



DIPECHO VII Caribbean Consultative Meeting Recommendations and Comments of Group Sessions

Dominican Republic

Discussions were based on the analysis of the first draft of the Country Document on Hazards, Vulnerabilities and Capacities for DRR, which will be used as reference for DIPECHO VII proposals in the country. The implemented approach to analyze this Document was to focus on determining the provinces most affected nationally and where risk prevention is most needed. It was taken into account that provided information in the Document already established a selection of vulnerable areas predetermined by measurements of the population density and human empowerment indicators.

General Comments to be considered for the Country Document

- To further determine earthquake hazard in Santo Domingo since information does not coincide with expertise knowledge of the participants. The Puerto Plata- Santo Domingo plate is believed to be of higher risk, due to instability of soils and high population density.
- Landslides can accompany more than one hazard, including earthquakes, flooding and areas with high population density. Include landslides and wild fires as part of the priority hazards. To analyze the current situation of dams and river basins in the country.
- According to general consensus of participants, the provinces of Azua, San Cristobal, Independencia and Monseñor Nouel should be included in the flooding hazards table.
- Droughts. To determine the difference between each category (hydrological, meteorological or agricultural drought). In addition to reviewing the identified provinces since the participants believe that the border zones of Azua, Elias Piña, and Dajabón, which are known to have high desertification have been forgotten.
- Build community networks. Over 400 communities have been identified nationwide, that could be used to disseminate the concepts of risk prevention and management.
- 150 municipalities have been identified and the “ Mancomunidad” –Community approach has been established in the areas of Monte Plata, San Juan de la Maguana,(Matas de Farfan) y Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia. These communities can serve as vehicles for risk prevention and management.
- In the Country Document, final results do not show the efforts made in capacity building. Indicators are very specific and do not demonstrate the overall actions. According to the participants, good capacity building exists in Duarte and Barahona and limited efforts in Santiago, which do not coincide with the results of Document.

- To encourage joined field visits to DIPECHO project with local authorities such as the National Emergency Commission. A focal point for DIPECHO projects could be assigned in the National Emergency Commission to ensure direct communication
- The Human Empowerment Indicator does not measure the development of capacities, which may translate into unwanted assumptions.

Other comments to be considered for the DIPECHO Guidelines

- Implement an approach of homogeneous areas to answer common problems
- Emphasis not only on the causes of the damages but also the consequences. Attention to mortality indicators
- Development and use of indicators to measure response capacity
- Strategy to include as cultural knowledge the ideas of risk prevention and management.
- Early warning systems should be better developed with higher technical quality, improved information processing, dissemination and response.
- The information may not be disseminated using the proper tools. Limited broadcast by known media. Limited knowledge of EWS by the population. The reason may be lack of credibility.
- Recognize the multi-hazard approach as an element for producing disasters
- EWS of previous DIPECHO projects have been effective due to the simple approach of developing systems that are easily understood and applied by the population. It should be emphasized the analysis, prognosis and warning at community level linked with national authorities.
- In contingency plans, incorporate certain groups of the population such as children, elderly and disabled.
- Institutional strengthening at central and local levels. Educational assemblies could be used as a port of entry.
- Develop common ideas for multi-sector approach. Including interventions by the civil defense, the ministry of education and the ministry of health.
- Continue the bottom up approach for DIPECHO actions.
- To promote a safe school system (safe construction, location and preparedness of the school population including parents, students, teachers, directors, ...)
- To support the formation and strengthening of regional and municipals committees and associations of parents as well as the inclusion in their agendas of the topics of risk management and early warning systems.
- Partner should include an amount for consultations and evaluations such as the KAP in the proposals. Collaboration among partners is strongly encouraged.
- DIPECHO actions could be replicated by guaranteeing the involvement of national authorities and local staff by systematization of the information and common access to it by all actors.
- To promote the dissemination of accurate information in the local media
- To ensure an information chain that includes the local emergency committees.
- To develop an early warning system at community level linked with corresponding authorities in higher levels.

- Innovation is basic in DIPECHO actions. New ways of risk management can be developed and adapted for local interventions. “There is not a single solution for the problems.”
- For proposals, common strategies among partners should be developed and formation of networks is strongly encouraged.
- Partners should consider the Hyogo framework for proposals.
- ECHO should establish a limited number of pages for proposals.

Overall, perceptions of participants were similar to findings of the Country Document. As a result of this meeting, participants acknowledge:

- I. The need to create a sustainability strategy for permanent collaboration with local authorities.
- II. Validated the Country Document as an adequate source of reference for proposals in DR. A comment will be added to the guidelines for projects in Dominican Republic stating that "All organizations submitting proposals to ECHO Santo Domingo should take into account the priorities established in the Country Document validated in the DIPECHO Consultative Meeting on February 2009".
- III. A presentation of the final version of the Country Document will be made to the National Emergency Commission on March 2009

Haiti

The objective of the session was to define national priorities with ECHO partners. The work group included a presentation of the EC funded risk management program, Système National de Gestion des Risques et des Désastres (SNGRD) and Programme de Gestion des Risques (PGR), and an overview of DIPECHO projects funded in the country. During the development of the meeting, discussed topics included risk and vulnerabilities, geographical and thematic priorities and institutional strengthening.

