



# World Food Programme

## Latin America and the Caribbean: Emergency Preparedness and Response, Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

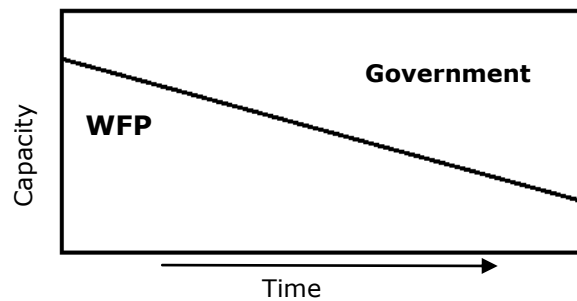
When humanitarian crises occur, WFP quickly and efficiently assesses needs, seeks to secure humanitarian access, and deploys the most appropriate response tools given the country context and requirements of affected populations.

In order to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies, WFP supports governments in strengthening institutional capacities in emergency preparedness and response, as they relate to food and nutritional security.

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

- Early warning systems
- Contingency planning approaches
- Mapping and analysis of food insecure areas
- Management of humanitarian and emergency stocks
- Storage and distribution systems
- Movement of humanitarian goods

**Hand-over policy:**  
WFP's goal is to transfer capacities to governments over time



Through Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Building initiatives, WFP establishes partnerships with governments to conduct trainings, simulation exercises and other activities in order to strengthen National Disaster Management Authorities' (NDMAs') as well as selected sub-national and community structures. These initiatives foster steadily increasing government capacities in these areas.



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## Capacity Strengthening Initiatives

WFP's goal in capacity strengthening initiatives is to support countries in strengthening their ability to prepare and respond to emergencies, paying particular attention to threats to food security. With this goal in mind, WFP is providing technical assistance through emergency simulation exercises as well as training in humanitarian supply chain management, warehouse operation, emergency telecommunications and emergency needs assessments.

## Simulation Exercises

In the first half of 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). These activities were designed to test national emergency protocols. Costa Rica is scheduled to conduct the last Central American exercise before the end of 2013.

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 all emergency related government agencies, military and humanitarian teams.

Simulation participants identified gaps in emergency preparedness and response, and worked on plans of action 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

## 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.



Officials from customs, foreign ministries, immigration and national civil protection institutions of the participating countries have attended regional forums and trainings aimed at facilitating protocols and procedures between countries.

## Early Warning

As a regional strategy WFP developed, and is improving, early warning systems in Central and South America. This effort is supported in Central America by CEPREDENAC.



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Photos: Front: WFP HON/Carlos Cruz/April 2013 Simulation; WFP BOL/Ximena Lopez; WFP COL; WFP NIC/Sabrina Quezada/Floods in RAAN & RAAS; WFP SLV/Luis Molina; WFP/A Chicheri; Back: WFP Haiti/Jean Max; WFP GMT/Carlos Cruz/April 2013 Simulation; WFP HON; WFP COL/Elio Rujano