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Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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EVALUATION REPORT OF THE TRAINING COURSE ON DISASTER ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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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. In an attempt to strengthen disaster risk reduction through its financial instruments, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES for its acronym in Portuguese) of Brazil requested that ECLAC undertake a four-day training programme on the Disaster Assessment Methodology.
5. The training was intended to introduce staff from several sectoral divisions of the bank to the disaster assessment methodology and to disaster risk reduction in general, as the bank proceeds to incorporate risk management in their projects and programmes. For this purpose, ECLAC prepared additional materials focusing on financial instruments and lessons learned in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
6. In addition to the training, ECLAC held a wrap-up meeting with BNDES senior staff in order to recommend next steps and strategic initiatives that the bank could undertake in order to incorporate disaster risk reduction in their normal operations.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. Place and date of the training course

7. The training session on the "Disaster Assessment Methodology" was held from 1 to 4 March 2016, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

2. Attendance

8. The training course targeted staff from BNDES. Twenty-seven representatives from various departments participated in the course; some thematic areas included energy, social infrastructure, infrastructure, programming and planning, risk management, internal and external institutional relations, and public management. In addition, one representative from the Ministry of Integration participated in the training course. It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Integration is responsible for local assessment of disasters throughout Brazil.
9. The course was facilitated by the Coordinator and the Associate Environmental Affairs Officer of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, and the Associate Information Management Officer of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

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 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 and infrastructure: (5) health and epidemics, (6) electricity, (7) transportation and (8) water and sanitation. Day three continued with one infrastructure sector as well as productive sectors: (9) telecommunications, (10) manufacturing, (11) agriculture and livestock and (12) tourism. Day four included the (13) macroeconomic impacts, as well as (14) a presentation on the effects and impacts of wars as disasters. Examples of financial instruments, and disaster risk reduction in public investment were also discussed with the participants.

11. ECLAC team prepared additional materials to guide the bank's discussion on how to incorporate disaster risk reduction in their financial instruments. The experience of the Governments of Colombia and Panama in the use of financial instruments was discussed along with Costa Rica's efforts to incorporate disaster risk reduction in public investment, as well as the country's Banking System for Development. The team also prepared a wrap-up presentation to offer specific recommendations to the bank as they move towards a disaster risk management approach.

12. In order to help participants understand the practical use of the methodology, exercises were prepared for the following modules: (1) introduction and basic concepts, (2) education, (3) housing, (4) health, (5) transportation, (6) water and sanitation, (7) telecommunications and (8) livestock.

13. Country experiences were used during the presentations to clarify the application and usability of the methodology. ECLAC 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

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-two participants responded to the evaluation questionnaire, 11 female and 11 male. The full list of participants is annexed to the report.

16. As already indicated, participants from various departments within BNDES. Most participants indicated that their work was not related to disaster risk management or reduction, 71.4 per cent had never before received training on disaster assessment, while 28.6 per cent had received training on the subject.

TABLE 1
PRIOR TRAINING IN DISASTER ASSESSMENT

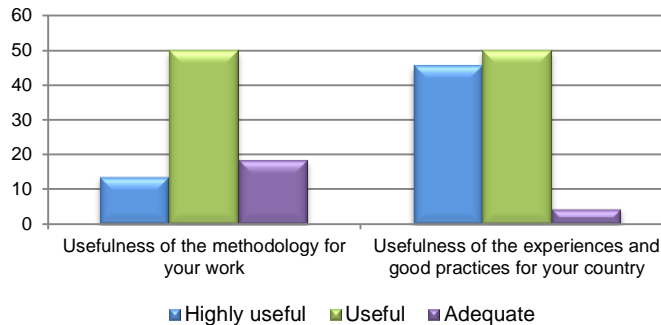
		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	6	28.6	28.6
	No	15	71.4	100.0
Total		21	100.0	

1. Substantive content

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

18. As regards the relevance of the training, 72.7 per cent considered that the topics and presentations were highly useful or useful, 13.6 per cent considered it was adequate, and the same percentage rated it as inadequate. Similarly, 68.2 per cent affirmed that the recommendations given during the training were highly useful or useful for their work, and 13.6 per cent considered it adequate. Most participants are not involved with disaster assessment or disaster risk management; therefore, many considered that the topic was not related to their field of work. However, the training was requested by BNDES as a first step to introduce staff to disaster risk management in order to incorporate it in the normal operations of the bank in the near future.

