

Urban Laboratory Portoviejo: Women leading climate resilience to transform vulnerable neighborhoods



Potential Climate/ Disaster Impacts addressed and Justification for this Approach

The city of Portoviejo suffers an increase in extreme rain events during the rainy season, which increases the probability of landslides on surrounding hills, with consequent flooding of the urban center. One of the hills, San Pablo, with a population of 11,696 inhabitants (52% women and 28% children under 12 years old), presents social and economic vulnerability conditions. This, combined with exposure to threats from mass movements on slopes and ravines, places San Pablo at risk, aggravated by the increase in the intensity and frequency of rain due to climate change. 62% of the heads of households are female; most do not have permanent employment, and work in independent commerce or domestic service; some harvest fruits and tubers for family consumption. Despite their socio-economic condition, they play a key role in their neighborhoods for the maintenance of recreation spaces and access roads, cleaning of gutters, and organization of mingas to meet the emerging needs of community members; they are, at the same time, victims of the consequences of climate change, and potential actors to confront it and implement adaptation measures. In this context, the approach was to increase the climate resilience of the population of San Pablo hills, empowering women to implement nature-based adaptation measures and promote changes in their territory.

Process of Implementation

1. Design and implement, in a participatory way and from a gender perspective, adaptation measures to climate change in two specific sites of San Pablo, based on principles of natural engineering, to reduce the risks of landslides and give functionality to public space, empowering the group "Guardians of the Hills" and integrating more families into the process. The measures could include family gardens, terraced slopes, green areas, stairs, children's games with native material, and ecological trails.
2. Design and implement a community alert system for landslides in prioritized sectors within San Pablo, through the involvement of the community, both in the design and in the piloting of the system.
3. Generate communicational material that allows strengthening the community's resilience and improves the communicative skills of women to share the experiences of the process and their life stories with inhabitants of other neighborhoods.
4. Strengthen a tool that allows for a correct flow of information from citizens to Neighborhood Risk and Emergency Committees, and then to municipal technicians and coordinators who enter the information into the municipal alert warning alert platform, and thus contribute to decision-making by the Cantonal Emergency Operations Committee.
5. Implement a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy to address gender-based violence in the context of the pandemic, as a mechanism to promote individual, family, neighborhood, and community resilience, without neglecting the aspects related to adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Project Title

Sector Programme Cities (Cities Challenge)

Project Number

2020.2146.7

Results and Impacts

1. 72 Neighborhood Risk and Emergency Committees (CREB) consolidated.
2. Technological tool established to consolidate citizen alerts generated by the CREB and the actions taken by the municipality.
3. Community Early Warning System in San Pablo for landslides, fires, and other threats such as violence, crime, and urban expansion in risk-prone areas.
4. 27 people trained in gender-based violence prevention.
5. Participatory design and implementation of the following adaptation measures: Repair of gabions and placement of three relief wells in the Briones Citadel, an ecological roundabout and staircase in the Los Ceibos sector, and a Classroom for the development of a Socio-Environmental Play Center in the downtown area.
6. Development of communication materials for resilience building: a dream



TYPE OF APPROACH

Implementation of technical solution



COUNTRY

Ecuador



LEVEL OF INTERVENTION

neighbourhood



TYPE OF RISK MANAGEMENT

prevention, transformation



MAIN HAZARDS ADDRESSED

Flood, Landslide



URBAN FUNCTION PROTECTED

all



SPHERE OF INTERVENTION

socio-political sphere/ governance, environment



RESOURCES REQUIRED

\$160.000



COOPERATION PARTNERS

Municipality of Portoviejo, Parochial Council of San Pablo, Association of Risk Management Professionals of Ecuador (APGRE), Guardians of the Hills Group, REDUS Manabí.

LINKS

[https://www.bivica.org/files/5984_Mujeres_Liderando_Resiliencia_Climatica_28-OCT%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.bivica.org/files/5984_Mujeres_Liderando_Resiliencia_Climatica_28-OCT%20(1).pdf)
<https://www.bivica.org/file/view/id/5619>
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