



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



*Regional Office of the
World Health Organization*

Regional Capacity Building Strategies for Disaster Reduction

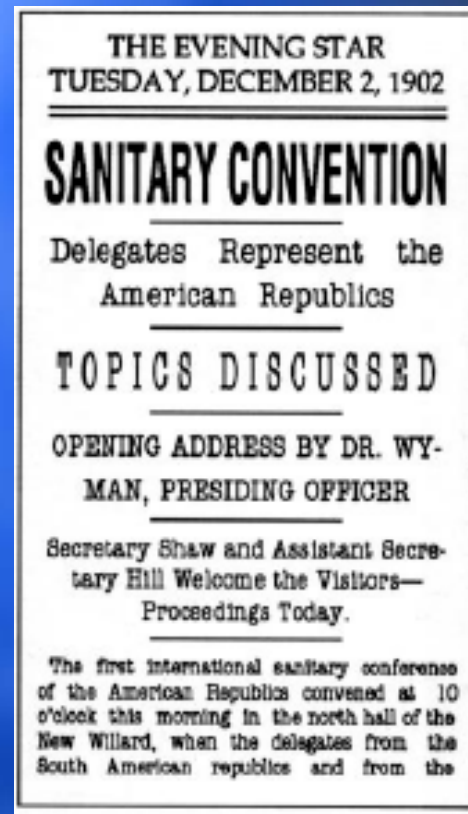


Dr. Ciro Ugarte
Regional Advisor
**Emergency Preparedness and
Disaster Relief**

Pan American Health Organization

- Established in 1902 by resolution of the Second International Conference of the Pan American States.

“it shall be the duty of the International Sanitary Bureau to lend its best aid and experience toward the widest possible protection of the public health of each of the Republics”



WHO Regional Office for the Americas

In 1949, the Director-General of the World Health Organization and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau signed the agreement recognizing the Pan American Sanitary Bureau as the Regional Office of the World Health Organization for the Americas.



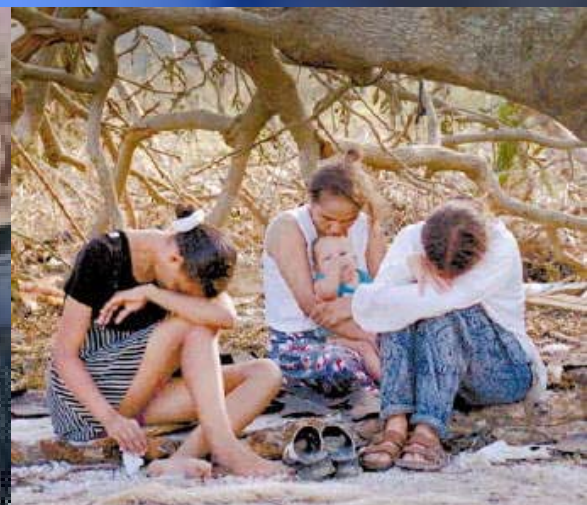
THE EVENING STAR
Washington, D.C.
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1949

Agreement to Make Bureau Hemisphere Health Office

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau today is expected to sign an agreement to become the "regional office" for this hemisphere of the World Health Organization, officials announced.

Dr. Brock Chisholm, WHO director general, is here for the ceremony, attending part of a week-long session of an interim executive committee of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, which meets once a year.

The bureau, representing 21 American republics, was set up shortly after the turn of the century to work on international aspects of public health, particularly affecting jurisdictions of more than one nation. Dr. Fred L. Soper, director, will sign the WHO agreement on behalf of the bureau.



