



## Developing Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacities

In order to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies, the World Food Programme (WFP) supports governments in strengthening institutional capacities in emergency preparedness and response, as they relate to food and nutritional security. WFP's long-term goal in the region is to increase government ownership of emergency preparedness and response in Latin America.



## Capacity Strengthening Initiatives

WFP LAC is implementing a number of capacity strengthening initiatives under the Developing Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacities programme, which leverages WFP's expertise in logistics, telecommunications and food security in emergencies to provide technical assistance to the National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs) of nine countries in Central and South America. Supported with funds from the Governments of Australia and Spain, this programme is aligned with WFP Strategic Objectives One, Two, and Five, as well as the global Capabilities Partnership Programme (CAPRO) framework. WFP's goal in these initiatives is to support countries in strengthening their ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies affecting food and nutritional security.

### **The Developing Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacities programme consists of five principal components:**

- Trainings and technical assistance to national and local authorities
- Strengthen Early Warning Systems (EWS)
- Emergency Simulation exercises
- Free movement of humanitarian goods and personnel
- Promote access, share, systemize, and socialize information at the national and sub-national level

## **Trainings and technical assistance**

As the UN leader in logistics and emergency telecommunications and the co-leader of the food security cluster, WFP provides technical assistance in the following areas:

- Contingency planning strategies
- Minimum Emergency Preparedness Actions
- Mapping and analysis of food insecure areas
- Management of humanitarian and emergency stocks
- Storage and distribution systems
- Emergency telecommunications
- Emergency needs assessments

WFP offices coordinate closely with governments to assess needs and create joint capacity development work plans. WFP LAC is also developing regional indicators for WFP's global tool, the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index (EPCI), to systematize capacity development results and help governments track progress.

# Programme Highlights

## Early Warning Systems

As a part of a regional strategy, WFP developed and continues to improve early warning systems in Central America. WFP collaborating with the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters (CEPREDENAC) to expand the coverage of the SATCAweb tool to monitor climatic events that may potentially trigger emergencies in Central America. In South America, the Andean countries are coordinating comprehensive assessments of EWS capacities and needs to further the creation of a system of data and information triangulation within the region under the framework of South-South cooperation and information sharing

## Simulation Exercises

In 2013, WFP partnered with CEPREDENAC and OCHA to sponsor national simulation exercises in the six Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama). WFP also organized and implement a simulation exercise in Peru and has exercises planned for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay throughout 2014. These activities were designed to test national emergency response protocols.

WFP developed a simulation methodology to assist the NDMAs and other participating bodies in identifying gaps in their country's response plan. Participants in the simulations included staff from all relevant government agencies, along with military and humanitarian teams.

Simulation participants identified gaps in emergency preparedness and response, and worked on action plans to address the gaps. These plans are a crucial step as each country works to improve their capacity to respond to emergencies. Not only do the plans lay out growth areas, they also include recommendations to overcome these challenges and identify lead partners to spearhead each desired change. CEPREDENAC has assumed responsibility for following up on progress, further emphasizing the regional ownership of the initiative.

## Free Movement of Humanitarian Goods and Personnel

Based on a request from the Central American governments, WFP is working closely with IFRC and CEPREDENAC on initiatives to facilitate the movement of humanitarian goods and personnel in the region at times of emergency. WFP LAC and partners convened two regional workshops in Panama to revise and update protocols and develop procedures between countries. Participants included officials from customs, immigration, foreign ministries and the NDMAs of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Officials at the workshops produced a regional action plan and national action plans for each country, as well as a draft statement supporting the initiative that was later included in the Declaration of Central American Presidents. Additionally, one idea for addressing current barriers that emerged from the workshop initiated a project to adapt an existing web informatics system, the Registration System for International Transportation of Merchandise (TIM), for humanitarian purposes.



Haiti 2013



Panama 2013



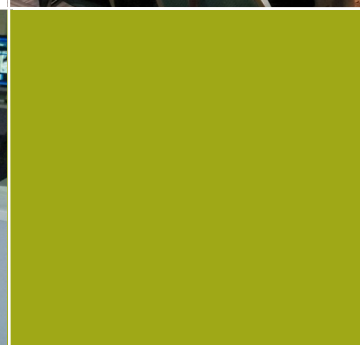
Peru 2014



Honduras 2013



Guatemala 2013



Panama 2014

## Online learning and Sustainability

Through the Developing Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacities programme, WFP LAC seeks to increase information access, knowledge sharing, evidence-based decision making and to avoid duplication of efforts. WFP LAC is working to adapt online trainings in areas related to epr for government officials to increase access to information. Online trainings will help mitigate the cost/time barriers that often prevent new government staff from receiving necessary EPR trainings. Additionally, WFP country offices are working with government counterparts to identify sustainable platforms for information sharing. Finally, regional EPR workshops for WFP country offices bring staff together with government counterparts to share experiences with these capacity strengthening initiatives.



## Building on past success

The Developing Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity programme offers WFP the unique opportunity to work in a coordinated and comprehensive regional strategy, systematically building on past experience and leveraging corporate and regional tools for maximum impact. Additionally, partnering with national and local governments on technical capacity-building projects strengthens the relationship between counterparts and creates a foundation for future collaboration and advocacy.

## Information Technology

Specialists of The Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) are undertaking missions to assess IT and Telecommunications capacities of the National Systems of Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention (NDMAs) and Civil Defense entities of Perú, Haití, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic. FITTEST is a group of technical specialists within the IT division of WFP stationed in Dubai.



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