Latin American and Caribbean countries are exposed to extreme natural events that can unleash disasters, depending on the vulnerabilities of each. The sectors most at risk are those with high social vulnerability.

The first step towards reconstruction is the quantification of damage, losses and additional costs generated by the disaster.

ECLAC methodology has been used to assess disasters caused by the following natural dangers:

1. **Dynamic processes within the earth**
   - Earthquakes
   - Tsunamis
   - Volcanic eruptions
   The most affected area is the Pacific coast (in the "Ring of Fire").

2. **Dynamic processes on the earth’s surface**
   - Landslides
   - Rockslides
   - Avalanches
   - Mudslides after flash flooding
   The worst affected area is South America.

3. **Meteorological and hydrological phenomena**
   - Flooding
   - Drought
   - Tornados and hurricanes
   - Storms
   - Hailstorms
   - Ice and snow
   Flooding is the main cause of disasters in Central and South America, while hurricanes affect mostly Mexico and the Caribbean.

4. **Biological**
   - Pests
   - Epidemics
   Those countries most affected are in Central America and South America.