

Project Document (Cover Page)
Support to Bahamas for Early Recovery Post Hurricane Joaquin

Country: Jamaica

UNDAF Outcome(s):	Outcome 1: National, local authorities & most vulnerable Communities island-wide improve natural resource management & resilience to disasters
Expected CP Outcome(s): <i>(Those that are linked to the intervention and extracted from the CPAP)</i>	Outcome 6: Policy & Institutional framework strengthened to manage natural resources including parks & protected areas & resilience built for the reduction of vulnerability to natural disasters & impacts from climate change

Expected CP Output(s):
(Those that are linked to the intervention and extracted from the CPAP)

Output 3: Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to climate change

Implementing Partner:

UNDP Jamaica

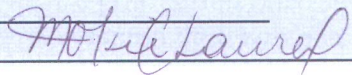
Responsible Party:

Narrative

The project is a direct response to a request from Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management (CDEMA) Executive Director for a joint Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment to join the team already deployed to assess damage and identify priority needs. This assessment will allow UNDP Jamaica, which covers the Bahamas, to support the identification for short and long term priorities for Recovery and Reconstruction. Based on this assessment, a number of activities were proposed and approved by the Government of Bahamas, including – conduct of economic impact assessment for mostly affected islands and mission to advise on resettlement and early recovery.

Programme Period:	10/2015- 10/2016
Programme Component:	_____
Intervention Title:	Bahamas Early Recovery
Award ID/Output ID:	_____
Duration:	12 months

Total budget:	US 42 000
Allocated resources:	42,000
• Government	_____
• Regular	_____
• Other:	
○ TRAC 3	42,000
○ Donor	_____
○ Donor	_____

Agreed by (UNDP): _____
 Date: 18 Nov. 2016 Signature: 

I. SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Caribbean is the second most hazard prone region in the world, with regular annual disaster losses estimated at \$3 billion, including significant loss to social and productive sectors. In particular, the Bahamas is vulnerable to a diverse set of hazards, including hurricanes and other tropical storm that often cause extensive flood and wind damage, tornadoes and droughts. Between 1990 and 2014, the Bahamas has reported average annual losses of US \$1.3 billion due to storm surge caused by hurricanes and tropical storms and another US \$846 million due to wind damage.¹

The Bahamas has taken a number of actions to improve its natural emergency response system, largely through the work of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). There has been progress in the formulation and implementation of preparedness plans, preparation of hazard maps, and the formulation of actions to reduce risks. In addition, standard operating procedures regarding warnings and the dissemination of disaster preparedness information have been undertaken as priority tasks in an around the Atlantic hurricane season. Of particular note is the installation of an early Tsunami warning system throughout strategic locations in March 2014. There have also been efforts toward reducing the underlying risk factors, through the development of Natural Risk Preventative Management Programmes, including those related to Land Use and Coastal Management.

Hurricane Joaquin

On September 30th, 2015, Hurricane Joaquin became the tenth named hurricane of the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season. At 2:00 p.m. (October 3rd, 2015), the centre of Hurricane Joaquin was located near latitude 26.4 North and longitude 70.9 West, about 550 miles Southwest of Bermuda. Data indicates that the maximum sustained winds were near 155 mph (250 km/h) with higher gusts. Hurricane force winds extended outward up to 70 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extended outward up to 205 miles.

The Bahamas began experiencing the effects of Hurricane Joaquin on 1 October, and this was characterized by heavy rainfall, wind and storm surge. Early situation reports compiled by the National Emergency Management Agency indicate that the Bahamas has experienced severe damage in several central and southern islands. Much of the damage was centered in the southeastern Bahamas, particularly Crooked Island, Acklins Island, Long Island and San Salvador. The storm ripped roofs from homes, flooded main roads and farms, spoiled wells for drinking water and forced the closure of small airports, creating a logistical nightmare for rescue and relief efforts.

