

The Latest at CRID...

Multimedia

Updating the Controlled Vocabulary on Disasters (VCD)

In the context of the project titled "Creation of Information Centers for Disaster Prevention and Response in the Andean Region — BiVa-PaD Network", the Controlled Vocabulary on Disasters (VCD for its Spanish initials) is currently being reviewed. VCD is a tool for analyzing bibliographical information, and can also be used as a reference document for disaster terminology. The current update of this document aims to review terms currently used and add new vocabulary to facilitate access to and retrieval of risk management information.

BiVa-PaD is financed by the Project to Support Disaster Prevention in the Andean Community (PREDECAN), and benefits from the technical and financial support of the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and UN/ISDR secretariat.

If you are interested in helping us update the VCD document, please send your contributions to the following e-mail address: crid@crid.or.cr

The beginning of the 2007 hurricane season

This special section of the CRID website will help you keep abreast of the 2007 hurricane season. In this section, you will find a number of interesting documents that include prevention measures, emergency and evacuation plans, health care, and other related issues.

For further information, please visit:
http://www.crid.or.cr/crid/esp/temp_huracanes.html

The launching of a new website of the Central American Network for Disaster and Health Information (CANDHI)

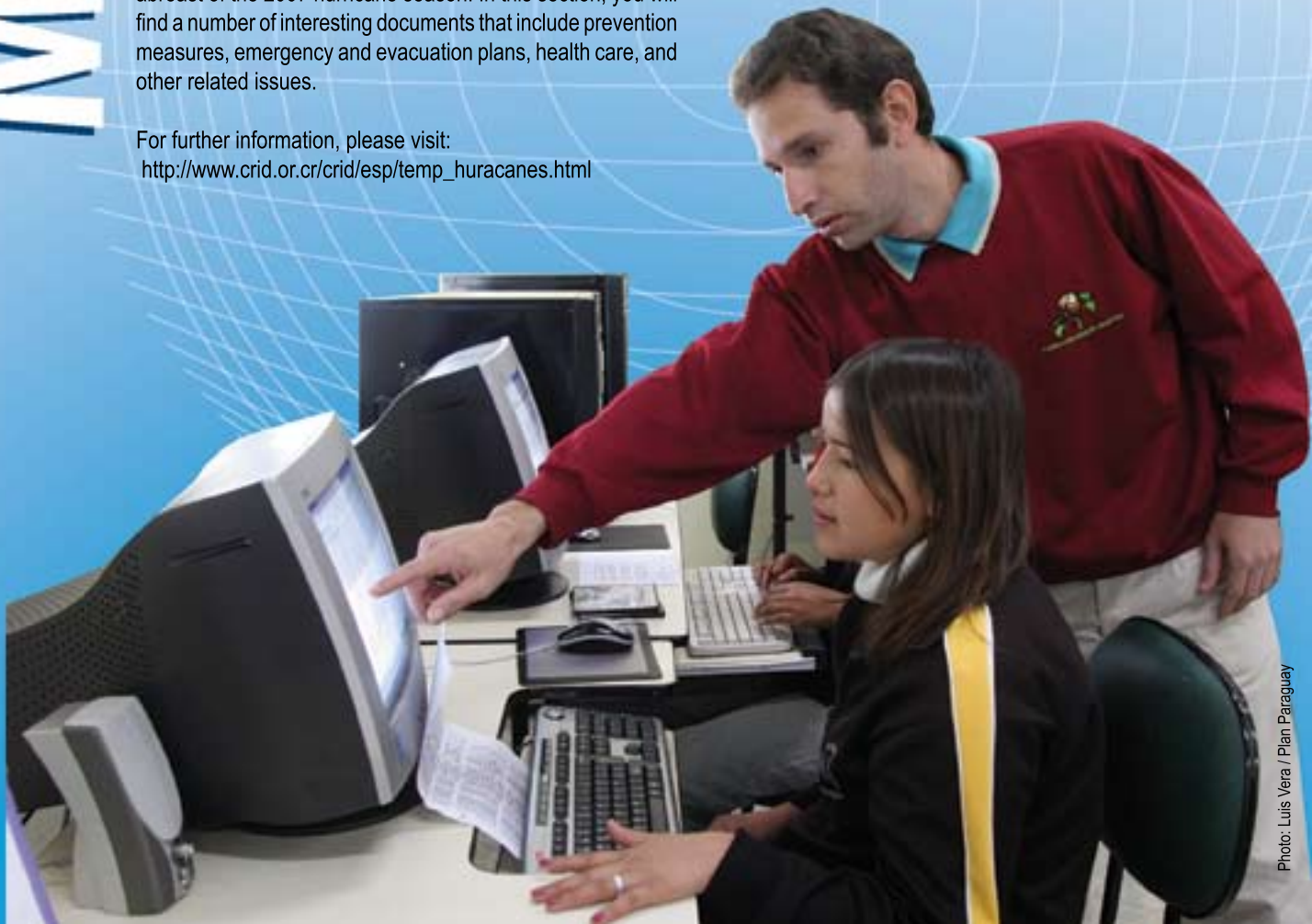
The CANDHI Network website was launched last May (www.candhi.org), with the support of the National Library of Medicine in Washington, USA, UN/ISDR secretariat and PAHO/WHO. The site is intended to become a platform for collaboration and the exchange of experiences among Central American Disaster and Health Information Centers, and for the promotion and dissemination of the services and products provided by the CANDHI Network.

