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PREPARE Eje Cafetero

The goal of the USAID/BHA PREPARE Eje Cafetero project is to strengthen the regional risk management and response capacity of departmental and municipal governments and the private sector in Eje Cafetero. The project is part of the regional PREPARE Program, which has activities in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, México, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

The U.S. Agency for International Development is an independent U.S. federal agency responsible for planning and administering economic and humanitarian assistance around the world.

The Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

The Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance provides humanitarian assistance that saves lives, including food, water, refuge, emergency medical attention, sanitation and hygiene and critical nutrition services to the world's most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach people.

Miyamoto International, Inc.

Miyamoto International is a global firm providing structural Engineering and disaster risk management expertise, with experience in resilience that sustains industries and safeguards communities around the world.

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ACRONYMS

APR	Administrative and Planning Region
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
CGS	Colombian Geological Survey
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ICS	Incident Command System
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
LoC	Letter of Commitment
MIYAMOTO	Miyamoto International
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
S&R	Search and Rescue
UNGRD	National Unit for Disaster Risk Management
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue

I. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

The United States Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) PREPARE Eje Cafetero Program (Award 720FDA20GR00265) officially launched September 30, 2020. Miyamoto International (Miyamoto) is implementing PREPARE Eje Cafetero activities over a 24-month period in the Eje Cafetero (Coffee Axis) region corresponding to the departments of Caldas, Risaralda and Pereira, Colombia. The total program budget for PREPARE Eje Cafetero is \$1,500,000 and the program end date is September 29, 2022.

The program goal is to strengthen the regional risk management and response capacity of departmental and municipal governments and the private sector in Eje Cafetero. The program has four objectives:

1. Enhance the availability and coverage of seismic exposure, vulnerability and risk data for risk management policy and planning.
2. Strengthen the capacity of disaster authorities to understand and apply seismic risk data for improved policy, planning and implementation outcomes.
3. Strengthen the capacity of municipal agencies, USAR and other first responders to plan and implement effective response operations.
4. Strengthen regional cooperation in risk management and response through joint planning, information and resource sharing.

This semi-annual performance report covers activities carried out from April 1 to September 30, 2021. During the reporting period, program partners supported the collection of information on seismic hazard, vulnerability, risk and risk management generated in the Eje Cafetero region. The aim of this activity is to classify, analyze and organize the collected information in a regional information repository to improve the availability of information. The repository was designed to consider national and international standards. The program began the creation of a strategy for the transmission of knowledge of seismic risk to authorities, decision makers and USAR teams based on specific methodologies and pedagogies for these sectors. The results of a capacity assessment of the USAR teams were used to generate plans to strengthen these teams. The plans include training and provision of specialized equipment, tools and accessories that would facilitate compliance with the requirements to be accredited as USAR teams under INSARAG. Planning began for the provision of training for trainers in post-disaster psychosocial assistance to ensure this capacity is installed in the region so that the authorities can replicate it periodically. Likewise, the development of a regional protocol for post-disaster psychosocial assistance also began during the reporting period. This protocol will assist in organizing the activities and processes aimed at providing this type of assistance during and after an emergency in the region can be managed in a standardized way.

The program results, reflected in the strengthening of risk management authorities and response agencies, will equally benefit all sectors of the vulnerable populations exposed to seismic risk, including all ages, genders, social classes, religious belief, etc.

2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

No changes or amendments to the contract or timeline occurred or is expected at this time.

Once the program team obtained the results of the capacity assessments of the USAR teams carried out in conjunction with the UNGRD, together with results of previous internal evaluations of each group, it was determined that several USAR teams needed additional training courses. In addition to courses in ICS, training in ventilation and detection of atmosphere and structural pathology was provided, which complemented the initial training plan.

Initially, in-person training was planned. However, during the reported period, the incidence of COVID-19 infections varied constantly, with peaks regularly occurring in different months. The authorities implemented strict prevention and protection measures during the first months of the reporting period, prohibiting activities in-person, so most meetings and training were carried out virtually. However, the incidence of infections decreased in recent months, and almost 100% of USAR team officials and members have received the COVID-19 vaccine, which has gradually led to a reduction in restrictions. Therefore, the program was able to provide in-person training and meetings. Despite the variations in the modality course provision and meetings, the expected results were not affected.

