



VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP21)

Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean

1 to 4 November 2021, Virtual Event



VII REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

**BUILDING RESILIENT ECONOMIES IN THE
AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN**

DIGITAL BROCHURE

**VII REGIONAL PLATFORM
#RP21**

Acknowledgments

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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
High Commission of Canada - Government of Canada
German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS)
Jamaica National Group (JN Group)

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About the #RP21

Facing a new normal is the common reality of the States and territories of the Americas and the Caribbean, a region that has confronted a host of disaster-related hazards. Recognizing that resilient economies are critical to building resilient countries and ensuring sustainable development for the region as a whole, the RP21, hosted by the Government of Jamaica, and co-organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), is convened under the theme “Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean”.

Why RP21?

The RP21 is the only platform providing a dedicated space for dialogue on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) across all sectors for all countries and territories of the Americas and the Caribbean. The seventh iteration of this milestone event will present an opportunity for States and stakeholders to share experiences, build capacities, transfer knowledge and showcase successes during one of the most challenging periods for the area of DRR. It will also renew high-level commitment for DRR in the region.



<https://rp-americas.undrr.org/>

The agenda


Featuring 30 sessions and over 100 speakers from communities, governments, businesses and institutions across the Americas and the Caribbean, the RP21 will be a virtual event headlined by high-level representatives of the region with participation of a variety of stakeholders.

Start	Finish	DAY 1		
09:00	10:00	OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY		
11:00	12:30	HIGH-LEVEL SESSION 1		
14:00	15:00	PARALLEL SESSION 1	PARALLEL SESSION 2	
15:30	16:30	SPECIAL SESSION 1	LEARNING LAB 1	
DAY 2				
09:00	10:30	HIGH-LEVEL SESSION 2		
11:00	12:00	PARALLEL SESSION 3	PARALLEL SESSION 4	RAP Technical Session
14:00	15:00	SPECIAL SESSION 2	LEARNING LAB 2	
DAY 3				
09:00	10:00	PARALLEL SESSION 5	PARALLEL SESSION 6	Ministerial Meeting
11:00	12:00	PARALLEL SESSION 7	LEARNING LAB 3	
14:00	15:30	HIGH-LEVEL SESSION 3		
DAY 4				
09:00	10:30	HIGH-LEVEL SESSION 4		
11:00	12:00	PARALLEL SESSION 8	LEARNING LAB 4	LEARNING SESSION & LABS
14:00	15:00	OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY		

***Jamaica time**

GMT-5 (Jamaica, Panama, Mexico, Peru)

How to register?

To be a part of the RP21, register at  <https://rp-americas.undrr.org/rp-americas-registration> and have RP21-related updates leading up to the event emailed directly to you. Monitor the RP21 website for details.

Themes and objectives of the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for the Americas and the Caribbean

Under the theme “Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean”, the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, hosted by the Government of Jamaica, is aimed at raising awareness on the increasing economic and human cost of disasters in the Americas and the Caribbean, including the specific challenges facing Small Island Developing States.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on millions of people, causing loss of lives and devastating economic impacts. While no one remains unaffected, the most vulnerable bear the brunt of the impacts of the pandemic. The losses resulting from this global disaster have major social impacts that are manifested in different dimensions of human development and poverty. By the end of 2020, for instance, COVID-19 had pushed 22 million Latin Americans into poverty, increasing the poverty rates in the region to 33.7% of the total population. The impact of the pandemic on education, with close to 120 million school-age children of the region losing or at risk of losing an entire academic year, has resulted in worsening indices of inequality for Latin America and the Caribbean. The region will therefore have to address recovery in the context of magnified structural gaps and high levels of indebtedness. The COVID-19 pandemic offers a vivid example of systemic compound risk. It shows us that the very nature and scale of risk has changed to such a degree that it has the potential to overwhelm established risk management approaches and the reach of institutions.

Between 1998 and 2017, disaster-hit countries reported direct economic losses valued at USD 2.9 billion. Reported losses from extreme weather events rose by 151% compared to the previous 20-year period. The Americas and the Caribbean accounts for 53% of reported global economic losses in the last 20 years as a result of climate-related disasters. The heaviest cost of storms relative to the size of their economies fell on the Small Island States of the Caribbean. Among these, the United Nations Organization lists Jamaica as one of the countries most exposed to natural hazards such as earthquakes, hurricanes, landslides and flooding. Jamaica’s leadership on the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction marks the first time that the Platform is hosted by a country of the Caribbean, one of the regions most vulnerable to extreme weather events and seismic activity. The Hon. Desmond McKenzie, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development of Jamaica and Deputy Chairman of the National Disaster Risk Management Council (NDRMC) said “the forum will raise awareness not just for Jamaica, but for the region as a whole, to have a real platform for expressing our positions on disaster risk and all associated issues”.

Regional Platforms are recognized by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283) as critical mechanisms to monitor progress in its implementation at the regional level. They also play an instrumental role in the development of policies and strategies and in the advancement of knowledge and mutual learning at the regional level. Regional Platforms take stock of the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies that are aligned with the Sendai Framework and assess the level of progress made to identify gaps and priorities and make recommendations for the development of the next Global Platform.

The Regional Platforms pursue three general objectives:

- Present and analyse the progress achieved at regional level regarding the comprehensive and inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework and its targets, identifying key areas of success and areas where concerted attention is needed.
- Considering the risks and impacts of COVID-19 and other disasters, review the Regional Action Plan to assess needed adjustments, define regional priorities for the following two years and identify mechanisms to promote the integration of disaster risk management within and across sectors.
- Consider the systemic nature of risk, as well as the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, climate change and other compounding risks in the region, take stock of the recovery efforts and recommend strategies to achieve resilient economies and promote a risk-informed inclusive sustainable development.

The main expected outcomes of the seventh session of the Regional Platform are:

- Chairman's summary
- Declaration from the high-level segment / Ministerial Meeting
- Presentation of the progress made and recommendations to advance the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas and the Caribbean
- Proceedings of the seventh session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean



Message from the
Prime Minister of Jamaica,
the Most Honourable
Andrew Holness,
ON, PC, MP

Jamaica is truly grateful for the opportunity to host – for the first time by a Caribbean State – the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and Caribbean under the theme “Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean”.

The Caribbean is one of the most vulnerable regions to extreme weather events and seismic activities. For the period 1998 to 2017, countries impacted by disaster reported direct economic losses valued at US \$2.9 billion. Losses reported from extreme weather events rose by one hundred and fifty-one per cent when compared to the previous 20-year period. The region accounts for 53% of global economic losses reported in the last 20 years as a result of climate-related disasters. Small Island States of the Caribbean bear the largest portion of costs relative to the size of their economies.

The VII Regional Platform will be held from November 1 to 4, 2021, virtually. It takes place at a critical time as the world grapples with a global pandemic and extreme weather events driven by climate change. The amplified effects of floods, drought and heat waves threaten lives and economies and ultimately undermine our ability to achieve economic growth. The call to action is now. The hosting of the Regional Platform in Jamaica is aimed at raising awareness on the increasing economic and human costs of disaster and the specific challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS). As Prime Minister and Chair of the National Disaster Risk Management Council, I am confident that the Honourable Desmond McKenzie, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, who is spearheading this conference, will ensure that this platform be one of deliberation and best practice sharing on disaster risks and the associated issues.

Join us for the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean. We look forward to the exchange.

Message from Ms. Mami Mizutori

Special Representative of the
Secretary-General for Disaster Risk
Reduction and Head of the United
Nations Office for Disaster Risk
Reduction (UNDRR)



The Government of Jamaica will host the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, which will take place as a virtual event from 1 to 4 November 2021.

I warmly invite you to this important event jointly organized by the Government of Jamaica, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency.

The Regional Platform will be hosted by a Caribbean government for the first time, and will bring together governments, stakeholders, and representatives from across the Americas and the Caribbean to focus on building resilient economies.

The Regional Platform will be an opportunity to learn from the experience of the Caribbean and the Small Island Developing States on the frontline of the fight against climate change.

It is taking place at a time when the region most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic is embarking on the journey towards recovery.

There has never been a greater sense of urgency to ensure that robust disaster risk reduction strategies are adopted and acted on.

Participants will have an important opportunity to start feeding into the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework and to ensure that the region's concerns and challenges are shared at the Global Platform, which will take place next May in Indonesia.

I look forward to welcoming you all soon to this important event. Details can be found on our website undrr.org

Thank you.

