

REPORT: LESSONS LEARNED & GOOD PRACTICES

ZIKA.LL.BP.1. GRENADA: CREATING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR
COMMUNITY HEALTH MOBILIZATION

Date of Publication: 23 July 2019

Name of Project:	Zika Project
Date of initiative:	October 2016 – ongoing
Author of report:	Cindy Lewis, Project Manager – Grenada Red Cross
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Beneficiary country:	Grenada
Donor agency:	USAID
Related fields:	Public Health – Vector Borne Diseases & Zika Strengthening Institutional Memory through Documentation Strengthening Our Commitment to Communities
Organisational objectives:	Organisational Planning Strengthening External Collaboration

WHEN DID THIS INITIATIVE OCCUR?

The initiative commenced in October 2016 and is still ongoing. The Zika Project is scheduled to end in September 2019.

OBJECTIVES OF INITIATIVE

Community residents were mobilized to work along with project staff to implement the ZIKA Project. They benefitted from the knowledge and skills imparted during the training sessions organized by the Project. The residents received training on the ZIKA disease and Psychosocial Support on managing the effects of the disease. These training sessions were aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the Project by increasing the residents' capacity to respond to the disease.

NUMBER OF PERSONS TARGETED

We targeted each of the 6233 households within the 32 communities in Grenada through door to door campaigns, meetings, focus groups, fun days, clean up campaigns, Ride the Bus Outreach Sessions,

Training sessions organized through school clubs (BAZIC Clubs), Social media (WhatsApp, Facebook, our Hotline, email messaging). Both females and males were engaged equally.

THE ZIKA PROJECT

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Partnerships with government ministries, the National Disaster Office and the Solid Waste Management Authority were strengthened.

The Steering Committee at the Community level, which was comprised of five to seven representatives from government ministries and other agencies – successfully worked alongside the Red Cross to mobilize the communities and to ensure the project activities were implemented successfully. A Steering Committee was developed in all 32 communities across the country.

The representatives on the Steering Committee are drawn from the following Ministries and Agencies:

- Ministry of Youth
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- NaDMA – National Disaster Management Agency
- Royal Grenada Police
- Grenada National Solid Waste Management Authority
- Green Group
- The Media

It is our intention that upon completion of the Project, that the members continue to act as liaisons between the communities and the Red Cross, and that they remain active volunteers.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN CONDUCTING THE PROJECT?

The support and involvement of key stakeholders was essential for successful implementation of the project.

WHAT ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES, IF ANY, DID YOU ENCOUNTER IN THE PROJECT?

Initially, the members of the Steering Committee were not very consistent in their attendance at meetings. Members had different schedules and activities that often clashed with meetings. We decided to change the way we communicated with them to ensure they were kept engaged and informed. We actively and consistently reached out to keep them informed and up to date on the project progress and current activities.

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OUTCOMES: HOW DID THE PROJECT OVERCOME THESE ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES? WHAT CORRECTIVE ACTIONS WERE TAKEN?

Copies of the minutes of the meetings were sent along with verbal updates. We also updated the contact lists so that we could successfully reach the members.



PHOTO CAPTION: Members from a community in Carriacou, Grenada

DESCRIBE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT.
HOW WILL YOUR TEAM ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THESE LESSONS LEARNED?

Continuous dialogue and involvement of these key stakeholders and inclusion in programmes and activities of the National Society will be conducted.

We intend to involve the stakeholders in future training and activities of the Grenada National Society once resources are made available at least once a year do refresher training sessions. We have also implemented other engagement strategies with the use of social media, which include WhatsApp and Facebook updates.

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As a result of this experience we have seen growth, success and strong partnerships, fulfilling the motto of "team work can make dream work". It is quite evident that having a well-structured core of persons to guide the project was critical. Coordination with focal point organizations was an integral component and key element of the project which led to great accomplishments and successful results.

We can safely say we have 32 communities who are resilient, who can respond in the event of any vector outbreak. It warms our heart to hear of the numerous testimonies of best practices and gratitude expressed by community residents.

"We are thankful to the USAID and the Cluster Office in Trinidad for affording us the opportunity to implement this Project." Cindy Lewis, Project Manager, Grenada Red Cross