



Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

Investing for resilience - III Sesión - Buenos Aires, Argentina - 29-31 October, 2012



Organization of American States

THIRD SESSION OF THE REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE AMERICAS

Call for the identification and systematization of relevant experiences¹ on risk reduction² in the Americas

1. General introduction

The Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas (RP) is a forum which brings a wide range of actors together working from different perspectives to implement actions aimed at the integration of disaster risk management as an essential component of a sustainable and inclusive development planning.

The Third Session of the Regional Platform (RP12) will be held from 29 to 31 October 2012, in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The following main topics for this third session had been identified:

- Public policies at local, national and regional level for disaster risk reduction
- Public investment and financial tools for disaster risk reduction
- Urban risk and disaster risk reduction
- Civil society participation in disaster risk reduction
- Technical cooperation for disaster risk reduction
- Mechanisms, tools or instruments after the Hyogo Framework for Action 2015 (Post-HFA)

As in previous years, an important component of the RP12 is the presentation of experiences, executed by different actors and from different perspectives, to illustrate progress, opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the agenda for reducing the risk of disasters in the Americas. Actions will be presented that, in general, are all carried out under the umbrella of the global guidelines set in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) and other instruments and mechanisms developed in regional, national and local contexts.

This call for the presentation of relevant experiences aims to provide a space to collect, systematize and give visibility to the actions accomplished by different actors working in the DRR. The call also seeks to encourage the exchange of experiences and knowledge as a mechanism to advance towards the objective of reducing the risk of disasters in the Americas.

2. Call objectives

The overall objective of the call is:

- To promote the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experiences on building resilience to disasters and adaptation to climate change in the Americas

The specific objectives are:

- To identify and systematize relevant experiences on building disaster resilience and adaptation to climate change led by different levels of government and civil society in the Americas

¹ The term "relevant experiences" includes not only those experiences considered as best practices (successful stories) but also those that although were not successful can be used as reference to showcase what should be improved.

² In the context of this call, the concept of risk reduction also includes experiences developed under the framework of climate change adaptation projects



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- Disseminate lessons learned on development processes that integrate the principles of risk management and adaptation to climate change

3. Call for relevant experiences

The call is the result of the collaboration between the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNISDR, Regional Office The Americas, and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), through the Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change Section (RISK-MACC) of the Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD) as co-organizers and conveners of the Regional Platform meetings, with the support of the Government of Argentina through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the White Helmets Commission.

The call for proposals looks for the presentation of experiences in any of the following topics:

- Public policies at local, national, and regional level for disaster risk reduction
- Public investment and financial tools for disaster risk reduction
- Urban contexts and disaster risk reduction

The detailed description of each of these topics can be found in the PR12 website. The following section briefly describes the main themes of interest for the call. It is important to note that although it is possible to present experiences considering each topic separately, those experiences that illustrate the connection between the three areas of the call will be specially valued. That is to say, experiences which, for example, illustrate how public policies defined in national contexts influence the reduction of risk in urban contexts; or vice versa, experiences at the urban level (local) that have influenced the establishment of national level policies.

3.1 Experiences in the area of public policies for disaster risk reduction at local, national, and regional level

In this case, experiences that arise to the call must refer to one or more of the following topics:

- **Key elements in the process of development national and regional public policies, for example:**
 - ✓ Processes to define and/or implement regional policy guidelines
 - ✓ Processes to define and/or implement national policy guidelines
- **Equity in disaster risk reduction policies, such as:**
 - ✓ Public policies for DRR: access to water and land
- **Cross-cutting issues in disaster risk reduction policies, for example:**
 - ✓ Public policies for DRR and gender approach

3.2 Experiences in the area of public investment and financial tools for disaster risk reduction

In this case, experiences that arise to the call must refer to one or more of the following topics:

- **Experiences of public investment processes and mechanisms/indicators to monitor investments in DRR and ACC within public policies, such as**
 - ✓ Case Studies on incorporation of RRD and ACC in National Public Investment Systems, in programmatic budget structures, on the criteria of allocation of resources at the national and local levels



