



## Recovery for Communities and Victims of the Earthquake-affected Regions (RECOVER Ecuador)

### Quarterly Project Performance Report

Reporting period: July ~ September, 2016

Submitted to:

United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance  
(USAID/OFDA)



*The RECOVER Ecuador Project Team Placing Piles for a Shelter*

<b>Grantee</b>	Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA)
<b>Country/Region</b>	Ecuador/Jama Canton, El Campamento y Bigua Communities
<b>USAID/OFDA Grant No.</b>	AID-OFDA-G-16-00086
<b>Project Length</b>	June 1, 2016 ~ January 31, 2017
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<b>Submission Date</b>	October 30, 2016

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ADRA implements the Recovery for Communities and Victims of the Earthquake Regions (RECOVER Ecuador) Project to promote the recovery of earthquake-stricken population of Jama Canton in the Manabi province of Ecuador from the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake of April 16, 2016 that claimed the lives of 673 people and injured more than 27,732 others. RECOVER Ecuador seeks to meet the basic transitional shelter and psychosocial needs of the earthquake affected population in the communities of El Campamento y Bigua. Through the RECOVER Ecuador Project, ADRA will provide 120 safe and culturally appropriate transitional shelters to earthquake-affected households. In addition, ADRA's licensed and certified interdisciplinary professional team will provide Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) to the population of the areas of intervention. The PSS will strengthen the earthquake-affected individual's resiliency and their capacity to cope with the trauma, loss, grief, sorrow, and stress brought on by destructive earthquake.

## QUARTER RESULTS

During the quarter that ended in September 2016, the RECOVER Ecuador Project team began the full implementation of the project activities in the sectors of Shelter & Settlements and Protection and made significant progress. Under the Shelter and Settlements sector, 85 transitional shelters were constructed and the foundation structures for 25 transitional shelters were erected at the conclusion of the reporting period. As for the Protection sector, the RECOVER Ecuador team successfully launched and completed a very effective PSS programming during this quarter.

The RECOVER Ecuador team was pleased to host USAID/OFDA/LAC Regional Advisor Sarah McNiece at the project sites on September 8, 2016. Sarah witnessed the construction of a transitional shelter destined for the beneficiary Carla Velez of El Campamento community. In the Bigua community, Sarah observed a community activity on the use of water and vector control. Lastly, Sarah participated in PSS activities for children in both El Campamento y Bigua with "Senor Sonrisa" (Mr. Smile), a character created by the the RECOVER Ecuador team to support PSS efforts.



*USAID/OFDA/LAC Regional Advisor Sarah McNiece visiting with the young project beneficiaries*

In an effort to continue coordinating humanitarian interventions with the NGO community and the national and local government authorities, ADRA continues to regularly attend and actively participate in the Shelter cluster meetings in Porto Viejo y Quito; Protection cluster meetings in Quito, Portoviejo y Pedernales; WASH cluster meetings in Jama; and Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster meetings in Quito.

Further, a no-cost extension was obtained for this award until January 31, 2017 to provide additional time to complete the construction of approximately 10 additional transitional shelters instead of the initially programmed provision of sanitation packages for the construction of latrines and tippy taps. ADRA is able to build the additional

shelters because its partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas will provide dry toilets for both the original 110 households as well as the 10 additional households that will receive the RECOVER Ecuador transitional shelters.

In order to collect community feedback on the project, the RECOVER Ecuador team installed a suggestion mailbox in both El Campamento y Bigua communities. This was done with the purpose of generating open communication with the target community members. Through this mechanism, they will be able to provide anonymous feedback and the program team will be able to consider suggestions and make improvements to the program as necessary.



*Suggestions box installed in Bigua*

Below is a table that outlines the number of award level beneficiaries:

AWARD LEVEL	TOTAL	IDP
CUMULATIVE PERIOD TARGETED	820	0
REPORTING PERIOD REACHED	1,219	50
CUMULATIVE PERIOD REACHED	1,219	50

## SECTOR 1: SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

### SUB-SECTOR: EMERGENCY/TRANSITIONAL SHELTER

The RECOVER Ecuador team made significant progress during the reporting period in terms of work in the Shelter and Settlements sector. With the acknowledgement of USAID OFDA, the area of intervention of El Matal was replaced by the adjacent communities of El Campamento y Bigua in Jama Canton following the decision of the Ecuadorian government to build permanent homes in El Matal. Contrary to the case in El Matal, the majority of the population of El Campamento y Bigua, communities whose livelihood depended on agriculture, possessed land. Therefore, RECOVER Ecuador was able to build and provide temporary shelters on the land of the beneficiaries upon confirmation of land tenure. Consequently, there was no need to build the transitional shelters in settlements on government provided land as originally planned.

