

A Progress Report

Significant progress has been made in strengthening Quito's high-risk schools during even the first year of this project.

As of this writing, funding has been committed to retrofit 10 of this project's school buildings. The City of Quito has allocated funds to retrofit four buildings at its Experimental Sucre school. Ecuador's Project for Development, Efficiency, and Quality in Basic Education has agreed to retrofit six buildings at three schools: Ana Paredes de Alfaro, José de Antepara, and República de Chile. Retrofit construction for these three schools will commence shortly. Local philanthropic organizations and businesses have expressed interest in sponsoring additional school retrofits.

The City of Quito has agreed to fund the evaluation and retrofit of its Eugenio Espejo school, one identified by this project as vulnerable.

Most important for Ecuador's rapidly growing population, US AID-Ecuador has agreed to sponsor the design of new, earthquake-resistant school modules for the National Directorate for School Construction. These designs will be used for school construction throughout Ecuador.

Significant progress has also been made in learning how to identify and strengthen the remainder of Quito's vulnerable schools. Potentially vulnerable schools can readily be identified by experienced engineers with the methods used in this project. Based on the experience of this project, retrofitting schools to protect the lives of their occupants is affordable and inexpensive relative to a school's replacement cost.

The identification of high-risk schools and the design of their retrofits can generate local funding needed to strengthen the schools.

Engineers are shown here inspecting the República de Chile school, one for which retrofit funds have been committed.