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- ✓ Development and analysis of damage and loss databases, systems of indicators, probabilistic models for the formulation of public policies and investment
- ✓ Experiences in development of the indicators for monitoring the investments in DRR in the national accounts
- **Insurance, reinsurance and risk transfer mechanisms, for example:**
 - ✓ Lessons learned from disaster prevention and relief funds, fiscal security (contingency loans, Catastrophe bonds-Cat bonds)
 - ✓ Market mechanisms, insurance and risk transfer systems at regional, national and local level
 - ✓ Enhancement of the private sector role in risk transfer processes

3.3 Experiences in reducing disaster risk in urban contexts "cities and local governments resilient to disasters in the Americas"

In this case, experiences to be presented to the call must refer to one or more than one of the "Resilient Cities Campaign 10 essentials, which are listed below:

1. **Put in place organization and coordination** to understand and reduce disaster risk within the local government, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society-build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role and contribution to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
2. **Assign a budget** for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.
3. Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, prepare **risk assessments** and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions. Ensure that this information and the plans for your city's resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.
4. Invest in and maintain **infrastructure that reduces risk**, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.
5. Assess the **safety of all schools and health facilities** and upgrade these as necessary.
6. Apply and enforce **realistic, risk-compliant building regulations and land use planning principles**. Identify **safe land for low-income citizens** and develop upgrading of informal settlements, wherever feasible.
7. Ensure **education programmes and training** on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.
8. **Protect ecosystems and natural buffers** to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.
9. Install early **warning systems and emergency management capacities** in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills in which everyone participates.
10. After any disaster, ensure **that the needs of the survivors are placed at the centre** of reconstruction with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.

3.4 What type of experiences may apply



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Experiences that are completed or in the process of implementation with already visible results can submit the application under the consideration of the following criteria.

- The presentation of the experience can be done in conjunction with organizations or institutions that have supported its design and execution, but it is necessary that the experience has been carried out in close coordination with national and/or local level institutions
- In the case of experiences addressing urban risk issues, the presentation of the experience should be endorsed by the highest authority of the local government where the intervention has taken place (a local government or a set of local governments)
- The experience should implicitly or explicitly address risk reduction issues and be aligned with one or more than one of the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), or, where applicable, with one or more than one of the 10 essentials of the "Making Resilient Cities" campaign
- The call not only intends to showcase "successful stories", but also those which can provide risk management and climate change adaptation relevant lessons in the context of sustainable development; even though they may be regarded as "unsuccessful"
- The intervention area can be a region (more than one country), a country, a municipality or a group of municipalities (for example through work in a common catchment), or a community
- Preference will be given to recent experiences, which have begun the process of formulation and implementation of the project after 31 December 2008, in other words, the projects are no older than maximum four (4) years. However projects that are underway will be also considered, although they have been formulated or initiated prior to the indicated starting date

4. How to share your experiences

The call will take place in two phases:

Phase 1: Inventory and pre-selection of experiences. In this phase the call is open to the nomination of experiences on any of the aforementioned topics. The nomination must be made using the format referred to in Annex 1. Using the assessment criteria set out in the section "Pre-selection Criteria", the Organizing Committee will proceed to pre-select 50 experiences. These experiences will be invited to the next stage of the call. In pre-selection of experiences an adequate representation of all the sub regions of the Americas will be ensured.

The not pre-selected experiences will be included in a list to be published through the webpage of UNISDR and other available media.

Phase 2: Selection and systematization of experiences. Preselected experiences will be invited to submit a more complete description of the work performed using the format indicated in Annex 2. The selection committee will proceed with assessment of the experiences and selection of the three (3) most relevant experiences using the criteria set out in the section "Selection Criteria" (see Section 6).

Selected experiences will be studied with a greater level of detail in order to identify and systematize lessons learned and success elements. The results will be included in a publication and presented at the Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, to be held from 29 to 31 October 2012 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

On the other hand, taking into account the agreement of cooperation between UN-ISDR and the GS/OAS for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Response to Disasters (RMRD) of the OAS, the experiences to be collected in this call (Phase I and II) will feed the experiences database started in the second hemispheric meeting of the Inter-American network of mitigation of disasters (RIMD), meeting of



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Santa Marta, which was co-organized by UNISDR Americas and OAS/DDS and the Government of Colombia.

To request the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) to implement, through the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), a mechanism that takes advantage of the online database of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) to update, analyze, and systematize, periodically, the experiences and best practices implemented and/or informed voluntarily by member states in accordance with the recommendations of the "Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance". The necessary resources for the implementation of this mechanism shall come from voluntary contributions of member states and external funds.

