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A CASE STUDY AT CIUDAD VALLES, SAN LUIS POTOSI, MEXICO”**

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## **ABSTRACT**

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There is a global trend on increasing of disasters especially of urban flood disasters, that leads to unbearable economic costs and Mexico is not the exception. In order to cope with this, disaster risk reduction based on building resilience among communities and nations is being promoted globally. Despite some countries including Mexico, have made great efforts, at most cases effective disaster risk reduction has not been achieved. There is the need for develop and assess efforts towards resilience building, following a generalized resilience concept that allows a practical application. Present research contributes to the understanding and assessment of the urban community flood resilience capacity. It provides a proposal of method for rapid assessment of community flood-resilience based on evaluation of the flood-coping measures. The proposed assessment method complements assessments focused on causal-factors of resilience capacity development. The assessment seeks to trace evidence of resilience capacity to floods by analyzing (1) community's performance in terms of previous flood impacts and flood coping measures developed at disaster risk management cycle stages, and (2) measure-related performance meaning in terms of urban flood resilience key properties. This assessment method was applied to case study of *Magisterial* urban community at Mexico; the Magisterial is a teachers' small urban community under flash flood susceptibility and that presents recent flood disaster record. Main input data came from interviews and questionnaires and was submitted to quantitative-qualitative analysis.

The assessment method allowed identifies evidence of resilience properties at the Magisterial. The suburb has developed self-organization in two ways: organized and improvised; where only improvised measures are ultimate decentralized because do not depend on any central institution. Both ways of self-organization have been key to the manteinance of the community, but it seems that improvised community measures are reflecting more the dynamic resilient capacity of survival and maintenance of functionality over time under an uncertain environment. The Magisterial has also been learning from disasters and has made institutional, behavior and physical adjustments. Moreover the community stock of flood-coping measures allows partial redundancy with family and municipal measures. Also, solidary attitude is believed that has promoted improvised measures for survival and recovery, besides of producing place attachment that favors community resilience capacity development.

Key words: Resilience assessment, Community resilience, Urban floods, Flood-coping measures, Disaster Risk Management Cycle, Disaster Risk Reduction.

## RESUMEN

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Existe una tendencia global de aumento de desastres, especialmente de desastres por inundaciones urbanas que conlleva a costos económicos incapaces de sobrellevar, y México no es la excepción. Para enfrentar esta situación, la reducción del riesgo por desastre basado en construir resiliencia entre las comunidades y las naciones esta siendo promovida globalmente. A pesar de que en algunos países incluyendo México, se han hecho grandes esfuerzos, en la mayoría de los casos reducción efectiva del riesgo por desastre no se ha logrado. Existe la necesidad por desarrollar y evaluar esfuerzos dirigidos a la construcción de la resiliencia, siguiendo una concepto generalizado de resiliencia que permita una práctica aplicación. La presente investigación contribuye al entendimiento y la evaluación de la capacidad comunitaria de resiliencia a inundaciones urbanas. Esta provee una propuesta de método para la rápida evaluación de la resiliencia comunitaria a inundaciones. El método de evaluación propuesto complementa evaluaciones enfocadas en los factores causales del desarrollo de la capacidad de resiliencia. La evaluación se centra en rastrear evidencia de la capacidad de resiliencia a inundaciones a través de analizar (1) el desempeño de la comunidad en términos de previos impactos por inundación y medidas para lidiar con las inundaciones que han sido desarrolladas en las fases del ciclo de manejo de riesgos por desastre, y (2) el significado que ha tenido este desempeño en términos de propiedades claves de la resiliencia urbana a inundaciones. Este método de evaluación fue aplicado al caso de estudio de la comunidad urbana *Magisterial* en México; la Magisterial es una comunidad de maestros que posee susceptibilidad a inundaciones súbitas y que presenta un record reciente de desastre por inundaciones. La mayor cantidad de la información de entrada para la evaluación provino de entrevistas y cuestionarios y fue sometida a análisis cualitativo y cuantitativo.

La evaluación permitió identificar evidencia de propiedades de la resiliencia en la Magisterial. La colonia ha desarrollado organización propia en dos formas: organizada e improvisada; donde sólo las medidas improvisadas son verdaderamente descentralizadas porque no dependen de ninguna institución central. Ambas formas de organización propia han sido clave para el mantenimiento de la comunidad, pero parece que las medidas comunitarias improvisadas están reflejando más la capacidad dinámica de la resiliencia en la sobrevivencia y el mantenimiento de la funcionalidad en el tiempo en un ambiente incierto. La Magisterial también ha estado aprendiendo de los desastres y ha realizado ajustes institucionales, de comportamiento y físicos. Además, el conjunto de medidas comunitarias para lidiar con las inundaciones permite una redundancia parcial con las medidas familiares y municipales. También, la actitud solidaria se cree que ha promovido medidas improvisadas para la sobrevivencia y la recuperación, además de estar fomentando el arraigo al lugar, mismo que favorece el desarrollo de la resiliencia comunitaria.

Palabras clave: Evaluación de resiliencia, Resiliencia comunitaria, Inundaciones urbanas, Medidas para lidiar con inundaciones, Cyclo de Manejo de Riesgo por Desastre, Reducción de riesgo por desastre

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## INTRODUCTION

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There is a global trend on increasing of flood events, causing floods to become the most frequent event among “natural” disasters (Jha *et al.*, 2011; CENAPRED, 2013). Flood disasters are also increasing faster than any other kind of disaster (CENAPRED, 2013). This global tendency comes along with increasing unbearable economic costs (GAR, 2011), which has had strong consequences at urban areas (Jha *et al.*, 2011). Lately, disaster risk management is changing towards more adaptive attitude (Lei *et al.*, 2013); and communities are seen as potential strong contributors to local disaster risk management (Rademacher, 2013). Mexico is a clear example of this global tendency. Mexican government, as many other governments around the world that have committed to Hyogo Framework for Action 2015-2015, has been conducting efforts for developing resilience at national and local scale, but there are still strong limitations in terms of financial resources and operative capacities (SINAPROC, 2013). Mexico recognizes that shares a common challenge with other nations, the challenge of fostering resilience capacity building practices that seek for community-level disaster risk reduction (*Ibid.*). Mexican government investments in disaster risk reduction strategies are focused on projects for construction of flood-preventive infrastructure (CONAGUA, 2011) but should include initiatives for strengthening of local flood resilience-related measures that are already taking place inside communities.

