



Department of Emergency Management

# Managing Public Health Emergencies :The Barbados Experience



Presented by

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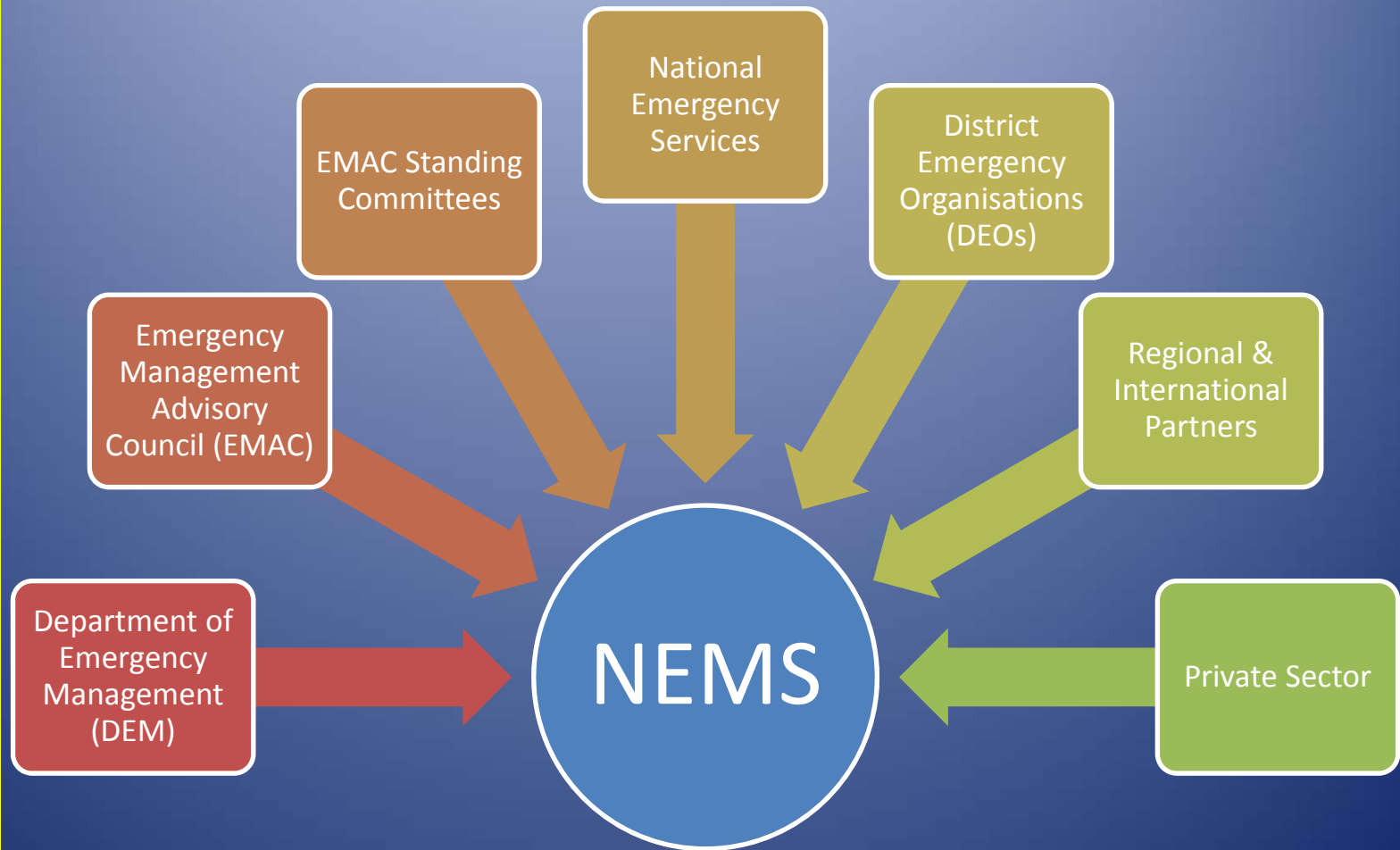


# Presentation Outline

- Background: The National Emergency Management System(NEMS)
- Case Study: A H1N1 Pandemic Response 2009
  - Preparedness, Alert & Mobilisation, Response- Agency ,Sector, National, Regional
  - Policy Issues
  - Lessons Learnt / Applied



# National Emergency Management System





# Guiding Principle

- Integrated and coordinated disaster management based on partnerships and cooperation between public, private sector, NGO and regional and international entities



# Case Study A H1N1 Pandemic Response Timeline





April 2009

- Monitoring of global situation. Updates from national, regional and international agencies
- 27<sup>th</sup> April: Convening of meeting to update stakeholders and discuss national response to threat. Followed by a press conference.
  - Key agencies involved: Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Tourism, Education, International Transport, Foreign Affairs, DEM, Ports of Entry, Immigration and Customs Department, QEH, Police, PAHO, BHTA



April 2009

- Monitoring of the situation by national authorities
- Ministries of Agriculture & Health Response
  - Measures for Port health surveillance , laboratory, site, quarantine and isolation measures, travel advisory, general hygiene, polyclinic response, prophylaxis and treatment
- Wider Emergency Management Response
- Information sharing and gathering for agencies.