RP21

Programme



No.	Name of session	Organizers
HIGH-LEVEL SESSIONS		
HL1	Americas & Caribbean: the resilience-building challenge for the next decades	UNDRR / CDEMA / ECLAC / PAHO / CEPREDENAC
HL2	Building resilient economies: building back, better and greener, leaving no one behind	UNDP / ECLAC
HL3	Social protection and inclusion to strengthen community resilience	IFRC / GNDR / PAHO / ECLAC
HL4	Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance: Lessons from COVID-19	PAHO / UNDRR / UNDP / GNDR / CEPREDENAC
PARALLEL SESSIONS		
P1	Environmental protection and climate change adaptation to build local and national resilient economies: Dividends of Nature Based Solutions	UNDP / IBC CC & Resilience / IFRC
P2	Enhancing resilient infrastructure	PAHO / UNOPS - WB / UNDRR
P3	Overcoming disaster economic losses: integrating risk and hazard information into public and private investments	CEPREDENAC / CDB
P4	Integrating disaster displacement into DRR strategies, policies, plans and legal frameworks.	PDD / IOM / IFRC
P5	Using social protection mechanisms to address inequalities in preparedness, response and recovery.	GNDR / CISS / SISCA
P6	Local governments, environmental management and disaster risk reduction: addressing multiple hazards and supporting the most at-risk	GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA / CDEMA/ COLOMBIA / PAHO / UN ENVIRONMENT
P7	Anticipatory Financing	OCHA / IFRC
P8	Understanding systemic risk and promoting a risk-informed people-centered sustainable development	UNDRR / UWI / UNICEF
SPECIAL SESSIONS		
SP1	Special Session 1: Regional Risk Assessment Report 2021 (Regional Risk Landscape): towards an integrated, multistakeholder, gender-responsive risk governance	UNDRR / ECLAC / GNDR
SP2	Special Session 2: A regional approach to coordination on multi-hazards: 2020 lessons from the Caribbean	CDEMA / Government of Jamaica / ODPEM / ECLAC / PAHO / UNDP
LEARNING LABS		
LL1	Disaster Impact Modelling	UN OCHA / CEPREDENAC/ CDEMA
LL2	Forensic Investigations of Disasters (FORIN)	LA RED / UNESCO
LL3	From Early Warning Systems to Impact-based Forecasting: An approach to boost Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean region	CREWS Caribbean/ WB/GFDRR WMO / UNDRR / CDEMA / UNDP
LL4	Introducing the Scorecard's New Addendum to Make Cities Resilient	UNDRR / UNESCO / AECOM
SL	Lightning and wildfires	WMO / IBC / FAO / NOAA

All sessions will have simultaneous interpretation and real time captioning in English, Spanish and French; as well as international sign language



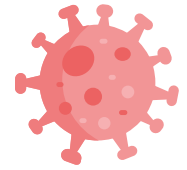
Building resilient economies

SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

Sendai Framework implementation



Sustainable development



COVID-19 impact

Structure:



30 sessions

4 High-level sessions
8 Parallel sessions
2 Special sessions
5 Learning Labs
11 Side events



One technical session on the Regional Action Plan



One Ministerial Meeting



Official Statements



35 Ideas Incubator



Innovations Platform
(30 virtual booths)



2 Preparatory events
Youth Forum
(26th October)

& ARISE Forum (28th)





High-level Sessions

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION 1

Americas & Caribbean: the resilience-building challenge for the next decades

MONDAY NOVEMBER 1 / 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Session description

The COVID-19 pandemic, a global disaster of epic proportions, has transformed our world affecting millions of people. It has devastated global economic and financial markets and thrown millions into poverty. The social impact has also been high, particularly for women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. It has changed the way we live, interact, behave, work, and even die.

This session takes place seven years after the adoption of the Sendai Framework, just over two years since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and one year before the inter-governmental midterm review of the Sendai Framework scheduled for 2023. This session presents a unique and timely opportunity to reflect on and take stock of the most salient challenges from the perspective of different stakeholders in the region for accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for resilience building, including in specific country contexts.

The session will focus on achieving the following:

- Identify difficulties or constraints faced by various countries and stakeholders based on past experience to prioritize actions to improve resilience.
- Provide key elements for consideration on how to improve disaster risk governance and risk management systems.
- Highlight how international solidarity and cooperation can help solve these issues locally and nationally and recommit to accelerating progress toward disaster risk reduction and the SDGs.

Organizers

UNDRR | CDEMA | ECLAC | PAHO | CEPREDENAC

Speakers

- H.E. Epsy Campbell Barr, Vice-President and Secretary of State of Costa Rica
- Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Maria Noel Vaeza, Regional Director of UN Women- Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) (moderator)
- Dr. David Applegate, Associate Director for Natural Hazards Exercising the Delegated Authority of the Director, U.S. Geological Survey
- Myriam Urzúa, Secretary of Integral Risk Management and Civil Protection of Mexico City, Mexico
- Dário Jorge Giolo Saadi, Mayor of Campinas, Brazil



H.E. Epsy Campbell Barr
Vice-President and Secretary
of State of Costa Rica



Alicia Bárcena Ibarra
Executive Secretary,
Economic Commission for
Latin America and the
Caribbean (ECLAC)



Maria Noel Vaeza
Regional Director of UN
Women- Latin America and
the Caribbean



Elizabeth Riley
Executive Director, Caribbean
Disaster Emergency
Management Agency (CDEMA)
(moderator)



Dr. David Applegate
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising the Delegated Authority of the
Director, U.S. Geological Survey



Myriam Urzúa
Secretary of Integral Risk
Management and Civil
Protection of Mexico City,
Mexico



Dário Jorge Giolo Saadi
Mayor of Campinas, Brazil

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION 2

Building resilient economies: building back, better and greener, leaving no one behind

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2 / 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session description

The SDGs are integrated and indivisible, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. However, this century is likely to be dominated by the emergence of large-scale dynamic risks that inherently cut across these dimensions. Currently, building resilience in a country faces greater challenges due to the context of increased vulnerability. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the extent to which a single hazard has the potential to trigger a multitude of cascading effects, impacting the life support systems of societies and economies worldwide and at all scales. Strengthening resilience means devising a strategy that promotes coherence across agendas and enhances sustainability. The discussion during this session will focus on four pillars of this strategy:

- Ensuring coherence between disaster risk reduction and the climate change agenda to enable greener and more resilient recovery.
- Promoting disaster risk reduction with a green bias highlighting the importance of prevention.
- Financing disaster risk management with a green tax incentive to achieve resilient recovery.
- Integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning.

Organizers

UNDP | ECLAC

Speakers

- Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Luis Felipe López-Calva, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Seynabou Sakho, Director of Strategy and Operations for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank
- Luz Keila Virginia Gramajo Vilchez, Secretary of Planning and Programming, Presidency of Guatemala
- Laura Cárdenas Lorenzo, Consultant in Communications and Visibility for the area of Governance at EUROsociAL+



Mami Mizutori
Special Representative of the
United Nations Secretary-General
(SMSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction,
United Nations Office for Disaster
Risk Reduction



Luis Felipe López-Calva
Regional Director for Latin
America and the Caribbean,
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)



Seynabou Sakho
Director of Strategy and
Operations for Latin America
and the Caribbean, World Bank



**Luz Keila Virginia
Gramajo Vilchez**
Secretary of Planning and
Programming, Presidency of
Guatemala



Laura Cárdenas Lorenzo
Consultant in Communications
and Visibility for the area of
Governance at EUROsociAL+

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION 3

Social protection and inclusion to strengthen community resilience

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session description

The importance of social protection and inclusion to strengthen community resilience as well as system-wide disaster risk management and governance, particularly in the context of complex and interconnected risk, has been made abundantly evident through the COVID-19 pandemic. Social protection is concerned with preventing, managing, and overcoming situations that adversely affect people's well-being. It is of vital importance that there be increased harmonization amongst social protection policies and programmes, in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, the targets established on the Sendai Framework, and the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement. This session will put forward good practices and concrete actionable recommendations for incorporating inclusive social protection policies that favour the development of resilient communities.

The session specifically aims to:

- Present good practices, innovative solutions and concrete actionable recommendations for strengthening inclusive social protection mechanisms.
- Present practices that promote community development through COVID-19 recovery for all.
- Present a transformative approach to disaster risk management that includes climate risk.

Organizers

IFRC | GNDR | PAHO | ECLAC

Speakers

- Lola Castro, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Food Programme (WFP)
- Marcie Roth, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, World Institute on Disability, United States
- Roger Alonso, Head, Disasters, Crises and Climate Unit, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Liza Mariana Hernández-Betancourth, Regional Lead for Americas and the Caribbean, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)



Lola Castro

Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Food Programme (WFP)



Marcie Roth

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, World Institute on Disability, United States



Roger Alonso

Head, Disasters, Crises and Climate Unit, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



Liza Mariana

Hernández-Betancourth
Regional Lead for Americas and the Caribbean, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION 4

Strengthening disaster risk governance: Lessons from COVID-19

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4 / 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Session description

The second priority for action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) clearly states the need for “Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk”. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of this priority. Intersectoral coordination, legal frameworks, policies and plans, up to date risk information to drive decision-making, clear participation mechanisms and integration from global to regional and local levels are elements of governance that the current pandemic has highlighted as key to manage complex situations in the context of systemic risk. It is necessary to address current challenges and prepare for future ones by: (i) focusing efforts on actions aimed at strengthening governance; (ii) highlighting the importance of intersectoral and international coordination on disaster risk in a multi-sectoral context; and (iii) promoting the full and meaningful participation of all relevant actors at the appropriate levels.

