C.5  Guatamala - 1976 - Earthquake - Materials and training

Case study:  Materials and training

Disaster:  Guatamala earthquake
Disaster date:  February 1976
Number of houses damaged or destroyed:  384,762
  221,261 in Guatemala City
  163,501 in Rural areas
Number of people displaced:  1.6 million
Project target population:  15,000 families, in four rural districts
Occupancy rate on handover:  “Very low” for initial tents;
  “Very high” for shelters constructed from distributed materials
Shelter size:  Various

Summary
Housing materials were distributed, and training and advice provided through locally-hired teams. The aim of this was to accelerate reconstruction, and provide community-wide training on seismic-resistant construction techniques.

Earthquake resistant training in guatemala.  Photo: Oxfam GB

Sketch showing earthquake-resistant bracing  Image credit: Cuny Center