

Lessons Learned from the Hazard Management Experience of Jamaica and Applicability to Other Small Island States

The 6th Meeting of the World Forum of Catastrophe
Programmes

24th – 27th October 2011, Montego Bay, Jamaica

Introduction

- Has the 2nd highest economic exposure
- Location in the “hurricane alley” the geography and geotectonic characteristics exposes the country to a variety of natural hazards
- 27 natural disaster events for the period 1980 to 2008, with total economic damage estimated at US\$2.599 billion and 210 deaths.
- Ageing infrastructure with no structured maintenance programme

Disaster Risk Profile of Jamaica

- Storms accounted for US\$2.425 billion and floods US\$168.44 million. The number of people killed was reported as 210, with 52 percent of the deaths caused by storms, 46 percent by floods

Nature of Event	Year	Cost of Damage (JA\$)	# Roads Affected	# Communities Affected	Casualties
Tropical Depression Nicole	2010	20,573,500.00	189	130	48
Tropical Storm Gustav	2008	15,051,000,000.00	151	76	12
Hurricane Dean	2007	23,000,000,000.00	269	169	4
Port Maria Rains	2006	48,862,500.00	9	24	-
November Rains	2006	533,200,108.00	17	93	-
Hurricane Emily & Dennis	2005	5,976,910,000.00	14	15	1
Hurricane Wilma	2005	3,419,202,845.40	90	106	1
Hurricane Ivan	2004	35,900,000,000.00	111	177	17
Hurricane Charlie	2004	248,912,460.00	-	-	1
May – June Rains	2003	203,347,750.00	-	27	-
Tropical Storm Lili & Isidore	2002	840,394,883.00	-	185	0
TOTAL		85,242,404,046.40	850	1002	84

Challenges

- Highly under insured
- Frequency/magnitude
- Limited land resources
- Implications for:
 - Sustainable development/sustained development
 - Poverty
 - Overall achievement of the MDG
 - Fragile Livelihoods

Development of Hazard Management in Jamaica

- Shift in conceptual framework in the management of natural hazards in 1980 through the creation of ODIPERC.
 - 1979 Floods (40 deaths; J\$27 Million in losses)
- Focus was on reducing community vulnerability while at the same time ensuring that the capacities exists to carry out response
- Jamaica's shift was gradual

Development of Hazard Management in Jamaica

- 1993 Renamed ODPEM under Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Act of the same year
- This occurred during IDNDR a time when policy for hazard mitigation was as it is now – not in place
- ODPEM's mandate reflected the common global thought - preparedness and response was no longer adequate
- Natural Hazard Management now consisted of post event and pre event stages

Development of Hazard Management in Jamaica

- Comprehensive Model (functioning at 3 levels)
- Integrate Disaster Management into planning and development process
- Environment and development stakeholders becoming more involved due to close relationship with natural resources management.

Development of Jamaica's Hazard Management Programme

- The Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project (PCDPPP) was established in 1981 to spearhead regional efforts to improve disaster preparedness in the Caribbean. The Project did much to raise the awareness of countries in the region to the importance of preparedness and prevention, where previously response and relief had been emphasized. Eventually morphed into CDEMA

Development of Jamaica's Programme

- Early advancement occasioned by:
 - The implementation of key initiatives and key Donor and regional partnerships:
 - Facilitated knowledge and skills transfer over a 19 year period.

POLICY LINKAGES



Examining the Current State of Play

- A failure to adequately enforce existing regulatory provisions since independence have resulted in a proliferation of informal development occurring in marginal areas all over the island and poorly situated development putting thousands at risk and facilitating the cumulative retardation of economic growth.