Recommendations

On Strategic Programming Imperatives

- All the proposals should incorporate a basic institutional mapping and a stakeholder analysis in the area of intervention, and identify the linkages and possible strengthening and forms of coordination. Other initiatives of donors should be taken into account when drafting the proposal.
- Identify possible synergies with the Global Plan sectors.
- Take into account the highlights of the external evaluation of the DIPECHO V and VI action plans.
- Avoid stand-alone “satellite” projects, unless duly justified. Establishment of tools and mechanisms to communicate, coordinate and facilitate the participation of the national authorities (SNGRD) should be supported.

- Projects can reinforce preparedness and response capacities embedding sector approaches.
- The local committees shall be created or/and strengthened according to the DPC standards and shall be validated by the DPC.

On types of activities

- Inter-institutional meetings
Step forwards: a) Contact with UNDP (strategy / material); b) Harmonization in coordination with the DPC (PDNA et Plan d'action de Saint-Marc)
- Interactive products: KAP (use of common indicators from Views from the front line / Hyogo / GAR and use of a common sampling methodology) Systematization (impact, experiences, good practices)

On local capacity-building/training

- Support initiatives from the local emergency committees in awareness (community-based information campaign)
- Measures that reinforce the self-management means of the local committees, in coordination with the DPC

Priorities in terms of geographical areas

- All the Haitian Departments are considered eligible for the implementation of a DIPECHO project. Priorities should be given to the intervention areas defined by the Haitian Government the Direction de la Protection Civile (DPC) Action Plan (to be discussed mid-March). These priorities will be defined according to frequency of disasters and their consequences in terms of human losses, their impact on infrastructures, and the location of river basins.
- No specific restrictions will be given on actions in rural or urban areas. The main focus will be hydro-meteorological hazards, possibly including a second or a third hazard

English & Dutch Speaking Caribbean

Regional priorities were determined for the VII DIPECHO Action Plan and a discussion of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy. Recommendations included exploring the relationship of the Civil Society & DRR in the Caribbean Disaster Management Strategy (CDMS) .

Recommendations

- No need to identify a priority hazard for the region. Although, more emphasis should be made on multi-hazard approach
- Encourage linkages with geological initiatives being currently implemented by other donors OFDA, UNDP as well as linking with Caribbean Disaster Management Strategy (CDMS)

- Climate change and variability should be introduced in the guidelines either through the thematic priorities or the Strategic Programmatic Imperatives (SPI) .
- Include an appendix with perspectives of major risks in the region.
- Prioritization of countries will be achieved through the identification of most vulnerable populations as it is written in the guidelines. Haiti should be a priority country.
- More gender sensitive wording should be used throughout the guidelines
- Inclusion of authorities in the activities. Promote agreements between civil society and national authorities
- Capacity building is recommended and needed in the region
- Continue to emphasize in the guidelines the bottom up approach to influence Governments. “Bottom up to influence top down”.
- Include a Strategic Programmatic Imperatives (SPI) to recommend innovative approaches for themes such as health, WASH & livelihoods that could be replicated in countries of the region
- Highly recommended to include a separate Strategic Programmatic Imperatives for work with children and youth .Safe Schools initiative.
- Risk Insurance Facility. Modify definitions of risk and premiums
- Include in the guidelines a component of visibility and communication
- Special attention to DRR as a priority sector in the region.
- Further develop the relationship with mainstreaming and advocacy
- Determine the contribution of DIPECHO projects to the framework of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy (CDMS)
- Explore the relationship of the Civil Society & DRR in the CDMS. There is a Civil Society Committee, the Caribbean Policy Development Center/ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (CPDC/IFRC) in the harmonization process for the CDMS. DG ECHO could support participation on this initiative by including it in the guidelines.
- New platforms for DRR may be available from within the EU- Civil protection: space for linkages
- DRR country platforms should be clearly defined in the guidelines.
- Strengthening CDERA to reinforce National Platforms

- Elaborate clearer criteria to differentiate multi-countries vs. regional programs.
- For coordination of projects develop and support DIPECHO meetings, civil society committee and national platform for DRR
- Advocacy and communication activities should be strengthening. A need to shift from project management based mentality back to strategic thinking
- Need to develop DRR Advocacy & Communication strategies (implementation instruments).Systematization of information.
- Have an internal lessons learned /systematization of good practices of all DIPECHO projects for the last 10 years