

# The Next Steps:

## A Regional Assessment Program Based on Indicators

The system of indicators for disaster risk and risk management performance assessment is a powerful tool to guide actions and the allocation of resources to reduce disaster risk as well as to improve the effectiveness of national and regional efforts and the development assistance provided by the international community. The development of this set of robust indicators makes possible the creation of a permanent program to ensure that this information is consistently available.

We propose setting up a *Disaster Risk Management Assessment Program (RiskMAP)*, which would provide a comprehensive framework to profile risk, identify the performance of national disaster risk management systems, and develop appropriate risk management solutions at the national and regional levels.<sup>14</sup> The program would include a monitoring and evaluation process for tracking progress in the countries' risk profiles, as well as for tracking the effectiveness of efforts to promote sound national and regional risk management systems.

The aim of the program is to make possible a consistent and independent use of the indicators, and a replicable and manageable application process (in terms of time and cost). In addition, it would make it possible for assessment teams and countries to receive feedback on the robustness of the methodologies and on the updating process. RiskMAP would have three primary components or areas of work: country assessments; indicators, methodologies and data improvement; and risk management solutions.

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<sup>14</sup> It is understood that this would be accomplished with the cooperation of participating countries.

### Component 1: Country Assessments

The core of the RiskMAP program would be the country assessments, which would use a set of indicators to profile disaster risk and the soundness of national risk management systems. It would also establish best practices for risk management and identify development and technical assistance requirements for strengthening risk management at the national level. The Disaster Risk Management Assessment Program would be voluntary and countries would request participation. In other words, the assessments would be triggered by the requesting country.<sup>15</sup> This will ensure that the assessment and ensuing discussion of risk management options will have the cooperation of key policymakers and institutions. Countries would receive a national report detailing the results of the assessment and recommendations for strengthening risk management. While the report itself may remain proprietary, the indicator that it yields would be registered in the RiskMAP program and included in annual publications of regional disaster risk management conditions and efforts. *Certified teams, drawn from regional centers of excellence and others would undertake the country assessments using the set of indicators. Manuals and supervisory details would be developed during the program's design and start-up phase.*

### Component 2. Indicators, Methodologies, and Data Improvement

This component establishes a process through which the indicators and methodologies used

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<sup>15</sup> The program will assist the countries in making the request.

in the country assessments are validated and updated as needed, and new indicators are added to the core set. This process would include periodic reviews by experts, as well as annual meetings of national stakeholders dealing with policy and technical issues. Special activities related to data improvement and the evaluation of additional indicators (such as subnational indicators) for inclusion in the core set of indicators would be developed and validated under this component.

*The advantages of a formal and transparent peer-reviewed process for the adoption of methodological refinements and additions to the core set of indicators are: (i) a direct and clear link of new developments in datasets into methodology refinements; and (ii) a visible platform for vigorous technical and stakeholder reviews of the indicators as well as related methodological issues that include the publication of technical papers.*

### **Component 3. Risk Management Solutions**

This component would promote dialogue between countries and the development of national and regional risk management solutions. The forums would center on a discussion of the annual report on the state-of-the region in disaster risk management based on the assessment program and conference of stakeholders and participants. These meetings would promote the exchange of technical information to facilitate the formulation of public policy, benchmarking of disaster risk and

risk management and, through financial support to selected subregional working groups, promote the work on risk management solutions. It is expected that regional partners such as CEPREDENAC, CDERA, and CAPRADE will facilitate this dialogue and action.

### **Setting Up a RiskMAP Program**

It may take two to three years to establish a sustainable RiskMAP. The first step would be to evaluate options and develop the proposed institutional arrangements for the program, including its governance structure. Ideally, this proposal would be developed jointly with selected international financial institutions, and bilateral and UN agencies, in consultation with the countries of the region. During the first year, the proposed institutional arrangement for the program would be developed and initial agreements and partnerships required for the pilot phase would be entered into. The pilot phase of the program would be implemented during the second and third years.

The aim of this phase would be to establish a permanent structure to provide consistent guidance and resources to reduce disaster risk and improve the effectiveness of national and regional efforts and international development assistance. An explicit objective for the program is to establish organizational and governance structure that avoid the worst of bureaucratic rigidities and is able to effectively promote the dynamic interaction of the program's stakeholders.