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Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011

Santa Fe is getting ready!

Santa Fe, Argentina

Population: 369,589 (2001)

Main hazards threatening Santa Fe include flooding, and severe storms. Although volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are prominent in other parts of the country, Santa Fe is not strongly at risk of these natural hazards.

Located in the mid-eastern part of Argentina, the city of Santa Fe is the capital of the Santa Fe province characterized as having a Mediterranean-type climate. The availability of rich natural resources in Santa Fe allows for the inclusion of many of Argentina's economic and productive activities. 70% of the territory is made up of rivers, lakes and wetlands which faced drastic land-use changes in recent years—increasing vulnerability. Intensive agriculture, in addition to changes in cultivation techniques and drainage, has altered the hydrology of Santa Fe and destroyed natural flood mitigation elements limiting its capability to absorb excess water.

Disaster Risk Reduction activities

In 2003, the flooding of the Salado River affected 150,000 people and caused millions of dollars in damages.

Since the flood in 2003, there have been numerous efforts to improve the coping capacity of Santa Fe against natural hazards such as floods. In 2008 an Urban Plan was introduced which, among other things, aimed to stabilize homes located in the west which were the most socially and environmentally vulnerable. In 2009 an Inter-American Development Bank project was implemented for Disaster Risk Management in Santa Fe. Through the municipal department for the Management of Risks, Santa Fe is participating in a regional network for the Paraná River Basin, of thirteen cities in four provinces, for improved security and sustainability. In implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action, the network aims to avoid new settlements in high risk areas, to improve Early Warning Systems, and to increase public awareness and education.