



Community risk reduction



Empowering communities to  
take charge of their destiny

**New Town, St. Kitts**

**Community Disaster Risk Assessment**

**(VCA)**

***March 16, 2011***



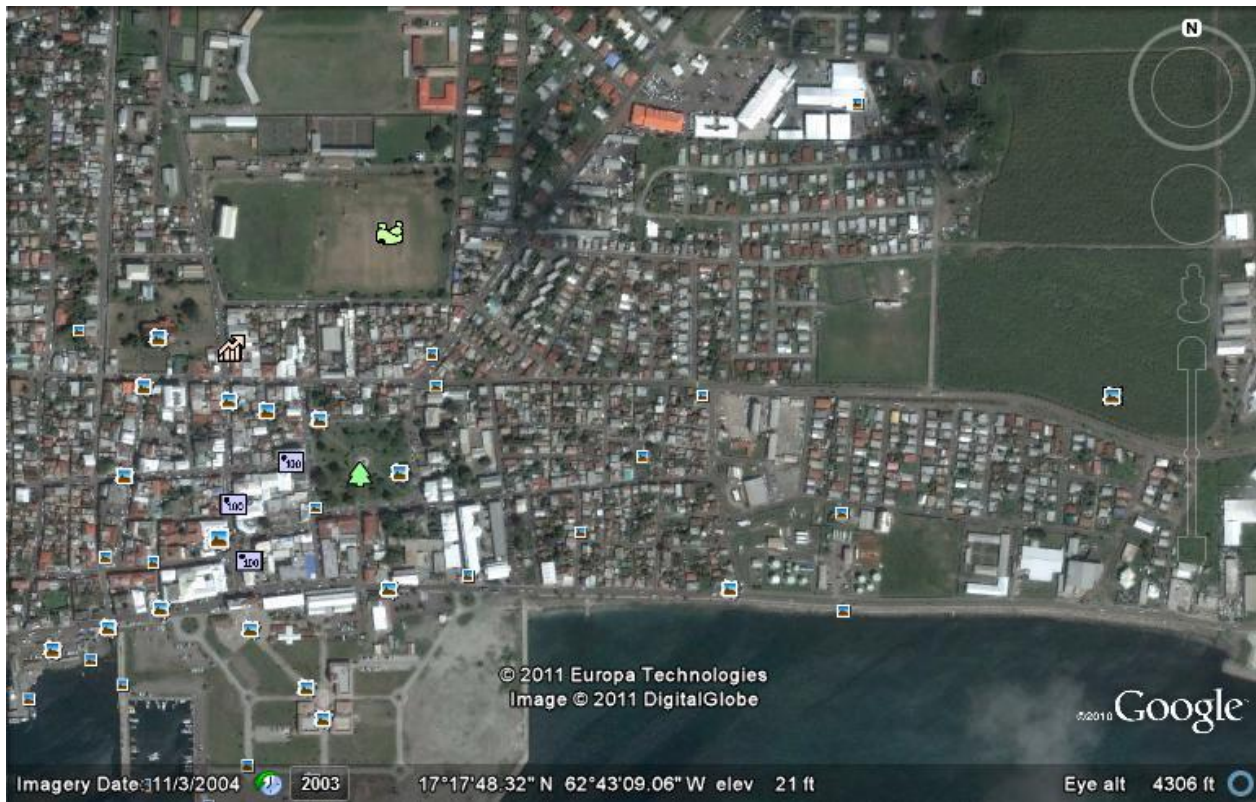
The St. Kitts Nevis Red Cross Society, under the *Readiness to Respond* project funded by USAID, engaged the community in the VCA process in March 16-17, 2011. The facilitators were four female Red Cross staff and volunteers. Thirteen members (including 5 males ranging from early 30 yrs.-over 60) of the community participated. These included the Community Officer, NEMA representative and the New Town District Chairperson (see list attached at end).

**NEW TOWN, Basseterre**

New Town is an urban community within the capital city of Basseterre. It is dominated to the sea front by the tank farms of the Sol facility and the playing field to the south. The community comprises New Town and the Ponds Extension.

New Town	Population	1007	504 male	506 Female
Ponds Ext.	Population	786	367 male	418 Female

Within many homes and lots there are multiple families residing. There is a constant police presence as the area has a gang crime risk. New Town and Ponds are also the home to about three settlements of immigrants (estimate 75 persons) from the Dominican Republic.



**Figure 1 Photo of New Town & Ponds Extension including Port Zante and the industrial site.**



## **Hazards and Vulnerability of New Town and Pond Extension.**

**Flooding** in the Ponds, Pond Road is 1-4' deep to George Street 1'-2' deep and the Bay Road 1-2 deep. This is settled water for over water from prolonged or intense rainfall.

This affects:

- Seventy five houses, including
- the Fire Station, the Tucker Clarke Primary School, the dental health facility, the playing field, the community and health centers and the bulk facility.

