

Chapter 7

RISK AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Disaster Relief: The Institutional Framework of Civil Protection

ARGENTINA

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Directorate for Federal Emergency Support	Law N° 27287, which creates the National System for Risk Management and Civil Protection (2016/10/20), regulated by Decree 383/2017.	Federal Coordination Secretariat of the National Ministry of Security	Ministry of Security
<p>The National System for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (SINAGIR) consists of the National Council (presided over by the National Executive Branch) and the Federal Council (provinces). Both councils have an Executive Secretariat of the SINAGIR, which operates within the National Ministry of Security. Its main responsibility is to establish policies and strategies within the National System for Comprehensive Risk Management and Civil Protection.</p> <p>The Ministry of Defence is part of the system.</p>			

BOLIVIA

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
Vice Ministry of Civil Defence	Organic Law of the Armed Forces of the Nation N° 1405 (1992/12/30). Law N° 3351 on the Organization of the Executive Branch, regulated by Supreme Decree No. 28631. Law N° 602 on Risk Management (2024/14/11) and Supreme Decree N° 2342 (2015/05/20).	Vice Ministry of Civil Defence	Ministry of Defence
<p>The National System for Risk Reduction and Disaster and/or Emergency Response (SISRADE) is a coordinated set of structures, functional relationships, methods and procedures involving public and private entities and citizen organizations. It consists of a National Council (CONARADE) and Departmental and Municipal Committees.</p> <p>The Vice Ministry of Civil Defence, within the Ministry of Defence, leads and coordinates the National Emergency Operations Committee (COEN).</p>			

BRAZIL

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Risk and Disaster Management Center (CENAD)	Laws N° 12608 (2012/04/10) and 14750 (2023/12/12), and Decree N° 11830 (2023/12/14).	National Secretariat for Civil Protection and Defence	Ministry of Regional Integration and Development
<p>The National System of Civil Protection and Defence (SINPDEC) consists of federal, state and municipal institutions. The National Secretariat for Civil Protection and Defence is responsible for coordination activities and includes the National Risk and Disaster Management Center (CENAD). The National Policy on Civil Protection and Defence (PNPDEC) focuses mainly on prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery actions aimed at civil protection and defence. A National Civil Protection and Defence Plan is under preparation.</p>			

CHILE

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Director of the National Disaster Prevention and Response Service (SENAPRED)	Law N° 21364, establishing the National Disaster Prevention and Response Service (2012/08/07). Decree N° 156, approving the National Plan (2002/03/12).	Undersecretariat of the Interior	Minister of the Interior and Public Security
<p>The National Committee for Disaster Risk Management is the highest body in charge of planning and coordinating the system at the national level. Regional and Communal Committees are also set up. SENAPRED is a decentralized entity that is responsible for advising, coordinating, organizing, planning and supervising related activities. The National Emergency Plan sets out the response actions, roles, functions, capacities and competences of the system's agencies. The National Policy must be updated at least every five years.</p> <p>The Minister of National Defence is a permanent member of the National Committee. The Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff provides military advice and coordinates and leads military support activities as well as the resources and capabilities provided by the Armed Forces.</p>			

COLOMBIA

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Unit for Disaster Risk Management	Law N° 1523, which adopted the National Policy for Disaster Risk Management and established the National System (2012/04/24).	National Unit for Disaster Risk Management Directorate	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National System for Disaster Prevention and Response (SNPAD) aims at addressing the social process of risk management with a view to providing protection to the population in the Colombian territory; improving safety, wellbeing and quality of life; and contributing to sustainable development. It is coordinated by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management.</p> <p>The Minister of Defence is part of the National Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response.</p>			

COSTA RICA

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE)	Law N° 8488 on Emergencies and Risk Prevention (2005/11/22), regulated by Executive Decree N° 34361 (2007/11/21). Executive Decree N° 39322, approving the National Policy on Risk Management.	CNE Board	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National Risk Management System is coordinated by the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE), the governing entity that is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the national plan at the different levels of government. The Minister of Public Security is a member of the Commission's Board.</p>			