In order to develop and assess concerted efforts towards resilience-building and disaster risk reduction, there has to be a concrete understanding and definition of resilience concept that can be practically operationalized at flood risk management strategies (De Bruijn, 2004); despite the disaster resilience research, there is still no general accepted definition nor practical operationalization (Garschagen, 2011).

Moreover, several attempts of resilience assessment frameworks have been developed through diverse approaches (Mitchell & Harris, 2012; Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012), most of them have been limited to assessments of vulnerability levels (Mitchell & Harris, 2012) that are impractical for monitoring real implementation resilience-building efforts. Even though resilience capacity is a complex concept, it needs to be narrowed down for practical application and evaluation (Mitchell & Harris, 2012; Klein et al. 2003 in Garschagen, 2011) because there is a pressing need to find ways of measure disaster resilience capacity objectively and repeatedly (Zhou et al., 2009).

The present research addresses previous concerns; it contributes to practical understanding and assessing of the community flood resilience capacity. The research offers a proposal of method for rapid assessment of community flood-resilience. A conceptual framework of community flood resilience is proposed as basis for the assessment method. Conceptual framework follows a community approach in which resilience capacity is implicitly analyzed through (1) community's performance regarding previous flood-impacts and its response in terms of development of flood-coping measures at disaster risk management cycle, and (2) potential of this community's performance to foster urban flood resilience key properties of localized flood-response, timely adjustments after every flood and diverse and redundant flood-related measures. Proposal of rapid assessment is applied to *Magisterial* suburb at Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosí, Mexico and results and considerations regarding the method are presented.

## State of the art

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### Flood resilience relevance at global context

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Extreme weather events are being more intense and frequent (Lei *et al.*, 2013). This hazard event global tendency is in part responsible for an increasing on disaster's intensity (USAID, 2007), which has lead to more people affected and higher impact-related costs (CRED, 2012; Albrito, 2012). Moreover, it is expected an increase in the frequency and intensity of the most severe weather hazard-related disasters over the next decades due to the main drivers of risk: climate change, deficient planning and management of urbanization, environmental degradation, poverty and weak governance (UNISDR & WMO, 2012).

Flood disaster phenomena trend shows a clear example of this global tendency. "In the past twenty years...the number of reported flood events has been increasing significantly" (Jha *et al.*, 2011 p. 19); nowadays floods are the most frequent events among the natural disasters (Jha *et al.*, 2011; CENAPRED, 2013) and they are increasing faster than any other kind of disaster (CENAPRED, 2013). There has been an increase of 114% at the annual average of people exposed to floods between 1970 and 2010, this means around 32.5-69.4 million of more people per year (GAR, 2011)<sup>1</sup>. Related to this, the economic loss risk is increasing rapidly because of the rising exposure of economic goods belonging to households and communities (GAR, 2011; Albrito, 2012), even though there has been identified a significant drop in the world mortality risk associated to impact of weather hazards. This scenario sets up a critical situation that so far has not been fully addressed by the governments, specially those experimenting high economic growth rates (GAR, 2011).

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<sup>1</sup> This partially has to do with the fact that more people are establishing on floodplains, condition that has become more intense and faster in low and lower-middle-income countries (GAR, 2011). Although it is not sure whether this increase in frequency and severity of hazardous events may be blamed on climate change, population growth or unsustainable development (De Bruijn, 2004 p. 53).

The flood risk<sup>2</sup> and related economic loss risk, is now even more intense at urban areas, where there is a higher concentration of population and economical assets that increase the consequences of flood-impacts (Jha *et al.*, 2011). Moreover, urbanization rate will continue increasing over the next decades<sup>3</sup> (Jha *et al.*, 2011; UNISDR, 2012), and urban floods will be responsible of most part of the total flood impact (Jha *et al.*, 2011).

“Since flood disasters still occur and even increase in frequency and severity, flood risk management must be reconsidered” (De Bruijn, 2004 p. 53). Flood risk management traditionally has followed a management paradigm of controlling nature, so it has addressed floods by mitigation through flood control infrastructures (Liao *et al.*, 2012). This kind of management has led to “...flood disasters become more frequent and increase in severity, despite centuries of experience with flood management” (Parker, 2000 and Takeuchi, 2002 in De Bruijn, 2004 p. 53). There is the need for new strategies, or even innovative approaches, oriented towards future flood coping response (De Bruijn, 2004); alternative flood hazard management focused on resilience is an example of recent-emerged alternative management concepts that integrate a broader perspective (Liao *et al.*, 2012).

#### *Disaster risk management and resilience approach*

Human settlements have dealt before with extreme events under deep uncertain environments (Lei *et al.*, 2014). De Bruijn (2004) identifies that disaster risk management (DRM)<sup>4</sup> has change its approach over the time; at the beginning followed a management paradigm of controlling nature because it was focused on preventing or avoiding disaster events by controlling events’ characteristics; DRM was later

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<sup>2</sup> “Flood risks consist of two elements: the hazard, in the form of peak discharges, and the consequences, the resulting damage and social disruption” (De Bruijn, 2004 p. 54).

<sup>3</sup> It is estimated that world urban population increase 60% in 2030, and 70% in 2050 –this will mean the double of the rural population for 2050 (Jha *et al.*, 2012).

<sup>4</sup> Disaster Risk Management refers to the systematic process based on administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities, to implement activities and measures for prevention, mitigation and preparedness in order to avoid, lessen or transfer the adverse impacts of hazards and thus the possibility of disaster (UNISDR, 2009).

oriented to reduce the disaster events by modifying vulnerability traits of the settlements subject to impacts. Nowadays it seems that DRM is changing towards a more adaptive attitude (Lei *et al.*, 2013) through resilience strategies (De Bruijn, 2004). Moreover, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization, in its reflections about Post-2015 UN Development Agenda makes clear this change of perspective when expresses that “communities will have to adapt even more to these stressful environmental conditions, through disaster risk reduction and resilience building measures” (UNISDR & WMO, 2012 p. 4).

Resilience approach focuses on building the capacity to adapt to uncertainty, because it considers strategies for dealing with changes, not trying to control them (De Bruijn, 2004; Adger *et al.* 2005 in Lei *et al.*, 2013). Resilience strategies focus on setting and conducting a flexible response to, and a rapid recover from disaster events (De Bruijn & Klijn, 2001; Vis *et al.*, 2001 in De Bruijn, 2004). Thus, resilience approach uses a different approximation to achieve the efficient management and even the reduction of disaster events in a population.