The session specifically aims to:

- Unpack governance issues to address the multi-sectoral nature of systemic risk at regional, national, subnational, and community levels.
- Share existing practices that have examined systemic risks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, to better understand the obstacles and potential for better governance and intersectoral collaboration.

Organizers

PAHO | UNDRR | UNDP | GNDR | CEPREDENAC

Speakers

- Dr. Paula Daza, Undersecretary of Public Health, Government of Chile
- Dr. Allan Lavell, Coordinator, Social Studies, Risks and Disasters Programme, Latin American Faculty of Social Science Faculty (FLACSO), Costa Rica
- Dr. Ciro Ugarte, Director, Department of Health Emergencies, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/ World Health Organization (WHO)
- Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary, Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)
- Colonel Sergio Rico, Director, National Emergency System (SINAE), Office of the Presidency, Uruguay
- Simone Keizer-Beache, Chief Medical Officer Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Dr. Wayne Henry, Chairman & Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)
- Bijay Kumar, Executive Director, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)



Dr. Paula Daza
Public Health Undersecretary,
Government of Chile



Dr. Allan Lavell
Coordinator, Social Studies,
Risks and Disasters
Programme, Latin American
Faculty of Social Science
Faculty (FLACSO), Costa Rica



Dr. Ciro Ugarte
Director, Department of
Health Emergencies, Pan
American Health Organization
(PAHO)/ World Health
Organization (WHO)



Claudia Herrera
Executive Secretary,
Coordination Centre for
Disaster Prevention in Central
America and the Dominican
Republic (CEPRENAC)



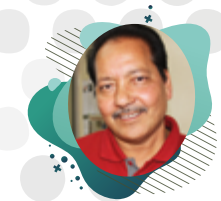
Colonel Sergio Rico
Director, National Emergency
System (SINAE), Office of the
Presidency, Uruguay



Simone Keizer-Beache
Chief Medical Officer Ministry of
Health, Wellness and the
Environment, St Vincent and the
Grenadines



Dr. Wayne Henry
Chairman & Director
General, Planning
Institute of Jamaica
(PIOJ)
Jamaica



Bijay Kumar
Executive Director, Global
Network of Civil Society
Organizations for Disaster
Reduction (GNDR)





PARALLEL SESSIONS



PARALLEL SESSIONS – DAY 1

Parallel Session 1: Environmental protection and climate change adaptation to build local and national resilient economies: dividends of Nature-Based Solutions

MONDAY NOVEMBER 1 / 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Session description

This interactive session focuses on the dividends of Nature-Based Solutions. Nature-based solutions – including the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of key ecosystems – have the potential to cost-effectively achieve ecological, social, and economic goals. Amongst a multitude of benefits, nature-based solutions have the potential to promote long-term resilience across multiple sectors with demonstrable positive impact on local economies.

The goals of this interactive session are:

- To discuss the concepts of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation as measures for adaptation and risk reduction in the frame of national plans for managing climate impacts.
- To present the opportunities that nature-based solutions provide in building back better and creating resilient local and national economies through their various co-benefits to communities and local livelihoods, as demonstrated by experience.
- To share experiences of national and local governments in the LAC region that have favoured nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation as their principal approach in managing climate risk.

Organizers

UNDP | IBC CC & Resilience | IFRC

Speakers

- Odalys de la Caridad Goicochea Cardoso, General Director for the Environment (CITMA), Government of Cuba
- Leticia Gutierrez, General Director on Policy Coordination and Environmental Culture, Ministry of Environment, Mexico City, Mexico
- Kevin P. Douglas, Manager, Emergency Services Section, Jamaica Red Cross
- Dr. Laura Kuhl, Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and International Affairs, Global Resilience Institute, Northeastern University
- Lyes Ferroukhi, Regional Technical Lead, NCE Team, United Nations Development Programme, Latin America and the Caribbean
- Montserrat Xilot, Regional Technical Specialist in Climate Adaptation, United Nations Programme for Development (UNDP) (moderator)



**Odalys de la Caridad
Goicochea Cardoso**
General Director for the
Environment (CITMA),
Government of Cuba



Leticia Gutierrez
General Director on Policy
Coordination and Environmental
Culture, Ministry of Environment,
Mexico City, Mexico



Kevin P. Douglas
Manager, Emergency
Services Section, Jamaica
Red Cross, Jamaica



Dr. Laura Kuhl
Assistant Professor, School of Public
Policy and Urban Affairs and
International Affairs, Global Resilience
Institute, Northeastern University, USA



Lyes Ferroukhi
Regional Technical Lead, NCE
Team, United Nations Development
Programme, Latin America and the
Caribbean



Montserrat Xilot
Regional Technical Specialist in
Climate Adaptation, United
Nations Programme for
Development (UNDP) (moderator)

PARALLEL SESSIONS – DAY 1

Parallel Session 2: Enhancing the resilience of infrastructure

MONDAY NOVEMBER 1 / 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Session description

This panel discussion featuring a diversity of speakers will focus on enhancing the resilience of infrastructure. Recent extreme events and the resulting disaster impacts around the world have highlighted the importance of sustainable, resilient infrastructure systems, especially in historically disadvantaged communities and hazard-prone areas. Public and private agencies have begun to develop sustainability plans that focus on protecting physical systems along with community capital and public health in the face of disasters and climate change. However, these emerging developments require long-term cooperative management, investment, and coordination across multiple agencies and sectors, while communities face limited budgets and reduced capacity to address looming environmental impacts.

This parallel session seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Provide ideas, recommendations, tools, practical examples and real references on how to enhance the resilience of infrastructure.
- Promote the incorporation of disaster risk assessments in the development and implementation of territorial policies for the design, contracting, construction and operation of resilient infrastructure, as well as the use of guidelines and monitoring tools based on expected demographic and environmental changes.
- Document the actions implemented in the countries of the region for the design, contracting, construction and operation of national resilient infrastructures with a priority focus on environmental sustainability.
- Identify best practices for public and private investments in building resilient infrastructure, including national health systems.

Organizers

PAHO | UNOPS-WB | UNDRR

Speakers

- Dr. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness, Jamaica
- Favio López Chacón, Mayor of Cóbano, Costa Rica
- Alejandro Rossi, Director, Multi-Country Office for Costa Rica, Panama and English/Dutch speaking Caribbean, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- Dr. Liz Varga, Professor of Complex Systems, University College London (UCL)
- Dawn Skaggs, Emergency, Disaster and Climate Resilience Specialist, World Institute on Disability



Dr. Christopher Tufton
Minister of Health and
Wellness, Jamaica



Favio López Chacón
Mayor of Cóbano, Costa Rica



Alejandro Rossi
Director, Multi-Country Office for
Costa Rica, Panama and
English/Dutch speaking Caribbean,
United Nations Office for Project
Services (UNOPS)



Dr. Liz Varga
Professor of Complex Systems,
University College London (UCL)
USA



Dawn Skaggs
Emergency, Disaster and
Climate Resilience Specialist,
World Institute on Disability
UK

PARALLEL SESSIONS – DAY 2

Parallel Session 3: Overcoming disaster economic losses: integrating risk and hazard information in public and private investment

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2 / 11:00 am - 12:00 NOON

Session description

This highly interactive and discussion-rich session will look at integrating risk and hazard information in public and private investments. Enhanced disaster preparedness and the ability to build back better are driven by the relevant risk and hazard information that allows informed decisions to be made. Consequently, integrating hazard and risk information in public and private investment programming is essential for reducing risks and losses, overcoming business disruption and re-establishing economies when affected by a disaster. The implementation of risk-informed systemic strategies and plans at the country and business levels are of utmost importance to aspire to a resilient sustainable development in the Americas and the Caribbean.

The session will include panel discussions and interactive methods to achieve the following:

- Provide participants with a better understanding of risk and hazard information to aid decision-making.
- Provide participants with methodologies on integrating hazard and risk information in decision-making and resilient investments.

Organizers

CEPREDENAC | Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

Speakers

- Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary, Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)
- Lennox O'Reilly Lewis, Head of the Economic Infrastructure Division, at CDB, Caribbean Development Bank
- Zoila Navarro Portocarrero, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank
- Sergio Pengel, Founder, PIEDATA (moderator)
- Dante Arenas Caruti, Economic Affairs Assistant, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)



Claudia Herrera
Executive Secretary, Coordination
Centre for Disaster Prevention in
Central America and the Dominican
Republic (CEPREDENAC)



Lennox O'Reilly Lewis
Head of the Economic Infrastructure
Division, Caribbean
Development Bank (CDB)



Zoila Navarro Portocarrero
Disaster Risk Management
Specialist, World Bank



Sergio Pengel
Founder, PIEDATA
(moderator)



Dante Arenas Caruti
Economic Affairs Assistant,
Economic Commission for
Latin America and the
Caribbean (ECLAC)

PARALLEL SESSIONS – DAY 2

Parallel Session 4: Integrating disaster displacement into DRR strategies, policies, plans and legal frameworks

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2 / 11:00 am - 12:00 NOON

Session description

The sixth edition of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Cartagena, Colombia, featured a session on human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change, with a particular focus on practices integrating migrant communities in DRR, through protecting people displaced across borders by disasters and foreigners affected by disasters abroad. This parallel session at the RP21 will have a different but complementary scope, looking at challenges, effective practices and opportunities for integrating disaster displacement challenges into DRR legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans.

