



Call for Papers
Natural Disasters in Latin America: Welfare Impacts and Solutions
January, 2010
Mexico City

The Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS) and UIA are jointly organizing the conference “Natural Disasters in Latin America: Welfare Impacts and Solutions”. The main objectives of the conference are to improve the understanding of (i) how natural disasters affect household welfare, and (ii) how policy-makers can overcome the behavioral, political, technical, and operative hurdles involved in disaster risk preventive interventions.

While the adverse impacts of natural disasters on consumption, nutrition, health and schooling are becoming increasingly well documented, there is still some way to go before fully grasping the channels through which these outcomes get affected. Having a clearer understanding of the mechanisms at work would allow policy-makers to target the right incentives and activities in their pre and post disaster policies. Another knowledge gap that remains is the long-term impacts on human capital, but the increasing availability of long panel data sets in the region makes this no longer an obvious limitation. Even without fully understanding the channels and extent to which a disaster can leave permanent scars on its victims, it has been commonly asserted that disaster prevention pays off. Yet politicians may not be willing to invest in preventive measures upfront and wait for their successor to reap the benefits. Civil protection authorities may be eager to become more proactive, but struggle to bring in relevant actors (finance ministries) or adapt traditional anti-poverty mechanisms (safety nets) into this agenda.

The articles in this issue are intended to answer the following questions: What are the *mechanisms* through which households experience welfare losses from natural disasters? What are the long-term impacts of natural disasters? What is the impact on human capital of successive natural disasters? What institutional, governance and legal arrangements facilitate the adoption of disaster preventive measures? To what extent can existing safety nets protect households from natural disasters, and how can preventive measures be embedded into their functioning? How can explicit linkages be made between preventive measures against natural disasters and more traditional relief and anti-poverty efforts? What is the role of public information systems in preventing, handling and appraising the impact of natural disasters? Preference will be given to papers that have a robust methodological approach and bring new evidence into the field.

After a peer review, selected articles will be published in *Well-being and Social Policy*, an academic publication jointly coordinated by the CISS/UIA published in both, English and Spanish. The journal, currently listed in journal indexes, is widely distributed in the American Continent among policy-makers, researchers and students interested in the field. For more information on the journal and its contents, see <http://well-being.ciss.org.mx/>

Organizers will pay airline tickets in economy class, meals, and lodging during the conference for those submitting successfully for the conference and committing to publish the paper in the journal if being finally accepted. Proposals should be sent to the members of the Organizing Committee to the email bienestar.politicasocial@gmail.com

Key dates:

Deadline for submission	December 14, 2009
Acceptance decision	January 11, 2010
Conference	Second half of January 2010 (date tbc)
Last version of papers	March 15, 2010

Organizing Committee:

President: Alejandro de la Fuente, Guest Editor, World Bank
Rodolfo de la Torre, Editor, UNDP Mexico
Eduardo Rodríguez-Oreggia, Associate Editor, EGAP ITESM CEM
Nelly Aguilera, Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies
Pablos Cotler, Universidad Iberoamericana

Submit to: bienestar.politicasocial@gmail.com