

PROVENTION CONSORTIUM

Community Risk Assessment  
and Action Planning Project

GUATEMALA Pilot – Final Report



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Participatory Disaster Risk Reduction Model

CRA Toolkit  
CASE STUDY

This case study is part of a broader ProVention Consortium initiative aimed at collecting and analyzing community risk assessment cases. For more information on this project, see [www.proventionconsortium.org](http://www.proventionconsortium.org).

**Bibliographical reference:** Emergency Capacity Building Project (ECB) *Participatory Disaster Risk Reduction Model; Guatemala Project- Final Report*. ECB (2007).

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<http://www.ecbproject.org/publications/ECB3/ECB%20Risk%20Reduction%20Pilot%20Report%20Guatemala.pdf>

Click-on reference to the **ReliefWeb country file for Guatemala:**

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc104?OpenForm&rc=2&cc=gtm>

**Note:**

A Guidance Note has been developed for this case study. It contains an abstract, analyzes the main findings of the study, provides contextual and strategic notes and highlights the main lessons learned from the case. The guidance note has been developed by Stephanie Bouris in close collaboration with the author(s) of the case study and the organization(s) involved.

# Emergency Capacity Building Project

A collaborative effort of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergency Capacity

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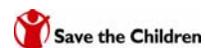
Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative



**Participatory Disaster Risk Reduction Model**

**Guatemala Pilot - Final Report**

**October 2007**



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## I. Introduction



This document is the final report of a pilot project undertaken in Guatemala from August 2005 through January 2007 by the Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative of the Emergency Capacity Building Project.

The Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Project is a collaborative effort of the seven agencies of the Inter-agency Working Group on Emergency Capacity: CARE International, Catholic Relief Services, the International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps, Oxfam GB, Save the Children, and World Vision International. These agencies and their partners are jointly addressing issues of staff capacity, accountability and impact measurement, risk reduction and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in emergencies, with the goal of improving the speed, quality and effectiveness of the humanitarian community in saving the lives, safeguarding the livelihoods and protecting the rights of people affected by emergencies. For further information, please visit [www.ecbproject.org](http://www.ecbproject.org) or email [info@ecbproject.org](mailto:info@ecbproject.org).

The goal of the ECB Project's Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative (ECB3) is to improve the capacity for disaster risk reduction among IWG agency staff, affected communities, and local and national authorities. ECB3 focuses on identifying and developing appropriate preventive models and promising practices for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the strengthening of community mobilization efforts in the prevention, mitigation, and preparedness to disasters. The Initiative also supports inter- and intra-agency cohesion and collaboration on risk reduction and building links with partners beyond the IWG agencies. ECB3 has supported the exploration of risk reduction models in three pilot countries - Ethiopia, Guatemala, and Indonesia - with the objective of helping communities reduce their vulnerability to disasters.

This report documents the experience of and the lessons learned from ECB3 in Guatemala, which piloted four DRR projects in four distinct geographic regions with different social contexts. Parallel reports from Ethiopia and Indonesia, along with an overview report drawing out common themes and insights, are available on the ECB website at [www.ecbproject.org](http://www.ecbproject.org).

Following this introduction, Section 2 documents the four pilot projects undertaken as part of the disaster risk reduction strategy and the project results. Section 3 details the project's work on Capacity Building, whilst Sections 4 and 5 describe the collaboration processes central to ECB3's work in Guatemala, both between the IWG agencies and with key external stakeholders. Section 6 outlines plans for future collaboration and lays out some next steps.

Lessons learned and promising project practices are highlighted in boxes throughout the report for ease of reference.

## 2. Pilot Projects



Four pilot projects were implemented by ECB agencies in Guatemala:

1. Strengthening Capacity for Risk Management and Emergency Response in Senahú, Alta Verapaz and Neighboring Communities (CARE and Mercy Corps)
2. Strengthening Risk Management at Local and Municipal Government Levels, Chiquimulilla, Santa Rosa (CRS)
3. Strengthening Capacity for Emergency Preparedness in the Nuevo Amanecer Slum (Oxfam)
4. Integrated Risk Management as a Tool for Disaster Reduction and Mitigation in Four Municipalities of the Department of Sololá (Mercy Corps)