Moreover, resilience approach is now winning attention in today's scenery of high economic loss risk related to disaster events. Since late studies have started to contemplate communities as active and solidary networks that can make big contributions to local DRM (Rademacher, 2013), community resilience concept is gaining weight in political and public international discourse (Price-Robertson & Knight 2012); especially in natural hazards and disasters discourse (Kuhlicke, 2013). Also, related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)<sup>5</sup> strategies, resilience concept received great attention after the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in 2005 (Djalante *et al.*, 2013).

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is a global and partially successful effort

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<sup>5</sup> “DRR offers a systematic and comprehensive method of identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster within disaster management cycle from prevention, mitigation, emergency management to rehabilitation” (UNISDR 2007 in Djalante *et al.*, 2013 p.2110).

to apply and promote resilience approach to DRR. This framework is an international effort that is conducted by United Nations together with 168 countries. The main goal is to achieve in 2015, a significant reduction on the disaster events' intensity by building resilience to disaster among nations and communities (UNISDR, 2005).

A general overview of the countries' improvements regarding the Hyogo Framework is provided in the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction of 2011 (GAR, 2011). The 2009-2011 Progress Review in GAR (2011) concludes that the HFA goal has not been reached yet, despite there has been an overall improvement in: governance and institutional arrangements, risk identification and early warning, knowledge and education, identifying risk and preparedness and response measures. But any of those achievements can assure that an effective implementation of DRM (focused on DRR) has been reached by most of the countries. There are still a lot of weak points that need to be addressed. Few countries have successfully proved the reduction of their disaster losses and impacts, and have conducted detailed assessment of their risks. The investment in DRM is still low, almost any of the countries have dedicated national budget to risk reduction strategies. And there has been shown little progress related to the use of knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; very few countries have integrated risk reduction knowledge into school curricula and training efforts, and most of the countries report important gaps in developing awareness strategies for the population. (GAR, 2011)

## Flood resilience relevance at Mexican context

Mexico, as member of the United Nations and as participant of the Hyogo Framework, has shown interest in disaster risk reduction strategies. CONAGUA (2011) reported a national investment of 107, 000 millions of Mexican pesos towards flood disaster risk reduction projects for construction of pluvial drainage and control of flood-runoffs. In 2013 more diverse disaster risk reduction strategies were

implemented, according to the Mexican national report about the progress of the implementation of the HFA (2011-2013) produced by the National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC, spanish acronym) (SINAPROC, 2013); unfortunately an official detailed description of this achievement is not provided.

#### *Mexican government efforts for building local-resilience*

SINAPROC (2013) states the existence of national strategies for promoting disaster resilience culture at national, regional, municipal and community level. Related to more local levels, *Safe Municipality Resistant to Disasters* and *Community Brigades* are the most outstanding efforts that have been officially published.

- *Safe Municipality: Resistant to Disasters* (“Programa Municipio Seguro: Resistente a Desastres”) is a Mexican program that derives from UN international campaign “Making cities resilient: my city is getting ready” (Civil Protection Agency, 2011). It invites municipalities to voluntary work together with society and private sector in order to achieve a local disaster risk reduction. The municipality chooses the time lapse of its participation within the program; during its participation, municipality can award levels of certification according its achievements (Civil Protection Agency, 2011). In 2013, 70 municipalities were participating and SINAPROC had conducted technical verification of electric installation in settlements, offered scholarships for civil protection training, evaluated municipal development plans in terms of disaster prevention and preparedness measures, revised contingency programs, among other measures (SINAPROC, 2013).
- *Community Brigades* is a community level government program that could be more related to community resilience building capacities. Since 2004 it was created as a net of volunteer community members that seek to promote a disaster preventive culture inside their suburbs. These volunteers are supported by local entities of Civil Protection Agency (CPA)<sup>6</sup>, which provides them with capacitation

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<sup>6</sup> Civil Protection Agency (CPA) is a Mexican governmental organization that was created since 1985, as a government initiative to deal with the massive earthquake disaster of 1985 at Mexico City (Macías in Valadez, 2011). CPA was created at national level, but it has state and municipal sub-agencies. CPA is supported by other

in order to guide the community responses pre-, in- and post-disasters, and to strength CPA efforts. (Civil Protection Agency, 2014)

Parallel to these programs, other governmental actions have may be relevant for community resilience in México. SINAPROC (2013) states without further detail, that (1) a community assessment process has been started in order to identify the urgent needs in terms of basic emergency responses, to recurrent flood events in urban settlements located at the center of the national territory; (2) there has been also a redesign of a model for social community participation at local level, and (3) has conducted permanent consultation instruments for attending the population proposals, demands or participation in civil protection tasks.

SINAPROC (2013) also recognizes that despite the governmental programs and efforts, there are strong limitations regarding financial resources and operative capacities of the governmental institutions; there is still the challenge of fostering community disaster risk reduction practices in the next years.

#### *Mexican flood disaster tendency*

This marginal progress in disaster risk reduction strategies is consistent with disaster record in Mexico. Long-term tendency shows that there has been an increasing in disasters-related economic costs, even though human losses have been decreasing (with an annual average between 1980-1999 of 506 and 2000-2011 of 178) (Civil Protection Agency, 2012). Excluding drought and freeze events, it is estimated that the annual average costs of disasters at national level increased in 187.3%, from 701 million dollars between 1980 and 1999, to 2,014 million dollars between 2000-2011 (CENAPRED in Civil Protection Agency, 2012).

More specific, flood disaster tendency shows that flood disasters are recurrent and have aggravated in last years (INE, 2012) over a considerable proportion of the Mexican territory. CONAGUA (2011) considers that approximately 62% of the total

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government dependencies when contingencies require additional support. Some of these dependencies are: Bombers, Integral Family Develop Agency (DIF), Mexican Army, Health Secretary, and even non-governmental like Red Cross. (Valadez, 2011)

national population lives in areas with historical flood impact and future high flood predisposition, areas that are located within 17 administrative States (out of the 32 that conform the whole country) of central and south regions of the country. Due to this higher exposition, floods have been responsible for the 49% of the total amount of houses destroyed and damaged between 1970 and 2011 in Mexico, according to the International Disaster Database, EMDAT-CRED (GAR, 2011).

México's government should overcome its limitations and promote community resilience under a wider scope that could also include communities' own capacities to build resilience. "The role of central government in community resilience will always be limited" (Edwards, 2009 p. 80), because it has limited financial resources and operational capacity, besides time limitation of programs due to presidential periods.

