

Benchmarking Disaster Risk Management Tools in the Hemisphere: a look at the BTool



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Goal and objectives of the Disaster Risk Benchmarking Tool [BTool]

The Goal

To improve the ability of communities, national governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to **proactively plan and implement actions** to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and create greater economic resilience when they do occur.

The Objective is to develop and implement a practical tool that could be used:

To assess a country's natural disaster risk reduction profile.

To remind and validate that disaster risk management tasks have been completed and being able to report on the status of their readiness.

To provide a list of items to be checked or consulted when investing on disaster risk management.

What is a DR Benchmarking Tool?

It is comprised of indicators which are measurable and which a country can take steps to address both in the short and long terms.

Examples of Indicators:

- ◆ **Level of community involvement**
- ◆ **Preparedness of the utilities**
- ◆ **Level of insurance coverage for public, business, and private facilities.**
- ◆ **Public awareness of mitigation measures.**

Uses of the BTool

- A tool for evaluating the readiness and capability of local and national institutions to deal with the risk of disaster.
- A list of best practice recommendations for disaster risk management.
- A tool for regional benchmarking of nations and programmes.
- A tool for identifying gaps in the development planning/disaster management continuum.
- A tool for preparing programmes of work
- A tool for writing Terms of Reference for Disaster Management projects
- **A tool for highlighting deficiencies in public/private sector interface in disaster management.**

Methodological Steps

The BTool was developed in six steps:

1. Selection of a comprehensive disaster management framework
2. Identification of disaster risk management tools and resources
3. Design of assessment questions
4. Stakeholder review and modification of the tool
5. Pilot testing and modification of the tool
6. Adoption of the tool by local and regional stakeholders

Step 1:

Determine the Scope of the Evaluation

Premises of Comprehensive Risk Management

$$\mathbf{CRM = RI + RM + RT + DP + ER + RR}$$

- ◆ Risk Identification (RI)
- ◆ Risk Mitigation (RM)
- ◆ Risk Transfer (RT)
- ◆ Disaster Preparedness (DP)
- ◆ Emergency Response (ER)
- ◆ Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (RR)

Step 2: Identification of Risk Management Tools to be evaluated

Policies	Administration
Plans and Regulations	Inter-agency Coordination
Legislations	Integration of plans and activities
Human Resources	Involvement of the resident community
Financial Resources	Involvement of the private sector
Technical Resources	Involvement of regional agencies
Capacity building	Involvement of international agencies

Step 3: Design of assessment questions

The formulation of a series of management questions that aim to explore the adequacy of current disaster risk management tools and resources of a country in each of the 6 disaster management phases and the design of a scoring system.

The questions were aimed to solicit four (4) forms of responses:

- a definite "YES",
- a "Qualified YES",
- a definite "NO", and
- a "PLANNED" response.

Sample of Assessment Questions: Hazard Mapping and Assessment

1. Are hazard maps available in public places e.g. community centers, place of worship, police stations, supermarkets within the hazard impact zones?
2. Do you have trained local capacity for the preparation, publication, and revision of hazard maps?
3. **Are local communities, private sectors actively involved in the preparation, publication, and revision of hazard maps?**
4. Do you have a policy that mandates the preparation, publication, and revision of hazard maps for all communities?
5. Do you have legislation that mandates the preparation, publication, and revision of hazard maps for all communities?
6. Do you have standards and regulations for the preparation, publication, and revision of hazard maps?

Step 4: Stakeholder review and modification of the BTool

- **The draft BTool was reviewed by regional and international practitioners and specialists in disaster risk management.**
- **Very useful feedback was received leading to the production of several updates of the BTool.**

Step 5: Workshop on the use of the BTool

At the end of the regional and international reviews, national stakeholders' reviews were held in eight Caribbean States: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Stage 6: Adoption of the tool by local, national, and regional stakeholders

After the series of review, the BTool was adopted by national and regional stakeholders.

Results of the Assessment of Six Caribbean Countries

Dominica

Phases of Risk Management	TNQ	Max Scores	Total Score	% Score	Regional Rank
Risk Identification Index	105	315	113	36%	5 th
Risk Mitigation Index	63	189	35	19%	6 th
Risk Transfer Index	48	144	32	22%	5 th
Disaster Preparedness Index	122	336	148	40%	3 rd
Emergency Response Index	55	165	77	47%	4 th
Rehabilitation Reconstruction Index	52	156	3	2%	6 th
Total	445	1335	408	31%	6th

Grenada

Phases of Risk Management	TNQ	Max Scores	Total Score	% Score	Regional Rank
Risk Identification Index	106	318	129	41	4th
Risk Mitigation Index	62	186	76	41	4th
Risk Transfer Index	48	144	61	42	2nd
Disaster Preparedness Index	120	360	228	63	5th
Emergency Response Index	57	171	91	53	3rd
Rehabilitation Reconstruction Index	56	168	27	16	5th
Total	449	1347	612	45%	5th