**CARE – MC**

Strengthening Capacity for Risk Management and Emergency Response

**CRS:**

Strengthening Risk Management at Local and Municipal Government Levels

**MC – SC:**

Integrated Risk Management as a Tool for Disaster Reduction and Mitigation

**Oxfam GB:**

Strengthening Capacity for Emergency Preparedness

## 2.1 Strengthening Capacity for Risk Management and Emergency Response in Senahú, Alta Verapaz and Neighboring Communities (CARE and MC)

### Objectives

- Conduct community organization and training (Preparedness): Strengthen community organization (municipal and local levels) for prevention, mitigation and response to disaster risk.
- Implement vulnerability reduction activities (Mitigation): Reduce physical vulnerability of the community through structural and nonstructural mitigation measures.
- Strengthen the early warning system: Strengthen alert and alarm systems in the municipal capital of Senahú, A.V.

### Field Activities

This project supported activities to strengthen the organizational capacity of the population and its local structures. CARE and Mercy Corps were well received by the communities and municipal authorities. This was accomplished through consistent involvement of the local community and municipal organizations in all stages of project implementation.

The high level of commitment and participation from diverse groups (government, education, youth, volunteer, security, health) in the municipal capital of Senahú ensured equal representation and project sustainability. Special mention goes to the involvement of the Youth Association of Senahú, a group of active young men and women who work for the development and betterment of their community. This Association would be an effective coordinating body for monitoring and follow-up to the main deliverables of the project, such as the Emergency Plan, the Risk Management Plan, the COMRED and the early alert system for mud flows.

The results of the “Las Gallinas” bridge reinforcement project showed how a coordinated effort among different municipal stakeholders (private and public sector) can produce concrete results on behalf of the community. The coordination and planning for the reforestation activities involved a collaboration among community leaders, municipal authorities and project implementation organizations. Various fruit and timber tree species were identified along with different grass (Gramineae) species that will diminish not only the surface water run-off, but also will give greater support to the soil and rock outcroppings. These trees will protect unstable slopes as well as contribute to family income. The practice of participatory planning that engaged all of these stakeholders led to the success of the project.

Finally, most project activities intended to strengthen the early alert system for mudflows affirmed local organizational structures, such as the COCODÉs and COLREDs. Further, local organizations endorsed system maintenance, operation and activation, which helps guarantee its sustainability.

## 2.2 Strengthening Risk Management at Local and Municipal Government Levels, Chiquimulilla, Santa Rosa (CRS and the Santa Rosa de Lima Church)

### Objectives

- Advocate for and strengthen risk management capacity in two municipal governments and four communities by forming, training and strengthening response units and developing contingency plans.
- Install and establish operation of four community radio communication systems and four rudimentary flood early alert systems and establish a signage program in four communities at high risk of floods.
- Coordinate efforts with other organizations and educational institutions to establish social support networks and plans for information and public education campaigns on risk management.

### Field Activities

Catholic Social Outreach of Chiquimulilla assigned a special four-person team to help implement the project, including a project coordinator. The team organized tasks and community trainings, establishing radio communication bases and preparing, discussing and validating the municipal and local emergency plans. Additionally, CRS allocated a support team of three employees to complement the project implementation team. To a great extent, this coordinated practice has contributed to the large amount of community work accomplished and to the strengthening of organizational structures (COMRED, COLRED's and COCODES). The project advocated for disaster preparedness in three municipal governments and 30 communities.

The implementation team's respect and recognition of existing community organizations (COLRED's and COCODÉs) positively affected the level of acceptance from community stakeholders for the project. During the experience exchange with community and institutional stakeholders, the implementation team used risk management as the central concept to inform other development activities, such as water and sanitation. These models helped increase productivity and promote women's participation, guaranteeing community participation and receptivity to the project remained high.

The implementation team did confront some challenges over project acceptance and participation by the Chiquimulilla municipal authorities. As a result, the team decided to direct efforts and resources towards strengthening the community organizations, while also providing updates on project progress to the municipal authorities. This proved to be a positive alternative practice that reduced potential friction at the municipal level. It also harnessed the capacities of all relevant actors who demonstrated openness and eagerness to be involved in project activities.

The team identified institutions involved in disaster management and risk reduction in the three municipalities and carried out joint activities to elaborate, discuss and validate the Municipal Emergency Plan. Regardless of the limited support by the municipal authorities of Chiquimulilla, the executing team achieved a high-level of impact on inter-institutional coordination and on strengthening emergency preparedness capacity.

