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'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'



Promotion and strengthening of territorial processes in children. The case of Chaitén, Chile

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On May 2, 2008 Chile experienced the eruption of Chaitén Volcano located in Chaitén, Los Lagos region. The eruption and subsequent overflow of the Blanco River destroyed the city. Public actions for the evacuation and the subsequent return of inhabitants disrupted the social systems and the quotidian relationships. With this context, a research has been conducted under the participatory-action-research perspective (PAR), whose main focus was to build up (together with the educational community of Chaitén), knowledge about the socio-natural risks from the dialogue between the scientific and local knowledge. Between 2012 and 2013 the research team worked together with local schoolteachers as well as primary and secondary students, from 10 to 16 years old, using techniques such as participatory workshop, brainstorming, diagnoses workshop and maps, among others.

The research, proposed and developed by an interdisciplinary team of the Vulnerabilities and Socio-Natural Disaster Research Centre (CIVDES) from Universidad de Chile, is a strategy seeking to promote and strengthen the territoriality processes in children who have faced territorial changes as a result of socio-natural disasters. In this particular case, the eruption of Chaitén volcano.