



AMERICAS+
CARIBBEAN
VIII PLATFORM FOR
DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION

URUGUAY
28 FEB,
1-2 MAR
2023



Youth Roadmap

for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas and the Caribbean 2023-2025 within the framework of the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023

Punta del Este, Uruguay

The active, representative and continuous participation of youth diversity in issues linked to disaster risk reduction (DRR) has evolved according to the needs and demands of this social group. Youth groups from the Americas and the Caribbean have established themselves as primary actors in charge of raising awareness in their communities and influencing public policies.

A Youth Committee in charge of the Regional Youth Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction was established in 2020. As a preparatory event for the VII Regional Platform on DRR (Jamaica), the Forum culminated in the establishment of the Statement of Youth of the Americas and the Caribbean on Disaster Risk Reduction. This official document was publicly presented in October 2021 at the Ministerial Meeting of the VII Regional Platform on DRR.

In July 2022, in close alignment with the commitments agreed in Jamaica, two local youth representatives were invited to join the Advisory Committee of the VIII Regional Platform on DRR. Thanks to this outreach, activities related to inclusion were promoted, such as the Side Event “Youth, Technology and Inclusion for DRR”, the incorporation of youth in plenary sessions and parallel events, and the ResilienceTech22 competition.

Simultaneously, the regional office of UNDRR for the Americas and the Caribbean, the regional office of UNICEF for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNESCO supported the integration of young people from Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Haiti and Peru for the upcoming formation of the Youth Network of the Americas in DRR. Three virtual meetings were held with youth from the region, aiming towards a representative process that would lead to an organizational structure that guarantees the inclusion of all the contexts inherent to each subregion, while unifying the perspectives of young people of the region.



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Based on the sessions held among young people in the region, we elaborated a Youth Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023-2025, for which we expect your support to generate the different spaces and consider young people as an integral part of the actions aimed at reducing disaster risk in our region. This roadmap is based on the Statement of Youth of the Americas and the Caribbean on Disaster Risk Reduction. The objective of our 2023-2025 roadmap is to integrate capacity development, mutual cooperation and advocacy at all levels of disaster management under a gender inclusive, intercultural and intersectional approach in the Americas and the Caribbean. To this end, as a cross-cutting axis from a youth perspective, we identified the establishment of the Youth Network for DRR of the Americas and the Caribbean as a priority. This Network aims to provide an inclusive space to share experiences in disaster risk reduction, accelerate involvement in decision-making and develop initiatives to establish resilience and reduce disaster risk.

The development of the Youth Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023-2025 is based on the following considerations:

1. First, we identify the area of action associated with innovation, science and technology as a priority. In this sense, we call for the continuous development of youth competitions/ events prior to the regional platforms, as well as the promotion with governments of the implementation of our proposals for early warning systems from a perspective that is community-based and sensitive to the vulnerabilities of each country or region.
2. Second, we consider the area of capacity building to be crucial. Young people are a source of innovative technical proposals, solutions and ideas in different fields, which was demonstrated with ResilienceTech. Therefore, we consider it important to continue facilitating spaces for strengthening the capacities of the youth who are part of the group, as well as for community actors, and to develop communication and dissemination strategies on disaster risk management aimed at social actors, promoting the exchange of knowledge, experiences and local practices between communities.
3. The next area of action we identify is inclusion and participation. From the perspective of the region's youth, we advocate for strengthening the participation of young people in decision-making spaces, initially at local and regional government levels, to improve their effectiveness and participation in national and international bodies, their participation and impact on regional and global platforms, and to prioritize the development of content for people with disabilities and/or vulnerable groups.



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4. Finally, the last area of action is investment. From the youth perspective, we consider investment in different sectors of disaster risk reduction to be key. We seek to contribute to the articulation between governments, the private sector and international organizations for investment in disaster risk reduction, considering the proposals developed by young people. We also aim to create alliances with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and other organized groups.

Knowing the serious effects of climate change on the vulnerable sectors of society, the young people of the region demand:

Nothing about us without us. Let us work collaboratively and meet the objectives that we have set ourselves for the coming years. Let us scale up efforts to build resilient communities, ensure we build back better and greener, make sure no one is left behind, and substantially reduce the losses and damages caused by our own vulnerabilities.

In Mexico, on the now extinct Ayoloco glacier, there is a plaque that reads: “To future generations. The Ayoloco glacier existed here and retreated until it disappeared in 2018. In the coming decades the Mexican glaciers will disappear irretrievably. This plaque is intended as a record that we knew what was happening and what needed to be done. Only you will know if we did it.”

Let us not fail the future generations.