

# BVI SMART Schools Programme



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At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Forum on Safe Schools

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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# CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

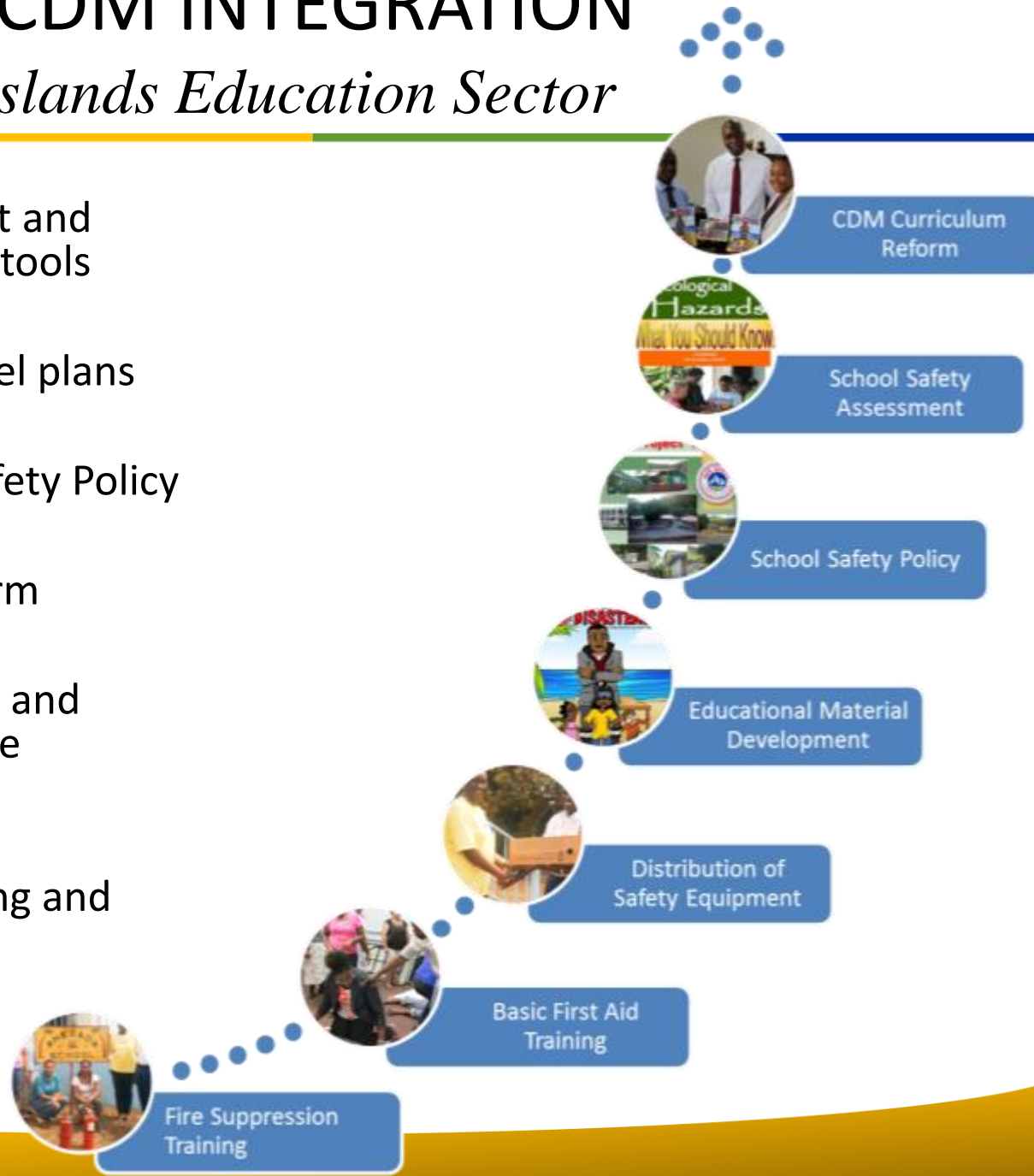
- Parents are naturally concerned about the safety of their child/children and the assumption is made that schools, playgrounds and other child-ascribed zones are safe.
- The MOE with the support of the DDM seeks to instil a culture of safety through the introduction and practice of CDM principles.
- BVI embraced CDM during early 2000s. This led to the integration of DRR into the routine work programmes and development agendas of sector agencies
- The multi-year School Safety Project morphed into the SAFE School programme which evolved into the SMART School Programme – adapted from PAHO Smart Hospitals Initiative