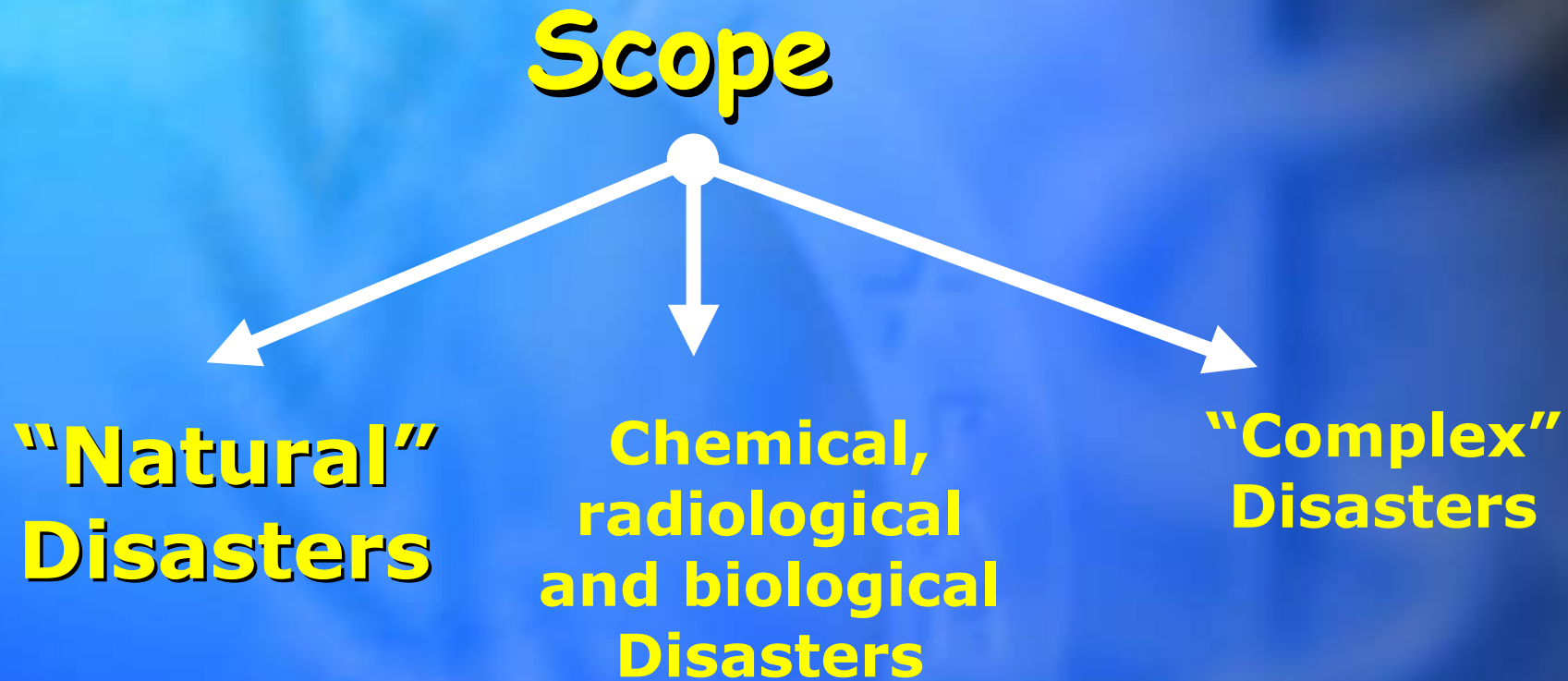
Disasters are not natural

Risk f Hazard . Vulnerability



**Vulnerability to disasters
is not compatible with
physical, mental
or social wellbeing.**





PAHO Disaster Program

- Established in 1976
- 1980 creation of MoH disaster programs
- 1985 Subregional offices
- 1992 Mitigation in health facilities
- 1999 Disasters and Development
- 2004 Regional approach and interregional cooperation

