

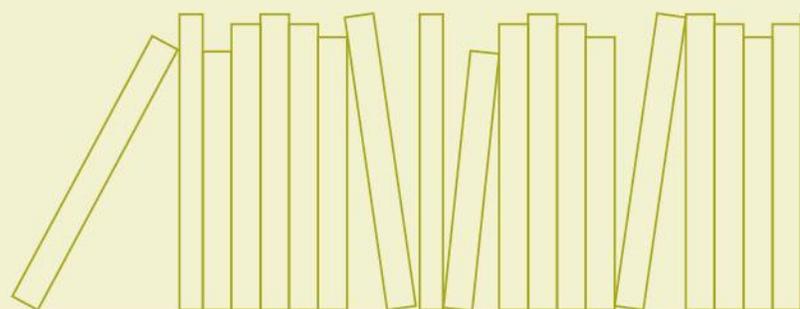
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**



Evaluation report of the training course on disaster assessment methodology

Association of Caribbean States



UNITED NATIONS





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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Training course on disaster assessment methodology
24 - 27 January 2017
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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**EVALUATION REPORT OF THE TRAINING COURSE
ON DISASTER ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**
—
ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

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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 Disaster Unit provides expert assistance in disaster assessment and disaster risk reduction to Caribbean states and to all countries across Latin America. Considering 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 is comprehensive in 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. Considering the relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the first day of the training was dedicated to analyzing the importance of planning for disaster risk reduction and its role in attaining the goals established in the Agenda. In addition, one session focused on the relevance of Principle 10 to improve access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, highlighting the linkages between environmental degradation, poverty and resilience.
5. In an attempt to strengthen disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean and increase collaboration between regional and international organizations, ECLAC co-organized the course jointly with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).
6. Additionally, a representative from the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) presented the benefits and mechanisms to access the Facility, and one representative from the - Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) participated in the training as part of the ongoing collaboration between ECLAC and CDEMA.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. Place and date of the training course

7. A training session on the "Disaster Assessment Methodology" was held from 24 to 27 January 2017, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago at the ACS headquarters.

2. Attendance

8. The training course targeted sector specialists and participants from policymaking institutions and disaster management agencies. The represented institutions included disaster management offices, institutes of statistics, and ministries or departments of public works and transport, finance, development, housing and human settlements, telecommunications, and energy. Seventeen representatives from six Member States (Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago) and two associate members (Aruba and the British Virgin Islands) participated in the course. Additionally, one representative from CDEMA participated in the training course as part of

ongoing collaboration between ECLAC and CDEMA, and four staff members of the ACS were trained in the methodology.

9. The course was facilitated by the Coordinator and the Associate Environmental Affairs Officer of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, the Associate Information Management Officer of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, and the Economic Affairs Officer of the Economic Development Unit of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The first day of training on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was conducted by four representatives from ECLAC Headquarters (Office of the Executive Secretary, Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), and the Division of Sustainable Development and Human Settlements).

C. SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

10. Participants were trained in various sectors of the Disaster Assessment Methodology. On the first day, the course focused on planning for disaster risk management in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. It included the following sessions: (1) From the Millennium Agenda to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (2) The role of risk transfer in enhancing fiscal sustainability in the Caribbean (CCRIF SPC); (3) The role of planning in disaster risk management and its impact on the attainment of the SDGs; and (4) Principle 10 in the 2030 Agenda.

11. The training course on the Disaster Assessment Methodology started on day two with the presentation of the social sector: (5) introduction and basic concepts, (6) affected population, (7) education, and (8) housing. During the third day participants learned about one more social sector, (9) health and epidemics, and were introduced to the infrastructure sector: (10) transportation, (11) telecommunications and (12) water and sanitation. Day four focused on the productive sector, (13) tourism, and on the (14) consolidation of effects and macroeconomic impacts.

12. In order to help participants understand the practical use of the methodology, exercises were prepared for the following modules: (1) education, (2) housing, (3) health, (4) transportation, (5) telecommunications, and (6) water and sanitation.

13. ECLAC team shared the experience of various regional governments in the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in public investment and other disaster risk management initiatives and best practices. Additionally, country experiences were used during the presentations to clarify the application and utility of the methodology. ECLAC experiences and assessments in the Bahamas, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Peru and other countries were used as examples throughout the workshop.

D. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

14. 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.

15. The evaluation summary provided an account of participants' views of various aspects of the training course on the disaster assessment methodology. Twenty participants responded to the evaluation questionnaire, 5 female and 15 male. The full list of participants is annexed to the report.

16. In terms of knowledge of the topic, 33.3 per cent of participants had never before received training on disaster assessment, while 66.7 per cent had received training on the subject.

TABLE 1
PRIOR TRAINING IN DISASTER ASSESSMENT

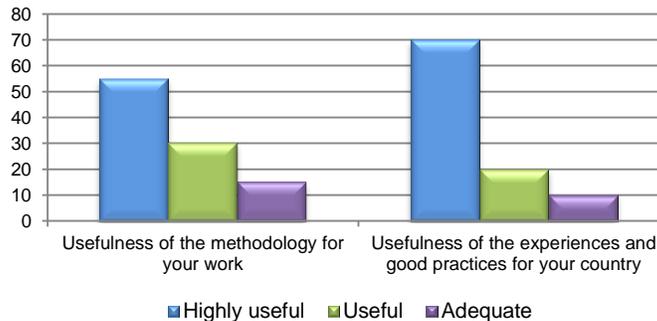
		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	12	66.7	66.7
	No	6	33.3	100.0
Total		18	100.0	

1. Substantive content

17. All respondents (100 per cent) reported that the training course met their expectations.

18. In terms of the relevance of the training, 60 per cent considered that the topics and presentations were highly useful for their work, 35 per cent considered they were useful and five per cent rated them as adequate. The same distribution of responses was observed in regards to the relevance of the recommendations given during the training. In this regard, it is worth noting that 55 per cent of participants agreed that the methodology was highly useful for their work, 30 per cent rated it as useful and 15 per cent as adequate.

FIGURE 1
PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON THE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF THE WORKSHOP
Percentage

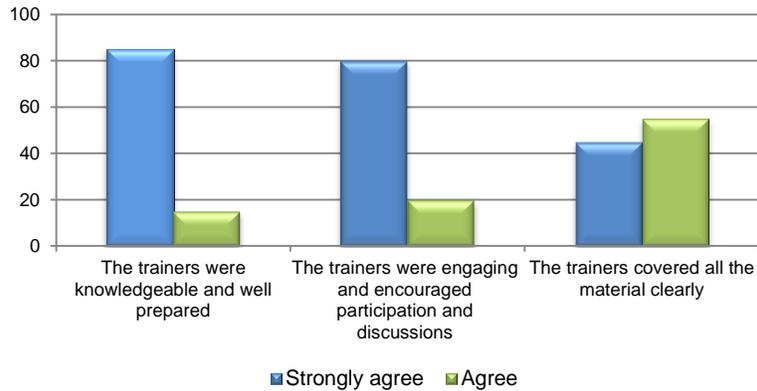


19. Ninety per cent of respondents agreed that the presentation of other countries' experiences and good practices was highly useful (70 per cent) or useful (20 per cent), and 10 per cent considered they were adequate (figure 1). In this regard, 90 per cent considered it very likely (55 per cent) or likely (35 per cent) that they would use the newly acquired knowledge in their daily work, 10 per cent were neutral.

20. Most respondents considered the course highly useful (65 per cent) or useful (35 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 (80 per cent) or useful (20 per cent) in strengthening their knowledge of disaster assessment.

21. As regards to the quality of the training, 100 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed (85 per cent) or agreed (15 per cent) that the trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared. Likewise, 45 per cent strongly agreed and 55 per cent agreed that all the materials were covered clearly (figure 2).

