



# WORKSHOP

## Evidence in disaster preparedness: anticipating complex crises in a context of systemic risk

February 27, 2023  
Punta del Este Uruguay

UNDRR



# Disaster Preparedness Workshop in Latin America and the Caribbean

## “Evidence in disaster preparedness: anticipating complex crises in a context of systemic risk”

February 27, 2023 – Punta del Este, Uruguay

### Background

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The Directorate General for Civil Protection and European Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) has been supporting the Latin American and Caribbean region since 1994 in fulfilment of its humanitarian mandate to preserve and save lives, with the ultimate aim of reducing disaster risk conditions and contributing to increasing people's, communities and countries resilience in the region.

During these years, ECHO has invested over 321 million Euros in 34 countries of the region through its Disaster Preparedness Program (DP). More than 631 projects allowed organizations and partners to reach 30 million Latin Americans and Caribbeans. The disaster preparedness projects supported by ECHO are aligned with regional and national goals defined by countries in the region and also contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

In order to define funding priorities for disaster preparedness issues throughout the region, ECHO has for more than two decades conducted consultation workshops with key actors at the country and subregion level: Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Since 2011, national and subregional ECHO workshops on Disaster Preparedness have been held in conjunction with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). As a result of the biennial Workshop, guidelines, recommendations, and strategies are created, that have contributed to events of a subregional nature.

In 2018, for the first time, UNDRR organized a workshop that brought together actors from the three subregions – Central America, South America, and the Caribbean – to exchange visions, experiences, knowledge and ideas on how investments in disaster preparedness make a difference.

The last few years were full of challenges at the regional and global level, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This led the 2021 ECHO DP workshop to be held online. However, this enabled to reach a much larger audience than in previous workshops, especially those partners working at the community and local level.

The present approach is to bring together the best of virtual and face-to-face modalities, in recognition that there are many aspects of face-to-face interaction that are impossible to replicate in a virtual environment. Therefore, the present ECHO Disaster Preparedness meeting is made up of a virtual event, held on November 24 and 25, 2022, followed up by an in-person workshop on February 27, 2023, in Punta del Este, Uruguay

### A thematic approach

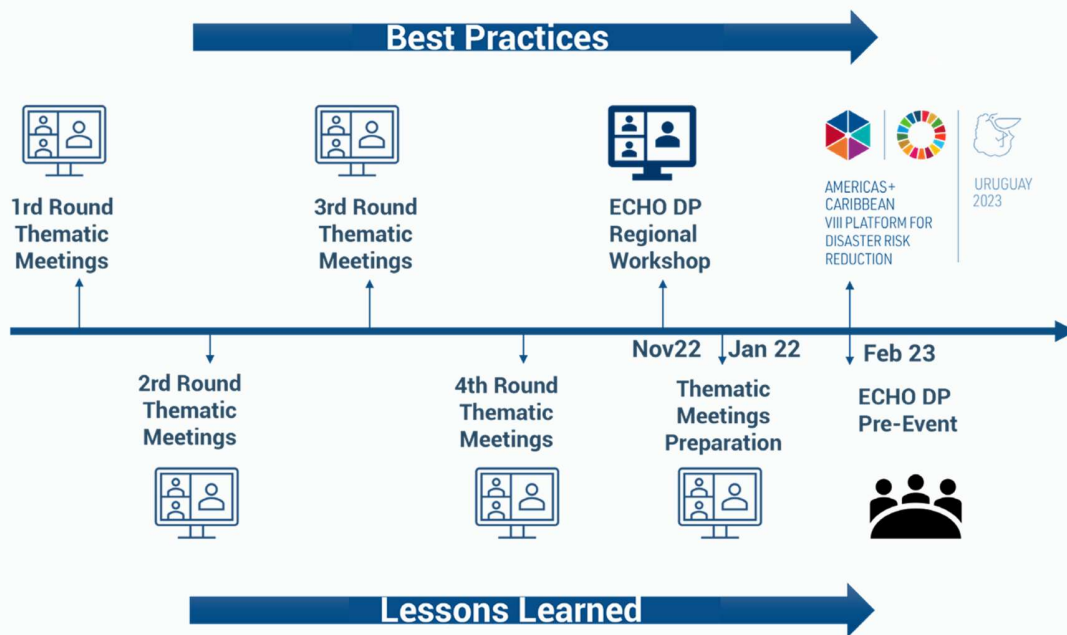
The virtual and the upcoming face-to-face workshop will be built on work started in September 2021, when four key thematic groups for disaster preparedness in the region were established. The purpose of these thematic groups is to strengthen linkages among

relevant partners, foster knowledge exchange, identify a common approach to overcome challenges and increase effectiveness in key areas.

