

Information management in emergencies and disasters was a standout topic during the Ninth Regional Congress of Health Sciences Information (CRICS 9) that was held at the Pan American Health Organization's headquarters, in Washington, D.C., from 22-24 October 2012.

The panel "Information management in emergencies and disasters: from one way communication to social media," with presentations from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the American Red Cross (ARC) and the Internews NGO, had a great reception among the participants, who were very interested in the use of social media in the response to emergencies and disasters.

During the panel on "Experiences and tools for information management in emergencies and disasters," the increasingly more important role of information managers in this field was touched upon, as well as some of the tools that are available.

Before the Congress, the 6th Regional Coordination Meeting of the Virtual Library of Health (BVS) was held. Experts in emergencies and disasters explained ways in which the BVS can contribute to improving access to information and knowledge in this field.

The Latin American Network of Disaster Risk Management Information Centers (RELACIGER by its Spanish acronym), supported by the US National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), participated in CRICS 9 with 14 presenters from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru.

More information: <http://www.crics9.org/en> .