Parallel session 4 will employ various audience-interaction and visual presentation methods to:

- Discuss key challenges of integrating disaster displacement in DRR legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans and ways to overcome them.
- Share recent best practices and tools in this area.

Organizers

PDD | IOM | IFRC

Speakers

- Michelle Forbes, Director, National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Luis Doñas, Foreign Affairs Liaison Officer, National Emergency Office of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security (ONEMI), Chile
- Liza Mariana Hernández-Betancourth, Regional Lead for Americas and the Caribbean, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- Pablo Escribano, Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Juan Carlos Méndez, Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), former Nansen Initiative
- Sophie Teyssier, Coordinator for the Americas, Disaster Law and Legislative Advocacy, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



Michelle Forbes
Director, National Emergency
Management Organisation
(NEMO), Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines



Luis Doñas
Foreign Affairs Liaison Officer,
National Emergency Office of
the Ministry of Interior and
Public Security (ONEMI), Chile



**Liza Mariana
Hernández-Betancourth**
Regional Lead for Americas and
the Caribbean, Global Network of
Civil Society Organizations for
Disaster Reduction (GNDR)



Pablo Escribano
Regional Thematic Specialist on
Migration, Environment and Climate
Change, Regional Office for Central
America, North America and the
Caribbean, International
Organization for Migration (IOM)



Juan Carlos Méndez
Advisor for Latin America and
the Caribbean, Platform on
Disaster Displacement (PDD),
former Nansen Initiative



Sophie Teyssier
Coordinator for the Americas,
Disaster Law and Legislative
Advocacy, International
Federation of Red Cross and
Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

PARALLEL SESSIONS – DAY 3

Parallel Session 5: Using social protection mechanisms to address inequalities in preparedness, response and recovery

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 09:00 am - 10:00 am

Session description

This session will feature storytellers and key actors' presentations conveying their experiences in addressing inequalities in preparedness, response and recovery. Social protection has the potential to reduce poverty and extreme poverty linked to conditions of vulnerability to natural hazards. A social protection system designed and adapted to better anticipate and respond to shocks, in coordination with other sectors associated with risk management, can play an important role in enabling children and their families to better prepare for and face the impacts of disaster events, as well as to recover in a timely and appropriate manner. Only by becoming more integrated will social protection and disaster risk reduction programmes be able to contribute to advancing both the SDGs and the targets of the Sendai Framework. The achievement of this goal requires all intersectoral and territorial actions to be articulated in national social protection systems, from design to monitoring and evaluation.

This session will use storytelling and audience interaction to achieve the following goals:

- Identify good practices in strengthening local capacities for DRR through comprehensive social protection programmes, led by the State and with multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- Learn from different perspectives how social protection mechanisms can be flexible and adaptable to specific conditions and still be pertinent when talking about inequalities.

Organizers

GNDR | CISS | SISCA

Speakers

- Liza Mariana Hernández-Betancourth, Regional Lead for Americas and the Caribbean, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- Carlos Kaiser, Executive Director, ONG Inclusiva
- Santa Sandoval, Coordinator, Dominican Churches Social Service
- Anita Zetina, Secretary General, Secretariat of Central American Social Integration (SISCA)
- Dr. Verhonica Zamudio Santos, Researcher, Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS)



**Liza Mariana
Hernández-Betancourth**
Regional Lead for Americas and
the Caribbean, Global Network of
Civil Society Organizations for
Disaster Reduction (GNDR)



Carlos Kaiser
Executive Director, ONG
Inclusiva, Chile



Santa Sandoval,
Coordinator, Dominican
Churches Social Service,
Dominica Republic



Anita Zetina
Secretary General, Secretariat
of Central American Social
Integration (SISCA)



**Dr. Verhonica
Zamudio Santos**
Researcher, Inter-American
Conference on Social
Security (CISS)

PARALLEL SESSIONS – DAY 3

Parallel Session 6: Local government, environmental management and DRR addressing multiple hazards and supporting the most at risk

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 09:00 am - 10:00 am

Session description

This session will turn the lens on the need for local government processes to integrate DRR actions and environmental systems management as they work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite successes, integration still faces challenges, some of which include policy coherence, lack of coordination and collaboration, and in recent times, the impact of COVID-19, coupled with the effects of climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic presents a number of challenges and forces local government and environmental health and climate change actors to examine the realities of an already compounded systemic risk environment. It is therefore necessary that a 'network perspective' approach to risk governance is adopted to effectively counter systemic risk. A comprehensive approach to disaster risk management is paramount.

The session will utilize a mix of keynote address, storytelling and round table discussion to achieve the following goals:

- Promote the exchange of experiences between different countries and regions that have successfully integrated DRR, CCA and environmental systems management into local government processes.
- Examine the systemic risks within a multi-hazard environment, including pandemics, using a multi-sectoral approach.
- Advance implementation of priorities 1 and 2 (target e) of the Sendai Framework by identifying common factors and best practices such as DRR plans, policies, legal frameworks, programmes and local governance that can be replicated by other countries and/or regions.
- Examine the challenges facing national and local levels in responding to climate-related hazards while responding to COVID-19.

Organizers

Government of Jamaica | CDEMA | Colombia | PAHO | UN Environment

Speakers

- Hon. Homer Davis, Minister of State, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Jamaica
- María Emilsen Angulo, Mayor of Tumaco, Nariño, Colombia
- Yuri Chakalall, Senior Specialist, Natural Disaster & Risk Management, Inter-American Development Bank
- Robert Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation
- Mayor Delroy Williams, Senator Councillor, Mayor of Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation
- Mayor Glen Ram, Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago, Advisor to the Member of Parliament for Cumuto/Manzanilla
- Eleanor Coombs, Parish Disaster Coordinator, Clarendon Municipal Corporation, Jamaica



Hon. Homer Davis
Minister of State, Ministry of
Local Government and Rural
Development, Jamaica



María Emilsen Angulo
Mayor of Tumaco, Nariño,
Colombia



Yuri Chakalall
Senior Specialist, Natural
Disaster & Risk
Management,
Inter-American
Development Bank



Robert Hill
Chief Executive Officer,
Kingston and St. Andrew
Municipal Corporation,
Jamaica



Mayor Delroy Williams
Senator Councillor, Mayor of
Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal
Corporation, Jamaica



Mayor Glen Ram
Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago,
Advisor to the Member of
Parliament for Cumuto/Manzanilla



Eleanor Coombs
Parish Disaster Coordinator,
Clarendon Municipal
Corporation, Jamaica

PARALLEL SESSIONS – DAY 3

Parallel Session 7: Anticipatory Financing

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 11:00 am - 12:00 NOON

Session description

This moderated panel discussion will focus on anticipatory and forecast-based social protection systems. The financing of anticipatory actions requires overcoming significant challenges in the way funding is structured. These challenges include the capacity to invest in early action, the capacity of the service provider to execute the distribution of cash and the availability of funds compared to the scale of the event. To overcome these barriers and to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of anticipatory actions and forecast-based financing, there is a need to embed the approach in broader risk management structures at the country level.

The session aims to:

- Identify good practices and lessons learned on the topic of anticipatory and forecast-based social protection systems.
- Identify how financing innovations can constitute elements of changes in humanitarian action in the recent future.
- Promote and support anticipatory and forecast-based social protection systems as measures to mitigate disaster-based risks and develop programmes that increase the resilience of households and communities.
- Increase and strengthen the understanding of anticipatory and forecast-based social protection systems and their importance in DRR and humanitarian response.