FIGURE 2
PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON THE FACILITATORS OF THE WORKSHOP
Percentage



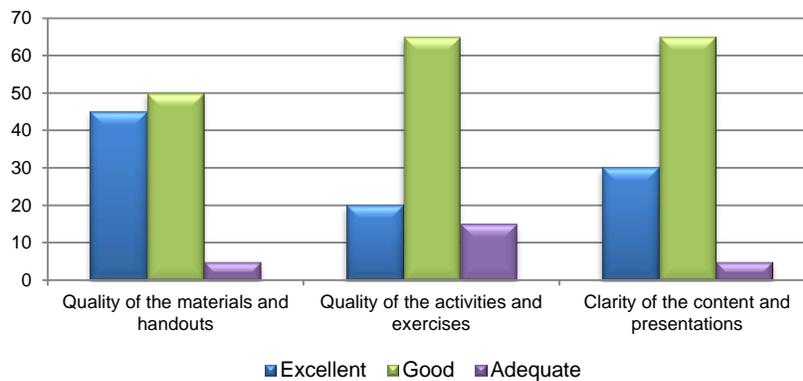
2. Organization of the course

22. Participants were asked to rate specific elements of the organization of the course using a 5-point scale. Most respondents (95 per cent) strongly agreed or agreed that the location of the training was convenient; 100 per cent of participants strongly agreed or agreed that the space was comfortable and conducive to learning.

23. In terms of the materials and handouts, 95 per cent of respondents rated their quality as excellent (45 per cent) or good (50 per cent), and five per cent rated it as adequate. Likewise, most participants rated the quality of the activities and exercises as excellent (20 per cent) or good (65 per cent), while 15 per cent considered them adequate (figure 3).

24. Regarding the pace and structure of the sessions, 35 per cent of the participants agreed that it was excellent, 60 per cent considered it was good, and 5 per cent rated it as adequate. Finally, 30 per cent of respondents rated the clarity of the content and presentations as excellent, 65 per cent rated it as good and 5 per cent considered it adequate.

FIGURE 3
PARTICIPANTS' VIEWS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP
Percentage



3. Responses and comments to open-ended questions

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

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

- Standardized methodology for multiple sectors, multisectoral approach
- Introduction to key concepts (damage, loss, additional costs)
- Clarity and reinforcement of acquired concepts
- Importance of compiling baseline data (pre-disaster)
- Improve data collection and analysis in the Caribbean
- Strengthen institutional capacity for data collection, analysis and dissemination
- Usefulness of questionnaires to produce and gather data
- Understanding of the data collection process
- Establishment of reconstruction criteria

Based on the contents of the course, could you provide examples of the importance of incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into planning processes?

- Planning for disaster risk reduction
- Incorporate disaster risk reduction in institutional budgets
- Baseline information can be used to provide details on development challenges
- Proactive vs reactive approaches to disaster risk reduction
- Role of poverty in sustainable development
- Disaster risk management and resilience building are closely linked to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Establish linkages between sectoral projects and specific SDGs to contribute to their attainment

How do you expect to apply the knowledge acquired in this course?

- Share acquired knowledge with colleagues
- Recommend a national training session on the Disaster Assessment Methodology
- Improve data gathering and sharing
- Incorporate disaster risk reduction in sectoral policies and plans
- Train personnel to gather and analyze data
- Conduct sectoral discussions based on data requirements of the Methodology
- Recommend the establishment of a repository for baseline data
- Recommend the use of the Damage and Needs Analysis Methodology, followed by the Damage and Loss Assessment Methodology
- Improve business continuity

Strengths of the training

- Clarity of the presentations and materials
- Interactive sessions and activities
- Facilitators were experienced, knowledgeable and engaging
- Importance of information sharing
- Time management
- Sharing of international experiences and practical examples to better understand the methodology and its concepts
- Linkages between sectors
- Practical application of the methodology

Areas of improvement

- Provide instructions to finalize a disaster assessment report
- Use of tables and graphs in the presentations to reduce text
- Development of a software for data collection
- Development of an exercise handbook

E. CONCLUSIONS

26. 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 impacts, 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. Once core concepts were clearly exposed, participants showed interest in continued support from ECLAC, specifically in regards to methods and lessons learned in terms of data collection and on ways of improving planning instruments.