CUBA

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Civil Defence General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR)	Law N° 75 (1994/12/21). Decree-Law N° 170 (1997/05/08).	National Chief of Civil Defence Staff Municipal Coordinator of Civil Defence	National Civil Defence General Staff (EMNDC)
<p>The Civil Defence System encompasses all society and state forces to protect people, their property, social infrastructure, the economy and natural resources against disasters. It is led by the National Civil Defence General Staff of the FAR and the President of the Council of State through the Ministry of the FAR. The presidents of the Provincial and Municipal Assemblies of People's Power are the heads of Civil Defence in their respective territories.</p>			

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC			
Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
Civil Defence Executive Directorate	Law N° 147-02 on Risk Management (2002/09/22).	National Council for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SN-PMR). The National Council is the governing body, which is responsible for guiding, leading, planning and coordinating the system. The National Emergency Commission is under the National Council and is chaired by the Civil Defence Executive Directorate. A National Technical Committee functions as an advisory body. The Emergency Operations Center plans and leads all coordination actions among the SN-PMR institutions.</p> <p>The Ministry of the Armed Forces is part of the National Council and of the National Technical Committee.</p>			

ECUADOR			
Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Risk Management Secretariat	Organic Law on Disaster Risk Management (12/07/2023).	Sectoral Security Cabinet	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National Decentralized Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management System comprises the principles, processes, structure, competences and instruments for risk reduction, and emergency and disaster response and recovery. Its governing entity is the National Risk Management Secretariat, which has the rank of a ministry. The National Risk Reduction Committee (CNR) is an agency for interagency coordination.</p> <p>The Minister of Defence may be appointed to chair the Emergency Operations Committee (COE). The Armed Forces are part of the so-called humanitarian response agencies.</p>			

EL SALVADOR			
Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
Civil Protection General Directorate	Legislative Decree N° 777. Law on Civil Protection and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (2005/08/18).	General Directorate	Ministry of Governance and Territorial Development
<p>The National Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation System is an interrelated system, which operates in a decentralized manner and bears the responsibility of designing and implementing civil protection and disaster risk prevention and mitigation work plans. A National Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Commission is directly under the Office of the Minister. Department, Municipal and Communal Commissions are also part of the system.</p> <p>The National Ministry of Defence is part of the National Commission.</p>			

GUATEMALA			
Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
Executive Secretariat of the National Coordinating Agency for Disaster Reduction (CONRED)	Legislative Decree N° 109-96. Law of the National Coordinator for the Reduction of Disasters of Natural or Provoked Origin (1996/11/06). Governmental Agreement N° 16-2021, National Council for Disaster Reduction (2021/12/13). Governmental Agreement N° 49-2012 (2012/03/14). Governmental Agreement N° 06-2011 (2011/05/18).	National Council of the CONRED Executive Board for Disaster Reduction	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) is a decentralized entity created to prevent disasters or reduce their impact on society. It comprises both public and private sector agencies and entities. The Minister of National Defence is the coordinator of the National Council, or in his absence, his alternate. The Executive Board for Disaster Reduction is the body in charge of making decisions for immediate and urgent implementation, and consists of the Coordination of the National Council, the Executive Secretariat of the CONRED, and any of the members of the National Council who are not government officials.</p>			

HAITI			
Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
Civil Protection Directorate	Decree assigning responsibility for civil protection to the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Communities (1986/05/31).	General Secretariat of the Ministry	Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Communities
<p>The National Disaster and Risk Management System (SNGRD) focuses on the comprehensive management of disaster risk. In 2019, the 2019-2030 Risk and Disaster Management Plan was approved. The system comprises a National Committee (CNGRD), a Permanent Secretariat (SPGRD) and a network of territorial committees.</p>			

HONDURAS			
Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO)	Law on the National Risk Management System (2009/08/28). Decree 032-2010, regulation of the SINAGER Law (2010/10/11).	SINAGER Board	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National Risk Management System (SINAGER) is coordinated by the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO), which functions as the system's Executive Secretariat. The system is designed to prevent and reduce disaster risks, as well as to prepare for, respond to and recover from damages caused by natural phenomena or human activities. At the territorial level, it is deployed in departmental, municipal and local emergency committees. The Secretariat of National Defence is a member of the SINAGER Board.</p>			

