

Regional Humanitarian Information Network Project (Redhum)

Description

The objective of the Humanitarian Information Network (Redhum) is to create a hub based on the identification of the main humanitarian actors or organization and to facilitate easy access to the voluminous humanitarian information in the Latin America and Caribbean region through a Website (*Redhum.org*) in Spanish. To date, the majority of information that is produced about natural disasters and complex emergencies is only available in English.

With close participation from various regional institutions, the Redhum website coordinates information from the region, indicating gaps and diffusing situation analysis that would facilitate decision making.

Financed by

The Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Government of Kuwait, and OCHA

Facilitated by

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Partners and cooperation agreements

Lead by the OCHA Regional Office in Panama, the project is based on three main pillars:

- 1) agreements with the Secretariat for the Coordination Center for The Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC) and the Regional Disaster Information Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRID);
- 2) support from the regional interagency group for Disasters (REDLAC);
- 3) cooperation from national disaster management authorities through the SG-CEPREDENAC.

Redhum has been developed in collaboration and complementarity to ReliefWeb, the global information system endorsed by a General Assembly resolution to do information management.

Estimated duration of the implementation phase

December 2006 – until end of 2008 (extendable)

While the first phase of the project covers only Central America, we will receive and post documents and news related to the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America. Six information assistants will be contracted in: Guatemala (based in the CEPREDENAC Secretariat), Costa Rica (in the CRID office), Panama (in SINAPROC/OCHA), Nicaragua (SINAPRED), El Salvador (CEPRODE/UNETE), and in Honduras (COPECO). The extension of the project into the Caribbean and rest of Latin America will be evaluated in 2008.

General Objective

Inspired on other models of information management such as the Southern African one (<http://www.sahims.net>) and Colombia (www.colombiassh.org) Redhum aims to provide easy and coherent access point to quality and up-to-date humanitarian information from the region that will allow for better preparation and response in the event of a disaster.

Specific Objectives

- To create a network of partners that deal with and/or use humanitarian information.
- To establish an alliance between these partners to share responsibilities and thus ensuring the quality of information as well as preventing the duplication of efforts.
- To identify and select information, databases and other products available in the region.
- To create a Web site that allows main actors in humanitarian affairs to have instant access the best available information.
- To create joint projects and so reduce costs related to the production of information and ensure greater sustainability.
- To offer situation analyses via this network to put into perspective the different situations and to guide national and / or regional decision makers.
- To use this information for disaster management and for disaster preparation and response, but also for the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases.