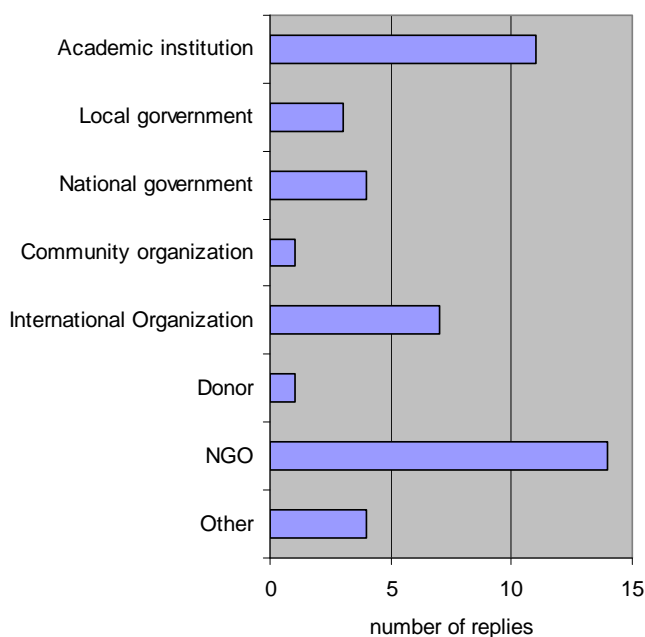


PROVENTION CONSORTIUM FORUM 2008 – EVALUATION

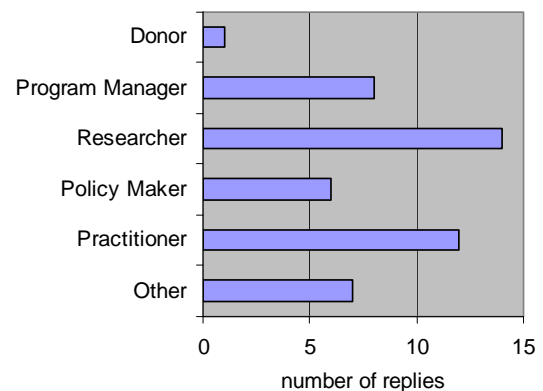
The 2008 Forum, which was held in Panama City on April 8-10, 2008, brought together 171 partners from Panama, the Americas and the globe. Most participants came from international organizations (including IFIs and bilateral donors), civil society, and academic institutions and attended the Forum to network and/or learn more about DRR. This year a special effort was made to increase participation of certain constituencies including national and local government and grassroots representatives. A good balance of about one in two participants is currently involved in ProVention activities.

An evaluation form was given to all participants at the start of the conference. Out of 171 participants, 41 (24%) returned the evaluation form¹. Their replies are summarized below. Overall, the feedback collected was very positive and provided useful suggestions for the next ProVention Forum.

What type of organization do you work for?

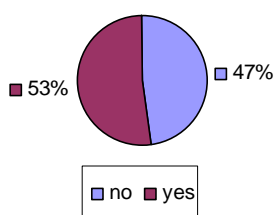


What do you consider to be your role in disaster risk reduction?

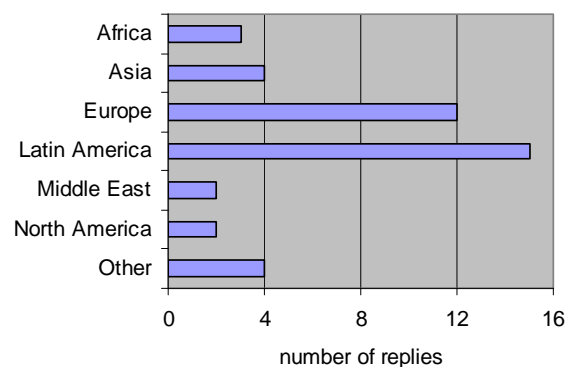


Other: consultant; advisor; change agent; media development; communicator; educator

Are you currently directly involved in any ProVention project activities?



In which region of the world are you currently based?