MEXICO			
Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Civil Protection Directorate	General Law on Civil Protection (Last Amendment DOF 2023/12/21).	National Civil Protection Coordination	Security and Citizen Protection Secretariat (SSPC)
<p>The National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC) is made up of all the agencies and entities of the federal public administration, the systems of the states, municipalities and territorial districts of Mexico City, voluntary and neighborhood groups, fire departments, and representatives of various sectors. The National Civil Protection Coordination is in charge of the executive coordination of the system. This system is headed by the National Civil Protection Council, led by the President of Mexico. The National Civil Protection Council is a consultation and coordination body for matters related to the civil protection policy, and the SSPC is its Executive Secretariat. The Secretariats of National Defence and Navy implement their respective Civilian Population Relief Plans.</p>			

NICARAGUA

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED)	Law N° 337, which creates the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (2000/03/08).	Executive Secretariat	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED) is a coordinated set of structures, functional relationships, methods and procedures among ministries and public sector institutions. It is made up of a National Committee, which is the system's governing body, State bodies and institutions, and departmental, municipal and autonomous region committees.</p> <p>The Ministry of Defence, accompanied by the Army Chief, is part of the National Committee. The General Staff of Civil Defence of the Nicaraguan Army is in charge of organizing and preparing the population at regional, departmental, municipal and local levels.</p>			

PANAMA

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Civil Protection System Directorate (SINAPROC)	Law N° 7 organizing the National Civil Protection System (2005/02/11). Resolution N° 177 (2008/05/23).	General Director of Civil Protection	Ministry of Government
<p>The National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC) is a body with legal status under the Ministry of Government. Its main objective is to plan, investigate, lead, supervise and organize policies and actions to prevent material and psychosocial risks, and to evaluate the danger of natural disasters. Its functions include the promotion of educational programs, as well as the analysis, research and dissemination of technical and scientific information on natural and anthropogenic threats. The SINAPROC promotes the national risk management plan.</p>			

PARAGUAY

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Emergency Secretariat (SEN)	Law N° 2615/05, which creates the National Emergency Secretariat (2015/06/08). Regulatory Decree N° 11632/13 (2013/08/12). Decree 1402/14, National Policy (2014/03/24).	Minister Executive Secretary	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) of Paraguay is the body entrusted with the country's risk management. It is directly under the Office of the President of the Republic of Paraguay. Its role and mission focus on disaster risk management and reduction. The SEN leads the implementation of the National Policy on Risk Management and Reduction (PNGRR). It encompasses an Executive Council. An Emergency Council, a National Technical Committee and a National Operational Committee are also established.</p> <p>The Commandant of the Military Forces is part of the Executive Council. The Armed Forces are involved in the system.</p>			

PERU

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Disaster Risk Management Council	Law N° 29664, which creates the National Disaster Risk Management System (2011/02/18).	Presidency of the Council of Ministers, through the Vice Minister of Territorial Governance	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National Disaster Risk Management System (SENAGERD) encompasses the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, as its governing body, and the National Disaster Risk Management Council, which includes the Ministry of Defence, the National Center for Estimation, Prevention and Reduction of Disaster Risks (CENEPRED), the National Institute of Civil Defence (Indeci), regional governments and the National Center for Strategic Planning (Ceplan). The National Disaster Risk Management Council is the highest-level body for political decision-making and strategic coordination.</p> <p>The Armed Forces are part of the system and participate in all matters regarding preparedness and response, in accordance with their competences and in coordination with, and support to the pertinent authorities. The Armed Forces act on their own account in emergency situations.</p>			

URUGUAY

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Emergency Directorate	Law N° 18621, which creates the National Emergency System (2009/10/25). Decree N° 372/022 (2022/11/16).	National Emergency System Higher Directorate National Emergency and Risk Reduction Board	Office of the President of the Republic
<p>The National Emergency System (SINAE) coordinates the tasks and responsibilities of various actors in disaster management, effectively combining public and private efforts according to what is needed in each phase of the system, and ensuring the efficient management of the resources required for implementing the necessary actions. This Directorate is the highest decision-making and coordination agency in the system. The Emergency and Risk Reduction Board, with its Secretariat being the National Directorate, is the coordination body of the Executive Branch for defining public policies. Emergency Departmental Committees are established.</p> <p>The Ministry of National Defence is part of this Board and of the Departmental Committees.</p>			

VENEZUELA

Agency	Legal Grounds	Immediate Superior Authority	Institutional Authority
National Civil Protection and Disaster Management Directorate	Presidential Decree N° 1557, Law on the National Organization of Civil Protection and Disaster Management (2001/11/13).	Vice Ministry for Risk Management and Civil Protection	Ministry of the People's Power for Interior Relations, Justice and Peace
<p>The National Risk Management System is coordinated by the National Civil Protection and Disaster Management Directorate, which serves as the technical advisory body to the National Coordinating Committee for Civil Protection and Disaster Management.</p> <p>The units of the National Armed Forces are at the disposal of the competent authority and operate under the leadership of their natural commanders.</p>			

Source: Compilation based on the mentioned legal framework.

