KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CLIMATE SHOCK PREPAREDNESS GROUP

Meetings: April, July and October 2022

Objectives:
- Exchange information on regional initiatives and specific experiences on the theme of climate shocks
- Develop analysis of the challenges and lessons learned at the regional level on key aspects of this theme
- Contribute to the development of thematic recommendations and collections of good practices

Context

Climate shocks link with other crises such as migration, social crises, or epidemics, generating multicausal or complex crises. 83% of human crises are related to climate shocks. A third of the world’s population has been affected by extreme weather events in the last decade.

By 2030, climate-related disasters will increase to 1.5 disasters per day. Droughts will double and extreme temperature phenomena will triple.

Climate change will deepen humanitarian crises at least through two interrelated causes: the increase in the magnitude and frequency of extreme events (exposure to threats) and by the exacerbation of the vulnerability factors of human populations (greater susceptibility and less adaptive capacity).

Climate change induces variations in temperature, precipitation and soil moisture patterns that consequently increase droughts in much of the continent and alter known rainfall patterns. This new climate reality causes populations to face simultaneous or continuous extreme events and increase the impact of compound risks.

Key Messages

It highlights the importance of addressing resilience to climate shocks from ancestral knowledge for local response and strengthening information management for evidence-based decision-making.

It seeks to promote scaling up of disaster anticipation approaches as an innovative strategy to address climate shocks in LAC.

Topics of greatest interest among participating organizations:

- Disaster Anticipation Approaches and Early Action
- Methodological approaches and tools for climate shock preparedness
- Knowledge of the overlaps between DRR and climate change adaptation
Expected results of exchange processes:

- Documentation of experiences and good practices in the face of climate shocks
- Development of thematic trainings
- Compilation of methodologies and tools for managing the risk of climate shocks

Cases of Good Practices

The Resilient Farms Initiative in Cuba seeks to anticipate risks, absorb climate shocks, promote adaptive processes and transform systems and structures through climate change adaptation measures.

- The development of the Early Warning System is incorporated as a fundamental practice to improve climate resilience

It is important to undertake context-specific adaptive processes that allow building public policies based on local knowledge and ancestral strategies to cope with climate shocks (German Red Cross).

In Trinidad and Tobago, an Early Warning System seeks to improve flood forecast monitoring, detection and analysis capabilities, expand information on SATs, improve coordination and management capacities at community and national levels, and improve emergency and crisis response capabilities.

In Honduras, methodological frameworks are being created for the promotion of climate-smart livelihoods, environmental and climate policy designs, and early action plans for floods and droughts.

Early Action Plans are a compendium of innovative practices to improve anticipation and coordination in the face of extreme weather events.

Development of the Regional Climate Center for Southern South America is an information service to reduce the impacts of drought on agricultural production, hydroelectric generation and river navigation by improving capacities.

- Impact monitoring
- Improved response planning
- Strengthens governance
- Improved sharing and communication of this threat
- Allows referencing droughts with respect to past events
- Promotes drought policy to know what to do and who does it

The Subregional Meteorological Services Platform provides not only hydrometeorological products but also influences public policies in the face of poorly documented threats in their impacts.

The plan of anticipatory actions by extended heat wave in Guatemala includes detonators and thresholds to deploy actions consisting of activation of monetary transfers.
FAO's ASIS system includes anticipatory actions for agricultural drought while the Guatemalan Red Cross showed its early action plan for droughts and anticipatory actions in the face of hurricane strikes.

These three success stories share with anticipatory actions as a mitigation strategy against extreme drought, with triggers, thresholds and differentiated moments.

The need arises to know the influence of droughts on displacements of populations in the region.