

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU)



Project title:

Capacity building for the incorporation of disaster risk management in development programmes and projects – The Caribbean

Project number:

00047934

Estimated start date: 01/10/2005
Estimated end date: 01/09/2007
Implementing agency: Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC)

Partners: UNDP, AECI, Alcalá University (Spain)

Total budget: 480,000 US\$

Beneficiary countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, and Cuba

General background:

The 2004 Caribbean hurricane season proved to be one of the worst in decades in terms of the number of countries affected (12), the number of deaths (more than 2,000), and the damage to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods. Only six years earlier, Hurricane Mitch had left behind a trail of destruction from which some of the affected zones have still not fully recovered. Such recurring natural disasters make it much harder for Caribbean and Central American governments to resolve their chronic economic and social development problems.

Vulnerability reduction is widely talked about in the region. But although there is now greater awareness of the linkages between development and disasters, general experience of disaster risk reduction continues to be limited. Public bodies' lack of knowledge of this issue prevents adequate mainstreaming of risk management into development planning, which has further led to continued high-risk and vulnerability development practices. It has therefore become critical to strengthen the risk reduction capacities of public servants at the multi-sectoral and local levels.

Since 2001, with the passing of Hurricane Mitch, CEPREDENAC and UNDP/BCPR have formed a strategic alliance to work together on a regional programme for risk management in Central America. Both organisations have strengthened ties and strategic actions in the fields of risk management and risk and vulnerability reduction in the

region. In this regard, a number of initiatives have been undertaken, including the systematization of lessons learned in local risk management processes, the updating of commitments and progress in the definition of the regional risk management agenda (through the Mitch+5 Forum), and the transversal incorporation of risk in development sectors such as public investment, initiated in Panama. The experience of this undertaking forms the basis for this capacity-strengthening project to incorporate disaster risk management into development programmes and projects.

Project summary

This project is a collaborative effort between CEPREDENAC and UNDP/BCPR, following up on the Hyogo Framework for Action and responding to the recommendation of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction results document to develop capacity building plans and programmes to ensure that risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional base for implementation.

Overall and specific objectives:

- To contribute to reducing disaster risk in Central America by strengthening the institutional and organizational technical capacities of the main public bodies involved in disaster risk reduction and development processes at the regional, national and local levels;
- To provide these bodies with the theoretical and methodological tools (in planning, finance and public investment) that will allow them to incorporate disaster risk reduction into development and territorial planning in a transversal manner;
- To strengthen CEPREDENAC's capacities to promote and follow up this process.

Expected results:

- A distance-learning degree programme on the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in development programmes and projects;
- A system of indicators to measure the progress of disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels in follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action;

Activities:

- Establish collaborative agreements with executing partners;
- Develop the disaster risk reduction degree programme and courses;
- Design an internet platform to access course modules;
- Create a scholarship programme and selection process;
- Select trainers to teach the course modules;
- Incorporate an indicator system into the degree content;
- Develop indicator systems in the framework of the Hyogo Action Plan, combining the experiences of UNDP, CEPREDENAC and other relevant actors;
- Develop implementation plans for the indicator systems in all respective countries;
- Develop risk reduction training plans for all respective countries;
- Design a new CEPREDENAC website with greater focus on disaster risk reduction as a development element;
- Promote and advocate for the implementation of the indicator systems in all respective countries;
- Support the management of this project through the recruitment of a candidate to reinforce CEPREDENAC's structure.

Project manager:

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