

and nutrition, and vector sprawl due to temperature and rainfall variability, represents a significant threat to the population's health.

Concerning the risk prevention systems, the local EWS are rudimentary and inefficient, mainly based on improvised evacuation mechanisms and poor information. There are shortcomings in communication, climatic and hazards monitoring, digital tools to generate alerts and forecasts, and interconnection with early warning regional and international systems. The loss of ancient practices and knowledge, such as understanding the 'signs of nature' (like animals' behaviours, wind movements, etc.) in preparation for a potential disaster/emergency, affects the most isolated populations' survival possibilities.

Finally, the gender analysis specifically elaborated to inform NIC-ALERT design shows that the situation for women and youth is particularly concerned. Both groups are key stakeholders in risk management and climate change adaptation, but 'adulthood' and patriarchal culture adding to exclusion and structural poverty deny their real participation. The denial further degrades their living conditions while forcing them to leave the community, particularly for youth given sharply reduced opportunities. Individualism and division negatively affect social networks indispensable for intra-community protection, leadership and participation in endogenous development processes. This situation leads to a vicious cycle of poverty and violence, affecting especially women, people with disabilities and children. The risks of sexual violence against women, girls and boys in local communities are very high, where cases of rape and violence are reported.

Another conclusion from the diagnosis carried out in preparation of NIC-ALERT is the high risk of conflict in the prioritised regions, with their challenging security context, e.g. drug and human trafficking, passage through indigenous territories, extraction of natural resources, interethnic and intracommunity conflicts, loss of cultural traditions and social division, corruption and weakening of the traditional leaderships. In this regard, the action has developed a strategy for mitigation and resolution of conflict risk and peace building that would be part of the intervention strategy.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

- Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities of the Caribbean, represented by their legitimate authorities and community structures, are right holders and basic stakeholders for the design and implementation of the action according to an endogenous development model.
- Indigenous and Afro-descendant territorial and communal governments as legitimate governance structures.
- National, regional and municipal authorities, namely the National Disaster Risk Management Agency (SINAPRED), National Institute for Territorial Studies (INETER), Ministry of Health (MINSAL), Ministry of Family, Youth and Children (MIFAM), Ministry of Education (MINED) and others as part of public institutions.
- Regional, Municipal and Local Committees for disaster prevention (COREPRED, COMUPRED, COLOPRED and COCOPRED) as the main risk management coordination mechanisms.
- International and national CSOs, NGOs and the private sector as possible organisations to support the implementation of specific activities and interventions.
- Women and youth organisations, people with disabilities organisations, and those working in the prioritised geographic areas.
- National and international academic and research centres as necessary partners for the implementation.
- International organisations: MSs, bilateral cooperation agencies (the United States Agency for International Development – USAID, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC), and United Nations (UN) agencies, as part of the international community and delegated entities for the implementation, particularly UNICEF and LuxDev.
- The European Union - the action complements its humanitarian and DP initiatives in the targeted areas. To note that two DP actions are ongoing with a focus on communities of Bilwi, Waspam and Prinzapolka, aiming to strengthen the preparedness and response capacities of communities and local structures of SINAPRED that are being implemented by the Spanish Red Cross/Nicaraguan Red Cross and UNICEF allowing to complement information for the baseline of this proposed action. Additionally, synergies will be sought with a DP action implemented by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the German Red Cross funded by the European Union to set up early action mechanisms for floods, drought and volcanic eruptions at National Level.