3. MEASURING RESULTS¹

Sector: Risk Management Policy and Practice				
Sub-Sector: Policy Planning				
Indicator	LOP Target	Reporting Period	LOP Achieved	% Target Achieved
Number of hazard risk reduction plans, strategies, policies, disaster preparedness, and contingency plans developed and in place	9	0	0	0%
Number of people participating in discussions regarding national risk reduction strategies as a result of the program	200	119 (58 Males, 61 Females)	290 (165 Males, 125 Females)	145%
National and local risk assessment, hazards data and vulnerability information is available within targeted areas (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Risk data is incorporated into municipal and departmental risk management and response policy and plan	Y	N	N	0%
Sub-Sector: Capacity Building and Training				
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and management	135	284 (225 Males, 59 Females)	284 (225 Males, 59 Females)	210%
Number of people passing final exams or receiving certificates	115	283 (224 Males, 59 Females)	283 (224 Males, 59 Females)	246%
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	80%	0%	0%	0%
Number of people trained in First Aid, Search and Rescue, or health related DRR activities	135	284 (225 Males, 59 Females)	284 (225 Males, 59 Females)	210%
Training accepted by UNGRD for national USAR accreditation	Y	N	N	0%
Sub-Sector: Public-Private Partnership				
Number of private sector businesses directly engaged in response or DRR-related activities as a result of the program	6	2	2	33%
Estimated total number of individuals indirectly benefitting from DRR-related activities as a result of the program	1,268,305	0	0	0%
Number of government disaster contingency plans that incorporate	1	0	0	0%

¹ Representatives of Miyamoto and USAID are not included under “LOA Actual” numbers. Also, to avoid doubled-counting, individuals who participate in more than one activity will be counted only once.

private-sector aspects as a result of the program				
Public-private partnerships included in the regional, departmental or municipal emergency response protocols	Y	0	0	0%

Sector: Risk Management Policy and Practice
Sub-Sector: Policy and Planning

Objective 1: Enhance the availability and coverage of seismic exposure, vulnerability and risk data for risk management policy and planning.

During the reporting period, tools were developed to select sources of information related to hazard, vulnerability and seismic risk in the Eje Cafetero region. Together with program partners, including municipal and departmental disaster risk reduction (DRR/M) offices, universities and private companies, the program collected this type of information. This information was organized and classified in databases with a structure and fields that can be easily consulted or modified. A first analysis was done to identify weaknesses or gaps in the information by comparing them with the necessary information for the development of a complete standard seismic risk study. The program explored digital repositories at a global and regional level to inform the design of the information repository for the Eje Cafetero region. The inclusion of the Eje Cafetero repository within existing risk management plans of the region was explored, such as the risk management plan of the Administrative and Planning Region (APR) of the Eje Cafetero. Likewise, technical meetings were held with the APR to discuss the feasibility of its implementation and clarify technical requirements. In order to guarantee permanent collection of seismic risk information and constant feeding of the repository, a letter of commitment and collaboration with the Gran Colombia University of Armenia was signed to involve engineering and architecture students in this activity, as well as in the collection of building information in order to create a seismic exposure model for that city.

As a complement to the objective, information on the structural characteristics of buildings in Pereira was collected. This was done with the support of 30 students from the Libre University of Pereira and the municipal DRR office. Information from 13,853 buildings was used for the development of the Pereira exposure model. Also, planning and coordination began in the seismic vulnerability assessment of critical buildings for the municipality of Pereira.

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of disaster authorities to understand and apply seismic risk data for improved policy, planning and implementation outcomes.

A specialist in communications and education was hired to lead the development of this objective and implement the knowledge transfer related to hazard, vulnerability and seismic risk to authorities, decision makers and rescue groups to improve their skills in creating and updating risk management and emergency response plans. A detailed work plan and a schedule of activities, instruments, categorization matrix (i.e. the result of reducing the information in the investigation, turning it into a systematic structure) and a sectorization of actors were created. The latest developments at global level in methodology, pedagogy and tools for the transmission of technical knowledge to non-technical or non-scientific users were investigated for use in the development of this objective. The construction of a

strategy containing the results of this research was started and workshops were planned and scheduled. These workshops will be carried out in the next reporting period to initiate the transfer of knowledge.

Indicator 1.1: Number of hazard risk reduction plans, policies, strategies, disaster preparedness and contingency plans developed and in place.

