

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU)



Project title:

Fostering knowledge transfer and the replication of best practices in disaster preparedness and risk reduction within the Caribbean

Project number:

00048084

Estimated start date: 15/10/2005
Estimated end date: 15/12/2006
Implementing agency: UNDP
Partners: Regional organisations (CDERA, Association of Caribbean States, Caribbean Meteorological Organisation); national disaster reduction organisations and international organisations and NGOs implementing DIPECHO (Disaster Preparedness ECHO) proposals
Total budget: 614,000 US\$
Beneficiary countries: Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and selected English-speaking Caribbean countries

General background:

While there has been a positive growing trend in recent years towards the adoption and implementation of risk reduction strategies and practices in the Caribbean, including new institutions, initiatives, policies, programmes and tools at the local, national and regional levels, this proliferation has also been marked by fragmentation and lack of inter-connectedness and awareness of good experiences elsewhere. As a result, there has been a growing demand for better coordinated inter-institutional efforts that build upon individual strengths and experiences through complementary actions, as well as for stock-taking to take account of what initiatives exist and what experiences have proven successful. Knowledge-sharing has become a critical need to enhance learning and to make the best use of the rich body of experiences that are already practised in the Caribbean with a view to multiplying the application of good practices throughout the region.

The above needs were clearly seen during the 2004 heavy hurricane season in the Caribbean, as exemplified by the Kingston Declaration, the lessons-learned exercises

conducted by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), and the resulting Havana consensus and plan of action. Recommendations to address these gaps were also expressed by UNDP country offices and partners and by DIPECHO partners in recent meetings during 2004-05.

Project summary:

This project is intended to build capacity in institutions whose disaster preparedness and risk reduction work has incidence at local levels. The aim is to reinforce their coping capacities through the exchange of knowledge and preparedness best practices, including culturally sensitive and appropriate examples and methodologies that can be applied and utilised for reducing risk at the local level. The target agencies will be local, national and regional public institutions which will be included in and benefit from knowledge-sharing through the regional inventory of risk reduction initiatives, the interactive map of successful experiences and good practices, and in the regional knowledge workshops.

Overall and specific objectives:

- To reduce risk in the Caribbean by strengthening the capacity of organisations to better assist the vulnerable populations in the areas most at risk of recurrent natural hazards in the region;
- To foster appropriate and sustainable preparedness activities which are coordinated with local, national and regional public institutions and which can be easily replicated in other parts of the region and beyond;
- To facilitate the availability and reproduction of best practices and foster knowledge transfer in disaster preparedness and risk reduction initiatives within the Caribbean, as well as effective exchange and partnership among DIPECHO partners and institutions within the region.

Expected results:

- Enhanced knowledge and information exchange among DIPECHO partners in the Caribbean;
- Enhanced knowledge through the development and dissemination of an interactive map of successful experiences and good practices in the Caribbean.

Activities:

- Organise a first workshop with DIPECHO partners covered under the V Action Plan to identify common needs and interests and establish a common platform for future actions;
- Organise and facilitate regular coordination meetings between DIPECHO partners;
- Elaborate and follow up the action plan in coordination meetings;
- Design and develop a virtual forum or website on risk reduction designed by the partners;
- Organise, establish and train a research team and develop the work plan for the inventory and mapping exercises;
- Conduct an inventory of risk reduction initiatives in the Caribbean;
- Design the map of good practices in the Caribbean;
- Select and develop the map of case studies on good practices;
- Translate into relevant regional languages the inventory and map;
- Develop a video and CD-ROM. A specialized video company will be hire to write the screenplay, film and edit the video in three languages;
- Publish and distribute the inventory, map, video and CD-ROM;
- Design, organise, coordinate and facilitate two regional knowledge transfer workshops; consolidate the results and outcomes of both workshops.

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