

The Link of EWS to Humanitarian Contingency Planning and Assistance: the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management

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Warning Systems

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EWS and HCP: Rationale and Mandate

- HFA
 - Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and **enhance early warning**
- CDM
 - Outcome 4 - Enhanced community resilience in CDERA states/ territories to mitigate and respond to the adverse effects of climate change and disasters
 - **4.5 Early Warning Systems for disaster risk reduction enhanced at the community and national levels**

Geographic Focus



- ***Anguilla***
- ***Antigua and Barbuda***
- ***Barbados***
- ***British Virgin Islands***
- ***Dominica***
- ***Saint Lucia***
- ***Grenada***
- ***Montserrat***
- ***St. Vincent and the Grenadines***
- ***St. Christopher and Nevis***



Characteristics of the Eastern Caribbean Countries

- SIDS – populations between 5,000 and 300,000
- Development paradox
 - High levels of GDP per capita & economic growth, financial prosperity, political stability and infrastructure development **while**
 - There remains considerable poverty, under-employment, gender and social inequities and institutional capacity weaknesses
- Vulnerability to natural & technological hazards and impacts of CC

What is the ECDG/DM

- A multi-partner team for Barbados and the nine countries of the OECS established to facilitate improved response to humanitarian needs
- Serves as the Humanitarian Country Team for Barbados and the 9 OECS member states
- Chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and CDEMA
- IGOs, Donors; NGOs; national agencies

Objectives

- Facilitate an effective, timely and coordinated response operation, in the event of a rapid onset emergency and request from an affected Member State and in support of the existing regional mechanism. Specific objectives include:
 - To carry out initial assessments after the occurrence of a hazard
 - To assist affected Governments in coordinating the assistance in response to an emergency situation
 - Enhance and support the Caribbean Disaster Emergency and Management Agency (CDEMA) as the regional mechanism for disaster response

ECDG/DM Rationale

- Barbados a hub for many development partners serving the E Caribbean
- ECDG a functioning cooperative body facilitating coordination – with 4 sub themes (Trade – EU; Governance – DFID; Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management – CIDA; Social Protection – UNDP).
- Following a disaster, the lack of coordination among the various stakeholders can create more problems for the affected country



ECDG/DM Operational Guidance

- Operations Plan for the ECDG/DM
 - Outlines context, objectives, membership, partnership commitment and SoPs for operation
- Operations Plan for the RNAT
 - Introduction, authority, purpose and execution
- SoPs for the RNAT
 - Detailed description of roles and operation

Rapid Needs Assessment Team

Purpose of RNAT

- To support the affected Government in a rapid assessment of damage / impact allowing immediate identification of critical needs, and programme accordingly.
- Not replace other similar instruments used during the rapid humanitarian assessment process, but to bring critical information to decision-makers in a coordinated manner

