

Leading the Change in Caribbean Disaster Response

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. Overview of the CDEMA System

2. The Next Level RRM

3. The Relief and Logistics Thematic Working Group & ICAO

4. Summary

OVERVIEW OF THE CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA) SYSTEM





CDEMA is an intergovernmental agency of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with responsibility for the coordination of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in the region.

Who are we?

Participating States



Objectives

a) Mobilizing and coordinating disaster Relief

b) Mitigating consequences of disasters

c) Providing immediate and coordinated response to any affected PS

d) Securing, coordinating, and providing reliable and comprehensive information on disasters

e) Encouraging disaster loss reduction and cooperative arrangements and mechanisms

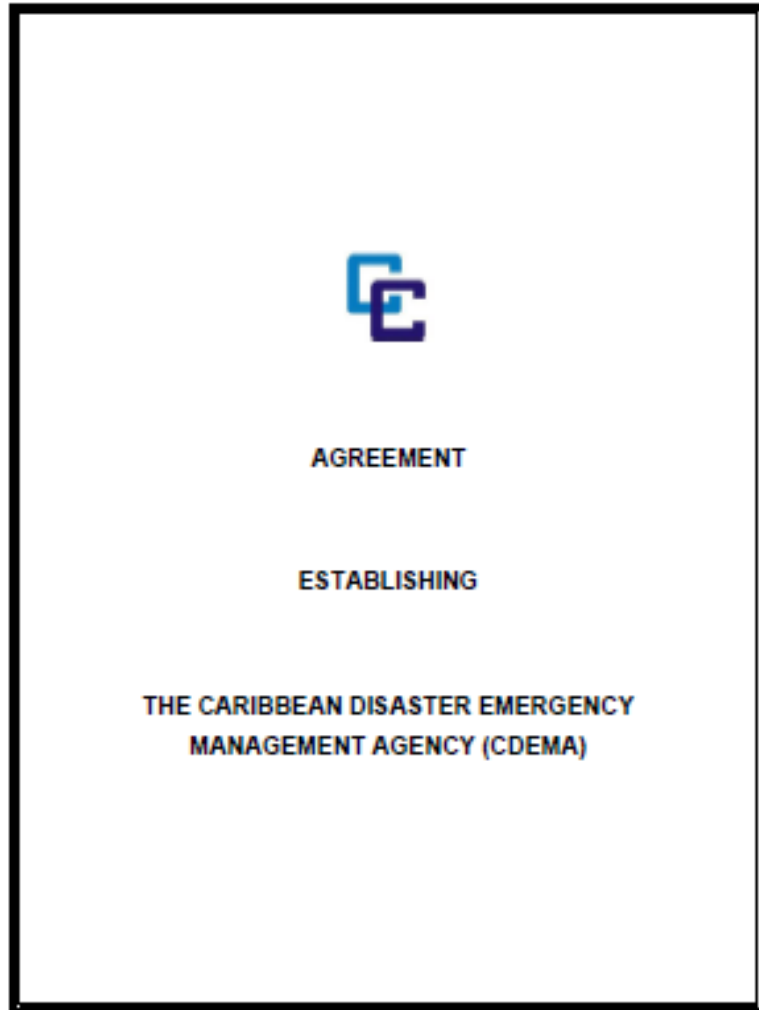
f) Establishment, enhancement, and maintenance of adequate emergency disaster response capabilities among the PSs