Organizers

OCHA | IFRC

Speakers

- Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary, Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)
- Shelley Cheatham, Head of Office, UN OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Alvaro Vicente, Chief, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the General Directorate of Civil Protection and European Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- Raquel Peña, Emergencies and Resilience Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mathieu Destrooper, Regional Anticipation Advisor for LAC, Red Cross, Latin America and the Caribbean
- Zinta Zommers, Programme Management Officer, United National Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



Claudia Herrera
Executive Secretary, Coordination
Centre for Disaster Prevention in
Central America and the Dominican
Republic (CEPREDENAC)



Alvaro de Vicente
Chief, Regional Office for Latin
America and the Caribbean of the
General Directorate of Civil
Protection and European
Humanitarian Aid Operations
(ECHO)



Shelley Cheatham
Head of Office, UN OCHA
Regional Office for Latin
America and the Caribbean



Raquel Peña
Emergencies and Resilience
Specialist, Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations (FAO) Regional Office for
Latin America and the Caribbean



Mathieu Destrooper
Regional Anticipation Advisor
for LAC, Red Cross, Latin
America and Caribbean



Zinta Zommers
Programme Management
Officer, United National Office
for Disaster Risk Reduction
(UNDRR)

PARALLEL SESSIONS – DAY 4

Parallel Session 8: Understanding systemic risk and promoting a risk-informed people-centred sustainable development

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4 / 11:00 am - 12:00 NOON

Session description

The nature of our globally interconnected world means shocks, stresses and crises reverberate globally and are exacerbated by the interaction between climate change, ecosystem fragility, pre-existing inequality, and political or financial instability. The current COVID-19 disaster is a vivid example of systemic compound risk. It shows us that the very nature and scale of risk has changed to such a degree that it has the potential to overwhelm established risk management approaches and the reach of institutions. Progress towards risk-informed sustainable development will only be accelerated by incorporating systems-based approaches into the design of policies and investments across all sectors and regions, and at all levels. Initiatives such as the “Caribbean Safe School Initiative” can embed systemic risk from an early stage by including DRR and resilience education. Many disasters can be avoided or prevented if there are funded strategies in place to manage and reduce existing levels of risk and prevent the creation of new risks. These strategies need to integrate not only different government sectors but also different levels of government and multiple actors.

This moderated panel discussion will:

- Enhance understanding of systemic risk, its construction and deployment.
- Examine the current situation and risk factors in the Americas and the Caribbean, highlighting the interconnectedness of social, ecological, economic, and political systems.
- Promote risk-informed, people-centred sustainable development that recognizes the systemic nature of risk and interconnectedness of systems.

Organizers

UNDRR | UWI | UNICEF

Speakers

- Hon. Dr. Curtis King, Minister of Education, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Dr. Rolando Ocampo, Chief, Statistics Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Dr. Arlette Magaly Montero, Chief, Prevention Management, Standing Committee on Contingencies (COPECO), Honduras
- Dr. Evangeline Inniss-Springer, Director (ag), Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, University of the West Indies
- Dr. Lina Marlene Dorado Gonzalez, Deputy Director for Risk Knowledge, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD), Colombia
- Dr. Roger Pulwarty, Senior Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Jeremy Collymore, DRM and Resilience Specialist and Honorary Research Fellow, Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD), University of the West Indies
- David Smith, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), University of the West Indies



Hon. Dr. Curtis King
Minister of Education, Saint
Vincent and the Grenadines



Dr. Rolando Ocampo
Chief, Statistics Division,
Economic Commission for
Latin America and the
Caribbean (ECLAC)



Dr. Arlette Magaly Montero
Chief, Prevention Management,
Standing Committee on
Contingencies (COPECO),
Honduras



**Dr. Evangeline
Inniss-Springer**
Director (ag), Disaster Risk
Reduction Centre, The
University of the West Indies



**Dr. Lina Marlene
Dorado Gonzalez**
Deputy Director for Risk
Knowledge, National Unit for
Disaster Risk Management
(UNGRD), Colombia



Dr. Roger Pulwarty
Senior Scientist, National
Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)
USA



Jeremy Collymore
DRM and Resilience Specialist
and Honorary Research Fellow,
Institute of Sustainable
Development (ISD), University
of the West Indies



David Smith
Director, Institute for Sustainable
Development (ISD), University of
the West Indies

RVR



SPECIAL SESSIONS

SPECIAL SESSION 1

Regional Risk Assessment Report 2021: towards an integrated, multi-stakeholder, gender-responsive risk governance

MONDAY NOVEMBER 1 / 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Description

The session will provide an overview of the emerging trends and new drivers of risk in the Americas and the Caribbean. It will provide an account of the progress made towards meeting the targets of the Sendai Framework since its adoption in 2015, and present an analysis of the root causes, risk drivers and manifestations of risk that are leading to increasingly devastating disasters in both human and material terms. Developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the RAR takes a unique opportunity to present an objective and uncompromising review of the actions taken to establish a new paradigm for policymaking that aims to reduce and impede the construction of disaster risk. The RAR-LAC 2021 provides data, new knowledge on risk construction processes and indications as to how the much-needed transformation of both policy and action might begin.

Organizers

UNDRR | ECLAC | GNDR

Speakers

- Raúl Salazar, Chief, Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Carlos Uribe, Programme Management Officer, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Raquel Lejtregger, Former Vice Minister of Housing, Land Management and Environment in Uruguay
- Alexander Solis Delgado, President, National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE)
- Carolina Moreira, National Officer of International Strategies for Risk Reduction of the National Service for Risk and Emergency Management, Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE)
- Dr. Allan Lavell, Coordinator, Social Studies, Risks and Disasters Programme, Latin American Faculty of Social Science Faculty (FLACSO)
- Irasema Alcantara, Mexican geographer, Co-author of FORIN, Professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
- Breny Herrera, Executive Director of the Institute for Research, Training and Development of Women and representative of GNDR



Raúl Salazar
 Chief, Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



Carlos Uribe
 Programme Management Officer, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



Raquel Lejtregger
 Former Vice Minister of Housing, Land Management and Environment in Uruguay



Alexander Solis Delgado
 President, National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE) Costa Rica



Carolina Moreira
 National Officer of International Strategies for Risk Reduction of the National Service for Risk and Emergency Management, Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE)



Dr. Allan Lavell
 Coordinator, Social Studies, Risks and Disasters Programme, Latin American Faculty of Social Science Faculty (FLACSO), Costa Rica



Dr. Irasema Alcántara-Ayala
 Mexican geographer, Co-author of FORIN, Professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)



Breny Herrera
 Executive Director of the Institute for Research, Training and Development of Women and representative of GNDP

SPECIAL SESSION 2

A regional approach to coordination on multi-hazards: 2020 lessons from the Caribbean

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2 / 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Description

This session will seek to review how countries have experienced the impacts of multiple hazards during 2020 (COVID-19, major hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanoes, displacement, etc.) and highlight how countries within the entire Caribbean region, and regional agencies, dealt with this multi-hazard environment. The session will aim to enhance the understanding on the importance of partnerships, collaboration and coordination for disaster risk reduction and emergency management in the context of multiple hazards. Similarly, it will showcase different response mechanisms implemented by regional agencies such as CDEMA and CEPREDENAC during the 2020 multi-hazard response. Recommendations on actions that may be undertaken by States and agencies within the entire Caribbean region to strengthen regional coordination for resilience against the multi-hazard context will be presented.

Organizers

CDEMA | Government of Jamaica | ODPEM | ECLAC | PAHO | UNDP

Speakers

- H. E. Minister Carlos Madero, Secretary of the Ministry of General Coordination, Honduras
- Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- Dr. Joy St. John, Executive Director, Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)
- Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary, Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)
- Michelle Forbes, Director, National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Horace Glaze, Acting Deputy Director General, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Jamaica
- Cynthia Spishak, Associate Administrator, Office of Policy & Program Analysis, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



H. E. Minister Carlos Madero
Secretary of the Ministry of General
Coordination, Honduras



Elizabeth Riley
Executive Director, Caribbean
Disaster Emergency
Management Agency (CDEMA)



Dr. Joy St. John
Executive Director, Caribbean
Public Health Agency (CARPHA)



Claudia Herrera
Executive Secretary, Coordination
Centre for Disaster Prevention in
Central America and the
Dominican Republic
(CEPRENAC)



Michelle Forbes
Director, National Emergency
Management Organization
(NEMO), Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines



Horace Glaze
Acting Deputy Director General,
Office of Disaster Preparedness and
Emergency Management, Jamaica



Cynthia Spishak
Associate Administrator, Office of
Policy & Program Analysis, Federal
Emergency Management Agency
(FEMA)





LEARNING LABS



LEARNING LABS

Learning Labs will only be open to a limited number of participants to provide an adequate space for learning and interaction. Please register prior to the sessions by clicking on “Registration required” under each description.

LL1 – Disaster Impact Modelling

MONDAY NOVEMBER 1 / 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm ([Registration required](#)) 

Learning objectives

The Learning Lab on disaster impact modelling will seek to provide a unique and interactive learning experience for participants. The learning objectives are to:

- Enhance understanding of multi-hazard disaster risk and the importance of developing regional disaster risk assessments and maps.
- Improve disaster response knowledge and preparedness.
- Even with limited information, analyse, evaluate, and estimate potential local and regional disaster impacts.


