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URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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In the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, rapid, unplanned expansion is exacerbating disaster risk in urban areas. USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) supports a technical assistance program dedicated to helping reduce urban disaster risk and strengthening urban search and rescue (USAR) operations throughout the region.

USAID/OFDA promotes and supports multi-institutional and multi-sector collaborative programs to improve USAR processes and urban planning actions. USAID/OFDA also offers specialized consulting to help improve a country's development of city plans, risk reduction initiatives, identification of possible risk scenarios, and the use of state-of-the-art disaster response equipment and technology. Additionally, USAID/OFDA offers guidance on the configuration of USAR teams, in coordination with first-response organizations, to incorporate this capacity into a country's national emergency system framework.

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URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AREAS

- Creation of USAR national technical committees
- Creation of legal, operational, and administrative bases to develop a USAR national process
- Development of plans and procedures for efficient and effective response in accordance with potential collapsed structure scenarios and current urban risk
- Development of national and municipal USAR programs and projects
- Identification of possible risk scenarios in cities
- Identification of USAR training and equipment needs and advice in developing training programs and refresher courses for USAR teams at the local and national levels
- Incorporation of technology in USAR processes
- Integration of actions, resources, organization, and staff
- Integration of other sectors (private, academic, scientific, and construction) in USAR processes
- Preparation of field exercises
- Preparation to receive international USAR humanitarian assistance
- Guidance on accreditation processes for USAR national teams and the promotion of sectoral integration

COURSES AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

- Collapsed Structure Rescue Course - Light Level
- Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Course
- Instructor Training Workshops