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

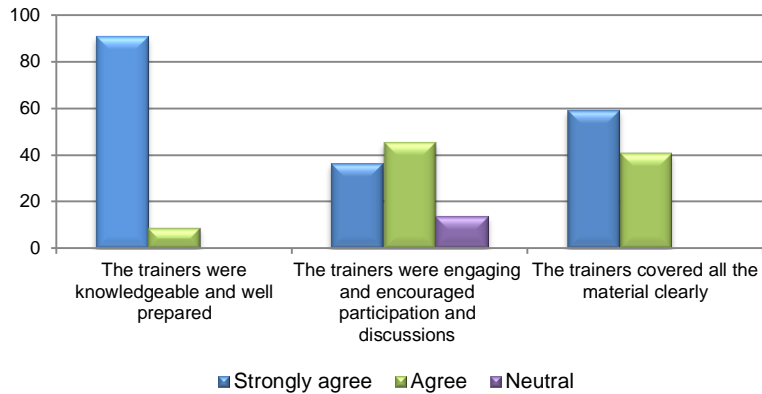


19. Sixty-four per cent of the respondents considered the methodology highly useful or useful for their work, while 18.2 per cent rated it as adequate and another 18.2 per cent did not consider it relates to their daily activities. Nevertheless, 95.5 per cent agreed that the presentation of other countries' experiences and good practices was highly useful (45.5 per cent) or useful (50 per cent) (figure 1). In this regard, 68.2 per cent considered it very likely or likely that they would use the newly acquired knowledge in their daily work, 13.6 per cent considered it unlikely.

20. Most respondents considered the course highly useful (40.9 per cent) or useful (50 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 (59.1 per cent) or useful (40.9 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 (90.9 per cent) or agreed (9.1 per cent) that the trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared. Likewise, 100 per cent considered that all the materials were covered clearly (figure 2).

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



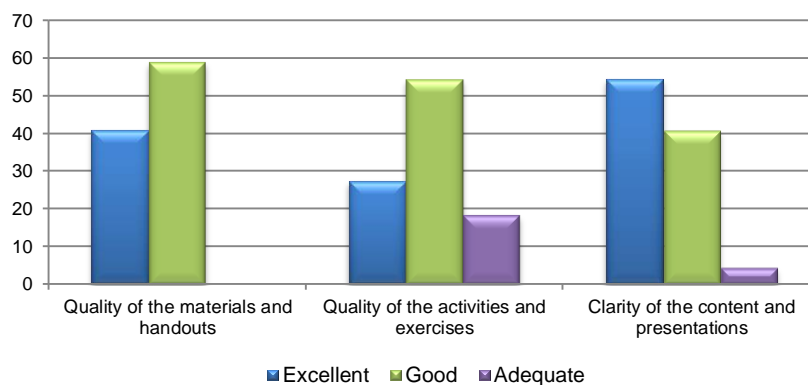
2. Organization of the course

22. Participants were asked to rate specific elements of the organization of the course using a 5-point scale. Most respondents (95.5 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.

23. All respondents rated the quality of the materials and handouts as excellent (40.9 per cent) or good (59.1 per cent). Likewise, 81.8 per cent of the participants rated the quality of the activities and exercises as excellent or good; 18.2 per cent rated them as adequate (figure 3). In order to make more efficient use of time, participants suggested that templates to solve the exercises be handed out as well.