Organizers

UN OCHA | CEPREDENAC | CDEMA

Facilitators

- Claudia Herrera, Executive Secretary, Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)
- Rogerio Mobilia, Head of Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Leonardo Milano, Predictive Analytics Team Lead, UN OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data
- Dr. Nicole Greenidge, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, CDEMA
- Marianela Guzmán, Advisor on Public-Private Partnerships and Resilient Investment in Disaster Risk Management, CEPREDENAC

LL2 – Forensic Investigations of Disasters (FORIN)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2 / 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ([Registration required](#)) 

Learning objectives

This facilitated Learning Lab on the FORIN methodology for tracing root causes of disasters will seek to expose participants to multi-state applications. The learning objectives are to:

- Present the FORIN methodology and its application potential for various purposes and processes that seek to explain the causality of disasters that have occurred.
- Show the four approaches that FORIN resorts to and the cases in which they can be used.
- Identify a list of potential new cases for the application of the methodology in the Americas.

Organizers

LA RED | UNESCO

Facilitators

- Alonso Brenes, Costa Rican geographer, Coordinator of the Social Studies Network for Disaster Prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean (LA RED)
- Dr. Allan Lavell, British geographer, Co-author of FORIN, Coordinator, Social Studies, Risks and Disasters Programme, Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO), Costa Rica
- Dr. Michael Taylor, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, University of the West Indies, Jamaica
- Dr. Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Mexican geographer, Co-author of FORIN, Professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
- Zelmira May, Uruguayan agronomist, Responsible for Disaster Risk Management, UNESCO, Montevideo

LL3 – From Early Warning Systems to Impact-based Forecasting: Strengthening People-Centred Multi-Hazard Early Warning Services in the Caribbean Region

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 11:00 am - 12:00 NOON ([Registration required](#))



Learning objectives

The goal of this facilitated Learning Lab is to strengthen the mutual understanding of IBF services, which routinely operate to provide actionable information on the potential impact of hazards, in a form that the general public, disaster managers, the private sector and other stakeholders understand and can use to protect lives, livelihoods, assets and property. This session will seek to:

- Introduce the concepts of Early Warning Services and Impact-Based Forecasting.
- Build mutual understanding on the depth and breadth of opportunities and challenges in strengthening the availability of and access to impact-based multi-hazard early warning services delivering actionable disaster risk information to all people.
- Create a “living document” of collective intelligence on IBF to nourish current initiatives with views and opinions of different stakeholders and interested parties on impact-based multi-hazard early warning services.

Organizers

CREWS Caribbean | World Bank/GFDRR | WMO | UNDRR | CDEMA | UNDP

Keynote presentation

Dr. David Farrell, Principal, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)

Facilitators

- Nicole Greenidge, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- Anna-Maria Bogdanova, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank/ Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
- Janot-Reine Mendler, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank/ Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
- Lina Sjaavik, Project Officer, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Stephanie Gallasch, Associate Project Officer, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Saudia Rahat, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Carlos Uribe, Programme Management Officer, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Jair Torres, Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

LL4 – Cultural Heritage Management & DRR: Introducing the Scorecard's New Addendum to Make Cities Resilient

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4 / 11:00 am - 12:00 NOON (Registration required)

Learning objectives



The overall goal of this Learning Lab is to raise awareness and promote knowledge exchange and cooperation on the benefits and necessity of integrating cultural heritage management in DRR strategies and plans. The presentation of the Scorecard – Cultural Heritage Addendum will give operational insights on how to concretely achieve this goal.

At the end of the Learning Lab, participants will have:

- Identified, discussed, and assessed the current demands and challenges for integrating cultural heritage management into DRR strategies and plans in the Americas and the Caribbean, including insights from fellow participants and the situation in their municipality.
- Experimented with the Scorecard – Cultural Heritage Addendum to acquire basic knowledge on its methodology, operationalization process, and benefits to better integrate cultural heritage management and DRR agendas at the local level.
- Examined and valued the importance of integrating cultural heritage management into DRR strategies and plans in their territories via concrete policy tools, like the Scorecard – Cultural Heritage Addendum.
- Established or deepened relationships with nearby communities and/or organizations to promote actions needed to increase disaster and cultural heritage resilience.

Organizers

UNDRR | UNESCO | AECOM

Facilitators

- Barbara Mínguez García, Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- T. Luke Young, Resilience and Climate Change Practice Lead, AECOM
- Dr. Alberto Basaglia, Postdoctoral Research Associate, D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara
- Debra Kay Palmer, Director, World Heritage and Cultural Conventions, Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Jamaica
- Raquel Núñez Elizondo, Technical Director, Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination of the Central American Integration System (CECC/SICA)
- Carolina Vílchez Carrasco, Director, Decentralized Directorate of Culture of Piura of the Ministry of Culture, Peru
- Johanna Granados, Urban Risk Advisor, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Caroline Munier, Program Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Cluster Office, San José
- Enrique Lopez Hurtado, Programme Officer, Culture, UNESCO, Lima
- Yuri Peshkov, Programme Specialist, Culture, UNESCO Cluster Office (Caribbean)

Learning Session – Lightning and Wildfires

Open session. No registration is required.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4 / 11:00 am - 12 NOON

Learning objectives

The session is intended to provide concise but relevant information about the wildfires and/or lightning information systems in the Americas. This session particularly aims to:

- Review wildfire monitoring, prediction and response in the Americas.
- Review the region's progress and challenges in lightning detection and prediction.
- Identify best practices for integrating lightning and wildfire data systems.
- Improve current risk management approaches for these hazards.
- Share the IBC's findings on Climate Change and Resilience.

Organizers

WMO | IBC | FAO | NOAA

Facilitators

- Dr. Roger Pulwarty, Senior Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA (moderator)
- Rodney Martinez, Representative, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Dr. Pieter Van Lierop, Regional Forestry Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Dennis Dudley, Manager of the Canadian Lightning Detection Network, Meteorological Service of Canada
- Heath Hockenberry, Fire Weather Program Manager, National Weather Service, USA
- Dr. Radenko Pavlovic, Numerical Weather Prediction Development Section Chief at the Canadian Meteorological Centre (CMC).
- Dr. Arlene Laing, Coordinating Director, Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO)
- Berta Olmedo, Executive Secretary, Comité Regional de Recursos Hidráulicos (CRRH)
- Dr. Osvaldo Moraes, Director, National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disasters (CEMADEN)





Official Statements

CREWS

Embajador/Ambassador Stéphane Crouzat



OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

Delegations are invited to present Official Statements of up to five (5) minutes via pre-recorded video or 500 words if in the form of a written statement. All delegations and sub-regional, regional, international, or non-governmental organizations are invited to present such statements. Official Statements to the VII Regional Platform "Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean" are encouraged to focus on the following: the challenges and opportunities in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at national and local levels (progress made since the adoption of the Sendai Framework and national targets as per the Sendai Framework); the review of the Regional Action Plan to assess needed adjustments, define regional priorities for the following two years and identify mechanisms to promote the integration of disaster risk management within and across sectors; the systemic nature of risk; the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, climate change and other compounding risks in the region and the outcomes of the recovery efforts; the strategies recommended to achieve resilient economies and build a risk-informed inclusive sustainable development.

Official Statements will be available at the virtual platform as on demand content as well as the RP web page. For further information, please contact: rpa@eird.org

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENTS

The RP21 will host two closed High-level sessions, the Regional Action Plan session and the Ministerial Meeting.

The Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas is the regionally adopted roadmap for the implementation of disaster risk reduction. A regional governmental consultation is being led by the Government of Jamaica and will conclude in a RAP technical session at the RP21 on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. A key input to the session will be the review of an e-consultation conducted across the region's States. Respondents to the e-consultation survey from 21 States largely felt that regional action plan activities adequately reflect the region's requirements and goals to progress the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Changes were suggested for the collecting and analysis of vulnerability data at a more local level, as well as for DRR to be included into livelihoods and job development for SIDS in particular. The key messages, recommendations, and next steps of the RAP session will serve as inputs to the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (2022), the mid-term review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Ministerial Meeting at the RP21.

The Ministerial Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, aims to convey the political commitment of countries to DRR and to the results of the Regional Platform. The first Ministerial Meeting took place in Paraguay (2016) as a stand-alone event and was thereafter integrated in the agenda of each Regional Platform. The result of the Ministerial Meeting is the high-level declaration, that renews commitment to relevant DRR issues in the region.





SIDE EVENTS

SIDE EVENTS

Considering the multi-actor and multi-sectoral nature of the Regional Platform, a limited number of side events will be available. These side events are fully organized and convened by partners and cover key areas of DRR debates and learning at regional level. They will have a standard duration of 60 minutes.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 1 / 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

E1 – Innovative financial strategies for resilience: looking beyond insurance and contingent credit

Organizers – ECLAC | CDB

This session will share case studies and concrete positive examples that can be scaled up in the region, as well as available tools and financial strategies to promote multi-stakeholder coordination in disaster risk reduction.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2 / 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

E2 – Risk-informed recovery in a multi-hazard context: lessons learned from current times

Organizers – UNDP | World Bank

The overall objective of this side event is to promote knowledge sharing and experience exchange to advance recovery practices in the Americas and the Caribbean in a way that strengthens resilience and decreases the impact of hazards on lives and livelihoods.