As of late Sunday, the storm had claimed one life, according to Bahamian officials, who reported that the man died when the roof of his home on Long Island collapsed as a result of high winds. More specifically, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has provided some initial reports based on the collaborative efforts between the National Disaster Committee (NDC) and Family Islands Disaster Consultative Committees and The Bahamas Information Services. Specific reported damage include:

- Rum Cay: Structural damages to an emergency shelter prompted immediate evacuation and relocation of 32 sheltered people. Reports of severe flooding, downed trees, impassable roads, downed power lines and poles, full power outage. Government dock reportedly destroyed and caving in of roofs on dwelling homes. Airport flooded.

¹ Source: <http://www.preventionweb.net/countries/bhs/data/>

- Acklins Island: Significant flooding in Delectable Bay, Snug Corner in the North and Mason's Bay. Five houses were destroyed in Mason's Bay and four in Snug Corner. Power outages, no injuries reported and all residents accounted for.
- Crooked Island and Long Cay: Initially communications was down. Upon partial restoration there was an indication revealed roof leaks in Government Clinic in Crooked Island.
- Long Island: Power outage due to downed lines; flooding of private fresh water wells; structural damages to homes; extreme flooding of approximately 4 feet of water in the Northern part of the island. Police station evacuated because of flooding.
- San Salvador: Flooding throughout the island; downed power lines and poles; roads impassable; 130 persons reported to shelters, one of which had its roof and door blown off. Resulted in relocation of persons within the in same facility. Communications a challenge.
- Mayaguana: Communication link exists but efforts continue to establish full capability. Minor damages to home structures other than loss of roofing shingles.
- Exuma: power lines down and extreme flooding.

Currently, private citizens, national agencies and international partners such as the US Government, and CDEMA are supporting early relief efforts. The U.S. Embassy in Nassau provided 70,000 pounds of aid items, according to the Tribune in Nassau, and Prime Minister Perry Christie has said the British Navy is en route.² NEMA has indicated a need for the following initial assistance for limited island districts, and indicates that need quantification will be informed by the damage assessment process:

- a. Food
- b. Water
- c. Emergency shelter
- d. Aerial Reconnaissance
- e. Damage Assessment support in the South and Central Islands of the Bahamas
- f. Electricity Restoration
- g. Water and Sewerage restoration

II. OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

The activities suggested respond to a request from Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management (CDEMA) Executive Director for a joint Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment to join the team already deployed to assess damage and identify priority needs. This assessment will allow UNDP Jamaica, which covers the Bahamas, to support the identification for short and long term priorities for Recovery and Reconstruction. A member of the CRU team will join the team to conduct the needs assessment on behalf of UNDP, ensuring integration of early recovery and resilience activities on the short-term and long-term priorities of the country.

² Source : <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/weather/hurricane/article37707048.html#storylink=cpy2>

Subsequent to the needs assessment, UNDP will support CDEMA in convening a Donor meeting in Kingston to discuss the findings of the assessment and to coordinate any potential donor support for the emergency relief and Recovery phase. If needed, UNDP will support participation of a Bahamian authority to the donor conference.

This assessment mission is needed not only to support the international coordination efforts but also to strengthen the development dialogue and the relations between the Government of the Bahamas and UNDP. Also, the planned Donor meeting in Kingston will open up resources mobilization for UNDP as it will be seen as a relevant actor in the recovery efforts of the Bahamas.

The Bahamas disaster management efforts have been supported by CDEMA and it is envisaged that the Comprehensive Disaster management (CDM) Strategy and agencies such as the UNDP will continue to support the strengthening of the existing disaster resilience framework and an integrated risk management approach, which brings together disaster risk reduction, adaptation to climate change, disaster risk financing and development planning within an overarching context of resilience. This continued support could take the form of the elaboration of an implementation plan, online Monitoring and Evaluation system and strengthening of community resilience and the disaster response at the local level.

Output 1: Early Recovery (ER) strategy developed for most affected islands in the Bahamas

- 1.1 Rapid Needs Assessment team deployed to conduct rapid needs Assessment post-hurricane Joaquin
- 1.2 Post disaster needs assessment and recommendations for resettlement conducted

III. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

TRAC 3 funds received from New York will be directly managed by UNDP to support all the activities. An Annual Work Plan will be entered in Atlas as per UNDP Regulations.

