

Community Resilience Project (CRP)

Brazil

Supporting the sustained wellbeing of children, adolescents, youth (CAY), their families and communities by mainstreaming and scaling up Resilient Practices as an integral part of development and humanitarian programming in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

Key Achievements

Amazonas. The project began implementation on September 2008 in Manaquiri, Amazon. During phase 1, 233 families were trained, including 699 boys, girls, adolescents and youth, and 466 adults.

In phase 2 (starting in October 2010), 1,020 girls and boys, and adults were trained. The resilient development modules applied to each beneficiary age group were: module 1 (boys and girls), 2 (adolescents), 3 (youth), 4 (adults) and 5 (local authorities). 260 adolescents were trained on Resilient Development practices, along with 615 youth and 145 adults.

A new partnership resulted from negotiations with the Secretary of Education; the use of resilience modules were introduced in the municipal schools, through cross-cutting theme courses. 600 children, adolescents and youth were trained, they will be awarded with participation certificates and school plates. It is also

The creation of MJ POP youth groups to advocate politically. They have formed a group of 6 members within each community, in 12 communities, meaning a total of 72 young people have been trained. The goal at the end of the project is to gather 120 youth and associate them to the existing network POP MJ in order to conduct the training activities for 6 communities.

Together with Civil Defence, youth network MJ POP, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Social Action, and community members will develop a contingency plan and disaster risk management plans. Awareness raising activities will take place focusing on the environment and climate change, in particular drought and floods.

Urban Resilience

Recife (Phase 1) This the first urban pilot project to be carried out since related activities took place in 2008; it focused on reducing the risk of violence among CAY. During this period, background research was conducted resulting in 119 questionnaires with 444 participants in various workshops. The topics covered included: the expressions of social violence, making emphasis on the neighbourhoods and communities surveyed, the main causes of social violence, the identification of institutions and social organizations working in neighbourhoods and communities surveyed, the social violence actions implemented by other institutions and organization, popular participation in actions carried out, suggestions for the development of actions and interventions.

Urban Resilience (Con't)

A report was generated, and several videos were produced by adolescents and youth.

Also, about 300 CAY and adults were trained in urban resilience. A basic presentation of Module 7 took place regarding risk reduction of urban violence, and a questionnaire was developed on reduction of violence risk to measure evidence along with the UN University of Peace in Costa Rica.

Rio de Janeiro (Phase 2)

For Phase 2, the focus was set on a high risk urban area of Rio de Janeiro because it offered several opportunities that did not exist in Recife, mainly related to advocacy and high profile global events; such as the World Summit for sustainable development (Rio + 20) in 2012, the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016.

About 500 CAY and adults distributed evenly among each age group (i.e. a total of 125 per age group) are being trained in urban resilience in situations of chronic violence. Focus is on the development of module 7 on risk of violence reduction and the field guide (Module 10).

The VFL survey will be used for the Final Evaluation in order to compare results with the workshop baseline studies that will support Phase 2 Brazil implementation of CRP in 2 ADPs (Amigos para Sempre and Comuniao).

The following key video was produced with WV Brazil: Rio + 20 World Summit on Sustainable Development "Two steps back, two steps forward".



Playful teaching methods to develop information, awareness and empowerment of children and adolescents in DRR

This is a case study on local knowledge or popular education and its cultural surroundings. It is about the recovery process of ancestral knowledge found in the coastal villages (in rivers) of the Brazilian Amazon. It focuses on the strategy to reduce disaster risk of floods through training and practice of the five priorities in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

The original inhabitants of the region, and those who arrived over the course of time, had to adapt to the natural rhythm of the rivers and to the different economic and political contexts. Their way of life is an expression of indigenous, colonial and migratory heritage.

This cultural diversity gave rise to adaptive practices related to the natural cycles of floods and droughts which were lost under the influence of time and new cultural tides. Some examples of the adaptive practices lost include:

- The construction of "palafitas" and floating houses built on wooden stilts that measured over 1.70 meters, far from the jungle, adapted to the rhythm of the water level variations and capable of supporting the highest floods. These buildings represent solutions of living in harmony with the environment.
- The construction of floating platforms for the protection of livestock during the floods.
- The preparation of fish flour, at the time of the flood to take advantage of the abundance of fish. Villagers fished in large quantities, they toasted and ground the fish to make flour which had an expiry date of a year and a half. This means that the flour could be used during droughts to prepare various meals.
- The use of signs or manifestations of nature for early warnings: the observation of Igapo tree leaves, an intense yellow color indicated the advancement of a large flood, just as the quack of the "duck do mato" in the afternoon was also taken as a sign that the flood would be large.

This ancestral knowledge was rescued during the training process, through the following activities:

- Governance: participatory planning with disaster risk management approach
- Design and implementation of early warning systems
- Evaluation and monitoring of disaster risks
- Identification of underlying risks
- Design and implementation of response plans in face of a disaster risk

The key exercises developed to gather this experience included:

- The acknowledgement of ancient experience and the collective memory of the community: the boys and girls interviewed their grandfathers and grandmothers to rescue these ancient practices.
- The "pump" game and the pabilo: an exercise to explain the basic concepts of risk (threats and vulnerabilities)
- Critical Point Analysis: based on the idea that this tool identifies both the positive and negative elements raised with the problem and opportunity tree exercise. The tree is a permanent symbol of nature and its health (well or bad).

- Action plan for risk reduction: actions are identified collectively and are prioritized based on the capacities and vulnerabilities of the community itself.

Before the workshops were carried out the youth did not know about these ancient practices. The training workshops granted them the possibility to ask the elders about these customs. As a result families began to take into account the knowledge of their ancestors such as to build taller houses, to observe nature's signs to prevent flooding and to prepare fish flour to ensure food security.



Rio Resiliente



Community resilience workshops with children and youth. Manaquiri, Amazonas. Brasil