## 2.3 Strengthening Capacities in Emergency Preparedness in Nuevo Amanecer, Zone 21, Guatemala City (Oxfam, the Ecumenical Guatemalan Foundation Hope and Fraternity (ESFRA) and the Institute to Overcome Urban Misery (ISMU))

### Objectives

- Improve the organizational capacity of the residents of *Nuevo Amanecer* for disaster preparedness and response.
- Conduct five trainings (ESFRA and ISMU) with the community to teach them concepts, tools and skills for risk reduction and to develop a solid work strategy for disaster preparedness.

### Field Activities

The primary natural risks that affect *Nuevo Amanecer* are soil erosion caused by overflow of gully and pluvial water drainage canals, sudden/flash floods, landslides and mudflows, and seismic activity.

From the start, the ECB Project respected the existing community dynamic and organizational structures, focusing on strengthening community capacity to assume the role of Local Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction (COLRED), and take over activities related to local risk management at the end of the project. Oxfam's policy promoting partnerships with national counterparts for project implementation represented a double capacity building benefit for national organizations to coordinate future projects. Therefore, the strategic work alliance of Oxfam, ESFRA and ISMU allowed a team of 12 people to interact and experience processes of learning and joint implementation.

Participatory assessments introduced a more integrated vision of risk reduction and helped reinforce sector coordination and development of preparedness plans. Making risks and vulnerabilities more visible in an urban setting required working with communities and families, further promoting their participation in community organization, training and strengthening. Identifying local counterparts for strategic alliances facilitated the transfer of new tools and methodologies of community development work, including those related to risk management. Community development then becomes a base for resource management and mitigation work.

The formation of a subgroup allowed other key community actors to become involved in the risk management process. Teachers in particular were included due to their educational activities and abilities to influence the school's security planning and execution of drills. One challenge the project team faced while trying to make slum mitigation projects sustainable was the lack of public social assistance. To keep projects running or to maintain small structures and installed services depends more on individuals than on an organizational effort and the neighborhood committees have limited abilities to summon their members to participate in the risk studies and assessments.

## 2.4 Integrated Risk Management as a Tool for Disaster Reduction and Mitigation in Four Municipalities of the Department of Sololá (Mercy Corps)

### Objectives

- Promote a culture of integrated risk management in the three municipalities with project interventions (Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán, Nahualá, San Lucas Tolimán and Santiago Atitlán).
- Identify risk levels and use them to make preparedness and risk reduction plans.
- Establish criteria for local, municipal and departmental assistance.
- Identify and implement alert and alarm procedures and systems to facilitate a fast and efficient response in emergency, contingency and disaster situations.
- Systematize work processes, lessons learned and best practices.

### Field Activities

The respect and recognition given by the executor team to existing organizations in the community (COCODES and COMUDES) had a positive influence on the project results and strengthened community capacity. The project promoted participatory involvement of all actors in the intervention areas as well as joint efforts among the communities, municipal authorities and institutions working in risk reduction.

Establishing an integrated risk management process involved disseminating information, sharing knowledge, contributing resources, and coordinating activities. This work has allowed us to be leaders in this field. Within the consortium established by ECB, Save the Children greatly contributed to promoting the topic and participating in joint activities, such as evacuation plans, shelter management, simulations and drills, and emergency operations centers. For the training and orientation activities, the following institutions participated: Order of Malta, Red Cross of Santiago Atitlán, Integrated Community Development Association of Nahualá, Corn Growing Association, OXFAM, ADECAPS, CONIC, and USAC. One of the project's most important accomplishments was building the capacity of the health commission of the Municipal Coordinator (COMRED), so it can better work towards development and health issues within the COCODE.

The project team's experience and the particular characteristics of the intervention area that had just suffered a disaster of large magnitude (tropical storm Stan) added important value to the project, such as the development of an emergency plan for the volunteer firefighters of Santiago Atitlán and training for their brigades; development of the evacuation plan for the school "Tzajá", Panajachel; greater geographic coverage of the radio system in the intervention zone, made possible by reutilizing a radio battery previously used by the Red Cross; development of an emergency management plan that was used in the first anniversary commemoration of Tropical Storm Stan (October 2006) in Santiago Atitlán; implementation of trainings on management of emergency operations centers (COE) and damage evaluation and analysis of needs (EDAN) for approximately 90 community members in the area, and formulation and implementation of three health plans in the municipalities of Nahualá, Santiago Atitlán and Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán.

