

## BUILDING REISILIENCE COMMUNITIES IN PUNTARENAS

### Costa Rican Red Cross

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Building Resilience Communities Program in Puntarenas, is financed by OFDA with the technical support of the American Red Cross. The development of actions respond on sthrentening the community capacities on respond of disasters. The results of the Community Action Plans have been taken as reference, developed by an Integral Participative Diagnostic(DPI). The dynamic of intervention is addressed on strengthening the communities capacity in Puntarenas in order to be prepared for a disaster and take appropriate messures to retake their life style and livelihoods, in addition to contribute on the development of awareness and resilients communities through training, response team, highlighting the active participation of women as key actors in the process of decisions to face and respond to a disaster.

#### **ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION**

The activities developed are related on key aspects, such as sthrentening the community capacities , local committes of the Red Cross in Puntarenas to be prepared and reduce risks related to disasters and to put into practice specifics measures that help the communities on disaster recovery. This will be achieved through trainings that will increase the knowledge on vulnerability, resources, organization and how to be prepared and how to respond to future risks. The trainings are focused on increasing the community cohesion, developing emergency plans and having a better conection with RRD entities. The communities will be able to support future events, that will reduce risks, through micro-mitigation projects that will benefit the local communities on taking decisions during preparedness and respond of disasters.

#### **STAKEHOLDERS/PARTNERS**

The eight (8) beneficiary communities of the Project, community leaders, response brigades, the education community, the local government, the NGO's and others public/private actors that are involved on the project actions, such as the Psychologist Asociation of the Pacific ,Ministry of Health(MINSAs), and Municipality of Puntareanas and Garabito.

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

**Objective: To sthrengthten the Red Cross branches and community capacities in Puntarenas, Costa Rica in order to reduce deaths, injuries and socio-economic impacts caused by disasters.**

- Improve the National Society's capacity on risk management and resilient development.
- To increase the community capacities on risk reduction and response to disasters.

#### **PROJECT ADVANCES (from March 2014 to March 2015)**

The sthrentening of the community capacities were worked through home visits with key messages, in addition to follow-up visits on developed processes. Community plans of response have been reviewed and updated, using the microproject manual, of "Es mejor Prevenir " serie, proposals of mitigations have been worked on.

A community first Aid workshop was conducted with the methodology used by the CREEC, in the serie "Es Mejor Prevenir", where the gender equity was worked with the PHAST methodology and the support of a psychologist of the women



**Community Plan updated in Jicaral**

#### **Strategy of intervention:**

Application of the "Mejor es prevenir serie" as reference.  
focused-tools on communities and development of activities suh as campaigns of reforestation and community meetings.

#### **Prioritization of the following sectors**

- Stengthening on the capacities of risk reduction and response to disasters.
- Community-organization and local development with a gender perspective.

#### **Project lifetime:**

**From August 2014 to July 2015.**

#### **Direct beneficiaries**

2,772 direct beneficiaries

#### **Location:**

8 comunnties of the Canton of Puntarenas: Lepanto, Playa Azul, Playa Hermosa, Playa Herradura, San Blas, Quebrada Ganado, Jicaral and Abangaritos.

#### **Funds:**

\$100,047 USD

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office, who apported information about women legal rights and some practices that promotes women’s empowerment and taking decisions.

With the support of the Women Office of the Municipality of Garabito, a Human Rights workshop and some activities were held in order to promote active participation of women in community taking decisions.

A workshop on “Familia Prevenida”, used the “ Mejor es Prevenir Serie” methodology, where 8 community leaders were trained such as members of the **Asociacion de Desarrollo Pro Mejoras de Playa Herradura**, ASADA and the community. This group initiated the elaboration of a Family Plan and posters were designed where each family could place necessary information and count with a basic guide.

**Achievements from August 2014 to March 2015.**

- 1,639 people benefitted through activities.
- 343 beneficiaries were trained on community risk reduction.
- 16 community organizations strengthened on topics related to risk reduction and gender focused on risk management.
- 8 response community plans updated.
- 1,071 people received key messages during home visits.
- 156 people participate of actions and meetings about the creation of a community agenda with gender perspective.
- 290 beneficiaries participate on campaigns of reforestation.
- 4 micro-projects on mitigation were established.



**Meeting for Building the community agenda on risk reduction with gender perspective. (Lepanto)**



**Meeting about designing of microproject of mitigation in San Blas.**