CDEMA'S 20 PARTICIPATING STATES



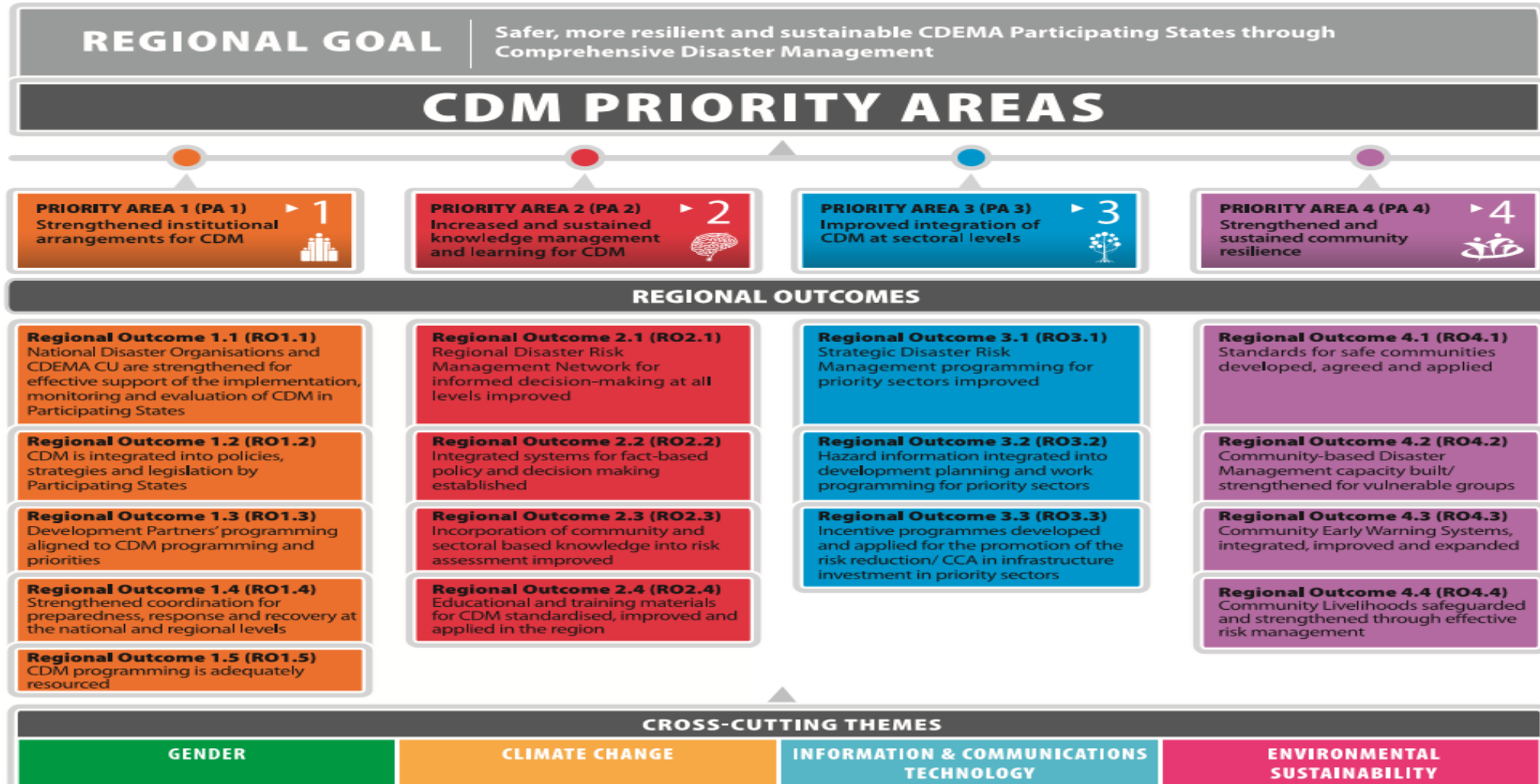
The CDEMA Agreement Establishes the RRM as a core mechanism for coordinated disaster response

AUTHORITY: THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING CDEMA



- A political agreement amongst the countries of the Caribbean region/ CARICOM for the provision of assistance to each other through mutual aid when a disaster occurs.
- Signed by all twenty (20) Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Participating States
- Article V, (Objectives of CDEMA) speaks to establishing and maintaining coordinated emergency disaster response capabilities in support of PS. Various response functions are outlined in subsequent Articles and Clauses of the Agreement.
- The Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) was established to deliver timely and coordinated response support to affected CDEMA Participating States (PS), from other CDEMA PSs, military, regional agency partners, and International Humanitarian Organizations.

