



Ecuador

KEY PRIORITIES RELATED TO DRM IN THE COUNTRY

The Government of Ecuador is beginning to shift its DRM focus from emergency response towards understanding and reducing the country's vulnerability to disaster. This trend is due in part to the leadership and example set by the municipality of Quito, Ecuador's capital city, in developing a comprehensive vision and plan for DRM that prioritizes: (i) strengthening compliance with codes

and building standards in order to reduce vulnerability of the built environment; (ii) reducing the social and economic vulnerability of people living in high risk zones; and (iii) strengthening the institutional capacity for DRM both in the public and private sectors, including raising awareness and preparedness of leaders and the community in general.

GFDRR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

GFDRR engagement in Ecuador began in 2008 in response to the municipality of Quito's interest in developing a disaster risk reduction (DRR) program. As a result, GFDRR has assisted Quito with: (i) understanding risks (ii) developing DRM and climate change adaptation policies in relation to building codes, land use and urban planning (iii) resource mobilization and (iv) cost-benefit analysis of investments in DRM. This engagement has engendered efforts in addressing cost-benefit analyses

of vulnerability reduction initiatives in schools as well. To support Quito and the Government, GFDRR has hired a full-time specialist to provide on-going technical assistance to the new DRM initiatives. These activities have provided a space to coordinate activities with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). GFDRR has also supported regional platforms to facilitate knowledge sharing.

LOOKING AHEAD

At the national level, GFDRR intends to support the government's efforts to design and implement a national system for DRM that takes a proactive rather than reactive approach. New institutional arrangements will need an effective regulatory and legislative framework to work within. At the local level, GFDRR intends to

assist additional municipalities, like Cuenca (a regional capital city), in achieving their goals of being a safe and sustainable city. GFDRR also intends to support city-to-city exchanges on DRM within Ecuador. An Andean regional project is also in the pipeline to support regional dialogue on DRM.

Background

CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER RISK PROFILE

Ecuador suffers from extreme vulnerability and high exposure to natural hazards, which have negatively affected the economy. Approximately 96% of the population lives in coastal and mountainous regions that are exposed to seismic, volcanic, flood, landslide and El Niño hazards. Flooding mainly affects the coastal zone, while volcanic eruptions affect the central zone. Drought has been recorded in some provinces in the northern coastal and central regions. Frequent landslides affect urban areas and infrastructure.

Poor land use planning in urban areas that led to the increase of inadequate settlement locations, environmental degradation of river basins, farmland expansion and inferior building standards. All these factors contributed to the high levels of vulnerability.

The impacts of different climate change scenarios have been analyzed for Ecuador. For example: (i) a temperature increase of 2°C and a precipitation decrease of 15% would lead to agricultural shortages; and (ii) a temperature increase of 1°C and an increase in precipitation of 20% would severely affect fisheries and agriculture production as a result of increased flood risk.

GFDRR ENGAGEMENT

Source of Funding	SDTF (Spain), MDTF
Resources Awarded	US\$1,127,000
Resources Disbursed	US\$921,000
Number of projects	Ongoing: 2; Completed: 1

KEY INDICATORS

DRR Index¹	WDI: 4.75/5 DRI Class: 5/7
Income Group	Upper-Middle
Population	14.7 million
GDP	US\$4,569/capita
Poverty	33% of population
Urban Population	67% of total

DRM/CCA IN POLICY PAPERS

(as assessed by the DRM specialist)

Mainstreaming:	Low	High
PRSP		
WB-CAS		
UNDAF		
EU-CSP		
NAPA		

NATIONAL PLATFORM

National Secretariat for Disaster Risk Management (SNGR).
Formal platform declared to United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Ecuador's 2008 Constitution covers the mainstreaming of DRM in national development. Specific DRM law and its bylaws are under discussion and before submission to the National Assembly for approval. At the local level, the Territorial Organizational Code for Autonomy and Decentralization (2010) provides an extensive overview of the responsibilities of each municipality in relation to DRM.

1. The World Development Indicators (WDI) Disaster Risk Reduction progress score is an average of self-assessment scores, ranging from 1 to 5, submitted by countries under Priority 1 of the Hyogo Framework National Progress Reports (1-5 scale; 5=best). The Disaster Risk Index (DRI) is a mortality-based index developed in order to enable comparisons of countries hit by different hazard types (7 classes; 7=high mortality).

GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

National Services	Secretariat of Disaster Risk Management (SNGR), Ministry of Planning and Development, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Agriculture
International Organizations	World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), World Food Programme (WFP), European Union (EU), ECHO, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, AECID)
Regional Organizations	Andean Community (AC), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
NGOs/CSOs	Plan International
GFDRR Donors	European Union (EU), Spain

Project

Description

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2014

Disaster Risk Reduction Program for Quito Municipality

GFDRR US\$927,000 | Start Date: 2008 (Ongoing)



This program aids efforts to create a methodology for implementing a “culture of prevention” that holistically addresses urban risk prevention and reduction, including: natural and technological risks, crime and violence, and road safety issues. Outputs to date include: (i) improved institutional and technical capabilities in order to develop an integrated culture of safety; (ii) a unified risk information system utilized in water, sanitation, health, education, housing, and transportation sectors; (iii) contingency plans for floods and landslides in eight administrative zones; (iv) a simulation exercise with the Emergency Operations Center for Quito Municipality; and (v) DRM awareness campaigns. By the end of the year, a risk assessment report on seismic micro-zonification for the Quito Metropolitan District will also be completed.

City-to-City Sharing Initiative for Developing Countries*

US\$495,000 for 3 countries | 2010–2012 (Completed)



This initiative facilitated peer learning among city government executives and officers of the most vulnerable cities in the developing world, including Makati, (Philippines), Kathmandu (Nepal) and Quito (Ecuador). The project also supported technical and institutional capacity-building efforts of city officials, managers and professionals in critical areas such as earthquake hazard and vulnerability awareness, safe building technologies, community preparedness, land use planning and local-level disaster management.

Furthering DRM Dialogue at the Municipal Level in Ecuador

US\$200,000 | Start Date: 2014 (Ongoing)



This program aims to strengthen the dialogue between the World Bank and the Government of Ecuador to develop long-term partnerships for disaster risk management in two municipalities: Quito and Cuenca. This includes incorporating risk assessments and hazard models for decision-making at the municipal level and prioritizing strategies for risk reduction based on the findings of the assessments.

*. Multi-country activity. Not included in GFDRR engagement figures on page 2.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

IADB	The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) supports the Technical Secretariat for Risk Management in Ecuador. It also supports landslide and flood risk mitigation efforts in Quito.
UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports capacity-building activities for communication, land planning and policy development.
EU	The European Union (EU) through its Disaster Preparedness Program of the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (DIPECHO), along with UNDP and GFDRR, supports the implementation of risk reduction programs in two of the poorest neighborhoods in Quito.
World Bank	<p>Environmental Management Ecuador Project: Supports the Government in its efforts to improve and strengthen management of key resources and critical ecosystems by filling critical information gaps in priority areas and facilitating knowledge exchanges.</p> <p>Adaptation to the Impact of Rapid Glacier Retreat in the Tropical Andes Project: Contributes to the strengthening of the resilience of local ecosystems and economies against the impacts of glacier retreat in the tropical Andes through the implementation of specific pilot adaptation activities that illustrate the costs and benefits of adaptation.</p>