



Sangster International Airport, UNDP, ACI-LAC and DHL Collaborate on Disaster Preparedness Training in Jamaica

Sangster International Airport authorities strengthened capabilities to act and respond to disasters during DHL's Get Airports Ready for Disaster workshop

Montego Bay, Jamaica (May 13, 2021): The Sangster International Airport in Jamaica strengthened disaster preparedness and response plans as well as relevant protocols and procedures by hosting and conducting Deutsche Post DHL Group's **Get Airports Ready for Disaster (GARD)** workshop this week. GARD is a public-private partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Deutsche Post DHL Group, the world's leading mail and logistics services provider.

The GARD program helps prepare airports to handle the influx of incoming relief goods after a disaster. The sessions were held May 11 – 13, 2021, at the Sangster International Airport (MBJ). Participation included 17 representatives from MBJ, St. James Municipal Corporation, CGC Ground Services (Jamaica) Limited, AJAS Limited, PAC Kingston Airport Limited (PACKAL) and Jamaican government organizations, including: Defense Force (JDF-West), Constabulary Force (Supt. Ports Division), Customs Agency (JCA), Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Ministry of Transport and Mining (MTM), and Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the workshop included virtual and in person participation as well as the use of DHL smart glasses provided by the DHL Innovation Center to aid in the workshop experience for those attending virtually. Workshop panelists included:

- Shane Munroe, CEO, MBJ Airports Limited
- Denise Antonio, Resident Representative, UNDP, Jamaica
- Ava Whyte-Anderson, Programmes Analyst, UNDP, Jamaica
- Rafael Echevarne, Director General, Airports Council International Latin America & Caribbean
- Gavyn Symons, General Manager, DHL Express Jamaica
- Frank Losada, GARD trainer, DHL Express Americas

"As a primary gateway to the island of Jamaica, Sangster International Airport is a critical national infrastructure for disaster preparedness and response. The GARD program enabled us to assess our infrastructure and strengthen our disaster relief transport and distribution expertise. We are pleased to coordinate with DHL, ACI and UNDP on this effort," said **Shane Munroe, Chief Executive Officer, MBJ Airports Limited.**

Airports play a key role when a disaster strikes, enabling incoming goods to reach those in need. It is critical for stakeholders involved in disaster preparation to coordinate and work to strengthen airports' capacity to ramp up and manage these large-scale operations in advance of a disaster.

"ACI-LAC joins this important initiative between DHL and the United Nations (UNDP) with the objective of supporting the communities served by our airports in critical moments such as natural disasters. The GARD program is a clear example of this philosophy and goes beyond the traditional functions of airports and puts the airport as the hub for supporting the population it serves," says **Dr. Rafael Echevarne, Director General, Airports Council International Latin America and Caribbean (ACI-LAC).**

A disaster is by nature disruptive. Moreover, the need to ensure compliance with customs regulations, immigration, storage and movement of goods, and relief distribution can reduce the efficiency and speed of delivering goods and services to an affected population.

“UNDP is keen on building the capacity and resilience of key local stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective response to crises. Air transport is an essential pillar in supporting early response and recovery efforts immediately following a crisis. Through past disasters, we know the valuable lessons and importance of airport preparedness and developing strong private-public partnerships,” said **Denise Antonio, UNDP Resident Representative for Jamaica**.

DHL’s Disaster Response Teams (DRT) assist with airport logistics and warehousing of incoming aid during a disaster and provide proactive GARD training to prepare airport staff before a disaster strikes. **DHL’s GARD program has trained 1,300 participants at 55 airports in 28 countries.**

“DHL’s highly trained employee DRT volunteers and GARD trainers have provided logistics expertise and contributed to emergency response efforts throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. We continue to build strong relationships with local emergency response teams, airport and military authorities, and non-profit organizations to support humanitarian logistics efforts in the Americas,” said **Gilberto Castro, Senior Director Operations Colombia & Disaster Response Team Director for Americas, DHL**. “GARD is an integral part of DHL’s GoHelp program that covers all company disaster preparedness and management activities in support of our company purpose to connect people and improve lives.”

DHL’s Disaster Management Program

Deutsche Post DHL Group has operated its GoHelp **Disaster Management Program** in partnership with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) since 2005. Through this partnership, the Group provides the UN and national disaster management agencies with pro bono access to its core logistics expertise, and the logistics skills of nearly 900 specially trained DRT employee volunteers worldwide who can deploy within 72 hours after a disaster. Since 2005, DRTs have completed 53 deployments for disasters in 20 countries. **In the Americas, DHL has nearly 600-trained DRT employee volunteers ready to respond in 15 countries.**

In addition, DHL’s DRTs support its **GARD** initiative that trains airport management in high-risk regions to be better prepared should disaster strike. DHL developed GARD in 2009 in cooperation with the UNDP, to help prepare airports to handle the surge of incoming relief goods after a disaster.

In 2020 in the Americas, DHL deployed DRTs to support Hurricane relief efforts in Honduras, Colombia and Panama, managing more than 935 tons of humanitarian relief last year. In addition, DHL’s DRT employees were deployed for a total of 56 days to support COVID-19 response efforts in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Panama where employees helped establish COVID-19 supply warehouses, assemble and distribute food rations for those sheltered in place; and handled more than 100 tons of relief items.

Read more about Deutsche Post DHL Group’s **Disaster Management Programs** and sustainability activities in the **Sustainability ESG Report**. Listen to the Made in Americas Podcast “Answering the Call When Disaster Strikes” on **DHL.com** for more information on Americas DRT and GARD activities.

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About:

DHL – The logistics company for the world

DHL is the leading global brand in the logistics industry. Our DHL divisions offer an unrivalled portfolio of logistics services ranging from national and international parcel delivery, e-commerce shipping and fulfillment solutions, international express, road, air and ocean transport to industrial supply chain management. With about 400,000 employees in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide, DHL connects people and

businesses securely and reliably, enabling global sustainable trade flows. With specialized solutions for growth markets and industries including technology, life sciences and healthcare, engineering, manufacturing and energy, auto-mobility and retail, DHL is decisively positioned as “The logistics company for the world”.

DHL is part of Deutsche Post DHL Group. The Group generated revenues of more than 66 billion euros in 2020. With sustainable business practices and a commitment to society and the environment, the Group makes a positive contribution to the world. Deutsche Post DHL Group aims to achieve zero-emissions logistics by 2050.

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

MBJ Airports Limited, operator of Sangster International Airport, connects Jamaica to more than 60 international destinations. A record of 4.7m passengers used the airport in 2019. MBJ operates SIA under a 30-year concession awarded in 2003 and the airport provides employment to more than 7,500 persons. SIA has been named the Caribbean’s Leading Airport by World Travel Awards for 13 years.

Airports Council International (ACI) is the international organization of airports, with 1,960 airports in 176 countries. The office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ACI-LAC) has 270 airports in 34 countries that manage 95% of air traffic in the region.

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