REGIONAL CDM STRATEGY 2014 – 2030



SUMMARY OF THE CDEMA COORDINATING UNIT STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027

Vision

The leading Comprehensive Disaster Management expert supporting sustainable development and fostering a culture of safety and resilience in the Caribbean community.

Mission

To lead and empower Participating States to address all aspects of Comprehensive Disaster Management in an increasingly challenging hazard environment, including by mobilizing expertise and leveraging partnerships.

Core Values

Accountable, Innovative, Effective, Trusted, Respect

Strategic Objectives

Accelerate the Development of CDM Capabilities in Participating States

Build the Next Level Regional Response Mechanism

Accelerate Recovery

Position CDEMA to Deliver Now and in the Future

Accelerate the Development of CDM Capabilities in Participating States

The development of CDM capabilities across PSs will be accelerated by addressing identified hard and soft constraints such as gaps in risk assessment systems and challenges to policy implementation.

Build the Next Level Regional Response Mechanism

The Regional Response Mechanism will be enhanced to be capable of responding to overlapping severe events, the growing impact of climate change and additional hazards.

Accelerate Recovery

The Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility will be established with appropriate governance, resources, and technical support.

Position CDEMA to Deliver Now and in the Future

The capabilities, capacities, and skillsets of CDEMA will be enhanced as required to ensure achievement of the strategic objectives, including by establishing an appropriate organizational structure, and financing model.

THE NEXT LEVEL REGIONAL RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)



COMPLEX MULTI-HAZARD ENVIRONMENT

Earthquakes



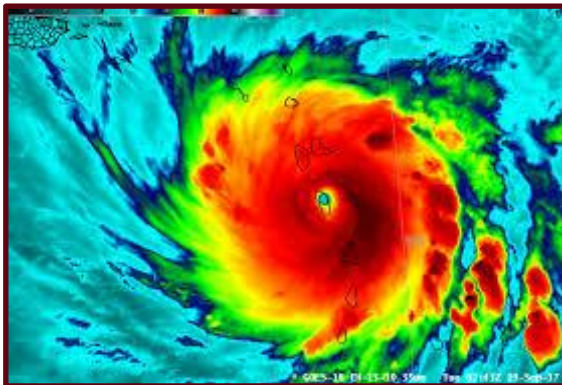
Wildfires



Floods



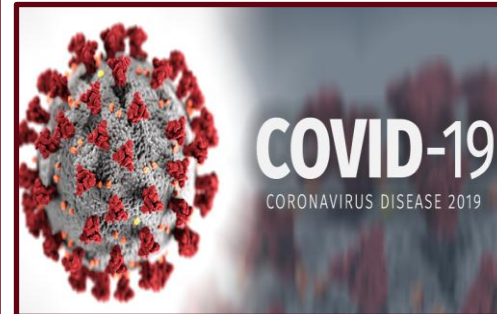
Chemical/ Oil Spills



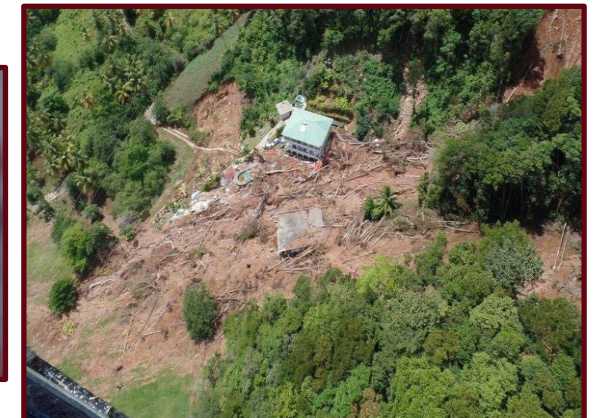
Tropical Cyclones



Volcanic Eruptions



Pandemics/ Epidemics



Landslides

EMERGING TRENDS INFLUENCING THE NEXT LEVEL RRM

- Increasing complexity and diversity in types and frequency of hazard impacts – severe weather, hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, pandemics, oil spills, tornados, earthquakes, etc.
- Effects of Climate Change resulting in extra-ordinary manifestations of hazard impacts e.g.: earlier or “out-of-season” storms, rapid intensification of storms, occurrence of tornados in the region, etc.