Defence and Disaster Response

Mexico | Hurricane Otis
The DN-III-E Plan and the Marine Plan were activated in 2023 by SEDENA and SEMAR respectively, to support the victims in the State of Guerrero. 16,768 troops were deployed: 7,671 belonging to the Army and Air Force and 720 to the National Guard; and 8,377 from the Navy.

Honduras | Hurricanes
Hurricanes Eta and Iota, in 2020, are considered the most severe natural phenomenon to affect Honduras in more than 20 years. The Armed Forces provided the human and logistical resources to attend to emergencies and support evacuations.

Cuba | Hurricanes
Hurricane Ian caused the death of 5 people, affected more than 100,000 homes and generated a total collapse of the national electricity system. The Armed Forces undertook the annual Meteor 2023 Exercise, to advance in the recovery of the affected areas.

Guatemala | Fires Volcán del Agua
The Humanitarian and Rescue Brigade of the Guatemala Army has been deployed during 2024 in assistance against prolonged fires; among them in the area of the Agua Volcano. In 2018, faced with an eruptive phase, the Guatemala Army carried out nearly 90,000 interventions in the area.

Dominican Republic | Hurricanes
After the passage of Hurricane Fiona, in 2022, the Armed Forces supported the post-disaster mitigation and recovery process, and guaranteed security in support of the National Police with the activation of the "Lightning Plan".

Nicaragua | Hurricanes
In 2020, hurricanes Eta and Iota impacted the coasts of Central America. The "National Disaster Response Plan" and the "Plan for the Employment of Forces and Resources in the Face of Heavy Rains" were activated.

El Salvador | Tropical Storm
Tropical Storm Amanda caused heavy rains, floods and landslides in 2020. The Armed Forces provided support with personnel, means and equipment in the rescue and debris removal work.

Brazil | Floods
"Operation Taquiri 2" mobilized more than 15,000 members of the Armed Forces to help in rescue, containment and support efforts in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, where heavy rains caused major flooding. Rescue operations were supported with 42 aircraft, 243 boats and 2,500 vehicles and engineering equipment.

Panama | Humanitarian Aid
During 2023, the Naval Air Service carried out 336 missions to help the population.

Colombia | Heavy Rains
In 2023 and 2024 they caused landslides in Rosas, Cauca and Carmen de Atrato, Chocó. The Military Forces mobilized units and logistical resources to provide support in the search and rescue tasks of the victims.

Peru | Cyclone
5,000 members of the Armed Forces, including operational and administrative personnel, attended with manpower and equipment to the emergencies caused by Cyclone Yaku, which brought heavy rains, landslides and overflowing

Bolivia | Heavy Rains
Between November 1, 2023 and March 4, 2024, a total of 112 events were recorded that impacted 79 municipalities. The Armed Forces, through the Joint Command for Reaction to Adverse Events, were mobilized for evacuation, search, rescue, and aid tasks.

Paraguay | Droughts and Floods
For two years the country faced severe droughts and at the same time floods. While in some areas temperature records were broken generating forest fires, other regions had intense rainfall that caused floods of great magnitude. The Armed Forces within the system supported the evacuations and distribution of aid.

Ecuador | Landslides
A landslide, preceded by heavy rains and a seismic event, left homes buried, people dead, missing, injured, and hundreds of victims in the Chimborazo area in 2023. The Armed Forces deployed military personnel with material and means for urgent support to the victims, transfer of belongings and emergencies, and implementation of provisional shelters.

Chile | Forest Fires
The fires in 2024, due to their extension, are considered the largest fire recorded in Chile's recent history. The task of the Armed Forces was based on three pillars: security, humanitarian support, and public order.

Uruguay | Floods
In the face of several floods suffered in 2024, the Armed Forces and the CECOED (Departmental Emergency Coordination Centres) worked together in the evacuation, installation of tents and distribution of aid to those affected by the rains.

