

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MECHANISMS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



International Emergency Mechanisms and
Disaster Risk Reduction in Shaping National
Security.

The Case of Latin America and Caribbean

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, people exist in uncertain security environment where threats are constantly evolving and generate exposures of scale unknown before. Globalization helps pandemics to spread and exposes underdeveloped states to hybrid warfare. Extreme weather conditions causing disasters are connected to more apparent climate change, that is difficult to tackle because of war in Ukraine.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is the 2nd most disaster-prone region in the world with population of 152 million affected by 1,205 disasters between 2000 and 2019.

Lately, few of the deadliest natural catastrophes - Brumadinho mudslide, Eta and Dorian took hurricanes - hit Latin America. Floods are the most common type of disasters and Brazil is one of the 15 countries with the greatest population facing river flood risk. Regionally, starting in 2000, 12 floods resulted in 1 billion USD damages. Also Caribbean suffer enormously - Haiti experienced an earthquake in 2010 that ranked among the top 10 deadliest in history. There are other numerous disasters that destroyed LAC region and killed many people.

MOTIVATION AND OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE RESEARCH

Bearing in mind that Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most disaster-prone regions, has large population affected by disasters and the governments are not able to come up with systemic solution to prevent and prepare for disasters due to limited funds, the involvement of international emergency mechanisms is a necessity. Due to its relevance the aforementioned subject states a very interesting issue to be scientifically research with the respect to its regulation, factual use and trends.

In Particular the motives behind conducting the research were:

- relevancy of the issue and its growing importance,
- lack of significant number of scientific publications regarding this subject.

MATERIALS AND METHODS USED

It was decided to undertake this research in order to gather, organize and analyze the present state of the knowledge, interest and informations regarding the region combined with their experience and general interest and necessity to further explore the role of International Emergency Mechanisms and Disaster Risk Reduction in Shaping National Security in Latin America and Caribbean.

The study was conducted mainly in years of 2021 and 2022 with the respect to global climate change threats mentioned during the COP26 conference as well and bearing in mind growing use of hybrid activities by countries like Russian Federation (cyberattack against Venezuela), China or Iraq. Extreme weather conditions can be causes of disasters that can lead to political and social instability later to be used as a vulnerability in hybrid warfare.

The Author was focused on exploring materials (i.e. books, documents, reports, internet resources, press releases in field of security sciences aspects related to humanitarian law, disaster risk reduction, international cooperation in internal security, critical infrastructure, civil protection and defense and last but not least territorial defense.

Main methods consist of analysis and synthesis of the scientific research findings resulting in presentation of the key conclusions based upon from the review of the literature sources of various nature.

RESULTS OBTAINED

As a result of conducting the study Author has identified the most important aspects needed to obtain synergy in optimization while engaging International Emergency Mechanisms and taking care of risk reduction while shaping national security in Latin America and Caribbean.

The problem is not related to lack of financial means or factual aid but results from lack of implementation of regional strategy and poverty causing ignorance towards necessity to complex prevention activities.

Since the occurrence of extreme weather condition is accelerating – there is no time to postpone the actions.

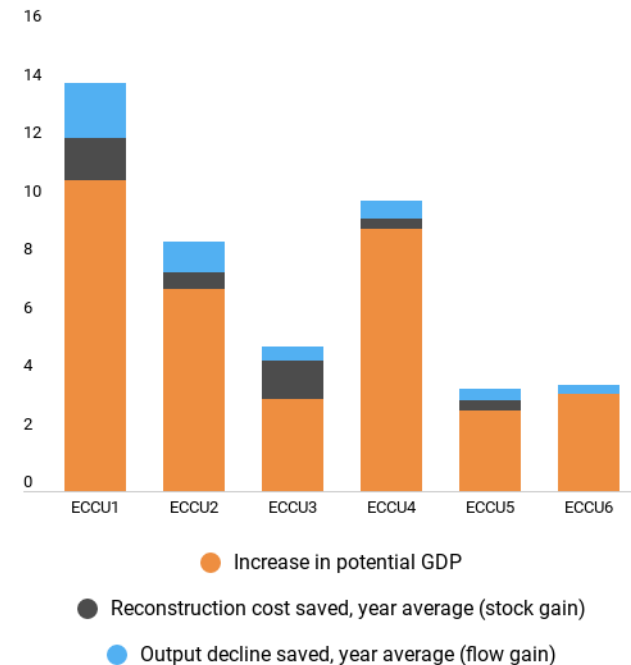
Prevention activities, backed up by education and training can help to reduce the scale of the damages or even avoid them.

Many of the mechanism have been used in last twenty years, the effectiveness of them differs and will be further explained in the submitted paper.

Return on investment

Benefits of investing in resilience to prepare for natural disasters are substantial.

(percent change with increase in resilient investment)



Source: IMF staff estimates.

Note: ECCU denotes Eastern Caribbean Currency Union. Members of the union include Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

RESULTS OBTAINED

There is a need for broader cooperation between systems used for Disaster Risk Reduction or International Emergency Mechanisms. In that case competition is not a good option and cooperative approach shall be further developed. Relevant training is important.

