

BCPR/RBLAC
Crisis Prevention and Recovery Practice Workshop
for Latin America and the Caribbean
Bogotá, Colombia, 27– 30 March 2006

I. Context

Crisis Prevention and Recovery (CPR) is a practice area of growing importance for the Latin American and Caribbean region. At present, more than half of the country offices in the region report under CPR multi-year funding framework (MYFF) lines, and BCPR's financial and technical support to these countries has varied or grown over the last years.

Latin America today is confronted with a multitude of challenges. While the continent looks back on more than two decades of democratic governance, the region faces growing social unease. Deep inequalities remain entrenched, serious levels of poverty prevail, economic growth is insufficient, and dissatisfaction with current democracies – manifest in many places by widespread popular unrest – is amplified, triggering crime-related violence and physical insecurity. In addition, the entire region is exposed to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, hurricanes and floods, which can wipe out years of development within minutes.

In order to further advance and develop the practice area, mainstream and share CPR knowledge throughout UNDP, and build capacities at both country office and headquarter levels, the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC) are organizing a workshop for the Latin America and Caribbean region. The workshop will bring together staff in a face-to-face dialogue; it will be designed to introduce the CPR practice area in the region and respond to the specific CPR needs of country office staff. This initiative aims to strengthen regional interaction and exchange to respond better to the challenges of programming and implementation for crisis prevention and recovery, and build a critical mass of CPR capacity.

II. Objectives and Output

Taking into account current challenges and the status of development in the Latin American and Caribbean region, the CPR workshop represents an opportunity for learning, sharing experiences and strengthening the collaboration between Bureaux and country offices. Specifically, the workshop will seek to:

- a. **strengthen CPR skills and capacities of UNDP country offices** in crisis prevention and disaster risk reduction and their interaction with other UN bodies in conflict and risk analysis by assisting country offices integrate a “conflict” lens into their programmes and planning instruments;
- b. **facilitate knowledge networking and management**, the exchange of experiences, expertise and lessons learned in the areas of integrated conflict prevention programs, democratic dialogue, justice and security sector reform (JSSR), and disaster risk reduction; and
- c. **establish a substantial CPR agenda** based on strategic opportunities for the work on CPR in Latin America and the Caribbean region, including modalities for knowledge management, partnerships and community building within the region.

III. Agenda and Programme

The workshop will pursue an **integrated approach** addressing the main CPR challenges and thematic linkages. It will focus on two thematic areas under a broader democratic governance framework, which are of critical importance to the Latin American and Caribbean region (see above):

1) Conflict Prevention Framework in Latin America and the Caribbean

The first part of this workshop will focus on the promotion of conflict sensitive approaches to development and the mainstreaming of conflict prevention into development programming. In addition, it will address specific conflict prevention interventions in three areas:

- a. capacity building of regional, national, and local institutions to reduce and manage conflict;
- b. consensus building by facilitating and convening dialogue processes; and
- c. citizen security/JSSR.

2) Natural disaster risk management

The increasing number of disasters in the region has a devastating impact on development, especially for the vulnerable populations who are concentrated in the areas at risk. Furthermore, the environmental degradation and general lack of disaster prevention awareness among institutions in the region are exacerbating the problem. This part of the workshop will look at:

- a. promoting a general understanding about the role of UNDP on disaster risk reduction and our mandate in relation to other UN bodies; and
- b. strengthening the capacities in the region to identify, manage and reduce risk through development programmes, and to develop a smooth transition between response and recovery activities. This will be achieved by:
 - disseminating the corporate UNDP approach on disaster risk reduction, available tools, resources and methodologies, best practices and past experiences;
 - mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into regular programming; and
 - carrying out national and sub-national risk and vulnerability assessments.

The workshop will also address questions of **mainstreaming gender issues in CPR** and **knowledge management** and how to improve **regional cooperation** in the area of CPR.

It will consist of several introductory plenary sessions, background presentations and thematically specific modules/clinics by subject, and will adopt an interactive and participatory process.

The agenda will be developed in cooperation with BCPR, RBLAC, BDP/ SURFs and the participants. A draft agenda will be disseminated among the participating country offices prior to the workshop to help shape the programme of the workshop.

IV. Participants

Participants will be national and international UNDP and project staff from the Latin American and Caribbean region. Each country office is invited to nominate up to two candidates. The selected participants will be notified shortly after the deadline. Country offices will be asked to identify staff members with a CPR portfolio, CPR focal points, or project staff with responsibilities related to CPR issues. The co-organizing Regional Bureaux and SURF staff will also be asked to participate.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOMINATION OF PARTICIPANTS IS 10 FEBRUARY 2006.

V. Resource persons

Resource persons will be UNDP practitioners with long-standing experience or sound expertise on CPR issues. They will be drawn from UNDP (BCPR, RBLAC, country offices, SURFs), other UN agencies, as well as institutions outside the UN system (i.e. key consultants, researchers, national and local government officials, NGOs, etc.).

VI. Working Language

The working language of the workshops will be Spanish and English. Simultaneous translation into English and Spanish will be available.

VII. Costs and Logistics

The costs of the workshop will be shared by BCPR, RBLAC and the country offices. BCPR and RBLAC will cover all local costs and facilitation of the workshop, as well as the accommodation of the participants. Country offices will be asked to cover the travel and 20% of the DSA for their participants. Information concerning hotels and local transportation will be circulated before the event.

VIII. Bureau Focal Points:

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