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Training course on disaster assessment methodology
1-3 August 2016
Asuncion, Paraguay

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

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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. 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.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. Place and date of the training course

4. A training session on the "Disaster Assessment Methodology" was held from 1 to 3 August 2016, in Asuncion, Paraguay in the facilities of the National Emergency Secretariat.

2. Attendance

5. The training course targeted mainly staff from the National Emergency Secretariat. Eighteen representatives from various departments participated in the course. In addition, 17 representatives from other institutions participated in the training course. The represented institutions included the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defence, The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Public Works and Communication, and several specialized Secretariats, such as housing and habitat, water and sanitation, electricity, and planning.
6. 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

7. 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, and (4) housing. During the second day participants learned about one more social sector, (5) health and epidemics, and infrastructure: (6) electricity, (7) transportation and (8) water and sanitation. Day three focused on one infrastructure sector, (9) telecommunications, and on the productive sectors: (10) manufacturing, (11) agriculture and livestock and (12) macroeconomic impacts, as well as (13) a presentation on disaster risk reduction in public investments.
8. 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, and (5) livestock.

9. 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, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, 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. Twenty-seven participants responded to the evaluation questionnaire, 15 females and 12 males. The full list of participants is annexed to the report.

13. In terms of knowledge of the topic, 45.5 per cent of participants had never before received training on disaster assessment, while 54.5 per cent had received training on the subject.

TABLE 1
PRIOR TRAINING IN DISASTER ASSESSMENT

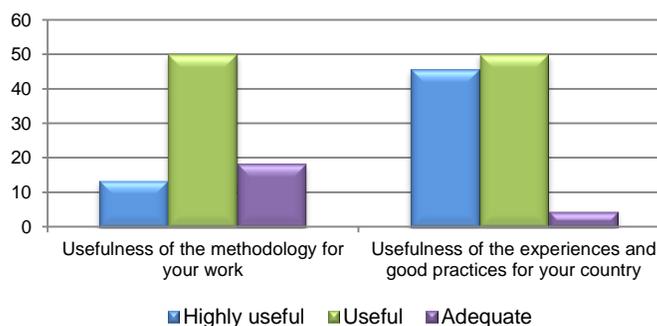
		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	12	54.5	54.5
	No	10	45.5	100.0
	Total	22	100.0	

1. Substantive content

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

15. In terms of the relevance of the training, 63 per cent considered that the topics and presentations were highly useful and 37 per cent considered they were useful for their work. Similarly, 55.6 per cent affirmed that the recommendations given during the training were highly useful and 44.4 per cent rated them as useful for their work. In this regard, it is worth noting that, 66.7 per cent of participants agreed that the methodology was highly useful for their work, while 33 per cent rated it as useful.

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



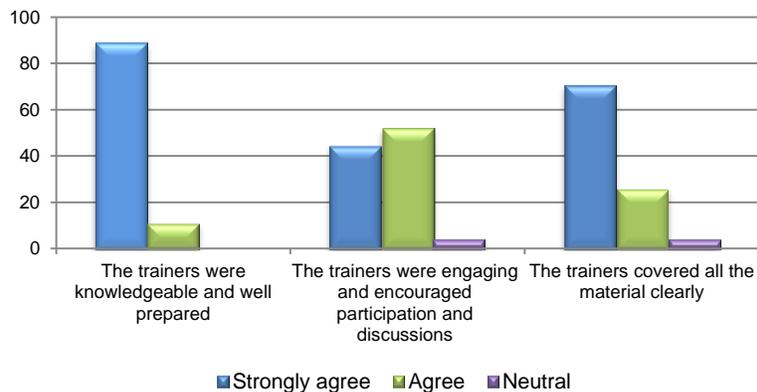
16. Ninety-six per cent of respondents agreed that the presentation of other countries' experiences and good practices was highly useful (55.6 per cent) or useful (40.7 per cent), and 3.7 per cent considered

they were adequate (figure 1). In this regard, 92.6 per cent considered it very likely (44.4 per cent) or likely (48.1 per cent) that they would use the newly acquired knowledge in their daily work, 7.4 per cent were neutral.

17. Most respondents considered the course highly useful (66.7 per cent) or useful (29.6 per cent) in introducing them to new approaches, techniques and concepts, while 3.7 per cent considered it was adequate. Similarly, 100 per cent of the participants agreed that the training was highly useful (81.5 per cent) or useful (18.5 per cent) in strengthening their knowledge of disaster assessment.

18. As regards to the quality of the training, 100 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed (88.9 per cent) or agreed (11.1 per cent) that the trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared. Likewise, 96.3 per cent strongly agreed and agreed that all the materials were covered clearly, and 3.7 per cent were neutral (figure 2).

