

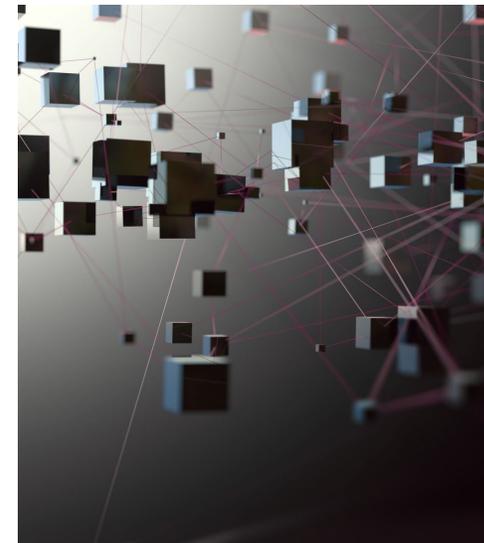
A Toolkit
to Develop Contingency Plans
for Customs and Border Agencies
to address Emergencies and Natural Disasters

REGIONAL PUBLIC
GOOD



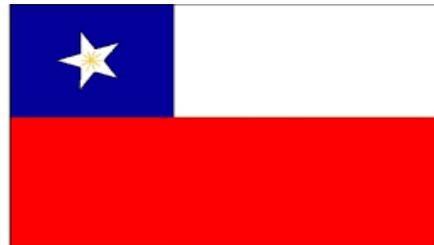
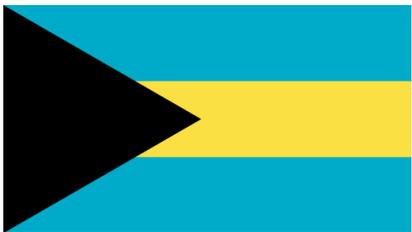
IDB

**Inter-American
Development Bank**



BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

BAHAMAS
CHILE
ECUADOR
HONDURAS



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (OMA)
OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN
AFFAIRS (OCHA)
GLOBAL LOGISTIC CLUSTER LED BY WORLD FOOD
PROGRAM (WFP)



OBJECTIVE

- A Toolkit to help the beneficiary countries and the LAC region to develop and implement **Contingency Plans and Standardized Operational Procedures** to strengthen and optimize national and regional response capacities to address emergencies and natural disasters.
- The Contingency Plans were developed under a scalable and harmonized **coordinated border management framework**. And they would be **lined up with international principles, procedures and protocols** applicable to such emergency situations.

COOPERATION CHARACTERISTICS

IDB AMOUNT

- USD 550,000.00

COUNTERPART IN KIND

- USD 60,000.00
- USD 15,000.00 EACH COUNTRY

EXECUTION TERM

- 36 Months from October 2020 to October 2023.

MAIN PRODUCTS

Regional Toolkit in Spanish and English

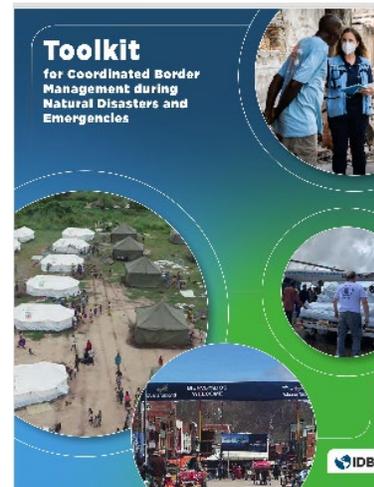
[Toolkit for Coordinated Border Management during Natural Disasters and Emergencies | Publications \(iadb.org\)](#)

Virtual course in Spanish and English

[Coordinated Border Management during Emergencies and Natural Disasters | BID | Curso AUTOGUIADO \(iadb.org\)](#)

Contingency Plans and Standardized Operational Procedures for Customs administrations of Bahamas, Chile, Ecuador and Honduras

Simulation exercise to validate the Standardized Operational Procedures for Bahamas, Chile, Ecuador and Honduras.



