

C.5 Guatemala - 1976 - Earthquake

Case study: Materials and training

Case study credit: CUNY Center
See Shelter Projects 2008 for more

Disaster:

Guatemala 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



13 Months – – Project completion

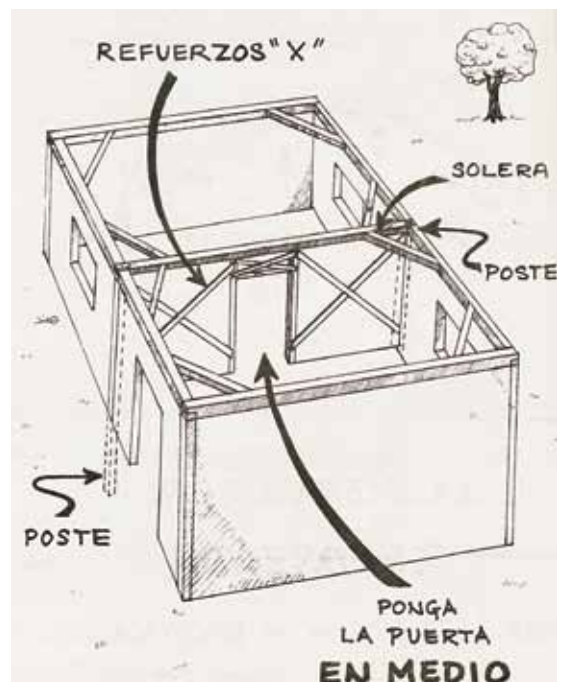
Feb. 1976 – Earthquake

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