

Natural disasters & crisis management

Disaster Prevention and Social Reconstruction Programme (PREDERES)

"It is wonderful that the PREDERES programme is being implemented in Vargas, because they have a good vision for improving our quality of life and the current level of risk in the community".

María Peña de Serrano - PREDERES beneficiary



EC Partners

Government of Venezuela

Ministry of Popular Power for Planning and Development

CORPOVARGAS: Corporation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Vargas State

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: €34 million
- All the population living in the lowest watersheds of Tacagua, La Zorra y Mamo Rivers are reached, impacting 55.000 persons
- Vargas Mayor's Office is also a direct beneficiary



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Context

The landslides which occurred in December 1999 in Vargas State, Northern region of Venezuela, caused significant damage. This is evident in the very bad state of main public services and the level of natural risks existing in this area.

Objective Scaling up access to comprehensive care

- The general objective of the programme is to contribute to the improvement of living standards and quality of life for the population of the parish of Catia La Mar, through the reduction of risk levels and prevention of disasters.
- Structural Prevention: building of preventative constructions;
- Non-structural prevention: monitoring watersheds in Catia La Mar, introducing an early warning system, preparing the population to face emergencies;
- Social reconstruction: environmental sanitation through the implementation of a collector system for rain and running water and a solid residue collector.

Impact

- Implementation and equipping of an early warning monitoring system and its protocol.
- Strengthening of the community and creation of Base Committees for Risk Management, focussing on the environment, and for preventative and socio-economic projects;
- Improved support to the Vargas Mayor's Office in the areas of urbanisation, surveying, organisational and planning matters (Plan de Desarrollo Municipal = Municipal Development Plan);
- Strengthening the legal, economic, financial and technical capacities for handling the solid residue collector;
- Sanitation of the informal dumping grounds and recovery of public spaces.

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PREDERES has induced a great change in the life of the people in the area. The whole system in construction in the high river basin of La Zorra, and the dam and canalization in Roraima area, has alleviated the risk for the communities living at the river basin and improved their living conditions. This joint effort of European and national experts to fortify the abilities of self-management for the community is remarkable. A base Committee for Risk Management has been organized, including Junior Brigades, from 12 years of age and above, that collaborate by sector. Bolivarian School Dr. Rafael Cabrices is interested in participating in the activities of the Committee, and has asked for first aid training. Students have prepared scale models in order to visualize the risk level that threatens their school area. Shortly, a presentation will take place at the river basin. The students are all involved, and being prepared to face future risks.

The above and following comments were made by Celsa Cordero, Gloria Rodríguez, Reina Andara and Jesús Guerrero, beneficiaries from PREDERES in the Catamare area. Ms. Reina gave details of the Environmental Committee activities. They recently organized an Environmental Fair, where recycled products were on display. "From now on we will be making lamps, pitchers, and vases with recycled paper. If we could all use the recycling system, spread around the area by the Committee, the whole State would improve; our homes, and the environment." Mr. Jesús, from the Communitarian Projects Committee states that one of the projects they are preparing "Callejón El Carmen" involves water canalization, which will benefit 50 families.



Gloria Rodríguez, Jesús Guerrero, Celsa Cordero, Reina Andara