

**There is a lot happening to increase resilience in Guatemala,
but little known by the different actors**

This was one of the conclusions made by Partners for Resilience Guatemala, after their two-day event *Days for Resilience*, that took place past February 27th and 28th in Guatemala City. The event, in which civil society, academy, government institutions and private sector were present, offered a space where the different actors could get together and talk about resilience, share work and experiences and look for possible collaborations.

Days for Resilience consisted of three parts, during the first part the academic sector presented their work on Disaster Risk Management since 2007 up until their most recent effort, the creation of the Guatemalan Inter-University Platform for Disaster Risk Management – InterU-GRD (for its acronym in Spanish) in 2017. The second part was about the challenges government entities encounter during implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). And the third part was a space both for private sector and civil society to talk about the importance of their collaboration on resilience and present their activities.

The academic sector started in 2007 to study threats and since 2013, they have implemented more than 60 projects on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation within the three main functions of the universities: teaching, research and extension. In 2008, Guatemala's State University of San Carlos opened their Centre for Studies on Safe Development and Disasters, [CEDESYD](#) (for its acronym in Spanish) the first one in Guatemala and Central America. Private universities address issues related to Disaster Risk Management through social responsibility offices or research centres. In 2016, the Central American University Superior Council, [CSUCA](#) (for its acronym in Spanish) and the Coordination Centre for Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic, [CEPREDENAC](#) (for its acronym in Spanish) launched the [Central American University Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) based on the [Central American Policy on Disaster Risk Management](#) and the Sendai Framework.

The private sector has been active in Disaster Risk projects for the last couple of years, through the Action Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility in Guatemala, [CentraRSE](#) (for its acronym in Spanish) with more than 100 associated companies from agroindustry, sugar, banana and African palm sector, among others. They are now working on a new project to involve small and medium enterprises in Integrated Risk Management, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Adaptation. Civil society, represented by the Citizen Convergence for Risk Management [COCIGER](#) (for its acronym in Spanish) integrated by seven civil society organizations and two universities, presented their work in advocacy, transformation and citizen participation on the causes of vulnerability in urban and rural communities as well as community strengthening for risk management.

All actors involved during *Days for Resilience*, agreed that there has to be more interaction between them to strengthen knowledge and join efforts in their work on increasing resilience. According to Leonel Galán, director of the Risk Management Unit of Guatemala's Civil Protection [SE-CONRED](#), "*we have to keep having these Days for Resilience to strengthen our knowledge on risk reduction and work jointly on the Sendai Framework for a country that really needs to reduce disaster risks.*"

For more information on *Days for Resilience* visit [Alianza por la Resiliencia – Partners for Resilience Guatemala](#).