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## Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011

# Santa Tecla is getting ready!

## Santa Tecla, El Salvador

Population: 121,908 (2007)

*Santa Tecla is exposed to natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, heavy rains, and fires.*

Situated at the southern foot of the San Salvador Volcano, Santa Tecla was originally founded as 'Nueva San Salvador' in 1854. It served as the capital of the Republic until 1958 and today is the capital of the La Libertad region.

Throughout the past decades, a large influx in migration to Santa Tecla resulted in rapid and uncontrolled urban growth. Urbanization extended through the protected areas of Santa Tecla causing great environmental impact and consequently contributed to the earthquake induced landslide of 2001.

### Disaster Risk Reduction activities

Santa Tecla experienced a severe earthquake and subsequent landslide in 2001 which caused hundreds of deaths.

This event marked the shift in planning for the municipal government. In response to the 2005 law for civil protection, prevention and mitigation, the municipality released an Order for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management in Santa Tecla. The principles of this order surround development, participatory management of risk, social equity, integrated institutional management, and equality.