



American Red Cross



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***Building Resilience in Chaparrastique Volcano
Affected Communities, El Salvador
Phase II***

AID-OFDA-G-15-00147

FINAL REPORT

July 15, 2015 – July 14, 2016

Submitted October 2016

1. Executive Summary

In response to the eruptions and continued activity of the Chaparrastique Volcano, this project builds off the previous phase of the *Building Resilience in Chaparrastique Volcano Affected Communities* project to ensure that a wider reach of communities, schools and local agencies within the direct vicinity of the volcano are better prepared for and able to respond to future disasters. The project directly reached a total of 1,232 individuals identified as most vulnerable due to their close proximity to the volcano. Activities such as First Aid training, formation and training of community committees, creation of community disaster plans, installation of Early Warning Systems, and simulation exercises have increased community knowledge and preparedness to address future disaster hazards and risk. In order to increase knowledge and preparedness in the school systems, awareness raising workshops were conducted, evacuation and school protection plans developed, school disaster response teams trained in basic first aid and school simulations carried out. Lastly, training in Damage Assessments (EDAN) and Management of Emergency Operations Centers (MACOE) were conducted to the Civil Protection System to strengthen their ability to carry out rapid damage and needs assessments and enhance their administrative capacity.

2. Project Information

Project Name:	Building Resilience in Chaparrastique Volcano Affected Communities, Phase II		
Donor Name	USAID/OFDA		
Region:	Central America-El Salvador	Location/Coverage/Countries:	El Salvador-municipalities of San Rafael Oriente, San Jorge, Chinameca & San Miguel
Project Sector(s):	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Grant # or ID:	AID-OFDA-G-15-00147
Project Duration (Start and End Dates):	12 month July 15, 2015-July 14, 2016	Prepared by:	American Red Cross
Total Budget Amount:	\$149,816	Number of Beneficiaries:	Target: 1,100 Reached: 1,232

3. Project Overview

In response to the eruptions and continued activity of the Chaparrastique Volcano, this project builds off the previous phase of the *Building Resilience in Chaparrastique Volcano Affected Communities* project to ensure that a wider reach of

communities, schools and local agencies within the direct vicinity of the volcano are better prepared for and able to respond to future disasters.

This project targeted a total of eleven communities, selected based on their vulnerability and exposure to the volcano and associated risk for volcanic eruptions and landslides. The project's original proposal incorrectly stated that Phase II of the program would target eight new communities and continue programming in three communities that had been included in the activities of Phase I (May 2014 – August 2015). Instead, Phase II targeted seven new communities and continued programming in four Phase I communities. Additionally, while the project originally proposed to target school-based activities in ten school centers, ultimately the Department of Education decided the projected would be better suited for eight, as two of the originally-planned schools were farther removed from the zone of volcanic risks and were not heavily attended by youth in the target communities. Overall eight school centers were reached, 11 trainings conducted, and 377 people trained.

The project included activities such as First Aid training, creation and training of Community Committees, creation of community disaster plans, installation of Early Warning Systems, and simulation exercises which increased community knowledge and preparedness to address future disaster hazards and risks. In order to increase knowledge and preparedness in the school systems, trainings in First Aid and psychosocial support were conducted, evacuation and school protection plans developed, and school simulations carried out. Lastly, training in Damage Assessments (EDAN), Management of Emergency Operations Centers (MACOE), and Shelter Management and School Safety (SSC) were provided to local authorities to strengthen their ability to carry out rapid damage and needs assessments and enhance their administrative capacity.

Goal: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and socio-economic impacts caused by disasters in San Miguel, El Salvador as a result of increased preparedness, risk reduction, and community resilience activities.

Sector: Risk Management Policy and Practice

Objective: Enhance the capacity of communities, school systems and local authorities to better mitigate, prepare for and respond to the adverse effects of disaster.

Sub-sectors: Building Community Awareness and Mobilization & Capacity Building and Training

Results at Glance

- A total of 1232 direct beneficiary reached.
- 377 students and teachers trained in disaster preparedness
- 8 Early Warning Systems installed
- 2 successful activations of EWS and response teams

4. Results

This second phase started in July 2015 and in the first weeks of implementation focused on reinforcing links to the Municipal Commission and Civil Protection and other local authorities, conducting outreach in the project communities to raise awareness about the project and its objective and to promote active participation in project activities. The project then focused on either forming or reinforcing community Civil Protection Committees as a core actor in the community level risk management and response. This process was undertaken with the support and presence of Civil Protection technical staff to ensure adequate linkages with the local, municipal and national systems. Once the committees were formed, they were trained and tested during community simulation exercises. Communities also created disaster plans and participated in the installation of, and training on, Early warning systems.

