

Informative Bulletin

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El Commitment and idealism characterize emergency focal points of the Latin American and Caribbean region

UNFPA CARRIED OUT A REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON PREPARATION AND RESPONSE TO DISASTERS

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Humanitarian Response Unit, in collaboration with the Geographical Divisions, of Human Resources, Resources and Supplies Mobilization organized the "Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Preparation and Response to Disasters" held in Panama City on May 26-30.

El The event's objectives were: capacity development of the country offices and field staff, training in the use of reproductive health kits and other available technical resources, strengthening of the collaboration between the field offices and the technical staff at the regional level and the headquarters, exchange of experiences between the country offices and the sub-regional contingency plans, as well as resource mobilization for emergency situations.

Participants shared a comprehensive program that combined presentations, group work, papers of each country, evaluations and integration dynamics. Fulfilling their mandates, UNFPA's country teams, have responded to several emergency situations:

- * *Colombia responded to a chronic situation of displacement related to the internal conflict and to natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes).*
- * *Cuba has constant tropical cyclones that cause floods, but they have an integral civil defense system that has prepared its entire population for the response.*
- * *Guatemala supported victims of earthquakes, storms, and hurricanes, which especially affected people in the HIV / women epidemiology corridor.*
- * *Honduras supported the population affected by floods in the north coast (Garifuna ethnic group), the Felix hurricane, and the earthquake last year that affected the Marate Municipality (Tolupan ethnic group).*
- * *Mexico suffered a flood last year that affected the Tabasco and Chiapas states.*
- * *Perú responded to the needs of the population affected by the earthquake last year that affected the provinces of Chincha, Pisco, Cañete, and Ica, especially women and girls.*
- * *Uruguay supported the population affected by floods.*



Photo: Cecile Mazzacurati, Pamela Delargy and Clara Rodríguez, from the UNFPA Humanitarian Unit Response.



Photo: Fernando González (Colombia), Anneke Zwetsloot (Noruega), Edgar Ramirez (Perú), Mirela Cano (Spain), Annalisa Rosso (Italy) and Elizabeth Murcia (El Salvador).

At the end of the event, Pamela Delargy, Chief of the Humanitarian Response Unit (HRU) stated: "We now face a great challenge, to use all the knowledge, tools, and resources in the emergency plans of each country. We know that there is a great experience and commitment in Latin America and the Caribbean. Let's not forget that emergencies can affect women and men differently, the same happens with humanitarian aid".

The United Nations Population Fund works to protect the reproductive health of communities in crises caused by natural disasters:

- * *Identificando las necesidades de las mujeres que pierden el acceso a los servicios de planificación familiar, exponiéndolas a un embarazo no deseado en la atención pre y post natal así como del parto sin riesgo.*
- * *Trabajando por la prevención, atención y protección a las víctimas de la violencia basada en el género (violencia física, psicológica y sexual).*
- * *Atendiendo a los y las jóvenes que se vuelven mas vulnerables a contraer el VIH/SIDA y/o ser objeto de la explotación sexual.*
- * *Apoyando la recolección de data, incluyendo censos y rápidos análisis de situación para la planificación de una ayuda eficiente y eficaz.*
- * *Enviando suministros y equipo de emergencia para mitigar los riesgos del parto, apoyar las intervenciones médicas necesarias, prevenir las infecciones de transmisión sexual y el VIH.*