LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

SELA SPECIAL SERIES

MINI-GUIDE

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A FLOOD?

Recommendations to prevent risks, protect lives, and strengthen the resilience of our communities.



PREVENTION

PREPAREDNESS

PROTECTION AND RESPONSE

RECOVERY

REGIONAL COOPERATION

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1

PREVENTION

KNOW AND REDUCE RISK

Prevention saves lives and reduces damage.
Stay informed, plan ahead, and act today
to be better prepared.

Know the risks
of your community:
floods, rivers, streams,
and low-lying areas.

Identify evacuation routes
and safe places.

Recognize the most vulnerable areas.
Pay attention to rivers, streams,
and low-lying areas around you.

Get information from official sources.
Learn about alerts and
recommendations from
the authorities.

Share information with your community.
Help your family and
community understand
the risks.



Small actions today, big differences tomorrow.

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2

PREPAREDNESS

PLAN TODAY, BE SAFER TOMORROW

Being prepared makes a difference. Get organized, gather essential supplies, and strengthen your community's response capacity.

Organize with your community.
Form committees, assign roles, and establish communication channels.

Prepare and practice your plan.
Have a family and community emergency plan and practice it.

Prepare your emergency kit.
Include water, food, a flashlight, radio, first-aid kit, and important documents.

Secure your home.
Check installations and secure heavy objects that could fall or cause damage.

Know how to shut off basic utilities.
Know how to shut off water, gas, and electricity in an emergency.



Being prepared means protecting what matters most: your life and the lives of those you care about.

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3

PROTECTION

STAY SAFE DURING AN EMERGENCY

Heavy rainfall can cause rapid and dangerous flooding.
Your safety and your family's safety come first.

Stay away from rivers, streams, and flooded areas.
They are high-risk areas.

Do not cross flooded streets or bridges.
You do not know how deep the water is or what hazards may be underneath.

Follow the authorities' instructions.
Evacuate when instructed.

Protect those who need greater support.
Prioritize children, older adults, and people with disabilities.

Stay in a safe place.
Do not leave until you receive official instructions.



Protection starts with you.

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4

RESPONSE

ACT CALMLY AND QUICKLY

Every minute counts.
Work with your community and support those who need it.

Help and support safely.
Support your community without putting yourself at risk.

Provide first aid if you are trained.
Offer basic assistance while specialized help arrives.

Communicate emergencies responsibly.
Use emergency lines only when necessary.

Avoid spreading rumors.
Share only official and useful information during the emergency.

Support those who need it.
Help affected people without obstructing the work of response teams.



The best response is solidarity.
Together, we are stronger.

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RECOVERY

RETURN ONLY WHEN IT IS SAFE

Recovery takes time.
Assess, clean up, and rebuild safely.
Your well-being and that of your community come first.



1 **Return only when authorities say it is safe.**
Do not enter affected areas until you receive authorization.



2 **Assess the damage carefully.**
Check homes, essential services, and structures before using them.



3 **Clean and disinfect safely.**
Use appropriate protection and avoid contact with contaminated water.



4 **Support others and ask for help.**
Share resources, listen to your community, and seek help when you need it.



5 **Document damage and report hazards.**
Inform the authorities and relevant organizations.

Let's rebuild better.
Together, we can build safer, more resilient, and sustainable communities.



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REGIONAL COOPERATION

TOGETHER WE ARE RESILIENT

Regional cooperation allows countries to share knowledge, strengthen capacities, and better protect our communities.

1 **SHARE KNOWLEDGE.**
Experiences, data, and good practices.

2 **STRENGTHEN CAPACITIES.**
Training, technical assistance, and tools.

3 **COORDINATE EFFORTS.**
Institutions and experts working together.

4 **LEARN FROM OTHER EXPERIENCES.**
Solutions and lessons learned for the region.

5 **BUILD REGIONAL RESILIENCE.**
Let's face shared challenges together.



More cooperation, more knowledge, more resilient communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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PREVENT TODAY TO PROTECT TOMORROW



By preventing, preparing, protecting, and responding together, we can build **more resilient communities**.

SELA

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More and Better Integration