Climate Change Information Resources

In order to address current issues, CRID, with the support of the UN/ISDR and PAHO/WHO, is working to develop specialized information resources that address climate change, an issue of utmost importance among our users.

A thematic CD and a section in our website are the main resources that will be available to beneficiaries, to assist in the search for information related to this issue.

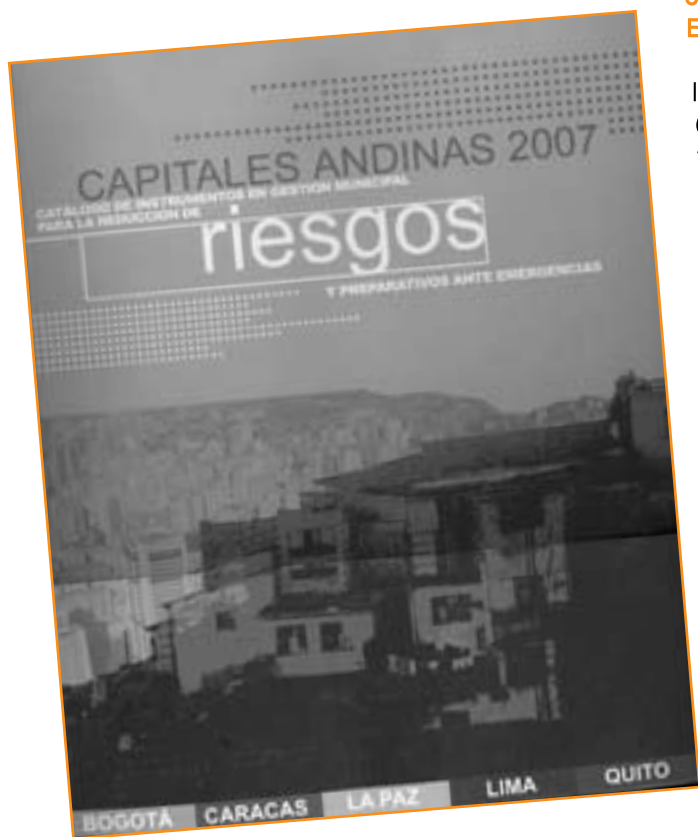
If you are interested in collaborating with us, please send your contributions (bibliographical and audiovisual materials, among others) to include them to our products and services.



OXFAM Publications

- Strengthening resource management capacity for vulnerability reduction and risk management in the district of Cayllona, Arequipa Region, and Anta Pacha, Espinar, Cusco.
- A training guide for early warning systems.
- A guide to building sheds: By learning how to manage the environment, we also protect our livestock.
- A guide for water management in rural areas: By collecting water, high-altitude Andean communities have developed their organizational capacity to improve the use of water resources in these areas.
- Risk management in educational institutions.
- *Minka*, let us work together: A guide for risk prevention by improving farming and agricultural capacities in rural communities.
- Systematization of risk management experiences.