CORE CONTENT

3 Toolkit.....	25
Self-Assessment.....	26
<i>Self-Assessment on the Legal Framework.....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Self-Assessment on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Self-Assessment on Digitalization.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Self-Assessment on Information and Transparency.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Self-Assessment on Capacity-Building.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Self-Assessment on Postoperative Reviews—Lessons learned.....</i>	<i>30</i>
Six-Step Strategic Approach.....	30
<i>Module A: Legal Framework.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Module B: Standard Operating Procedures.....</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Module C: Digitalization.....</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Module D: Information and Transparency.....</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Module E: Capacity-Building.....</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Module F: Postoperative Review—Lessons Learned.....</i>	<i>57</i>
Additional Recommendations.....	57

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Regional and national virtual workshop with international experts and members of WCO, UN-OCHA and WFP.
- Compilation of international instruments and good practices in a regional toolkit.
- National assessments and gap analysis on national legal frameworks, conventions adopted and operational procedures to import critical goods during emergencies.
- Recommendations for actions and adjustments to develop and-or strengthen contingency plans and standardized operational procedures for Bahamas, Chile, Ecuador and Honduras customs.
- Planning, design and implementation of virtual simulation exercises to validate contingency plans and standardized operational procedures.
- Development of a virtual course to further strengthen capacities in the region.

HONDURAS

- From 2021 to 2023 a **Contingency Plan and the Standardized Operational Procedures (SOP)** were drafted by Honduras Customs in coordination with other government agencies (Permanent Commission for Contingencies-COPECO, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Agro Food Safety- SENASA, Health Agency-ARSA, Secretary of Finance_ SEFIN) with the support of the IDB.
- The virtual **simulation exercise** – a hurricane - to test the Contingency Plan and SOP was conducted on June 29 2023, with the participation of the Red Cross from Honduras and World Food Program from UN as evaluators.
- As a result of the simulation exercise the following **recommendations** were identified:
 - To introduce some adjustments to the Contingency Plan and SOP (ongoing) for final internal approval by Customs.
 - A recommendation for COPECO to finish the review of the operational regulation for Honduras and its submission for approval of Congress.
 - The need for further training for customs and other agencies about the SOP and its application.
 - A presentation of the SOPs to the humanitarian community is scheduled for Oct 2023.

CHILE

- From 2021 to 2023 a **Contingency Plan and the Standardized Operational Procedures (SOP)** were drafted by Chilean Customs in coordination with other government agencies (National Service of Prevention and Response for Disasters (SENAPRED), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Phyto zoo sanitary Agency, Institute of Public Health and other agencies such as the Police, Carabineros, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Finance_Single Window Agency _SICEX, Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of Transport, amongs others) with the support of the IDB.
- The **virtual simulation exercise** – an earthquake - to test the Contingency Plan and SOP was conducted on August 25 2023.
- As a result of the simulation exercise the following **recommendations** were identified:
 - To make minor adjustments to the SOP (ongoing) for final formal approval by Customs and other agencies.
 - To strengthen interagency coordination by the creation of a committee or working group for the coordination of international humanitarian aid, including humanitarian organizations agencies.
 - The need for further training and dissemination for Customs and other agencies about the SOP and its application.

LESSONS LEARNED

- **High exposure.** Since 2000, 3 of every 10 inhabitants of the LAC region have suffered from a hurricane, an earthquake, drought, landslides or volcanoes.
- **Room for improvement.** Despite all the preparedness work, there is still a lot of work to do for Customs agencies and border agencies to develop and strengthen their contingency plans and standardized operational procedures to facilitate the entry of critical goods.
- **Coordination is key.** It is always important and necessary to establish a coordinated border management approach, specially during a disaster.
- **Update rules and processes.** Efforts are needed to update national frameworks and to comply and adopt international conventions. The involvement of other government agencies is necessary. Customs and border agencies need to continue updating and validating their contingency plans and standardized operational procedures to keep them relevant. Simulations and table top exercises should be conducted regularly.
- **Regional approaches.** It is also important to generate harmonized regional instruments in order to facilitate the entry of goods in cases of emergencies and disasters.
- **Dissemination of contingency plans.** These procedures should be communicated to the international humanitarian assistant community – including training -, and to the private sector since they are also critical actors during a disaster and emergency.



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