**Sea surge** during hurricanes, and storms. This affects the 25 houses on the bay entering homes and damaging the sea wall and fences. It disrupts traffic locked by sand and debris.

**Risk of fire** from the closeness of the houses and large number of female staff in the factories (cable connectors, hospital equipment and the industrial gas plant). The industrial site day care is also housed in this area (approximately 80 children)

**Risk of fire and explosion** from the fuel tank farm on the bay road and the industrial facilities.

**Mass casualty incident** risk at the stadium during an event.

## **COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

The community has many shops, bakery. There is a Fire Station. The emergency shelters are the Hope Chapel, Catholic Center, SDA Church, New Town Community Center and the football stadium.

The community has one doctor and a number of nurses in residence – there are at least 4 retired sisters (nurses). Metal craft factory, dive center with boats, Large trucks e.g. Big Banana.

### **Livelihoods**

A sample of 35 persons were randomly interviewed. Most persons were clerical office, industrial and construction workers 59%.



Unemployed	5	14%
Teachers / educators	3	9%
Fishermen	2	6%
Construction workers	4	11%
Clerks	12	34%
Factory and industrial workers	5	14%
Military / Fire/ Police/Defence Force	1	3%
Tourism & hospitality	3	9%



### Historical profile

Year	Activities
1867	<b>Fire destroyed Basseterre</b> :the capital of the state
1840	The Roman Catholic Church was built
1840	The state’s prison was built to house 60 Prisoners.
1870’s	The eastern side of Basseterre was extended
1870’s	The area where the bulk facilities are currently located was once a Fort called FORT PINE; that was named after the number of pine trees (Christmas Trees) found in the area.
1876	
1880	The Hope Chapel Church in Newtown was built 36” of rain fell in one day which caused College Street to flood, and had impacted East Basseterre
1924	<b>A hurricane</b> flooded Ponds Pasture - sea surge
1928	Roman Catholic school was built
1927	Areas under sugar cultivation were used to accommodate the extension of New Town
1946	(Ponds Site /Corner House)
1948	There was a sugar workers’ strike that lasted 13 weeks which resulted in wide spread hunger in the community of New Town
1950	VPTAG was the first ever Aircraft that landed at Pond Pasture
1950’s	Pond Pasture was used for horse racing to hide the true meaning of August 1 <sup>st</sup> which was Emancipation day Pond Pasture (New Town) was used as a dumping ground in <b>an effort to raise the land</b> above sea level The New Town <b>bulk facilities</b> was built
1960’s	Previously the Pond Pasture (New Town) was jointly owned by Ponds Estate & the government and was used as a grazing ground for the oxen (transporter of sugar cane from field to sidings.) Additionally it was also used as a playing field.  The Government took full ownership of Pond Pasture (New Town), and turned it into a housing development In an effort to alleviate the congestion <b>and health hazards</b> - chiggers  The Fire Brigade was constructed  The New Town Extension ( New Pond site housing development came on stream
1980-90s	Construction of Port Zante
1982	The Public Library and the Court house that housed one building was <b>destroyed</b>



1983	<b>by fire</b>
1989	Hurricane Hugo
1990's	The Pall mall square was renamed Independence square
1998	
Late 1990's	The New Town Dental clinic was built
1995	<b>Hurricane George</b> caused adverse effects to the shoreline; hence a sea defense was constructed. Sands Complex was Built. Industrial site at Ponds Pasture( New Town) was renamed Paul South well Industrial Park
2000's	The New Town Community Center was built The new Sports complex was built
2004-2005	The Warner Park Sports Stadium was upgraded to host 2007 World Cup Cricket & International Football and soccer.

The exposure to flooding was increased in the 1960's when housing was developed into the pasture which flooded.

**a. Seasonal calendar**

Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainfall			x	x			x	x	x	x	x	
Hurricanes						x	x	x	x	x	x	
Traffic Accidents	x										x	x
Fatalities											x	x
Fires		x	x	x								
<b>SPORTS</b>												
cricket	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x
Football	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x
Netball			x	x	x							
School sports		x	x	x	x							
<b>FESTIVALS</b>												
Carnival						Music Festival				Community Festival		Carnival
FLU	x	x	x									x
<b>VECTORS</b>												
Mosquitos			x	x					x	x	x	



Sand Flies			x	x					x	x	x	
Rodents	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
FLOODING			x	x			x	x	x	x	x	
Drought	x	x			x	x						

There is a rodent problem all year round. June-August is the least busy time for communities.

