



Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas
Investing for resilience - Third Session - Santiago de Chile -26-28 November, 2012



Communiqué Santiago de Chile

Investing in Resilience

Accelerating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Americas

10 December, 2012

1. The participants of the Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, representatives of the States and Territories from all levels of government, subregional and regional mechanisms of coordination and collaboration, international and bilateral financing mechanisms, organizations, institutions and representatives of civil society¹, gathered in the city of Santiago, Chile from 26 to 28 November 2012:
2. Express our thanks to the Chilean people and Government, in particular to the National Emergency Office within the Ministry of Interior and Public Safety (ONEMI), for their hospitality and support that enabled the success of this Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.
3. Manifest our solidarity and support to the countries of the region recently affected by adverse events such as Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama and the United States.
4. Reaffirm our conviction that the path to economic, social and environmental sustainable development that recognizes and nurtures the cultural diversity of the Americas requires bold and innovative approaches which allow for consolidating the achievements and advances in the effective reduction of the underlying factors of risk such as poverty eradication and inequality of access among nations, territories and communities to information, knowledge, resources and opportunities.
5. Acknowledge the work being developed in the region surrounding Disaster Risk Reduction, as guided by the principles and priorities set out in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. At the same time we also recognize the need to achieve a higher level of political commitment towards the establishment of clear targets for Disaster Risk Reduction that can be quantified and verified, as well as the mechanisms that would improve controls, follow-up and accountability.
6. Renew our commitment to consolidate the achievements and redouble our efforts to advance in the full implementation of policies, strategies, plans, programs and projects being promoted by the different levels of government and actors of civil society aimed at increasing the resilience of nations and communities to disaster risk and their capacity to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change in the region,

¹ All mentions of civil society throughout this document include community and grassroots organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, the academic-scientific community, among others. Notwithstanding, there are several mentions of certain groups in particular.



Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas

Investing for resilience - Third Session - Santiago de Chile - 26-28 November, 2012



particularly in the case of Small Island Development States (SIDS) and those Central American countries considered most vulnerable.

7. Urge the different agencies, funds and initiatives that support Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) to establish synergies, avoiding the dispersal of resources and talent, as well as assisting governments and societies to do the same within their respective countries and subregions.

Renewing the political commitment

8. Invite local, subnational and national governments², the regional and subregional mechanisms in the Americas such as OAS, SICA/CEPRENAC, CARICOM/CDEMA, ACS, CAN/CAPRADE and Mercosur/REHU, the various international agencies and the different actors of civil society to renew their commitment to take on responsibilities towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.
9. Recognize and further encourage the political support and commitment by governments as expressed in the recent Rio+20 Declaration "The Future We Want" to urgently advance with the integration of a risk management focus within the formulation of sustainable development policies in a manner that allows for reducing existing risks, controlling the generation of new risks and increasing the disaster resilience of communities and nations.

Approach to Actions for consolidating achievements and overcoming challenges identified³

10. Taking into account the discussions carried out within the framework of the Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, we express:
11. Our conviction on the need to recognize the role and promote the empowerment, coordination, cooperation and articulation of civil society and its diverse forms of organization as key actors in support of all levels of government for achieving a higher level of social demand as well as inclusive and equitable participation on issues relating to climate change and disaster risk reduction in order to increase the resilience of communities; in this sense we recommend:
 - a. Strengthening actions aimed at developing the mechanisms, with adequate financing, that promote the integration of concepts and practices surrounding disaster risk reduction and increased disaster resilience in a continuous way

² Hereon in the term "all levels of government" will refer to the various levels of government at the local, subnational and national levels; although there are several instances that refer to specific levels of government.

³ Annexes 1 and 2 refer respectively to the declaration of the Regional Coalition on Children in DRR as well as to additional considerations suggested by representatives of the academic sector (in Spanish).



Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas

Investing for resilience - Third Session - Santiago de Chile - 26-28 November, 2012



- within education, training and scientific-technical research programs at all levels and among all sectors.
- b. Designing and implementing activities geared towards public awareness-raising and activism through the development of communications strategies, utilizing the potential of social networks and the media.
 - c. Designing mechanisms that, based on the existing capacities, strengthen participation and ensure integration, in programmes and projects, of the interests of people living in vulnerable conditions⁴, in particular individuals with special needs, children and youth, the elderly as well as men and women living in situations of poverty and food insecurity.
 - d. Promoting the design and implementation of programmes and projects aimed at developing and strengthening capacities on issues relating to risk management by the different actors of civil society and recognizing, among other things, the cultural diversity, the criteria of gender equality, the differences between rural and urban contexts, as well as the need to ensure the sustainability of livelihoods.
 - e. Promoting the creation of innovative instruments that facilitate collecting, analyzing and disseminating as well as access of all actors to the information needed to support processes surrounding planning, decision-making and investment that include risk management at all levels; information that is appropriate to the particularities of the specific contexts and actors (governments, institutional actors, communities and the population at large).
12. The need to recognize and consolidate the link between the public and private sectors as a key factor in developing disaster resilient businesses, industries and societies; in this regard we recommend:
- a. Moving ahead with actions to identify challenges and propose alternatives for strengthening the public-private⁵ alliances geared towards effective risk management, including risk associated with climate change.
 - b. Promoting and disseminating the commitments made by the Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Partnerships (DRR-PSP)⁶ as supported by UNISDR, in order to promote the development of partnerships for analyzing the root causes of activities that generate vulnerability; benefiting from the experience of the private sector in areas of construction, communications, financing, transportation and contingency planning; sharing knowledge surrounding prediction, forecasting and

⁴ The concept of vulnerability is understood here in an integral way that includes social, economic, environmental and physical factors.

⁵ The private sector is understood here as the for-profit segment of the economy and which is not controlled by the State or its dependencies.

⁶ Detailed information surrounding the DRR-PSP's Five Essentials is available through the following link: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/networks/public/psp/essentials/>.



Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas

Investing for resilience - Third Session - Santiago de Chile -26-28 November, 2012



- early warning; assisting governments in carrying out risk assessments; and helping to develop standards and procedures for improving resilience.
- c. Promoting the development and strengthening of cooperation mechanisms among governments, private sector and civil society organizations on issues relating to disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in local and national contexts.
 - d. Identifying, systematizing and disseminating good practices and lessons learned on issues relating to business resilience (commercial and productive activities).
13. We invite the agencies and coordination mechanisms of all levels of government to, in the context of development planning and management processes, establish and/or consolidate policies surrounding disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change; in this sense we recommend:
- a. Promoting a continuous process for reviewing regulatory frameworks and public policy frameworks at the national, subnational and local levels, with emphasis on the inclusion of instruments for ensuring financing of risk management initiatives, particularly at the levels of local government and of the leading agencies of the national systems; as well as the design of mechanisms that allow for monitoring and verifying the impact of implementation, with the participation of civil society.
 - b. Strengthening or establishing procedures for the use of reliable information as input to support the continued process of reviewing and adjusting the public policies and planning processes surrounding risk management. Such information would be obtained from the systematic recording and analysis⁷ of damages and losses caused by the occurrence of intensive and extensive events of natural or anthropogenic origin, as well as from the estimates of probable impacts associated with the various scenarios surrounding climate change.
 - c. Promoting the development of understanding that stems from the integration of scientific-technical research, the use of traditional knowledge and the experience of local communities for concrete applications surrounding DRR, mindful of sectoral, local, cultural and gender differences.
 - d. Prioritizing actions oriented towards disaster risk reduction, with the necessary allocation of financial resources, in those components of the community deemed essential for saving lives, recovering the physical, mental and social wellbeing and health of the population affected by disasters and which therefore must remain permanently operational when needed most.
 - e. Identifying, systematizing and disseminating good practices and lessons learned on how to effectively integrate, in the processes surrounding sectoral and

⁷ The process of recording and analyzing should promote the conducting of disaggregated studies that account for different groups in vulnerable situations, for gender equity, cultural diversity and others.



Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas

Investing for resilience - Third Session - Santiago de Chile -26-28 November, 2012