It is true that "disaster risk reduction can be effective at the local level only when undertaken in collaboration with disaster-prone households and communities - where emphasis needs to be put on local government participation in the planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities at the community level" (Albritto, 2012 p. 296). But it is also true that in long term, each community is able to strength its resilience capacity by its own means without any external aid; this can be achieve because "Community resilience is an everyday activity" (Edwards, 2009 p. 79) that comes along with daily activities and first-hand experiences. It grows and "manifests itself in meetings and conversations, dialogue and training, skills and information and – when disaster occurs – action" (Edwards, 2009 p. 79). This inherent community ability has to be considered by the government when planning and implementing programs like *Community Brigades*, so that official plans and programs at local and regional level can also contemplate the very local processes of resilience and the community-driven measures that are already taking place inside each small group of neighbors.

## Gaps in disaster resilience research

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### *Lack of generalized resilience concept*

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In order to be aware of disaster resilience capacity in societies, there has to be a generalized idea of what is understood as the resilience capacity, how it develops and how it can be identified in real cases; and there also has to be a way to concretely measure it so that we can assure the effectiveness of building-resilience efforts.

Unfortunately, disaster resilience research attempts have not yet provided a general accepted definition of the resilience concept nor either achieved a practical operationalization of it in order to support planning and management (Garschagen, 2011; De Bruijn, 2004)<sup>7</sup>.

The disaster resilience is an antique and broadly used concept that is still not consented. The resilience concept originated since the Classical times in XVII century when it was used in arts and literature (Alexander, 2013)<sup>8</sup>. Moreover, the resilience concept was first used in formal studies at Engineering field in 1858 to describe a material's property of resist; it was later applied to Ecology science as the ability of disturbed ecosystems of being able to preserve their properties (Alexander, 2013). Later, the resilience concept was also used at many fields like psychology, organizational, institutional, climate change adaptation research (Alexander, 2013; Hutter *et al.*, 2011) and even law (Alexander, 2013). Several researches have traced the multiple modern approximations that the resilience concept has adopted (Alexander, 2013; Liao *et al.*, 2012; Lei *et al.*, 2013; Garschagen, 2011; Zhou *et al.*, 2009; Hutter *et al.*, 2011; Kuhlicke, 2013; Folke, 2006; Birkman, 2006). And as a result, several capacities have been recognized as elements of resilience condition: capacity to resist (Constantino & Dávila, 2011), capacity to absorb (Adger, 2006; Klein

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<sup>7</sup> De Bruijn (2004) extends this need of concrete understanding and definition of resilience concept in order to its optimal application to flood risk management strategies.

<sup>8</sup>Alexander's (2013) review proves that resilience concept was not originated at Engineering field as Maguire & Cartwright (2008) stated, nor in Ecology science as Gallopín (2006), Folke (2006) have suggested.

*et al.*, 2003 in Garschagen, 2011; Haase, 2013), capacity to self-organize (United Nations in USAID, 2007; Lorenz, 2013; Adger, 2006; Berkes, 2007 in Kuhlicke, 2013; Klein *et al.*, 2003 in Garschagen, 2011; Liao, 2012) and capacity of learning (United Nations in USAID, 2007; Berkes, 2007 in Kuhlicke, 2013; Liao, 2012). These revisions allow identify the main perspectives of the concept, varying from a capacity of a system to maintain structural balance by “recovering from disturbances”, to a broader dynamic system capacity of “maintaining functions” before, during and after disturbances, through self-organizing, learning and adapting (Lei *et al.*, 2013; Folke, 2006). Moreover the resilience capacity has been seen as a biophysical, social and socio-ecological attribute, according to the type of system that is being under study (Zhou *et al.*, 2009).

To summarize, there is not yet a consensus definition of the resilience concept (Lei *et al.*, 2013; Alexander, 2013; Gallopín, 2006; Hutter *et al.*, 2011; Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012; Zhou *et al.*, 2009). Ideally, the concept would need to be fully understood before being applied to real situations with the goal of building resilient communities (Gwimbi, 2009).

#### *Multiple conceptualization of the resilience concept in disaster-related management*

Even though the resilience concept is very antique, its introduction into hazards management is more recent (Berkes 2007 in Liao *et al.*, 2012). Disaster risk research started to apply system's approach to disaster risk management, and considered disasters as emergent events resulting from the interaction between social and ecological systems (De Bruijn, 2004). The resilience concept is introduced to disasters' research as an effort to incorporate to management strategies the uncertainty in which natural hazards and disasters emerge (Kuhlicke, 2013). Building resilience capacity roughly means a better strategy to overcome uncertainty in crisis management (Boin & McConnell, 2007; Bruijn, 2004) and in recovery-disaster management (Bruijn, 2004).

Along with the introduction of resilience concept to disaster risk research, the scope of the resilience concept has grown even more (Kuhlicke, 2013). The resilience

concept, in disaster risk research, has been understood at least as three capacities: to respond to a disturbance, to self-organize and to learn and adapt (Lei *et al.*, 2013). Resilience has been seen in diverse ways, varying from a simple concept to an approach or even more, a science (Kuhlicke, 2013).

This lack of consensus in the understanding of the resilience concept has set different ways to approach resilience-based disaster risk management, including flood management, with important implications in practice. Liao *et al.* (2012) sets an example for natural hazard management where there are two main interpretations about resilience concept, the engineering resilience and the ecological resilience. Engineering resilience is referred as the ability to bounce back to an original condition (maintain stability), this means to be able to resist and recover functions while passing through disturbances, and it is tend to be measured in terms of fast recovery. Ecological resilience, in the other hand, is related to an ability of persist while passing through perturbations (survive), by reorganizing in a different way than the initial one; and it is often measure by the magnitude of disturbance that a system can resist until it changes its properties in order to maintain same functions. These two approximations are not compatible; one seeks for stability and sees disturbances as threats, and the other one looks for change and take disturbances as learning opportunities (Liao, 2012). Liao (2012) and De Bruijn (2004) agree that “In natural hazard management...engineering resilience prevails in current definitions of community resilience” (Liao, 2012 p. 2).

