

Case Studies of Collaboration

The **InCollaboration Initiative** is being undertaken by a group of over 15 civil society networks working in DRR and resilience around the world. We are working together on some joint actions so that we may effectively achieve a shared goal:

More systematic collaboration between governments and communities, and the CSOs that represent them, in the design of national and local DRR strategies.

Towards this aim, we are looking for examples of where governments have worked together with communities or civil society organisations to design policies, plans or projects related to resilience. We will share these examples at the Global Platform for DRR in Mexico to generate discussion on the benefits of multi-stakeholder collaboration and how it can be achieved. The good practice we collect will also be drawn upon and referenced to develop a How-to Guide on Collaborative DRR for UNISDR.

Please send your examples to lucy.pearson@gndr.org AND gcharles@ccic.ca by May 4, 2017.

Your name and organisation:

Guillermo Lozano, World Vision Mexico

Location of example:

Mexico

Name of organisations and institutions involved:

Ayuda en Acción México; Programa de Apoyo a la Reducción de Riesgos de Desastres en México del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo; Fomento Social Banamex; Oxfam México; World Vision México

Tell us the story of the collaboration. *What were they trying to do together? Who initiated the collaboration? How? What were the steps?*

Mexico's geographical location and its orographic, topographic and hydrological features identify it as a country highly prone to frequent occurrences of serious natural hazard phenomena such as hurricanes and floods. Because of its high exposure to climatic and geological hazards, as well as its strong pace of growth and investment, Mexico is at the top of a list of 40 countries with the highest economic loss in cases of disaster. These losses reach almost 50,000 million USD economic loss in the last 30 years with an annual average of nearly 2,000 million USD per year.

Faced with this problem, an Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Recovery in Mexico was created, hereinafter ALIANZA, in which five institutions are currently participating. The ALLIANCE formed by Ayuda en Acción Mexico, CitiBanamex Social Commitment, Oxfam Mexico, the Program for Supporting the Reduction of Disaster Risk in Mexico (PMR) of the United Nations

Development Program (UNDP) and World Vision Mexico work hand in hand to add their experience and achieve greater impact together in 50 municipalities, 270 communities, mainly indigenous, of the states of Puebla, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, Quintana Roo, Yucatan, San Luis Potosí and Veracruz.

As part of this partnership, an initiative called “Reducing Disaster Risk Project in Mexico” was developed, focused on creating a culture of reducing disaster risk with structured action focused on youth as the next generations of leadership in the country. This initiative was structured to build capacity with the younger generations so that when these hazards occur, they can cope with these hazards through prevention, mitigation and resilience to the effects disasters cause.

Our institutions have been working in different areas of Mexico and around the world for well over 10 years, accumulating vast experience in disaster issues and the ability to validate large amounts of data about the damages and losses suffered in our country as a result of disasters for the past several years. We decided to share our experiences, exchange knowledge and begins some coordination actions, adopting a new priority of prevention. After this, the mission was adopted: to work in joint action with Civil Society Organizations (CSO); governments from local to federal levels; the private sector; universities and colleges and people from affected and highly vulnerable communities. This was all done with the intention of increasing these vulnerable communities’ capabilities when it comes to disaster risk reduction, as well as increasing their ability to recover more quickly after a disaster thereby increasing their resilience.

What were the positive outcomes of the collaboration?

A common goal, four strategies and outcomes were determined for the project. Each agency learns from each other and together we are strengthened.

Please see the accompanying briefs and catalogue of accomplishments (PDF files) for details on project accomplishments. A few highlights are:

- The work of the ALIANZA is to partner with communities in their DRR processes conforming committees, strengthen their capacities to reduce risks, provide disaster prevention tools for optimal recovery of their livelihoods in post-disaster situations, through Risk mapping, response plans, preventive strategies, among others, in order to reduce future damages and losses in case of an emergency situation.
- Consolidating the Alliance’s internal process of coordination, work plan and general strategy for the future.
- Strengthening the DRR capabilities of 275 communities (stablishing DRR committees, risks analysis, DRR plans), located in 75 different municipalities in 10 states of Mexico’s Republic.
- Developing a systematization methodology of good preventive practices, and solid systematized practices with focuses on indigenous communities, gender equality and childhood.
- Forums at a state level (Chiapas, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Tabasco) to exchange DRR experiences and good preventing practices from stakeholders of different backgrounds.
- Exchanging experiences within the ALIANZA itself to identify lessons learned (Conference and community learning in the state of Chiapas).
- Cross-state learning process in the states of Guerrero, San Luis Potosi, Chiapas and Puebla through community promoters.
- Designing the first pilot broadcasting campaign

What were some of the challenges faced in collaborating? How were these overcome?

Bringing together multiple agencies with different in country priorities can be challenging.

- The organizations that form the Alliance have different ways of operating and providing support to communities. Although our interest is DRR, the way in which it operates is different. The partners of the Alliance share we have initiated a process to systematize and align the programmatic contents in community.
- The communities and local organizations with which the Alliance collaborates have different levels of DRR experience. Implementing a single methodology to systematize good practices proved more challenging for some. Different development spaces have been developed for the local promoters of the Alliance with the aim of having common references and aligned concepts.
- The goal of good practice was for the community to take it that way, that is to say, the community generally accepted that it was a solution that provided results and not individual efforts. The validation process was challenging but was overcome through group validations.
- Community-based organizations related to one of the partners of the Alliance specifically, the network has become broader today and the interrelationships with different actors have allowed for a greater diffusion of contributions. Many of the partner organizations of the Alliance have contributed in new areas for our operation

What do you think were some of the critical factors for success?

- The partners of the Alliance have decided to collaborate for the benefit of all the territories and people where we operate.
- The Alliance has developed joint projects that have incorporated learning from different perspectives and thereby enrich the project.
- The sum of recognized organizations generates confidence for partners and donors, so some sources of financing have been increased.
- Alliance members have different levels of specialization in topics such as childhood, community development, advocacy, and this has allowed us to have enriched programmatic content.
- The local partners of the Alliance have assumed themselves in most cases as a common work group instead than single organizations. The local needs from the community leader had been incorporated in project design.