

Latin America and Caribbean

CHILE

TRAINING YOUTH IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A recipe from World Vision in Chile on engaging communities and youth in emergency trainings, from being trained to deciding the main focus of the training modules.

KEY INGREDIENTS



SUSTAINABILITY



Permanence

- Instil behaviour change to counteract negative actions and to promote a community of active agents of resilience



Effectiveness

- Foster collaboration between CSOs, government, communities by creating spaces for open dialogue



Ownership

- Ensure continuous and passionate leadership at local level in all phases
- Map and utilise local capacities (including resources, materials, knowledge)
- Encourage self-organisation e.g. establishment of local governance and thematic committees



INSTITUTIONALISATION



Policy environment

- Decentralise DRM frameworks by promoting local DRM strategies that are owned by the local government and informed by local actors
- Embed CBDRM projects in local government work plans and reporting



Culture

- Promote and share evidence of the role of communities in DRM and good practices at national and regional events

This recipe comes from the highlands of central Chile, where communities are no stranger to disasters. While communities are often the first one to respond to a disaster, they do not have the training necessary to provide effective support to the response and early recovery to those affected.

In particular, youth can play an important role in disaster response but are often left out of preparedness plans and arrangements.

World Vision has led the development and delivery of emergency response trainings focused on youth as first respondents, but that bring together all community groups (fire fighters, local governments responsible for disaster management, local community groups such as church associations, scout groups and others). These are 2-day intense trainings which include a series of drills and simulations to understand how to practically respond in an emergency.

Essential to the effectiveness of the training is a consultation with local communities in the development phase: the training content and simulations are adapted based on the priorities of each community where the activity takes place. Community groups are identified and consulted beforehand, and they provide insights on risks and vulnerabilities: they also input traditional knowledge and practices that is then embedded in the training curriculum.

Local government units are invited to support the training not only by participating but also by helping to provide the space for the activity and to set up the drills and simulations. Involvement of local authorities has led to a strengthening of relations between government and non-government actors, who recognise the value of collaborating and supporting each other: the National Office of Emergency of the Interior Ministry (ONEMI) has recognised this activity as a contribution towards its work on strengthening community preparedness for emergency response and it has started contributing to the development of the agendas for these trainings, linking them to its own work in training community emergency response teams.

An important outcome of the trainings is the realisation by youth and community groups of their role as primary actors in developing local resilience: the trainings have contributed to risk awareness and community preparedness in a way that increases community's ownership of the activities and their ability to respond effectively in case of need.

