

BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENCE IN St. Vincent and the Grenadines

A REVIEW OF TROPICAL STORM MATTHEW

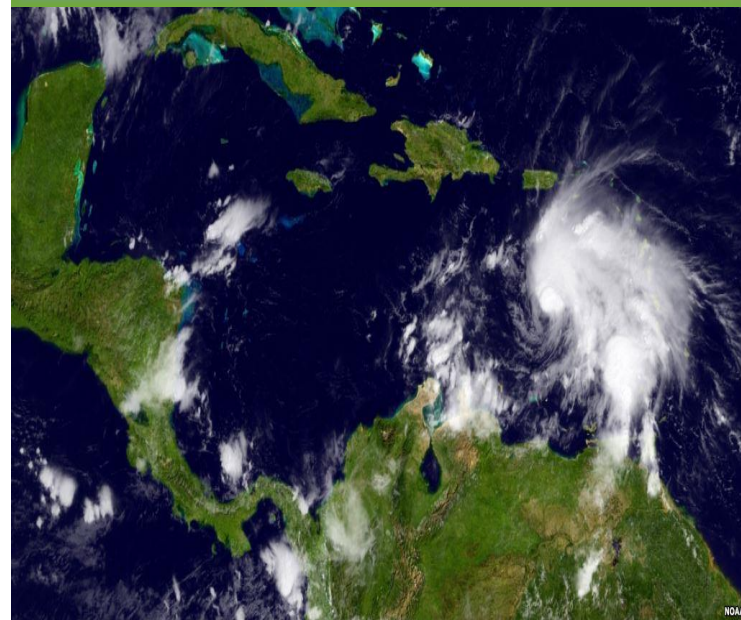
Godfred Pompey
Sekai Bowman
Michelle V. Forbes

Climate and Disaster Resilience
in SIDS: Practical Solutions
21-23 May, 2017
Cancun, Mexico

Overview of TS Matthew



- Severe Weather Bulletin issued by the Meteorological Office on Monday 26th September, at 4pm
- Forecast for up to 8 inches of rainfall
- Received up to 10.5 inches in the interior following the impact on 28th September
- Maximum winds of 36mph
- EC\$7 Million Damage
- 1 casualty

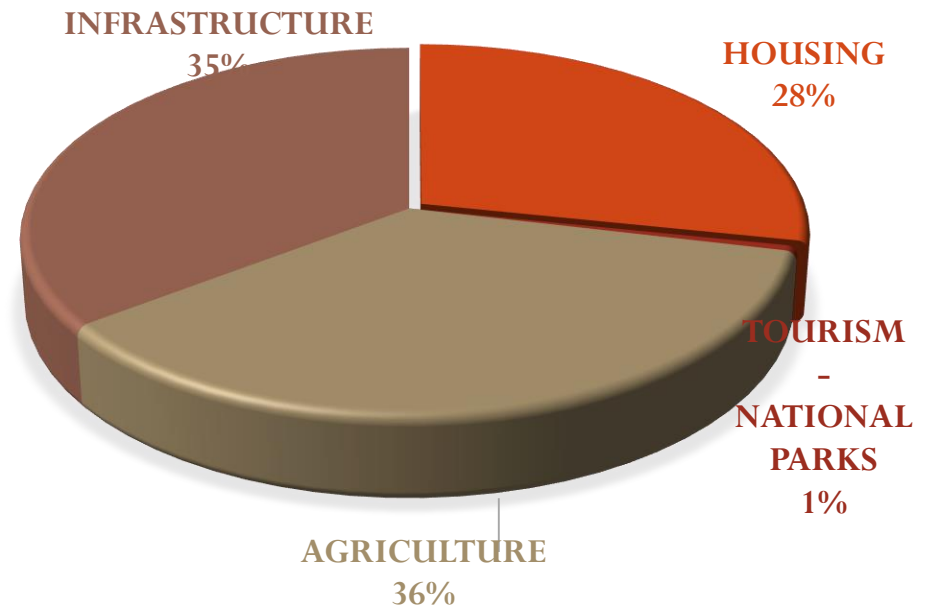


SVG Insurance Coverage – Is Insurance Enough?



- CCRIF SPC
 - Tropical Cyclones
 - Excess Rainfall Events
 - With more frequent and intense storms expected
 - Take into consideration more local rainfall data (if available)
 - Earthquake

DAMAGE BY SECTOR - TROPICAL STORM
MATTHEW



Pay-out from CCRIF for TS
Matthew was US\$285,000

Building Resilience in SVG



Holistic approach to building resilience to disasters and climate change impacts:

- Risk Assessments to build resilience – national DRR plans - (Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework)
- Reducing hazard exposure and reducing vulnerability and the vulnerable

- Since 2004, only 2 in 300 affected persons had insurance
- The vulnerable cannot afford insurance
- How can we change this?
 - The government cannot be the only insurance for the more vulnerable (location and socio-economic status)



Investing in DRR for Resilience



Harmonizing investment in DRR, Climate Change and SDGs (11 and 13)

- SVG has implemented the disaster fund to assist with DRR and climate change, yield EC\$10M annually
- Financing for DRR must not be pushed aside for climate change funds as the end result of climate change is a disaster or emergency
- Invest in EWS at national level and community – TS Matthew had flash floods, installation of stream flow equipment by UNDP allowed for Early Warning (CWSA, CDRT)
- Building capacity for DRR and forecasting – now have 3 forecasters, reduce our dependency on external forecasts

Insurance cannot be the only answer.....