Simultaneously, activities were also being implemented at the school level, creating and training school brigades and creating school protection plans. Trainings were also implemented to strengthen local institutions in damage and needs assessment, in running an operations center, in providing psychosocial support and in running temporary shelters.

Indicator	Target	Actual	% of Target
Beneficiaries: Objective 1	1100	1232	112%
Total Beneficiaries	1100	1232	112%

Overall, all planned activities were implemented and the objectives of the projects were met. The number of target beneficiaries was also slightly surpassed as activities were able to incorporate some extra participants. The project faced challenges at the beginning with implementation: a significant portion of targeted community members are illiterate, so the project team had to be creative in finding alternative methods of instruction during trainings. Nonetheless, with an emphasis on more visual ways of teaching participants, the project team was still able to meet its objectives.

During the course of the project, the impact of the activities and processes was also tested through the real activation of the Early Warning Systems and response mechanisms. This is because the Chaparrastique became active on two occasions, in January and in June 2016, potentially threatening project communities from this phase of the project as well as the previous phase.

Sub-Sector 1: Building Community Awareness and Mobilization

Outcome 1.1: Community members increase knowledge and preparedness of how to address disaster hazards and risks.

Indicator	Target	Actual	% of Target	Disaggregation	
				Male	Female
Number of people participating in training, disaggregated by sex	250	249	100%	124	125
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	80%	75%	94%	-	-
Percentage of attendees at joint planning meetings who are from the local community	60%	60%	100%	-	-
Early Warning Systems in targeted community is in place for all major hazards with appropriate outreach to communities (y/n)	Y-4	Y-8	200%	-	-
Percentage of community members who received at least one early warning message from at least one source prior to a disaster occurring.	80%	80%	100%	-	-

As part of the methodology for this sub-sector, activities in the seven communities new to Phase II started with meetings with local actors to socialize the project. Additionally, the process of strengthening Civil Protection Community Committees was initiated with meetings in the communities in order to take a look at existing community structures and restructure the committees, or form new ones in some cases. This was done in close coordination with the Municipal Civil Protection Commission in order to ensure these community committees are well established and connected to the greater Civil Protection system. Another key activity which was implemented at the beginning of the implementation period was a large meeting involving community members and local actors to disseminate Red Cross Fundamental Principles as well as better explain the work of the Red Cross and its role in general and as part of the project.

These key starter activities are central to building relationships among the communities, their leaders and local stakeholders as well as to ensure that everyone understands the reason for the increased Red Cross presence and the aims of the project. This is particularly important in the security sensitive context of El Salvador but also to promote full participation and ownership.

The project then focused on creating and or strengthening community level committees for disaster response. With the support of the Municipal Civil Protection Commission and Civil Protection, 5 community committees were restructured and 2 new community committees created. Community First Aid and Evacuation trainings were then held, with support from Civil Protection, and communities were assisted in developing community emergency response plans.

With community emergency committees (the Community Civil Protection Commissions) in place, and emergency plans elaborated, the project also procured and distributed small emergency response equipment to these committees to ensure that they are able to put into action what they had learned through project activities and adequately respond to emergencies in their communities.

Furthermore, the project also focused heavily on Early Warning trainings and the installation of Early Warning Systems (EWS) at the community level. Early Warning System training workshops at the community level were completed in all eleven communities. During these workshops communities learned about alert types and which institutions are responsible for monitoring disasters and alerts. They also received a presentation on the various uses of the EWS. Early Warning Systems were then installed in the 7 Phase II project communities. These systems are loudspeakers which emit alerts in case of emergency, inciting the communities to take action. Since these systems were cost-efficient, the project was able to procure and install eight systems instead of the four originally planned.

Early Warning Systems (EWS) Installed in Phase II	
Quantity	Canton/Caserío
2	Cantón San Julian
1	Los Cisneros de San Jorge
1	1 Canton Jocote Dulce
1	Lotificacion El Mameyal
1	Lotificacion Hercules
1	Los Giron
1	La Ermita

In addition to the physical systems installed, the project was also able to work with volcanologists from the Ministry of the Environment (MARN) and the National University to train “observer” community members in the seven new Phase II communities on how to manage information related to a volcanic eruption, not only in how to activate the community committee and evacuation plan but also how to help feed information to the larger monitoring network of the Environmental Observatory of the MARN.