# ROAD TO CDM INTEGRATION

## *The Virgin Islands Education Sector*

- Training, Procurement and Distribution of safety tools
- Development of model plans
- School Health and Safety Policy
- DRR Curriculum Reform
- SMART School Toolkit and Inspection Programme
- School and Teacher Certification , Licencing and Accreditation



# ROAD TO INTEGRATION

## *UNICEF Assessment and Recommendations*

- *“Disaster risk reduction should be systematically treated across the curriculum and through the grade levels. The treatment must extend beyond the basic science of hazards and safety measures to consider prevention, mitigation, vulnerability and resilience building”, (p17).*
- There are a range of different approaches to integrating DRR in the curriculum:
  - Text Book
  - Pilot Projects
  - The centralized competency-based approach
  - The centrally developed special subject (dedicated space)
  - The symbiosis approach
  - The ‘special event’ approach
- The Report recommends creating a hybrid approach, (p23).





# TRAINING AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT

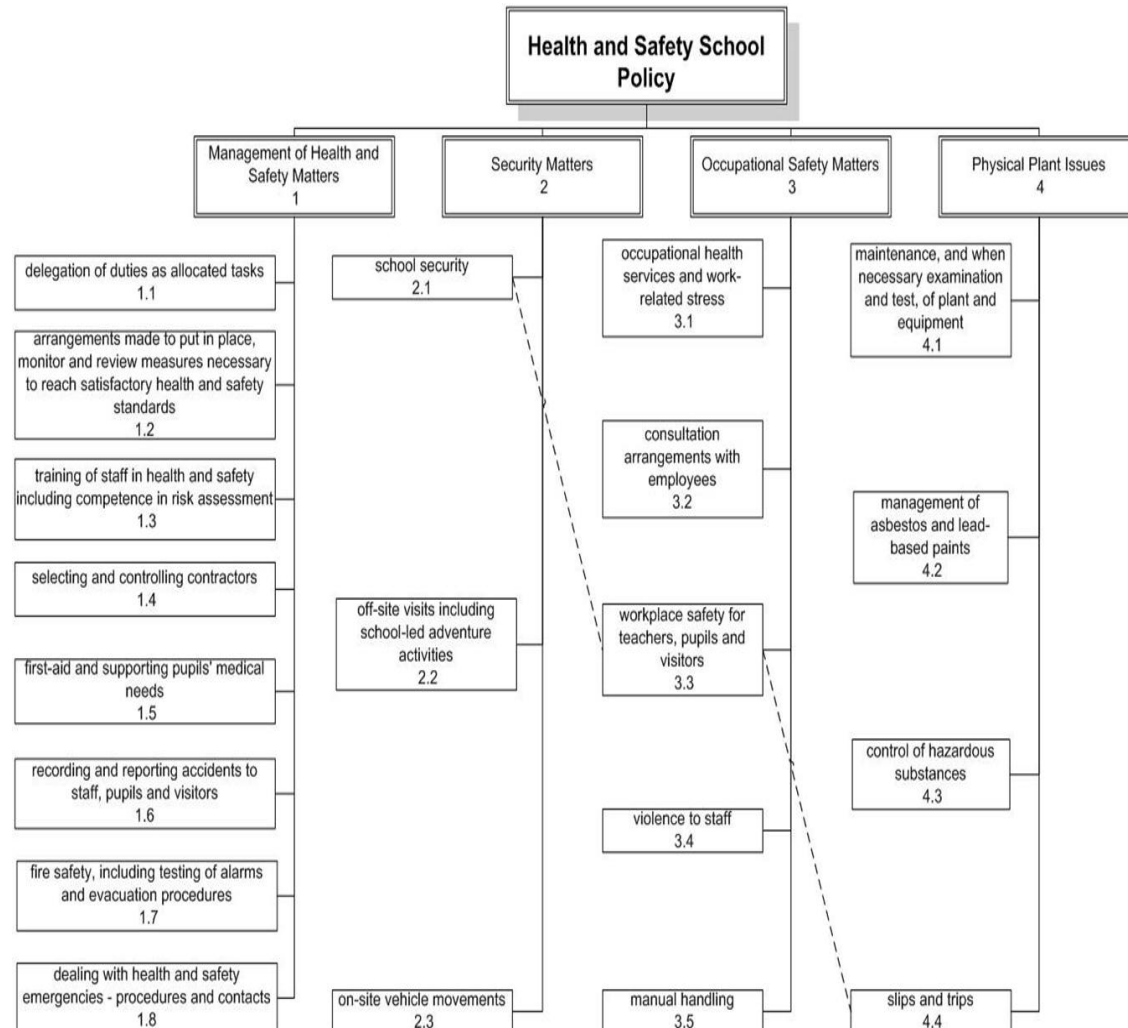
- The School Safety Project began in 2004 with fire safety inspections and disaster preparedness survey of all educational institutions.
- In partnership with other agencies training was provided to teachers and school administrators.
- Model Contingency Planning templates were developed for all levels of educational institutions in the VI, from early childhood to tertiary levels.
- Annual testing of plans and procedures became mandatory.



