



Fast Facts

Country: Barbados

Duration: April 2003 to June 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP

Other Implementing Partners: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency

Budget: \$3,039,669.05

Key Words: Capacity building; natural disaster preparedness and response

BACKGROUND

When a natural disaster strikes an area it can cause considerable damage to economic and social development and its impact is often felt most acutely by the poorest sectors of the population threatening many aspects of their lives and human security. The most common forms of natural disasters to strike the Caribbean are meteorological in nature. Storms, however, are not the only natural disasters affecting the Caribbean. Earthquakes and volcanoes, while

considerably more rare, can still do tremendous damage. To recover quickly from natural disasters, the nations of the Caribbean formed the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), an inter-governmental organization designed to provide assistance in periods of emergency and to mobilize personnel and materials to restore critical services and care for victims.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the project was to strengthen the disaster preparedness and response capacity of CDERA. The project sought to develop the search and rescue capability of CDERA member nations at the national level; enhance the regional warehousing

programme supporting land-based search and rescue initiatives; and to strengthen the effective and efficient management of funds and information when responding to natural disasters.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of the project were search and rescue trainers who participated in a training-of-trainers exercise. Also trained were 280 telecommunications operators and 280 warehouse

operators, while 10 people (one person from each of the 10 countries) received training in a web-based inventory management system.