



Formulation and Implementation of Volunteer Management Processes

Research and Disaster Prevention Centre (PREDES, Spanish acronym) Training of Young Volunteers in Disaster Prevention

Context:

The PREDES volunteer organization founded in 1983 implements lobbying processes to incorporate risk reduction criteria in the regional and local development plans of the different cities in Peru, which help reduce the vulnerability of threatened communities.

So far, the Organization has promoted training programs in topics related to preparedness and emergency response for communities, and has built alliances with the National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI, Spanish acronym) to obtain local coordinated support through its volunteer groups.

PREDES's work is to foster a culture of prevention and responsibility in the management of a natural environment at national level and to avoid the generation or expansion of risks.

What does the experience consist on?

Since 2000, the projects developed by PREDES have given rise to the formation of groups of young people (JOVOS - Voluntary Young People Against Disasters) united in their interest to contribute voluntarily to risk reduction.

These groups have received training in areas that allow them to carry out social works in prevention, assistance in risk identification and formulation of intervention proposals. Additionally, they are trained to participate in risk knowledge management processes through awareness-raising on risk management in the communities. JOVOS are also prepared to support local civil defense committees. Activities carried out for the management of JOVOS volunteers are:

- Invitation of students in 3rd, 4th and 5th year secondary from local schools. Training of 14 to 16 year-old teenagers to become volunteers in disaster prevention.
- Leadership, organization, rights, gender equity and first aid workshops.
- Workshop on emergency preparedness.
- Replication of subjects covered in peer organizations in districts where projects are implemented, especially in support of local civil defense committees. Eventually, the experience seeks to:
 - Disseminate the actions carried out by these teenagers in the local community and schools.
 - To raise awareness on risks and affirm related

values and responsibilities among young people.

PREDES: Training of Young Volunteers in Disaster Prevention

Why is it considered a good practice?

- It promotes the management of volunteers from the recruitment and training stage.
- It promotes spaces for young people to carry out their voluntary actions in vulnerable communities.
- It encourages the participation of young people and teenagers who are or who could become agents of change for volunteering in Peru.
- It encourages the participation of other actors such as teachers and parents in actions implemented by volunteers.

What innovations have been made?

The approach of the training given to young volunteers which, in addition to the technical aspects related to risk management, incorporates elements associated with ethical and moral principles.

- A humanistic vision of the world and the reality has been incorporated.
- Actions carried out by the Organization have had an influence in three key stages: Home, school and community, key spaces for JOVOS' volunteers.

Positive Impact:

- JOVOS groups participate in the activities of the Civil Defense Committees and their own communities.
- There are greater local response capacities since young people share the feeling of solidarity and are specifically trained in risk management.
- Formation of leaders who are agents of change in local risk scenarios.

Gender and non-discrimination:

The experience applies gender and non-discrimination criteria mainly in the training courses for volunteers.

These topics include i) Roles and needs of men and women; ii) Male and female stereotypes; iii) Gender and disasters.

Lessons learned:

Working with young volunteers creates an adequate environment for the promotion of relations based on gender equality, respect for human rights and preservation of values.

Furthermore, this type of experience strengthens the capacities of young volunteers, thus making them social promoters within their communities.

However, this type of initiative meets with some challenges:

- Migration of young people to other cities to work or study, thus jeopardizing the sustainability of processes.
- Access to remote communities.
- Incorporation of activities in the students' agenda.

Improvements to be made:

Promote spaces where young people can work together with local organizations.

- Create spaces for feedback and knowledge update on risks.
- Socialize the experience with other international cooperation organizations or volunteering related agencies.

Key elements to replicate the experience:

Practice can be replicated in similar contexts. There are documents and methodologies available for the training of young people. It is necessary to:

- Start to work with students in second to fourth grade secondary.
- Involve parents in the process.
- Work in a coordinated manner with teachers from schools.

Additional Information:

http://www.predes.org.pe/c_documento.htm



Contacts

Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres PREDES
LIMA-PERÚ
rquispe@predes.org.pe
Tel: 511 998 435435

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