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2

The Caribbean: Crisis/Contingency Management Structures and Initiatives

6th Humanitarian Aviation Safety Campaign
Collaborating for Effective Disaster Response and
Preparedness

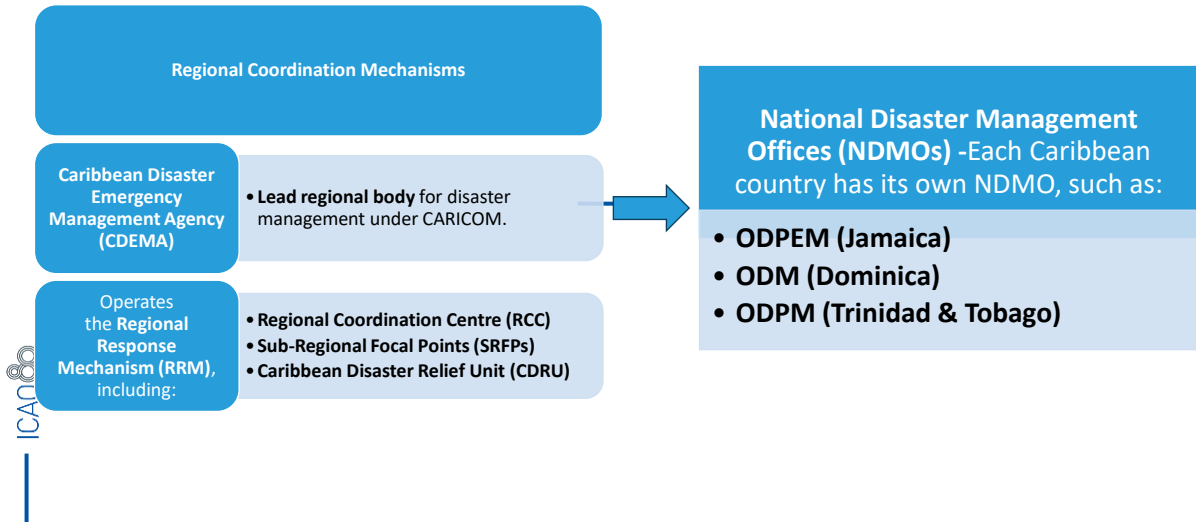
IATA Premises, Miami, USA

August, 2025

2

The Caribbean region has developed a robust and evolving framework for crisis and contingency management, shaped by its vulnerability to hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other hazards.

3



3

Crisis/Contingency Management Structures and Initiatives (samples)

4



4

Crisis/Contingency Management Structures and Initiatives

Common challenges and opportunities

5

Fragmented coordination among sovereign states and agencies.

Limited resources and infrastructure in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Need for harmonized protocols and real-time information sharing.

Opportunities include expanding regional hubs, enhancing training, and leveraging digital tools for crisis management

Crisis/Contingency Management Structures and Initiatives

Solutions and Mitigations

6

Strengthening Regional Coordination and Governance

Challenges Addressed:

- Fragmented coordination among states and agencies
- Limited political and financial autonomy

Solutions/ mitigations:

- **Formalize Regional Agreements:** Strengthen legal frameworks for mutual aid and shared contingency protocols across CARICOM and ICAO member states.
- **Empower Regional Bodies:** Enhance the authority and funding of CDEMA, CASSOS, and ICAO NACC to lead coordinated responses.

Crisis/Contingency Management Structures and Initiatives Solutions and Mitigations

7

Enhancing Infrastructure and Logistics Capacity

Challenges Addressed:

- Airport bottlenecks and outdated infrastructure
- Limited surge capacity during disasters

Solutions/ mitigations:

- **Expand Regional Logistics Hubs:** Replicate the Barbados / Dominican Republic models in other strategic locations (e.g., Jamaica, Trinidad).
- **Invest in Airport Resilience:** Upgrade runways, cargo handling systems, and emergency shelters at key airports.
- **Digital Logistics Platforms:** Implement real-time tracking and coordination tools for humanitarian cargo and personnel.

Crisis/Contingency Management Structures and Initiatives Solutions and Mitigations

8

Building Human and Institutional Capacity

Challenges Addressed:

- Lack of trained personnel and technical expertise
- Sustainability of training programs

Solutions/ mitigations:

- **Regional Training Academies:** Establish ICAO-endorsed centers for aviation crisis management and humanitarian logistics.
- **Simulation Exercises:** Conduct regular multi-agency drills to test contingency plans and interoperability.
- **Scholarships and Fellowships:** Support the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) and disaster management leaders.

Crisis/Contingency Management Structures and Initiatives Solutions and Mitigations

9

Integrating Climate and Displacement Risk into Planning

Challenges Addressed:

- Climate-induced displacement
- Gaps in national disaster legislation

Solutions/ mitigations:

- **Multi-Hazard Risk Mapping:** Use geospatial tools to identify vulnerable zones and prioritize infrastructure upgrades.
- **Community-Based Resilience Programs:** Empower local actors with training, funding, and early warning systems.

Crisis/Contingency Management Structures and Initiatives Solutions and Mitigations

10

Mobilizing Sustainable Funding and Partnerships

Challenges Addressed:

- Funding shortfalls
- Delays in recovery and response

Solutions/ mitigations:

- **Regional Disaster Fund:** Establishing pooled fund supported by regional organizations, international donors, and private sector.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Engage airlines, airport operators, and logistics firms in preparedness and recovery.
- **Innovative Financing:** Explore climate bonds, insurance schemes, and diaspora contributions.