- territorial development at all levels, risk management and adaptation to climate change.
- f. Strengthening the inclusion of a focus on gender equity and considerations of cultural diversity in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction policies and plans.
14. We invite the agencies and mechanisms of governments at all levels to, with the collaboration of the private sector and other sectors of civil society and in the context of policies surrounding sustainable development, establish and/or strengthen the procedures and instruments, including those of a financial nature, to ensure the integration of risk management and adaptation to climate change in the processes surrounding planning, development management, knowledge management and public investment; in this sense we recommend:
- a. Promoting the participatory design and implementation of standards and indicators to measure the impact, accountability and transparency of applying actions foreseen within the different moments of the risk management process at all levels.
- b. Supporting the development of economic incentives and financial instruments that can be used by all levels of governments for the allocation of specific budgets surrounding disaster risk reduction, including that associated with climate change, in public and private investments, infrastructure development and basic services, taking into consideration the commitments agreed upon within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- c. Working together, among all levels of governments, in the design of strategies to promote investment in the different processes of risk management and adaptation to climate change.
- d. Protecting public and private development investments, including at the community level, strengthening the application of existing good practices, as well as designing innovative and flexible instruments that include risk transfer mechanisms among other things.
- e. Promoting the initiative of the Regional Technical Donors Group as a space for dialogue and coordination within the region, facilitating the exchange of knowledge for the efficient financing of disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response.
- f. Promoting the creation of platforms surrounding disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change that could, along with the different levels of government, contribute through innovative proposals and monitoring mechanisms to strengthening governance and sustainability of actions.



Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas
Investing for resilience - Third Session - Santiago de Chile -26-28 November, 2012



Surrounding the mechanisms to promote, support and follow-up on the implementation of actions:

15. Highlighting the importance of ensuring that the preparation of the post-2015 framework is based upon a broad consultation process that incorporates the experiences and lessons learned from the Americas in areas surrounding public policy, disaster risk reduction financing, territorial development and participation of the private sector, we recommend:
 - a. Informing and inviting parliamentarians and other political and government actors as well as civil society organizations to participate in the consultation process surrounding the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and encouraging similar engagements at the regional and national level.
 - b. Strengthening the regional, subregional, national and local mechanisms responsible for DRR in their capacities to promote and support processes surrounding discussion and empowerment of the different actors in issues relating to DRR in their spheres of influence; thereby promoting the implementation of existing action plans at the regional and subregional levels.
 - c. Strengthening the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas Advisory Council, including representation of civil society, reinforcing its role to promote, lead and follow up on the advances and commitments made by concerned parties within the framework of global and regional agreements, as well as to guide the organization of future sessions of the Regional Platform.
 - d. Promoting and strengthening those mechanisms that facilitate the development and consolidation of initiatives of horizontal and triangular cooperation in areas of development and risk management.
 - e. Strengthening the capacities of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, to, in close coordination with its partners, support and follow up the consultation process and deliberations surrounding the post-2015 DRR framework, reflecting the contributions from all stakeholders at the different levels of government and civil society.
 - f. Disseminate the results of this Platform Session and of the consultation process herein carried out which constitute one of the region's contributions to the global process that will be analyzed during the 2013 Global Platform.



Visión Mundial



Estrategia Internacional para
la Reducción de Desastres



Annex 1

Santiago de Chile Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction focused on Early Childhood, Childhood, Adolescence and Youth.

The representatives and delegates from organizations interested in addressing childhood, adolescence and youth in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are part of the "Regional Coalition on Children for DRR" and participants of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, gathered in the city of Santiago de Chile, from 26 to 28 November 2012, declared:

Given that:

Latin America and the Caribbean region is heavily exposed to multiple seismic, hydro-meteorological, socio-natural and social hazards. These hazards are increasing due to climate change, which intensifies phenomena related to intense rainfall and prolonged droughts, which have an immediate and long-term impact on the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, with respect to social hazards, nine out of ten deaths in the Latin America and the Caribbean are caused by homicides, particularly in urban areas.

Disasters occur not only because of the exposure to a particular hazard, but also because of the extreme vulnerability of certain populations where girls, children, adolescents and young people, because of their particular psychological, physical and social characteristics, are in an age stratum in which they suffer in a disproportionate manner the consequences of disasters. The vulnerability is closely linked to the social processes taking place in disaster-prone areas and usually has to do with fragility, susceptibility or lack of "resilience" of the population.

The Latin American and Caribbean population is young. More than 50% of the population affected by disasters and social risk are the early childhood age group (0 to 8 years), children (9 to 11 years), adolescents (12 to 17 years) and youth (18 to 22 years) with their specific needs in emergencies and crisis situations: babies need specific attention in nutrition, hygiene, health care, and protection from trafficking, among other issues. Children need to not be separated from their parents, and school, psychosocial support and specific health care, among other issues, must not be interrupted. Teens and young women in disaster situations and social hazards face increased risk of violence, sex work and trafficking; they need to continue their education which is threatened by a higher risk of early pregnancy and the disruption of their learning cycle resulting in them being enrolled in informal labor.

