



Guatemala

KEY PRIORITIES RELATED TO DRM IN THE COUNTRY

Over the past 10 years, the Government of Guatemala succeeded in mainstreaming DRM into national development plans and legal frameworks, as well as establishing formal inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms. The major challenge remains implementing its National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2012-2017), which includes the following priorities: improving risk assessment to inform DRM policy-making, national and local capabilities for DRM and emergency management, risk prevention and mitigation including climate

change and adaptation; strengthening post-disaster programs to assist people recover their social and economic well-being, and developing risk financing and insurance mechanisms. To achieve these goals, the Government will need to disseminate and enforce building standards and construction codes, improve land use planning at the municipal level, improve tracking systems for DRM investments, and evaluate contingent liability generated by natural hazards.

GFDRR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Since 2008, GFDRR has assisted the Government strengthen its capacity to understand disaster risk and minimize risk at the local and national levels. With GFDRR assistance, the Government identified disaster risks in four river basins covering 32 municipalities and 199 human settlements, which resulted in land use and urban zoning plans for 12 municipalities. The National System for Territorial Planning now addresses disaster risk. National building standards have been developed. Four municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala adopted national building standards and transferred responsibility of adhering to norms to structural designers and contractors. GFDRR's post-disaster support to the Government during the 2010 Agatha and Mt. Pacaya events and the 2012 7.2 earthquake helped the Government continue to improve its ability to assess the impact of disasters, quickly respond, and further integrate risk reduction into both its reconstruction and long-term development agenda. As part of developing a risk financing strategy, in 2010 a Development Policy Loan

with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (CAT DDO) was approved for Guatemala. This is linked to the country's commitment to pursue the implementation of national agendas for disaster risk reduction and management. The loan was fully disbursed in 2010 as a consequence of the simultaneous impact of the Agatha and Mt. Pacaya events. In addition, to strengthen the resilience and recovery capacity of farmers subject to drought, the Government with GFDRR's assistance is developing its agricultural insurance markets to help transfer catastrophic drought risk and provide support to small vulnerable farmers. Achievements to date include: the technical design for agricultural databases, which is needed to create insurance mechanisms; a draft strategic plan and manual of operations for the Agriculture Insurance Committee; training in agriculture risk management and curriculum for future implementation; and an analysis of technical options for the design of a rainfall index contract to cover drought events.

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the next three years, GFDRR intends to assist the Government implement the proposed National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2012-2017) and achieve the DRM objectives of the new Country Partnership Strategy for 2013-2016 by helping the Government to: (i) improve and systematize the use of disaster risk information for public investments and

land use planning; (ii) develop and implement a sustainable national Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) strategy, including the development of agriculture insurance markets; and (iii) contribute to preventative planning in cities exposed to annual floods and landslides in a manner that integrates both Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and DRM considerations.

Background

CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER RISK PROFILE

Guatemala has been severely affected by natural hazards including earthquakes, volcanic activity, floods, hurricanes, storms, and landslides. The 1976 earthquake created the greatest human and economic losses to date, killing over 23,000 people and decreasing GDP by 23%. Other disasters include: Hurricane Mitch in 1988, with damage equivalent to 4.7% of GDP; 2001 drought (0.1% GDP), Hurricane Stan in 2005 (4.1% GDP), the eruption of Mt. Pacaya and the passing of Tropical Storm Agatha in May 2010 (2.6% GDP combined), Tropical Storm E12 (0.81% GDP) and, most recently, the Sana Marcos earthquake in November 2012 (0.3% GDP)¹.

The vulnerability of Guatemala to natural hazards, external economic shocks, and violence, adversely affects both economic growth and the achievement of fairer social outcomes. In 2005, Hurricane Stan affected 20% of households and the majority of the low-income population. The volcanic eruption and the tropical storm events of 2010 also had devastating consequences in terms of loss of life and economic impact. Targeted social programs, even if modest, helped reduce the burden of these shocks on the poorest.