27. 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.

28. The event brought together four disaster-related regional/international organizations (ECLAC, ACS, CDEMA and CCRIF), which was highly valued by participants as it signals the efforts of the organizations to collaborate and simplify processes. Several participants expressed their interest in requesting a training course on the Disaster Assessment Methodology for their countries. Likewise, the success of the training was acknowledged by the ACS, which opens opportunities for future similar activities.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
24 - 27 January 2017
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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Annex II

Evaluation Form
Training Course: Disaster Assessment Methodology

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

Age

- 0 or under
 31 – 40
 41 – 50
 51 or over

Sector

- Public
 Private
 Academia
 Other (NGO, social organization, etc)

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	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

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	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Relevance of the recommendations for your work	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Introduction to new approaches and techniques	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Strengthening of knowledge about disaster assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Usefulness of the methodology for your work	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Usefulness of the experiences and good practices for your country	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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
<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

9. Based on the contents of the course, could you provide examples of the importance of incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into planning processes?

10. How do you intend/expect to apply the knowledge acquired in this training course?

11. Strengths of the training:

12. Areas of improvement:

THANK YOU

Annex III**RESPONSES TO CLOSE-ENDED QUESTIONS****Table 1. Sex**

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Female	5	25.0	25.0
	Male	15	75.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 2. Age

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	30 or under	4	20.0	20.0
	31-40	6	30.0	50.0
	41-50	5	25.0	75.0
	50 or over	5	25.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 3. Sector

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Public	19	95.0	95.0
	Other	1	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 4. Prior training in disaster assessment

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	12	66.7	66.7
	No	6	33.3	100.0
	Total	18	100.0	

Table 5. Pace and structure of the sessions

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	7	35.0	35.0
	Good	12	60.0	95.0
	Adequate	1	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 6. Quality of the materials and handouts

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	9	45.0	45.0
	Good	10	50.0	95.0
	Adequate	1	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 7. Quality of the activities and exercises

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	4	20.0	20.0
	Good	13	65.0	85.0
	Adequate	3	15.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 8. Clarity of the content and presentations

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	6	30.0	30.0
	Good	13	65.0	95.0
	Adequate	1	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 9. Overall rate of the course

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	10	50.0	50.0
	Good	10	50.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 10. The trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	17	85.0	85.0
	Agree	3	15.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 11. The trainers were engaging and encouraged participation and discussions

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	16	80.0	80.0
	Agree	4	20.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 12. The trainers covered all the material clearly

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	9	45.0	45.0
	Agree	11	55.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 13. The location of the training was convenient

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	14	70.0	70.0
	Agree	5	25.0	95.0
	Neutral	1	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 14. The training space was comfortable and conducive to learning

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	13	65.0	65.0
	Agree	7	35.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 15. Relevance of the topics and presentations for your work

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	12	60.0	60.0
	Useful	7	35.0	95.0
	Adequate	1	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 16. Relevance of the recommendations for your work

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	12	60.0	60.0
	Useful	7	35.0	95.0
	Adequate	1	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 17. Introduction to new approaches, techniques and concepts

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	13	65.0	65.0
	Useful	7	35.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 18. Strengthening of knowledge about disaster assessment

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	16	80.0	80.0
	Useful	4	20.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 19. Usefulness of the methodology for your work

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	11	55.0	55.0
	Useful	6	30.0	85.0
	Adequate	3	15.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 20. Usefulness of the experiences and good practices for your country

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	14	70.0	70.0
	Useful	4	20.0	90.0
	Adequate	2	10.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 21. Did the training meet your expectations?

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	20	100.0	100.0

Table 22. What is the likelihood of using what you learned in this training?

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Very likely	11	55.0	55.0
	Likely	7	35.0	90.0
	Neutral	2	10.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	



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