

Community Resilience Project (CRP)

Dominican Republic

Supporting the sustained wellbeing of children, adolescents, youth (CAY), their families and communities by mainstreaming and scaling up Resilient Practices as an integral part of development and humanitarian programming in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

Achievements

WV Dominican Republic implements the regional Community Resilience project through the Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) unit. The project aims to strengthen the capacities in the disaster risk reduction process and community resilience practices.

WV Dominican Republic held two training workshops on HEA, Resilience and First Aid for 240 volunteers, church leaders and local emergency committee leaders from participating ADPs, leaders from the Children's and Youth movement and the Protagonist Movement. National Office staff were also trained to become empowered local agents of change. The main message projected was that resilience is an essential characteristic to each community since "natural disasters" do not exist, what do exist are adverse natural events that may become disasters depending on the community's capacity to prepare and respond to them.

Other topics included how vulnerable communities can deal with these events, how they can prepare for an emergency response and help prepare others, and how to provide physical and psycho-affective recovery through the recreation of Friendly Spaces. Intense work was done to complete and gather info from the VFL surveys, revised social risk priorities, focus groups, survey letter from children and the videos on 5 HFA priorities.

Knowledge sharing efforts and commitments made by each involved actor to empower the youth and developmentally disabled were stressed, in order to adequately prepare them for disasters as well as being able to prepare others for disasters.

The Operations Manual on Resilient Practices was also presented, which gives guidance on disaster risk reduction, violence risk reduction, adaptation to climate change and sustainable livelihoods. It reinforces the knowledge sharing capacities that help put into practice, multiply and expand resilient practices among the communities. The workshop facilitators were Stephen Latham, the CRP's program manager at WVI, David Canther from ACTS World Relief; an organization specialized in humanitarian aid training, who delivered 20 first aid manuals to ADP managers and directors, and Jose Sergio Abreu, WVDR Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs and Corporate Security Director.

Multiple videos have been produced to document this achievement. They are listed below and can be found on YouTube.

As a result of the Community Resilience Project efforts in this country, the DR has honorably been selected to present a message regarding "Persons with Disabilities" at the Regional Platform this year. They were one of the 4 countries to participate in a Consultative Study on the Children's Charter for Disaster Risk Reduction.



No Violence, No Sadness – (Group Motto)



Resiliency Training Graduation – March, 2014

Achievements in Resilient Practices Continued....

The active participation of church leaders from protestant, catholic and seventh-day Adventists and their shared function with therapists proved to show that churches are important contributors to the spiritual recovery of each individual and community, and are big contributors to the construction of a culture of prevention, of risk and response during and after the events take place. While the role of the youth showed their sustained commitment to help their communities and improve their livelihoods by building on their knowledge and replicating the know-how obtained from the training sessions. The training sessions were widely publicized on local TV and supported by the fire department, Civil Defense and the Red Cross, organizations that have continuously proven their commitment to the project's activities in each community.

A new project tool was introduced in WVDR to align ADP work to the national and regional strategies set for FY2014, The NO's commitment to make all program areas visible in its development programming led them to include Resilience as an integral development area. A review and adjustment of the ADP design and redesign considers particular attention to: national training sessions on HEA scorecards, sufficient funding for regional training sessions (RDMT) and deployments (from the National Reserve Fund), relevance to youth mobilization efforts and churches as agents of change, GIS special projects and the revision of the social violence theme from a humanitarian perspective.

- To strengthen capacities in resilient practices of each target beneficiary group; modules: M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, M6, M7, M8, M8.2, M9 and M10. (106 workshops).
- To develop 32 replication workshops led by the beneficiaries on modules M1, M2, M3, M5 and M8.2
- The reproduction of marketing material to be used by the community facilitators as tools to replicate the basic knowledge on resilient development practices in the beneficiary communities.
- The development of multiple videos on the consultation process conducted with children, adolescents and youth on the progress of Children's Charter on Risk Reduction.

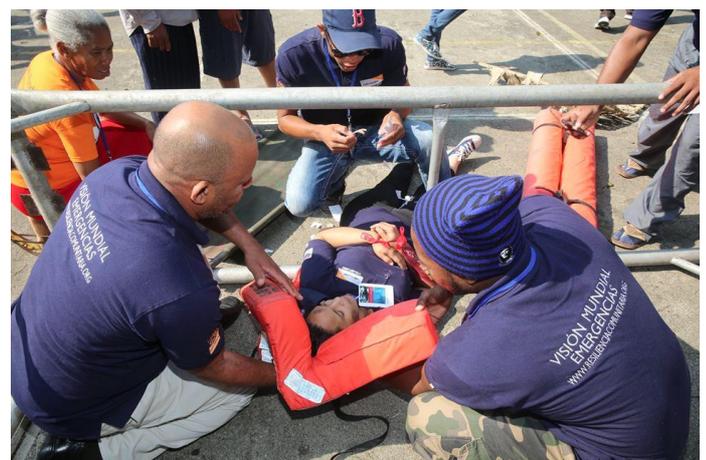
Direct Beneficiaries: WV Dominican Republic has strengthened the capacities of 1328 beneficiaries including: children, adolescents, youth, adults, community leaders, schoolteachers, and church leaders.

WATCH THE VIDEOS on the Children's Charter for DRR Consultation in Dominican Republic:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5z0jcA5PTQw&list=UUMIRRBXUMnRp-8GQvya2xKg&index=11>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zr42Tz4i8UE>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmehThyMP6s#t=62>



Empowering Disabled Youth in the DR



Transporting Handicap Victim During Disaster Simulation



Demonstrating Swift Water Rescue Techniques