1987

1980

1979

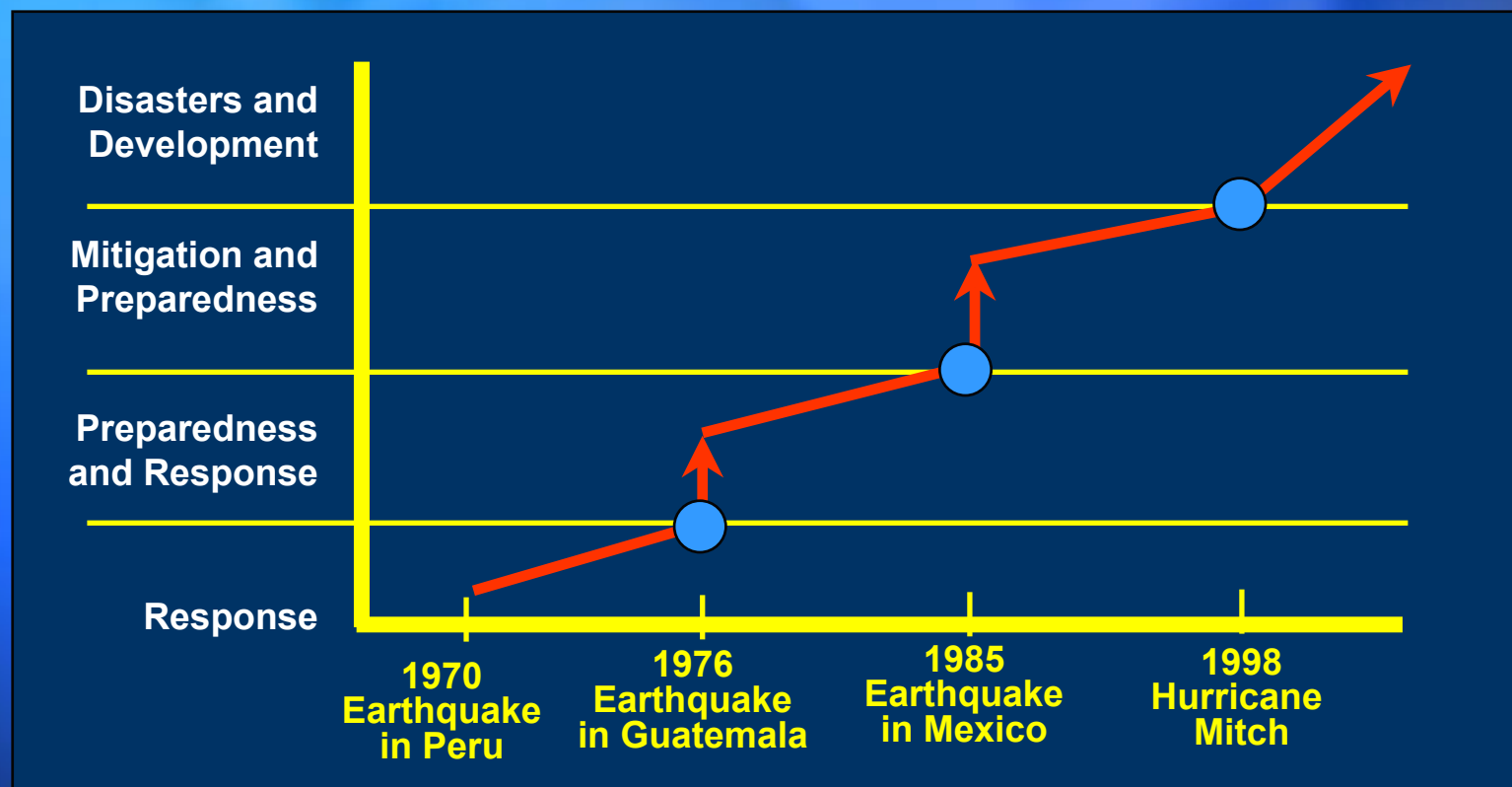
1976



The focus given to risk and disaster management is continuously changing



From Ad-Hoc Disaster Response to Development



Main Activities

- 1. Strengthening institutions**
- 2. Training**
- 3. Special Projects**
 - Hospital Mitigation**
 - SUMA**
 - Regional Disaster Information Center**
 -



Strengthening Institutions

- Support the creation of national programs (technical staff, funding, access to the decision-making level)
- Promote intersectoral cooperation

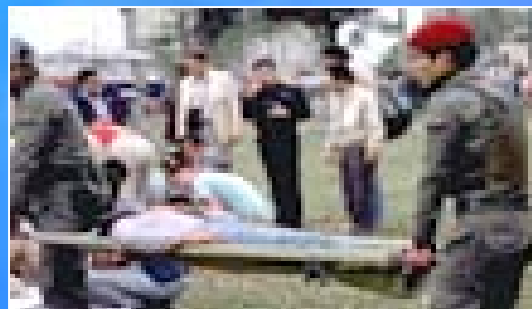


A regional network of:

- **Health disaster coordinators**
- **Ministries of Health**
- **Civil Defense/Protection**
- **Foreign Affairs**
- **Red Cross National Societies**
- **Universities**
- **PAHO/WHO Disaster focal points**



Strengthening Institutions



We must work also with...

- Mass media
- Armed forces
- Industry/private sector
- NGOs and volunteers
- Parliaments
- Public opinion, schools



Increasing number and type of actors



The World Wide Web

Disaster information from a variety of sources

The screenshot shows the PAHO website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like Home Page, Health Data, Health Topics, Media Center, Information Products, PAHO Publishing, and Knowledge Resources. Below this is a search bar and a link to 'VEA ESTA PÁGINA EN ESPAÑOL'. The main content area is titled 'HURRICANE IVAN' and includes a sub-header: 'This site contains information on Hurricane Ivan. More information will be added as it becomes available.' The page is organized into several sections:

- Technical Reports:**
 - [Situation Reports by Country](#)
 - Second Interim Report on the Damage to Selected Healthcare Facilities in Grenada
 - [First part](#)
 - [Second part](#)
 - [Third part](#)
 - [Fourth part](#)
- APPEALS:**
 - [PAHO/WHO Comprehensive Appeal for Health Emergency Needs](#) (15 September 2004)

In response to this appeal the following agencies have pledged their support:

 - CIDA (Canada): Canadian \$ 250,000
 - USAID (USA): US\$ 300,000
 - ECHO (European Union): 364,000 Euro
 - DFID (United Kingdom): 250,000 Pounds
 - [U.N. Flash Appeal for Grenada, Jamaica, and the Cayman Islands](#)
- Images:**
 - [More images of the disaster](#)
- Press Releases:**
 - [21 September](#)
 - [20 September](#)
 - [CARICOM Press Release \(16 September\)](#)
 - [9 September 2004](#)
- LINKS:**
 - [CDERA](#)
 - [National Hurricane Center](#)
 - [ReliefWeb](#)
 - [Embassy of Jamaica in the U.S.](#)
 - [FUNDESUMA](#)
 - [Center for International Disaster Information](#)

On the right side of the 'Images' section, there is a photograph showing a damaged building with a collapsed roof and a utility pole leaning against it, with a hill in the background.

www.paho.org/disasters



Training: the key to progress...