Antigua and Barbuda

Phases of Risk Management	TNQ	Max Scores	Total Score	% Score	Regional Rank
Risk Identification Index	105	315	83	26%	6 th
Risk Mitigation Index	63	189	39	21%	5 th
Risk Transfer Index	48	144	32	22%	5 th
Disaster Preparedness Index	122	366	246	67%	2 nd
Emergency Response Index	55	165	138	84%	1 st
Rehabilitation Reconstruction Index	52	156	90	58%	2 nd
Total	445	1335	628	47%	4th

St. Lucia

Phases of Risk Management	TNQ	Max Scores	Total Score	% Score	Regional Rank
Risk Identification Index	106	318	157	49%	1 st
Risk Mitigation Index	62	186	93	50%	3 rd
Risk Transfer Index	48	144	36	25%	4 th
Disaster Preparedness Index	120	360	247	69%	1 st
Emergency Response Index	57	171	95	56%	2 nd
Rehabilitation Reconstruction Index	56	168	63	38%	4 th
Total	449	1347	691	51%	3rd

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Phases of Risk Management	TNQ	Max Scores	Total Score	% Score	Regional Rank
Risk Identification Index	105	315	136	43%	3 rd
Risk Mitigation Index	63	189	127	67%	2 nd
Risk Transfer Index	48	144	48	33%	3 rd
Disaster Preparedness Index	122	366	205	56%	4 th
Emergency Response Index	55	165	92	56%	2 nd
Rehabilitation Reconstruction Index	52	156	82	53%	3 rd
Total	445	1335	690	52%	2 nd

St. Kitts and Nevis

Phases of Risk Management	TNQ	Max Scores	Total Score	% Score	Regional Rank
Risk Identification Index	106	318	145	46	1st
Risk Mitigation Index	62	186	127	68	1st
Risk Transfer Index	48	144	67	47	1st
Disaster Preparedness Index	120	360	201	56	4th
Emergency Response Index	57	171	90	53	3rd
Rehabilitation Reconstruction Index	56	168	144	86	1st
Total	449	1347	774	57%	1st

Benefits of the BTool

- It provides a snapshot of a country's exposure to natural disaster.
- It can be used to build support for the allocation of resources to reduce risk in areas defined by the BTool.
- It can be used to prioritize national and regional programmes of activities.
- It can be used as an incentive at the political level to stimulate action due to the comparative nature of its scores against another country.
- It provides information that may be used by regional and international funding agencies to define or redefine programmes of assistance to the region.

Weakness of the BTool

- Too comprehensive with too many assessment questions
- It focus mainly on national disaster management programmes and not community-based programmes.
- It is not intended, at this time, to be comprehensive given the following multi-dimensions of disaster risk management.
- In its present form, it covers all the vulnerable elements in general but may be redesigned to focus on any one of the following vulnerable elements:
 - ❖ affected population,
 - ❖ infrastructure,
 - ❖ economy,
 - ❖ environment.
- Its reliance on the responses of the respondents, ensuring that the response reflects current national efforts, and validation of responses.



Regional utilities of the BTool

It identifies the country that has a higher index in a particular component and thus helps to identify what risk reduction tools and mechanisms the country has deployed to attain this high index. Other countries may then seek to learn from this country.

It identifies countries that scored low indices in a particular component and thus supports in the design of regional projects to reduce a country's risk and improve their score in the next year.

If the assessment is done on an annual basis, the RMIs and TDRMIs of a country over a period of years may provide an indication of whether the country is improving in its disaster risk reduction efforts or not.

It may be used to evaluate the impacts of a disaster risk reduction investment project.

It may be used to evaluate the relative strengths and weakness of disaster risk reduction initiatives of a country.

Regional Evaluation

Country	RI	RM	RT	DP	ER	RR	Total
Colombia							
Mexico							
Jamaica							
Chile							
Haiti							
Brazil							
Guyana							
Canada							

Recommendation

It is proposed that disaster risk profiles of the each countries in the hemisphere be undertaken along with hemispheric benchmarking of countries.



Issues for discussion

- 1. Does the hemisphere need a benchmarking tool?**
- 2. Is the BTool adequate for such benchmarking?**
- 3. Are there other tools that may provide similar utilities?**
- 4. How do we get political support for BTool implementation in the hemisphere?**

Thank you

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Implementing the BTool

Steps in implementing the BTool:

- ❖ Establish a National Risk Reduction Committee in each country that has the responsibility to implement the BTool, and present the results of each country's readiness to withstand natural hazards
- ❖ Build the knowledge-base of major public and private agencies on the utility of the BTool as a self-assessment disaster risk management evaluation tool.
- ❖ Formulate policy directives and legislative support towards the mainstreaming of the BTool as an annual audit tool to be implemented by all key agencies of a country.
- ❖ Build effective public awareness programme that promote stakeholder participation and involvement in the use and adaptation of the BTool.
- ❖ Provide sufficient financial and technical resources by national governments to fulfill the objectives of the BTool.