For further information, please contact:
 Sergio Alvarez Gutierrez; SAvarez@OxfamAmerica.org
 Coordinator
 Regional Program
 Risk Management and Humanitarian Relief
 South America Regional Office
 OXFAM America



Catalog of Tools for Municipal Risk Reduction Management and Emergency Preparedness in Andean Capital Cities

In the context of the project titled *Risk Reduction in Andean Capital Cities*, a catalog was produced to compile a set of instruments that the five most important cities in this region have developed over the years. The catalog includes a total of 83 tools that could be used to incorporate risk reduction into development and territorial planning, mitigate existing risks, and build and strengthen capacity for emergency response and recovery.

The catalog is one of the products generated by a regional integration and exchange process developed during the last two years (2006 and 2007), and it was presented during the Mayors' Regional Conference, held in La Paz, Bolivia on April 11-13, 2007. The initiative had the support of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) through its Disaster Preparedness Program (DIPECHO), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), while the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR) provided technical assistance.

For further information, please contact Angeles Arenas (angeles.arenas@undp.org), Disaster Reduction Regional Advisor, UNDP/BCPR-LAC; Rocío Chain (rocio.chain@pnud.bo), UNDP, Bolivia; or Luis Gamarra (luis.gamarra@pnud.bo), Project Coordinator (www.reddesastres.org).

Virtual Health Library for Disaster 2007 Version

The Health Library for Disasters (HELID) is an interagency initiative, under the coordination of WHO and PAHO, to make disaster information accessible quickly and free of charge worldwide. Available on CD-ROM or over the Internet, the 2007 HELID contains more than 650 full-text documents, with more than 40,000 scanned pages of text and more than 12,000 images. Documents include scientific and technical publications, guidelines, manuals and field guides, case studies, newsletters and other training material and are available in a variety of languages—English, Spanish, French and some are even in Russian. A search engine helps users to locate just the information they are looking for. Browse through the HELID online and download the material you need at www.helid.desastres.net. A limited number of CDs are available. In the Americas, write to disaster-publications@paho.org; in other parts of the world contact crisis@who.int.



“Strengthening of local risk and disaster management in the education sector in Central America”

Project description:

The project financed by the European Union – Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) – seeks to recover and systematize experiences and reproduce practices and instruments regarding risk management in the field of education in six Central American countries, allowing such promotion and reproduction at a local level.

In addition, the project contributes with national authorities of the education sector in order to elaborate and implement their policies and strategies regarding prevention, preparation and response to emergencies and disasters.

The experiences identified in the region will facilitate the elaboration, validation and feedback of the methodologies and tools used by Central American ministries of education, contributing to the process of regional integration through the exchange of local experiences and updating Central American Education Plan for Risks and Disasters.

At the same time, the project seeks to develop a series of model documents for different sectors (safe school, minimum regulation of education in emergencies, school/shelter) that will allow the authorities as well as the education sector – teachers, technicians, and cooperative institutions dealing with risk reduction in the education sector – to have available the basic tools to prevent, be prepared for and respond to disasters as well as to ensure the right of children to a prompt return to educational activities immediately after an emergency.

For additional information
<http://www.unicef.org/lac/dipecho>



Tools and lessons learned in Central America

It has been more than six years since the UNDP/BCPR started to advance the task of promoting, generating and exchanging knowledge about disaster risk reduction and related issues in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. In this context, it has been possible to compile in Andean and Caribbean countries an inventory of more than 160 accounts related to disaster preparedness and local risk management, led by a number of organizations and institutions. In addition, a total of 15 case studies have been systematized in the Andean region, as well as 18 good practices on Local Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean. Also, a number of workshops have been conducted at both national and sub-regional levels, and processes aimed at exchanging tools and fostering cooperation among different municipalities of Andean capital cities have been developed. Part of this work in the Caribbean and Andean countries has been captured in two videos: "The Caribbean in the hurricanes' path" and "Announced Disasters", both of which are currently available.

We are currently working in Central America, where we are implementing a process to develop an inventory and systematize experiences and tools in the field of disaster preparedness, on the one hand, and to carry out national and regional consultation processes, on the other, in order to define the priorities to be included in the next Action Plan of DIPECHO for Central America. The initiative will also produce a video that captures the "know-how" of the population in the region. It is also expected that the Third Knowledge Fair titled "Reducing Disasters" will be held next year.