The impact of disasters in Latin America during 2023

FLOODS	55%
EARTHQUAKES	3%
WET DOUGH MOVEMENT	7%
STORM	22%
VOLCANIC ACTIVITY	1%
FOREST FIRES	6%
DROUGHT	6%

Of the total number of disasters globally, 19% occurred in Latin America.

Note: Fires, earthquakes, wet mass movements, storms, volcanic activity, forest fires and droughts are taken into account for the preparation of the graphs, in the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Oceania. To be included in EM-DAT, a disaster must meet at least one of the following criteria: 10 or more people reported deceased; 100 or more people reported as affected; declaration of a state of emergency; a request for international assistance.

Argentina | Storms
At the end of 2023, the Ministry of Defence formed an emergency command to assist people affected by an intense storm in the town of Bahía Blanca. The Emergency Zone Command deployed nearly 300 military personnel, along with land, air and sea resources, as well as special engineering teams

Source: Compilation based on information provided by countries; annual reports of the Ministries of Defence and Public Security (Panama); presentations by authorities to National Congresses; SENAPRED (Chile); official accounts of X of the Armed Forces; and The Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT).

International Cooperation Mechanisms

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



At the international level, OCHA is responsible for the coordination of responses to emergency situations. It ensures the framework within which the various actors involved in a certain situation can develop their tasks, thus contributing to the overall effort and promoting an efficient interaction between civilian and military actors.

The Oslo Guidelines, developed in 2007, are the primary framework for civil-military cooperation on this issue. They contain the guidelines for the use of foreign military and civil defence assets in international disaster relief operations.

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination System (UNDAC)



It is an international response system created to offer support during the initial phase of an emergency. It also aims at providing advice and strengthening national and regional disaster response capacity.

UNDAC has trained, equipped and self-sufficient teams that can be deployed within less than 48 hours anywhere in the world. The teams are trained in skills for needs assessment and for strengthening national and regional disaster response capacity.

When required, UNDAC teams can establish an On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC) and a Reception and Departure Centre (RDC), which provide a platform for cooperation, coordination and information management for international humanitarian response agencies and national responders.

International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)



INSARAG
Preparedness Response

It is a global network of organizations under the umbrella of OCHA, which is responsible for issues related to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). The advisory group coordinates and regulates the operations of specialized international urban search and rescue teams available for deployment in disaster-affected countries.

USAR Brigades

INSARAG developed a standardized methodology for the international certification of urban search and rescue teams in various countries (USAR Brigades).

ARGENTINA

ARG10 - FEDERACION BOMBEROS CORDOBA
ARG11 - 2 de JUNIO
ARG12 - PFA-BEFER
ARG13 - Brigada Puma
ARG14 - Brigada ETAC

ECUADOR

Rescate y Salvamento, Ecuador

GUATEMALA

USAR - GUA11

HONDURAS

Cuerpo de Bomberos de Honduras

MEXICO

Equipo de Respuesta Inmediata a Emergencias o Desastres (E.R.I.E.D.)
Escuadrón de Rescate y Urgencias Médicas
USAR - Cruz Roja Mexicana
USAR - Jalisco
USAR - Guadalajara

PERU

USAR - Cuerpo General de Bomberos Voluntarios

COLOMBIA

COL-1 - Colombia SNGRD
COL-11 - Unidad de Operaciones Especiales en Emergencias y Desastres PONALSAR
COL-13 - Comando de Ingenieros del Ejército
COL-15 - Cruz Roja Colombiana Seccional Caldas
COL-16 - Defensa Civil Colombiana Seccional Caldas
COL-17 - Cruz Roja Colombiana Seccional Quindío
COL-18 - Benemérito Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de Cali
COL-19 - Armada Nacional de Colombia
COL-20 - Benemérito Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de Pasto
COL-21 - Benemérito Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios Manizales
COL-22 - Cuerpo Oficial de Bomberos de Pereira
COL-23 - Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de Yumbo
COL-24 - Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de Yopal
COL-25 - Cuerpo Oficial de Bomberos de Dosquebradas