From
Vulnerability...

*Workshops
Short Courses
University
Training*



...to Safety.





Workshops / Short Courses

200-250 courses each year are sponsored/supported by PAHO with approximately 5,000 persons trained per year

- Emergency health management**
- Hospital preparedness and mitigation**
- Environmental health management**
- Supply management (SUMA)**
- Role of Ministries of Foreign Affairs in disasters**
- Mass media and public information**
- Community preparedness**





International course to develop the managerial skills of those whose job is to deal with disasters and emergencies.

Focus on:

- **Mitigation and development**
- **RISK REDUCTION VS DISASTER MANAGEMENT**
- **Exchange of experiences between participants and instructors**





University Training

- **Incorporation of disaster management contents in undergraduate and post-graduate curricula**
- **Specific Second Specialization**
- **Promotion of distance learning and virtual courses over the Internet.**





Educational and Training Material



Print

- Scientific publications
- Self-study modules
- Technical reports
- Newsletter: "Disasters: Preparedness and Mitigation in the Americas"

Audiovisual

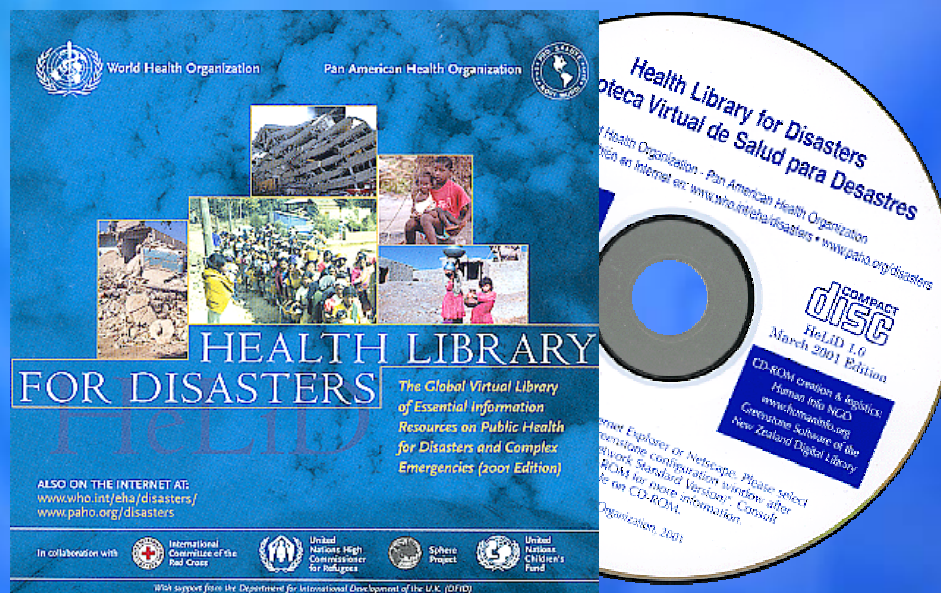
- Slide series
- Video programs
- Slide and video library



Scientific Publications



Virtual Health Library for Disasters



**The Global Virtual Library of Essential Information
Resources on Public Health for Disasters and
Complex Emergencies**



Hospital Disaster Mitigation

- **Vulnerability analysis**
- **Improved design of new facilities**
- **Retrofitting existing facilities**
- **Standards, Norms, guidelines, and training**



Disaster Mitigation in Drinking Water Systems

- Reduce damage risk of water supply systems.
- Improve preparedness to reduce interruptions in distribution.
- Ensure water quantity and quality in disasters.



SUMA

Supply Management System

A collective effort of Caribbean and Latin American countries to sort, classify, inventory and distribute relief supplies.

Coordination tool to aid governments and humanitarian organizations in the coordination, transparency and efficient management of relief supplies in a chaotic environment.





Regional Disaster Information Center for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Improve the compilation, processing, and dissemination of disaster information.
- Strengthen local and national capabilities in the establishment and maintenance of disaster information centers.
- Support the development of the Regional Disaster Information System.
- Collaboration with Regional Library of Medicine