April 2009

- No reported cases in Barbados & Caribbean Region.
- However precautionary measures advised and taken throughout various agencies of government, wider public.
- Ensure agency SOPs are updated





April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- 1<sup>st</sup> National Emergency Management Coordination Meeting
  - To give an situational overview
  - Discuss its implications for Barbados
  - Decide on appropriate actions to be taken
  - Discuss areas of concern
  - Recommended reporting mechanism
  - Way Forward



April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Decisions reached at 1<sup>st</sup> National Emergency Management Coordination Meeting
  - Institute passive surveillance at Ports of Entry
  - Travel Advisory: avoid non-essential travel.
  - Agencies review and update their SOPs
  - National planning and coordination cell established utilising NEMS



April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Screening & monitoring mechanisms in place similar to CWC 2007 eg advanced passenger lists.
- PPE for frontline personnel
- Public Awareness incl. training & sensitisation of staff, train-the –trainer, public service announcements



April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Cabinet Level Briefing
  - To give an situational overview
  - Discussion on national level implementation plan eg appropriate actions taken by health, ports of entry and other agencies implemented its implications for Barbados
  - Protective measures for key frontline and response personnel : general hygiene, PPE, treatment availability



April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Treatment availability , distribution and logistics
- Discussion on key national level considerations
  - Public Health Emergency vs National State of Emergency
  - Contingency plan for workforce mobilisation
  - Incident management
  - Destination /Reputation Management
  - Restriction of Mass Gatherings
  - Availability of finances to implement key actions



May 2009

- Briefing Social Partnership
  - Key representatives of government, labour unions, private sector
  - Situational awareness
  - Dissemination of information, reaching their sphere of influence
  - Strategic policy issues and implications



## National Actions as at May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Activation of National Plan and procedures
- Increased surveillance at ports of entry
- Procurement of additional doses of medication
- Health Promotion Public Awareness Campaign targeting frontline personnel, response agencies, Cabinet, general public
- Activation of NEOC & HEOC
- Samples sent to CAREC
- CDEMA Sub-Regional /Regional Updates



May 2009

- 7<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> National Emergency Management Coordination Meeting
- PAHO/CAREC Illumination Session
- 11<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> -Health Sector Coordination Meetings
- At 20<sup>th</sup> WHO reported 10,242 cases in 41 countries with 81 deaths
- No confirmed cases from specimen tested by CAREC
- Suspected case from New York :necessary procedures and home quarantine implemented.
- Strategic policy issues and implications
- Increase in public awareness activity





June 2009

- 4<sup>th</sup> June - 3rd National Emergency Management Coordination Meeting
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Press Conference
  - Global Status update 28,774 people in 74 countries, 144 deaths
  - National 3 confirmed cases in Barbados - however mild
  - Increased precautionary measures
  - Increase the public awareness campaign
- CDEMA Sub-Regional /Regional Updates



July 2009

- Continued public awareness campaign, surveillance etc.
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for use in various settings developed by Ministry of Health and disseminated.
  - Home Isolation Guidelines For People with Influenza
  - Care of Children with Influenza :Guidelines for Day Care Setting and Home
  - Guidelines for Mass Gatherings during Influenza Pandemic
  - Instructions for Summer Camps

CDEMA Sub-Regional /Regional Updates



## August 2009

- Continued public awareness campaign, surveillance etc.
- August 4<sup>th</sup> – PAHO/CAREC Elluminate Sessions
  - As of July 31<sup>st</sup> 151,164 confirmed cases of A H1 N1 with 1119 deaths in 159 countries
- CDEMA Sub-Regional /Regional Updates



# Lessons Learnt

- National **Coordination** mechanism proved to be an invaluable framework
- **Communication** is key. Keeping all stakeholders at all levels informed.
- Importance of heightened awareness of population and media
- Partnership and **collaboration** is critical in any national level response.
- Reinforced the usefulness of preparedness planning



# Lessons Learnt

- Opportunity to validate existing plans and SOPs
- Provision of a catalyst to further develop plans and SOPs
- Reporting and recording mechanism important
- Opportunity to discuss response challenges
- Information Management was critical: accuracy, timeliness, communication to target audience
- Importance of Exercises :FAHUM March 2009



# Department of Emergency Management





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**Grazie** Danke Ευχαριστίες Dalu  
Thank You Köszönöm  
Tack

Спасибо Dank Gracias

谢谢 **Merci** Seé  
ありがとう

Obrigado