VENEZUELA

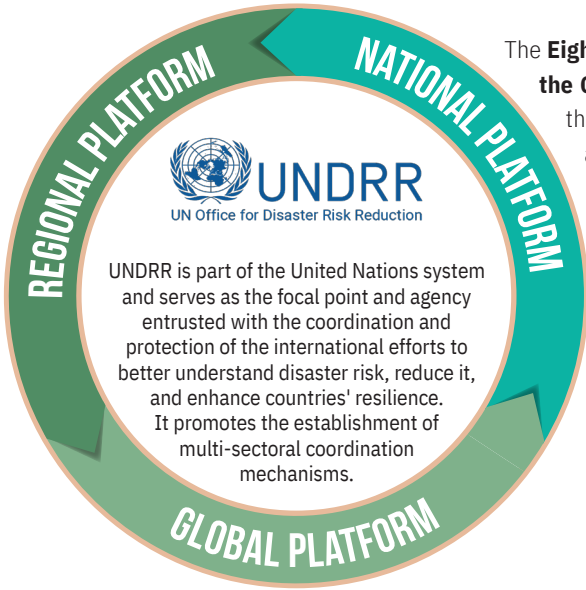
Fuerza de Tarea Caracas

26% of USAR Brigades worldwide are located in Latin America.



Only **37%** exceeds this number.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



The **Eighth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean** (PR23) was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 2023. Its main theme was “Science and Technology for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management”.

The global platform allows governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, academics and scientists to exchange experiences. In 2022 it was held in Indonesia, and in 2025 it will be held in Switzerland.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

It is the main instrument at the global level that provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster. Priorities for action include understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in risk reduction for resilience and increasing disaster preparedness.

Subregional Mechanisms



Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

Created in 1991, by decision of the Heads of Government of CARICOM Member States, as an intergovernmental body.



Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)

Created within the framework of the Central American Integration System (SICA) as a regional organization to promote international cooperation and the exchange of information, experience, and technical and scientific advice on disaster prevention, mitigation, and response. Host country: Guatemala.



Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities for Integrated Risk Management of MERCOSUR (RMAGIR)

Created in 2015, with biannual meetings, to promote a MERCOSUR platform on comprehensive disaster risk management.



Humanitarian and Rescue Unit (UHR-CFAC)

Created in May 2000 by the Superior Council of the Central American Armed Forces Conference (CFAC) and made up of the UHR of each Member Army. It is deployed in disaster/emergency situations under a minimum protocol that allows countries to provide rapid support.



Regional Center for Seismology for South America (CERESIS)

Created in 1996 as an international organization to monitor seismology and volcanic activity, with a view to reducing structural, environmental, social and cultural vulnerability to this type of events.



Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention (CAPRADE)

It is part of the Andean Community System. In 2017, its member countries submitted the *Andean Strategy for Disaster Risk Management*.

Risk Management Framework

Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Protect the marine and coastal environment; promote the development of emergency response plans and scientific research; encourage regional cooperation among Caribbean countries.

1983

Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance

Promote cooperation and assistance in disaster situations among OAS member countries.

1991

SIDS (Small Island Developing States) Partnership Framework

Provide the necessary social and economic support for these States to plan their strategy.

1994

Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction within the Framework of the Andean Community (CAN)

Promote regional cooperation to develop policies and strategies, as well as to strengthen institutional capabilities for risk management.

2003

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Strengthen preparedness, capacity and resilience in the face of an emergency.

2015

Escazu Agreement

Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ensure access to information and public participation and strengthen cooperation capabilities.

2018

The most significant assistance case of the decade:

The work of defence forces in the context of COVID-19 crisis

References: Assistance to public health-care system. Food and / or drinking. Public order / Borders. Others.

Guatemala

- Support to the transport of COVID-19 test kits.
- Support to the construction of the Temporary Hospital in Quetzaltenango.
- Food distribution.
- Border protection.
- Patrolling to enforce compliance with measures adopted.
- Making face masks for military personnel.

Mexico

- Implementation of DN-III-E Plan.
- Repatriation of Mexican nationals and foreigners.
- Armed forces hospitals made available for use in the emergency.
- Contracting of health-care professionals and qualified workforce to support the National Health System.

El Salvador

- Adapting spaces to make them fit for quarantine centers.
- Food and drinking water distribution to people in quarantine centers.
- Border protection and detection of blind spots in the country.
- Implementation of health controls and vehicle checks.
- Disinfection of areas surrounding quarantine centers.

Costa Rica (Public Force)

- Food and clothes distribution.
- Border protection.
- Patrolling.