EMERGING TRENDS INFLUENCING THE NEXT LEVEL RRM

- More severe hazard events, leading to extended response periods and greater demand for resources.
- Multi-island and multi-state impacts requiring coordinated, cross-border responses.
- Rising complexities in emergency logistics and supply chain disruptions.

VISION FOR THE NEXT LEVEL RRM

Vision:

“ An agile and flexible RRM that responds appropriately and in a timely manner to all hazards (current and future) which face the region — natural, technological, and biological, while adapting to rapid-onset events, hazards of short and protracted duration, compounding and cascading hazards, and increased intensity of hydro-met hazards driven by climate change.”



KEY PILLARS OF THE NEXT LEVEL RRM

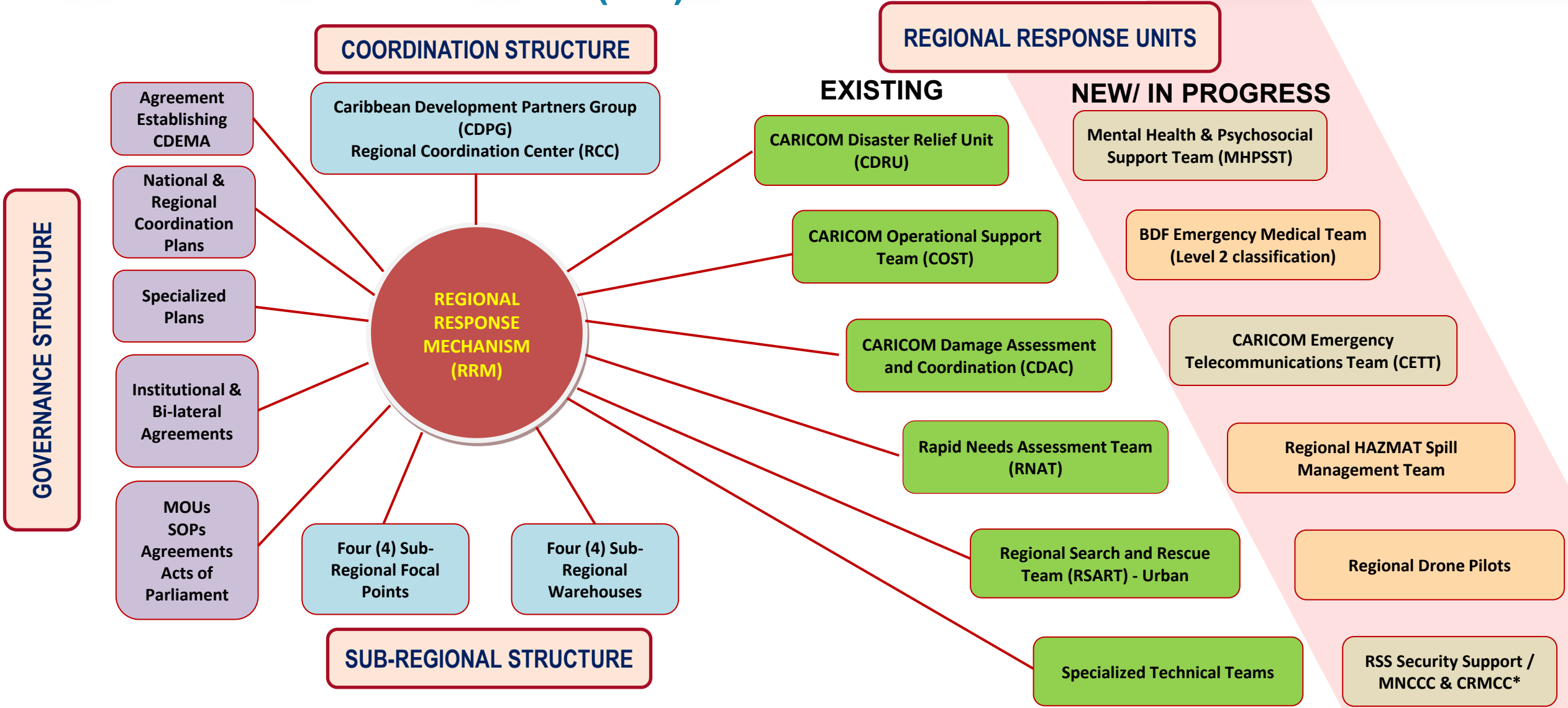
- i. **Leveraging Technology** – Digital transformation for real-time data sharing, AI-driven risk assessments, and enhanced situational awareness.
- ii. **Agility & Flexibility** – The ability to scale operations up or down, adapting to specific hazard types and evolving crises.
- iii. **Resource Adequacy** – Strengthening financial, human, and physical resource mobilization to meet regional needs.

