



DISASTER MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

Partnering to Manage Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean

THE CHALLENGE

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to violent natural disasters and the high human and economic cost associated with them. Each year, countries within this high-risk region account for losses of an estimated \$3.4 billion. Businesses are particularly hard hit: 40 percent of all businesses closed by a disaster will never reopen. Communities are often powerless to prepare for disasters as they lack awareness, resources, and capacity to handle severe natural phenomena. To help save lives and livelihoods in these areas, the public and private sector have joined together to minimize economic interruptions while safeguarding employees and surrounding communities to ensure continuous production and service capacity.

THE APPROACH

USAID has partnered with the Pan American Development Foundation on the Disaster Management Alliance (DMA) to help communities prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impact of disaster. Through this Global Development Alliance, private sector partners working in the region seek to help eliminate costly business interruptions by protecting high-risk, low-income communities before, during, and after a disaster. DMA coordinates effective communication with emergency management authorities; provides a forum to influence the strengthening of critical facilities to reduce the interruptions of services such as water and electricity; operates as an information clearinghouse to facilitate collaboration across sectors; offers representation in emergency operations centers; and gets vulnerable communities involved in activities to ensure program sustainability.

PARTNERS

USAID, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA), the Association of Contingency Planners (ACP), 64 leading private sector organizations.



RESULTS

- Delivered 28 high-impact community risk reduction projects benefiting more than 225,000 people in 97 communities in 7 countries.
- Brokered private sector resources through innovative partnerships with 64 leading corporations.
- Leveraged \$1 million in private and public sector contributions with \$164,000 in project seed capital.
- Trained 1,600 government and private sector professionals and 400 community leaders in risk mitigation.

