



Supporting Communities' Disaster Resilience

Drawing on decades of experience, Global Communities partners with communities to recover after natural disasters by addressing long-term needs and rebuilding climate-resilient infrastructure. As a leader in community development and community engagement, Global Communities works with communities to strengthen their environmental resilience through climate change adaptation planning and disaster risk mitigation. At the center of all of our work is our proven **Participatory Action for Community Engagement (PACE)** approach, empowering communities to identify, prioritize and find solutions to their most pressing needs. Resulting resilience programming encompasses short- to long-term measures and initiatives within our community development, construction and economic development programming. Examples of these programs include:

Reconstruction and Infrastructure: Haiti

Under the American Red Cross-led **Lavi Miyò Nan Katye pa'm Nan (LAMIKA)** or "A Better Life in My Neighborhood" program, Global Communities supported enhanced community and household resiliency through a sustainable and integrated approach to rebuilding earthquake devastated neighborhoods of Carrefour-Feuilles, Haiti. As the lead for the Physical Renewal Pillar, Global Communities improved public infrastructure services and increased the number of structurally-safe houses, public spaces and public facilities. Through the promotion and application of environmentally sound practices, living conditions improved. Additionally, communities' exposure to hazards were reduced through the application of risk-sensitive community-based urban planning and bringing public buildings and water and sanitation facilities to applicable standards. Along with international partner Build Change, we provided technical assistance for homeowner-driven retrofitting and expansion of housing units. Technical assistance services included builder and block-maker training, seismic design, construction supervision, training of homeowners, builders, and community ambassadors in safe construction practices, access to housing micro-finance, and outreach of safe construction messaging to the community.



In Haiti, the OFDA-funded **Reducing Impacts and Vulnerabilities in Neighborhood Emergencies (RAVINE)** program leveraged participatory planning processes to improve physical mitigation efforts and the preparedness of neighborhood households in two ravine-straddling neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince. Through RAVINE, Global Communities provided households with information of low-cost, effective and safe construction methods as many households continued to construct their homes without professional assistance. Through the Build Safer component, Global Communities designed and conducted a training campaign on cost-effective safer building methods in neighborhoods where the infrastructure upgrades were carried out. The campaign provided households and residents building their own houses with information on ways to improve the houses that were being built, which helped better protect them during natural disasters. Global Communities based its training on existing Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications' (MTPTC) guidelines and training materials with the support of its partner, Build Change, which provided additional guidance. The Build Safer component targeted foremen and contractors who were working or planned to work on small infrastructure and houses that were undergoing construction or reconstruction in order to improve the quality of construction in the zone.



Global Communities implemented USAID's **Haiti Neighborhood Rebuilding Program (KATYE)**. KATYE used an integrated neighborhood approach to rebuilding damaged shelter and community infrastructure as a scale-able strategy for neighborhood and community-based settlement planning, spurring social cohesion and resilient livelihoods. Combining emergency assistance and rubble removal with comprehensive planning, KATYE enabled the return of displaced households to new, well-planned neighborhoods in the Ravine Pintade area of Port au Prince. The neighborhood planning included infrastructure and space to support essential services such as water, sanitation, education, and health. To promote organization and effective community assistance, KATYE applied a phased approach to settlement planning that began with community consultation and mapping and ended with community management of new assets, services, and infrastructure. KATYE used innovative techniques for rubble removal, shelter provision, urban re-planning and comprehensive service provision. Through these processes the program was able to establish self-managed urban communities, thereby laying the foundation for formalization of previously informal urban neighborhoods and leading to durable provision of services and infrastructure.



Urban Risk Reduction: Colombia

The USAID/OFDA-funded **Conocimiento y Reduccion de Riesgos (Knowledge and Risk Reduction)** program worked with public and private actors to reduce vulnerability to landslides, earthquakes, flooding and fire-related disasters in urban neighborhoods of Medellín. The program improved disaster management in communities by using the “neighborhood approach” that emphasized resident participation in disaster planning and preparedness through hazard identification and disaster risk reduction (DRR), infrastructure, and economic recovery and market system



interventions. Through community workshops a key component of the program helped families to ensure their homes are safe places in the event of natural disasters such as floods and mudslides. Fifty percent of the workshops focused on basic ideas related to structural elements that are critical to the construction of lightweight roofs made of wood and fibrocement tiles as well as their respective maintenance. In coordination with local partner Ayuda Humanitaria, the program trained families on retrofitting their homes with risk mitigation construction. In addition, the program implemented a successful campaign, known as “Mi Casa Como Espacio Seguro” (“My home as a safe space”), which equipped families with a helpful booklet full of information and practices for ensuring their homes are resilient. The booklet was complemented by a poster designed for display in homes, which shows how many steps toward safety each home has taken. This approach, adapted from public health programming, used behavior change to ensure safety for families in risk-prone neighborhoods of Medellín, and is now being carried out by the Medellín municipal government at an even wider audience throughout the city.