KEY PILLARS OF THE NEXT LEVEL RRM

- iv. **Systematic Collaboration** – Clear definition of roles for national, regional, and international partners (e.g.: Energy, *Agriculture, Private Sector, Civil Society*).
- v. **Aligning Expectations & Investments** – Ensuring that Participating States' expectations match resource commitments.
- vi. **Governance Adaptability** – Creating flexible governance and coordination arrangements tailored to different hazards.

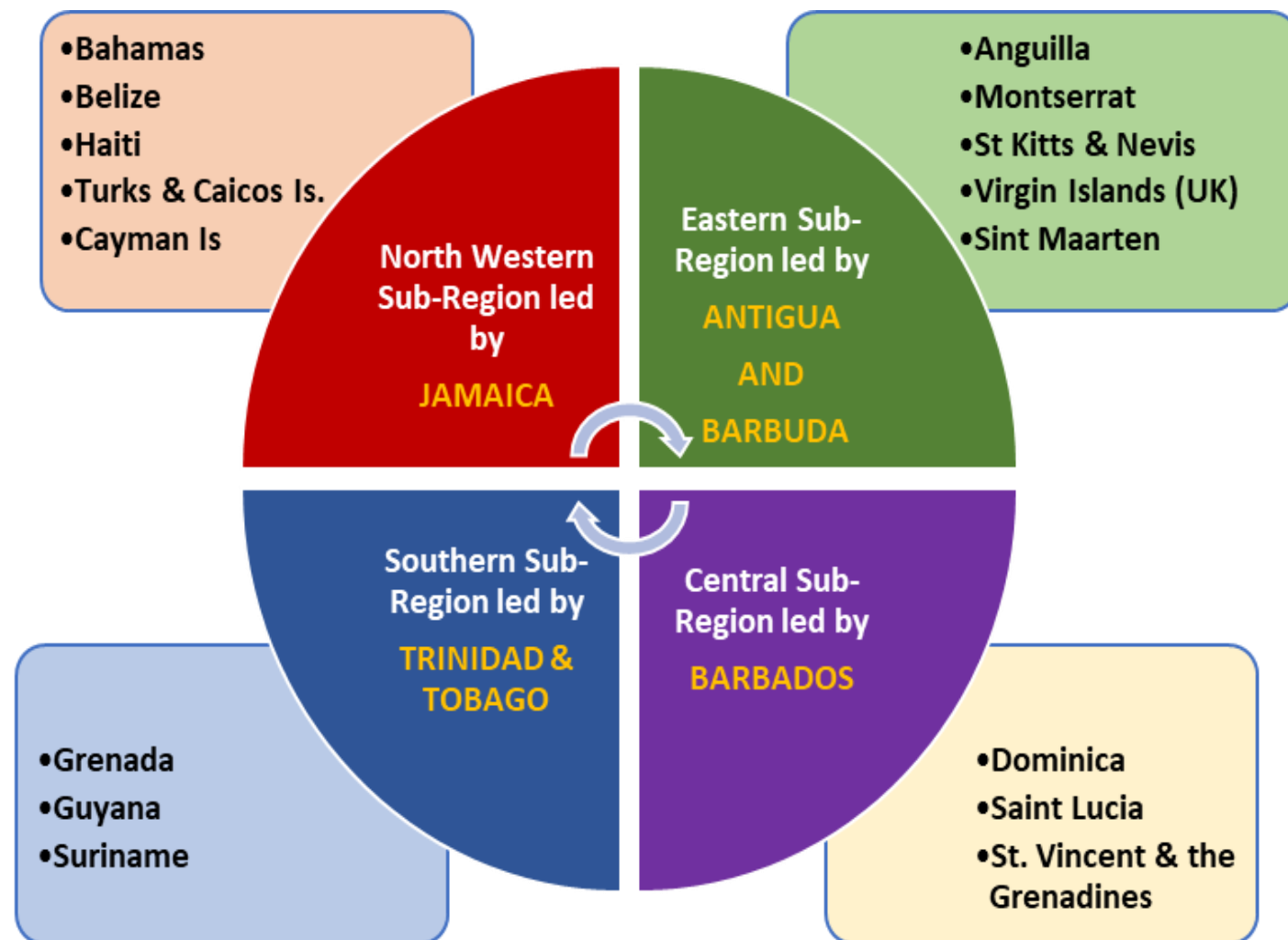