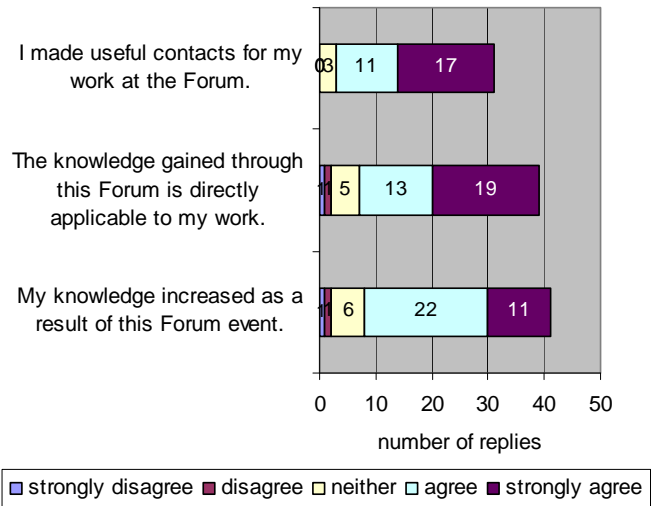
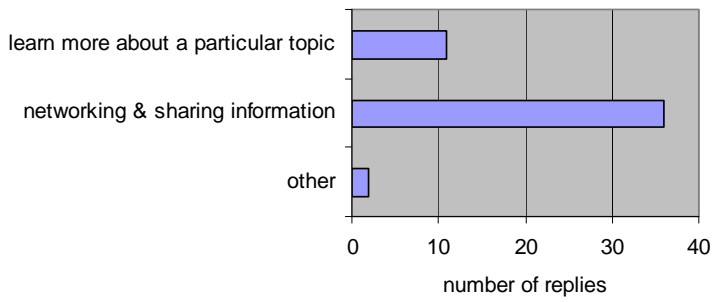


Other: Caribbean; Global

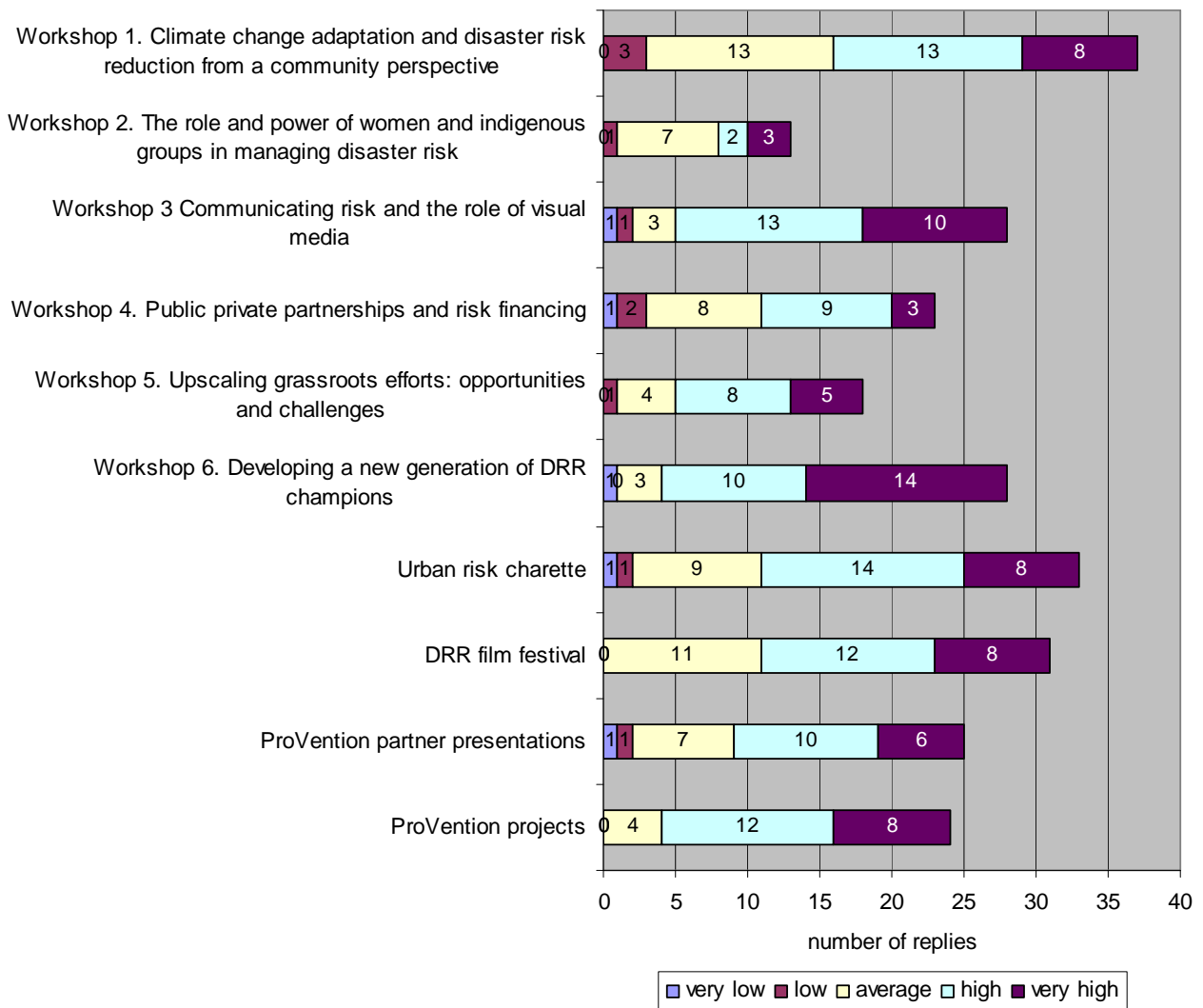
¹ Some participants chose several options for certain questions, some did not answer certain questions, thus total is not always 100%.