Disasters and social violence, discrimination, and social inequity, are a major cause of the continuation of a cycle of poverty because of a lack of mechanisms for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in marginalized areas, given that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the greatest inequities in the world.



Visión Mundial



Estrategia Internacional para
la Reducción de Desastres



Disasters, shocks and stress factors in Latin America and the Caribbean are increasingly causing material losses, affecting basic social services such as health, water and sanitation, and education. These losses reduce the possibility for achieving basic human rights.

Girls, boys, adolescents and young people suffer disproportionately from the impact of disasters, climate change and social violence in the short, medium and long term. In the short term, disasters and social risk have an impact on their physical, material, and psychosocial welfare. In the medium term, the effect on sanitation and water supply increases the risk of endemic diseases, of which the most deadly for children is diarrhea and malaria, despite them being preventable diseases. Children, especially girls and adolescents, suffer an increase in violence and trafficking because of the loss of social protection systems in urban areas of high risk and / or because of disasters. Children suffer the interruption of their education which can lead to early school dropout in the long term. As a result of their school dropout, on top of them losing a learning space, there is a loss of security, nutrition, health care, and spaces for socialization and games. Finally, children suffer lifelong psycho-social effects from the loss of their loved ones, their parents, and their pets.

Noting that:

DRR actions centered on children aim to consider disasters and social risk as threats to human rights of children and youth, and to prevent and mitigate these risks so as to continue to protect these rights in all circumstances.

DRR, Social Risk Reduction (SRR) and Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) approaches focused on children aim to prevent and mitigate risks to ensure the continuity of the rights of children at all times, even during disasters and social crises. We take into account that the actions of DRR, SRR and ACC focused on children must consider threats in a holistic, comprehensive and systematic way, which include socio-natural and social hazards.

The actions of DRR, SRR and ACC focused on children aims to reduce the risks for children in all key social service sectors to reduce their underlying risk factors, including (but not limited to) water and sanitation, health and nutrition, food, education, and social protection services, among others.

The actions of RRD, SRR and ACC focused on children must take place both nationally with the development of laws and regulations, and at sub-national and local level, to ensure that policies are reflected in capacities in prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and local recovery actions.

The analysis of social risk and disasters focused on children is the first and most essential step for the analysis of specific vulnerabilities associated with children and the subsequent prioritization of actions in DRR, SRR and ACC for the most vulnerable in national development and risk management plans.



Visión Mundial



Estrategia Internacional para
la Reducción de Desastres



For comprehensive actions to reduce children's risks and to increase their resilience, we need to work in an inter-institutional way through national and local coordination.

The need to ensure the availability of baseline data disaggregated by age and sex has been highlighted, with a special focus on the most disaster-prone areas. Also, the importance of availability of mechanisms for damage and needs assessment, disaggregated by age and sex, focusing on children and people with different needs, is evident.

Recognizing that, within the framework of the 2012 Regional Platform for DRR, agencies and international cooperation organizations focused on addressing childhood, adolescence and youth - UNICEF, World Vision, Plan International, Save the Children, The RET-Protecting through Education, ISDR and other members that are a part of the "Regional Coalition on DRR for Children" support the implementation of the five priorities set out in the "Children's Charter for Disaster Risk Reduction" promoted globally:

1. Schools must be safe and education must not be interrupted.
2. The protection of children must be a priority before, during and after a disaster.
3. Children have the right to participate and have access to the information they need.
4. Community infrastructure must be safe, and relief and reconstruction must help reduce future risks.
5. Disaster Risk Reduction must reach the most vulnerable.

Agencies and international aid organizations focused on children's protection, part of the "Regional Coalition on DRR for Children", whose aim is to provide joint advocacy and proposals for technical support to governments and civil society in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the implementation of DRR action, **make the following commitments:**

- Promote the implementation of the recommendations from the Children's Charter for DRR with a focus on ensuring the continuation of children's basic rights in all circumstances;
- Based on the comparative advantages, work in coordination to support national actors with DRR, SRR, and ACC activities focused on children;
- Increase our efforts to support risk and vulnerability analyses with a focus on children and post-disaster or post-crisis damage assessments focused on children;
- Increase our efforts to provide technical assistance with comprehensive and multi-sectoral work on child-centered DRR, SRR, and ACC;
- Promote opportunities for children to express themselves, and provide recognition for their engagement at the political level in national, regional and international events which support children's participation in DRR, SRR, and ACC projects.