The session focuses on identifying the advances and challenges related to recovery in a multi-hazard context, from recovery preparedness and recovery needs assessments to recovery processes programming and implementation.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2 / 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

E3 – Strengthening SME's Resilience

Organizers – CARICHAM | UWI | ARISE.

The main goal of this session is to increase the understanding of the critical success factors for achieving SME resilience. Additionally, the session seeks to foster cross-sector knowledge exchange and cooperation, increase the understanding of disaster risk in the context of SMEs, strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk in both the public and private sectors, and detail the critical success factors for building resilience among SMEs in DRR.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2 / 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

E4 – Developing inclusive disaster risk reduction plans

Organizers – PAHO | CAPRADE

The goals of the session are to identify and share best practices in the implementation of DRR plans that are inclusive of people with disabilities and indigenous traditional knowledge, ensure the inclusion, participation and empowerment of priority groups (children, adolescents, women, people with disabilities) in disaster risk management in the Americas, and establish guiding principles for the development of sources of information on the situation of people with disabilities in the Americas.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

E5 – Making cities resilient: the urban challenge

Organizers – MCR2030 | ICLEI

This side event has three goals: to reinforce the need for knowledge and action on climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and community resilience building in urban development; to raise awareness about the role of innovation and communication in risk and climate change education; and to promote the revision of the UNFCCC NUA to place CA and DRR at the center of local action and resilience-building as the most urgent urban challenge.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

E6 – Systemic risk, development and societies: beyond the 2030 Global Landmarks

Organizer – R-STAG

This 60-minute session responds to the following statement expressed in the RAR 2021: "Systemic risk is socially constructed. This implies that triggering hazard event or events as well as exposure, vulnerability and resilience are endogenous rather than exogenous characteristics of the system or systems. It also implies that the ways systems are structured and organized and the ways they internalize risk are also socially produced."

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

E7 – Energy & water in resilient economies

Organizer – CDEMA

This side event will look at how the energy-water nexus affects economic resilience. During the session, recommendations will be made on actions that States in the Americas could take to strengthen the role of the water and energy sectors in fostering economic resilience. In addition, presenters will discuss the role of the private sector in the energy and water sectors in fostering economic resilience. Finally, the session will conclude with a sharing of experiences on the role of energy and water in fostering economic resilience in American countries.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 / 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

E8 – Resilient tourism: lessons from 2020

Organizers – Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) | ECLAC | CEPREDENAC | SICA

This session will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector in the region and showcase the resilience of the tourism industry. Stakeholders of the tourism industry will discuss tourism facility management in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. What tactics and procedures worked or failed? What caused success or failure? The session will also delve into post-COVID tourism. Participants will learn how to safely and responsibly manage a tourism facility during a pandemic.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4 / 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

E9 – Achievements and challenges of risk governance in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The case of Uruguay

Organizer – SINAE Uruguay

The session aims to show how governance based on comprehensive disaster risk management was implemented in Uruguay in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this session, the audience will be exposed to the application of the legal framework, the methods used to geo-reference cases, the communication of data to the population, and the lessons learned from this bi-national management of a compounded health, migration, and social emergency.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4 / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

E10 – Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Nature-based Solutions) for increased resilience in the Americas and Caribbean

Organizer – UNEP

The goal of this session is to promote increased understanding of how to implement Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) to increase local and national resilience.



- **INNOVATIONS
PLATFORM**
- **IDEAS INCUBATOR**

INNOVATIONS PLATFORM

The Innovations Platform will be hosted within the RP21 virtual platform.

This is a unique opportunity for registered organizations to showcase their work related to disaster risk reduction. The Innovations Platform will be hosted within the RP21 virtual platform and offer virtual booths for participating organizations. It will run between Monday, November 1 and Thursday, November 4, 2021. A total of 30 booths will be available.

The virtual booths will allow to share content such as presentations, images, videos and documents and include a chat function to present the organization's work and interact with the audience.

Innovation Platform stands in the RP21

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. ESTRATEGO | 10. Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Secretariat | 17. Care Internacional en Honduras |
| 2. UNESCO/IOC - Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre | 11. IsraAID | 18. Water Resources Authority |
| 3. Universidad del Quindío ~ REDULAC/RRD Colombia | 12. CEPREDENAC | 19. World Bank |
| 4. DG ECHO | 13. UNDRR | 20. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ |
| 5. CIMA Research Foundation | 14. SIPROL SpA | 21. Jamaica National Group |
| 6. CBM | 15. Institución Universitaria Colegio Mayor de Antioquia | 22. Special presentation by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) |
| 7. CDEMA | 16. Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management | |
| 8. Red GIRDD-LAC | | |
| 9. Humanity & Inclusion | | |

Visit the **Swiss Booth** with its innovative virtual concept. Browse virtually through the Swiss Stand and learn more about the work of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC and its partners on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Andes Region, Central America and the Caribbean.

Daily from 1-3 November at 10:00 a.m. – 14:00 p.m. (GMT-5) the stand follows its own agenda with attractive *live events including presentations, panels and learning labs* and pre-recorded contents.

Discover the Swiss Booth with its four thematic blocks:

1. Risk Governance and Risk-informed Investment (see [Program](#))
2. Appropriate Preparedness for a Better Response (see [Program](#))
3. Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (see [Program](#))
4. Actions in the Framework of the Pandemic and other DRR Actions (see [Program](#))



Register [HERE](#), we are looking forward to your participation.

IDEAS INCUBATOR

The Ideas Incubator is a virtual segment in which participants will have 5 minutes to present their projects, products or initiatives in the field of DRR.

The goal of the Ideas Incubator is to offer a space to share new ideas and spark innovation. This space complements and expands the range of topics discussed and presented at the RP21. The Ideas Incubator is open to all participants. 35 Ideas Incubator videos will be available as on-demand content.

Title	Proposed by	Organization
The adventures of Zeus and his friends in Osasco	Alba Helena Ramos D'Ávila	Coordenadoria Municipal de Defesa Civil e Secretaria de Meio Ambiente e Recursos Hídricos da Prefeitura de Osasco
Understanding climate change and its risks with a systemic and comprehensive vision	Alejandro Arias Diaz	AURORA science communications
A way forward towards a systemic and risk-centred disaster preparedness approach in the Region: The results of the 2021 ECHO DP Workshop	Álvaro de Vicente Sandoval	ECHO
Resilient MSMEs	Alejandro Rodríguez Valdivia	Previdere Lex
A day in Disaster Risk Management	Carlos David Ortega González	Sociedad Nacional de la Cruz Roja Colombiana
TRANSFORMING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT INTO KNOWLEDGE TO DEVELOP MORE RESILIENT TERRITORIES	Dalton Andres Andrade Rodriguez	Independiente
Understanding disaster risk for cultural heritage in the historic city of Arequipa, Peru	Eduardo Ugarte y Chocano, Presidente de ICOMOS Perú	International Counsel of Museums Perú (ICOM - Perú)
Music and crypto to improve hurricane preparedness.	Emiliano Rodriguez Nuesch	Pacífico
Equipping ourselves: tools for community resilience	Magela Grisoni	Pacífico
Analysis of the tsunamigenic potential of the Mexican subduction zone	Edilson Fernando Salazar Monr oy	Instituto de Ingeniería, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Inclusive Community Early Warning Systems: an effective tool to build resilience.	Ibia Vega Cuza	Humanity & Inclusion
Technological tools for Disaster Risk Reduction in Public Investment	Iván Cerda Escares	Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública (ICAP)
Protocols to build resilient communities, a new proposal.	Jocelyn Jimenez	UACM
Preparation of risk management plans and execution of family drills by university students from urban and rural areas as a process of risk reduction and resilience in their communities.	Docente Ing. Juan Felipe Florez Montoya	Politecnico Colombiano Jaime Isaza Cadavid
Inclusive diagnostic and risk analysis for more effective DRM	Milagros Jimena Anaya Robles, Oficial GRD, HI Perú	Humanity & Inclusion

Title	Proposed by	Organization
Awareness workshops on Comprehensive Risk Management in rural schools in Uruguay	Matias Ocampos Figueroa	Sistema Nacional de Emergencias - Presidencia de la Republica
Integrated and interdisciplinary disaster risk assessment	Paola Cardozo	Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET)
Improving conectivity for early warning systems and Covid-19 response in Alto Paraguay	Fabiola Guerrero Rodas	COOPI
COVID Response and Disability - Nothing about us without us	Otto Amílcar Mazariegos Mazariegos	Red GIRDD-LAC
Design Structure Matrix for Modeling Infrastructure Interdependencies in Community Recovery	Rameez Qureshi	Texas A&M University
Master in Urbanism, Mention in Governance with a focus on Climate Change, course in Resilience and Risk Management (from the Ecuadorian Academy)	Sylvia Viviana Jiménez Riofrio	PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DEL ECUADOR
Integrating disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and management of environmental systems into local government.	Clive Murray	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
Tsunami Ready - Towards A Safer Ocean	Alison Brome	UNESCO/IOC-Tsunami Unit and Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC)
Resilience Cube	MTRO. JESÚS GUILLERMO MORENO RÍOS	CONSEJO INTEGRADOR DE LA CONSTRUCCIÓN, LA INDUSTRIA Y EL DESARROLLO, INCIDE, A.C.
Fiberglass rods a sustainable and safe proposal	Sebastian Torres Forero	B&C Projects S.A.S - Armastek Colombia
Video Contest: Voices of the community in the Americas and the Caribbean GETTING READY FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE _ Youth	TBD	MCR2030 _ Side Event E6
Video Contest: Voices of the community in the Americas and the Caribbean GETTING READY FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE: Community Practices	TBD	MCR2030
Disaster Resilience Week, learn to prevent, prevent to protect	Dr. Carlos Oliver Llanos Valencia	Disaster Medical Assistance Team
Tsunamis Girls	Saskia Carusi	UNDRR/UNESCO

