

Virtual Health Library for Disasters 2001 Edition



A new edition, published in collaboration with WHO, with new and more extensive content, new contributors and new search options.

Complete text of more than 400 technical documents !

In 1999, PAHO/WHO produced the first edition of the Virtual Health Library for Disasters CD-ROM--the most complete electronic information tool for disaster reduction. The first edition has been substantially enlarged and enhanced.

What is new in the 2001 version?

The first and most important innovation is the number of participating organizations, which allows for **much broader content**. It is now a global collection, the result of input from the disaster and emergency programs of WHO and PAHO, all WHO technical divisions, other United Nations agencies such as the UNHCR, UNICEF, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Red Cross movement (International Committee for the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), the Sphere Project, nongovernmental organizations such as OXFAM, and national organizations such as Costa Rica's National Emergency Commission.

Thanks to support from these organizations, the Library contains **more than 400 scientific and technical documents** including the most important works published by these agencies on disasters and emergencies.

It also has an improved and **more powerful search engine**, which is simple to use, allowing searches by topics, country, keyword, title, publishing organization, or any other word.

All documents are available in **HTML**, and many are in **PDF** format.

Discover the large variety of topics related to emergencies and disasters.

Discover the large variety of topics related to emergencies and disasters

- Public health in emergencies and disasters: principles and guidelines
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Disaster mitigation
- Human rights and humanitarian legislation
- Health of refugees and displaced populations
- Environmental health and chemical products
- Communicable diseases
- Parasitic and vector-borne diseases
- Food and nutrition
- Reproductive health, child health and immunization
- Mental health
- Management of supplies and essential drugs
- Management of war-wounded and injuries

Available on CD-ROM and the Internet

In addition to being available on the Internet, free of charge worldwide, the collection is produced on CD-ROM to facilitate its use, especially in areas where access to the Internet is still limited. The CD-ROM is distributed primarily in developing countries through institutions, where a single copy can be used by many.

We want your opinion

This is an open and dynamic collection. It will be evaluated, duplicated and updated in the future. The best way to improve this collection is by receiving your opinion, so please send your comments to the addresses listed below.

If ordering from a country in the Americas, please write:

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Visit the Library at:

www.helid.desastres.net



What is SUMA?

At the beginning of the 1990s, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean joined efforts, with the support of PAHO, the Government of the Netherlands, and the Colombian Red Cross, to develop SUMA, the Humanitarian Supply Management System. SUMA is an information management tool which helps governments to improve management and ensure efficiency and transparency in the receipt and distribution of humanitarian assistance. SUMA also allows disaster managers to provide donors and humanitarian agencies with an accounting of supplies and other assistance that has been received.

What does SUMA do?

- Identifies, separates and classifies humanitarian supplies as they are received;
- Prioritizes supplies depending on the needs of the affected population;
- Uses a database to consolidate all the information on items received;
- Provides a clear overview on the whereabouts and destination of supplies;
- Facilitates the preparation of reports and the exchange of information among all actors (governments, NGOs, donors, etc.).

Who operates SUMA?

The SUMA Project trains national teams as a way of developing self-reliance, insuring that countries can manage humanitarian assistance with their own resources. The national teams are formed by volunteers from the ranks of health agencies, civil defense or emergency committees, armed forces, foreign relations ministries, customs departments, the Red Cross, NGOs, and other organizations. More than 2,000 volunteers have been trained in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

SUMA: Towards a global standard in humanitarian supply management

SUMA has been accepted in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean as the standard for managing relief supplies. With the sponsorship of the United Nations and coordination of the World Health Organization, SUMA is being exported to other parts of the world and it is hoped that it will become the global standard for managing emergency supplies in an emergency or disaster.

SUMA on CD ROM

With the rising popularity and low cost of CD-ROMs, PAHO has prepared a new disk on SUMA, which in addition to SUMA software, has a large range of reference and training materials.

Organized as a simple Web page (in HTML format), the bilingual (English/Spanish) CD-ROM contains:

- The latest version of SUMA **software**, in Windows and DOS versions, with operating instructions in English, Spanish and French;
- A section with the **training manuals** and "PowerPoint" presentations needed to conduct a training session on SUMA software and the Warehouse Management Module (MISE) program
- An overview of SUMA, including current reference material such as mission reports, a contact list, and a large selection of photographs showing humanitarian operations where SUMA was used.

This CD-ROM gathers all the necessary components for understanding, applying, and teaching SUMA methods. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the CD-ROM, contact CRID (see the CRID address on page 41).



For more information on SUMA, contact:

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or visit SUMA on the Internet:
www.disaster.info.desastres.net/SUMA/



Regional Disaster Information Center



The best source of information on disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean

CRID



Learn about CRID on the Internet: www.crid.or.cr



Disaster management is above all the management of information. The objective of the Regional Disaster Information Center is to assist the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to have the best possible access to information resources on disasters, helping users to make better management decisions.



CRID has the support of six organizations:

- Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
- National Emergency Commission of Costa Rica (CNE)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC)
- Regional Emergency Office for Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF)



CRID's objectives are:

- To improve the collection, processing, and distribution of information about disasters;
- To strengthen local and national capacity to establish and maintain information centers on disasters;
- Promote the use of information technology;
- To support the development of the Region Disaster Information System.

CRID offers these services:

- Bibliographic searches using the Internet, CD-ROM or direct contact with the Center;
- Publication and distribution of bibliographies (BIBLIODES);
- Direct access to a large collection of documents available on the Internet;
- Publication and distribution of teaching materials about managing information centers, bibliographic methods, use of the Internet, and a thesaurus;
- Technical assistance and training for the creation of disaster information centers.

