Catalysing a decade of disaster preparedness action in Latin America and the Caribbean

Hybrid event
8 September 2022
16:00 to 18:00 CET
UN House Brussels
The European Commission’s Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG 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, DG ECHO, through its Disaster Preparedness budget line, previously known as DIPECHO, has invested more than 224 million euros in 34 countries in the region through more than 520 projects, reaching 13 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation and involvement of a great diversity of organizations and partners. The disaster preparedness projects supported by DG 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.

The impact disasters have had in the Americas and the Caribbean, including recently the COVID-19 pandemic, the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the 7.2 earthquake in Haiti, the ETA and IOTA hurricanes in the Central American region, and hurricane ELSA in the Caribbean territory, among others, and the specific challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean region, require a concerted integration of disaster risk reduction into all policies, plans and investment. As stated in the 2021 Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk (RAR21), between 1997 and 2017, one out of four disasters in the world occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean. Nine out of ten people affected by these disasters were impacted by weather events (mostly floods, some of which could have been predicted). Seven out of ten disaster related deaths were triggered by a geological hazard (mainly earthquakes).

Leaving aside the data associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 175 events of natural origin were recorded in the Latin American and Caribbean region during the 2020-2022 period, 88% of which correspond to events associated with meteorological, climatic and hydrological phenomena (EM-DAT).

Since 2011, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and DG ECHO have joined forces in 14 ECHO financially supported Actions (an investment of EUR 7,818,367) undertaken in Central America (4 Actions), South America (5 Actions), Caribbean (4 Actions) and one regional supporting activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is well underway and after a decade of cooperation. It is now the time to harvest
what has been the impact and the main outcomes of the collaboration between DG ECHO and UNDRR. Within this frame of reference, a commemoration event will be held in hybrid format on the 8 September 2022 at the UN House. (Boulevard du Régent 37-40, 1000 Brussels) from 16:00-18:00 CET and on Zoom. It will constitute an opportunity for DG ECHO and UNDRR to showcase the impacts of Disaster Preparedness actions in the region, especially in the context of complex emergencies requiring a better understanding of systemic risks with a critical analysis to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.

Objective

• To showcase how disaster preparedness actions implemented through the partnership of DG ECHO and UNDRR have made a difference in Latin America and the Caribbean.

• To share key achievements and tools developed during this decade, such as Disaster Preparedness actions alignment with key regional policies and strategies in the region and how Disaster Preparedness evidence influenced the development of public policies.

• Analyse lessons learnt and share views from partners and local actors on the way forward after this decade of partnership to improve disaster preparedness and resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Through the exchange of experiences, the event itself will also be instrumental to collect key messages, recommendations and conclusions for the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023.

Consequently, discussions will help to recognise how Disaster Preparedness actions contributed to the achievement of Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which focuses on substantially increasing the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
Speakers

Moderator: Mr Alvaro de Vincente, Head DG ECHO regional office in Panama, (virtual)
Ms Camilla Brückner, Director of the UN/UNDP Office in Brussels (in-situ)
Mr Raul Salazar, Chief, Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, UNDRR (in-situ)
Ms Andrea Koulaimah Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific, DG ECHO (in-situ)
Ms Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary, CEPREDENAC (virtual)
Mr Ronald Jackson, Head of the Disaster Risk Reduction, Recovery for Building Resilience Team, UNDP (virtual)
Mr. Raphael Harmoir, LAC Regional Humanitarian Manager – CARE International (virtual)
Mr. Cristian Torres, Director of General National DRR and Emergency Services of Ecuador (virtual)
Other speakers TBC
Master of Ceremony: Ms Stefanie Dannenmann-Di Palma, External Relations, UNDRR (in-situ):

Agenda

Welcome remarks
DG ECHO and UNDRR interventions (in-situ)
Panel discussion (virtual)
Q&A
Reception

Participants (virtual and in-situ)

- Ambassadors from Latin America and the Caribbean based in Brussels
- UN agencies
- 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 other;
- 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;
- DG ECHO, representatives of the EU Delegations in Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of other services of the European Commission (DG INTPA, EUROCLIMAT, etc.
- UNDRR implementing partners.
- Other interested stakeholders.
Logistic information

• The event will be in hybrid format, with an in-person event and virtual participation.
• **Registration for online participation:**  
  [https://undrr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3tTgkbr3TZC9AfLQKhCAAA](https://undrr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3tTgkbr3TZC9AfLQKhCAAA)
• The event will be in English with Spanish interpretation only for online attendee.
• Please note that due to limited space available for in person attendee (40 participants), we only can accept one representative per organisation.