

**SITUATION REPORT #3 – DEADLY LOW-LEVEL TROUGH SYSTEM IMPACTS DOMINICA, SAINT LUCIA
AND SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES ON DECEMBER 23-25, 2013
AS OF 8:00 A.M. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2013**

THE SITUATION:

Severe rains and high winds due to a Low Level Trough System would have impacted the Participating States of CDEMA's Central Sub-Region of Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica through Monday 23rd to Wed 25th December, 2013.

The synopsis by the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) stated that a small low level trough had 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 had significantly enhanced showers and thunderstorm activity over the states of the Eastern Caribbean.

Between December 23rd and 24th Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia began reporting heavy showery activity with accumulations over that 12 to 24 hours period recorded at 406 mm in Burton, Saint Lucia, 156 mm in Grenada, and 109 mm in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

PROGNOSIS:

Reports of deaths, destruction and severe damage due to high winds and torrential rains; causing land slippage and overflowing rivers were received from Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Barbados Meterological Service had advised that the rainfall from the system, which dumped more than 3 inches of rain overnight on Dec 24th, would decrease on December 26th as it moves out of the Eastern Caribbean.

Having activated their national disaster management plans, the National Emergency Operations Centres in Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica were activated to coordinate the emergency response operations. Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) Teams have also been deployed. Preliminary impact assessment and immediate needs have been identified, but more detailed damage assessment reports are forthcoming.

NATIONAL REPORTS AND ACTIONS:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has declared a level two (2) Disaster for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A level two (2) disaster is declared when the damage is extreme and local resources are being used to manage the situation but regional and international help will be required.

Disaster area has been declared for four (4) areas:

- The Vermont Valley extended to Buccament Bay.
- Spring Village, Rose Bank and Dark View on the Leeward Side.
- South Rivers
- O'Briens Valley Georgetown and Spring Village Georgetown.

Affected Population

- Eight (8) persons are confirmed dead Five (5) persons missing, five (5) persons injured, and two hundred and nine (209) persons homeless as a result of landslides and flooding.
- Emergency Shelters have been activated at Buccament and Chateaubelair to accommodate one hundred and ninety (190) persons.

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

- Critical infrastructure affected includes the E. T. Joshua Airport which was closed due to flooding and Milton Cato Memorial Hospital where the Paediatric Ward was also flooded. The E. T. Joshua Airport has since re-open for business.
- Several communities remain cut-off due to damaged bridges and blocked roads; including the North Windward community of Sandy Bay, and communities in North Leeward. The Caratal Bridge is damaged, and the Bailey by-pass bridge in Colonarie was washed away.
- Preliminary assessments confirmed that twenty (20) houses were destroyed and forty (40) damaged but as assessments continue, the estimated numbers are expected to increase.
- Fifty percent (50%) of consumers are without pipe-borne water and it is expected that residents between Layou and Prospect will be without water at least until Saturday (28/12/13).

- Eight (8) of the eleven (11) water systems of the CWSA were simultaneously put out of commission over a period of three hours by the recent torrential rains and subsequent overtopping of as many as 30 major rivers island-wide including those traversed by the CWSA's transmission mains from many sources.
- In total, some 75% of the Country's supply was disrupted in the space of a few hours. Preliminary estimated cost of full restoration and remedial measures to the affected systems could run into EC\$20 million.

EOC Status

- The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) continues to be partially activated with key agencies and volunteers involved in coordinating the response operations.

National Response

- The Ministry of Health has conducted an initial damage assessment at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (MCMH) and the estimated cost of damage to the facility is approximately EC\$2 million. A number of records and essential pieces of equipment were damaged.
- The Emergency Shelter Committee has activated six (6) emergency shelters in Buccament, Chateaubelair, Rose Bank, Fitz Hughes, Spring Village and Richmond Vale.
- In the interim, the CWSA is collaborating with NEMO and the Ministry of Health in shipping water to the Chateaubelair wharf so that the medical facilities and residents there can have access to water.
- The LAYOU system which sustained damages in several locations was restored after quick work by the CWSA's crews on December 26th, 2013.
- The Roads Building and General Services Authority (BRAGSA), Ministry of Transport and Works and the Forestry Department continue their road clearing operations.
- The National Emergency Management Organisation and the SVG Red Cross Society travelled by ferry to North Leeward side of the island to distribute supplies to affected persons as the roads are still impassable.

- Assessors from the Ministry of Works, BRAGSA, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Social and Economic Planning are conducting their damage assessments.
- They have received and distributed a number of donations from national and regional agencies including LIME and Mustique Charitable Organisation who donated three weeks supply of food and other supplies to families in the Emergency Shelter at Buccament. Lime has also committed to paying for two cooks to prepare meals at the shelter for three weeks.

Immediate Needs

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has identified their immediate needs to be: Housing/Shelter, Food, Water, Galvanize, Blocks, Plywood (Construction), rafters and nails. Also, requesting a Hydrological Assessment of the impacted areas.

