



World Conference on Disaster Reduction

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ECHO/ISDR good practices for resilient communities

Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres (PREDES)

CAPACITY BUILDING TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY AND RISKS

This is the institutional experience of PREDES, working in disasters reduction with vulnerable communities.

Peru is a country of great cultural, biological and climatic diversity. It is territory of an old and strong culture.

Due to their localization in South America and because great part of its territory is mountainous, it is affected by diverse natural dangers.

It is seismic territory, were occur periodically intense rains, floods and flash floods, as well as droughts, waves of cold and snow, and it feels the great impact of the El Niño Phenomenon.

Country in development process with high growth and dynamics demographic. Although exist poverty and a vulnerable population it is also prominent that exist certain values that constitute strengths and capacities to overcome these difficulties and to reduce vulnerability, as example, great capacity to be organized, tradition of community work and solidarity.

In high-priority scenarios of risk, PREDES executes projects with disasters prone communities in capacity building to prevent risks and to face situations of emergencies, through an educational and organizational process.

Educational methodology is strongly participative. It is recognized that the population has vital experiences and learnings that is necessary to rescue. Knowledge arises of the reflection and discussion among the members of the community.

Working in workshops, local population formulates Vulnerability, Hazards and Risks Diagnostico, and proposals to reduces risks. Population identify own responsibilities and necessities of support of the state.

Proposals are so much for prevention (to avoid to produce new vulnerabilities), like for mitigation of vulnerabilities.

As part of these, high-priority works are identified, some of which are executed with demonstrative character with the support of technical PREDES team. The works use local materials and appropriate technology.

With rescue ancestral technics is achieved effective works for the control of flash floods.

With simple technic that allow participation and manual work of the local community, is achieved earthquake-resistant housings.

Volunteers:

A special place in the educational process with the communities is Training of voluntary children and adolescents in prevention of disasters.

It is constituted with them an organization based on values, with strong mystic and with specific abilities for support in their community.

Rol of volunteers:

- to watch over vulnerability processes and risk in its community,
- to identify the most critical problems and to formulate proposals to face them
- to promote activities jointly in the community with other local institutions, as Municipality, center of health, schools and other base organizations.
- to support directly to Civil Defense Committees in order to strengthen their rol, contributing with their abilities for the attention of emergencies and the humanitarian aid.

Communities working with PREDES have also developed experiences in revision and discussion of its Strategic Development Plans with Risk-Prevention focus. Consequently is reformulate the diagnosis, because do not have a hazard, vulnerability and risk analysis, is reformulate Development Vision, strategic objectives and programs and corresponding projects. Also community has incorporated a new approach of project selection: "that the project contributes to reduce vulnerability and/o that the project do not generate more vulnerabilities."

Our experientie of the last five years has had a strong support of ECHO through its DIPECHO Programme in Andean Region, as well as of OXFAM (Great Britain) and MPDL (Spain).