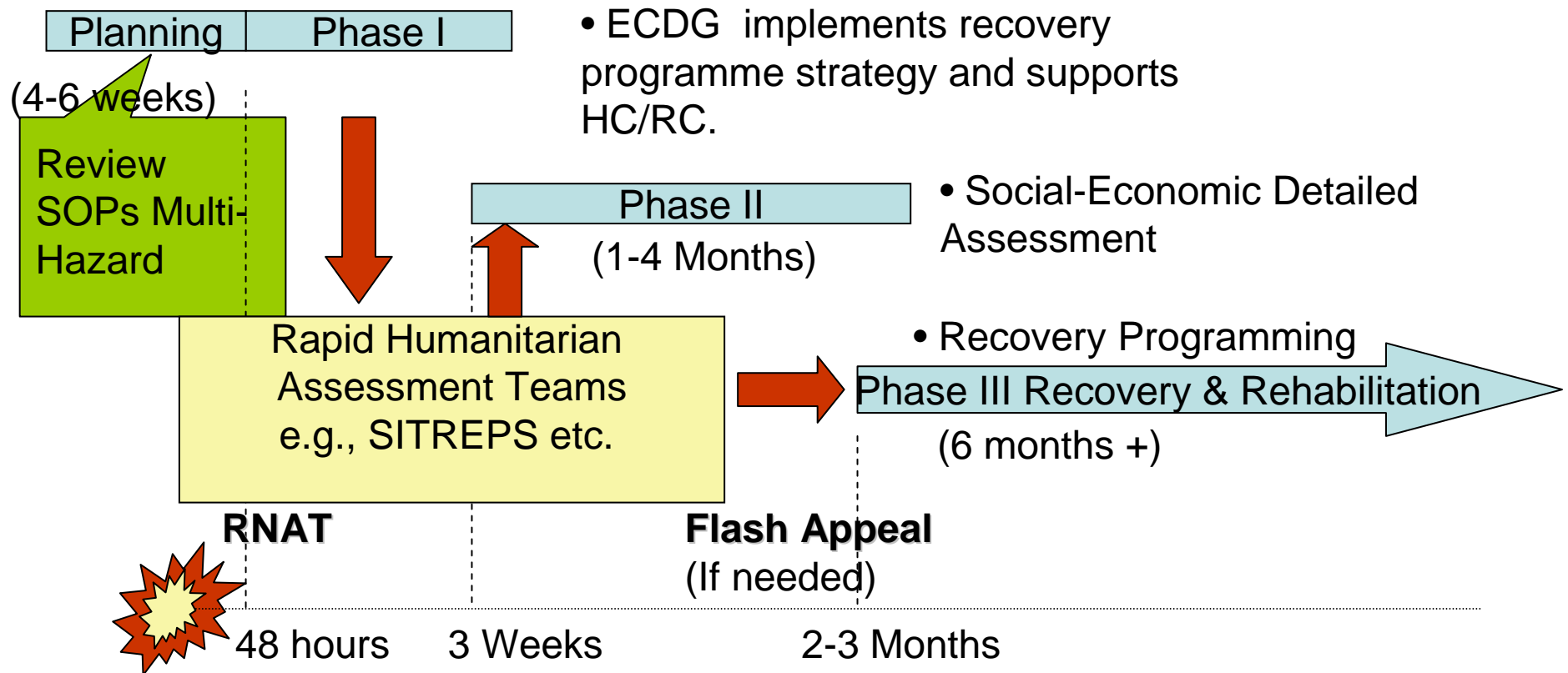
Composition

- CDEMA nominated lead
- A 4 or 5 person team based on skills – revised from over 10



Disaster Assessment Process

- CDERA & other actors coordinate response operations; ECDG/DM assist Govermtns. coordinating emergency programming response



ECDGDM TORS - Coordination

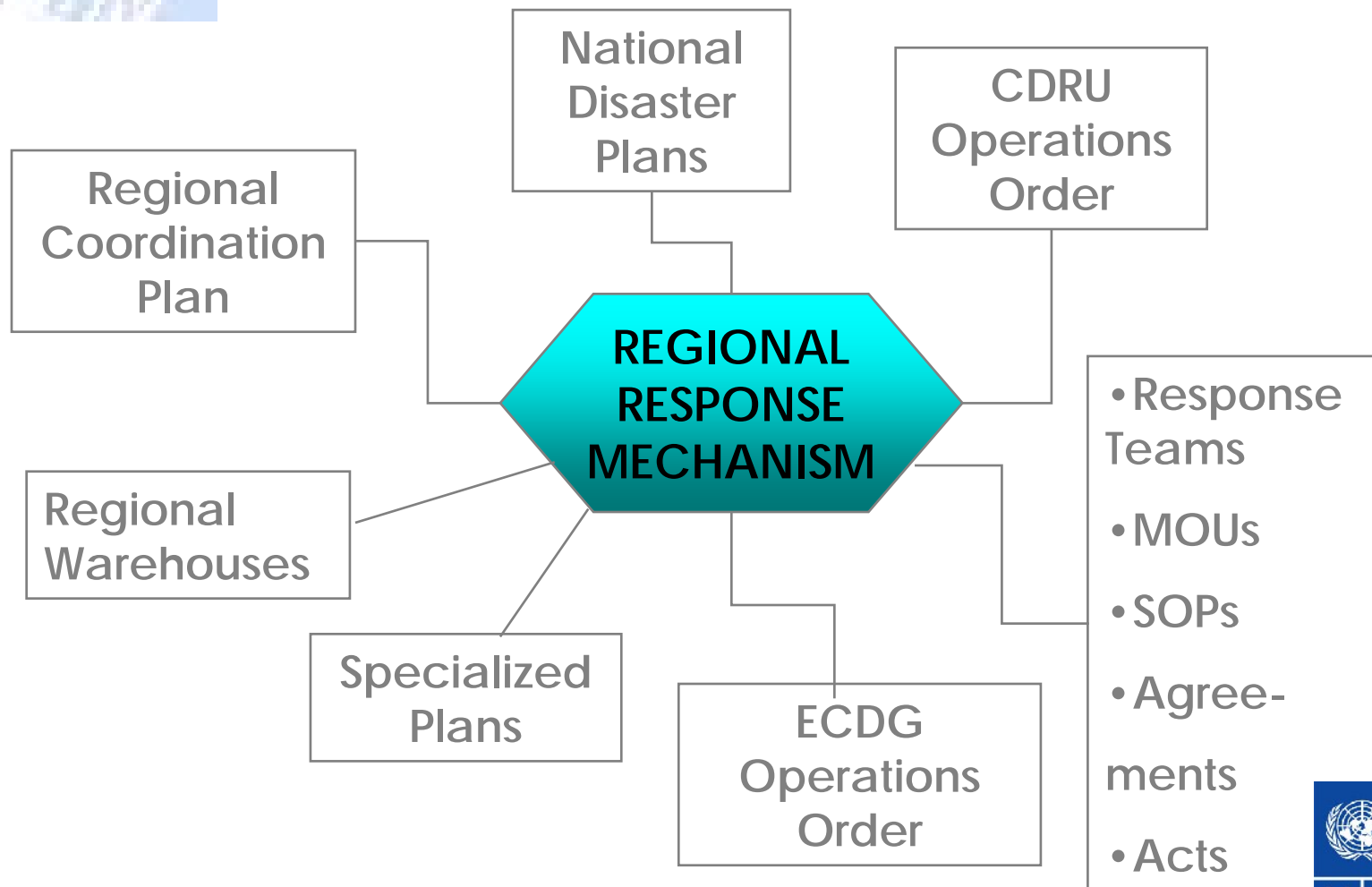
- **To provide support for the coordination of external emergency assistance to the countries of the Eastern Caribbean in the emergency phase of a major natural and/or technological disaster.**
 - To identify resources that can be committed immediately. This is inclusive of the provision of resources for the Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT) based on the needs of the disaster
 - To facilitate, in liaison with respective HQs, the coordination of assistance during the emergency, relief and rehabilitation phase
 - To provide information on individual members own operational activities in the affected country (ies)
 - Identify common strategic frameworks upon which development assistance, programming and priorities of donor agencies could be determined
 - Identify possibilities for coordination/synergy at the wider Caribbean level
 - Provide core funding for the RNAT deployment
 - Act as a platform for the collection of information on available logistics and operational capabilities, to be collated by CDERA



