



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

SELA SPECIAL SERIES

MINI-GUIDE



LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN
ECONOMIC SYSTEM

HURRICANES



KNOWLEDGE FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Practical recommendations to prepare for hurricanes, protect lives, reduce risks, and strengthen community resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean.



PREVENTION



PREPAREDNESS



PROTECTION
AND RESPONSE



RECOVERY



REGIONAL
COOPERATION

PREVENTION

KNOW THE RISK AND REDUCE IT

Prevention saves lives and reduces damage. Get informed, make a plan, and act today to be better prepared for hurricanes.



Know the risks in your area.

Find out whether your community is in an area exposed to hurricanes, coastal flooding, or storm surge.



Identify evacuation routes and safe places.

Learn the official routes and locate designated shelters in your community.



Strengthen your home and surroundings.

Secure roofs, windows, and objects that could be displaced by strong winds.



Prepare a family plan and an emergency kit.

Include water, nonperishable food, medications, important documents, and essential supplies.



Stay informed and share information.

Follow official alerts and share recommendations with your family and community.



PREPAREDNESS

PLAN TODAY, BE SAFER TOMORROW

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



Organize with your community.

Form committees, assign roles, and establish communication channels.



Develop and practice your plan.

Create a family and community emergency plan and rehearse it.



Secure your home.

Inspect and reinforce roofs, windows, and objects that could be displaced by strong winds.



Prepare essential supplies.

Store water, nonperishable food, medications, a flashlight, a radio, and important documents.



Know how to shut off utilities.

Learn how to turn off water, gas, and electricity in an emergency.



PROTECTION

STAY SAFE DURING THE HURRICANE

Hurricanes can bring powerful winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding. Your safety and your family's safety come first.



Take shelter in a safe place.

Stay inside a sturdy building or in a shelter designated by local authorities.



Stay away from windows and objects that could fall.

Keep away from doors, windows, and items that strong winds could dislodge.



Follow instructions from authorities.

Stay informed through official channels and follow all instructions.



Protect people who need extra support.

Pay special attention to children, older adults, people with disabilities, and pets.



Do not go outside until authorities say it is safe.

Even when the wind subsides, hazards such as flooding, debris, or downed power lines may remain.



RESPONSE

ACT CALMLY AND QUICKLY

During a hurricane, follow official guidance and prioritize safety.



Stay sheltered.

Remain inside a sturdy building or an authorized shelter. Stay away from windows and exterior doors.



Evacuate if authorities instruct you to.

Follow official routes and move to safe areas, avoiding flooded and high-risk zones.



Stay informed.

Follow alerts and recommendations through official channels by radio, television, or phone.



Help without putting yourself at risk.

Support affected people who need assistance without endangering your own safety or obstructing emergency responders.



RECOVERY

RETURN ONLY WHEN IT IS SAFE

Recovery takes time.
Inspect, clean, 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 damage carefully.

Check your home, utilities, and structures before using them. Identify possible hazards such as fallen wires, gas leaks, or roof damage.



3 Clean and disinfect safely.

Use protective equipment (gloves, mask, and boots) and avoid contact with contaminated water or mud.



4 Give and seek support.

Take part in community efforts, share resources, and pay special attention to vulnerable people, including children, older adults, and people with disabilities.



5 Document damage and report hazards.

Inform the authorities and relevant organizations to help ensure assistance and reconstruction.



REGIONAL COOPERATION

TOGETHER, WE ARE MORE RESILIENT

Cooperation among countries makes it possible to share information, coordinate the response, and strengthen hurricane preparedness.



1 **SHARE OFFICIAL INFORMATION.**

Exchange alerts, forecasts, and data on the hurricane's development.



2 **COORDINATE THE RESPONSE.**

Bring together authorities, civil protection agencies, and supporting organizations.



3 **STRENGTHEN CAPACITIES.**

Promote training, technical assistance, and joint exercises.



4 **MOBILIZE HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT.**

Provide resources and assistance according to identified needs.



5 **SHARE EXPERIENCES.**

Identify good practices to reduce risks and protect communities.





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HURRICANES: PREVENT AND RESPOND

Knowing the risks, preparing,
and acting together allow us to
protect lives and build
more resilient communities.



LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN
ECONOMIC SYSTEM

MORE AND BETTER INTEGRATION