CRID promotes and supports the strengthening of a Regional Disaster Information System in Latin America and the Caribbean by providing technical support for national and local information centers, the development of common methods and tools, and the creation of common services.



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www.paho.org/disasters/

PAHO's main World Wide Web page on disasters offers a variety of information resources:

- Follow-up on the **latest disasters** to have occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- **Technical guidelines** on public health issues in disaster situations, which recommend procedures related to donations, rapid needs assessments, sanitation in temporary shelters and camps, food safety, supply management, handling cadavers, and many other topics;
- The most important PAHO/WHO disaster **publicaciones** in full text, and access to the Health Library for Disasters (see page 36 of this catalog).
- Information on **SUMA** (the Humanitarian Supply Management System)
- Information about the international **LIDERES** course on health, disasters and development;
- Electronic access to the **Newsletter, Disasters: Preparedness and Mitigation in the Americas** (see page 34 of the catalog);
- **Tools** such as manuals, guidelines, and directories that are useful for disaster prevention, mitigation and response.



... And many other new items and resources.

www.paho.org/disasters/

www.disaster.info.desastres.net

This Web page links with a collection of Web sites with information on prevention, mitigation, and response to disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. The site is maintained by PAHO/WHO, but each organization is responsible for its own content.



www.disaster.info.desastres.net/PED-ECUADOR/desastre/index.htm

The Web page for PAHO's disaster office serving South America. It provides current information on disasters in South America and includes sections on publications, legislation, courses, and special news.



www.disaster.info.desastres.net/desplazados.htm

This Web page focuses on displaced populations in Colombia. It includes publications, a directory of institutions working with these populations, statistics, maps, legislation pertaining to displaced populations, and links to other Internet sites on the topic.



www.disaster.info.desastres.net/saludca/desastresCR

This site describes the project sponsored by PAHO/WHO in Central America to reduce vulnerability to disasters in four countries—Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala—that were affected by Hurricane Mitch.



<http://www.disaster.info.desastres.net/andino/>

"Desastres en los Andes" is a Web page for all institutions and agencies working in disaster preparedness in Andean countries. It is maintained and updated by the PAHO Emergency Preparedness Programs office that serves South America.



We also recommend:

www.who.int/eha/disasters

Department of Emergency and Humanitarian Action of the World Health Organization

www.cepreidenac.org

Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America

www.reliefweb.int

A project of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

www.cdera.org

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency

www.ifrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

For a more complete list of resources on the Internet, visit: www.crid.or.cr



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Emergency Vector Control after Natural Disasters.
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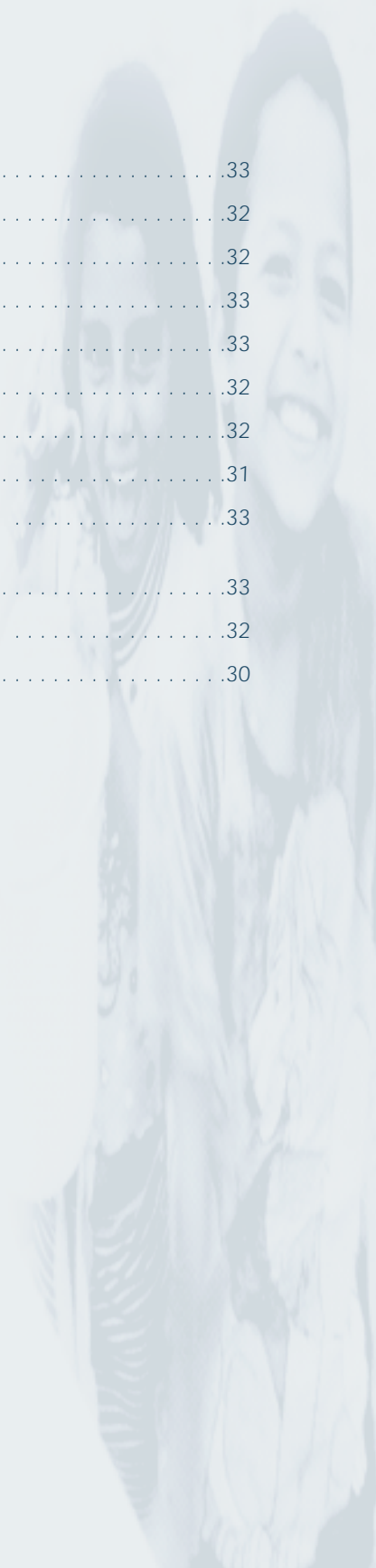
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There are different ways to access the publications and other training materials listed in this catalog.

Owing to budgetary limitations and the high costs of distribution, there are restrictions on the free distribution of all of this material.

- The Regional Disaster Information Center (CRID) is able to distribute a limited number of copies of the material in this catalog at no charge to institutions in the health sector working in disaster reduction activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. The address for CRID is: Apartado Postal 3745-1000, San José, Costa Rica (see page 41).
- Most of this material can be consulted at the offices of the PAHO/WHO **Representatives** in the countries of the Region (see their addresses on pages 48-49) and the **subregional offices of the PAHO/WHO Emergency Preparedness Program** (addresses on page 50).
- Requests for publications from outside of Latin America and the Caribbean should be sent to the **PAHO Office of Publications**, or through their sales service on the Internet (<http://publications.paho.org/>). We request all sales agents and commercial entities to make their requests through this office. Please write:

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525 Twenty-third St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037, USA
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- Finally, remember that most of this material is available in electronic format at www.paho.org/disasters/. The books are included in the Virtual Health Library for Disasters (see page 36).
- Please send questions about the material in this catalog to:

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