**Project Appraisal Minutes**

**Substantive Revision 2013**

**Caribbean Risk Management Initiative II**

**Project 00060722**

1. ***Project Description***

The project outcomes and outputs remain the same, reflecting the reality that capacity in the Caribbean for managing climate-induced disaster risk is low despite gains made by the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI) Phase one and other initiatives undertaken by regional governments, the United Nations, and other development partners. To develop such capacity, this project will establish throughout the region, disaster risk reduction centres which will map hazards, vulnerability and risk due to climate change and be part of the national early warning system at the local government and community level. The project will support capacity building, documentation of best practices and knowledge sharing to inform effective adaptation to climate change within the highly vulnerable SIDS of the Caribbean and strengthen collaboration with the Pacific. The project will address emerging thematic areas in the region, such as gender integration, seismic risk and planning for recovery. The project also will work towards transition to a regional agency.

The primary motive for the substantive revision is to align CRMI II with the new Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014 – 2017. Among other key elements, the RPD identifies high vulnerability to risks related with natural events, insecurity and conflicts as a need to be addressed in the quest for resilience and sustainable human development. Preventive and risk reduction policies, as well as preparation plans, are not yet sufficiently incorporated or implemented effectively. This revision aligns the outputs and activities of CRMI II with the RPD.

This revision responds to the specific challenges, needs, priorities and opportunities of the Caribbean countries and takes into account the different development status and vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The exposure to natural events in the Caribbean is high; climate change and geographic characteristics create susceptibility to long term impacts.

The revision reflects UNDP principles of regionality, specifically in the promotion of public service, dialogue at the Caribbean level and sharing knowledge.

The revision supports Outcome 4 (UNDP Strategic Plan 5) and aims to lower the risk of natural events. It encompasses the systematization and sharing of knowledge and good practices and builds institutional capacities through the following outputs:

1. Establish effective early warning mechanisms
2. Formulate and implement policies that effectively mainstream disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change
3. Develop strategies to integrate gender analysis into risk management and in adaptation strategies and tools. In the Caribbean a particular importance will be given to mainstream gender in disaster risk reduction and adaptation of relevant risk reduction models (in work with the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)),
4. Develop strategies to foster pre-disaster recovery planning including data collection
5. Develop strategies to improve capacities and coordination across sectors and within levels of government to adopt integral and effective approaches in risk reduction and early recovery
6. In regards to the implementation of pilot Risk Reduction Management Centres in the five participating countries, CRMI II will undertake a non-cost extension until June 2014 due to delays in project execution at the country level stemming from the short implementation period impeding both activity completion and procurement in many of the participating countries.
7. ***Steps taken***

A series of steps have been taken to ensure the request for non-cost extension and CRMI II revision is in response to the needs of Country Offices and national/local partners, as well as Regional Priorities.

1. ***Webinar meeting with the Caribbean COs Focal points*** (Sept12th, 2013) This 1.5 hour meeting addressed the progress of the RRMC pilot project implementation, where the need for an extension was expressed. The primary barriers to execution and conducting activities were cited as: short implementation period, lengthy UNDP procurement processes and negotiation required for pilot sustainability as per local ownership and transition.

Present: Marco Fernandez(Guyana), Georgina Michelena ( Cuba), Alejandro Iberico (Dominican Republic), Ian King (Barbados and OECS),Margaret Jones Williams (Jamaica), Rosemary Lall (Trinidad and Tobago),and Marco Fernandez (Guyana).

1. **Consultations with Country Offices** involved in CRMI II:

* Mission to Dominican Republic (Oct 2013). Meetings with Roberto Galvez (Deputy Resident Representative) and Ana Maria Perez (Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist) whereby request for extension was expressed, to facilitate the timely implementation of the Risk Reduction Management Centres South-South Cooperation Initiative pilot.
* Mission to Trinidad and Tobago (Oct 2013). Meetings with Richard Blewitt (Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative) and Rosemary Lall (Disaster Risk Reduction and Environment Specialist) whereby request for extension was expressed, to facilitate development and support of national RRMC scale-up.
* Mission to Cuba (Nov 2013): the Cuban authorities (MINCEX) have already expressed their support for the extension of CRMI and have included it in the 2014 Central Economic Plan. UNDP Cuba is committed to continual support for RRMC systematization (toolkit), support to the regional SSC RRMC pilot project and collaborative resource mobilization.
* Meeting with Elsie Laurence Chouonne (Deputy Resident Representative, Jamaica) (Nov 2013): Request for continual support of CRMI II to the regional Seismic Risk Forum, scheduled for Jan 2014.

1. **Planning Mission** of Mr. Ronald Jackson, CDEMA Executive Director (Sept 2013): Identified various as areas for cooperative action to be explored and resourced.

* Planning for recovery
* Integration of gender in DRM
* Knowledge management platforms
* Capturing the elements of a functional local risk management system
* How to support seismic risk reduction in the W. Caribbean
* South-south cooperation efforts and support to bridging CDEMA’s efforts with those of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti, where necessary

1. A ***one-day working session*** (Nov 25th 2013 ) with UNDP Cuba to discuss possible future areas for collaboration, which include: resilient cities, seismic risk, south-south cooperation working with the Cuban Environmental Agency (AMA) in Jamaica, Haiti and the DR, and support to Cuba-CEPREDENAC knowledge sharing.
2. A ***draft substantive revision document was then circulated*** for comments (November 26th) ) to the following stakeholders:

