Restoring livelihoods in Grenada after hurricanes Ivan and Emily



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Grenada

Duration: December 2006 to June 2009

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP; FAO; UNICEF; UNIFEM

Other Implementing Partners: National ministries; Grenada Red Cross;

GRENCODA; GRENSAVE; GRENED; ART; IAGDO; NADMA;

community-based organizations

Budget: \$1,026,538.30

Key Words: Natural disasters; capacity-building; early-warning systems

BACKGROUND

In September 2004, Grenada was struck by Hurricane Ivan. Ten months later, in July 2005, Hurricane Emily moved through resulting in widespread loss of livelihood, complete collapse of the agricultural sector and significant damage to the country's housing, infrastructure and public institutions. The Government of Grenada assessed the destruction left by the two storms at \$1.2 billion, or 250% of the nation's GDP. As rebuilding happened slowly, the country was in

urgent need of assistance towards long-term reconstruction and recovery. In particular, individuals and communities had to develop coping strategies that allowed them to not only manage risks and uncertainty, but also to generate new skills and income opportunities. Moreover, it was essential to strengthen the capacities of the communities themselves to respond and prepare for future emergencies and natural disasters.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Taking place in the immediate post-recovery phase, the project aimed to mitigate the social and economic impact of the devastation caused by Ivan and Emily. To this end, the project focused on (i) assisting farmers and rural households and improving agricultural production, agro-processing and woodcraft industries; (ii) enhancing access to microfinance and business development and income-

generating opportunities; (iii) increasing disaster preparedness at the community level through improved response frameworks as well as shelter capacity, management and planning; and (iv) expanding the availability and capacity of counselling services at national level, thereby facilitating the long-term recovery process.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's direct beneficiaries were approximately 5,000 vulnerable people who were trained on forest and land management, agro-processing and business development. Furthermore, communities obtained funding for establishing disaster management

mechanisms, while community members participated in training and capacity-building that allowed them implement disaster preparedness plans at the community level.