

Overview

752 participants from 25 countries and organizations representing the Colombian national disaster risk management system, as well as the district level of Bogotá, the Humanitarian Country Team, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team and its partners, and a total of 30 national and international Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams, and 21 national and international Emergency Medical Teams (EMT), gathered for the Americas SIMEX 2016, the regional earthquake response exercise, in Bogota, Colombia, from the 26 until the 30 September 2016.

The exercise was hosted by the Government of Colombia through the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (Unidad Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres), and jointly organized with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in its capacity as Secretariat of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), and with dedicated support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Visual Summary



RDC established at CATAM Military Airport



National government crisis room was activated for the exercise



Virtual Reality technology used for wide area assessment by the USAR teams (ASR1)



Augmented (virtual) reality scenarios used to enhance the participants' experience



Use of KoBoToolbox throughout the entire exercise by USAR teams and the coordination structure



Debrief meeting by the exercise control group with USAR teams



Scale city model used to practice sectorisation

2.5 days of preparatory awareness and training sessions



Opening Ceremony



Plenary sessions



USAR Teams training sessions



UNDAC team training session



UCC training session



USAR team guided Field Visit



Preparatory session for the National Disaster Risk management system



Training of the National Onsite coordination center (CCOS)



EMT training : practical coordination exercise



EMT training : experience sharing

2.5 days of simulation



National Crisis room in action



Immigration process of international teams



Setting up of the Reception (and Departure) Center (RDC)



EMTs in their planning phase



Coordination between the UNDAC team and the National Onsite coordination center (CCOS)



USAR teams in their Base of Operation (BoO)



CICOM (EMTCC) in action



Humanitarian Country Team in action



USAR coordination meeting by UCC

Participants and exercise control group



Official Group photo



Exercise control and coordination group