* Karen Bernard
* Rosendo Mesias
* Freddy Justiniano
* Claudio Tomasi
* Elsie Laurence-Chounoune
* Lara Blanco
* Chisa Mikami
* Henri Morand
* Roberto Galvez
* Ian King
* Rosemary Lall
* Marco Fernandez
* Margaret Jones Williams
* Ana Maria Perez
* Fenella Frost
* Crispin Gregoire
* Rajeev Issar
* Reis Lopez Rello
* Julio García
* Rossana Dudziak
* Alfredo Gonzalez
* Ana Maria Diaz
* Bhanu Shrestha
* Carlos Benitez
* Consuelo Vidal-Bruce
* Crispin Gregoire
* Emma Torres
* Fernando Hiraldo
* George Ronald Gray
* Gerardo Noto
* Igor Garafulic
* Javier Sagredo
* Jessica Faieta
* Karina Servellon
* Kenroy Roach
* Lorena Acevedo Narea
* Pablo Gago
* Paloma Morazo Perez
* Soledad Bauza
* Sonia Ortiz Arcos
* Ugo Blanco
* Maria Rosa Moreno
* Marta Ruedas
* Edith Felipe

Interested parties had a 1 week period to share the documents with respective teams and provide comments. The closing time for comments was COB Dec 1st, 2013.

1. ***Comments Received***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Individual*** | ***Comment*** |
| Karen Bernard (DRR Specialist, UNDP Pacific Centre) | Thank you for this consultation.  As a close collaborator and partner with CRMI, I am in full agreement with the substantive revision to the project as proposed.  Let me also take this opportunity to commend the project and its management team on excellent progress and accomplishments to date. |
| Rosendo Mesias (DRR Focal Point, UNDPCuba ) | Our office is in agreement with the proposal of the Regional Centre in regards to the CRMI. We support the extension to 2014 and ratify our commitment to reach the results related to the replication of the RRMCs in the five Caribbean countries. In this form, we will guarantee the implementation of the necessary activities in support of the RRMC replication, in accordance with our responsibilities.  We are in agreement with the Substantive Revision and its alignment to the Regional Program Document. |
| Ian King (DRR focal point, UNDP BRB & OECS) | We are in support of the Substantive Revision.  UNDP Barbados and the OECS has been collaborating with CRMI II , including in support of the RRMC pilot for the BVI; regarding capacity building for Early Recovery through PDNA; in support of capacity building for Gender mainstreaming in DRM; and also through the South-South cooperation. |
| Margaret Jones Williams (UNDP Jamaica) | The Jamaica CO has been actively engaged with the RSC and the CRMI II project in the replication of the Risk Reduction Management Centres as a key initiative of south South Cooperation.  The implementation has been successful with active participation of national counterparts, particularly St. Catherine Parish Council and ODPEM.  Jamaica has benefitted from training at the technical and the decision-making level, through missions to Cuba for on-site training as well as a technical mission from Cuba, which included meeting with stakeholders and beneficiaries in the communities at risk. The initiative has also allowed for improved collaboration with Cuba CO through the joint submission to the Regional Knowledge Fair on SSC featuring the RRMC.  The initiative was a winner in the Knowledge Fair and this has helped to enhance the RRMC project by strengthening the Knowledge Sharing component which included the Mission to Cuba just this week by ODPEM and St. Catherine Parish Council.  The attached Quarterly Reports reflect the progress of implementation of the Jamaican pilot project.  I am in agreement with the continued efforts for implementing CRMI II as a regional initiative, and understand the need for additional time for completion of the implementation.  I am in agreement with the No Cost Extension to 2014 based on the substantive revision of the CRMI II Project to bring it into alignment with the Regional Program Outcomes for 2014-2017. |
| Marco Fernandez (DRR Focal Point, UNDP Guyana) | We completely agree on the no cost extension for 2014. The Government of Guyana has done an extraordinary effort in implementing the project (RRMC pilot) on time, overcoming the fact that Guyana engaged later that other countries. The extension will provide the means for finalizing minor details and having a more sustainable closure, with improved ownership.  I definitely support the idea of strengthening CCA and gender mainstreaming components, as well as resource mobilization. |
| Rosemary Lall (UNDP Trinidad and Tobago) | I support the substantive revision and the activities proposed.  CRMI has done very valuable work in Trinidad and Tobago and we look forward to building on this in the new period, as well as addressing issues of sustainability of the results achieved. |
| Ana Maria Perez (DRR Focal Point, UNDP Dominican Republic) | We are very pleased with the results reached to date in the south-south cooperation (activities) with Cuba, with the facilitation and support of CRMI. It has allowed us to create two Risk Reduction Management Centres in the Dominican Republic (in the municipal districts of La Victoria and Luperon).  We have no comments on the substantive revision, aside from that we hope CRMI will continue to promote risk reduction as it is an area of mutual benefit for the Caribbean islands. |
| Gonzalo Pizarro (Regional Policy Adviser on Poverty, MDGs and Human Development) | Following a detailed review of the CRMI substantive revision, I express my support for it. There are various points where we could work together, for which I would be pleased to explore. |

1. ***Conclusion***

Many of the proposed activities and indicators in the CRMI II project document have been achieved. This includes advances in RRMC implementation in each of the 5 participating countries (1.1), workshops and training on the RRMC model held in each participating country (1.2), three technical assistance missions carried out from Cuba to Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago (1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8), the launch of the CRMI website and online document centre (2.1), regional workshops on ‘strengthening public investment in disaster risk reduction and Post Disaster Needs Assessment’ and ‘Building Climate Resilience and Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge Management’ (2.2), and emphasis on gender capacity development (2.3).

This revision aligns CRMI to the 2014-2017 Regional Programme Plan and allows for a non-cost extension for the successful completion of remaining activities, and has the support of the Caribbean country offices and national, local and regional stakeholders.