EVALUATION REPORT OF THE TRAINING COURSE
ON DISASTER ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY - PANAMA

CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION

1.   The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has been a pioneer in the field of disaster assessment and in the development and dissemination of the Disaster Assessment Methodology. The organization's history in assessing disasters started in 1972 with the earthquake that struck Managua, Nicaragua. Since then, ECLAC has led more than 90 assessments of the social, environmental and economic effects and impacts of disasters in 28 countries in the region.

2.   The Sustainable Development and Disasters Unit provides expert assistance in disaster assessment and disaster risk reduction to Caribbean states and to all countries across Latin America. Understanding that assessing the effects and impacts of disasters is critical to the Latin American and Caribbean countries the unit has started a new cycle of training courses.

3.   The training is designed for policymakers and professionals involved directly with disaster risk management and risk reduction. Additionally, and since the methodology follows a comprehensive approach, it is also designed for sector specialists, providing a multisectoral overview of the situation after a disaster, as well as an economic estimate of the damages, losses and additional costs.

4.   In an attempt of strengthening collaboration between agencies of the United Nations system, and considering the need to implement the principles and actions established in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, ECLAC established contact with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Regional Office for the Americas in Panama City, Panama.

5.   The training was organized by UNISDR Americas and targeted representatives from the United Nations Development Group, which includes the United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. Place and date of the training course

6.   The training session on the "Disaster Assessment Methodology" was held from 18 to 19 February 2016, in Panama City, Panama.

2. Attendance

7.   The training course targeted representatives from the United Nations, specifically those members of the United Nations Development Group in Panama. Fourteen representatives from the following institutions participated in the training course: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

8.   The course was facilitated by the Coordinator and the Associate Environmental Affairs Officer of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

C. SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

9.   Participants were trained in various sectors of the Disaster Assessment Methodology. On the first day, the course focused on the social sector: (1) introduction and basic concepts, (2) affected population, (3) education, (4) housing, and (5) health. During the second day participants learned about the infrastructure and productive sectors: (6) transportation, (7) water and sanitation, (8) agriculture and livestock, (9) manufacture and (10) macroeconomic impacts. Considering the short time available, some exercises were presented and solved by the facilitators during the presentations.

10.   Country experiences were used during the presentations to clarify the application and usability of the methodology. ECLAC's experiences and assessments in the Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Peru and other countries were used as examples throughout the workshop.

D. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

11.   This section of the report presents a summary of the comments provided by participants on the final day of the training. To elicit participants' feedback on diverse aspects of the course, an evaluation questionnaire was administered. The summary presents an account of all responses received from the participants.

12.   The evaluation summary provided an account of participants' views of various aspects of the training course on the disaster assessment methodology. Fourteen participants responded to the evaluation questionnaire; of which six (42.9 per cent) were female and eight (57.1 per cent) were male. The full list of participants is annexed to the report.

13.   As it was mentioned, participants were part of the United Nations Development Group in Panama. Most participants had received training on disaster assessment (64.3 per cent), and five persons (35.7 per cent) had never received training on the subject.

TABLE 1
PRIOR TRAINING IN DISASTER ASSESSMENT

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Yes	9	64.3	64.3
	No	5	35.7	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

1. Substantive content

14.   All the respondents (100 per cent) considered that the training course satisfied their expectations.

15.   Regarding the relevance of the training for participants' work, 78.6 per cent considered that the topics and presentations were highly useful or useful, 21.4 per cent considered it was adequate. Similarly, 71.4 per cent affirmed that the recommendations given during the training were highly useful or useful for their work, four participants (28.6 per cent) considered it adequate.

FIGURE 1
PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON THE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF THE WORKSHOP
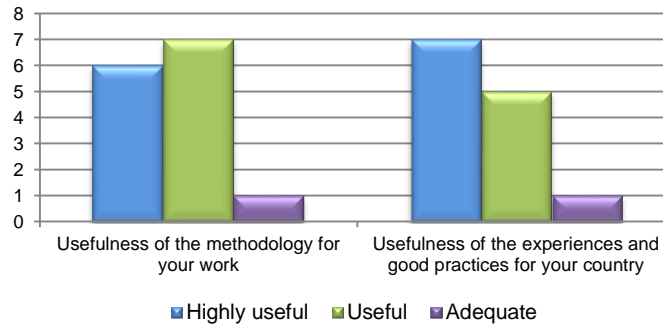
16.   Ninety-two per cent of the respondents considered the methodology highly useful (42.9 per cent) or useful (50 per cent) for their work. Similarly, 92.3 per cent of the respondents agreed that the presentation of other countries' experiences and good practices was highly useful (53.8 per cent) or useful (38.5 per cent) (figure 1). In this regard, all respondents considered it *very likely* or *likely* that they would use the newly acquired knowledge in their daily work.

17.   All respondents considered the course highly useful (35.7 per cent) or useful (64.3 per cent) in introducing them to new approaches, techniques and concepts. Similarly, 100 per cent of the participants agreed that the training was highly useful (50 per cent) or useful (50 per cent) in strengthening their knowledge of disaster assessment.