Prevention and preparedness shall be of greatest priority. Understanding the the immanent nature disasters occurrences helps to limit their negative impact. This shall be an imperative - involvement of emergency mechanisms and reaction to disasters shall be an addition.

Cyclical Nature of Disasters in LAC region

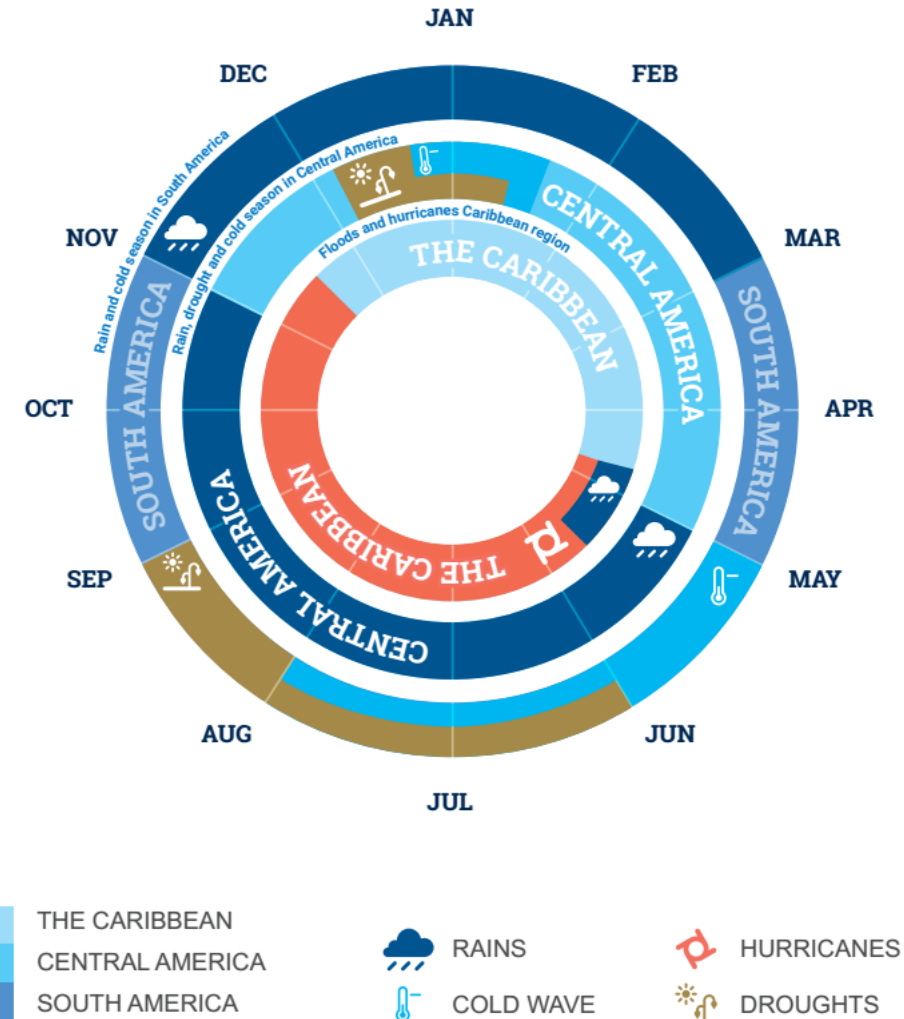


Figure 2.10. "Innovation curve" – from destructive to regenerative approaches



(Source: UNDRR 2019)

RESULTS OBTAINED

<p>European Union Civil Protection Mechanism was used in Ecuador (2016), Peru, Chile and Bolivia (2017, 2019), Colombia (2018, 2019).</p>	<p>UN OCHA's mechanisms like UNDAC and INSARAG were used i.e. in Haiti (2009), Peru (2017). UNDAC member countries in Americas are : Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, USA. UNDAC participating countries: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.</p>	<p>From 2011, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and DG ECHO have joined forces in 14 ECHO financially supported Actions in Central America (4), South America (5), Caribbean (4) and regional supporting activities in LAC (1).</p>	<p>NATO's EADRCC expressed its readiness to participate in case it is needed, but so far it was used in North America, Africa, Asia and Europe.</p>
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Engagement examples of the international mechanisms in Latin America and Caribbean.

s will be presented in more elaborative works.

DISCUSSION

In general experts agree that over-reliance on military leadership in disaster management and lack of political will to build factual, reliable disaster prevention and preparedness system with use of national resources are reasons why the governments in the region do not perform as well as possible in disaster management.

There is an agreement and understanding of the phenomena that governments ruling LAC countries also largely depend on international financial aid for prevention and mitigation efforts. This trend results in need of engagement of several international emergency mechanisms (EU and UN) and help from other countries. Scientists agree that the interventions are very much needed since at the present moment development of decent prevention mechanisms is not possible to desired extent. It has to be done gradually and with help mainly focused upon change of mentality and awareness instead.

Bearing aforementioned in mind it is crucial to motivate the governments to increase their investment and education in order to raise preparedness and prevention levels as well as increase engagement in cooperation for disaster risk reduction. With the respect to use of help provided by international emergency mechanisms experts agree that the biggest problem is with receiving the help.

Due to limited space, further informations will be presented in more elaborative works.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Detail information about the findings is available after direct contact with authors.

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