ABSTRACT

THEME: Disaster Management, Terrorism, Occupational Health & Safety.

TOPIC: Strengthening institutional arrangements in the Caribbean for disaster reduction in water and sanitation.

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Caribbean populations, their economies, infrastructure and services including those for water & sanitation are exposed to risk of disasters. Various destructive systems generate different types of hazards which either singly or in combination impact directly or indirectly with immediate and long term consequences.

Over the last two decades efforts made to establish and institutionalize arrangements for health sector (water& sanitation included) disaster management in particular and disaster management generally have achieved varied results.

The paper discusses these elements and examines key actors, processes and outcomes. It gives recognition to existing challenges but posits that there are significant opportunities for positive change available to those who are willing and responsible. It proposes some key actions and identifies likely sources of support available to strengthen disaster risk reduction arrangements in water and sanitation.