Panama (Aeronaval Service)

- Distribution of food supplies and bags.
- Drinking water distribution.
- Disinfection of facilities.
- Implementation of prevention protocols for vessels.
- Implementation of land and air naval patrolling.

Ecuador

- Repatriation of nationals.
- Transportation of essential goods, medical supplies and food kits.
- Set up of emergency tents and emergency hospitals.
- Distribution of food kits and rations.
- Drinking water distribution.
- Border protection in coordination with the Police and Customs.
- Patrolling and checks to ensure compliance with measures implemented.

Peru

- Set up of a mobile hospital at the international airport for the care of people entering the country.
- Transfer of medical supplies, personal protection equipment and COVID-19 test samples.
- Production of face masks and personal protection equipment.
- Distribution of food kits and personal cleaning items.
- Drinking water distribution.
- Production of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Border protection.
- Patrolling and checks to ensure compliance with measures implemented.
- Repatriation of nationals.

Bolivia

- Building disinfection chambers.
- Transportation and distribution of medicines, bio-security equipment and COVID-19 test samples.
- Food distribution.
- Patrolling in cities and setting up fixed checkpoints.
- Border protection through patrolling with the Police.
- Production of surgical masks and protective face masks.
- Repatriation of French tourists.
- Production of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Chile

- Opening and set up of modular hospitals, temporary hospitals, emergency tents and field modules.
- Transportation and distribution of various medical supplies, medicines and mechanical ventilators.
- Transportation of kits for COVID-19 tests.
- Transportation and distribution of beds and cots for medical centers.
- Distribution of rations and food boxes.
- Patrolling, airport control, health control and health barriers.
- Border controls.
- Support to vaccination centers.
- Disinfection of areas with high circulation.
- Production of face masks.

Honduras

- Transportation and distribution of ventilators, suction tubes, biomedical equipment and medical supplies.
- Opening of a temporary isolation center in the Olympic Village and of hospitals and shelters as isolation centers.
- Transportation of patients.
- Distribution of food supplies and food rations.
- Drinking water distribution.
- Disinfection of markets and supermarkets.
- Border controls.
- Implementation of control actions and patrolling.

Dominican Republic

- 575 troops assigned to support health institutions.
- Distribution of medicines.
- Food rations distribution.
- Implementation of patrols jointly with the Police.
- Manufacturing of surgical gowns and protective face masks.

Venezuela

- Food distribution.
- Border protection.
- Patrolling to ensure compliance with measures adopted.
- Production of surgical masks and protective face masks.
- Disinfection of locations with high circulation of people.

Colombia

- Set up of field hospitals, tactical tents and adaptation of sites for hospital care.
- Transportation of medicines and medical equipment.
- Food distribution.
- Patrolling to enforce compliance with lockdown and curfew.
- Checkpoints, protection to shopping malls, dissemination of prevention information.
- Making face masks.
- Border protection.

Brazil

- Setting up emergency tents, hand-washing stations and emergency hospitals.
- Repatriation of nationals.
- Transporting medical material, vaccines, respirators and ventilators.
- Food, liquid soap and alcohol-based hand sanitizer distribution.
- Drinking water distribution.
- Border protection.
- Support to influenza vaccination campaigns.
- Blood donation campaign.
- Disinfection of locations with high circulation of people.
- Production of alcohol-based hand sanitizer and cloroquine.
- Production of personal protection equipment: cloth face masks, disposable hats and gowns.

Paraguay

- Transport units made available for the population.
- Preparation of venues to make them fit for patient isolation.
- Disinfection of venues.
- Distribution of food kits to families in educational institutions.
- Production of personal protection kits.
- Border controls.
- Patrolling.

Uruguay

- Set up of tents in hospital venues and military resources and personnel made available to the health system.
- Support of military drivers to enable doctors to visit households.
- Food distribution.
- Patrolling for urging people to stay at home.
- Repatriation of nationals and foreigners.
- Border controls.
- Making face masks.

Argentina

- Production of alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Production of face masks, sheets for surgical centers and disposable gowns.
- Repatriation of nationals.
- Distribution of food, rations and bags of supplies.
- Water purification and distribution to communities in need.
- Deploying and setting up a medical hospital.
- Transfer and distribution of medical devices and supplies.
- Support and participation in influenza vaccine campaigns.

Source: Compilation based on daily social media posts (then Twitter) of the Armed Forces from the different countries in the period from March 10 to April 10, 2020.