# School Health and Safety Policy & Evolution of SAFE School Programme



- In 2012, a School Health and Safety Policy was developed to establish minimum standards for school design, construction and maintenance.
- H&S Policy provides measures for risk assessments and recommendations to ensure the safety of school buildings, their environment and the protection of children while at these locations.
- Assessment tool was developed based on the Health & Safety Policy to provide measurable standards for schools with respect to their location, design, construction, retrofitting, environment, play grounds, evacuation and disaster planning procedures etc.
- Schools are required to attain a score of 80% or higher to be certified SAFE. Prior to 2017, 17 schools were certified.



# School Health and Safety Policy

- New applications for schools wishing to operate in the Territory are channelled through the DDM by the Ministry of Education and local Trade Department for review and feedback and all three agencies are mandated to ensure that schools are assessed for compliance with H&S Policy and that their contingency plans are reviewed.





# SAFE School Certification Presentations





# SAFE School evolves into SMART School

- Green and climate change adaptation strategies have now been added to the H&S requirements to encourage schools to become more environmentally sensitive, energy and water efficient, protect the health and welfare of students and teachers and ensure adequate preparation for hazard impact.
- SMART: Sustained Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilient Techniques.
- Revised H&S and Green Checklists have been created. H&S Checklist now incorporates the structural integrity of buildings in addition to operations practices and procedures, while the Green Checklist seeks to promote a cleaner, greener environment along with energy and water efficiency as well as healthy living.
- Here again, schools are required to attain a score of 80% or higher to be certified SMART. Reassessment now needed for all schools (approx 65) following 2017 impacts.



# DRR Curriculum Reform

- Development of Teaching Material and Workbooks for Children from Early Childhood to Secondary Levels.
- Campaigns Focused on Increasing Awareness among School Populations.
- In 2008, DDM hosted a Summer Exploration Programme to foster greater interest in DRR among youths. Targeted secondary school students ages 12-16 and linked to Community Hours and Internship Programmes



# Certificate & Associate Degree at HLSCC

- DDM has been instrumental in the development and integration of formal programmes in Disaster Management at the Associates Degree a Certificate of Achievement levels through the local community college, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC).
- The programmes allow for continuing study in Emergency Management at the Bachelors or Masters Degree levels at Arkansas Tech University (ATU) through the HSLCC/ATU matriculation agreement.
- Workforce Department offers training in BCM, Leadership in DRR, Safer Building etc.





# Ongoing Collaboration

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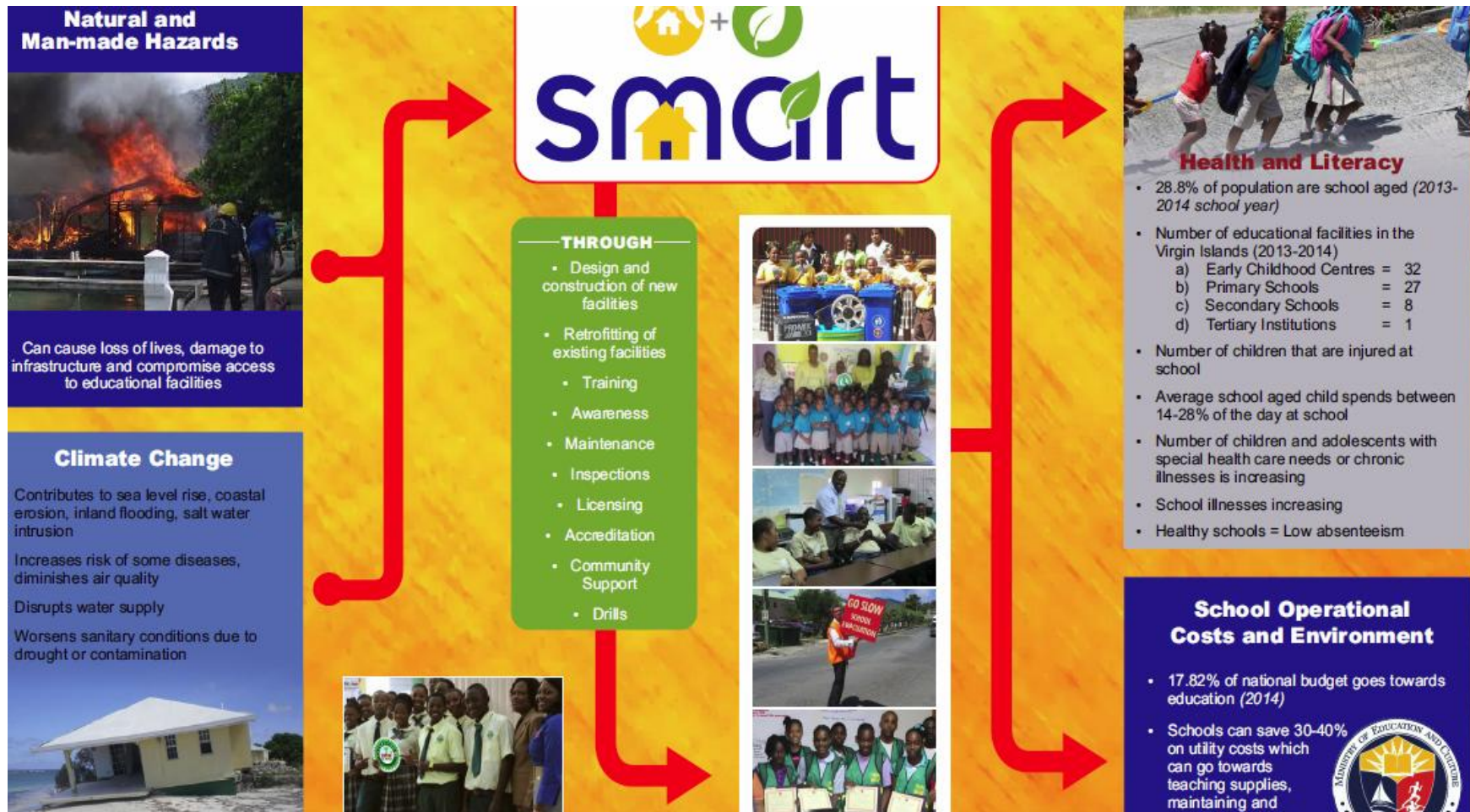
- Teachers have been generally receptive to attempts to fully integrate DRR into the national curriculum.
- Starting in 2013 DDM now delivers presentations to teachers at the start of the academic year highlighting strides made thus far and encouraging them to continue integrating DRR into subject areas in the absence of fully revised curricula.
- In 2014, close to 100 teachers were trained in fire suppression and First Aid/CPR through the Government's Training Division.
- Prior to 2017 all schools were assessed for safe aspects and implementation plans developed and shared with them.

