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Building Preparedness Capacity for Community Emergency Response and Disaster Mitigation

International Disaster and Risk Conference

IDRC 2008

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Disaster Incidents in Latin America Over the Last 2-½ Years

Country	Type of Disaster	Frequency
Peru	Floods, Earthquake	5
Mexico	Earthquake, extreme cold weather, volcano	4
Colombia	Fire, Floods, Landslides, war, displaced	6
Chile	Winter Storms	2
Bolivia	Mudslides, floods, snow storms, drought	3
Argentina	Floods	1
Nicaragua	Floods, drought, hurricane	5
Ecuador	Volcano, drought,	5
Honduras	Drought, floods, hurricane, tropical storm	5
Brazil	Floods, drought	3
Haiti	Floods, wind storms, hurricane	5
El Salvador	Earthquake, drought , floods	5
Costa Rica	Dengue epidemic, earthquake, floods	4
Dominican Republic	Drought, hurricane, floods	5
Guatemala	Drought/Flooding, hurricane	5

Hurricane Mitch
Route over Honduras, October 1998

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Mitch causes catastrophic flooding and landslides -- ecosystems, infrastructure and watersheds are devastated

- 6,000 deaths; 1.5 million people affected
- 35,000 houses are destroyed and 50,000 badly damaged,leaving 441,150 people homeless
- 75% of population lose access to safe water.
- 70% PIB loss (valued at US$5 billion)
- More than 70% of roads seriously damaged; 63 bridges destroyed
- Loss of household goods: US$344 million
- 15,189 acres of crops destroyed

Total losses valued at US$4.6 billion

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WV Area Development Programs hit by Mitch

ADPs are located in poorest, worst-hit rural areas; five WV-sponsored children were killed by mudslides

04 Brisas del Valle
05 Jocón
07 Reitoca
08 Morazán
19 Las Cabezas
10 Valle
11 Yoro
13 Siria
14 Tierra Nueva
15 Trapiche

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World Vision Latin America & Caribbean Region

Community Emergency Response and Disaster Mitigation Project

Project Description

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World Vision Latin America & Caribbean Region

Community Emergency Response and Disaster Mitigation Project

HONDURAS

GUATEMALA

NICARAGUA

ECUADOR

COLOMBIA

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the community organization for participatory management of risk reduction and disaster response at Local and Municipal Emergency Committees.

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PROJECT STRATEGY

Project´s Proposal Socialization

Organization and Legalization of Local Emergency Committees

Establishment of Aliances

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Training and mentoring of community leaders in:

- **Emergency preparedness (evacuation, first aid, security, logistics & contingency plans)**
- **Risk management (relationship between risk, threats, vulnerability and capacities).**
- **Risk and Vulnerability mapping and mitigation plans.**
- **Well organized community with clear roles and responsabilities**

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Educational Materials Nicaragua

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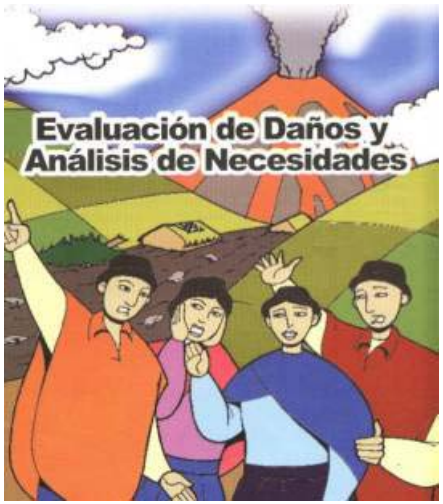
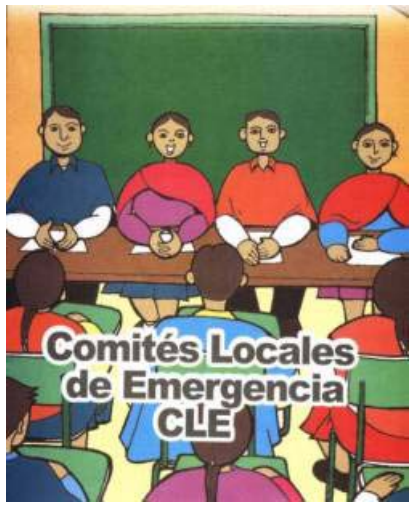
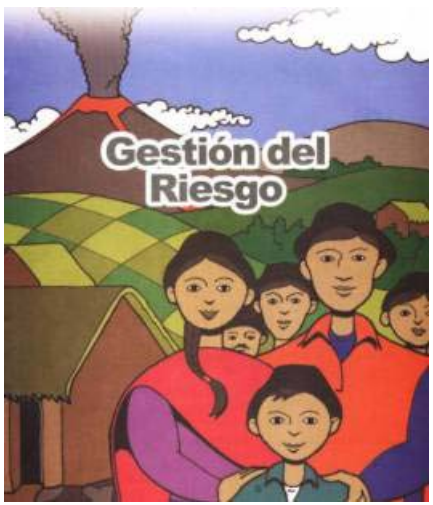
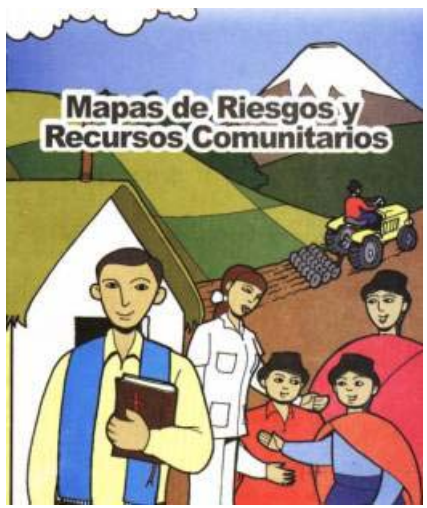
Educational Materials Ecuador









