

Quarterly Report

Organization: Global Communities
Name of Project: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Impacts of Neighborhood Emergencies
Agreement No.: AID-OFDA-A-14-00033
Country: Haiti
Site(s) / Location(s): Port au Prince
Reporting Period: Quarter 6 (January 1 – March 31, 2016)

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The Reducing Impacts and Vulnerabilities in Neighborhood Emergencies (RAVINE) program targets neighborhoods straddling Ravine Pintade and Ravine Nicolas in Port au Prince, Haiti. The program aims to leverage recently completed participatory processes to improve physical mitigation efforts and the preparedness of neighborhood households. The RAVINE program targets approximately 60,000 beneficiaries over a 12-month period in the neighborhoods of Christ-Roi, Cité Choune and Ravine Pintade. In partnership with governmental actors, community-based organizations (CBOs), and residents RAVINE strives to improve disaster and risk management by building on past participatory processes that has identified much-needed infrastructure upgrades. By starting where other processes left off, RAVINE aims to provide quick results to neighborhoods fatigued by planning processes, yet still struggling to fill infrastructure gaps that leave their households at-risk for seismic and flooding events.

GC is also set to carry out two technical assistance programs in the zone. First, GC plans to implement a Build Safer program targeting foreman and contractors working or planning work on small structures to improve the quality of construction in the zone. In addition, GC will implement a Waste Management Campaign to inform residents of health considerations and promote behavior change of disposal of solid waste in the immediate RAVINE zone.

Sector	Total Beneficiaries			
	Reporting Period		Cumulative	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sector 1	0	0	0	29
Sector 2	0	0	0	0
Sector 3	0	0	0	0

INDICATOR	Target this quarter:	Progress this quarter:	Cumulative progress to date:	Target for the Project	% of progress towards target
SECTOR 1: Geological and Hydro-meteorological Risks					
Number of people who will benefit from proposed geological and hydro-meteorological activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	35,000 (8,200 women 16,800 Men)	0
Number of people trained to reduce the impact of geological and hydro-meteorological events	0	0	28 (28 men)	30 (20 men 10 women)	93
SECTOR 2: Shelter Hazard					
Number of shelters incorporating DRR measures	N/A	N/A	N/A	60 houses	0
Number and percentage of people retaining shelter and settlements DRR knowledge two months after training	N/A	N/A	N/A	120 people	0
SECTOR 3: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene					
Number of people benefiting from solid waste management, drainage, and/or vector control activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	35,000	0
Number of new kiosk committee members trained by Global Communities and DINEPA in water-related and waste management competencies and general management skills	N/A	N/A	N/A	20 (14 men, 6 Women)	0
Establishment of a regular waste collection cycle in targeted areas	N/A	N/A	N/A	Twice a week	0
Number of people directly benefiting from the sanitation infrastructure program	N/A	N/A	N/A	335 people	0
Number of people receiving hygiene promotion training	N/A	N/A	N/A	At 134 people	0

Brief Sector Narrative: Across all three RAVINE-targeted neighborhoods, previous and existing participatory approaches have identified infrastructure upgrades to mitigate the impact of both geological and hydro-meteorological hazards. The assessment noted that slightly less than half of the Ravine Nicolas canal sides have been reinforced by retaining walls or gabion blocks, or have improved pedestrian pathways and bridges along the edges. Densely-built dwellings often abut the canal, their foundations forming improvised canalization, or take advantage of an existing retaining wall or footbridge for support, leaving residents at the whim of the water and debris flow. Toilets and other drainage pipes release wastewater directly into the canal for a large section, and the canal is a repository for household waste from these neighborhoods and upstream. Approximately 8,500m² of inhabited land is at risk of floods according to the 100-year flood model designed by Solidarités International. Their 2013 participatory risk assessment identified 11 areas as landslide risks in targeted neighborhoods (as noted above), and included soil studies, topographical mapping, hydrological studies and community expertise.

Key Outputs:

In December 2014, GC submitted a list of 20 community-identified DRR-related infrastructure priorities to USAID/OFDA. USAID/OFDA reviewed these proposals and provided initial approval for 15 sites. GC returned to the community with budget limitations and the residents selected the 10 highest priority projects. GC contracted a local architect to integrate community requirements in a more detailed technical plan and bill of quantities. Due to proximity or similarity of project type, GC consolidated certain projects resulting in a total of 7 project sites. GC provided the 7 full project proposals to USAID/OFDA in April 2015. Based on a template provided by the USAID Haiti Mission Environmental Office, GC worked intensively with USAID/OFDA to finalize and submit for approval an Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) for these projects.