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*Lack of practical resilience assessment schemes for monitoring efforts*

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There is diversity of perceptions of the disaster resilience concept and different “...understanding and weight given to concepts such as coping, capacity, vulnerability and adaptive capacity (Mitchell & Harris, 2012 p. 3)<sup>9</sup>. Thus, several attempts of

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<sup>9</sup> “The relationship between such concepts and resilience is rarely developed in full, and by no means universally agreed” (Mitchell & Harris, 2012 p. 3). In Cutter *et al.* (2008) there is proof of this, and there are shown

resilience assessment frameworks have been developed with considerable differences in their approaches, methods and tools used, leading to highly variable resilience measurements (Mitchell & Harris, 2012; Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012) (some of them enlisted in Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012, p.11). But “Much of the work on disaster resilience draws understanding of the relationship with vulnerability and tends to measure levels of that vulnerability rather than resilience itself” (Mitchel & Harris, 2012 p. 3). Examples of resilience assessment frameworks are briefly characterized:

- Longstaff *et al.* (2010) proposes a complex assessment based on enablers of resilience. It subdivides the community into subsystems (ecological, economic, physical-infrastructure, civil society and governance) and assesses each of them in terms of key resilience attributes, like: use of resources, diversity and redundancy of resources, institutional memory, innovative learning and cohesion.
- Cutter *et al.* (2008) has proposed the Disaster Resilience of Place (DROP) Model, a place-based model for assessing resilience. Here it also conceptualizes resilience as a pre-disaster condition but also as a post-disaster process. This assessment is also focused on assessing enablers of resilience; it uses indicators of several nature: ecological, social, economic, institutional, infrastructural and of community competence. Besides it recognizes external factors and its influence in community resilience.
- McAslan (2011 in Price- Robertson & Knight, 2012; McAslan, 2010) suggest a less complex framework based also on community resilience enablers. McAslan recognizes the difficulty involved in developing a universally applicable model of the community resilience, and identifies the factors that are generally agreed in the literature and classifies them into three main categories of resilience enablers: (1) *physical characteristics* of the community (e.g., local infrastructure, local

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examples of multiple linkages between vulnerability, resilience and adaptive capacity that are currently being used in research.

emergency and health services); (2) *procedural characteristics* of the community, such as systems that are in place to respond to, and recover from, disasters (e.g., disaster policies and plans, local knowledge); and (3) *social characteristics* of the community (e.g., community cohesion, community leaders).

Despite these frameworks, it has been identified a strong lack of attempts to make the resilience concept operational in order to support planning and management (Klein *et al.*, 2003 in Garschagen, 2011). "...there is a pressing need for measuring the disaster resilience objectively and repeatedly and enhancing the resilience in disaster-prone areas of the whole world" (Zhou *et al.*, 2009, p. 27). UNISDR & WMO (2012) also recognizes the need to establish ways to measure progress for DRR and resilience, and has set the consultations on a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as an opportune space to provide critical inputs related to the issue in order to provide tools to reach consensus about resilience assessment indicators and considerations.

Measuring the resilience capacity is not trivial. "The context-specific nature of risk, the dynamic nature of change and the complexity of capacities associated with resilience make systemic measurement challenging and lead to...a simpler frame for evaluation to be considered" (Mitchell & Harris, 2012 p. 3). Klein *et al.* (2003 in Garschagen, 2011, p. 28) agrees with previous authors when propose an example of a way to make a useful application of resilience concept by just considering it "...in a more narrow sense—referring exclusively to the capacity to absorb perturbations and to self-organise". And besides considering a less complex frame for the resilience capacity evaluation, the spatial and temporal scale-boundaries must be considered regardless the discipline approach in a resilience assessment tool (Mitchell & Harris, 2012).

## **Objectives**

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The overall finality of this research study is to contribute to the understanding and practical measure of the urban community flood resilience capacity by providing a proposal of a method for rapid assessment of community flood-resilience plus its application to a case study.

The proposal of rapid assessment is applied to a case study at Magisterial suburb, in Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosí, Mexico. The assessment method seeks to find out if the community shows evidence of exercise of the flood resilience capacity by providing answers to the following interrogants:

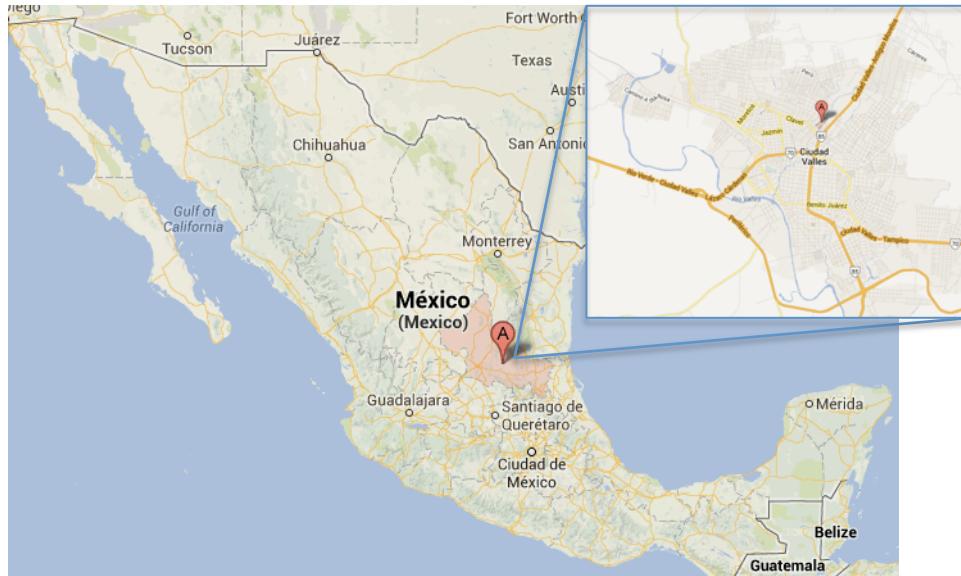
- How has the community performed in relation to flash flood events?
  - What types of flash flood related impacts does the community have faced?
  - What measures related to flood coping the community has been implementing at pre-, in- and post-flash flood events?
  - How have these measures originated and improved (if so) by the community through time?
- What does this community's performance has meant in terms of urban flood resilience key properties at community level?

And apart from the research objectives and assessment method goals, the resilience assessment results aim to serve as basis for future awareness tool for the Magisterial suburb community.