The Life of Program (LOP) target for this indicator is nine. Progress against this indicator will be reported at the end of program.

Indicator 1.2: Number of people participating in discussions about national risk reduction strategies as a result of the program.

The LOP target for this indicator is 200. During the reported period, 29 meetings and workshops were held to discuss, plan and coordinate the different activities of the program. These meetings and workshops correspond to monthly meetings with representatives of the PREPARE Regional Committee made up of coordinators of the DRR offices of the Eje Cafetero, and heads of municipal and departmental entities and include: planning meetings for the construction of exposure and vulnerability models; presentations, monitoring and follow-up of activities; and meetings with mayors and governors, among others. The total achieved for this indicator during the reported period is 119, corresponding to an achieved LOP of 290 or 145.0% of the LOP target. Of these, 125 were women and 165 were men.

Indicator 1.3: National and local risk assessment, hazards data, and vulnerability information is available within target areas.

The LOP target for this indicator is Yes (Y). During the reporting period, a seismic exposure model for Pereira city was built based on information collected from more than 13,853 buildings. This exposure model is already available to the public and interested researchers and is a part of the Pereira seismic risk assessment, which is being developed with the PREPARE Eje Cafetero program support.

In addition, a structured database with information related to seismic hazard, vulnerability, seismic risk and disaster risk management in the Eje Cafetero region was built by the Program and is available to be consulted by different types of users (authorities, engineers, researchers, students, etc.). This will serve as the basis for the knowledge repository of the Eje Cafetero (see also, Objective 1 section).

Indicator 1.4: Risk data is incorporated into municipal and departmental risk management and response policy and plans.

The LOP target for this indicator is Y. The program will facilitate the incorporation of the information collected and generated in the activities mentioned in indicators 1.1 to 1.3 in different policies and plans for risk management and emergency response. Progress against this indicator will be reported at the end of the program.

Sector: Risk Management Policy and Practice

Sub-Sector: Capacity Building and Training

Objective 3: Strengthen the capacity of municipal agencies, USAR and other first responders to plan and implement effective response operations.

During the reporting period, the program and UNGRD analyzed information collected in the evaluation of USAR teams' capacity. The results were presented mainly in terms of training, logistical and operational needs of each group to be accredited or re-accredited as a light-level USAR team. In this reporting period, the program facilitated six courses in ICS, two workshops in atmospheres detection and ventilation, two workshops in structural pathology and one course in GPS and cartography management. These courses were provided for members of the Riosucio firefighters, Red Cross - Caldas, Manizales Firefighters, Chinchina Firefighters, Pereira Firefighters, Red Cross - Quindío and officials from DRR offices in Caldas, Risaralda and Quindío.



Staff from Eje Cafetero rescue teams participating in trainings provided by the Program.

Also, the procurement process for specialized equipment and tools to strengthen the USAR teams was initiated, with an approximate cost of USD \$153,800. This equipment includes S&R helmets and gloves, specialized tents, specialized medical kits, rescue and work at height equipment, administrative supplies, minor tools, etc.

Indicator 2.1: Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and management.

The LOP target for this indicator is 135. The program facilitated six courses in ICS basic level, two trainings in atmospheres detection and ventilation, two trainings in structural pathology and one course in GPS use and cartography. The total achieved for this indicator during the reported period is 284 unique individuals trained, for an achieved LOP of 284 or 210.4% of the LOP target. Of these, 59 were women and 225 were men.

Indicator 2.2: Number of people passing final exams or receiving certificates.

The LOP target for this indicator is 115, or 85% of people attending full trainings. During the reported period, 283 people, or 246.1% of the LOP target, received certificates. Only participants who met the requirements and qualification level required by BHA and who passed the respective tests, received certificates provided by USAID/BHA and the Program.

Indicator 2.3: Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months.

The LOP for this indicator is 80%. For each of the trainings mentioned in indicator 2.1, a knowledge retention test was given to the participants two months after training was completed. The program facilitated these tests with approval and support of USAID/BHA. However, analysis of the test results will be completed and reported during the next reporting period.

Indicator 2.4: Number of people trained in First Aid, Search and Rescue, or health related DRR activities.

All trainings provided by the program are related to First Aid, S&R and DRR activities (see indicator 2.1). The LOP for this indicator is 135. The total achieved for this indicator during the reported period is 284 people trained (without double-counting), for an achieved LOP of 284 or 210.4% of the LOP target. Of these, 59 were women and 225 were men.