At the begging of the quarter, the RECOVER Ecuador team diligently worked with vendors to ensure that the construction materials for the transitional shelters meet the technical requirements set forth by the Ecuadorian Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and pass the regulations set forth by the Ministry of Security Coordination; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries; and the Ministry of the Environment. With the change of the area of intervention, the RECOVER Ecuador team conducted a quick assessment of the communities of El Campamento and Bigua and concluded the selection of the project beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, the project team, with the dedicated contribution of ADRA volunteers, and community members completed the construction of 85 transitional shelters (10 in El Camapento and 75 in Bigua) and the erection of foundation structures for 25 transitional shelters. At the beginning of the intervention, it was challenging to get community members engaged. However, once the community members got familiarized with the project and saw the work being done in the community, they opened up and began to get engaged and contributed to the constructions of the transitional shelters. Currently, the community provides breakfast and lunch for all team members, ADRA volunteers, and community members engaged in the construction of the transitional shelters. Moreover, the 85 shelters were constructed with the arduous support of 24 community members including 3 volunteers from the adjacent community of El



*Volunteers from Venezuela, Bigua, and El Matal building a transitional shelter*

Matal. Additionally, the project was fortunate to benefit from the work of ADRA volunteers from Greece, Venezuela, Colombia, and other parts of Ecuador.



*School girls practicing how to properly wash their hands after a hygiene promotion session*

The RECOVER Ecuador team also provided hygiene promotion sessions to 131 families (541 individuals) of El Campamento and Bigua communities during the reporting period. The Hygiene promotion activities were delivered through home visits, community workshops, and presentations at elementary, middle, and high schools. Training topics included proper hand washing, vector control, water handling and storage, and water treatment. Each household received a flyer that included information on the steps for proper handwashing and 5 critical instances for handwashing. Additionally, dental services were provided to the target communities through a mobile dental unit staffed by 6 volunteer dentists. In total, 160 services were rendered during 4 days.

RECOVER Ecuador did not provide the sanitation packages for the construction of latrines and tippy taps as originally intended as CRS and Caritas began constructing dry toilets in El Campamento and Bigua. CRS' toilets consist of a septic tank, fiberglass toilet, and tarp enclosure. In coordination with CRS, ADRA confirmed that CRS will provide toilets to all of ADRA's 110 transitional shelter sites. Since the sanitation needs of the project beneficiaries will be met by CRS and Caritas, ADRA requested to and received approval by USAID OFDA divert the funds that would have been used to acquire and distribute the sanitation packages to construct approximately 10 additional shelters as the shelter needs in El Campamento and Bigua have not been fully met (the shelter needs in Bigua are still very high). CRS and Caritas already constructed 100 dry toilets and are committed to constructing the remaining 20 toilets.

Below is a table that outlines the number of beneficiaries for the Shelter and Settlements sector:

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS	TOTAL	IDP
CUMULATIVE PERIOD TARGETED	550	0
REPORTING PERIOD REACHED	337	50
CUMULATIVE PERIOD REACHED	337	50

## SECTOR 2: PROTECCION

### SUB-SECTOR: PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES (PSS)

During this quarter, the RECOVER Ecuador project launched and successfully completed the delivery of the PSS activities. The team worked tirelessly over the past three months to determine the psychosocial needs of the community; develop customized strategies and curriculum for PSS; and deliver effective PSS to the beneficiaries. After the needs assessment results were analyzed, ADRA PSS team concluded that the PSS needs were in the areas of coping with fear and acceptance of loss, positive communication, stress management, conflict management, and personal and community values.

The RECOVER Ecuador team launched a robust PSS programming called "Recover Your Smile" in the target communities of El Campamento y Bigua. Many members of the adjacent communities of El Matal also benefited from RECOVER Ecuador PSS programming due to their family and social ties and proximity to the targeted communities. The ADRA PSS team led several daily small group sessions consisting of workshops, discussion sessions, games, craft making, etc. The PSS programing, which consisted



*A PSS Session for children*

of 4 modules spread out in 8 sessions, was delivered to 1,219 beneficiaries. Furthermore, PSS activities included awareness raising on natural hazards, identification of risks, exploring of risk reduction options, and identification of available services in the case of emergencies.

