

Lessons learnt from the Pandemic on Community Mobilisation in the Caribbean

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Lesson 1: Listen First

- A training exercise in Tobago began with a litany of what would not work in Tobago.
- In desperation, the trainers opted to do a facilitated simulation
- To their surprise they discovered a lot of things the Tobagonians *could* do!



Lesson 2: Advocate & Negotiate

The Minister of Health Guyana personally provided information and answers to villagers on Avian Influenza as preparation for a simulation exercise.

The Villagers negotiated for a new health post, upgraded road access and even composed a song about preparing for a pandemic.



Lesson 3: Provide the means to community

- Municipal Toolkit pilot testing with the Laborie Village Council, Saint Lucia
- The Villagers assessed their community risk for emergencies using the Toolkit



Lesson 4: Share the work

- Supporting Local Government advocacy and training in Chaguanas, Trinidad
- The Local Government officials were able to point out ways to strengthen community preparations



Lesson 5: Teach New Skills

- Use of PPE for possible avian influenza outbreak in Curacao

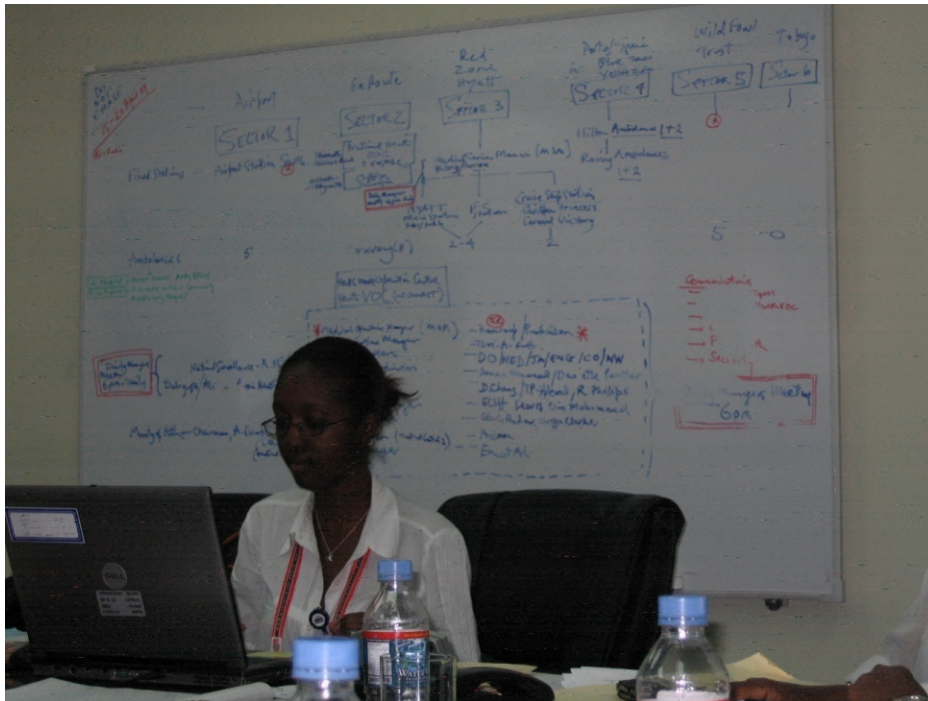


Lesson 6: Inspire people

- Too technical materials cause non-technical audiences to zone out
- A simple image told a huge story and galvanized people's imagination.



Lesson 7: Use all opportunities to test systems



Lesson 8: Learn from mistakes & share successes

- Reviews of country experiences crucial to improve systems and plans.



Lesson 9: Co-opt others to reach different communities

- “I don’t want to play your mas’ but I want to know were you will be jumping.”



Lesson 10: Provide vision

***“IF YOU WANT TO BUILD A SHIP,
DON'T DRUM UP THE MEN TO GATHER WOOD,
DIVIDE THE WORK AND GIVE ORDERS.....***

ANTOINE SAINT-EXUPERY.

Lesson 10: Provide vision

***“IF YOU WANT TO BUILD A SHIP,
DON'T DRUM UP THE MEN TO GATHER WOOD,
DIVIDE THE WORK AND GIVE ORDERS.***

***INSTEAD, TEACH THEM TO YEARN FOR THE VAST
AND ENDLESS SEA.”***

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