

The Dominican Disaster Mitigation Association (ADMD) invites you to visit its Home Page: <http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/rdom/Homepag.htm> facilitated by the CDMP (OAS/USAID.) **Please write to m.desastre@codetel.net.do to be included in the e-mail listing to receive future editions of our Bulletin and information about vulnerability reduction activities.**

The ADMD, originally sponsored by the Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project (OAS/USAID), is a non governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to vulnerability reduction in communities, organizations and businesses prone to natural hazards. We are pleased to send **Bulletin No. 22**, as of August 31, to provide information regarding our current projects:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's PROJECT IMPACT: the ADMD continues to adapt and implement Project Impact for FEMA to create a disaster prevention capacity in two important pilot areas: 1) Haina; and 2) Tamayo/Vicente Noble/Jaquimeyes. The methodology is implemented in 4 phases: 1) Creating alliances between businesses while integrating local authorities and the civil society; 2) Identifying the risks and the vulnerabilities in the community; 3) Prioritizing the risk reduction alternatives; and 4) Sharing the successes. The objective is for the communities to become disaster resistant.

Four Project Impact work groups have formed in each of the pilot areas. In Haina, they are Education and Training; Prevention and Safety; Zoning and Infrastructure; and Technical Assistance and Implementation. A total of 6 courses for 163 people and 39 meetings with 237 people have assisted in the identification of Risks, Hazards, and Vulnerabilities in the companies participating in the process in order to prepare their contingency plan and to establish a plan for the Haina area. A simulation is being prepared for the month of October in order to test the plans developed to date. In addition, a Safety Route has been established to reduce the passage of vehicles with toxic materials, combustible substances or dangerous cargo near residential zones. Other projects also underway include the improvement of one of the main buildings on the Quitasueño School campus so that it will withstand hurricane force winds and also serve as a shelter; the installation of lamps and barriers along the sidewalk leading to the Felix Peña Highschool to prevent accidents involving students and vehicles; the construction of a bridge between the Bella Vista and Haití Mejía/Villa Penca communities to facilitate evacuations over the drainage ditch. The Communities of Vietnam, Gringo, Ñagá and the area behind the EGE Haina company are under consideration to determine if a feasible solution can be found to the constant flooding in these areas which affect the inhabitants and the surrounding companies.

In Tamayo/Vicente Noble/Jaquimeyes the following four groups were formed: Prevention and Mitigation; Training and Information; Warehouses and Shelters; and Water Management. These groups have coordinated and conducted 22 courses for 395 people and 50 meetings with 677 people on topics such as disaster preparedness; fire prevention and control; first aid; and search and rescue. They have implemented a 3,000 meter reforestation project along the Yaque del Sur River and waged orientational campaigns, distributing 30,000 fliers on what to do before, during, and after hurricanes and earthquakes; in addition to installing 11,620 banners, stickers, signs and posters, to indicate precautionary measures; flood prone areas; meeting points; evacuation routes; shelters and warehouses. Approximately 47,022 people from 7,837 families have benefitted from the educational and orientational materials. Currently, 8 of the 68 schools and community structures designated as shelters and warehouses are being retrofitted to withstand

hurricane force winds and equipped with water tanks to serve as shelters and/or warehouses in the event of a disaster. An early alert system is being installed along the Yaque del Sur River to help warn residents of Tamayo and Vicente Noble about rising water levels, indicating the need to implement the evacuation plan. The training and other activities have facilitated the process of identifying the Risks, Hazards, and Vulnerabilities as well as the formation of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTS), which have received reference materials, and a total of 150 vests and helmets. They are in the process of developing their emergency plan for the pilot area and are also planning a simulation to test the plan in October. Our mitigation specialist in charge of adapting and implementing Project Impact in the DR is Dr. Gregorio Gutiérrez. Don't hesitate to contact him by calling (809) 508-2596 and 533-8024 or writing to proyectoimpacto@enel.net if you have any questions.