Photo: F. Echeverri

This effort is being made in the context of the regional project titled "Compilation and dissemination of tools, approaches, and lessons learned on local risk management and disaster preparedness in Central America." The initiative has the support of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) through its Disaster Preparedness Program (DIPECHO), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). It also receives technical assistance of the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR).

For further information, please contact Angeles Arenas (angeles.arenas@undp.org), Disaster Reduction Regional Advisor, UNDP/BCPR-LAC, or Linda Zilbert (linda.zilbert@undp.org.pa), Project Coordinator.



PAHO/WHO's New Video on Safe Hospitals

PAHO has produced a new video, in DVD format, to promote the concept and strategy of Safe Hospitals. It makes it clear that this issue is of universal concern, extending beyond the health sector. The video explains what a safe hospital is and why we must safeguard these critical facilities. It highlights examples of good practices in the Region, destroying the myth that it would be too expensive or even impossible to build hospitals with safeguards to ensure they continue to function after disasters. The video combines footage and interviews with important decision makers in several countries in the Americas who share positive experiences and lobby for safe hospitals.

The program aims to raise awareness at the decision-making level during planning or execution of hospital construction or improvements. However, it is equally suitable for use in training activities or for a general audience. It is also an important resource for PAHO's advocacy efforts in conjunction with the ISDR 2008-2009 "Safe Hospitals" global campaign on the topic of Safe Hospitals. Copies of the DVD are available from CRID: crid@crid.or.cr

Transferring knowledge in the Caribbean: Systematizing experiences and good practices in disaster preparedness, local risk management and climate change adaptation

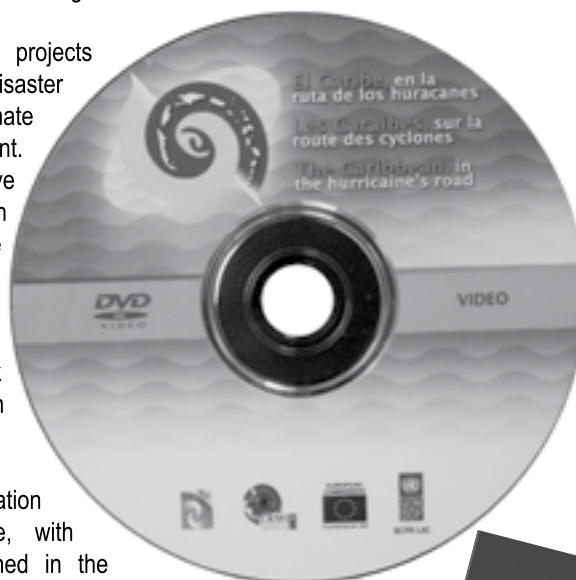
For several years now, the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have been advancing the creation and consolidation of a Trans-cultural Network in the Caribbean region to promote exchanges and cooperation. In addition, the network links different linguistic communities (English-, French- and Spanish-speaking) and two thematic trends, namely risk management and adaptation to climate change.

An inventory of experiences and projects related to local risk management, disaster preparedness and adaptation to climate change is currently under development. Thus far, a total of 107 experiences have been registered in different Caribbean countries. The inventory is the outcome of a participatory process of consultations and exchanges aimed at identifying, through representative experiences, advances in local risk management and, in particular, in disaster preparedness in the region.

Early Warning Systems: Systematization of 18 case studies in average, with “best practices” and lessons learned in the region regarding forecasts and warnings, risk characterization, disaster preparedness, communication and dissemination. Post-disaster reconstruction and recovery processes, experiences incorporating risk management into the housing sector, disaster management systems, and so forth, have also been compiled and systematized.

Video: “EL CARIBE: en la Ruta de los Huracanes” (“The Caribbean: In the Path of Hurricanes”) shows the differences and similarities among countries of the region, as well as their risk-related issues and the capacity developed by the population and authorities to reduce such risks or minimize losses that could be caused by disasters.

Another effort that will complement these products is the further development of an Inventory of Disasters that have taken place over the last 30 years in five Caribbean countries. The inventory will be prepared using the DesInventar software produced by LA RED, and it will be a useful tool for local planners and managers since it combines databases, geo-referenced data and local statistical graphics. In addition, inventories of adaptation needs in four countries of the region, as well as drought adaptation measures for the Dominican Republic and Cuba have been promoted, in addition to papers drafted by international experts in integrated risk management and adaptation to climate change.



