



THIS PROJECT IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP
TOWARD IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF QUITO'S SCHOOLS.

THE NEXT STEP CAN BE TAKEN BY
QUITO'S PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.



Taking the Next Step

This project primarily involved Quito engineers, government officials, and education advocates. The engineers identified high-risk schools and designed retrofits. The government officials and education advocates provided guidance and raised funds for the retrofit construction. All have shown their commitment to school earthquake safety. They should be supported to continue this work until all of Quito's vulnerable schools are retrofit.

Parents and teachers were not directly involved in this project, yet they have the greatest personal interest in safe schools and can play an important role in making schools earthquake-resistant. Parents and teachers can:

- Raise awareness of the vulnerability of Quito's schools and the methods to make them safe.
- Request school inspections by structural engineers from, for example, Quito's universities and the Ecuadorian Structural Engineering Association.
- Identify and mitigate nonstructural hazards, such as unsecured bookshelves and heavy ceiling tiles, and develop earthquake preparedness and response plans for their schools. These activities are simple, inexpensive, and effective.

Earthquakes will be a part of Quito's future, as surely as they have been a part of its past. While it is not known when the next major earthquake will occur, it is certain that increasing earthquake safety in Quito's schools now will reduce future injuries and damage. This project is only the first step toward improving the safety of Quito's schools. The next step can be taken by Quito's parents, teachers, and community leaders.

Other GeoHazards International Publications:

Issues in Urban Earthquake Risk

The Quito, Ecuador, Earthquake Risk Management Project: An Overview

Uses of Earthquake Damage Scenarios

Escuela Politécnica Nacional, GeoHazards International, *The Quito, Ecuador, School Earthquake Safety Project: Investing in Quito's Future*. (Stanford: GeoHazards International, 1995.)

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