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



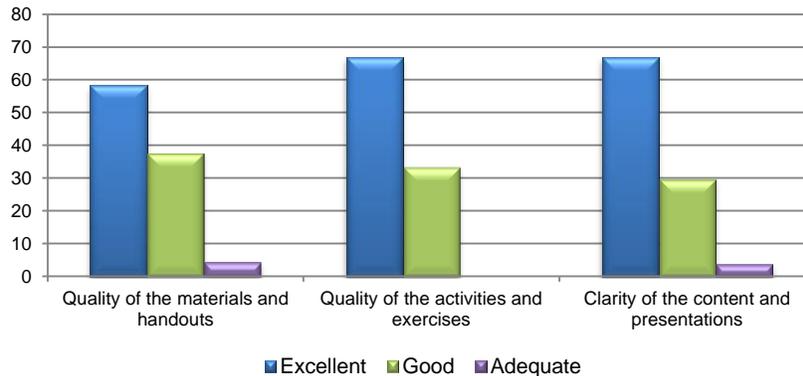
2. Organization of the course

19. Participants were asked to rate specific elements of the organization of the course using a 5-point scale. Most respondents (96.3 per cent) 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. In both cases, 3.7 per cent of respondents were neutral.

20. In terms of the materials and handouts, 95.8 per cent of respondents rated their quality as excellent (58.3 per cent) or good (37.5 per cent) and 3.7 per cent rated it as adequate. Likewise, all participants rated the quality of the activities and exercises as excellent (66.7 per cent) or good (33.3 per cent) (figure 3).

21. Regarding the pace and structure of the sessions, 63 per cent of the participants agreed that it was excellent, 33.3 per cent considered it was good, and 3.7 per cent rated it as adequate. Finally, 66.7 per cent of respondents rated the clarity of the content and presentations as excellent, 29.6 per cent rated it as good and 3.7 per cent considered it adequate.

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



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?

- Introduction to key concepts (damage, loss, additional costs)
- Standardized methodology for multiple sectors, multisectoral approach
- Estimation of the macroeconomic impacts and financial evaluation
- Understanding of the data collection process
- Importance of local information systems
- Practical application of the methodology through sectoral exercises
- Establishment of reconstruction criteria

Strengths of the training

- The facilitators were knowledgeable and interacted with the participants
- Active participation from participants
- Sharing of international experiences and practical examples to better understand the methodology and its concepts
- Holistic approach of the methodology
- Appreciate similarities between Paraguay and other LAC countries in terms of opportunities and challenges
- Integral vision of the effects and impacts of a disaster

Areas of improvement

- Provide examples from Paraguay's local experience
- More dynamic
- Provide more time to solve exercises
- Facilitate the materials before the training starts

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 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.

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.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

1-3 August 2016

Asuncion, Paraguay

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Annex II**EVALUATION FORM**

Evaluation Form
Training Course: Disaster Assessment Methodology

Asuncion, Paraguay
1-3 August

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	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

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!!

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

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Female	15	55.6	55.6
	Male	12	44.4	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 2. Prior training in disaster assessment

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	12	54.5	54.5
	No	10	45.5	100.0
	Total	22	100.0	

Table 3. Pace and structure of the sessions

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	17	63.0	63.0
	Good	9	33.3	96.3
	Adequate	1	3.7	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 4. Quality of the materials and handouts

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	14	58.3	58.3
	Good	9	37.5	95.8
	Adequate	1	4.2	100.0
	Total	24	100.0	

Table 5. Quality of the activities and exercises

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	18	66.7	66.7
	Good	9	33.3	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 6. Clarity of the content and presentations

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	18	66.7	66.7
	Good	8	29.6	96.3
	Adequate	1	3.7	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 7. Overall rate of the course

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	17	63.0	63.0
	Good	10	37.0	100.0
Total		27	100.0	

Table 8. The trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	24	88.9	88.9
	Agree	3	11.1	100.0
Total		27	100.0	

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

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	12	44.4	44.4
	Agree	14	51.9	96.3
	Neutral	1	3.7	100.0
Total		27	100.0	

Table 10. The trainers covered all the material clearly

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	19	70.4	70.4
	Agree	7	25.9	96.3
	Neutral	1	3.7	100.0
Total		27	100.0	

Table 11. The location of the training was convenient

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	13	48.1	48.1
	Agree	13	48.1	96.3
	Neutral	1	3.7	100.0
Total		27	100.0	

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

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Strongly agree	12	44.4	44.4
	Agree	14	51.9	96.3
	Neutral	1	3.7	100.0
Total		27	100.0	

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

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	17	63.0	63.0
	Useful	10	37.0	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 14. Relevance of the recommendations for your work

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	15	55.6	55.6
	Useful	12	44.4	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 15. Introduction to new approaches, techniques and concepts

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	18	66.7	66.7
	Useful	8	29.6	96.3
	Adequate	1	3.7	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 16. Strengthening of knowledge about disaster assessment

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	22	81.5	81.5
	Useful	5	18.5	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 17. Usefulness of the methodology for your work

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	18	66.7	66.7
	Useful	9	33.3	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

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

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	15	55.6	55.6
	Useful	11	40.7	96.3
	Adequate	1	3.7	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	

Table 19. Did the training meet your expectations?

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	27	100.0	100.0

Table 20. 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	12	44.4	44.4
	Likely	13	48.1	92.6
	Neutral	2	7.4	100.0
	Total	27	100.0	