For further information, please contact Angeles Arenas (angeles.arenas@undp.org), Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor UNDP/BCPR-LAC, or Linda Zilbert (linda.zilbert@undp.org.pa), Project Coordinator (www.reddesastres.org)



An upcoming risk and disaster knowledge management network titled RedDesastres

... A virtual space where you will find experiences and practices of risk and disaster reduction ...

The Latin America and the Caribbean region is repeatedly affected by the occurrence of disasters. This reality has led its population to find ways to be better prepared and develop strategies or proposals intended to reverse this situation, reduce the degree to which they may be affected and decrease the level of risk in their daily lives.

With the multi-tiered purpose of advancing this exchange and cooperation effort, and respond to the vital need to learn from existing lessons and improve the practices and the work done around risk management, we are currently launching a web platform titled *RedDesastres* [Disaster Network] as a space where we can find timely and relevant information about what is being done in the region to reduce risks and disasters. It is a space that belongs to us all, a site we can visit, gain insight and post information about what we do and our own experiences, projects, events, analyses and assessments, tools and dissemination material, etc. It is also a space where we can share approaches and lessons learned, where we can talk about related issues, work in groups and participate in discussion forums regarding those issues that concern us ... *¿What should we do to reduce disasters in our region?*

And this is not only a platform. Our goal is also to include everyone in the establishment of the RedDesastres Risk and Disaster Knowledge Management Network.



This is why we invite you to share your information on what you have been doing to address this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us by sending an email to the following addresses: linda.zilbert@un.org.pa or andres.fanco@un.org.pa.

Our *RedDesastres* platform is still being tested, and we are finalizing its development. However, we did not want to wait until we finished it to share its upcoming launch with you. We invite you to visit us and to take part in the creation of this community at www.reddesastres.org



Compilation of health and disaster regulations and standards in Latin America

<http://www.disaster-info.net/PED-Sudamerica/leyes/vgpcdd.html>

On this website, you can find a set of standards, laws, regulations and other legal documents related to disasters. These documents were gathered in Central and South American countries and the goal is to provide people working in the field of risk management with informational tools.

Although efforts have been made to include only documents currently in effect, they become outdated very easily due to the own dynamics by which the laws of these countries are passed, modified or derogated. For this reason, it is essential to receive ongoing contributions to ensure that the website is updated on a regular basis and that it includes new information from your country, whenever available.

For inquiries or suggestions, please send an email to: cgarzon@ecu.ops-oms.org or palvarad@ecu.ops-oms.org

Information packet

The awareness-raising campaign and art contest information packet consists of a series of 3 CDs, an imperative tool offering all the resources necessary to bring awareness of this essential topic to all levels of the community.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School awareness-raising campaign and art contest was initiated as part of the United Nations World Campaign for Disaster Reduction. Project sponsors include the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Plan International and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO).

The information packet offers the resources necessary to promote this fundamental message in English and Spanish with several of the documents in various other languages as well. The campaign sponsors working collaboratively, created this compilation of all their respective resources including publications, newsletters, worksheets, and children's games, activity sheets and story books to promote the awareness program and art contest.



Subscriptions

To subscribe to the magazine ISDR Informs— the Americas, please send your full name, P.O. Box or mailing address, and the name of your institution or organization (not required) to eird@eird.org

The magazine is distributed free of charge.

We invite all people, organizations, institutions and NGOs, among others, wishing to contribute to the magazine, to do so using the following email address: mwillalobos@eird.org



Contributions

All contributions should be summarized in a brief paragraph explaining how they relate to any one of the five priorities established in the Hyogo Framework for Action:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for an effective response at all levels

Format: contributions should not exceed three 8 x 11" pages, single spaced, with photos or illustrations, and must be related to the issue of disaster reduction. The name and email address of the main contact person should also be included.

Contributions received include projects, activities, programs, lessons learned, scientific-technical articles, new laws or bills, educational programs and news. You may also send information about any publication, video, CD-ROM, audiovisual and printed material that you wish to promote.



International Strategy
for Disaster Reduction

Photo: UNICEF/Anthonyasael

www.eird.org