

**ASISTENCIA A LOS PAÍSES ANDINOS EN LA REDUCCIÓN DE RIESGOS Y DESASTRES
EN EL SECTOR AGROPECUARIO**

POLICY BRIEF 6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK

Climate, Energy and Tenure Division
Natural Resources Management and Environment Department



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What is the importance of complementing DRM funds with CC adaptation funds?

The impacts of a changing climate are determined by the vulnerability of communities to risks. People living in rural areas, and whose livelihoods depend on weather-sensitive activities such as agriculture are more vulnerable. Funding is managed with a separate logic, distinguishing between climate change adaptation (CCA) and (DRR), leading to the implementation of actions only for particular emergencies, with a short term horizon and without an exit strategy that permits the continuity of efforts towards the building of resilient communities, thus, developing parallel efforts. It is necessary to fill the gap, and identify the synergies between the two approaches, as climate change adaptation policies are to be efficient only if built on existing DRR efforts. Likewise, DRR efforts are sustainable if these include a climate change adaptation ap-

Where DRM and CC overlap?

The TCP/RLA/3112 “Climate Change Adaptation in the Tropicál Andes” project, on which this Policy Brief documents is based, adheres to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the UN document which outlines the importance of mitigating risks and preventing disasters. The HFA emphasizes that disaster prevention and preparedness is more cost effective than post disaster intervention and may lead to sustainable development, also urging policy makers to increase the resilience of communities so that they can prepare and try to prevent natural disasters. More resilient communities, it is alleged, are able to recuperate their livelihoods more efficiently after disasters. According to the HFA’s main document there is an urgent need to:

“Promote the integration of risk reduction associated with existing climate variability and future climate change into strategies for the reduction of disaster risk and adaptation to climate change, which would include the clear identification of climate related disaster risks, the design of specific risk reduction measures and an improved and routine use of climate risk information by planners, engineers and other decision-makers” (<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/intern-org/ProVention-contribution-HF.pdf>)

The large majority of people affected by current climate change conditions live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. strategy of disaster preparedness which must address NRM and agricultural production. In low-income countries, a timely response to protect and rebuild people’s agricultural assets and restore agriculture-based livelihoods, not only saves lives, but also accelerates recovery and reduces their long-term dependency on humanitarian assistance.

FAO’s Strategic Objective I –Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies— is the basis for the Organizations’ support to member countries in assisting them to prepare and respond better to crisis and to build appropriate linkages between emergency response, rehabilitation and longer term development goals. The strategy is, thus, organized around seven key elements relevant for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors: (i) early warning; (ii) contingency planning; (iii) elaboration of sectoral and cross-sectoral DRM frameworks; (iv) disaster reduction (preparedness, prevention and mitigation); (v) needs assessment; (vi) timely response; and (viii) support to transition from emergency response to rehabilitation and development programming.

In the Andean region, in particular, the majority of natural disasters are linked to meteorological conditions. Current climate change trends exacerbate such conditions. These threats provide new challenges and opportunities for collaboration among humanitarian and development actors, but also require new funding sources.

Although funding related to emergencies has increased, large emergencies are catching most of the attention of both the public and the major donor organizations, while smaller-scale, usually locally-based, emergencies –though equally critical to human well being—are currently underfunded. Furthermore, more often than not, funding for emergency bears a concealed but real stamp of demographic policy-making in as far as it deals with the consequences of problems rather than attacking the issue from its cause, the MNR.



Disaster Risk Management Funds

There are a variety of public financing sources for adaptation to climate change, including the funds of the UNFCCC, as well as trust funds of donor agencies. In addition there is an increased emphasis on financial incentives for disaster risk reduction as a complement to emergency relief. This includes in-country activities as well as multilateral sources.

It has to be recognised, however, that disaster risk reduction has not yet the priority it would deserve in the agenda of the Andean countries. In 2002, the Comunidad Andina (CAN) founded the Comité Andino para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres (CAPRADE) to coordinate and promote DRR policy dialogue and to impulse DRR activities.

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DIPECHO, the Disaster Preparedness Programme of the European Commission, mainly focuses on disaster preparedness. Although, the EU-funded project PREDECAN (Prevención de Desastres en la Comunidad Andina) aims at promoting DRR in sustainable development and coordinate risk reduction measures at regional level with a focus on prevention/mitigation.

The number of international NGOs developing activities for disaster risk reduction is limited (eg CARE, Oxfam, the ProVention Consortium), together with the multilateral donors (eg. UNOCHA, IDB, UNDP). Besides, the coordination and cooperation between these agencies is rather limited. One of the weaknesses these funds have, however, is that they are usually restricted to particular emergencies

The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)

A valuable recommendation therefore would point out that disaster risk reduction funds and climate change funds can complement each other.

“The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) was established under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2001 to finance activities, programs, and measures relating to climate change that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the Climate Change Focal Area of the GEF and by bilateral and multilateral funding.” (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/1332>)

The SSCF encompasses on four different windows: i) adaptation; ii) transfer of technologies; iii) energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, and waste management, iv) activities to assist developing countries whose economies are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing, and export or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products in diversifying their economies.

This fund works on the principle of additionality, meaning that it does not propose a new project but complements already existing ones.

How the funds overlap

Disaster risk reduction projects should demonstrate that they are eligible for GEF funding, such as the SSCF, because they are effectively implementing climate change adaptation strategies.



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