# BVI ADAPTATION OF SMART



## FORMAL DOCUMENTATION OF BVI ADAPTATION OF SMART IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

# ADAPTING SMART

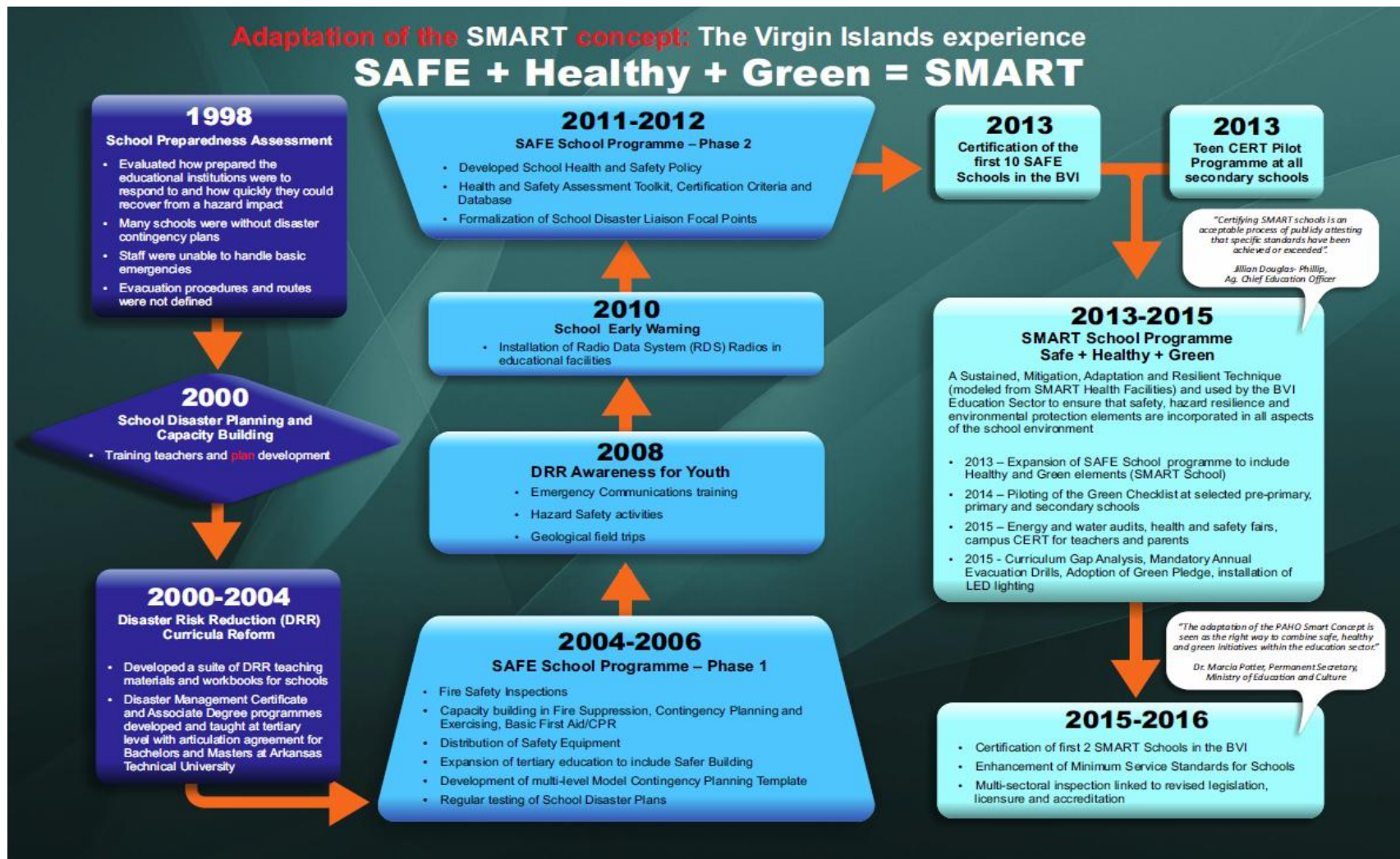




# ADAPTING SMART

**Adaptation of the SMART concept: The Virgin Islands experience**

**SAFE + Healthy + Green = SMART**







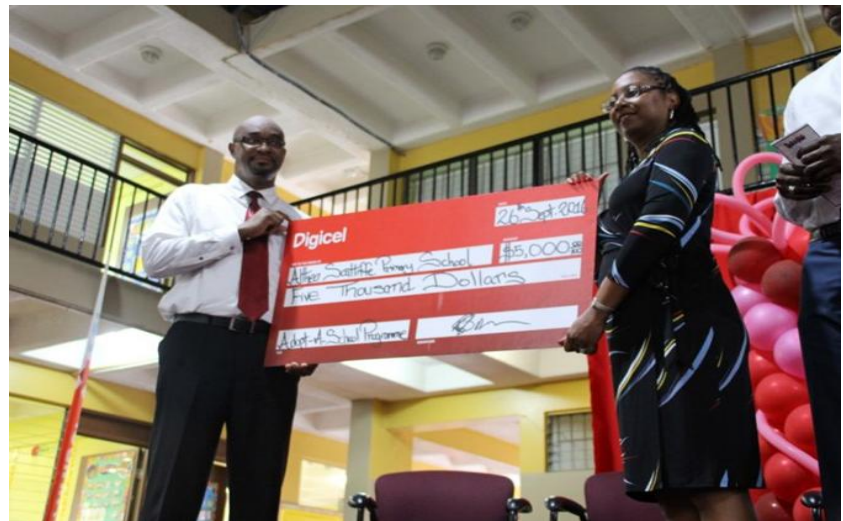
# A Setback or an Opportunity: Unprecedented Trio 2017





# The SMART Recovery Process

- Many BVI primary schools being restored through Adopt-A-School Programme for Temporary and Permanent Facilities
- SMART Guidelines are being used for the design of new schools and rehabilitation of others
- UNICEF and other key partners have pledged ongoing support.
- We are well on our way to making all schools in the BVI SMART!





# Inclusion of Off Grid Boxes!





# Making Our Schools SMART





Thank You