Visión Mundial



Estrategia Internacional para
la Reducción de Desastres



We call on the participants of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to act upon the 5 goals on DRR for Children, in line with the "Children's Charter for DRR":

1. Schools are safe and education will not be interrupted:

Ensuring the safety of school spaces, and continuity of learning at all times, even in emergency situations, following the strategies agreed under the framework defined by the Declaration of Panama by the 18 Ministers of Education in the region.

2. The protection of children is a priority before, during and after the disaster:

Ensuring mechanisms for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for violence, traffic violation and abuse against children and young people in areas prone to natural disasters and/or susceptible to social risk, through social protection systems as these are higher risk in emergencies and crisis.

3. Children have access to the information they need and participate in DRR actions:

Ensure communication to the public--and more specifically to girls--children and young people about disaster risks and social risks through prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures, communicating and educating from the school to the university levels. Ensuring the inclusion and participation of girls, boys and youth as agents of change for both the present and future generations.

4. Community infrastructure is safe, and relief and reconstruction efforts help to reduce future risks:

Ensure that public and private actors responsible for basic social services such as water and sanitation, health and nutrition, among other essential services, implement measures for disaster resilience and social risk reduction, taking into account the underlying risk factors.

5. Disaster Risk Reduction gives priority to the most vulnerable:

Ensure childhood vulnerability to disasters, climate change and social risks are analyzed at the national and local level and that they are systematically integrated into development and risk management plans. Prioritize child centered DRR actions for vulnerable populations, including communities where people with disabilities reside, systematizing the risks and vulnerabilities analyses at the national and local level. In addition, seeking funding mechanisms and resource allocations for DRR actions that include childhood programming approaches as well as boosting incentives for communities, the private sector and the public sector to invest in this area.



Visión Mundial



Estrategia Internacional para
la Reducción de Desastres



We recommend that the participants of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction act upon the following strategies to achieve the objectives of DRR for Children:

1. Develop national commitments, through laws, protocols, or regulations for DRR for Children with a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach, both for emergency and crisis management including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for adverse events, including socio-natural and social risks;
2. Ensure the inclusion of child-centered DRR, SRR and ACC in national development plans, in line with prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures to reach the objectives of the Convention on Children's Rights and the Millennium Development Goals, and in disaster management or national risk management plans.
3. Formalize coordination mechanisms for inter-institutional DRR in key sectors through DRR roundtables involving the Disaster Management Agency, Civil Defense, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of Finance, and institutions of informal education and youth, among others.
4. Ensure technical training at central and local levels, and the implementation of local priority actions in DRR in the poorest and most vulnerable areas to disasters.
5. Ensure the participation of children in DRR, SRR and ACC local actions, and recognize the views of children in national and international policy decisions to ensure their representation and participation in a Conference for Children concurrent with the forthcoming Third World Conference on DRR in Japan in 2015.
6. Support representation of child-centered DRR, SRR and ACC actions with national experiences for inclusion in international policies and agreements, such as sub-regional and international frameworks--namely the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as looking towards the Post-Hyogo Framework in 2015.

Annex 2

Reflections of the representatives of the scientific, technical and academic sector who participated in the Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.

It has been recognized a gap between the development of scientific, technical and academic knowledge, the technological advances, and the management of risks. For replying to this gap four axes of action have been proposed for the period beyond 2015:

1. Research: Promote and prioritize research on the structure and management of disaster risk, integrating the relevant scientific areas. Establish programs for local, national and international for governmental and other organizations to achieve a comprehensive understanding of vulnerability, and provide more effective answers for developing DRR strategies.

2. Coordination, extension and transfer of knowledge: Ensure that data and scientific results that contribute to disaster risk reduction are understandable and accessible to decision-makers. Promote research approaches that contribute to practical applications for engaging all sectors with their local needs, cultural differences and gender issues.

3. Integration: Develop integrated, interdisciplinary and inter-agency projects. Coordinate and integrate the results and existing data generated by universities, research centres, networks and private initiatives and the community working in DRR.

4. Education and training: Support and expand programs for undergraduate and postgraduate university studies on disaster risk in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Develop basic rules, standarize and monitor them for these programs, including technical issues, teaching methods and discipline integration.