The seven new Phase II communities also participated in simulation exercises in order to put their new knowledge and capacity to the test. Through these exercises, the community Civil Protection committees, previously strengthened as part of the project, practiced safe evacuation techniques and First Aid. They also worked to improve intra-institutional coordination in case of emergencies. An important aspect of the simulations is that though local institutions that are part of the emergency response system participated in the exercise, they did so as observers and only stepped in when needed or asked by the community members. This allowed the communities to empower themselves of the activity and lead the response.

But the best test of the impact and influence the project has had, both in this current iteration and in its previous phase, is seeing how the communities were able to respond to real life events. During the months of January and June 2016, the Chaparrastique Volcano became active again. The Community Committees came together and were able to activate the EWS which, using the loudspeakers, were able to transfer the alert messages to the communities. The Committees also took the first steps in their new evacuation plans, preparing the communities for a full evacuation, although ultimately an evacuation was not necessary. The Committees were also able to transmit information to the monitoring network of the MARN as well as greet local authorities and explain what steps had already been taken by the time local authorities arrived on site. While in both incidents the activity of the volcano was limited, the communities that had been part of the project demonstrated their ability to organize themselves and start to respond even before authorities had arrived.

Sub-Sector 2: Capacity Building and Training

Outcome 2.1: School systems increase knowledge and preparedness of how to address disaster hazards and risks.

Indicator	Target	Actual	% of Target	Disaggregation	
				Male	Female
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness mitigation, and management	350	377	108%	151	226
Number of trainings conducted	11	11	100%	-	-
Number of people passing final exams or receiving certificates, disaggregated by sex	280	277	99%	115	162
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	80%	75%	94%	-	-

Project activities implemented under this outcome focused on increasing knowledge and capacity at the school level in the seven new Phase II communities. All activities were planned and organized through the Department of Education of San Miguel who not only approved the activities but also participated and supported their implementations. While the project originally proposed to target ten schools, ultimately the Department of Education decided the projected would be better suited for eight, as two of the originally-planned schools were farther removed from the zone of volcanic risks and were not heavily attended by youth in the target communities. Overall eight school centers were reached, 11 trainings conducted, and 377 people trained.

Workshops were conducted to plan and create the school protection plans with the participation of school directors, teachers, Pedagogical Technical Advisors and Civil Protection staff from the four municipalities representing the target communities. Multi-disciplinary teams were formed to ensure that all the different expertise and points of view were included in the document. The participation of the Pedagogical Technical Advisors and the Civil Protection staff was important as it created additional linkages between community and school level planning and efforts in particular for disasters and emergencies.

Additionally, 16 school brigades, two per school, were created and trained in First Aid and Evacuation, focusing specifically on the threat of the volcano but including earthquakes as a common and possible threat. During this training, students learned about basic First Aid, evacuation routes, how to identify the time needed to evacuate, taking the shortest and safest routes, how to help disabled people who may have limited mobility, etc. The training process was completed with the delivery of the First Aid and equipment kit to each of the schools. This was followed by simulation exercises to put the knowledge and skills learned to practice. Civil Protection, Pedagogical Technical Advisors and the Community Committees participated in these simulations, as in the community simulation exercises, to help forge stronger linkages between all actors involved in disaster response locally.

Outcome 2.2: Local institutions are prepared and strengthened in disaster preparedness and response.

Indicator	Target	Actual	% of Target	Disaggregation	
				Male	Female
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness mitigation, and management	50	72	144%	45	27
Number of trainings conducted	4	4	100%	-	-
Number of people passing final exams or receiving certificates, disaggregated by sex	40	72	180%	45	27
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	80%	80%	100%	-	-

Four training workshops targeting local institutions were successfully implemented in the municipalities represented by the seven Phase II communities. Local institutions were so cooperative and interested, in fact, that the training workshops saw more participants than anticipated, hence the over accomplishment of the indicator. These trainings were also supported by Civil Protection, which helped recruit the right participants from local institutions. In addition to meeting the goal of training local institutions, these workshops also allowed for participants to foster discussions on the different ways to address emergencies, coordination in the region, and the lack of standardization between their respective institutions. These types of discussions allowed for richer dialogue and commitment to improving emergency management in the region and finding better solutions to work together.

The Management of Emergency Operation Center training (MACOE) was conducted at the beginning of the project and targeted Municipal Civil Protection Commissions staff members in particular. This training helped enhance the administrative capacity of the Civil Protection and the local response systems. The training was also supported by the OFDA country consultant, Sergio David Gutierrez.

The School Safety course (CUSE-SSC) was implemented with participation from the Ministry of Education, teachers, parents, Pedagogical Technical Advisors (ATP), personnel from the Salvadorian Municipal Development Institute (ISDEM), the University of El Salvador, and Civil Protection. The training workshop provided participants with knowledge and capacity to better design, develop, and systematize school safety plans. This activity will be finalized in the next quarter when participants from the course will participate in a school simulation based on a school safety plan that they have developed.