Environmental Resilience and Disaster Risk Mitigation: Colombia

With funding from BHP Billiton Sustainable Communities, and in coordination with local partner SAHED, the **ANDA** program has built upon community mobilization to incorporate climate change adaptation planning to educate citizens on how climate change impacts their livelihoods so they can prioritize actions and adopt protection measures. Members of 43 communities have learned how local natural resources have been affected by climate change over recent decades; identified critical vulnerabilities and risk zones; and assessed their capacities to address impacts. Through the identification and analysis of local vulnerabilities and risk zones, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Committees have prioritized actions and designed Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCAP). Through the healthy homes initiative, Global Communities has educated families on proper sanitation methods that encourage water preservation and reinforce how individual behaviors contribute to a cleaner, healthier community. On a larger scale and in coordination with municipal authorities the program worked with communities to form a waste management network to decrease waste by educating citizens on organic compost techniques and on proper inorganic waste disposal. In collaboration with local businesses, the network has initiated a recycling collection service where families can drop off recyclable goods at various central points in their communities. At the municipal level the program has worked with authorities to ensure they have the tools and knowledge to analyze natural resources so they can better prepare their citizens for natural disasters and mitigate risks. Finally, through an in-depth assessment of climate-related vulnerabilities, the program trained local business owners on tools to identify risks so they can develop their own adaptation plans to mitigate risks through practical actions. Today communities better understand how their behaviors further contribute to environmental degradation and discuss best practices for how they can better manage their natural resources and monitor environmental conditions. These processes have facilitated coordination between household, community, and municipal levels as key actors mobilize around a critical, urgent issue they face daily.





Local Adaptation Planning and Advocacy: Nicaragua

USAID-funded **Municipal Governance Program (MGP)** in Nicaragua supports coastal communities in the Nicaraguan region of the RACCS to adapt to rising sea waters and decreasing rainwater. As sea water-levels rise, food and traditional building materials are becoming scarce, impacting fresh water availability and farm-ability of land. MGP has built the local capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs), community leaders and journalists to inform, educate and motivate to action citizenry on climate change impacts. MGP partners have built public opinion and advocated through tactical citizen engagement with public officials to achieve

tangible and scalable results to adapt to climate change. Specifically, MGP brought communities, municipalities and communal governments together to develop a common framework and plan to carry out and sustain community climate change adaptation plans in six target communities, as well as two municipal level plans. Central to the program have been environmental climate change monitoring systems and the Community Climate Change Adaptation Centers (CCACCs). These CCACCs were put to test during the threat of Hurricane Otto, when for the first time they were used as shelters for families suffering the effects of climate induced events. As part of the adaptation planning process, communities mapped climate vulnerabilities, leading to improved preparedness and action planning. CSOs have also participated in these workshops and awareness campaigns that focus on issues such as conservation of water and waste management. MGP has completed 17 infrastructure projects for over 100,000 beneficiaries, many of which build resilience to the effects of climate change. These range from paving and improving roads, building a water storage and treatment plant to constructing a gravity-fed water supply system. Vanderbilt University's evaluation of the MGP pointed to the overall success of Global Communities to use innovative approaches to facilitating advocacy efforts around key issues of climate impact on communities.

Home Reparations: Puerto Rico

In Puerto Rico, Global Communities implemented the **Support for Maria Survivors** program through a combination of our own resources and funds from Unidos Por Puerto Rico. The program provided emergency roof repairs for 200 homes around the underserved barrios of Caimito and Playita, prioritizing female-headed households and homes with elderly or disabled persons. Between October and December, the program recruited and trained 11 volunteers to conduct individual household-level damage assessments and install roof solutions and provided temporary income generating opportunities for three architects and 12 laborers from Puerto Rico. The team assessed 252 households for structural damage in Caimito and Playita, installing 150 temporary roof solutions and distributing 50 tarpaulins, enabling families to dry their belongings and sleep in dry quarters. Additionally, the team distributed 200 cleaning kits and mold remediation pamphlets to prevent the spread of mold and related health challenges and delivered 5,000 liters of water and six cases of Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) to vulnerable households without access to safe drinking water and nutritional food. Global Communities staff engaged with mayors and community leaders to explain the program and ensure sustainability.



Global Communities is a global development organization committed to working in partnership with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable, impactful changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself. [For more information, please visit: www.globalcommunities.org](http://www.globalcommunities.org)