THE REGIONAL RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)



CDEMA SUB-REGIONAL STRUCTURE

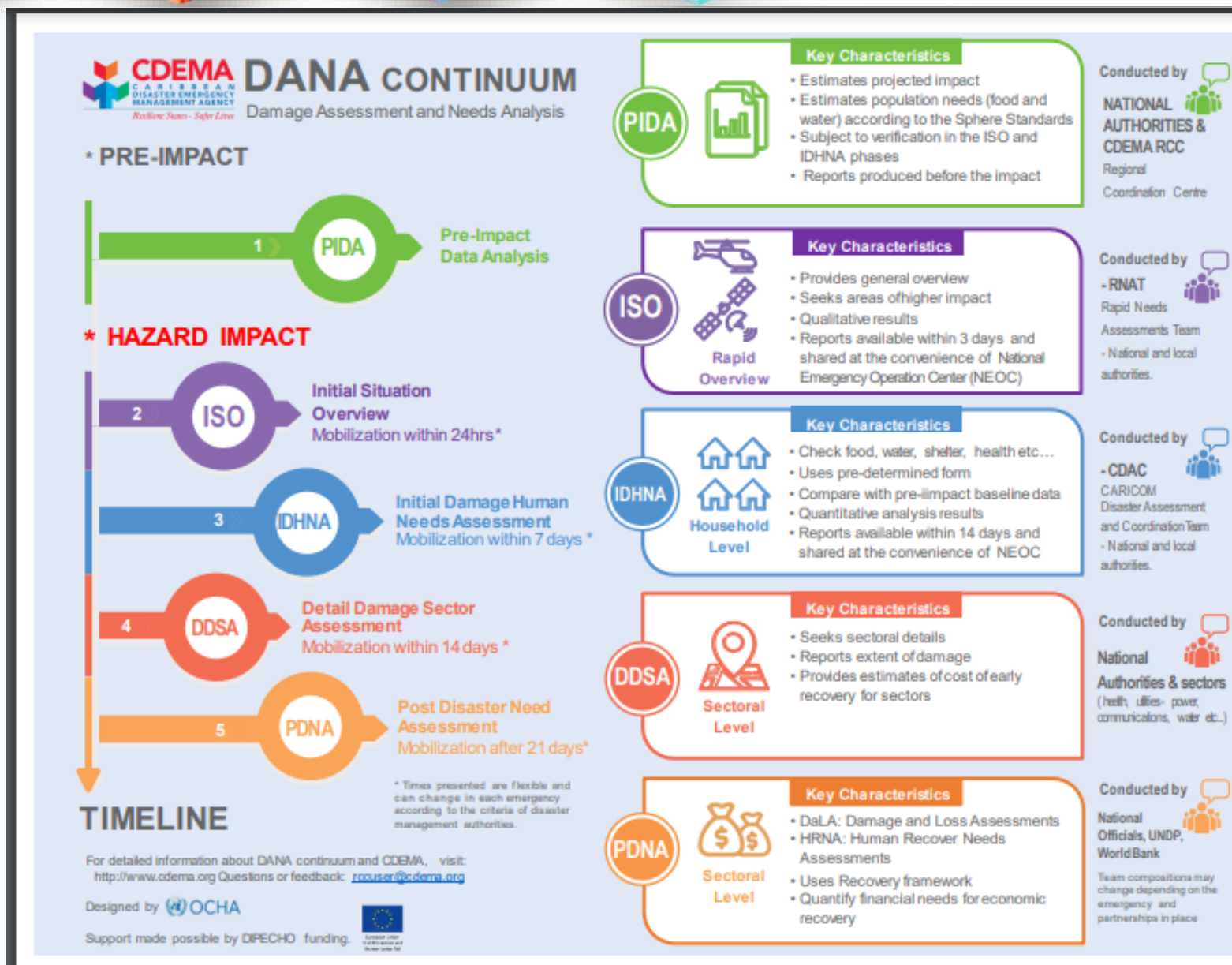
The CDEMA Sub Regions are geographically formed groups of CDEMA Participating States (PSs) through which emergency coordination support is provided to the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) by four (4) CDEMA states namely, Jamaica, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago. The National Disaster Offices (NDOs) in each of these states have been designated as sub-regional focal points.