The Damage Assessments (EDAN) training will allow local institutions to close the gap identified during the response to the 2013 Chaparrastique Volcano eruption by enhancing their ability to conduct assessments during the early hours of a disaster in an organized and coordinated manner. This training received support from OFDA for the certification of the participants and also received the support of the General Directorate of Civil Protection.

Finally, the training provided in temporary shelter management aimed at ensuring participants' understanding of minimum standards that must be provided during emergencies, not only using Sphere Protection Principles and Core Standards but also in view of the legally approved National Standards and tools. The Ministry of Health supported the training by helping to cover topics such as sexual diversity, disease prevention, rights of children and teens, etc. The training was also supported by the National Sectorial Working Group for Shelter, which is led by the Vice Minister of the Interior and has the representative of the Salvadorian Red Cross responsible for institutional representation in the National Working Group.

5. Sustainability and Transition Plan

Sustainability and transition planning has been an integral part of the project since its conception. By focusing on local organization and local community capacity, the project has inherently reinforced its own sustainability. The involvement of national organizations such as the Salvadoran Red Cross as well as the specific focus on schools and local Civil Protection has been crucial in ensuring that the efforts of these project are integrated into existing structures that will continue to function beyond project life.

At the local community level, community members have increased their own capacity to manage risks, to be better prepared, and to respond more quickly to adverse events. They will continue to self-manage these processes and will rely on continued support from local institutions as well as their local Red Cross branch. The legal incorporation of the community committees within the Civil Protection System and the school committees within the school protection plans will ensure further support and sustainability.

Finally, staff from local institutions now have increased capacity in several areas of disaster management that will allow them to better respond to events in the future.

6. Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

A comprehensive M&E plan was designed at the beginning of the project which detailed key indicators to be monitored to track progress against objectives. Progress on indicators was tracked on a monthly and quarterly basis. Monthly planning meetings were scheduled to review progress, track activities, adjust work plans, and ensure the successful implementation of the project. American Red Cross staff in Panama provided continuous support to the implementation of the project including support with training activities, the revision of methodologies to be implemented, and monitoring of advances, achievements, and challenges.

Monitoring visits by the project coordinator as well as American Red Cross staff were conducted regularly to track progress and make adjustments as needed. The project also benefited from close coordination with the OFDA in-country consultant in particular around the local institution-strengthening component of the project.

A lessons learned workshop was conducted at the end of the project period and included the participation of more than 60 people, including community leaders, representatives from the municipal commissions, the Ministry of Education, Civil Protection, and the Salvadoran Red Cross. During the meeting, participants identified positive practices as well as challenges and lessons learned. In addition to gathering key takeaways, the workshop was also important as it helped redefine local authorities' responsibilities to follow up on community work and community committees.

7. Annex

Story from the Field



My name is Carmen Isabel Reyes, I am 45 years old, and I am a Civil Protection Officer stationed in the Municipality of Chinameca. I am grateful that the Savladorian Red Cross Project is being developed in this municipality. From the start we have had excellent communication with the project's technical team in terms of their assistance with the communities. Thanks to the project's first responder teams, the Community Civil Protection Commissions have been trained, restructured, and reorganized in a way that has empowered them in their capacity to respond to emergencies and disasters affecting their communities. I know that we have the support of this Project through its two donors USAID/OFDA and the American Red Cross. They have done well to help our vulnerable communities. I personally thank them because I was able to participate in trainings and be credited with OFDA certifications that today help me to grow more in my work in the welfare of my communities and municipalities. We are very happy to work with this Project; the availability and professionalism of their technical team has made both the Municipal Commission and the Community Civil Protection Commission grateful. It is a Project which we know we can count on, and it is one of the few projects that has come to our communities in which we work hand in hand confidently with the excellent team. For this we thank them very much.



HISTORIA DE TERRENO



My name is Carlos Ernesto Chávez González. I am 34 years old and I come from Hércules Division. I am the Coordinator of the Community Civil Protection Commission. I am very happy with the benefits that the Red Cross has brought to us in the community because you trained us and provided equipment. I am very happy because thanks to this Project, the authorities have turned their attention to the community. This is very important for the community because now that we are more organized, we hope to receive more support from the authorities. I personally like to work for the community so that the community is prepared before the emergencies that we face, since we live with the risk of the volcano. I hope to learn a lot personally; while I already know a lot, with these trainings I will know how to manage things better. And, as the Coordinator of the Commission, I have a great commitment to work for the welfare of all in Hércules Division.