In June 2012, the Forty-Second Regular Session of the OAS General assembly, gathered in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, endorsed the "Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance". One of the objectives of this Plan is the strengthening of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM), promoting the use of its online database on "best practices" as the mechanism for the exchange of experiences and lessons learned on risk reduction in the Americas.

4.1 Who can nominate an experience

The nomination of the experience must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the institution responsible for leading the experience. For experiences on urban risk reduction, the application of the experience should be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the highest authority of the local government or its delegate.

Managing, promoting and/or participating entities in the design and implementation of the proposed experiences may be responsible for coordinating the presentation of the experience. In this regard, the call provides the following possibilities:

- Institutional presentation: includes those experiences submitted by institutions such as: sub-regional and regional bodies; municipalities or networks of municipalities; local units of public and private bodies; governmental and non-governmental organizations, cooperation agencies, centers of research or teaching, and community-based organizations, among others.
- Non-institutional presentation: includes those experiences presented by non-institutional actors such as researchers and consultants.

4.2 How to nominate an experience

The initial phase of the call will be open from 16 July 2012 and will close on 17 August 2012 at midnight (Panama time).

The nominations must be prepared using only the formats designed for that purpose: The format included in Annex 1 should be used for the initial phase of the application. The format included in Annex 2 should be used for the presentation stage and detailed description of the experience. The documents must be sent in electronic form to the following email addresses:

- OEA/DDS:
 - Rosa Trejo, disaster risk reduction specialist
 - E-mail: rtrejo@oas.org
- UNISDR Las Américas:
 - Ruben Darío Vargas, coordinator Urban Risk Thematic Platform
 - E-mail: rvargas@eird.org



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The selection Committee will evaluate the abstracts received and will inform the results of the pre-selection phase no later than 31 August 2012.

The authors of the pre-selected experiences must submit more detailed information using the formats established for this purpose no later than 24 September 2012.

The final results will be published on 12 October 2012.

5. Selection Committee

The selection Committee will consist of representatives of the following institutions that are part of the Advisory Board of the Regional Platform: OAS/DDS, IFRC, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, and UNISDR Americas.

If required, the selection Committee may request the support of other members of the Regional Platform Advisory Council, independent experts or other institutions to advance the review of the experiences presented.

6. Evaluation criteria for the pre-selection and selection of experiences:

Pre selection and selection of experiences will be carried out according to the criteria established by the members of the selection Committee, who, if considered necessary, can count on the advice of national or regional institutions with expertise in the thematic areas or the experiences that are submitted.

- In the initial phase, a pre-selection of 50 experiences will be done, these will be systematized to develop the output of the final publication of the activity
- In the final phase, three (3) experiences will be chosen, their representatives will be invited to present the experience the RP12

6.1 Criteria for the pre-selection of experiences (application phase)³

- **Eligibility requirements compliance.** To be considered eligible to be evaluated according to the criteria of eligibility, the experiences presented must meet the following requirements.
 - a. Meeting the deadline for submission of the nomination form of the experience (Annex 1)
 - b. Thematic relevance, the eligibility of experience according to provisions in relation to the type of experiences that may apply
 - c. The eligibility of those who nominate the experience, pursuant to the bases of the call
 - d. The appropriateness of the content of the executive summary of the experience to the established format
- **Quality criteria:**
 - a. Content clearness of the executive summary of the experience on the basis of the aspects that are part of the format
 - b. Relevance of the lessons learned so that other institutions and/or civil society actors can take advantage of the experience
 - c. Innovative nature of the experience
 - d. Replicability of the experience

³ The pre selection and selection criteria uses as reference the ones used in the meaningful experiences meeting held in Santa Marta Colombia in 2010 (OAS-UNISDR) and those presented in the report of "South-South cooperation" 2011 prepared by SEGIB (Ibero-American Cooperation).



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In the pre-selection phase, the 50 experiences who have obtained the highest score will be chosen and invited to the next phase, the detailed presentation of the experience.