THE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS (DANA) CONTINUUM

Surge support with damage assessments includes:

- PIDA support: Caribbean Community Risk Information Tool (CCRIT), Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS)
- ISO Support: drones, fixed, and rotary wing aircraft surveillance reports
- RNAT & DDSA: Technical Sector Specialist
- CDAC: Initial damage humanitarian needs assessments
- PDNA



STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS THROUGH THE CDPG

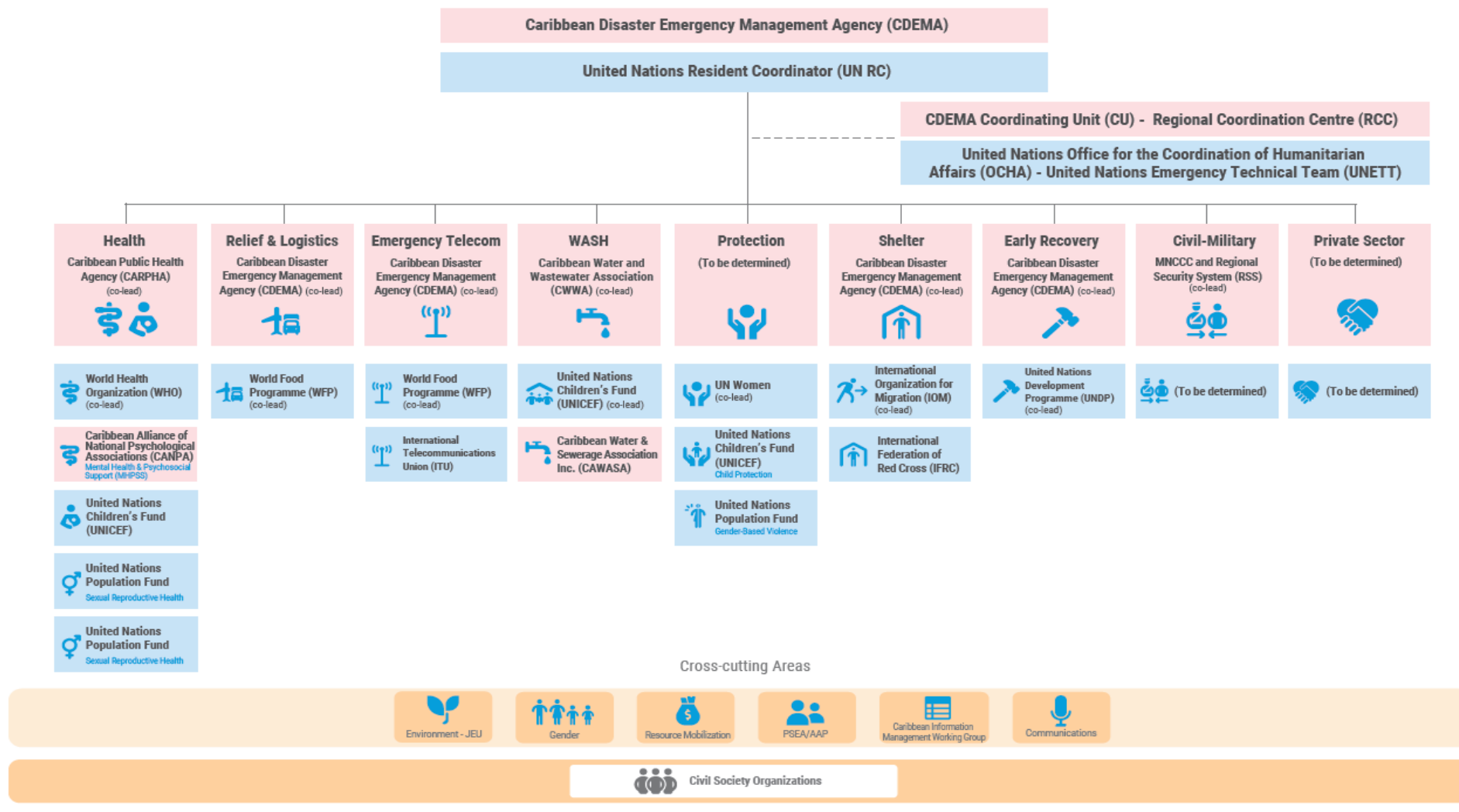
The Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG):