Each of the four thematic groups is led by one or more organizations with wide recognition in their lines of work:

- Shock-responsive social protection and disaster risk financing – *WFP*
- Urban Preparedness and Resilient Cities – *UNDP*
- Climate Shock Preparedness - *German Red Cross*
- Protection and Preparedness – *UNICEF/World Vision*

The result of the work carried out by each of the thematic groups was shared during the virtual workshop. The face-to-face workshop on February 27 will build on the outcomes of the virtual event, further explore cross-cutting issues and together with national authorities define subregional priorities. Furthermore, the outcome of the workshop will inform the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held between February 28 and March 2, 2023.



## Objectives

The workshop seeks to create a space for the joint development of Disaster Preparedness knowledge that can be reflected in the actions of ECHO partners in the region. In this sense, the main objectives of this workshop are:

1. Share evidence of the impact and current and future alignment of Disaster Preparedness actions being executed by ECHO partners within the thematic lines.
2. Share the knowledge, mainly lessons learned and good practices, of Disaster Preparedness

generated in the region to be disseminated during the VIII Regional Platform.

3. Compile programmatic recommendations resulting from the systematization work carried out within the thematic groups to be disseminated during the VIII Regional Platform.
4. Based on the recommendations, identify priorities for the coming years for each of the subregions.

This new edition of the workshop will focus on thematic development in greater depth along the four regional lines of interest, with the support of ECHO partners.

## Expected results

1. Validated results from thematic groups shared, resulting from the online event.
2. Recommendations to be shared during the VIII Regional Platform within the thematic lines and other cross-cutting topics such as: EWS, Anticipatory Action, science & technology, inclusion, among others.
3. Identified Sub-regional priorities for future actions of ECHO partners.

## Participants

The face-to-face event is expected to accommodate 50 participants, including representatives of organizations working in disaster preparedness and emergency response in Latin America and the Caribbean, National Disaster Risk Management Systems in the region, ministerial authorities, intergovernmental organizations on disaster risk management, ECHO's existing partners and counterparts and other strategic partners, including international, regional and subregional bodies, UN agencies, multilateral bodies and bilateral cooperation agencies involved in this area. More specifically, the following organizations are expected to attend:

- Intergovernmental Agencies: CAPRADE/CAN, CDEMA/CARICOM, CEPREDENAC/SICA and RMAGIR/MERCOSUR;
- National authorities/national systems for DRM and DRR of the countries of the region;
- National authorities of ministries of health, education, agriculture, social protection among others;
- ECHO partners at national, sub-regional (South America, Central America and the Caribbean) and regional (LAC) levels and their local counterparts;
- Representatives of international, multilateral and binational cooperation agencies in the region (donors);
- Sectoral representatives and stakeholders and
- ECHO, representatives of the EU Delegations in Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of other services of the European Commission (DEVCO, EUROCLIMAT, etc.).

# Agenda

Time	Session Name	Lead Org
09:00-09:30	Opening Session	UNDRR
09:30-10:00	RAR/GAR: Our world at risk; living with a new risk landscape.	UNDRR
10:00-10:45	Combined feedback on the results of the meetings and discussions held by the thematic groups, including comments received during the virtual event.	WFP/ UNICEF / World Vision /UNDP/ German RC
10:45-11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00-12:30	Groups discussions to identify recommendations to promote cross-cutting topics across thematic areas.	UNDRR
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK	
13:30-14:30	Review of recommendations identified in previous sessions and drafting of potential priorities.	UNDRR
14:30-16:00	Identification of sub-regional priorities for Disaster Preparedness in the post-COVID-19 context and next steps.	IGOs
16:00-16:30	Closing Remarks	UNDRR / ECHO