6.2 Criteria for the final selection of the experiences (detailed phase)

- a. Process of formulation, development and implementation of the project/programme referred to in the experience presented: involving various stakeholders at the different stages of the process from conception to implementation
- b. Experience verifiable results: the results of the experience are verifiable, are aligned with the topics proposed in this call (see Section 2), and are identified as relevant by other actors
- c. Specific impacts on development and risk reduction processes: it has developed in a reduction of the levels of risk expressed for example in the reduction of loss of life and economic decline in the number of events, vulnerability reduction, decrease in poverty levels, increased resources for the reduction of the risk, among others
- d. Methodologies and developed capabilities: experience counts on methodology (e.g. tools, manuals, guides, information systems and monitoring, webpages, institutional memory, others) and capabilities to transfer its experience (e.g. as experts in the identified issue, technical, technological capabilities and/or economic resources)
- e. Integration of cross-cutting themes (gender, interculturality, etc.)
- f. Relevance to the innovative nature of the practices and lessons learned in relation to the topics of the call: public policies, public investment, and the objectives of the "Making Resilient Cities" campaign
- g. Replicability: related to systematization and dissemination of key elements of the experience so that other actors can evaluate the possibility of other social, economical and financial, political and institutional, or physical and natural conditions
- h. Sustainability: related to the creation and/or understanding of the social, economic and financial, and political and institutional conditions, to give continuity to the proceedings initiated

Table 1: Weighting criteria in to be used in the pre-selection and selection of experiences (each of the pre selection and selection criteria are evaluated using the proposed scale)

| Rating | Points |
|-------------------|--------|
| Very poor | 0-20 |
| Poor | 30-40 |
| Acceptable | 50-60 |
| Satisfactory | 70-80 |
| Very satisfactory | 90-100 |

In the selecting stage, the selection committee will choose the three (3) most relevant experiences, which correspond to those obtaining the highest score in the assessment made by the committee.



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7. Recognitions

A representative for each of the three (3) most relevant experiences will be invited to present their work during The Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, to be held from 29 to 31 October 2012 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The experiences that pass the pre-selection process will be included in the publication "systematization of meaningful experiences in the area of disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change in the Americas" and integrated into the online INDM database.

8. How to make inquiries

Stakeholders can make inquiries requesting clarification on specific aspects of the call to the following people:

Ruben Vargas (UNISDR): rvargas@eird.org o

Rosa Trejo (OAS): rtrejo@oas.org

Queries and responses will be published on the UNISDR website www.eird.org

9. Call timeframe

| Key moments | Key dates |
|---|-------------------|
| Call launch | 16 July 2012 |
| Deadline for the nomination of experiences - pre-selection phase | 17 August 2012 |
| Publication of the pre-selection results | 31 August 2012 |
| Deadline for receiving detailed reports from the pre-selected experiences | 24 September 2012 |
| Publication of the final selection results | 12 October 2012 |
| Publication of the systematization of relevant experiences | December 2012 |

10. Languages:

Experiences can be presented in Spanish, Portuguese or English.

11. Legal regime of the call

- Each applicant agrees to accept the conditions laid down in the rules of the call simply by participating
- The call may be declared void if, at discretion of the selection committee, none of the experiences presented are in accordance with the eligibility and quality established criteria
- The organizers of the call have the power to resolve all situations that arise during the development of it concerning the interpretation, modification and adjustments of the criteria for eligibility, quality and recognition



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- By the mere fact of participating in the call, the statements that appear in the section of property and copyrights are considered to be true and each of the applicants is bounded to the terms contained here
- Applicants agree to accept the decision of the selection committee as the final decision. There is no right of appeal and no participant may recourse to any national or international tribunal

12. Ownership and copyright:

- By the mere fact of participating in the call, each of the applicants warrants owning or with rights in all information and other materials delivered to apply the experience and none of this material infringes on the copyright of any other person
- Although copyright belongs to each of the authors including protection against copying ideas and the right to the publication of the draft, applicants granted explicitly to the Organizing Committee the right to use the data, documents and files sent, in whole or in part, internally or externally, in any manner and for any purpose, including, but not limited to rights of exhibition, reproduction and publication and others that correspond to the purpose of the call. This right is not intended for commercial use or the economic remuneration

13. Liability disclaimer

Results, interpretations and conclusions expressed in the experiences presented to the call are exclusive responsibility of the applicants, and in no way can be attributed to the Organizing Committee or any of its members.

The Organizing Committee does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in the experiences presented, and is not responsible for any aspect of the consequences resulting from your use.