18.   In regards to the quality of the training, 100 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed (92.9 per cent) or agreed (7.1 per cent) that the trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared. Likewise, 92.9 per cent considered that all the materials were covered clearly (figure 2).

FIGURE 2
PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON THE FACILITATORS OF THE WORKSHOP
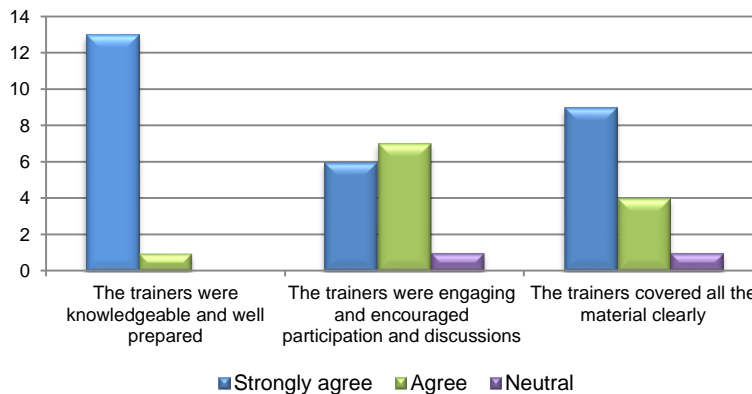
2. Organization of the course

19.   Participants were asked to rate specific elements of the organization of the course using a 5-point scale. All respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the location of the training was convenient; the same percentage considered that the space was comfortable and conducive to learning.

20.   Most respondents (84.6 per cent) rated the quality of the materials and handouts as excellent or good. Likewise, 81.8 per cent of the participants rated the quality of the activities and exercises as

excellent (27.3 per cent) or good (42.9 per cent) (figure 3). It is worth mentioning that, upon UNISIDR request, it was a two-day training course; therefore, time was limited and focused on the substantive sectoral presentations, exercises were presented and solved by the facilitators.

21.   Regarding the pace and structure of the sessions, 21.4 per cent of the participants agreed that it was excellent, 71.4 per cent considered it was good, and one participant rated it as adequate. Finally, most respondents rated the clarity of the content and presentations as excellent (42.9 per cent), the same percentage rated it as good.

FIGURE 3
PARTICIPANTS' VIEWS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP
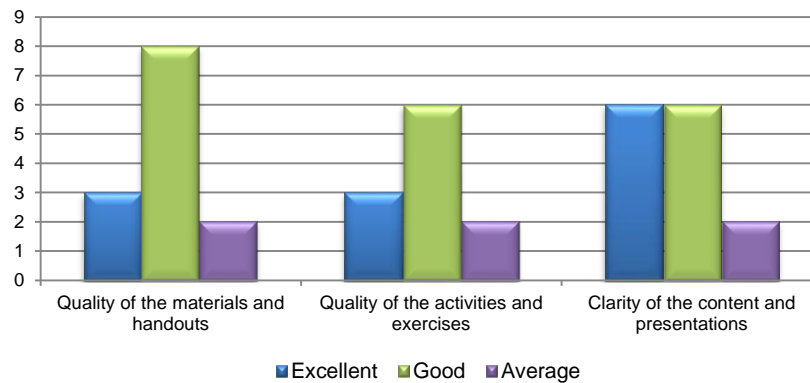
3.   Responses and comments to open-ended questions

22.   Among the general responses received to open-ended questions were the following:

What do you consider the most significant outcomes of the course?
- Application of the methodology
- Introduction to key concepts (damage, loss, additional costs)
- Standardized methodology for multiple sectors
- Understanding the effects and impacts of a disaster in a country's economy

Strengths of the training
- The facilitators were knowledgeable and interacted with the participants
- Understanding of the application of the methodology
- Sharing of international experiences and practical examples
- Methodology is useful for planning of disaster risk reduction
- Detailed analysis of each sector

Areas of improvement
- Use practical examples
- Suggest additional sources of information on disaster assessment

E. CONCLUSIONS

23.   Overall, the training was highly valued, and the participants' responses reflected a high level of satisfaction with the content of the course. Participants appreciated the practical application of the methodology to assess damages and losses, the clear differentiation between effects (damage, loss and additional costs) and impact, and the use of examples to illustrate it. They also understood the importance of collecting sectoral data permanently in order to have reliable baseline information in case of a disaster.

24.   Participants commended the organizers on the content of the course, since it not only highlighted the importance of damage and loss assessments, but also demonstrated the importance of disaster risk reduction by incorporating cross-sector measures to reduce vulnerabilities. Participants, however, missed practical exercises to strengthen the theoretical knowledge obtained during the presentations. Unfortunately, time constrains did not allow participants to solve the exercises, the facilitators presented and solved some exercises.

25.   The training was very successful in strengthening the relations between ECLAC and UNISDR-Americas and with member institutions of the United Nations Development Group.

