

Abstract

The Caribbean region is reviewing disaster response and resilience, particularly considering the growing cost (humanitarian and financial) of natural disasters in the region. Factors contributing to the Caribbean islands susceptibility to hazards include a lack of adherence to building codes and development in high risk areas. Through reliable and timely geospatial information linked to data from other Government Agencies they are reducing their disaster risk.

- Hurricane Gilbert struck the entirety of Jamaica in 1988 causing significant loss of life and over \$4 billion in damage. In 2004 hurricane Ivan cost Grenada 200% of its GDP and caused the economy which grew by 5.8% in 2003 to contract by 3% in 2004.
- There is a growing trend with the frequency and intensity of natural disasters leading to the Caribbean asking the question “what can we do?”.
- In 2004, they created the National Geospatial Framework to help critical decisions, improve planning to reduce the impact of disasters and to underpin disaster risk information.
- Since its creation the Caribbean now has
 - Comprehensive management and sharing of data
 - Reconsidered governance and policy frameworks across all phases of disaster response
 - A common operating platform
 - Accessibility to quality data services
- Tied into UN-GGIM.
- All of their work is to help reach the goal – Human geographical risk reduced through geospatial data.