## Case study: Magisterial of Ciudad Valles city

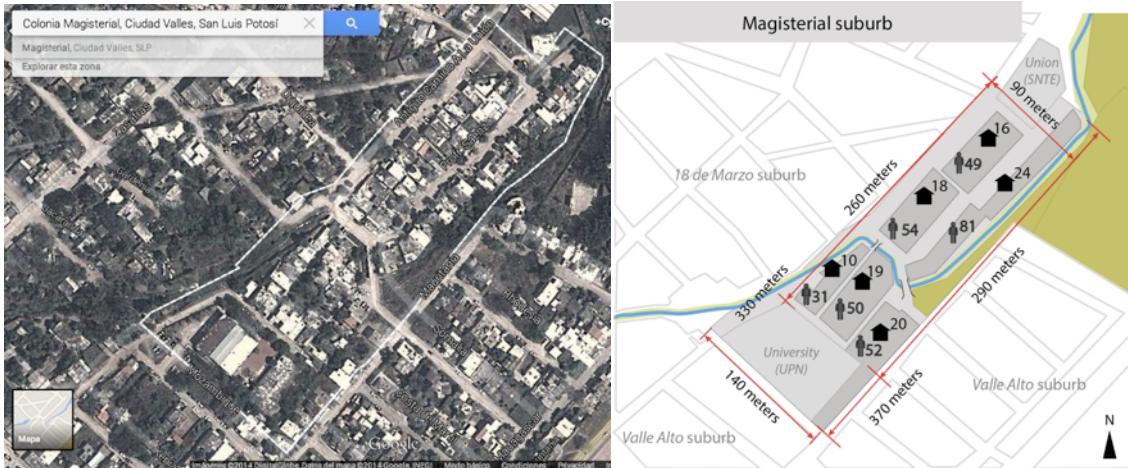
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The Magisterial (suburb) is located inside the Ciudad Valles city, within Ciudad Valles municipality located in the *Huasteca* region of San Luis Potosí State in Mexico (E-local.gob, 2013; SDESLP, 2013; Valadez, 2011) (image 1).



**Image 1 Location of the study site: Magisterial suburb in Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosí, Mexico.**  
Source: Google Earth version 7.1.2.2041

Magisterial is a small complex of residents. It consists of 317 inhabitants living in 107 houses, where 92 were inhabited in 2012 (INEGI, 2012) (image 2); it comprises six built blocks and an empty block (INEGI, 2012); and three walkways and four streets cross it. It is located over an approximate area of 23,400 square meters (Google Earth version 7.1.2.2041) at the northwestern part of the territory of Ciudad Valles municipality. The suburb limits southwest with the National Pedagogic University (UPN) and northeast with the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE) facilities.



**Image 2 Satelite view of Magisterial suburb (left) and CROQUIS of Magisterial Suburb in gray (right).**  
Source: Google Earth version 7.1.2.2041 (left), own based on INEGI, 2012; GOOGLE Earth version 7.1.2.2041 and image 1. from [Annex Documents provided by Specialized informant](#) (right)

The suburb presents two main characteristics that make it suitable to apply a practical assessment of community resilience to floods development: it is under flood risk and it has a recent disaster flood-record.

## The suburb is under flood risk

The Magisterial inherits the flood risk conditions from the city, the municipality and the region where it is settled. Ciudad Valles municipality occupies the second position in the state rank of high flood frequency<sup>10</sup>, with 13 (out of 120) registers between 1970 and 2011 (Desinventar, 2013)<sup>11</sup>.

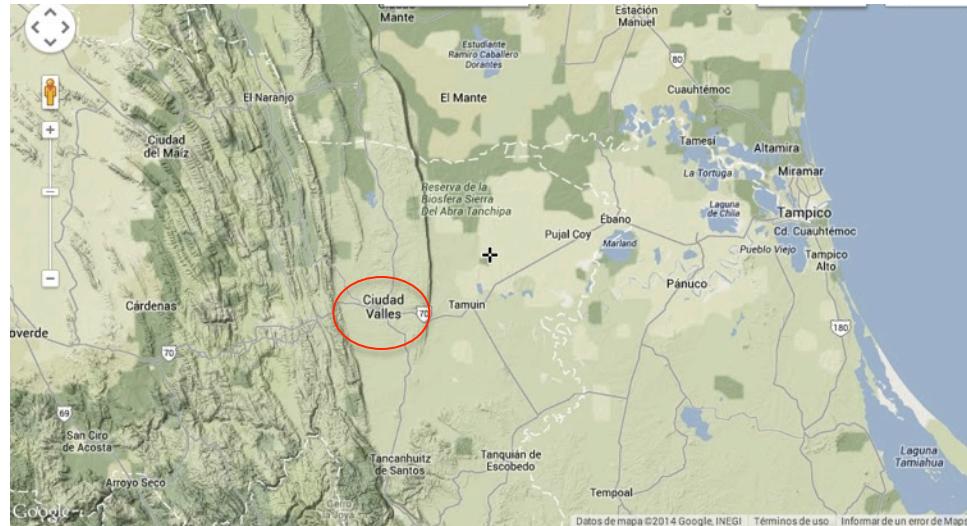
Ciudad Valles capital city is the most populated urban zone in the *Huasteca Potosina*<sup>12</sup> (SDESCSLP, 2013). Ciudad Valles is an urban area at the lowest part of the *Río Valles* river basin (Agenda Ambiental, 2008)<sup>13</sup>, over a low hills valley of the Sierra Madre Oriental (Valadez, 2011; topographic map in INEGI, 2009) (image 3).

<sup>10</sup> Between 1970-2011 Ciudad Valles has accumulated damage due to floods consisting on households affected (3 374), people evacuated (330), relocated (90) and affected in some aspect (17 200) (Desinventar, 2013).

<sup>11</sup> The State Capital of San Luis Potosí occupies the first position with 14 strong floods registered between 1970 and 2011 (Desinventar, 2013)

<sup>12</sup> Ciudad Valles capital city has 167, 713 inhabitants registered in 2010 (INEGI, 2013)

<sup>13</sup> Ciudad Valles municipality has an average height of 70 meters above sea level (Valles City Hall, 2012)



**Image 3 Location of Ciudad Valles municipality. A part of the Mexican Gulf is shown at right, and Central plateau at left. Source: Google Earth version 7.1.2.2041**

This location allows a particular interaction between the coastal winds, solar radiation and topography that produces a warm-subhumid regional weather with abundant rain during summer<sup>14</sup> (INEGI, 2009); also this region falls into the Atlantic North Region of influence of tropical cyclones, mainly from August to October (CENAPRED, 2007). Moreover, this basin is characterized by an expansion of the agricultural lands over areas with natural vegetation; this condition has implications in terms of variability of temporal and spatial pluvial precipitation regime and also increasing or decreasing of superficial runoffs (Santacruz, 2011)<sup>15</sup>.

Local hydrological conditions of Ciudad Valles are also contributing to its floods susceptibility. This city is settled within the influence zone of a big river called *Río Valles*, which crosses among a portion of the city (Valadez, 2011). This river has several temporal tributary effluents that are promoted in several impermeable surfaces along the city during rainy season<sup>16</sup> (CONAGUA 2008 unpublished in Agenda

<sup>14</sup> Ciudad Valles municipality has an annual average precipitation of 1243.8mm. Months with more precipitation are June, July, August, September and October, and months with less precipitation are from December to March. (Valles City Hall, 2012)

<sup>15</sup> Santacruz (2011) offers a basin analysis between 1976 to 2000 in terms of vegetation and uses and its implications in water provision.