The application of integrated risk management is the beginning of a transformation in the approach to emergency response and reconstruction that has been implemented in this region of the country. And it represents a new concept of prevention and preparedness that can be linked to community development processes.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction Management as a Cross-Cutting Topic**

Emergency training and risk management at the institutional level can build the preparedness of the community and create contingency plans. It can also help introduce DRR policies into community development activities. There is a greater level of community empowerment with strengthened capacities and community risk management approaches.

### **Implementation of Risk Reduction Projects in Guatemalan River Basins**

A successful practice was the capacity building of the community members in the river basin, who in turn can become advocates for risk reduction activities in different regions. In addition to the assessments, it is useful if the communities carry out specific threat and vulnerability studies and based on those develop their plans and proposals. Using the river basin as an analytical unit allows organizations to focus on a specific geographic area that not only has a political boundary but also shares the particular threats in which diverse entities interact and participate in the risk management processes.

### **Land Conflict Transformation as a Prevention and Mitigation Action**

No model can offer a guaranteed, successful formula for land conflict resolution. As with most conflicts, land conflict is extremely complicated and variable. It is important to select appropriate methods according to history and socioeconomic factors of each community affected by the conflict. Land conflict mediation projects cannot replace the government's responsibility with respect to systematic agrarian reforms and transformation of inequitable land possession regimes. However, they can serve as a solution to the conflict or they can help institutionalize conflict resolution mechanisms. Innovative land conflict mediation projects can play a vital role resolving land disputes and building coalitions to support agrarian policy reforms at regional and national levels. A successful mediation, with legal land titles as the result, can eliminate obstacles for an area's social and economic development. In this sense it can be seen as a preventive and/or mitigative action.

In order to have the highest impact possible in land conflict resolution projects it is important to include diverse services such as property registration, mapping functions, mediation, credit and technical support, and long-term support for all parties. To have successful land conflict resolution one needs an impartial mediator, a conciliatory spirit, and joint resolution of problems for mutually favorable agreements.

### Lessons Learned from Pilot Project Activities

- The challenge of moving from emergency management to risk management proved difficult in the areas of joint risk identification, linking disasters to development, and linking project participants from different levels. Including prevention and mitigation components into the project introduced new challenges, but resulted in helping staff to identify institutional vulnerabilities and to find ways to mitigate them.
- Creating an association of agencies helped coordinate efforts related to risk reduction management, taking the capacity of each agency in risk prevention, mitigation and emergency response into account to optimize resources. The risk approach is a cross-cutting theme that the agencies must include to solve issues related to poverty. This means that development planning requires a holistic approach and cooperation between institutional, governmental and non-governmental actors to mobilize resources and reduce the population's vulnerabilities. Therefore this project emphasizes that development must begin locally, taking into account the knowledge of the people and the context in which they live.
- The topic of preparedness is a good starting point for the communities and their organizations and leaders, particularly when talking about prevention and mitigation. Having access to a peaceful land conflict resolution project allowed the project to identify specific critical threat areas and to implement mitigation activities, such as motivation to increase productive capacity, connecting families with the local market, and agricultural and economic assistance. Legal land titles were obtained first and then mechanisms were put in place to avoid future evictions and the resurgence of old conflicts.
- Involving local actors ensures local capacity building and sustainability of the project. Because these local actors are fairly mobile, they are able to disseminate what they've learned to other communities. During the pilot projects, constructive working relationships were built and open communication was promoted. Creating potential strategic alliances and identifying counterparts that have complementary policies, resources and technical abilities was invaluable. Creating a public space for the project represents the possibility of future support and involvement of important actors, making the project more visible and generating a working dynamic that covers different levels.
- The work developed in the urban slum area confirms the dynamic elements of risk management (processes, identification of vulnerability factors and how threat manifests itself) due to the continuous migration of the population and expansion of the slum areas. The project must also include a periodic follow-up activity. Strategic alliances with organizations that permanently work in the area give sustainability to the community's organization and actions. Collaborative agencies are linking their emergency and disaster assistance actions with development planning through the disaster risk reduction management approach.
- It is possible to promote development processes that contain elements of risk management, but it is important to work with multiple levels (community, municipality, etc) while trying to promote a risk management approach to a wider territory. It is also important to promote independent processes that are at the same time interrelated so the collaborative effect is not lost. Alliances between public and private sectors on a local level guarantee a higher likelihood of sustainability in community initiatives.
- Threat studies done by and for technicians sometimes don't surpass the life of the project. When they are made for and according to the concerns presented by community and municipal project partners, they become instruments that lead to agreements, joint negotiations and initiatives with a development focus.
- Strengthening existing local structures, within the legal framework, is a good start towards emergency preparedness. To move to a risk management approach, it is necessary to extend the capacity building activities to other community organizations and community leaders in the at-risk region.