In Q5, GC began to work with the A&E firm designated by USAID/OFDA to review – in accordance with International Building Codes -- all construction technical designs. By the end of Q6, the A&E firm Miyamoto had approved four corridors (in two lots) and one pedestrian footbridge. GC has also submitted one other pedestrian bridge, water kiosks, retaining walls, screen walls over ravines and a communal septic system. In early Q6, GC launched the solicitations for the corridor and footbridge projects -- in expectation for approval by Miyamoto of the technical designs -- and the expected launch of construction activities in early-Q7. GC has already held coordination meetings with Miyamoto and the winning contractors in order to launch these construction activities.

GC's environmental lead has begun training contractor personnel and GC technical staff, in preparation of an intensive set of environmental follow-up procedures to be carried out by GC. GC has communicated these mechanisms to Miyamoto for coordination in the field.

GC has worked to sensitize the community regarding improved construction practices and solid waste collection. In Q6, GC and Solidarite International finalized their three-month mobilizations campaign aiming to improve solid waste management in the zone. The two organizations organized an Exhibition Day which brought out local community-based organizations to demonstrate solid waste management activities and best practices, and provided a venue for these CBOs to sell items reused from solid waste in the zone. GC and Solidarite organized a soccer match between local teams in the target zone, with solid waste messaging throughout the event. Under RAVINE, GC and Solidarite trained forty local residents in solid waste messaging – and formed the core of these focal organizations.

Over the past nine months, and into Q6, GC worked with DINEPA to identify locations to install water kiosks that will provide quality water to local residents. DINEPA has an existing methodology to work with communities so that residents can elect water committees that will manage the sale of water. In addition to this traditional water management role, after consultations with DINEPA, the water committees in the RAVINE zone will be responsible for managing solid waste collection at the local level, in coordination with SMCRS and DINEPA. GC notes that DINEPA is particularly interested in assuming greater responsibility for sanitation, including solid waste, as part of its national mandate. In Q6, GC and the DINEPA Department for Disadvantaged Neighborhoods identified two sites where there are water needs and which could receive water from DINEPA through an expansion of its existing water distribution network. GC and DINEPA also identified two existing water kiosks that work sporadically to connect to the DINEPA water network – a connection that will for minimal cost provide affordable and proximal access to water for residents.

In Q4, GC submitted for USAID/OFDA approval new interventions aimed at enhancing the RAVINE program. These included: a) Filling in infrastructure gaps in the Ravine Nicolas canal through reinforcement walls and inclusion of access points for pedestrians; b) building physical barriers at the corner of ravines and roads to prevent the dumping of solid waste; c) connecting up to 62 families to 3 communal septic tanks to reduce household black water waste from entering into the ravine; d) training residents of three Ravine Nicolas neighborhoods on safer, cost-effective building techniques for infrastructure projects, with up to 60 families receiving small grants for recommended improvements; e) increase resident and non-resident awareness of the impacts from dumping wastes into the canal through flood mitigation campaigns.

During Q6, GC began to detail these project proposals. GC finalized technical designs for the construction of more than 100 meters of reinforcement walls at Cite Choune. GC identified four screen walls throughout the RAVINE target area – at the intersection of ravines and major roads – and developed appropriate technical designs. GC elaborated its metal screen wall technical solution – changing its initial bloc wall proposal, following discussions with Miyamoto. GC has already received USAID/OFDA approval for its submitted EMMPs for these projects. Finally, during Q6, GC worked with approximately 70 families to build three communal septic tanks and in Q6 provided the technical designs to Miyamoto for review, with a view of launching projects by early-Q7.

Analysis of Progress: N/A

Collaboration/Coordination: GC is coordinating its activities with DINEPA, MTPTC and SMCRS. DINEPA is particularly active, and with GC community mobilization staff, identified four project sites: two for the new construction of community-managed water kiosks, and two existing kiosks that will be connected to the existing DINEPA water network. DINEPA will train local water committees to manage water distribution and solid waste collection. MTPTC is also active, and has trained local masons and participated in GC’s fair that sensitized local residents to DRR-related concerns in their communities. SMCRS is collaborating with GC to develop a comprehensive waste management campaign in the zone.