**Resources of the community**

RESOURCE	Description	Owner & location
BIG BANANA	LARGE PASSENGER VEHICLES	MICHAEL BRIDGEWATER, PONDS PASTURE
HOPE CHAPEL SDA CHURCH NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE FOOTBALL STADIUM	SHELTER	GEORGE STREET WELLINGTON ROAD PONDS PASTURE  PONDS EXTENSION
J'S SHOP AND SAVE GLORIA GUMBS	GROCERY STORE RSTAUANT	JUDITH GUMBS GEORGE STREET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE	FIRE OFFICERS	GOVERNMENT, SANDOWN ROAD
POTEEN'S METAL CRAFT		PAUL MORRIS ROAD
KENNETH DIVE CENTRE	BOATS FOR TRANSPORT	KENNNETH

**HUMAN RESOURCES & CONTACT NUMBERS**

LEROY PONTEEN	STADIUM CARETAKER & WELDER	662-5365
LT DERRICK FYFIELD	FOOTBALL CLUB & DEFENSE FORCE	663-9690
ELIZABETH CONDELL	NURSE AID	
MS BENJAMIN	NURSE AID	
DANIEL	NURSE AID	
LLOYD LAZAR	CHAIRMAN NEMA DISTRICT 1	662-2459
RHON BODDIE	VICE CHAIRMAN NEMA DISTRICT 1	663-0421
STURGE	MECHANIC	
CASSANDRA BELLE	NURSE	





- New Town Sports clubs
- SDA Pathfinders
- Tucker Clark Scouts
- Hope Chaple Outreach
- Fire & Police Boys Club
- Dominicano Basketball
- SCASPA Sports Club
- Diabetic Club
- Coast Guard Swim Club
- Ross University Players

**1. Identifying hazards and their potential impact on the community**

Hazard	Potential Risk	Vulnerability	Capacity
TROPICAL SYSTEM(HURRICANE)	HIGH	Costal residence and all housing stock with low or suspicious integrity	Limited and exclusive to trained personnel other resources will be on a demand basis E.g. housing inspectors
FIRES	MEDIUM	Housing clusters in identified areas	Close proximity to fire resources. E.g. Fire department, fire trucks, fire hydrants, and first responders( community fire fighters)
FLOODS	HIGH	Areas below pond road and Figate Bay road southwards to the Bay road	This identified area has a percolation capacity only after a six hour period.
DROUGHT	LOW	Subject to unavailability of available water	Subject to government/ utility consideration
VECTORS	MEDIUM TO HIGH	High in most of the older residential settlement areas and of all generic description	Efforts are restricted to coordinated response with the ministry of health, solid waste management as well as Parks and beaches and private enterprise.
VOLCANO	LOW	BASED ON SEISMIC research predictions.(	
EARTHQUAKES	MEDIUM TO		
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS			



	HIGH		Research and Development ( R&D ) and I& E Information and education campaign.
	MEDIUM TO HIGH	SUBJECT TO THE EARLY warning system s available	( SECONDARY AND TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS)
		Potential fire explosion and toxic and chemical ignition endangering the whole area	As above
			No advance level resources readily available for response.( we don't have a burn unit)



**2. Local capacity to respond to hazards**

HAZARD	Vulnerabilities identified	Actions to transform vulnerabilities into capacities
FIRE	Cluster housing and industrial explosive potential	Fire prevention training- homes Early warning system, I&E campaign
FLOODING	ZONES 1,4 & 5	Identify evacuation routes, and signage, identify technical and financial assistance
TROPICAL SYSTEMS(HURRICANE)	ZONE 1-5	Low level assessment capabilities for damages feeding, shelter and recovery efforts .i.e. CDRT training
VECTORS	ZONES1-5	Poison the rats Better garbage collection and disposal extensive cleanup campaign
EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES	ZONE1-5	I &R programs , encourage schools and institutions supported by community.
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS		First Aid Training Warning systems & muster points



Identifying prevention, preparation and mitigation activities

Actions to transform vulnerabilities to capacities	Prevention	Preparation	Mitigation
Basic first aid, fire safety search and rescue, household response, low level training . advance training.( C.P.R, chemical and toxic household response, hazard and risk analysis. Produce brochures and pamphlet.			
Produce and erect signs with evacuation routes, shelters, and critical resources. Encourage project proposal writing assessment reports evaluations reports. Design an awareness of the benefits of the central Basseterre aquifer.			
Training in shelter management, damage and needs assessment, rescue and recovery and nits.			
Education and advocacy, door to door campaign, targeting youth, schools and sporting organizations as well as churches.			
Promote household disaster plan. Conduct earthquake and volcano drills.			



**Conclusion: The next steps**

Participants List

No.	Names of Participants
1.	Telca Wallace
2.	Iotha Charles
3.	Sylvia Mills
4.	Bewdley Benjamin
5.	Eveta Somersall
6.	Ophelia Gardininer
7.	Francine Pollock
8.	V. Ray John
9.	Rhon Boddie
10.	Theolinda Isaac
11.	Lloyd Lazar
12.	Shannielle Powell
13.	Earle Clarke



**Annex 1: List of participants in the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment**

Resource Personnel

#	Names	Addresses



Focus group meetings – Dates & participants

#	Names	Addresses

Participants external to the community

#	Names	Addresses