<u>Annex I</u>

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
18-19 February 2016
Panama City, Panama

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Annex II

EVALUATION FORM

Evaluation Form
Training Course: Disaster Assessment Methodology

Place
Date

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

In an effort to assess the effectiveness and impact of this training course, kindly complete the following evaluation form. Your responses will be invaluable in providing feedback on the overall workshop, identifying areas of weakness and help improve the organization of future courses.

Sex
☐ Female
☐ Male

Country of origin: _____

Institution(s) you represent: _____

Title/Position: _____

1. Have you received training in disaster assessment prior to this course?   Yes ☐   No ☐

2. **Content Delivery & Organization**	**Very Good**	**Good**	**Adequate**	**Below Average**	**Poor**
Pace and structure of the sessions	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Quality of reference materials and handouts	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Quality of activities and exercises	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Clarity of the content and presentations	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
How would you rate the course overall?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. **Facilitator**	**Strongly Agree**	**Agree**	**Neutral**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**
The trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
The trainers were engaging and encouraged questions and participation	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
The trainers covered all the material clearly	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. **Facilities**	**Strongly Agree**	**Agree**	**Neutral**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**
The location of the training was convenient	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

	Highly Useful	Useful	Adequate	Inadequate	Highly Inadequate
The training space was comfortable and conducive to learning	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. Impact	**Highly Useful**	**Useful**	**Adequate**	**Inadequate**	**Highly Inadequate**
Relevance of the topics and presentations for your work	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Relevance of the recommendations for your work	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Introduction to new approaches and techniques	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Strengthening of knowledge about disaster assessment	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Usefulness of the methodology for your work	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Usefulness of the experiences and good practices for your country	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

6.   Did the training meet your expectations?   Yes [ ]   No [ ]

7.   What is the likelihood of using what you learned in this training?

Very Likely	Likely	Neutral	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

8.   What were the most important outcomes/ recommendations of the course?

_____

_____

9.   Strengths of the training:

_____

_____

10. Areas of improvement:

_____

_____

11. Any other comments:

_____

_____

THANK YOU!!

RESPONSES TO CLOSE-ENDED QUESTIONS

Table 1. Sex

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Female	6	42.9	42.9
	Male	8	57.1	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 2. Prior training in disaster assessment

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Yes	9	64.3	64.3
	No	5	35.7	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 3. Pace and structure of the sessions

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Excellent	3	21.4	21.4
	Good	10	71.4	92.9
	Adequate	1	7.1	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 4. Quality of the materials and handouts

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Excellent	3	23.1	23.1
	Good	8	61.5	84.6
	Adequate	2	15.4	100.0
	Total	**13**	**100.0**	

Table 5. Quality of the activities and exercises

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Excellent	3	27.3	27.3
	Good	6	54.5	81.8
	Adequate	2	18.2	100.0
	Total	**11**	**100.0**	

Table 6. Clarity of the content and presentations

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Excellent	6	42.9	42.9
	Good	6	42.9	85.7
	Adequate	2	14.3	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 7. Overall rate of the course

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Excellent	5	35.7	35.7
	Good	7	50.0	85.7
	Adequate	2	14.3	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 8. The trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Strongly agree	13	92.9	92.9
	Agree	1	7.1	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 9. The trainers were engaging and encouraged participation and discussions

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Strongly agree	6	42.9	42.9
	Agree	7	50.0	92.9
	Neutral	1	7.1	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 10. The trainers covered all the material clearly

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Strongly agree	9	64.3	64.3
	Agree	4	28.6	92.9
	Neutral	1	7.1	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 11. The location of the training was convenient

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Strongly agree	12	85.7	85.7
	Agree	2	14.3	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 12. The training space was comfortable and conducive to learning

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Strongly agree	12	85.7	85.7
	Agree	2	14.3	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 13. Relevance of the topics and presentations for your work

		Frequency	*Valid Percent*	*Cumulative Percent*
Valid	Highly useful	8	57.1	57.1
	Useful	3	21.4	78.6
	Adequate	3	21.4	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 14. Relevance of the recommendations for your work

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	7	50.0	50.0
	Useful	3	21.4	71.4
	Adequate	4	28.6	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 15. Introduction to new approaches, techniques and concepts

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	5	35.7	35.7
	Useful	9	64.3	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 16. Strengthening of knowledge about disaster assessment

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	7	50.0	50.0
	Useful	7	50.0	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 17. Usefulness of the methodology for your work

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	6	42.9	42.9
	Useful	7	50.0	92.9
	Adequate	1	7.1	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	

Table 18. Usefulness of the experiences and good practices for your country

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	7	53.8	53.8
	Useful	5	38.5	92.3
	Adequate	1	7.7	100.0
	Total	**13**	**100.0**	

Table 19. Did the training meet your expectations?

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	100.0	100.0

Table 20. What is the likelihood of using what you learned in this training?

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very likely	5	35.7	35.7
	Likely	9	64.3	100.0
	Total	**14**	**100.0**	