



*Planning for equitable and
sustainable recovery in the
Caribbean*

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Disasters and recovery in the Caribbean

- Economic fragility (size, insularity, remoteness, debt)
- Environmental fragility and multiple hazards; sea-level rise
- High levels vulnerability (limited employment, inequality, difficult market conditions, lack of access to finance, building quality)
- Accumulation of risk (historical development patterns and choices; exposure and vulnerability)



Building back better – equitable and sustainable

Challenges

- BBB = strengthening resilience through all aspects of society. Difficult to implement?
- Long-term, multi-faceted, multiple scales and speeds
- Ongoing ‘everyday’ hazards
- Competing pressures and priorities
- Communities marginalized in decision-making
- Spontaneous responses, coordination problems
- Institutional and funding gaps; donor timeframes
- (Absorptive) capacity limitations
- Lack of planning!

Opportunities and principles

- Window of opportunity?
- Reflection/ learning from history – structural changes
- Leveraging existing development plans and projects
- Initiative transparent, accountable, participatory processes
- Leave no one behind – address inequality, marginalization and exclusion in recovery



Planning ahead for equitable and sustainable recovery

- **Hypothesis:** Significant challenges in recovery practices can only be achieved through collaboration – an interdisciplinary cross-sector knowledge network needed
- **New ‘Caribbean Knowledge Network on Resilience and Recovery’** led by the University of the West Indies with academic, practitioner, policy and financing partners will:
 - invest in collaborative spaces, innovation and learning processes
 - promote stakeholder consultation
 - nurture respect and thought leadership
 - broker new knowledge in addressing recovery challenges.



Planning ahead for equitable and sustainable recovery

Aims:

Initiate and support a recovery planning process in Caribbean states

Create a locally-driven agenda (not one driven by donors through conditional loans)

Activities:

- A 'forensic' multi-stakeholder workshop to co-create lessons from recovery after recent disasters – what could a recovery plans have included? What could have been done differently?
- Develop two response and recovery scenarios to help test and evaluate existing response and recovery plans and frameworks (for hydro-meteorological and geophysical hazards).
- Run scenarios (a roadshow) with national and local stakeholders (communities)
- Follow up/ technical support to recovery planning (to be equitable and sustainable)

