Reducing inequalities in building resilience to natural disasters in Mexico City

Sub Session 3. Non-Structural Measures Against Earthquakes
Diana Alarcón
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Mexico City is an earthquake prone region

Three major earthquakes in recent history:

✓ **July 1957**: It is known as the “Angel earthquake” and 39 people lost their life with major loss in assets

✓ **September 1985**: an estimated 10,000 people lost their life and damages are calculated in 4,103 million dollars

✓ **September 2017**: 228 people lost their life and there were large economic losses
Many other risks

✔ Major floods during the rainy season

✔ Water distress

✔ Wild fires during the hot season

✔ Air pollution exacerbated by atmospheric conditions in the valley (during hot and cold seasons - low winds)
Determinants of risk

Source: UN/DESA, based on IPCC (2014d), p. 3.
Inequalities exacerbate risks: a vicious cycle

- Multidimensional inequality
- Disproportionate loss of assets and income suffered by disadvantaged groups
- Greater exposure and vulnerability of disadvantaged groups

Hazards
Different channels of influence of inequality on disadvantaged groups

- Multidimensional Inequality
  - Greater exposure
  - Greater susceptibility
  - Less ability to cope and recover
  - Disproportionate loss of assets and income and greater inequality
Rates of recovery from natural hazards reflect inequalities

Source: Based on Mutter (2015)
Need for a new policy framework

✓ Structural inequalities push people toward greater exposure and susceptibility while lowering their ability to cope with and recover from climate hazards

✓ Addressing the root cause of inequalities that aggravate exposure and vulnerability requires a new policy framework

✓ These policies have to be part of a transformative agenda for long-term adaptation and development
Building resilience

Resilience: the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape… Not enough….

Social resilience: building capacity among people and communities to protect against risk and… to recover and leap forward when disasters occur

Building resilience is part of development policies

Economic and social dimensions….
A comprehensive policy framework to address inequality
Increased investment to reduce inequality

32% increased investment in infrastructure in 2019
- Transportation
- Reconstruction of housing to address losses from the earthquake in 2017
- Green areas

All of them targeted to the poorest and most vulnerable areas in the city
Increased investment to reduce inequality

### Investment axes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment Axle</th>
<th>USD M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Road Maintenance Works</td>
<td>944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconstruction Earthquake 2017</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILARES</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture, Environment and Recreation</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban equipment</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vallejo Verde</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day care Centre</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Infrastructure spending 2019</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,097</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Signature investments to address inequality

- Community centers - 300 PILARES for social cohesion and increased opportunities: cyber schools, skill development, arts, sports, support to cooperatives
- Integrated transportation system to connect the periphery to the center
- Culture and tourism for most disadvantaged
- Systems for rain water collection
Signature investments to address inequality

✓ Comprehensive support to schooling (universal scholarships to all students, from primary to university education); maintenance for public schools; hot meals..

✓ Universal pension for seniors (68+)

✓ Parks and recreation centers for most disadvantaged

✓ Support to cooperatives and self employment

✓ Employment creation in partnership with the private sector
Innovation and rights

With innovative solutions we are building a city where all citizens have a right to a decent living.

All rights established in the Constitution of Mexico City:

- Education
- Health
- Housing
- Education
- Green spaces
- Good jobs…..

The right to a resilient city
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