



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# ALLIANCES IN ACTION

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

### DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to violent natural disasters and the high human and economic cost associated with them. Each year, countries within this high-risk region account for losses of an estimated \$3.4 billion. Communities, companies and government authorities have a greater chance of successful survival and sustainable development if they join efforts to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

### BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Businesses are often unaware of their economic and operational exposure to disaster. Numerous interruptions that can threaten a company's survival following a natural disaster include inventory loss, infrastructure damage, and critical service outages such as loss of electricity, telecommunications, and internet access. Data cited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shows that 40% of all businesses closed by a disaster never reopen. Another 25 percent try and fail within a year.

### APPROACH

USAID has partnered with the Pan American Development Foundation on the Disaster Management Alliance (DMA) to help communities prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impact of disaster. Through this Global Development Alliance, private sector partners in the region work to improve capacity throughout their value chains, one partnership at a time. The DMA promotes effective communication with emergency management authorities and communities; provides a forum to target strategic corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in support of business continuity; operates [www.PlanforDisasters.org](http://www.PlanforDisasters.org) as an information and know-how clearinghouse to facilitate collaboration and sharing across sectors; encourages businesses to participate in emergency operations centers; and builds linkages to available resources for sustainable efforts on the ground.

### PARTNERS

Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF), the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA); local American Chambers of Commerce; the Association of Contingency Planners (ACP); and over 140 companies.

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### RESULTS

- Delivered 44 high-impact risk reduction projects which benefited more than 343,894 beneficiaries directly in 154 communities in nine countries in this hemisphere
- Trained over 1,827 government and private sector professionals in 34 workshops/trainings and 741 community leaders and volunteers in disaster preparedness, management and risk reduction in 15 additional workshops
- Tested and developed community emergency plans with a total of 13 simulations with 774 participants

### FAST FACTS

START: 2004      END: 2011

USAID CONTRIBUTION:

\$14,300,000