

CSOs and Disaster Preparedness & Response

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A desk with a lamp, a ruler, and a pen. The background is a brick wall. The desk is white and has a blue lamp on the left, a ruler on the right, and a red pen at the bottom. The text is on a white sheet of paper.

“Disaster”

- Definition of disaster must be expanded to include not only hurricane and the natural disasters, but the “man-made” disasters as well





Disasters in the Caribbean


- **“Traditional” disasters:**
 - hurricanes
 - earthquakes
 - flooding
 - landslides
 - volcanic activity/ tsunami
- **“non-traditional” disasters:**
 - HIV/AIDS
 - other epidemics (bird flu)
 - crime/ drug trafficking
 - plane crashes
 - bombs/ terrorism



CSO Role in planning

- **Definition of roles:**

- CSOs must define ***REALISTIC*** roles before, during and after a disaster
 - must be aware of the roles of other CSOs, as well as government agencies so *that roles are complemented and not conflicting nor redundant*
 - must **educate** the community and gov't leaders on their roles and responsibilities constantly, not only when a disaster strikes
 - establish chain of command; identify lead agency
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CSO Role in planning cont...

- **Policy/ Legislation**

- **advocate** for legislation which impacts disaster preparedness (ie: national disaster plan, building codes, security, price gouging, etc)
- work in **partnership** with gov't to develop legislation (as well as national disaster plan)
- Assist in ensuring that legislation is **enforced**

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CSO Role in planning cont...

- **Education**
 - **dissemination of information** to the community (basics of preparedness, prevention information, list of resources, how to prepare a family and community disaster plan)
 - Partnership w/ media
 - Community based programmes that do not depend solely on written material but also incorporate town hall meetings and other types of interactive presentations

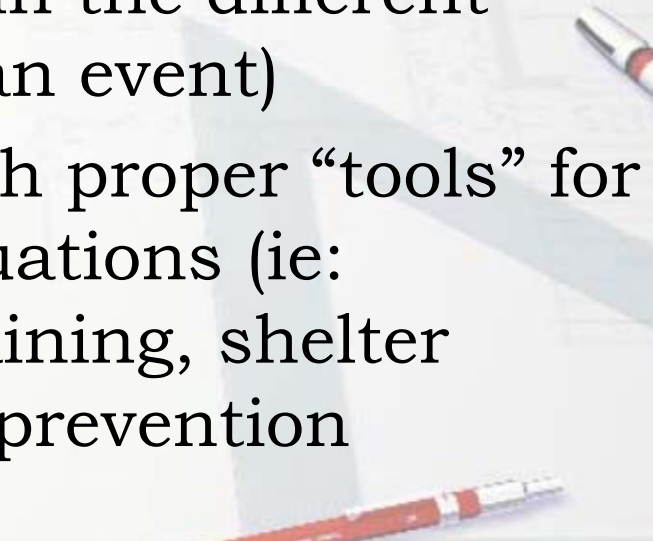


CSO Role in planning cont...

- **Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment**
 - **partner** with other CSOs and gov't agencies to do a National level assessment
 - **Educate** communities on doing community based VCA so they are able to identify potential hazards and available resources



CSO Role in planning cont...

- **Internal Capacity Building/ Training**
 - ensuring that staff/volunteers are aware of CSO roles and responsibilities in a disaster
 - Ensuring staff/ vols know the ***expectation for their participation*** in the different stages of the disaster (if an event)
 - **Equipping** vols/ staff with proper “tools” for dealing with different situations (ie: psychological support training, shelter management, HIV/AIDS prevention education, etc)
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CSO role in response

- **Implementation** of National plan- including delivery of services promised by CSOs
- Continued communication between CSOs, gov't, and other agencies throughout response to ensure proper **coordination** of supplies, etc.
- Partnership with the media to ensure key messages of safety are delivered to the public in as many means as possible
- **Sharing** of experiences on a National and Regional level

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Implications

- Institutional Strengthening
 - capacity building
 - accountability
 - transparency



Priorities/ Recommendations

- CSO Umbrella Organization(s)
- Implementation of 1 suggestion made on this meeting: to have participants initiate a dialogue with their national CSOs so as to determine feasibility of establishing Umbrella Organization in country

A desk with a lamp, a brick wall, and a document with a grid pattern. The lamp is in the top left corner, and the brick wall is in the background. The document has a grid pattern and some faint text. The title 'The Liliendaal Statement' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the title is a bullet point with text. There are two pens on the desk: one silver and one red.

The Liliendaal Statement

- “acknowledged that Civil Society has a vital role to play in the development of regional, political and social policies, the development of those programmes and frameworks currently in existence, their modification, where necessary and the creation of new areas as required”-- The Civil Society Forward Together Conference held in July 2002 heads of Gov’t and CSO reps

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- A desk with a lamp, a ruler, and a pen, with a large blue arrow pointing right.
- **IF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE, THEN WHY ARE WE MAKING THEM AGAIN???**