They have identified the health sector as their priority area, and these include:

- Chateaubelair Hospital: Water tanks and water.
- Buccament, Clare Valley and Retreat Health Clinics: Water tanks and water
- Georgetown Hospital: Water tanks and water.
- Milton Cato Memorial Hospital:
 - Autoclaves – Central sterilizing Unit
 - CT Scan Machine
 - Industrial washing machine and dryers
 - Delivery beds, refrigerators, medication trolleys, incubators, oxygen plant air compressor, oxygen plant oxygen compressor.
 - Reusable sheets, drapes and pillow cases.
 - Disposable pillow cases and sheets
 - Mattress covers, paper sheets, toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, adult disposable diapers, children's disposable diapers.
 - Disposable Operating Theatre Supplies
 - Housekeeping cleaning supplies
 - Hospital records supplies
 - Furniture

The Commonwealth of Dominica

The Office of Disaster Management reports that the southern part of the island from Scotshead to Laudat and Canefield was the most affected by the heavy rains and flash flooding resulting in a number of roads intercepted and homes impacted. In particular the communities of Shawford/Fond Cani, Gutter, Bathe Estate, Newtown, Castle Comfort, Loubiere, Citronaire, Point Michel, and Soufriere were severely impacted.

Affected Population:

- Families in the communities of Newtown, Loubiere, Citronaire, Castle Comfort, and Bath Estate. were severely affected by the event:
- Communities Assessments are in progress and an update should be available by Saturday December 28, 2013.

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

- The areas worst affected are in the southern Districts where initial assessments indicate a total of thirty three (35) landslides or mudslides 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.
- Numerous fallen rocks and trees impeded traffic but crews have worked to clear most of the roads leading to and from the southern villages of Scots Head and Soufriere. .
- Electricity service was interrupted and intermittent through several parts of the island. 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 in the impacted areas is estimated at approximately 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 operation without compromising the safety of workmen.
- The services of a number of heavy equipment operators have been engaged to undertake emergency clearing works.
- 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. A more detail list should be available by tomorrow (Saturday 28/12/13).

Saint Lucia

The Saint Lucia Meteorological Services reported that 171.1mm of rain was recorded within a 24 hours period between December 23rd and 24th. This resulted in landslides and severe flooding. No disaster declaration has been made so far.

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 Playa and Canaries Bridge were damaged.
- VHF communication between the north and south of the country was hampered due to interference from neighboring radio stations. This communications link is still down.
- Damage to national water system.

National Response

- The NEOC is activated and continues to coordinate the response operations and circulate regular Situation Reports to keep members informed.
- Electricity has already been restored to the 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.
- Sector assessments are also being carried out by the Ministries of Tourism, Health and Education:
 - Ministry of Health
 - There are reports of six (6) confirmed deaths related to the weather system. All are males – five (5) were confirmed dead in the south and one (1) in the north.
 - There continues to be no tap water island-wide.
 - Awaiting an update on the Soufriere/Choiseul region from the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force. A team was deployed by sea to assess the area as the bridges are down.
 - The hospitals and health centres in Saint Lucia are functional; however, there are reports of flood damage to equipment, medical stocks and shortage in nursing and domestic staff.
 - Environmental Health Officers are in the field conducting assessments and interventions.

Immediate Needs

At ANNEX A is a detailed list of items that are immediately needed for Saint Lucia which includes medical supplies, emergency kit and equipment, water and water storage and distribution resources.

REGIONAL ACTIONS:

The Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) continues to be in contact with the affected states and is providing technical advice in support of the needs assessment process.

The Regional Response Mechanism has been mobilized and the Coordinating Unit is liaising with Barbados, the Sub-Regional Focal Point of the Central Sub-Region in the coordination of relief efforts. The CDEMA CU has provided briefs on the event to the CARICOM Secretary General, CDEMA Participating States and partners and continues to facilitate the coordination of relief efforts as required.

Technical support personnel in engineering have been placed on standby through the University of the West Indies. The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology continues to provide technical support in scenario planning to the CDEMA System and has placed a technical team on standby to address needs in the area of hydrological impact and needs assessment.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS and the Executive Director of CDEMA convened a meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group on Disaster Management (ECDPG DM) on Friday 27 December at 11:00 am at United Nations House in Barbados. The meeting reviewed the event and impacts to the affected countries, assess needs and developed a plan of action for next steps which includes the provision of targeted support in the areas of health, Agriculture and National Operations Centre support.

The Regional Security System aircraft will transport emergency supplies from PAHO, UNDP and DEM Barbados, along with representatives from CDEMA, RSS, CIMH, UNDP, DEM (Barbados) and a CMC media team, who will conduct Air Recces and deployment into St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Saint Lucia on Saturday December 28, 2013 and Dominica on Sunday December 30, 2013.

The ECDPG DM including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and other partners have pledged grant support to impacted states. The DANA reports are key to access of these grants.

The government and people of Trinidad and Tobago have provided two containers of relief supplies to Saint Lucia which included bottled water, hygiene kits, food, cleaning equipment, water purification tablets and much more. This support was provided through a coordinated effort of the Regional Response Mechanism and the CDEMA System. Similar type supplies are intended for St. Vincent within the coming days.

The CDEMA Coordinating Unit has had a technical officer deployed in Saint Lucia since 25th December to support National Emergency Operations Centre operations, and will deploy two (2) technical officers over the next two days to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica.

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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