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to disasters

Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011

Bogotá is getting ready!

Bogotá, Colombia

Population: 6,990,000 (2005)

Type of Hazard: Landslides, Floods, Earthquakes, Forest Fires and Structural and Technological Accidents

Located in the center of the country, the capital of Colombia, Bogotá, stands at an altitude of 2,600 meters above sea-level making it one of the highest cities in the world. Widely known as the 'Sabana de Bogotá' it rests in the northwest extension of the Andes. Constituting as the most populous city in the country, Bogotá is the one of the largest economic and industrial centers of Latin America.

With massive migration from the rural areas to the city in the late 1940s, the expansion of the city, along with the proliferation of informal settlements, residential hillsides, and non-engineered homes, occurred. In more recent years, actions have been taken at the district level to promote recovery programs in order to protect the city's natural resources. These efforts include reforestation projects and the establishment of protected reserves.

Disaster Risk Reduction activities

In 2006, a state of emergency was decreed in Bogotá due to major floods caused by the rainy season. In 2002, 2109 people lost their homes in the Tunjuelito River Flood and in the following year 2965 households were relocated as a result of major landslides.

In 1987 the city council created the Fund for Prevention and Emergency Care (FOPAE), aimed at financing the preparation of a program to cover the prevention of disasters with an annual budget of approximately US \$8,000,000. In 2006 Bogotá adopted a District Plan for Prevention and Emergency Care (PDPAE) which constitutes as the primary instrument in a ten year plan for the city and correlates with Land-use Planning and the Environmental Management Plan. In addition, Bogotá is a participating member of the Regional Project on Reducing Risk in the Andean Capitals supported by UNDP and DIPECHO.