The OFDA/USAID/IRG/ADMD Project to Reduce Vulnerability in Communities Severely Affected by Hurricane Georges: As of August 31, this eleven month community orientation project concluded its activities in 70 communities in areas throughout the southern half of the island such as La Zurza, El Capotillo, Simón Bolívar and Haina in Santo Domingo; Tamayo/Vicente Noble/Jaquimeyes, San Juan de la Maguana and Azua in the southwest; Jarabacoa, Constanza and Bonao to the north, and San Pedro de Macorís, La Romana and Higüey in the southeast. A total of 1,196 leaders from 82 communities received training in topics such as the Community Disaster Preparedness Workshop (originally created by the Red Cross and titled: "Es Mejor Prevenir...") to identify vulnerabilities as well as local resources; establish and develop a disaster mitigation committee and a disaster mitigation plan. Between February and July of 2001, a total of 1,203 community leaders from 69 villages received orientation regarding Evacuation Routes and Security Brigades to facilitate the efficient and effective evacuation of people from high risk areas to shelters. Community Emergency Committees (CEC's) were formed in each community and they prepared their Emergency Plan. Due to savings in budgetary implementation, the ADMD was able to purchase and donate a set of materials and equipment to each CEC which included a first aid kit, a wooden stretcher, trauma blanket, axe, shovel, pick, rope, vests, ID badge, a reference manual and, for communities with electricity, an educational video about hurricanes, earthquakes, fire prevention and first aid. To assure the appropriate use of the donation, two workshops on first aid were given to 53 representatives of the 68 CEC's that qualified for the donation. A total of 11,436 people, of which approximately half were women, have benefited from the training, meetings, and activities sponsored by this project. The ADMD is proud to announce that it has received a donation from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to continue these activities in up to 16 communities during 12 months as of September 1, 2001.

ADMD/CII-VIVIENDAS/HUD PROJECT: The ADMD is implementing, since December 1, 2000, a project financed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States Government (HUD) through CII-VIENDAS, INC., to form disaster mitigation committees and facilitate the construction of small public works projects to reduce vulnerability in Nueva Isabela II sector of Guaricano, Villa Mella.

The ADMD has given eight Community Disaster Preparedness Workshops (this program was originally created by the Red Cross and is called "Es Mejor Prevenir...") and has formed four Community Disaster Mitigation Committees. These committees are developing their community

disaster mitigation plan. Given that this is a complementary component to a housing improvement and urban development project, the ADMD has facilitated the preparation and presentation, by the community, of several proposals of works to build to reduce vulnerability to flooding, contamination, landslides, isolation, illness and other negative factors which plague almost 2,000 families dwelling in this sector.

Just recently an 190 meter extension and roofing project of the Callejón de los Bomberos drainage ditch was completed and inaugurated in the El Timbeque sector. This project eliminated the flooding and contamination common in this area, as well as providing a foot-path that even motorcycles can use to assure a safe escape route in the event of an emergency or disaster. The community has contributed non-specialized manual labor and has received food rations and a cement mixer from the Presidential Commission to Support Neighborhood Development. The ADMD completed the food rations needed and paid for specialized manual labor, an engineer to direct the work and the necessary building materials.

Currently, the ADMD is carrying out similar projects for the El Centro (requiring a 60 meter excavation) and the Barrio Norte drainage ditches (requiring a 45 meter excavation). The ADMD is also building a potable water and sewage system for El Timbeque to serve the new homes being built with financing from the HUD project. In addition to the gratitude the ADMD owes to Sister Claudia for her support for the community groups, and the Presidential Commission to Support Neighborhood Development for its contributions, the community and the ADMD are very grateful for the efforts of the Ministry of Public Works (SEOP&C) and the Country's First Lady, Mrs. Rosa de Mejía, for making possible the donation of several weeks of labor with a large backhoe needed to clean and channel 1,800 meters of the Yaguasa River and the Juan Boquero Stream. No longer do heavy rains force the families to run to higher ground carting mattresses on their heads. This clean-up project assured the viability and effectiveness of the works in progress and saved the river itself from extinction. The project will continue through the month of December. Any questions may be directed to the Coordinator, Mr. Bernardo Rodríguez, at the numbers: (809) 533-8024 and 508-2596.