PRELIMINARY EVENTS

Youth Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction – 26 October

A youth forum is being organized by the Government of Jamaica, UNDRR, UNICEF, UNESCO, IFRC, GNDRR and youth organizations. It will be held virtually on the 26th of October. As a preliminary event to the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean the Youth Forum will provide a space for youth representatives to voice their unique views on disaster risk reduction for the region and share how youth can be better engaged in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR. Also, the forum will provide the opportunity to inform and influence decision-makers participating at the RP21 by sharing youth priorities, concerns and proposals related to DRR.



Youth Forum
for Disaster Risk Reduction
The Americas and the Caribbean



Preparatory
Event

VII Regional Platform for Disaster
Risk Reduction in the Americas
and the Caribbean (RP21)

Youth Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
The Americas and the Caribbean
Oct 26th



Arise Forum for the Americas and the Caribbean – 28 October



ARISE, the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, is a network of private sector entities led by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). As a preliminary event to the RP21, and in order to promote the sharing of good practices among the ARISE networks in their efforts to accomplish the four ARISE global priorities and in promoting public-private partnerships in the region, UNDRR will organize the ARISE Forum for the Americas and the Caribbean. The forum will be held virtually on the 28th of October. The forum will serve as a platform for the private sector to showcase their work on business resilience, while linking the private sector with the DRR community in the region and enable discussions on how private sector contributions are critical for risks informed investments. Moreover, the forum will serve to collect the private sector perspective and key messages that will be integrated and addressed during the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and The Caribbean.

More information visit: <https://rp-americas.undrr.org/events>





**ARISE Forum
Americas and the Caribbean
Oct 28th**



VIRTUAL PLATFORM & NETWORKING

The unprecedented impact of the global pandemic has greatly accelerated the development, design and adoption of virtual event technology. The RP21 will be the first Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean to be implemented 100% online. The fully virtual implementation modality presents a unique opportunity to organize a high-level event that is sustainable, more carbon-neutral and globally inclusive. The RP21 will be implemented using a 'all-in-one platform solution' through a service provider called Hopin. Hopin is one of the most advanced virtual venues for online live events available on the global market. It was conceived to enable meaningful interactions and networking between people, similar to an in-person event. Attendees do not simply watch the content but become a part of the event experience itself through a range of tools designed to provide a highly interactive online experience.

At the RP21, attendees will be able to:

- Network with all event attendees using one-on-one live video and direct messages.
- Connect with others and exchange virtual business cards.
- Explore the RP21 exclusive on-demand content presented in the Official Statements and access the latest innovations on DRR in the Ideas Incubator areas.
- Visit the Innovations Platform and connect with the exhibitors, watch live presentations and network with the RP21 partners.
- Watch keynote presentations on stage, interact through chat messages and Q&A features, and engage with content through other interactive tools including polls, interactive boards, etc.
- Join workshop sessions and work together with other participants in groups.



MEDIA

Media are invited and encouraged to cover the RP21 to gain better understanding and be able to communicate how to address systemic risks in a global context in which uncertainty is the new norm.

During this 4-day virtual event, space will be allocated to the media in the form of press conferences (one at the beginning and one at the end, after the Ministerial Declaration is issued) and specific media training on DRR issues linked to the agenda.

Further details on special events for the media will be released at a later date to registered media. There will be opportunities to interview experts in different areas of disaster risk reduction (adaptation to climate change, lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic risk, fire control and drought management, resilient economies, etc.).

To have access to the conferences and events specifically organized for the media and media outlets, journalists must register.

To register, please go to the registration form:

<https://rp-americas.undrr.org/rp-americas-registration>



For more media information:

<https://rp-americas.undrr.org/regional-platform-media>



SOCIAL MEDIA & WEB STREAMING

There will be an official broadcast of the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP21) through different streaming channels. Webstreaming will be available for the opening session, closing session, plenaries and parallel sessions.

Further details will be released prior to the event. Additional information will be also shared on social media channels.

The VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP21) can be followed through UNDDR's social media channels: Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.


The main #hashtags for participating in the virtual regional conversation around the Platform and to monitor the events online are:

- #RP21**
- #SendaiAmericas**
- #ResilientJA**
- #ResilientCaribbean**

UNDDR

 @UnisdrLasAmericasyelCaribe/

 @UNDRR_Americas


 UNDDR-Americas y el Caribe

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)


 @cdemacu1


 @cdemacu


 CDEMA Coordinating Unit


 @cdemacoordinatingunit

Jamaica's Government-Jamaican Information Service

 @JisVoice

 @JisNews

 Jamaica Information Service

 @JisVoice

ACCESSIBILITY

The General Assembly through its resolutions 65/186, 64/131 and 64/154 urged the United Nations system to make a concerted effort to integrate disability into its work and encouraged the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to work to ensure that development programmes, including Sustainable Development Goals policies, processes and mechanisms, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

UNDRR is actively coordinating to integrate disability into the implementation process of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

In line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities principle on full and effective participation and inclusion in society, persons with disabilities should have the opportunity, on an equal basis with others, to be actively involved in all decision-making processes about policies and programmes, and at fora where international development is discussed.

Given the mandate to support the Sendai Framework implementation and commitment to ensure a disability-inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction, Real Time Captioning and International Sign interpreters will support the opening and closing ceremonies and all core agenda sessions to meet this commitment by ensuring the meaningful and active participation of persons with disabilities in the 2021 Regional Platform procedures and proceedings. Documentation will be available in Word format.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN THE RP21



There are 495 million women in the Americas and the Caribbean region. Their active participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction is essential to build resilience for all.

Women are not just victims of disasters, they have a vital role to play in building resilience and managing risk as well as in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Women are often first responders when disasters strike, supporting the needs of their families and communities and coping with the adverse impact on their livelihoods. They are innovative creators and inventors of viable and sustainable solutions to the adverse effects of disaster and climate risk.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines the inclusive, all-of-society approach that must be taken to reduce disaster risk. It recognizes women's indispensable role in risk reduction efforts and emphasizes the distinct gender-specific capacities and vulnerabilities to prevent, prepare, confront and recover from disasters.

Women's equal participation and leadership in public life, including disaster risk reduction, is both an important goal in itself and essential for reducing disaster risk and achieving a broad range of sustainable development goals.

Women's participation in decision-making is enshrined in international human rights frameworks including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, yet there is still great disparity in the number of women playing a leadership role in disaster risk management.

Furthermore, UNGA resolution A/RES/70/204 adopted in February 2016 recognizes the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in disaster risk management to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and the need for an inclusive participation and contribution of women in all fora and processes related to disaster risk reduction (DRR). The Resolution also encourages Governments to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes.

In keeping with our commitments towards delivering the Sendai Framework in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner, and our efforts to promote and support the visibility and role of women in the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean sessions, the Government of Jamaica, UNDRR, CDEMA and the members of the RP2021 Advisory Council will:

- Support discussions on gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the organization process by the RP2021 Advisory Council and organizing teams of the different sessions.
- Ensure session organizers achieve gender parity across all RP2021 sessions and events.
- Encourage women to take active leading and speaking roles throughout the VII Regional Platform discussions, be it in formal sessions as a (co)chairs, (keynote) speakers, moderators, facilitators or discussants from the floor.

For more information:

<https://www.undrr.org/gender>

<https://www.undrr.org/womens-leadership>

We invite interested individual women to join the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Women for Disaster Risk Reduction





VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP21)

Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean

1 to 4 November 2021, Virtual Event



VII REGIONAL PLATFORM #RP21

The RP21, under the theme “Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean”, is aimed at raising awareness of the increasing economic and human cost of disasters in the Americas and the Caribbean, including the special challenges facing Small Island Developing States. The Government of Jamaica’s hosting of the VII Regional Platform represents an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to share experiences, build their capacities, transfer knowledge and showcase successes related to disaster risk reduction at the regional, national and local levels.

NOVEMBER 1– 4, 2021 Virtual event

Event registration: rp-americas.undrr.org/rp-americas-registration