

BARRIO MIO

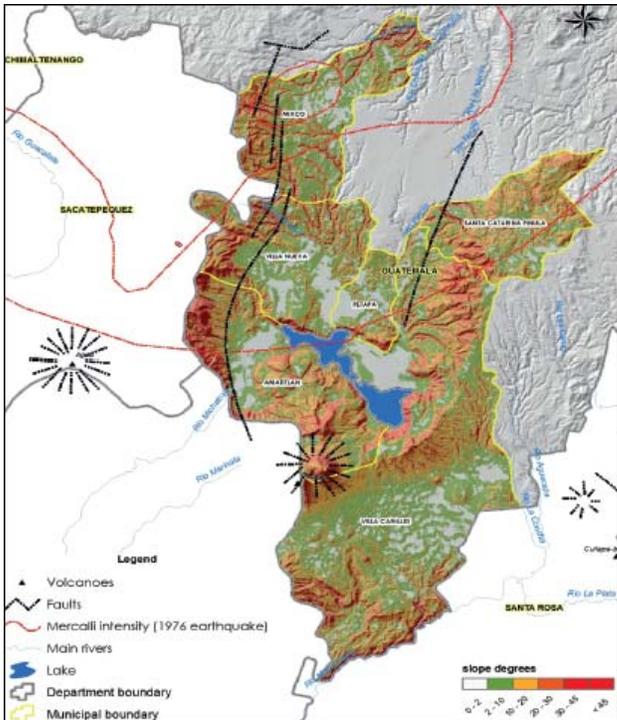
A Scalable Model for Urban Renewal



THE PROBLEM OF URBAN VULNERABILITY

3.9 billion people in the world live in urban areas, which represents over 50% of the world's population. Many of the challenges facing the major urban centers in the world are reflected in the six Guatemalan municipalities where Project Concern International (PCI) is implementing Barrio Mio. With an estimated 3 million inhabitants, these communities represent 19% of Guatemala's population. Extremely high population density in these areas, the occupation and use of land, population growth, and accelerated urbanization are enormous challenges that exist in these territories. Most communities lack basic utilities and inadequate infrastructure, are living in unsafe and unhealthy situations, and have increasingly fatalistic attitudes about what their future living situation might be. This makes for a particularly volatile environment with great risk for social unrest, violence, and the unraveling of social fabric.

In response to these concerns, PCI has developed a scalable model for urban renewal that engages community members in assessing risks that most affect them, and works with them to design a neighborhood, a home and a social environment that is safe, secure, and productive.



MANCOMUNIDAD GRAN CIUDAD del SUR

Mixco
Amatlán
San Miguel Petapa
Santa Catarina Pinula
Villa Canales
Villa Nueva

OVERVIEW

With funding from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, PCI is collaborating with the Government of Guatemala, municipalities, the private sector, universities, local organizations, and local communities to develop scalable methodologies for upgrading high risk informal urban settlements into safer, healthier, and more resilient neighborhoods.

The strategy, based on PCI's "Neighborhood Approach," convenes a broad range of stakeholders—from women, men, children, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities in dangerous communities, to banks, municipalities, ministries, and construction companies, for example—to identify vulnerabilities and develop collaborative strategies to address them. Barrio Mio, which started in Mixco, Guatemala in 2012, has now scaled to six municipalities which comprise the Mancomunidad Gran Ciudad del Sur, and has the support of over 40 partners.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1 Redevelop neighborhood spaces and rebuild homes to reduce vulnerability to disasters and optimize land use.
- 2 Improve household and neighborhood water and sanitation systems and practices to increase access to clean water to reduce environmental contamination.
- 3 Reinforce livelihoods and reduce vulnerability through women's economic and social empowerment.
- 4 Pilot innovative financial strategies to increase urban household savings and facilitate access to land and improved housing.
- 5 Strengthen the capacity of government agencies at municipal and national levels to work on prevention programs with communities.



PCI (Project Concern International) is an international nonprofit on a mission to enhance health, end hunger and overcome hardship worldwide. Founded in 1961, PCI impacted the lives of more than 10 million people last year alone through programs in 15 countries spanning Asia, Africa and the Americas.



KEY STRATEGIES

Examples of strategies Barrio Mio has developed include:

- Construction of innovative urban water and sanitation infrastructure;
- Improving urban planning and zoning, and generating inclusive strategies to move households to safer land;
- Reinforcing housing construction to reduce vulnerability to disasters (including with support from partner Build Change);
- Construction of urban mitigation infrastructure;
- Building the capacity of communities, municipalities and ministries in urban risk management and emergency response;
- Improving access for the elderly and people with disabilities;
- Generating neighborhood and household level strategies to improve urban health and protection of vulnerable populations;
- Reinforcing the social and economic empowerment of women in urban areas;
- Developing strategies to extend lower cost loans to families living in unsafe areas so they can afford safer housing on safer land, together with the collaboration of banks, microfinance institutions, local ministries and municipalities.

TAKING THE MODEL TO SCALE

Recently, the Government of Guatemala declared its intention to make the Barrio Mio “Neighborhood Approach” the model for its national urban upgrading approach and the basis for its emergency response strategies for housing in urban areas. As such, PCI is now embarking on an effort to collaborate with the Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing in Guatemala to make this vision a reality.

Looking beyond Guatemala, PCI is now launching Barrio Mio in Tijuana, Mexico, together with partner CEMEX and various other local stakeholders.



AT A GLANCE

- 152,988 Beneficiaries Reached
- 94 Communities Upgraded
- 6,292 People Trained
- 40+ Partners Engaged
- 27.7 Hectares of Land Reclaimed
- 1,626 Women in WE Groups
- \$61,668 Dollars Saved By Women

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, BARRIO MIO GUATEMALA

José Murguía
ph: 011-502-2369-7058
jmurguia@pciglobal.org

DIRECTOR, RISK REDUCTION & RESILIENCE WASHINGTON, DC

Jim DiFrancesca
ph: (202) 223-0088
jdifrancesca@pciglobal.org