GFDRR ENGAGEMENT

Source of Funding	MDTF
Resources Awarded	US\$738,000
Resources Disbursed	US\$697,000
Number of projects	Ongoing: 2; Completed: 1

KEY INDICATORS

DRR Index²	WDI: 5/5 DRI Class: 6/7
Income Group	Lower-Middle
Population	14.8 million
GDP	US\$3,178/capita
Poverty	53.7% of population
Urban Population	50% of total

DRM/CCA IN POLICY PAPERS

(as assessed by the DRM specialist)

Mainstreaming:	Low	High
National Dvt.		
WB-CPS		
EU-CSP		

NATIONAL PLATFORM

The National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) is the leading agency for DRM. It operates as a coordinating mechanism providing a platform and the legal framework for inter-ministerial coordination in cases of emergency and disaster prevention. It is formally declared to UNISDR.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was approved in July 2011. Two instruments will guide its implementation: A National Strategy for DRR and an Action Plan, both in process of approval.

1. Ministry of Planning, 2012 Earthquake Damanage and Loss Evaluation.

2. The WDI Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) progress score is an average of self-assessment scores, ranging from 1 to 5, submitted by countries under Priority 1 of the Hyogo (Japan) 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	Ministry of Finance, Vice Presidency, National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), Secretariat of Planning and Programming for the Presidency (SEGEPLAN), Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA)
International Organizations	The World Bank, UNDP, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Regional Organizations	IADB, CABI, CEPREDENAC
NGOs/CSOs	CARE, Association of Guatemalan Earthquake Engineers (AGIES), Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), community leaders, private sector
GFDRR Donors	Brazil, EU, Japan, Spain, USA

Project

Description

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2014

Guatemala: 7.2 Earthquake Damage Assessment and Recovery Framework

US\$170,000 | Start date: 2012 (Ongoing)



Supports the Ministry of Planning (SEGEPLAN), Civil Protection (CONRED), Vice Presidency and Coordinator for Earthquake Reconstruction with damage and loss assessment and recovery planning after the November 7, 2012 earthquake. Outputs include: Damage and Loss Assessment (conducted with government ministries, Inter-American Development Bank, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean); engineering assessment of causes of earthquake damage (conducted by the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and the Association of Guatemala Earthquake Engineers (AGIES)), support to housing reconstruction program, establishment of a multi-sector seismic risk management committee (chaired by CONRED), and peer to peer learning with Colombian experts involved in earthquake recovery and land use planning.

Agriculture Insurance Market Development

US\$495,000 | Start date 2012 (Ongoing)



Support MAGA establish a strategic plan for an insurance market, as well as the technical design for agricultural databases, an analysis of technical options for the design of a rainfall index contract to cover drought events, and training.

Guatemala Damage and Loss Assessment

US\$73,000 | 2010-2011 (Completed)



Supported SEGEPLAN with assessing the damages and losses from two disasters to inform the recovery process. Outputs included (i) damage and loss assessment, and (ii) technical assistance to the government with its overall recovery effort.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

CABEI	The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) is supporting modernization of the National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH).
CEPREDENAC	As the regional DRM coordination agency, the Central American Centre for Natural Disaster Risk Management (CEPREDENAC) was awarded an Institutional Development Fund grant to help strengthen DRM in Central America. Guatemala has benefited from this grant through capacity building activities for the development of a manual to manage humanitarian aid in case of disasters
EU	The European Commission has run the Program for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Environmental Degradation.
IADB	Between 2009 and 2010, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) implemented two projects related to disaster risk management in Guatemala: (i) the development and application of a Central American Risk Assessment Platform (CAPRA) and (ii) the formulation of a national policy for risk reduction. It has also reallocated funds to support the 2012 earthquake reconstruction process.
Spain	Spain has provided financial support (through the Spanish Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean (SFLAC) for risk assessments in the region to CEPREDENAC, under the Central America Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative. In Guatemala, this initiative will support a CAPRA study on Guatemala City to estimate landslide and flood hazard impacts.
UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme provides institutional support to technical groups related to risk reduction and land use planning.
World Bank	Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (CAT DDO): The CAT DDO allowed the Government to quickly respond to the damages caused by the eruption of the Pacaya Volcano and the passing of tropical storm Agatha in May 2010. In June 2010, the Government disbursed the full balance of the CAT DDO to obtain liquidity and finance part of the reconstruction and other expenses, such as (i) expanding the country's meteorological, hydrometric, and seismic monitoring networks by 56%, 56%, and 29%, respectively, relative to the levels of February 2009 (ii) development of 12 municipal land-use plans that incorporate risk analyses (iii) and incorporating DRM considerations in new public investments and strengthening SEGEPLAN.