Knowledge and contacts

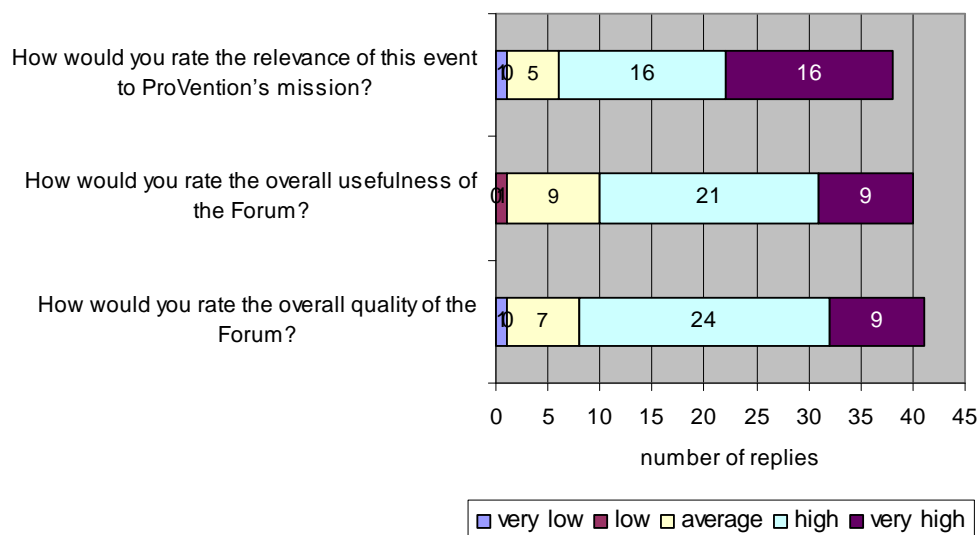
What is your primary reason for attending this Forum?



Evaluation of Forum sessions



Quality, usefulness and relevance of the Forum



What knowledge acquired from the Forum will you now apply in your work?

- DRR & Climate change adaptation (9 participants, i.e. 22%)
- Networking (4 participants, i.e. 10%)
- Urban risk reduction and its bigger picture (2 participants, i.e. 5%)
- Other: DRR school programs, indicators, vulnerability and capacity assessment, insurance, community-based DRR, Harbin Alliance, innovative communication strategies (video), etc.

What type of support or additional resources would you need to apply the newly acquired knowledge?

- Funding/Financing (7 participants, i.e. 17%)
- Training in DRR; mentoring, opportunities for study & employment (5 participants, 12%)
- Networking (4 participants, i.e. 10%)
- Video equipment (4 participants, i.e. 10%)
- Computer, communications & internet (3 participants, i.e. 7%)
- Technical support (2 participants, i.e. 5%)
- Other: peer review, cross-regional knowledge sharing, fieldwork, space for coordination with local decision makers (local governments), practical exchanges, access to effective and professional local organizations, community-based applications for insurance mechanisms, detailed and reliable information on DRR, translation of documents, copies of films from DRR film festival, regional meeting (Eurasia), skilled volunteers, etc.