Indicator 2.5: Training accepted by UNGRD for national USAR accreditation.

The LOP target for this indicator is Y. All courses and training provided by the program to USAR teams in process of accreditation are accepted by UNGRD. A letter of acceptance of these courses will be issued by UNGRD once the program completes the provision of all scheduled courses. Progress against this indicator will be reported at the end of the next reporting period.

Sector: Risk Management Policy and Practice

Sub-Sector: Public Private Partnerships

Objective 4: Strengthen regional cooperation in risk management and response through joint planning, information and resource sharing.

Under this objective, local public and private universities, professional and technical associations, response groups, the business community and civil society have been integrated to guarantee sustainable results in regional collaboration in DRR/M and emergency response. During the reported period, coordination and planning were done with the University of Manizales to prepare the development of a protocol for psychosocial assistance after a disaster. This protocol will be implemented at the regional level, including a training course for instructors which aims to train key municipal officials and rescue team members in the region. Some private sector engineering, machinery and other companies have been identified as data and information sources to update the regional DRM plans.

Indicator 3.1: Number of private sector businesses directly engaged in response or DRR-related activities as a result of the program.

The LOP for this indicator is six. During the reporting period, two agreements with private universities in the region were signed to work together on the development of activities related to risk management, response and disaster recovery. However, these universities will be officially engaged in the next reporting period. The first, with the University of Manizales to develop a regional protocol on psychosocial assistance and recovery after a disaster and training for trainers on the same topic. The second, with the University Gran Colombia for support with the information collection to feed the Eje Cafetero repository and collect building information for the Armenia seismic exposure model. Progress on those agreements will be included in the next report.

Indicator 3.2: Estimated total individuals indirectly benefitting from DRR- related program activities as a result of the program.

The LOP for this indicator is 1,268,305, which corresponds to at least half of the total population of the departments that make up the Eje Cafetero. Since it is necessary to finalize the components and activities to be developed during the program to ensure inhabitants receive a direct or indirect benefit, progress against this indicator will be reported at the end of the program.

Indicator 3.3: Number of government disaster contingency plans that incorporate private sector aspects as a result of the program.

The LOP for this indicator is one. This indicator is closely related to indicator 3.1. At least one of the program partners participating in program activities is expected to be incorporated into the existing contingency plans. Similar to indicator 3.1, progress against this indicator will be reported at the end of the Program.

Indicator 3.4: Public-Private partnerships included in the regional, departmental or municipal emergency response protocols.

The LOP target for this indicator is Y. During the reporting period, activities were started aimed at improving coordination and generating partnerships between the private sector that participates in program activities and the public sector made up of the government, its institutions and public response groups. This indicator is related to indicators 3.1 and 3.3, therefore, progress against this indicator will be reported at the end of the program.

4. PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

The program will affect at least 425 beneficiaries directly and 1,268,305 beneficiaries indirectly. The direct beneficiaries of the program include USAR members, municipal and departmental government staff involved in DRR/M and the private sector. The indirect beneficiaries correspond to 50% of the estimated population in the Eje Cafetero, a population at high seismic risk.

Miyamoto held discussions and workshops with representatives of the direct beneficiary groups before program implementation began to explore gaps and deficiencies in risk management and emergency response systems. Feedback and reports from workshops and meetings highlighted critical gaps in risk management and response capacity for each assessed geographical area. The reports generated by representatives of each zone reflected broad consensus regarding capacity-building priorities and resource requirements for improved risk management and response. Miyamoto worked with partners in Eje Cafetero to further develop a risk management and response planning framework to address findings and recommendations from the reports. Interaction with indirect beneficiaries during program implementation has not been substantial.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

During the joint planning stage with the Eje Cafetero partners prior to implementation, several risks were identified that could affect the development of the activities proposed at different levels. Among these risks is the change of people officially assigned by authorities or heads of entities to work with the program, due to job instability because of the type of contract of these officials have or administrative changes of heads of entities such as mayors, governors, directors of entities, etc. This could generate a loss in continuity of the work developed and the skills and knowledge acquired by official during the program. To reduce the impact of such events, the program requested that at least two people for each of the program's partner entities be officially assigned to the program. Likewise, a plan for transition and transfer of responsibilities and commitments will be developed at the time of a change in personnel, should this occur. During the reported period, a series of meetings with heads of entities and authorities were held to renew commitments and review the scope and objectives of the program again.