Current State of Play

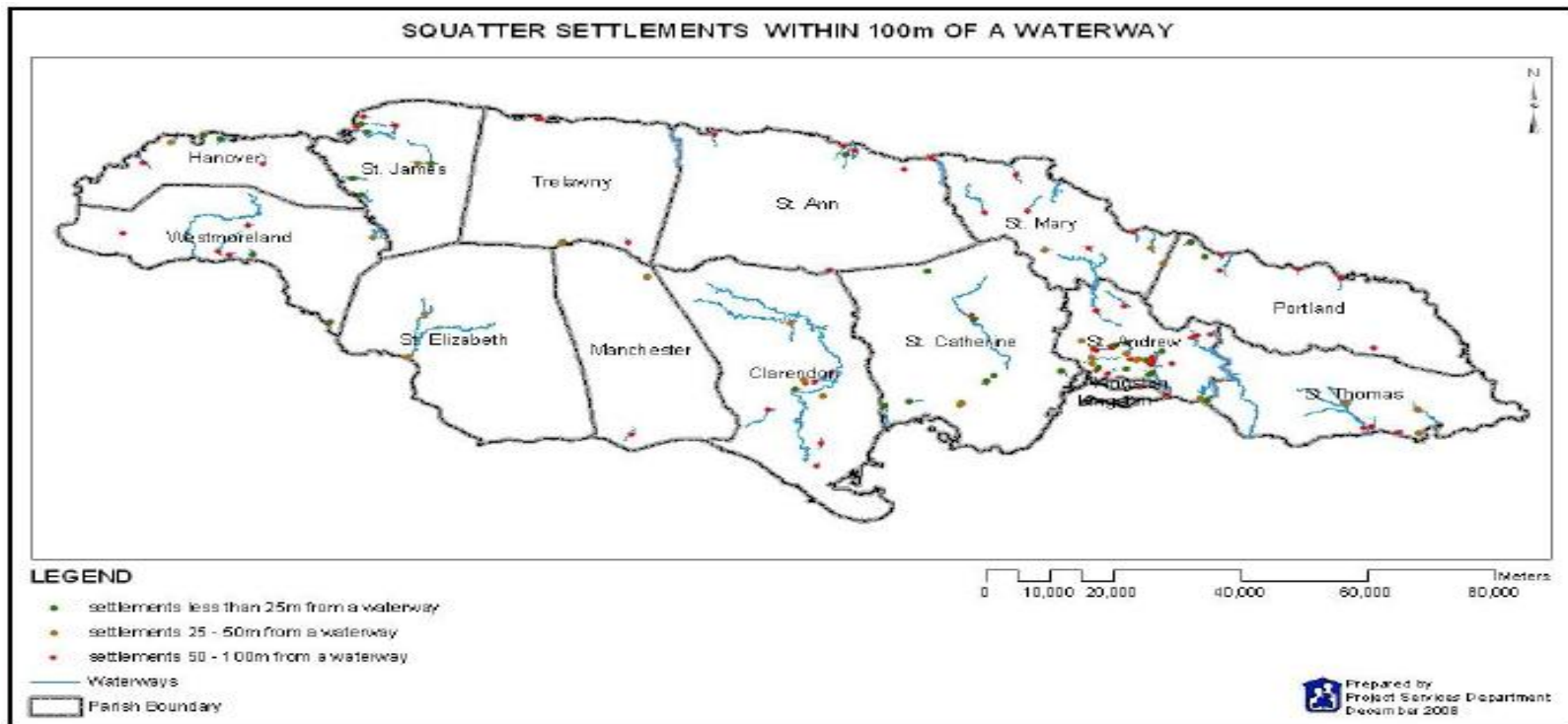


Past Impact



THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

- 138 of 585 settlements mapped nationally are within 100m of a waterway, they further found that > 50% of these settlements in KSA are within 100m of a waterway.



Building Jamaica's Hazard Management Programme

- Building of trust and a reputation – achieved through politically neutrality and autonomy
- Legislative Framework Established was “forward looking”
- Organizational Development and Visioning
 - Developed as a comprehensive Disaster Management Agency promoting concepts of risk reduction.
 - Decentralization
 - Partnership, Integration and mainstreaming

Building Jamaica's Hazard Management Programme

- Public Private Partnerships with Key Private Sector Partners
 - Support for PR and post event response
 - Engaging Service Organizations
- Knowledge Building and Capacity Strengthening
 - Continuity of Successful Strategies and Programmes (leadership from within and long serving members)
 - Strengthening staff capacity for leading DRM
 - Adaptive and creative leadership (Carby, 2011)
 - Learning from past events and Subject matter exchanges

Building Jamaica's Hazard Management Programme

- Strengthen Credibility through Communication
 - Communicate capacity of the organization during normal and emergency situations
 - Communicate positive changes where they occur (show improvements made over previous years)
 - Share what we are doing often + Open channels of communication
 - Effective Communication of Concepts related to risks and hazards to broaden public knowledge and understanding
 - Engage the media and build a robust PR Program


Building Jamaica's Hazard Management Programme

- Development of a Community Based DRM Programme
- Engagement of Volunteers
- Loss recording and quantification lead to further attention by the political directorate, policy level actors and private sector.
- Integration of Hazard Information into Development Planning and Approval Process
 - PIOJ Growth Inducement Strategy

Building Jamaica's Hazard Management Programme


- Encourage and Create an environment for Technology integration in the process
 - Early investment in Early Warning Systems
 - Robust telecoms infrastructure
 - Website and Decision Support Tools for Operations
- Ensure there is National Development Road Map with DRM and CCA included.
- Establishing a thematic working group for DRR and Climate Change

Areas for further improvement

A yellow chevron-shaped arrow pointing downwards, with a blue outline.


Work Required

- risk transfer schemes, especially at the community level
- use of quantitative methods for promotion of risk reduction – such as cost benefit analyses

A yellow chevron-shaped arrow pointing downwards, with a blue outline.

Work Required

- development of country-specific indicators for vulnerability and risk
- development of data bases and sharing of data and information

A yellow chevron-shaped arrow pointing downwards, with a blue outline.

Work Required

- further integration of disaster risk reduction into other sectors of the economy.

Areas for further improvement

Work
Required

- Further Multi-Hazard Mapping
- Hazard and Risk Analysis, Risk Modeling

Work
Required

- Risk Information and Decision Support Systems
- Development Control and Enforcement

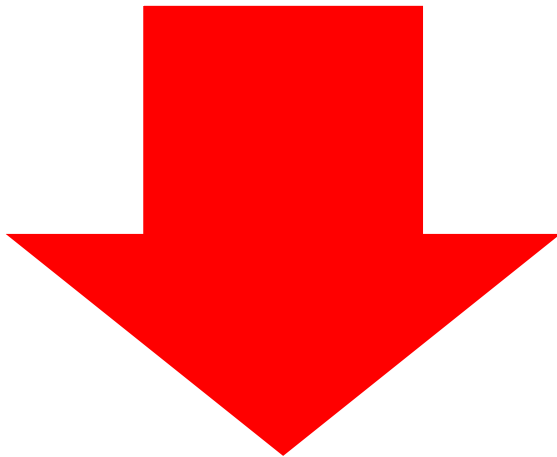
Work
Required

- Integrate DRR into Macro Economic Planning

Final Summary Results



Success- Strong institutional and legal frameworks, continuity of approaches especially within national disaster management office which champion disaster risk management with emphasis on disaster risk reduction.



Obstacles to success were weak institutional and legal frameworks, inadequate resources, inconsistency in political commitment and weak enforcement regimes.



Working towards National Resilience

THANK YOU