



Disaster Preparedness

Guatemala and El Salvador

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Overview

Residents of Guatemala and El Salvador are highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and hurricanes. In Guatemala City alone, more than 800,000 people are considered at high risk to landslides. Deforestation, high population density and climate change also contribute to the widespread vulnerability to landslides and flood-related disasters.

With funding from Taiwan, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is implementing a project to increase the resilience of 5,000 vulnerable residents in the municipality of Mixco, northwest of Guatemala City. PADF has developed the project "Yo Me Preparo" (I'm Getting Ready) to bring together stakeholders from informal hillside settlements that are vulnerable to floods and landslides, along with universities, public disaster response agencies and the private sector. The goal is to encourage Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), mitigate disaster risk and increase community resilience.

Objectives

- Strengthen organization and information sharing capabilities among stakeholders
- Increase the knowledge, skills and resources of communities to prepare for and respond to floods and landslides
- Improve physical resilience to geological and hydrometeorological hazards



Expected Results

- 5,000 residents benefit from geological and hydrometeorological project activities
- 400 community members demonstrate basic disaster preparedness skills and knowledge
- 30 community members complete disaster preparedness, response and mitigation trainings
- 2 disaster response committees are organized, trained, and equipped and apply for accreditation as Local Coordinators for Disaster Reduction (COLREDs)
- 2 communities develop Vulnerability Risk Assessments (VRAs) and understand opportunities to mitigate risk; Community Contingency Plans (CPs) that articulate local disaster preparations and response protocols; and geographic information system (GIS) hazard maps to inform local disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities and CCA priorities
- 2 national forums to exchange knowledge about DRR, urban planning, legal frameworks and experiences
- Design and implementation of small-scale disaster resilient infrastructure improvement projects to mitigate disaster risk
- Strengthening of Early Warning Systems (EWS)
- 30 DRR and CCA stakeholders in El Salvador acquire best practices for employing a neighborhood-based DRR approach
- 3 neighborhood-based DRR project initiatives are developed and documented as a result of a regional capstone conference



Partners

The “Yo Me Preparo” (I’m Getting Ready) Project, part of PADF’s broader Regional Disaster Assistance and Reconstruction Program, is made possible through the support of Taiwan. PADF is carrying out this project with additional support and collaboration from the Guatemala National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) and the Municipality of Mixco.

About PADF

The Pan American Development Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, brings together many stakeholders to improve livelihoods, empower communities, strengthen civil society, support human rights, protect the environment and respond to natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Established by the Organization of American States in 1962, PADF has worked in every country in the region. In the last decade, PADF has reached more than 92 million people, investing more than \$600 million in development resources throughout the region.

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