- ❖ Co-chaired by the CDEMA Executive Director and the UN Resident Coordinator for the impacted State.
- ❖ Facilitates joint coordination among national, regional, and international stakeholders with interests in disaster risk management in the region.
- ❖ Comprises 10 sub-groups called Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) that focuses on specific emergency support functions: Coordination, Emergency Shelter, Health inclusive of Mental Health and Psychosocial support, Relief and Logistics, Protection inclusive of Gender Based Violence and Child Protection, Water Sanitation & Hygiene, Emergency Telecommunications, Private Sector, Early Recovery, and Civil Military Coordination.
- ❖ Each TWG has a regional and international (UN) co-lead and work is ongoing to define the SOPs of the TWGs.
- ❖ *Aviation services may fall under R&L TWG and Private Sector*

CARIBBEAN

Emergency Coordination Structure

May 2025



THE RELIEF AND LOGISTICS THEMATIC WORKING GROUP & THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)



RLTWG CORE FUNCTIONS

1. Strategic Coordination: The RLTWG aligns logistics preparedness and response activities among national authorities, regional bodies, humanitarian partners, and other stakeholders, reducing duplication, addressing gaps, and enabling the development of joint, context-specific logistics strategies for the Caribbean.
2. Multi-Island Coordination: In multi-country emergencies, the RLTWG facilitates cross-border logistics coordination, especially where one state serves as a hub or transshipment point, ensuring smooth relief flows, preventing duplication, and avoiding bottlenecks through aligned partner contributions and coordinated cargo movements.
3. Technical Guidance: The RLTWG offers specialized expertise in supply chain design, transshipment planning, warehouse management, customs clearance, and logistics assessments, providing partners with practical, globally aligned solutions to enhance operational efficiency.

RLTWG CORE FUNCTIONS

4. Information Management: The RLTWG gathers, analyzes, and disseminates logistics data to support evidence-based decisions, producing shared information products such as maps, situation reports, and capacity assessments, thereby improving visibility, coordination, and planning.
5. Capacity Strengthening: The RLTWG identifies and addresses logistics capacity gaps by delivering targeted training, simulation exercises, and peer learning, strengthening local capabilities and building resilient, sustainable emergency supply chain systems.
6. Surge and Deployment Support: The RLTWG coordinates rapid mobilization of logistics personnel, assets, and resources during crises that exceed national capacities, ensuring continuity of logistics services and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance under pressure.

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

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