<sup>16</sup> Five main intermittent streams that run inside the urban area have been identified and named as: Alameda, La Lajita (Arroyo Puercos), Las Cruces, Sin Nombre y Las Lagartijas (CONAGUA 2008 unpublished in Agenda Ambiental, 2008).

Ambiental, 2008). Rains, runoffs and river interact together to generate combined pluvial and fluvial floods (Valadez, 2011).

Due to this condition, Ciudad Valles municipality has preventive, emergency and recovery efforts regarding flood events (Valadez, 2011), even though it seems no to be involved in national programs. Municipality does not participate at the national program of *Safe Municipality: Resistant to Disasters*, according to database at Government Secretary (SEGOB, 2012), and it seems that this municipality has not community brigades for flood events (any related official publication was found).



Image 4 In lighter blue line approximate original location of stream channel La Lajita in the suburb, the actual river channel location in darker blue. Source: own based on annex Transcription of first interview to Specialized informant

Moreover, the suburb, located inside Ciudad Valles city, is considered under flood risk. This suburb was built in 1990 (Valadez, 2011) over the channel of an intermittent stream called *Arroyo La Lajita* (also called *Los Puercos*); a reduction and deviation of the stream was made in order to install the residential infrastructure (Valadez, 2011; [Annex Transcription of first interview to Specialized informant](#)). The original channel of the stream was not sinuous (image 4), and it is calculated to had reached 4 to 5 meters wide and used to carry considerable amounts of runoff that caused trees to grow inclined follow the runoff direction; people even used to swim inside it ([Annex Transcription of first interview to Specialized informant](#)).

During rainy events La Lajita's stream has caused the suburb an affection of at least 80 households out of 107; the suburb is the second most affected by floods in Ciudad Valles<sup>17</sup> city (Agenda Ambiental, 2008; [Annex Transcription of first interview to Specialized informant](#)); but in terms of relative affected-area this suburb outstands

<sup>17</sup> The *Praderas del Río* suburb is the most affected suburb in Ciudad Valles, with a register of 112 affected households by the rising river of *Río Valles* (CONAGUA 2008 unpublished, in Agenda Ambiental 2008) (Annex Suburbs of Ciudad Valles municipality under Flood Risk).

for being one of the smallest suburbs of the city under flood risk (Agenda Ambiental, 2008; [Annex Suburbs of Ciudad Valles municipality under Flood Risk](#)).

## Magisterial suburb has recent disaster flood-record

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The Magisterial welcomed its inhabitants 20 years ago. In 1994, within four years from its construction, the suburb was inaugurated and had its first inhabitants (image 5). The municipality donated the suburb to the Teachers' Union, who started to offer houses to teachers under a loan system managed by a well-known bank. Not all the properties were finished 20 years ago, when the first neighbors arrived, some of them were finished few time later ([Annex Transcription of first interview to Specialized informant](#)).



Image 5 Foundation Plate of Magisterial Suburb.

Source: own

The Magisterial suburb extreme flood record consists of two main floods, one in 2004 and the strongest one in 2008. Specific published information regarding this events was not found, instead information of pioneer neighbors of suburb was used ([Annex Transcription of first interview to Specialized informant](#) and [Annex Transcription of first interview to Key informant](#)).

The suburb started its disaster flood-history 10 years ago. The neighbors had their first extreme flood event experience during rainy season in 2004. Within 10 years of living without extreme flooding, the neighbors did not imagine that rain would cause such damage. It is said that a 3-day rain caused the 2004 flooding. The stream exceeded the channel height and the water reached the houses causing a flash flood<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Flash floods are the result of sudden and intense rain events that occur at specific areas. They can cause small streams become, in matter of minutes, violent torrents capable of strongly damage. (CENAPRED, 2013)

of 1.20 meters in depth (image 6) and with an approximate duration of 20 minutes, 10 minutes to reach the climax and 10 minutes to go through the suburb to lower areas.

During the flood, strong runoffs, like rivers, were generated along the walkways of the lower part of the suburb, where rocks, trees, trash, stationary-gas tanks, and even cars were dragged by the torrent. The interior of the first floor of houses suffered strong damage due to the force of the water; appliances like fridges and stoves, beds, furniture, clothes and other objects were severely damaged and often completely lost. Also, psychological damage was done to some neighbors and still cause them to suffer from anxiety or other symptoms every time heavy rain starts to pour.

The second extreme flood event in Magisterial suburb in 2008 was stronger than the first<sup>19</sup>. The cause of this intense flood apparently was the combination of constant rains through 9 days approximately, followed by a downpour event, together with the apparent opening of the gates from La Lajita dawn (located at the upper part, outside the city). Massive discharge of water ran through the channel and inevitably flooded the suburb. The duration of the flash flood was similar to the 2004 event, in 10 minutes the water had passed through the suburb, but the maximal depth reached was 1.80 meters (image 7).



Image 6 Specialized informant and Dra. Julio indicating the flood depth reached in 2004, proved by the further construction of the wall.  
Source: own



Image 7 Specialized informant shows the flood level reached in 2008, evidenced by the rusty metal at the door. Source: own

<sup>19</sup> The 2008 flood event was reported by Martínez-Castro (2008) and Valadez, (2011) as the first extreme flood event in the Magisterial, even though neighbors assure it was the second, but the strongest one.

Witnesses tell that it felt a lot more destructive than the previous flood; cars were completely lifted by the water torrent and were dragged for several meters until they crashed against walls, tunnels, etc. (image 8). Along with cars, stationary-gas tanks, rocks, trash, household items and even farm animals like cows and pigs, were dragged by the water. Inside the households the types of damages were to the same items but more intense, in some cases even window-glass broke due to the force of the water trying to get inside the house. It was reported that 40 households were affected during this 10 minutes (Martínez-Castro, 2008). Moreover, some people got paralyzed during the event and were unable to act quickly, but some other people respond faster.

In some cases, people was hit and pushed by the water inside their houses; but by fortune, there was any casualty identified in the suburb during any of this two flood events. Also, both events took place during the early morning, around 5 and 6 a.m. this increased the slow response of the neighbors.