During the planning stage of the program, it was not possible to identify risks such as the conditions and restrictions generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To minimize the incidence of COVID-19 infections during the reported period in authorized meetings or in-person trainings, the biosecurity measures extended by the WHO, the national government and those of each of the involved USAR teams, were strictly adhered to. These measures include supplying PPE (masks, antibacterial gel, alcohol); taking temperature; ensuring ample meeting or training spaces that guarantee adequate ventilation and distance between people; constant hand washing and application of antibacterial gel; cleaning and disinfecting surfaces (bathrooms, tables, laptops, other elements). The program also covers COVID-19 testing for trainers and provides instructions for the fulfillment of the above measures to the participants. These conditions did not affect the development of the activities and fulfill the objectives.

6. COORDINATION

Under the **Policies and Planning subsector**, studies related to seismic risk have been reviewed to identify gaps to pinpoint areas where the program can underwrite additional research or assessments. Spaces and activities have been provided that allow authorities to properly interpret existing or updated information, and therefore promote a more effective application within related policies and plans. Activities under the **Capacity Building and Training** sub-sector compiled risk data will inform development of a capacity building strategy to strengthen DRR/M. The program teamed up with experts from UNGDR to conduct a capacity evaluation of USAR teams, culminating in a report with recommendations which informed development of a capacity building strategy including USAR training, procurement and other activities for program funding and technical assistance. Under the **Public-Private Partnerships** sub-sector, the program has been worked closely with regional entities, local universities and other professional and technical networks to strengthen risk management knowledge, disaster response and resource sharing. The program has promoted public-private entities engagement in DRR practices through workshops, on-line forums, and other activities.

As a complement to regular coordination efforts, a program steering committee (Regional Committee) comprising risk management and disaster response specialists, decision-makers, and heads of local and national entities, was formed to champion the program and facilitate a co-design approach for sustainable outcomes. Likewise, a local committee for each department/municipality and a working group for each program objective have facilitated the development of activities and the articulation between actors.

During the reporting period, the program held monthly meetings with the Regional Committee to inform on the program progress, make decisions and plan with the partner entities who report directly to the mayors and governors of their respective departments and municipalities, and directives of national partner entities. Monthly factsheets were developed and sent directly to mayors and governors and other heads of entities. Nine LoCs and MoUs were signed during the reported period with local and national partner entities and institutions.

7. CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Despite the fact that the Eje Cafetero is a region united by tradition and culture and has stood out for the good relationship between its inhabitants and its authorities, there is no solid cooperation in several areas, each department and capital city has a different economic development and progress where the rivalry for the leadership of the region is evident. This has posed a challenge for the program since, although it

seeks to independently strengthen entities and institutions in each city, the program uses a regional approach and seeks collaboration between neighbors and the homogenization of capacities. This challenge was initially addressed with the formation of regional committees (steering committee), local committees and working groups, made up of entities and individuals from the entire region. This has facilitated and promoted integration between authorities and entities under the PREPARE program. During the reporting period, each of the courses and trainings provided were carried out with an integration approach, including participants from the entire region in each training, generating a regional work environment, and promoting collaboration and connection among members of rescue groups from different entities and cities. The PREPARE program will continue to work with this methodology in all objectives and activities.

8. PLANNED ACTIVITY

For the next reporting period, the program will facilitate the following activities:

- Completion of the diagnosis and baseline of knowledge of seismic risk in the Eje Cafetero
- Implementation of the Eje Cafetero repository and its inclusion within the regional risk management plan
- Development of a strategy for communication and transmission of knowledge on seismic risk
- Implementation of workshops with authorities and USAR groups for communication and transmission of knowledge on seismic risk
- Completion of the provision of complementary training and equipment for the Eje Cafetero USAR teams
- Development of regional a protocol on psychosocial assistance after a disaster and training of trainers on this topic to install the capacity in the region

9. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY (IF APPLICABLE)

At this time, the exit strategy is not fully developed. However, sustainability is built-in to the design of program activities, including the formation of the PREPARE Regional Committee, the formation of the local committees and the regular meetings to update these committees on program progress and reaffirm their commitments. Information on the exit strategy will be included in the next report.



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