What worked best in this event?

- Charrette (10 participants, i.e. 24%)
- Workshops in general (7 participants, i.e. 17%)
- Networking (6 participants, i.e. 15%)
- DRR Film Festival (5 participants, i.e. 12%)
- Organization (3 participants, i.e. 7%)
- Workshop 3 - Community risk & role of visual media (2 participants, i.e. 5%)
- Structure of the Forum (2 participants, i.e. 5%)
- Selection of participants (2 participants, i.e. 5%)
- Exchanging information and experiences (2 participants, i.e. 5%)
- Everything (2 participants, i.e. 5%)
- Other: ProVention presentations, informal style, social event, time schedule, Gustavo Wilches-Chaux's keynote speech, Alvaro Uribe's presentation, capacity building, etc.

What sessions were most effective for networking?

- Lunch / breakfast / coffee breaks (16 participants, i.e. 39%)
- Charrette (7 participants, i.e. 17%)
- Social events: cocktail and Miraflores (6 participants, i.e. 15%)
- Workshop 1 - CCA and DRR from a community perspective (5 participants, i.e. 12%)
- Workshops in general (4 participants, i.e. 10%)
- DRR Film Festival (3 participants, i.e. 7%)
- Workshop 6 - Developing a new generation of DRR champions (3 participants, i.e. 7%)
- Everything (2 participants, i.e. 5%)
- Other: small group work, La Red meeting prior to the Forum, plenary meetings, exhibit, workshops, public and private exchanges/talks, etc.

What would you recommend to improve this Forum and other ProVention events in the future?

Agenda

- Hold less parallel sessions
- Define more clearly the objectives and desired outcomes for each session
- Groups are too large and time too short to come up with good recommendations, discussions had to be cut short in some instances
- Less purely descriptive presentations and more interactive sessions
- More time could be allocated to main forum theme
- More case studies from each region
- Hold poster sessions to learn about other activities
- Host some practical trainings

Field visits

- Consider location that would allow 1-2 day field trips before start of conference
- More targeted instructions before field visits and shorter charrette reporting
- Charrette was very useful but needs better structuring and more feedback on feedback

Participation

- Greater participation of academic, research, technical & political sector
- More government representatives
- Invite more contributors who are not members of the choir, invite the vulnerable, popular local figures, local business leaders, families
- Limit some individuals dominating sessions, to encourage more inclusive debates, more participation
- Provide clear instructions to speakers to ensure they address issues and reduce self-serving messages and presentations
- Some recommendations that may emerge may not be entirely reflective of discussions & participation
- Some conceptual frameworks presented by facilitators almost suggest a pre-set research agenda, not reflective or capturing discussions

Timing & logistics

- Better time management (stricter time keeping)
- Plan more time for the different activities
- Preliminary agenda to be more user-friendly (include timetable)
- Improve logistics and inform participants better
- Although it can take time, hold a session for self-presentation to the group
- Disability access was poor, bus access & stairs to rooms (provide ramps)
- Better food

Do you have any suggestions for new joint initiatives that have emerged from the Forum?

New generation/youth

- Create opportunities for emerging researchers and other young people
- Promote new youth meetings and youth networks
- Investigate opportunities with UNICEF
- Bring young people's voices to each other and to decision makers
- Development of DRR with the new generation

Regional focus

- Organize fora per regions
- Make fora with regional focus to optimize conclusions; there is a lot of dispersion and heterogeneity at international level
- More experiences from regions
- Region specific approaches to CCA & DRR co-analysis
- Pursue involvement of local governments in such events
- Ensure greater participation of decision makers and local authorities & national governments

Other suggestions

- Forum focused on tools & instruments of changing top-down model + how to build effective partnerships at the national/international/local levels
- Partnering to create stronger linkages between community based organizations and the more formal institutions for DRR
- DRR&DRM South Pacific SIDS (Small Island Developing States) & Caribbean SIDS cross-fertilization; examine adaptive capacities for governance/policy/plans in SIDS with regards to climate change; because climate change issues cannot be precisely translated into planning & legislation governments have to have flexibility & agility around livelihoods / responses