

LOW-LEVEL TROUGH SYSTEM AFFECTING THE LESSER ANTILLES REGION –**SITUATION REPORT #1****AS OF 1330 HRS, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2013****THE SITUATION:**

Over the past 24 hours severe rains and high winds generated by a Low Level Trough System, have been impacting the Participating States of CDEMA's Central Sub-Region of Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The synopsis by the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) states that a small low level trough moved into the Eastern Caribbean under the influence of a mid to upper level trough. The orientation of the eastern side of the upper level trough significantly enhanced showers and thunderstorm activity over the Eastern Caribbean.

Early in the afternoon of December 24th Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines began reporting heavy shower activity. Over night the rainfall accumulations over that 12 to 24 hours period approached 406 mm in Burton, St. Lucia, 156 mm in Grenada, and 109 mm in St Vincent.

PROGNOSIS:

Impacted countries have reported severe damage due to high winds, torrential rains and overflowing rivers. According to the Barbados Meteorological Service, rainfall from the system, which had dumped more than 3 inches of rain overnight, will continue today, but is expected to decrease tomorrow.

Forecast models by the CIMH suggest that the upper-level trough will shift to the north, and the low-level trough will process west. They anticipate that cloudy conditions will linger with

isolated showers affecting the east coast of the island chain. These conditions are expected to clear and become breeze sometime tomorrow.

National Assessment Teams have been deployed this morning and are assessing the impacts.

NATIONAL REPORTS AND ACTIONS:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- Affected areas:
 - Several rivers overflowed their banks in Chateaubelair, Buccament, Vermont, O'Briens Valley, Clare Valley and South Rivers.
 - Major areas affected are Buccament Bay, Vermont, South Rivers, Byera, Spring Village, Rose Bank, and the capital Kingstown.

- Affected Population
 - **Eight (8) persons** are confirmed dead as a result of landslides and flooding. Five persons from one family in Rose Bank died from landslides, one in Byera and two in Vermont.
 - **Four (4) persons** are missing in the Buccament area.
 - One Emergency Shelter has been activated – Buccament Bay Secondary School housing thirteen families (13) families – 27 persons in shelter.

- Critical Facilities and Infrastructure
 - Critical infrastructure affected includes the E. T. Joshua Airport and Milton Cato Memorial Hospital where the Paediatric Ward was flooded. Clean up operations are continuing at the E. T. Joshua Airport and it is scheduled to re-open at 1500 Hrs today December 25, 2013.

- The Building Roads and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) and the Ministry of Transport and Works have reported severe flooding, blocked roads and damage to homes, roads and bridges as well as other infrastructure. They are continuing their assessments and clean up operations.
- Fifty percent of consumers are without pipe-borne water as heavy rains have impacted the network.
- EOC Status
 - The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is activated and a number of key agencies and volunteers are involved in the operations. Updates will be issued periodically.

Dominica

- Affected Areas:
 - The Office of Disaster Management reports that the southern part of the island from Scotshead to Laudat and Canefield was affected by heavy rains and flash flooding resulting in a number of roads intercepted and homes affected. In particular the communities of Shawford/Fond Cani, Gutter, Bathe Estate, Newtown, Castle Comfort, Loubiere, Citronaire, Point Michel, and Soufriere were affected.
- Affected Population:
 - Families in the following Communities were affected by flash flooding:
 - Newtown (15-18 families)
 - Loubiere (2 families)
 - Citronaire (1 family)
 - Castle Comfort (2 families)
 - Bath Estate (1 family)

- Shelters at Bath Estate remain on alert. Four families in the area were asked to evacuate their homes however residents remained near the area monitoring the river and returned to their homes once the rain had subsided.

- Critical Facilities and Infrastructure
 - The areas worst affected are in the southern Districts.
 - The preliminary assessments indicate a total of thirty three (35) landslides or mudslides were recorded.
 - Rockfall/Landslides occurred in the Roseau Valley area (Laudat, Shawford, Fond Cani) and flash flooding caused the temporary blockage of the Newtown main road and the Bath-Estate/Elmshall Bridge. Roads are being restored (even if only partially). The roads leading to and from the southern villages of Scotts Head and Soufriere were blocked by debris and landslides and are in the process of being cleared.
 - Numerous fallen rocks and trees impeded traffic throughout the day and crews have worked to clear most of these. The Newtown road is now open for vehicular traffic.
 - Electricity service was interrupted and intermittent through several parts of the island throughout the day. While the electricity has been restored to most parts of the island, Bagatel, Fond St Jean, Soufriere continue to experience some electrical disruptions with staff from DOMLEC taking remedial action.
 - Water services were affected by land slippage and intake siltage and a number of communities, including Morne Prosper, Grandfond and Laplaine, were experiencing shortages.

- Preliminary Estimates:
 - Very preliminary assessment suggests that the costs of cleanup and clearing of landslides is at least EC\$275,000.00.

- National Response
 - The Ministry of Public Works, Energy and Ports (MPWEP) has engaged the services of private contractors/equipment owners to commence immediate clearing operations without compromising the safety of workmen.
 - The services of a number of heavy equipment operators have been engaged to undertake emergency clearing works.
 - Most of roads are passable by vehicular traffic and final clearing works i.e. clearing of drains and other related works are on-going.
 - Efforts have been made to allow the passage of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic in most of these areas with the view to completing the cleanup operation shortly. However, initial observations suggest that significant resources will be required to restore and rehabilitate failed embankments, road carriageways and drainage structures.

- Immediate Needs:
 - The immediate requirements for the affected families are for food and clothing, particularly in the Newtown area, as well as water storage and portable water treatment distribution plants and mobile flood lighting.

Saint Lucia

- The Saint Lucia Meteorological Services reported that 171.1mm of rain was recorded within in the last 24 hours ending at 8:50am.

- Areas Affected:
 - Landslides were reported in Dennery to the south
 - The entire village of Anse- La Raye was flooded.

- Critical Facilities and Infrastructure:
 - Assessments reveal that the Canaries Bridge was damaged
 - VHF communication between the north and south of the country was hampered due to interference from neighboring radio stations.

- National Response
 - The NEOC is activated.
 - Electricity has already been restored to Bisee area.
 - Additional government vehicles have been assigned to NEMO to support response efforts.
 - School Assessments are underway, while monitoring and discussions continue between the Met Office and the NEMO Secretariat.
 - The NEMO Secretariat shall continue to monitor the situation and to keep members informed. The next report will be issued from NEMO Saint Lucia at 12 noon.

REGIONAL ACTIONS:

The Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) continues to be in contact with the affected/threatened states and stands ready to provide assistance as is required. The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) continues to provide technical analysis to support scenario planning.

CDEMA will continue to monitor the system and provide updates as necessary.

CONTACT DETAILS: The CDEMA CU 24-hour contact number 1(246) 425-0386

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