GC is working closely with an EU-funded integrated neighborhood program managed by Solidarité International in Christ-Roi (an area that falls within the RAVINE zone). GC and Solidarité jointly identified additional priority DRR-related infrastructure projects (Solidarité has extensive ravine experience ‘upstream’). GC has matched its own infrastructure investments (such as septic tanks and reinforcement of embankments) with Solidarité’s community outreach program. During Q6, Solidarite International winded down its activities, leaving GC as the principal non-governmental agency in the zone.

New Developments: N/A

Advocacy Issues: N/A

Challenges:

The key challenge during this quarter was to receive final approval for technical drawings from the A&E firm contracted by USAID-Haiti to approve all technical designs and supervise all construction works in the Port au Prince area. The main difficulty is to graft new technical and infrastructure elements onto existing ravine embankments, bridges, houses and corridors. It is often very difficult to identify the precise structural conditions of these existing structures, leading to an over-engineering of the new technical designs. Miyamoto has been supportive in identifying easy-to-implement and appropriate technical solutions in conjunction with GC engineering staff. GC has brought in two structural consultants, to ensure that technical designs meet USAID/OFDA requirements. Due to the delayed timeline, GC has worked intensively with the communities to manage expectations in delivery times.

GC has met challenges to transform and utilize good will on the part of SMCRS, MTPTC and DINEPA to workable solutions in the field.

Key activities for the upcoming quarter:

Activities planned for the upcoming period consist of, but are not limited to:

- Begin works on the first four infrastructure projects: Sejourne Unimproved Pathway, Ravine Nicholas Embankment Project, and two Christ-Roi corridor projects,
- Begin works on all reinforcement and screen walls,
- Begin works on three communal septic tanks,
- Launch bid for two water kiosks in the target zone, and
- Launch Build Safer construction activities on five houses with MTPTC supervision.

Systematization Questions: As a part of OFDA’s regional focus on urban DRR, please answer the following questions as relevant during the course of the project. Note, some questions may only be answered at the beginning or end of the project.

Cross-Cutting Issue	Question	Response
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what degree are local municipal governments aware of hazards and risks present in their territory? How can you describe the disaster risk governance context—committed, weak, disinterested, or oppositional? 	<p>GC finds local municipal government to be aware of hazards and risks, but that it is unable or unwilling to take any meaningful steps to prevent an increase in the problem or to sufficiently address existing problems.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent do partnerships exist between communities, the private sector, and local authorities to reduce risk? After project activities were communicated to the municipal authorities, what level of engagement did they express an interest in? To what degree do municipal authorities view DRR and urban planning as worthy efforts towards which resources should be directed? What community organizations or municipal governments will be taking charge of what components of the project? 	<p>GC finds these links – at the local, vulnerable community level – to be very weak. This may be particular to the municipality where GC is active – the Municipality of Port au Prince.</p> <p>GC finds that municipalities’ interest is lukewarm – maybe due continuous turnover, or lack of adequate resources. In this quarter, this situation has been aggravated by the political capital that is being applied to the post-election period.</p> <p>However, GC has found a strong interest on the part of MTPTC, SMCRS and DINEPA to address raised issues. The proposed interventions fall within the purview of all three institutions. Moreover, both are looking for – perhaps with MTPTC and DINEPA slightly more than SMCRS – new models which would address existing problems.</p> <p>GC finds that the MTPTC looks at DRR activities as a worthy effort in two areas that affect it: improved drainage and ravine infrastructures, and improved building techniques and practices. MTPTC perhaps views the building safer campaign as a method to introduce fee-based improved construction programs in the wider Port au Prince area.</p> <p>DINEPA is looking at widening the impact of its national mandate, to include activities in the sanitation sector. GC believes that local leadership at the OREPA level is pushing for such an increased portfolio, given the existing limitations of SMCRS.</p> <p>The municipality will take charge of corridors and drainages; while the MTPTC will take charge of any ravine works. DINEPA will be responsible for water kiosks, as well as solid waste management.</p>
<p>Social Inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there local CBOs involved in the project (or present in the community) that focus on development issues pertaining to the youth, women, the elderly, or persons with disabilities? How are the young, women, the elderly, or persons with disabilities incorporated in project planning and implementation? Specify by subgroup. 	<p>GC has worked with local CBOs to identify priority DRR-related infrastructure needs. These CBOs have also been active on mobilizing community members and sensitizing these regarding improved sanitation in communities. GC is working with DINEPA for residents to elect water committees.</p> <p>Global Communities has carried out multiple meeting with community members and community based organizations to identify community priorities. GC has held two meeting solely with women in the zone to ensure that any specific concerns and priorities are addressed.</p>