Following is a breakdown of these beneficiaries by gender and age group:

TOTAL	AGE GROUPS			GENDER	
	4 - 18 YEARS OLD	19 - 64 YEARS OLD	+ 65 YEARS OLD	M	F
1,219	719	434	66	512	707

In addition, the PSS team conducted several weekly and monthly group activities such as

- Couple’s dinner (50 attendees)
- Festival of traditional games (150 attendees)
- Community Olympics for soccer and ecuaboley (50 attendees)
- Community event for vector control (350 attendees)
- Community crafts exhibition (320 attendees)
- Walk in nature for children (60 children attended)
- School for parents (60 children attendees)
- Movie night (300 attendees)
- Talent show at schools (480 students attended)

Overall, these community-wide activities enhanced the PSS programming because they helped project beneficiaries strengthen personal and community values, increased community integration, and created camaraderie among neighbors. The couple’s dinner helped couples unpack “machismo” attitudes which is very prevalent in the target communities and promoted understanding between and appreciation for their spouses. The walk in nature helped children to manage stress and gave them an opportunity to learn new things outside of the traditional classroom setting. The school for parents, helped parents identify and understand the different behaviors and attitudes that their children display. The movie night gave a fun way to learn and discuss about important personal and community values. Lastly, the talent show at schools, helped school children cope with anxiety and fear, and build confidence.

Below is a table that outlines the number of beneficiaries for the Protection sector:

PROTECTION	TOTAL	IDP
CUMULATIVE PERIOD TARGETED	798	0
REPORTING PERIOD REACHED	1,219	50
CUMULATIVE PERIOD REACHED	1,219	50

## CHALLENGES

One of the biggest challenges that the project faced during this reporting period was motivating community members to contribute to the project. One key issue that led to this challenge was the change in the area of project intervention at the beginning of the project and the tight schedule to complete the construction of the transitional shelters. Many efforts were made at the original area of intervention of El Matal to socialize the project and encourage community members to participate in and contribute to it. But faced with the change of the area of intervention, the RECOVER Ecuador project team had to re-socialize the project to the new communities of El Campamento y Bigua. Community members were apprehensive to participate in the project because they had experienced past disappointments from unmet promises by the national government and other NGOs. Once the project was socialized and the community saw the first structures were bring erected, community members opened up and began engaging with the project team. The community began contributing with meals and labor for the construction of the transitional shelters. Likewise, the PSS programming was widely attended and highly appreciated by the target communities.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The change in the area of project intervention also provided an opportunity for ADRA to coordinate closely with CRS and Caritas to leverage resources in providing more services to the most vulnerable population. Because ADRA was able to coordinate with CRS and Caritas, RECOVER Ecuador was able to re-allocate resources to construct +10 additional transitional shelters.

The RECOVER Ecuador shelters have been extremely well received by both the national government, the local government offices, and well as the NGO community. The demand for RECOVER Ecuador transitional shelters are high and many visit the RECOVER Ecuador office to request shelters. The region still experiences a high volume of need for transitional shelters. Many earthquake-affected people still are in governmental managed camps and live under tarps. In fact, the Mayor of canton Jama has requested that we provide 400 additional shelters in the larger Jama area.

## LESSONS LEARNED

One key lesson learned is that it is crucial to plan sufficient time for socializing the project to garner community buy-in as well as robust community involvement, and their active participation, and meaningful contribution to the project.

## SUCCESS STORY



*Angel with his mother and baby brother*

Angel Lopez Moreno is a 7 years old who currently lives with this mother and his little baby brother in his aunt's house in El Campamento after their house in the adjacent community of El Matal collapsed following the earthquake of April 16, 2016. His father passed away when he was 4 years-old due to a heart attack. Angel struggled with the loss of his father and always blamed his mother for his death. Angel's mother, Diana Moreno, shared with the PSS team that after the collapse of their house and loss of their family belongings, Angel's behavior and attitude had dramatically worsened.

Noticing Angel retreated and sitting alone on an old tire, PSS team member Amos Verdezoto approached him and invited him to participate in the PSS session. Angel reacted with anger and went as far as hitting Amos in the arm. But gradually, the PSS team gained his trust and sympathy as he learned to sing and played games. After a

few sessions, Angel was actively participating in all PSS activities. On the last PSS session, Diana commented to the PSS team that "Angel is no longer aggressive as before, has improved his grades, and gets along better with his friends. Plus, he no longer blames me for the death of his father." Diana thanked ADRA and USAID for the PSS programming and for the positive changes that the project brought to her child.