### 3. Capacity Building



ECB3 Guatemala designed its capacity building activities around three primary stages of risk management: prevention (anticipation of the event), mitigation (reducing the impact of the event), and preparation (installation of capacity to respond to the event). As a part of this effort, the ECB3 consortium organized and facilitated trainings and workshops for agency staff and the broader community. These workshops focused on the following topics.

**Emergency Response Planning:** The workshop presented and discussed the benefits of a complete emergency response plan at the national, institutional and community level. Personnel from IWG agencies designed plans and shared institutional and community emergency plans.

**Sphere Training:** This workshop provided training on minimum standards according to the Humanitarian Charter and Sphere Project for IWG agency personnel at a local level. This training helped improve the quality of the initial assessment, project and program design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian performance in emergency cases.

**EDAN-TD:** Participants of this workshop discussed cooperative damage evaluation and needs analysis (EDAN) to avoid duplication of efforts in the field during response activities and designed an interagency EDAN strategy.

**Damage Evaluation and Needs Analysis – Decision Making (EDAN - TD):** Speed, efficiency, quality and responsibility are key aspects of humanitarian emergency response. Disaster response and efficient rehabilitation depends on the identification and differentiation between priority and secondary needs that arise after the impact of an event. Satisfying those needs guarantees not only the well being and security of groups affected, but the economic, psychological and cultural recovery as well, giving preference to the most vulnerable people. Identifying the needs and offering solutions must be based on avoiding the creation of new risks and guaranteeing the implementation of appropriate development processes.

**Earthquake-resistant Housing Construction Techniques and Land Use (Territorial Zoning):** Facilitators from GEOHazards International presented options for earthquake-resistant construction techniques using local resources, community planning and land use.

**Shelter Management Workshop:** Facilitated by ECB, PNUD and CONRED, this workshop trained IWG agency personnel on shelter implementation, organization and administration, including greater level of risk management/emergency response sensitivity in the agencies; consensus on a common DRR language; and development of a national level shelters management and administration strategy. The group also contemplated minimum standards for humanitarian actions and emergency response planning based on risk scenarios.

## 4. External Collaboration



Throughout project implementation, the IWG agencies leveraged their collective knowledge and experience to help communities prepare for disaster. Seeking external partnerships with similar objectives and with roots in the community only strengthened this capacity. In this regard, the government proved to be an invaluable partner, and even its own representatives have acknowledged that its collaboration with the ECB Project contributed to increased efficiency, offering an effective way to communicate with each of the seven agencies.

Some ways in which ECB3 Guatemala worked with external partners is described below:

- One government agency actively involved in the pilot program was the Executive Secretary of the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (SE-CONRED), endorsing ECB3 pilot projects, implementing recommendations on the National Risk Reduction policy and supporting reforms to the SE-CONRED law and regional plan for disaster reduction.
- ECB3 worked with the National Planning Office (SEGEPLAN) on the development of a Territorial Zoning Policy, incorporating a risk reduction approach within the framework of the social development law and offered support to the Guatemalan Congress in implementing reforms to the disaster reduction law.
- ECB agencies met with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) to propose a new curriculum that incorporates risk management for primary and secondary level students. The Executive Coordination Secretary of the President (SCEP) also collaborated with ECB Agencies on a national strategy for shelter management.
- ECB worked closely with the United Nations to develop common risk management language in Guatemala, to systematize the National Shelter Strategy, and to improve the national platform for Emergency Information Management and institutional mapping.
- Finally, the partnerships gained through each of the pilot projects with communities, students, local authorities and other non-governmental organizations and institutions made a considerable difference in the quality and sustainability of project commitment and outcomes.