ADMD/PLAN INTERNATIONAL Project:

During this period the ADMD concluded the Community Initiatives project it carried out in the Azua, San Juan de la Maguana and Barahona provinces with resources provided by Plan International. This project included training a total of 174 community representatives regarding the Community Initiatives process as well as the development and implementation of the following works with the involvement of the communities, authorities, and in Peñón the WFP donated food rations:

- Channeling of the river in Las Guanábanas, Azua;
- Channeling of the river in Sajanoa, Azua;
- Construction of a drainage ditch embankment in Peñón, Barahona;
- Construction of a ford/dutch bridge and containment wall in Hato Nuevo Cortés, Azua;
- Construction of a drainage ditch embankment and two bridges in Tábara Arriba, Azua;
- Construction of a drainage ditch embankment and four bridges in Pueblo Nuevo, San Juan de la Maguana.

RECENT ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION:

From July 24-27, the ADMD attended the International Conference on Seismic Risk Reduction in the Caribbean Region and the II Dominican Seismic Engineering Seminar held in Santiago de los Caballeros, sponsored by CODIA, SODOSISMICA, SEOP&C, Civil Defense and UPADI. An excellent international and local turnout was noted with over 400 colleagues participating. The topics discussed included distinguished presentations on Local and Regional Seismicity: Tectonics, Hazards and Site Effects; Seismic Zonification and Microzonification; Soil-Structure Interaction; Seismic Risk and Vulnerability; Norms and Standards; Retrofit and Reinforcement of Buildings; Urban Planning and Vulnerability Reduction. Among the most impressive details regarding the Dominican Republic's seismic risk, are the results of research along the Septentrional Fault, which has been accumulating stress for over 800 years, and could release at any time. The experts have estimated that the next earthquake could have an epicenter of less than 5 kilometers in depth, generating an event of approximately 8.0 on the Richter Scale. This would be accompanied by 3 to 4 meters of left lateral displacement within 30 to 80 milliseconds. The maximum expected ground accelerations have been calculated to reach .35 to .5 g, which could be catastrophic. For more information on the materials distributed, the cd of the presentations and additional publications available, please call (809) 508-2596 and 533-8024.

Dr. Paul Mann from the Universidad of Texas has prepared a document in Spanish, in collaboration with Ing. Luis Peña, regarding the Septentrional Fault's seismic risk and preparedness for earthquakes in the DR, which can be seen at the following website: http://www.ig.utexas.edu:88/research/projects/caribbean/publications/eq_prep.htm including details and graphics from research conducted in the DR.

We congratulate the University Seismological Institute at the UASD for the publication of its Third Bulletin which includes articles on the SYSMIN Project; Magnitude: An Earthquake's Energy; Seismological Instrumentation; Seismic Forecasting; Tremors registered during 1999, among others. For more information please call (809) 535-7654 and 533-5900.

The ADMD was included as an NGO in the DR's National Budget for the fiscal year of 2001 and has received two of the monthly payments during the course of the year. These resources have financed the publication of brochures on what to do before, during and after hurricanes, floods and earthquakes. These materials have accompanied a national awareness campaign in which the ADMD has given 19 presentations regarding the country's natural hazards and disaster mitigation to 1,171 teachers, students, businessmen, employees and community members. To coordinate a presentation please call (809) 508-2596 and 533-8024.

COURSES, TRAINING AND CONSULTING BY THE ADMD:

The ADMD provides consulting and technical assistance, in addition to offering a wide variety of courses for technicians and professionals in the private sector and for NGO's. Each department must develop and implement the plans, procedures and capacity to assure that the company or organization can effectively continue operations in the event of a natural disaster.

Remember that the conditions (structural, financial and operational) differ considerably from business to business and the ability of your company to remain competitive depends on the precautions taken in advance to prevent the interruption of production, damage and loss. The same measures apply to suppliers and clients. Don't hesitate to contact us by calling (809) 508-2596 and 533-8024 to arrange a meeting to determine how to proactively reduce vulnerability.