

October-December 2014

## Caribbean Risk Management Initiative Newsletter

The objective of the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI) newsletter is to share knowledge, create opportunities for cross-fertilization of ideas or activities, disseminate best practices and lessons learned and keep the diverse members of the CRMI community connected and informed. CRMI is an initiative of the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC).

### 01 Updates

Updates from CRMI's RRM pilot initiative.

### 01 CRMI News

Read about CRMI's recent news and announcements

### 04 Upcoming

The latest in upcoming DRR events and conferences.

## RRMC Pilot Project Finalization

The pilot implementation phase of the South-South Cooperation (SSC) Risk Reduction Management Centres (RRMCs) Initiative successfully concluded with the replication of the RRMC model in 5 Caribbean countries. The RRMC is a Cuban model, initiated in 2005 and identified as a best practice in the area of risk reduction. Each RRMC is a small

professional team that manages an information node or hub at the local level of governance, and serves as the centre of a system that is tasked with overseeing hazard and risk reduction. The RRMC SSC Initiative started in 2010, and RRMC implementation finalized at the end of June 2014.

## RRMC Monitoring Exercise

CRMI worked with Country Offices and national counterparts to monitor RRMC activities and sustainability 6 months after the project finalization. The monitoring exercise was designed to help assess the main results and new challenges after RRMC handover. The information provided by pilot countries demonstrates that great efforts are in place for the RRMC sustainability.

During the last 6 months, Trinidad & Tobago made overall improvements in the RRMC and the Early Warning Points (EWP) in terms of staffing, infrastructure/equipment, signage, and conducted post pilot trainings and an additional drill exercise in Mayaro Rio Claro Regional Corporation. The EWPs/RRMC communities are still actively engaged and next activities have been planned, including capacity building and disaster preparedness training, among others.



RRMC signage was installed in Trinidad & Tobago. Photo sent by Candice Ramkissoon, ODPM.



Interviews being conducted during the monitoring site visit in Trinidad & Tobago. Photo sent by Candice Ramkissoon, ODPM.

In Guyana planned activities include a trip to RRMCC facilities, a follow up training on the RRMCC and a workshop on monitoring systems. Recommendations made by the monitoring team include additional trainings and capacity building in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the possibility of expanding the RRMCC system to other areas.

The monitoring team in Jamaica considered the RRMCC pilot a success, as both the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and the St. Catherine

Parish Council have continued the work to operationalize and integrate the unit. Several recommendations were made to address the new challenges after pilot finalization, including the development of an action plan for the Parish Disaster Committee's plans to continue supporting community Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities through the establishment of additional EWRPs and/or community Disaster Risk Management (DRM) groups.

## Lessons Learned Workshop

HAVANA, CUBA | 13 NOVEMBER 2014

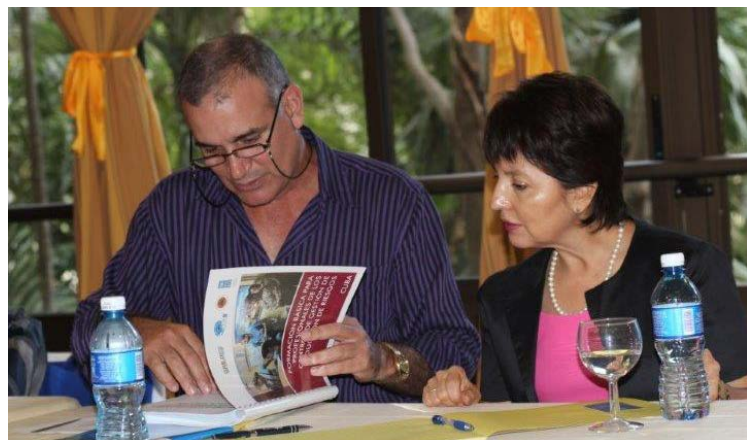
A "Lessons Learned Workshop" aimed at identifying lessons learned by the provider country, Cuba, in the process of transferring the RRMCC model to the Caribbean region took place on November 13th in Havana. The workshop was an interactive, participatory and practical meeting; it brought together thirty participants from ten Cuban institutions involved in the Initiative.

The main objectives of the workshop were to share the results of the project, discuss the SSC processes used, and make recommendations for strengthening knowledge transfer. CRMI Project Manager shared a timeline and a mind map depicting the primary results and process of the SSC experience. A multimedia tool summarizing the RRMCC SSC process and results was provided to participants. Participants had opportunity to share their role and experience in the process. They highlighted that the RRMCC replication project helped increase awareness and technical capacities in DRR in all pilot countries; they agreed on the importance of considering national contexts in adapting the model. They also recognized the possibility to replicate the model in other regions and the need of institutional strengthening. The recommendations included the importance of understanding the demand of recipient countries and the need to create better communications channels between all participating countries.

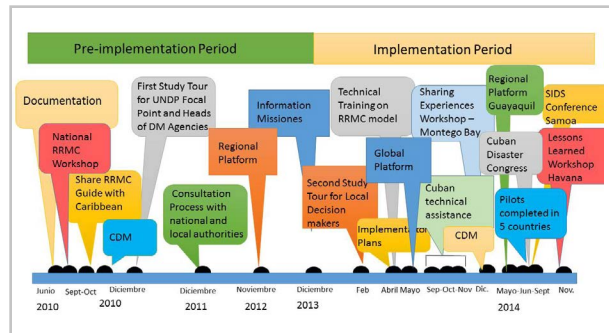
For more information about the event:

[www.cu.undp.org/content/cuba/es/home/presscenter/articles/2014/11/17/cuba-y-pnud-celebran-xitos-conjuntos-en-cooperaci-n-sur-sur](http://www.cu.undp.org/content/cuba/es/home/presscenter/articles/2014/11/17/cuba-y-pnud-celebran-xitos-conjuntos-en-cooperaci-n-sur-sur) (available in Spanish)

Find more pictures from the event on the [CRMI Facebook page](#).



Participants during the Lessons Learned Workshop in La Habana. Photo credits: UNDP Cuba.



A timeline depicting the RRMCC process was shared during the workshop.

## Risk and Vulnerability Study (RVS) Methodology Workshop

**KINGSTON, JAMAICA | 1-2 DECEMBER 2014**

Cuba and Jamaica were chosen as one of three winners of the 2013 RSCLAC Knowledge Sharing Call, to strengthen “Methods for the Determination of Disaster Risk at the Local Level” based on the Cuban risk and vulnerability studies model. As a follow-up to the Nov 2013 Cuba workshop held to share the Cuban methodology, Jamaica reciprocated by hosting a 2-day workshop in Kingston. This workshop included 18 participants from 4 parishes and several national agencies including National Environment

and Planning Agency (NEPA), Planning Institute for Jamaica (PIOJ), Water Resource Authority (WRA), and National Spatial Data Management and Mines and Geology Divisions. The objective of the workshop was for stakeholders to review the ecological and social vulnerability components of the Cuban methodology in order to adapt and incorporate the technique and approaches to the Jamaican context; a practical exercise for social vulnerability assessment was conducted using Old Harbour Bay as a case study.

## Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) Planning Meeting

**KINGSTON, JAMAICA | 3 DECEMBER 2014**

A meeting for the PGTF project “Capacity development for Risk Reduction Management Centers in the Caribbean” was held in Kingston, Jamaica on December 3rd 2014. Cuba’s submission to PGTF was approved to conduct a follow-up project to strengthen the RVS component of the RRM initiative. The planning meeting included 9 participants from ODPEM Jamaica, the Cuban Environmental Agency (AMA) and Dominican Civil Defense. Together the representatives identified priorities in each country, and agreed on project activities and outputs. A key point was the need for capacity building in various aspects of the risk and vulnerability studies; participants agreed to conduct four capacity building workshops between October 2015 and June 2016, directed at relevant stakeholders in Cuba, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.



Participants during the PGTF planning meeting held on Kingston. Photo sent by Novia MCKay, UNDP Jamaica.



## Thanks Elena!



Elena Boschiero has been working with CRMI since March 2014, first as an intern and then as a project assistant. She is now leaving to complete her doctorate degree in Public Anthropology at the Universidad Autonoma de

Madrid. Many of you have been in contact with Elena as she has been instrumental in maintaining the CRMI social media postings, organizing CRMI workshops, supporting the development of RRMC tools such as the case study, communicating with focal points across the Caribbean and writing the quarterly newsletter. A big thanks to Elena for all her hard work and contribution to CRMI.

## New intern: Welcome Sheriff!



It's a great pleasure to introduce to our new intern Sheriff Kora. Sheriff comes to us from the IT Department of the RBLAC where he has worked with the Global ICT Advisory Unit from August to December 2014. He is a graduate student at Tulane

University's Payson Center for International Development, and has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Texas at Tyler. Sheriff has worked in ICT system administration and development during his professional career. He speaks French and some basic Spanish. He will be working with the CRMI team until the middle of May 2015. Join me in welcoming Sheriff to our team.

Caribbean Risk Management Initiative



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CRMI UNDP (Group: Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI))



CRMI South-South Cooperation Initiative

## UPCOMING:

### CRMI Project Evaluation

The CRMI project will undertake a final external evaluation, starting in early January 2015. The evaluation will assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of CRMI in the region and will serve to design future interventions and generate knowledge and lessons learned for wider use.

### Case Study Publication

CRMI will launch a new publication that outlines the experiences of the six Caribbean countries who participated in the SSC RRMC pilot process. The publication "Sharing What Works. South-South Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Caribbean" will share the stories and lessons learned by a diverse set of stakeholders as they engaged South-South Cooperation as a tool for strengthening their disaster risk reduction systems. The document will be available in February 2015.

### Successful DRR stories will be shared in Sendai

As part of the preparations for UNDP presence and visibility at the March 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDP HQ is compiling success stories from different regions in the format of videos, photos and a book. The most interesting Caribbean success stories in DRR will be shared at the upcoming international event. In addition, a Caribbean-oriented video featuring different countries/projects is proposed to be developed, to reflect the diversity of advanced transformations that have taken place in the region over the last decade.

*For more information on the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative and our activities, please visit our website at [www.crmi-undp.org](http://www.crmi-undp.org), or contact Jacinda Fairholm at [jacinda.fairholm@undp.org](mailto:jacinda.fairholm@undp.org), or Sheriff Kora at [sheriff.kora@undp.org](mailto:sheriff.kora@undp.org).*