistance provided to Haiti, CCRIF has made payouts to the Government of Haiti following the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in 2016 totalling US\$31.2 million.

CCRIF Small Grants Programme

Through the **CCRIF Small Grants Programme**, CCRIF finances small disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation projects being implemented by NGOs, and community-based organizations (CBOs) across CCRIF Caribbean member countries and/or CARICOM member countries – or academic institutions that benefit of local communities.

Each project should fall within the range of US\$5,000 to US\$25,000.

To date, CCRIF has provided 15 grants totalling almost US\$330,000 to 8 NGOs and 2 departments at The University of the West Indies.

Project proposals are accepted throughout the year.

Visit the website for information related to project proposal development and additional information:

<https://www.ccrif.org/en/ccrif-small-grants-programme>



Feature on COAST – New Publications

Under COAST (Caribbean Oceans and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility), two publications have been produced and are available on the CCRIF website:

- **An Assessment of Saint Lucia's Fisheries Sector**
- **An Assessment of Grenada's Fisheries Sector**

These fisheries assessments were produced as part of the COAST project, which is a partnership between the U.S. State Department, the World Bank, CCRIF SPC, and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). The fisheries assessments are underpinned by three main objectives:

- To develop a methodology to gather fisheries and disaster risk management information at the country level and incorporate it into the development of the COAST product
- To apply the assessment methodology in both countries
- To understand interest in COAST insurance in the fisheries sector and readiness to implement it.

Both Saint Lucia and Grenada recently renewed their COAST insurance policies with CCRIF for the 2020/21 policy year. A number of countries are expressing interest in purchasing this product and CCRIF has begun active discussions with these countries as it seeks to roll-out this innovative product.



More on COAST



The COAST insurance policies provide coverage for fisherfolk and others employed in the fisheries industry such as market vendors to enable them to recover quickly after weather-related events. The Caribbean is the first region globally to develop and implement parametric climate risk insurance for the fisheries sector and this is the first time vulnerable fishing communities will have access to insurance developed specifically for their needs, protecting their livelihoods and playing a key role in closing the protection gap.

The COAST insurance product is another in a list of innovative parametric insurance products that are provided by CCRIF to Caribbean and Central American governments. Unlike CCRIF's other parametric insurance products for tropical cyclone, earthquakes and excess rainfall, COAST has a few unique characteristics. For example, while it is governments that purchase COAST policies, it is the fisherfolk that will directly benefit if a policy is triggered, receiving a cash payout almost akin to the provision of a cash transfer under a social protection programme. The uniqueness of the product also lies in the type of coverage as the COAST product provides coverage for losses caused by "bad weather" on fisherfolk and for direct damages caused by wind and storm surge from tropical cyclones to fishing vessels, fishing equipment and fishing infrastructure. In this case, "bad weather" is defined as occurrence of high waves and heavy rainfall throughout the policy year.

Like CCRIF's other parametric insurance products, COAST insurance also is parametric, whereby payouts are made based on a pre-defined level of wave height, rainfall, wind or storm surge and their impact. Therefore, payouts can be made to the Government quickly – within 14 days of the event, in keeping with one of CCRIF's core value propositions to its clients.

Under COAST, when a country's policy is triggered, the payout will be provided by CCRIF to the Ministry of Finance, followed by a rapid transfer to the fisherfolk and other affected parties throughout the country's fishing industry. To facilitate timely transfer of funds, the list of beneficiaries is defined at the time of policy inception by the government and is designed to include beneficiaries from the fisheries value chain, including fishers, crew members, boat captains and owners, fish vendors and processors, etc. Through identification of the beneficiaries and predefined procedures for payout transfers, COAST

will allow for tracking the flow of funds down to the level of the beneficiaries, with a financial management and auditing system in place. These detailed data will support beneficiary analyses in the region.

The development of COAST benefitted from multi-stakeholder arrangements and was underpinned by participatory processes. Indeed, the COAST insurance product for the fisheries sector is an innovative climate risk insurance mechanism and will be an essential tool to help address the impacts of natural hazards on food security and livelihoods of those working in the fisheries sector. The World Bank has played a major role in the development of this product to ensure that it promotes resilience in the fisheries sector and contributes to the sustainable management of the ecosystems that support the sector by incentivizing policy reforms for the uptake of climate-smart fisheries practices and increasing coastal resilience. This will help to build a stronger foundation for advancing the blue economy, while supporting the livelihoods of those who depend on the valuable marine resource.

COAST has been endorsed by the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) of CARICOM, by the ministerial council of the CRFM, and by the ministerial council of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) also have been encouraged by the prospects of COAST.

CCRIF Develops “DRM in Schools Project”

As part of its Technical Assistance Programme, CCRIF has developed a “DRM in Schools Project” designed to provide support for disaster risk reduction activities in schools. The conceptualization of the project was based on demands from member governments to provide some level of support to students to enhance their understanding of disaster risk reduction. The project includes three components as follows:

1. Formal education support for DRR education (formal education)
2. School-based initiatives for DRR (non-formal and informal education)
3. A DRR umbrella communication campaign

CCRIF will collaborate with regional and international partners on the implementation of the project. In June, the Facility produced a fun and interactive booklet “Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change”, “for us kids to better understand natural hazards, disasters and climate change and our roles in #preparing, #keepingsafe and #sharinginformation with our #friendsandfamilyandcommunity”.