The implementation of these activities contributes to the following outcomes:

Boys and Girls in Guatemala electing their School Security Committee

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Create Awareness

Risk Mapping Training

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COLOMBIA

GUATEMALA

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Increase Knowledge

Risk Management Basic Concepts

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- Risk
- Vulnerability
- Threats

- Disaster
- Emergency
- Damage Assessment

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Improve Attitudes

Participating Actively To Be Prepared and Reduce Risk

School Students and Teachers Organization Honduras

Municipal Development Board Guatemala

Local Authorities Ecuador

Improve Aptitudes

To Respond to Emergencies

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- First Aid
- Evacuation
- Rescue

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- Fire Prevention
- Emergency Drills

Increase Participation

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To strengthen the sense of community responsability and awareness to address the problems that increase risk.

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RESULTS OBTAINED BY THE PROJECT

Item	Description
Major Achievements:	➢ Communities participating in and managing their own emergency response. ➢ 100% of Local Emergency Committees have Contingency Plans in line with Sphere standards. ➢ 100% of Local Emergency Committees have validated Emergency Plans including at least one simulation per annum.
Lessons Learned:	A community that learns to be prepared and to resist the impacts of disasters also gains greater insight in and wherewithal to address the causes of longer-term poverty and underdevelopment.

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RESULTS OBTAINED BY THE PROJECT

Item	Description
Gender:	The participation of women in emergency issues is strengthened.
Community Participation:	Community resources were utilized in the process.
Steps for the future:	Consolidation of horizontal integration of decisions making and response within civil society between municipal and local levels.

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Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Liaisons and coordination between the different levels – community, municipal, national – are weak; and for preparedness to be effective, strong coordination must occur during all phases of the disaster management cycle.

- There is a need to establish common humanitarian action networks within civil society in order to build sustainability of processes to improve community capacities

- Empowerment of women is critical to effective preparedness. However, there are many constraints to this in Latin America deserving of particular attention. Women have a high interest in preparing for emergencies and participating in local leadership of Emergency Committees, but they are prevented from engaging in these activities by cultural traditions.

- Promotion of genuine participation of women must be done in a culturally sensitive manner.

- Development of human capital at community level is the most critical to effective preparedness and this requires significant investment by all actors (financial, technical, human, etc.) and is a long-term process.

- Development of human capital for local preparedness often requires realignment of strategy and policy.

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- Community organization and utilization of local resources is necessary for effective preparedness.

- To raise awareness amongst financial organizations and the private sector to support community capacity building process is difficult. It is easier to obtain funds for infrastructure projects, but without community capacities in place, disaster preparedness and risk reduction are not possible.

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CONCLUSIONS

- Building local preparedness capacities strengthens response to emergencies, reduces disaster risks, and helps foster confidence, dignity and resilience.
- A community that is prepared and is able to manage the impact of disasters also gains greater insight and wherewithal to address the causes of longer-term poverty and underdevelopment.

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CONCLUSIONS

- Several countries in the LAC Region are risk-prone countries, improving community capacities contributes to the region and specifically for civil society organizations networks supporting preparedness awareness raising and early warning processes in line with the Priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action.
- These important lessons should be integrated into policies and strategies of stakeholders working to reduce disaster risks worldwide

Thank your for your attention