ECDGDM TORS - Relief

- **To facilitate effective access to relief funds from existing programme funds in the affected countries as well as from additional sources.**
 - Conduct activities relevant to each donor and programme and/or re-programme new activities
 - Re-evaluate programming procedures in light of lessons learned
 - Update preparedness/status on secondary effects of the hazard, or new events of natural or technological disaster
 - To advise the Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Management (ECCDM) Development Coordinating Group in the Eastern Caribbean region on priorities and lessons learned from the programmed activities and discussions undertaken

COMPONENTS OF THE REGIONAL RESPONSE MECHANISM



Levels of Activation

- Level 1
 - Incident at local level for which resources are adequate and available. NDO informs CDEMA CU of incident – monitoring and information sharing
- Level 2
 - Country impacted and overwhelmed, NDO informs CU and requests RCP be activated. State of Emergency may/may not be declared. CU – activation of Sub Region(s) and full activation of RRM and RCP
- Level 3
 - Country impacted and overwhelmed, NDO informs CU and requests RCP be activated. State of Emergency may/may not be declared. CU – activation of Sub Region(s) and full activation of RRM and RCP

Role of EWS in ECDGDM

- Brief from CDEMA and notification for rapid onset events
 - Have pre-impact meeting
 - Mobilise internal (contingency plans) and external (support) structures
- Considerations
 - Level of event is important
 - Type of event – weather related hazard as opposed to seismic event

Making ECDGDM more Effective

- Reviewing and testing of Ops Plans and SoPs
- Standardising and realising minimum equipment requirements for RNATs
- Enhancing linkages national and international mechanisms – including through the RRM
- Improved baseline information on vulnerability
- Transition to all hazard approach
- Coherent EWS that triggers response in exposed communities and key stakeholders – effective communication to mobilise the ECDGDM

Key Challenges to EWS in ECDGDM Context

- Still a hurricane focus to hazard management in terms of public understanding / warning systems
- Limited comprehensive HMVA to understand the impending impacts
- Capacity for redundant communication among partners
 - including critical agencies
 - Need to expand Region Rap and also focus on key partners
- Good understanding of ECDGDM among countries and nature of contribution

Opportunities and Benefits

- Coordination and consistency in partner support and response
- Solidify linkages with national, regional and international actors so there is transparency and consistent expectations
 - Including review Humanitarian Response
- Opportunities for same development partners to identify weaknesses in systems and prioritise these – closes the loop



Thank You

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