

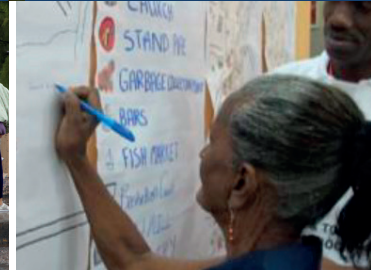
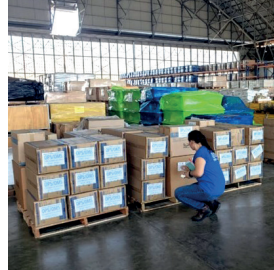
Workshop

Enhanced Disaster preparedness for systemic risk in complex scenarios: challenges and opportunities

13-16 April 2021

Virtual Event





Background

The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) has been providing assistance to the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region since 1994 in fulfilment of its humanitarian mandate to save and preserve lives to reduce disaster risk conditions and contribute to building the resilience of people, communities and countries in the region.

During this time, ECHO, through its Disaster Preparedness Programme (DP), has invested a more than 224 million euros in 34 countries in the region through more than 520 projects, reaching 13 million people in Latin American and the Caribbean, with the participation and involvement of a great diversity of organizations and partners. The disaster preparedness projects supported by ECHO are aligned with the goals defined by the countries of the region (either national or regional) and reinforce the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

In order to define funding priorities in disaster preparedness issues throughout the region, ECHO has conducted consultation workshops with key actors on the subject for two decades, both at the country level and at the subregional level: Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Every two years, each workshop produced guidelines, recommendations and strategies that have helped to facilitate and complement subregional events.

In 2018, the ECHO DP LAC workshop organised by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) brought together for the first-time actors from the three subregions - Central America, South America and the Caribbean - to exchange views, experiences, knowledge and ideas on how investments in disaster preparedness make the difference.

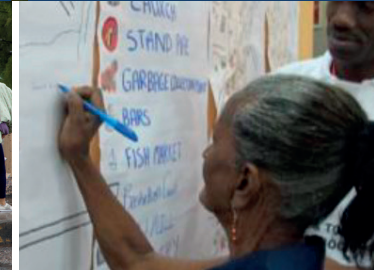
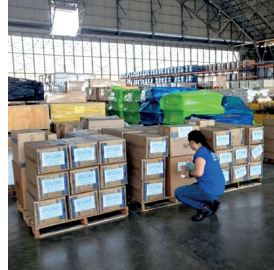
In 2020, the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic became the worst human and economic crisis of the last century with a death toll exceeding 2 million and had disproportionately affected several regions, including in Latin American and the Caribbean. It is also causing serious disruption to progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while exacerbating the vulnerabilities faced by the population in the region, that had been impacted by extreme hydrometeorological events, such as hurricanes ETA and IOTA in Central America, the cyclones in the Caribbean and by the continuous protracted emergency situations due to conflict, violence and political instability causing internal displacement and migration across the LAC region. This context inevitably led to the postponement of the workshop. However, during 2020, disaster preparedness (DP) actions continued to demonstrate the importance of reduce the exposure and vulnerability to risk in the region.

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Within this frame of reference, the workshop will be held virtually from April 13 to 16, 2021. Thus, it will constitute an opportunity for *ECHO* and *non-ECHO* partners working in disaster preparedness to showcase the impacts of DP actions in the region, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and complex emergencies requiring a better understanding of systemic risks.

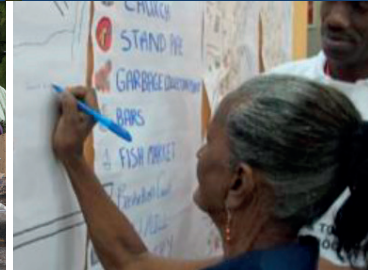
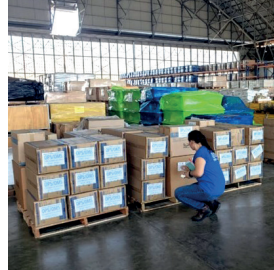
Objective of the workshop

Based on the findings of preparatory consultations (survey) with ECHO DP partners, the results of the two ECHO DP partners dialogues conducted in 2020 and the meetings of the Coordination Group the main objectives of this workshop are:

- to showcase how disaster preparedness actions, contribute to emergency response, early recovery and anticipatory action through an evidence-based approach.
- to discuss lessons learned and share experiences from implemented DP projects of ECHO and non-ECHO partners in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and complex emergencies.
- to assess the impact of DP projects in the region and how DP facilitates emergency response through key achievements and tools developed.
- to analyse DP actions alignment with key regional policies and strategies in the region and how DP evidence could influence the development of public policies.

The workshop will focus on presenting evidences on how disaster preparedness has a positive impact on emergency response, anticipatory action and early recovery, contextualised to the different risk situations faced in the region. Evidences may reflect a positive change in practice, the use of new institutionalized tools, or a successful early action that are helping to reduce risks and avoid emergencies or, when such events do occur, contribute to a more effective response or recovery process. The workshop will also provide the opportunity to reflex on challenges and discuss on how to strengthen DP actions to enhance institutional and multisectoral response mechanisms to respond to complex emergencies.

Through the exchange of experiences, the workshop itself will also be instrumental to collect key messages, recommendations and conclusions for the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021. Consequently, discussions will help to recognise how DP actions contributed to the achievement of Target E of the Sendai Framework, which focuses on *substantially increasing the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020*.



Expected results

1. Assessed impact of ECHO DP actions as well as programmes funded by other donors in the region and identified how DP actions facilitate early action, emergency response and recovery through discussions and provision of inputs and recommendations.
2. Evidence-based approach promoted that illustrates how disaster preparedness makes a difference through the presentation of concrete actions and lessons learned, especially in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and complex emergencies in the region.
3. Exchange enabled for local, national, regional and international cooperation organizations and their associated partners to share experiences on how DP actions are aligned to national and regional plans and how these are sustainable to respond to future emergencies.
4. Recommendations, messages and inputs on how DP interventions contribute to faster and more efficient responses to disasters and how these can influence public policies in the region.

Participants

Approximately 150 key actors will participate in the workshop including representatives involved in disaster preparedness and response in Latin America and the Caribbean, national disaster risk management systems in the region, intergovernmental organizations on disaster risk management, Ministry authorities involved in multisectoral disaster preparedness and emergency response, current partners and counterparts of ECHO and other strategic partners, including donors, international, regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, multilateral organizations and bilateral cooperation agencies involved in disaster preparedness. The list will include:

- Intergovernmental agencies: CAPRADE/CAN, CDEMA/CARICOM, CEPREDENAC/SICA y RMAGIR/MERCOSUR
- National authorities / national systems for DRM and DRR from throughout the region;
- National authorities from Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Social Protection among others;
- National, subregional (South America, Central America and the Caribbean) and regional (LAC) partners and their local counterparts;
- Representatives of international, multilateral and binational agencies in the region (donors) and their partners;
- Sectoral representatives and interested parties;
- ECHO, representatives of the EU Delegations in Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of other services of the European Commission (DEVCO, EUROCLIMAT, etc.).