11

- Humanitarian aviation is vital for delivering aid to remote, crisis-affected regions.
- Operations often take place in challenging environments: conflict zones, natural disasters, and rugged terrain.
- Ensuring safety is critical to protect crews, passengers, and cargo.

What is the Humanitarian Aviation Safety Campaign?

- ✈ A joint initiative lead by WFP and other organizations/ States aimed at enhancing operational safety in humanitarian aviation.
- ✈ Focus areas: training, awareness, risk evaluation, and standardization.

Humanitarian Aviation Safety Campaign Main Objectives

12

- ✈ 1. Reduce accidents and incidents in humanitarian air operations.
- ✈ 2. Promote a safety culture among humanitarian stakeholders and air operators.
- ✈ 3. Ensure compliance with international aviation standards.
- ✈ 4. Facilitate sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

NACC HUMANITARIAN AVIATION SAFETY CAMPAIGN: improve the Central America and Caribbean Region States emergency and disaster response with the focus on being Better Prepared for Humanitarian Assistance and Response to Disasters as well as promoting the Importance of Regional Cooperation on Time of Crises.

Humanitarian Aviation Safety Campaign

13

Key Stakeholders

- WFP Aviation (UNHAS): A major provider of humanitarian air services.
- ICAO: Sets global aviation standards.
- IATA, ACI-LAC: supporting entities
- NGOs, governments, local air operators: Operational partners.
- Civil aviation authorities in affected countries.

Components

- Regional workshops and seminars.
- Safety bulletins and alerts.
- Technical assessments of air operators.
- Training resources: videos, manuals, guidance documents.
- Promotion of Safety Management Systems (SMS).

13

Humanitarian Aviation Safety Campaign

14

Achievements

- Decrease in safety incidents in humanitarian missions.
- Enhanced coordination between regulators and operators.
- Increased professionalism and training among crews.
- Implementation of 'just culture' and voluntary reporting mechanisms.

- Different multiples stake holders
- Limited infrastructure in crisis zones.
- Lack of reliable safety data.
- Limited resources
- Timely coordinate use of resources
- Diverse standards and procedures among partners.
- Operational pressures during emergency response.

Ongoing Challenges



14

Humanitarian Aviation Safety Campaign

15

Impact:

- The campaign is critical for protecting lives and ensuring mission success.
- International collaboration is essential for sustainable safety practices.
- Aviation safety is fundamental to effective humanitarian response.



NACC Regional Office's timely response to the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges faced by the region to deliver and implement the ICAO targets and goals.

The crucial need to establish an effective communication between all stakeholders, which highlights the need for regional cooperation in times of crisis as a way forward.

The impact of the pandemic on the humanitarian aviation and how to cope with the adverse effect of its implications from various aspects.

Addressing the unrivalled implication of the Pandemics and the showcasing some of the best practices for Business Continuity during the pandemic

2023



16

AREA 1: Better Prepared for Humanitarian Assistance and Response to Disasters

The role of aviation in humanitarian food assistance, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response in Aviation (HADRA) – Guidance Material, Operational IATA Command Center – Enabling operation preparations and response

Airport Emergency preparedness during a disaster, Disaster preparedness and operation recovery – airport perspective, Disaster preparedness and operation from ground handler perspective

AREA 2: Regional Cooperation on time of Crises

Getting Airport Ready for Disasters – GARD, Public Private Partnership cooperation on disaster preparedness, Strengthen Foundation Aspects of Aerodrome Preparedness

CADENA: Contingency Planning and Response, Preparedness and Assistance – Contingency and Crisis Management in the CAR Region

2024



17

- Reduce safety risks associated with humanitarian aviation operations;
- Promote awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation and aviation safety initiatives; and,
- Improve preparation among the region in the wake of emergency response and ensure a safe operating environment for disaster response operations.

Multi-faceted approach, effectively raising awareness about the environmental activities and its implications on contingency and recovery actions as well as the criticality of having effective emergency response planning program in parallel to efficient regional and local cooperation on time of crises to be better prepared for Humanitarian Assistance and Response to Disasters.

Area 1 - Climate Change Impact and Resiliency

Area 2 - Aviation Infrastructure and Resiliency Efforts

Area 3: Planning and Preparing for Response to Natural Disasters



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17

Sixth North American, Central American, and Caribbean (NACC) Humanitarian Aviation Safety Campaign 18

IATA Regional Office, Miami, United States, 13 to 15 August 2025

Will address several crisis/ contingency aspects, from airport emergency plans, crisis management collaboration, innovation, resilience and recovery, coordination for humanitarian assistance, and Humanitarian aviation applications and tools

This new campaign shall address some specific areas of interest, such as:

1. Emergency and Crisis Management
2. Innovation and Technology for Humanitarian Operations
3. Regional Collaboration

Collaborating for Effective Disaster Response and Preparedness

"Bridging Borders in Emergencies: The Power of Regional Cooperation"

Objectives:

- Reduce safety risks associated with humanitarian aviation operations.
- Promote awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation and aviation safety initiatives; and,
- Improve preparation among the region in the wake of emergency response and ensure a safe operating environment for disaster response operations.

To establish a Contingency-Crisis Management/ Humanitarian Aviation Campaign Committee.

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18