24. Regarding the pace and structure of the sessions, 38.1 per cent of the participants agreed that it was excellent, 42.9 per cent considered it was good, and 14.3 per cent rated it as adequate. Finally, most respondents rated the clarity of the content and presentations as excellent (54.5 per cent), 40.9 per cent rated it as good and 4.5 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 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
- Importance of planning and resilient public policies
- Sharing of international experiences and practical examples
- Estimation of the macroeconomic impacts and financial evaluation
- Importance of prevention and incorporation of disaster risk reduction in project design and evaluation

Strengths of the training

- The facilitators were knowledgeable and interacted with the participants
- Understanding of the application of the methodology and set of evaluation criteria
- Clarity of the materials
- Practical application of the methodology through exercises
- Standardized methodology and theoretical consistency

Areas of improvement

- Adapt exercises to the case of Brazil
- Provide templates (Excel) to solve the exercises in a more time-efficient manner
- Suggest additional sources of information on the use of financial instruments for disaster risk reduction

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 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. 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 the bank's existing financial 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. Most participants were not directly involved with disaster risk reduction and/or assessment in their daily activities; therefore, the training course had the dual purpose of introducing them to the guiding principles behind disaster risk reduction and management, at the same time that the Disaster Assessment Methodology was presented.

28. The event was very successful in strengthening the relationship between ECLAC and BNDES through the training provided in the assessment methodology, and also through the broader exposure to disaster risk reduction and management, and to the use of the relevant financial instruments.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

1-4 March 2016

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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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	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

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	11	50.0	50.0
	Male	11	50.0	100.0
Total		22	100.0	

Table 2. Prior training in disaster assessment

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	6	28.6	28.6
	No	15	71.4	100.0
Total		21	100.0	

Table 3. Pace and structure of the sessions

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	8	38.1	38.1
	Good	9	42.9	81.0
	Adequate	3	14.3	95.2
	Below average	1	4.8	100.0
Total		21	100.0	

Table 4. Quality of the materials and handouts

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	9	40.9	40.9
	Good	13	59.1	100.0
Total		22	100.0	

Table 5. Quality of the activities and exercises

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	6	27.3	27.3
	Good	12	54.5	81.8
	Adequate	4	18.2	100.0
Total		22	100.0	

Table 6. Clarity of the content and presentations

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	12	54.5	54.5
	Good	9	40.9	95.5
	Adequate	1	4.5	100.0
Total		22	100.0	

Table 7. Overall rate of the course

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Excellent	8	36.4	36.4
	Good	10	45.5	81.8
	Adequate	4	18.2	100.0
Total		22	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	20	90.9	90.9
	Agree	2	9.1	100.0
Total		22	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	8	36.4	36.4
	Agree	10	45.5	81.8
	Neutral	3	13.6	95.5
	Disagree	1	4.5	100.0
Total		22	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	13	59.1	59.1
	Agree	9	40.9	100.0
Total		22	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	19	86.4	86.4
	Agree	2	9.1	95.5
	Disagree	1	4.5	100.0
Total		22	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	19	86.4	86.4
	Agree	2	9.1	95.5
	Disagree	1	4.5	100.0
Total		22	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	4	18.2	18.2
	Useful	12	54.5	72.7
	Adequate	3	13.6	86.4
	Inadequate	3	13.6	100.0
Total		22	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	4	18.2	18.2
	Useful	11	50.0	68.2
	Adequate	3	13.6	81.8
	Inadequate	4	18.2	100.0
Total		22	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	9	40.9	40.9
	Useful	11	50.0	90.9
	Adequate	2	9.1	100.0
	Total	22	100.0	

Table 16. Strengthening of knowledge about disaster assessment

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Highly useful	13	59.1	59.1
	Useful	9	40.9	100.0
	Total	22	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	3	13.6	13.6
	Useful	11	50.0	63.6
	Adequate	4	18.2	81.8
	Inadequate	4	18.2	100.0
	Total	22	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	10	45.5	45.5
	Useful	11	50.0	95.5
	Adequate	1	4.5	100.0
	Total	22	100.0	

Table 19. Did the training meet your expectations?

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	Yes	22	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	2	9.1	9.1
	Likely	13	59.1	68.2
	Neutral	4	18.2	86.4
	Unlikely	3	13.6	100.0
	Total	22	100.0	