The booklet is narrated by eight friends from different Caribbean countries, who share information on hazards and disasters as well as important tips on how to stay safe during



and after a disaster. They also share their various experiences.



Disaster risk management is everyone's business, including ours!

We need to #prepare to #keepsafe!

In June, CCRIF delivered presentations and shared the content of the booklet with two schools, St. Gabriel's in Barbados and Hillel Academy in Jamaica. These children, all in their final year of primary school were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the booklet before final publication which is expected to be later this summer. The sessions proved to be fun, interactive and allowed for much feedback.



The following shows a snapshot of some of the pages in the booklet.

"Sol from The Bahamas experienced a hurricane in 2019 - Hurricane Dorian - when it passed over his home on Abaco Island. Sol wants to share his experience with us."

It was a disaster! It was so scary! There were strong winds and they were howling like wolves. We live next to the sea and the waves were getting very high and crashing onto the rocks and then the houses. Eventually the water from the waves started to enter our house and the water started to rise in the same way a glass fills up when you put it under a tap. We did not know what to do. There was wind, there was water and then there was water pelting on us directly because the wind caused our roof to fly off. Everything got soaked - my school bag, my books, my bed. The wind also caused the electricity poles to fall. So imagine no roof, rain, water filling up in your house and complete darkness. And of course, it was not quiet, dogs were barking, babies were crying and people were moving about in the darkness trying to save what they could. Sounds like a horror movie doesn't it?



But it was not just my home, it was all the other homes on the island that were destroyed. My dad is a fisherman and his boat and gear were all destroyed. Some persons died and one of my friends lost his dad as he was swept away by a big wave trying to tie down his boat."

"The pictures below show my beautiful island before Hurricane Dorian and after Hurricane Dorian."

Chapter 2: Preparing - Before, During and After a Hazard



"Salut, je suis Jean d'Haïti et je nous guiderai dans ce chapitre et décrirai les types de catastrophes naturelles et artificielles."

Let me translate

"Hello, I am Jean from Haiti and I will lead us through this chapter and describe some of the natural and manmade hazards."

Let us look back at that table from Chapter 1 which showed the different types of hazards.

"We know that if we manage these hazards well and know what to do, they do not have to become a disaster."

Class	Natural	Man-made
Rapid onset	Earthquakes Floods Hurricanes/Tropical cyclones Excess rainfall Volcanic eruptions Landslides Tsunamis	Fires Forest Fires Chemicals spills Industrial accidents Pollution – air and water pollution Oil spills Transportation accidents Nuclear accidents
Slow onset	Drought Floods Epidemics	Famines Civil strife, conflicts and wars

Chapter 1: Understanding Hazards, Disasters and Risk Reduction



"Hi, I am Lily-Rose and first off, I am going to share with you information about hazards and disasters."

What is a Hazard?

Did you know that hazards and disasters are not the same thing?

Did you know that hazards can be both natural and manmade?

Natural hazards are events that occur naturally from time to time - such as earthquakes, tropical cyclones, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, heavy rainfall and lack of rainfall (drought).



Chapter 3: Global Warming, Climate Change and Disasters

"Hi everyone, remember me from Chapter 1. I am Madison from Barbados and I know we have all heard about climate change. So my job will be very easy. I will be sharing with you a bit on global warming and climate change and the linkages with natural disasters, helping to strengthen what you already know. Suzie, Jean and Alicia will be helping me along the way."



First of let us discuss global warming

Global warming relates to the emission of greenhouse gases, which affect climates. Greenhouse gases are naturally occurring gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and even water vapour. You already know that carbon dioxide (also referred to as CO₂) is emitted from factories, plants that supply us with electricity, and cars and that trees and vegetation need carbon dioxide for photosynthesis. Methane is released from cattle and pigs and even us humans when we "pass gas" lol. Water vapour is released in large quantities from factories.



"So, hold on, we know that global warming is causing a lot of problems, but we are also saying that it is caused by greenhouse gases which are naturally occurring. So, then it means that greenhouse gases are bad."



Chapter 4: Protecting our Natural Environment will Protect us and Prevent Hazards from becoming Disasters



"So here I am once again. And along with Maria, Lily-Rose and Thomas, we will be discussing how our natural environment is important to protecting us when natural hazards strike. We will look at two ecosystems - coral reefs, and wetlands - and the roles they play. Look at the picture below. It is the 2nd largest coral reef system in the world, and it is in my beloved country Belize."

The Belize Great Barrier Reef is part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, which is the largest in the western hemisphere, spanning 900 kilometers. With its size, the Belize Barrier Reef is second to only the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and is one of the most popular tourist attraction for those who are planning a trip to Belize.



Chapter 5: Some Disaster Management Organizations in the Region



"There are a few disaster-related organizations working in the Caribbean. In this publication we will introduce you to CCRIF, CDEMA and CCCCC - those are all acronyms - and we will share some important information.

We will first start off with CCRIF SPC (which was formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility). The SPC part is just the type of organization it is so we will leave it at CCRIF.

CCRIF has really helped my country after a few disasters and my mom always says that CCRIF provided us with monies to help immediately after the earthquake and it was the first set of money to get to our government to help the people of Haiti. In fact that payout from CCRIF really helped support the government to pay salaries of health workers - and my dad was one of those workers who was able to receive his pay."



"Wow Jean, CCRIF sounds interesting. Tell us more. What is CCRIF?"

"Ok it is this organization - they call themselves a facility - that provides the governments of countries with monies very quickly after a natural disaster - in as little as 14 days after the disaster."

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