## 5. Internal Collaboration



Initially, it was difficult for the agencies to assess how involvement in the project would be beneficial. Later, as the roles and functions of the agencies became clear and as leadership and levels of responsibility were established, the level of participation, interest, and willingness to collaborate increased. Throughout project implementation, participating agencies met as a part of the PMT and at a monthly breakfast specifically for agency country directors. This collaboration was an opportunity to foster consensus in proposed processes and to identify compatible institutional interests. These interests ultimately evolved into a collective voice advocating for change in DRR policy and provided strength in numbers when meeting with government and partner organizations. These regular meetings also provided a forum for agencies to share experiences and resources, enhancing its collective knowledge of DRR programming.

Reaching a mutual point of understanding and agreement among the agencies did not come without a process of trial and error. The first major challenge facing the group was identifying and agreeing upon shared priorities; then, adapting individual systems of communication to meet group objectives and achieve collective goals. Each agency had to improve its ability to provide and manage information, negotiate different programmatic priorities related to DRR initiatives, and adapt to different administrative and financial systems.

But the collaborative effort during the emergency response following tropical storm Stan allowed agencies to become familiar with one another and helped identify the existence of complementary actions that could strengthen risk management work. The integration of the consortium within the ECB Project framework created an opportunity for agencies to exchange experiences, form alliances, and establish agreements for better communication and coordination.

An inter-agency agreement will be signed ensuring agency commitment, not only to act jointly in risk management and emergency response, but also to formalize the consortium and generate communication and coordination mechanisms to advocate for public policies oriented towards improving risk management in Guatemala. Exchange of experiences and training activities will allow the agencies to jointly strengthen emergency response and risk management capacities, as well as generate new methodologies and collaborative working relationships.

The agencies commit to endorse the creation of the consortium as a formal second-level organization that is legal and recognized by the State as well as the communities. The mission of the consortium will be to strengthen the capacity of its associates and to define their efforts for appropriate risk management and coordinated emergency response caused by environmental, social and political threats. The agencies also commit to contribute the necessary resources for the legalization and formation of the consortium and the necessary resources to guarantee its initial operations, understanding that in a maximum of two years, it will have to generate sufficient resources on its own to become sustainable.

## 6. Future Collaboration/Next Steps



The IWG agencies in Guatemala recognize the importance of systematically integrating risk management as a cross-cutting topic into agency development programs. It was successfully demonstrated that the topic of risk management can serve as a unifying agent around which other community development aspects rotate, such as improving basic services, community education, governance and strengthening capacities in general.

### Pilot Projects

It is important to implement visible mitigation efforts, no matter how small. This creates a sense of accomplishment within the community. They can see that the project has left behind tangible products that will make their lives safer. The mitigation projects also serve as a model for future disaster reduction interventions involving community participation. During the development of the pilot projects, three types of risk reduction management were identified:

- 1) **Corrective** or **compensatory** because they reduced existing risk levels that are a product of historic social processes and that affect the different social groups, infrastructure, sectors and productive activities of the area.
- 2) **Conservative** because they are limited to reducing certain types of risks suffered by the community, but they are not combined with economic, social and development transformation objectives.
- 3) With objectives **explicit to risk reduction** but not to development without risk because the project's objectives are not development objectives rather they are explicitly for risk reduction.

### Advocacy

The most important advances in prevention and reduction of impact caused by natural or manmade disasters have been made through the political decisions of the Guatemalan authorities to incorporate a national risk reduction management focus, as well as the instruments and activities that allow for the recognition and management of disaster risks.

### Recommendations

We recommend putting into place models and best practices for risk reduction identified in the ECB pilot projects in different areas of the country. It will also be important to continue the IWG letter of understanding in Guatemala and improve organizational capacity of the IWG to be prepared for emergency and disaster response.

### Next Steps

It will be important to take the appropriate measures to ensure an advocacy space within the CONRED system in Guatemala as well as follow-up on political advocacy activities to push for reforms to the risk reduction law. Finally, we need to be certain that risk reduction alliances are being promoted within the United Nations system in Guatemala.