**Image 8 Total loss of vehicles and composition of the debris of 2008 in Magisterial Suburb.**

Source: [Annex 2008 Extreme Flood event in Magisterial](#)

## Theoretical framework of assessment method

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### Adopted resilience concept

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#### *Essence and components of the resilience concept*

Despite the multiple interpretations of the resilience concept, it seems that “dynamism” is identified as the essence of the resilience capacity in every perspective (Alexander, 2013). As the Ecological resilience approach considers (under dynamic systems perspective), resilience is not about returning to the pre-disaster conditions, but to moving forward to new stages of existence in dynamic equilibrium (Liao, 2012). The resilience capacity means resisting, absorbing, accommodating to, and recovering from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner (UNISDR, 2009); its primal objective is to survive from hazardous events (Cutter *et al.*, 2008).

If the resilience capacity implicates survival (Cutter *et al.*, 2008), then it only develops under specific baseline and response conditions. The entity, system or community must likely to develop resilience ability must be exposed to hazards' impacts<sup>20</sup> and possess vulnerability traits, “characteristics and circumstances...that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard” (UNISDR, 2009 p. 30). Moreover, it has to posses a dynamic response to hazard impacts<sup>21</sup>, this response implies not only survive but to take advantage of changes (Gwimbi, 2009).

The resilience capacity depends on vulnerability trait. This research does not understand both concepts as opposites, as Twigg (2007) suggest, instead it follows a “Vulnerability Preference” understanding modality where resilience and adaptation

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<sup>20</sup> Exposure understood as “the presence of people, livelihoods, environment, economic, social or cultural assets in places that could be adversely affected” (Mitchell & Harris, 2012 p. 2). The research considers that contemplating exposition as an independent component from vulnerability, it can give the possibility to identify potential vulnerability and resilience levels for particular hazards which expositions has not been fully identified or even detected yet, but that could exist in a future within an uncertain environment like the one we live in, so it gives openness to the analysis of potential risks under an uncertain conditions.

<sup>21</sup> A dynamic response refers to the one that is at constant change, activity, or progress (Oxford Dictionaries, 2014)

are embedded in vulnerability (Lei *et al.*, 2013)<sup>22</sup>; so resilience capacity is somehow part of vulnerability trait (Turner *et al.*, 2003; Zhou *et al.*, 2009; Birkman, 2006).

In this research, vulnerability is seen as the combination of inherent conditions of an entity (modified from Turner *et al.*, 2003<sup>23</sup>) that together with exposure conditions enable susceptibility to hazards' impacts. Sensitivity is "a resultant condition"; it is the degree of affectation or modification by external or internal disturbances (Gallopin, 2006 p. 295) that depends on human and biophysical internal characteristics of the system (Turner *et al.*, 2003). Resilience condition can be as "the modulating condition" of vulnerability; it is triggered by the sensitivity condition and implies the active-dynamic response of the system to survive to hazard impacts. For example, a crisis or disaster event<sup>24</sup> of a specific hazard (e.g. floods) can lead to the emergence, development or even disappearance of coping responses (local emergency voluntary brigades, practices or knowledge) from a community-system, and thus a modulation of internal vulnerability traits (minimization or intensification) and the consequent sensitivity condition. In some cases, coping responses emerged can even influence a change on the level of exposure to hazard-impacts (e.g. temporal migration to a safer zone) (image 9).

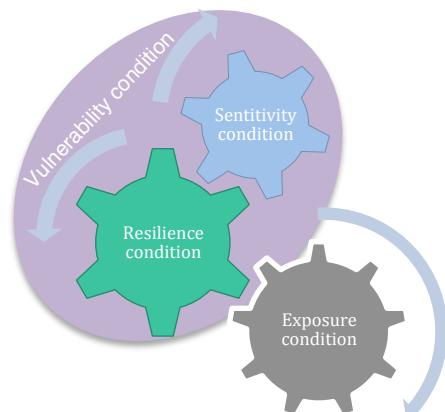


Image 9 Elements related to susceptibility of a hazard: Relations between vulnerability components and exposure to a hazard condition.

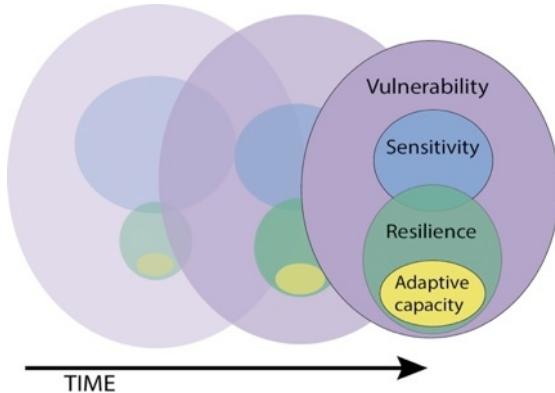
<sup>22</sup> Lei *et al.* (2013) identify three kinds of modalities of understanding of vulnerability, resilience and adaptation. "The first modality is named as a "vulnerability preference" which is emphasized by both the climate change and disaster risk researchers. This preference tends to integrate the components of resilience and adaptation into the framework of vulnerability. The second is called "resilience preference," which considers vulnerability and adaptation as parts of resilience...has largely been adopted in social-ecological research by a famous academic community "Resilience Alliance." The third modality named "overlapped relationships" believes that the connotation of V, Re, and A is overlapped rather than mutual contained. ...any single concept of V, Re, or A ...need to be understood based on an integral consideration of the three elements" (Lei *et al.*, 2013 p. 614-615). Vulnerability is expressed in terms of inherent conditions in several dimensions of an entity, resilience depends on these conditions

<sup>23</sup> Turner *et al.* (2003) considers exposure to be also a component of vulnerability, but this research does not consider exposure as a part of vulnerability in order to give more openness to explore potential vulnerability to hazards that are not yet threatening but that are most likely to do so in medium-long term.

<sup>24</sup> A crisis event derives into a disaster event when there is damage produced to people or goods (Wilches, 1993).

Resilience capacity is seen inside vulnerability through the component of *capacity of response or coping capacity* (Gallopin, 2006; Birkman, 2006; Smith & Wandel, 2006; Turner *et al.*, 2003; Lorenz, 2013). The coping response or coping capacity is “The ability of people, organizations and systems, using available skills and resources, to face and manage adverse conditions, emergencies or disasters.” (UNISDR, 2009, p. 8). This ability gets reflected on the strategies and measures for disaster risk reduction (Twigg, 2007). The coping capacity concept and the disaster resilience concept in some cases have been considered as synonyms (Twigg, 2007). But recently studies have tended to analyze resilience not as an outcome (like coping capacity is seen) but more as a process (Mitchell & Harris, 2012) fueled by impacts of hazardous events, a process that implies “learning, adaptation, anticipation and improvement in basic structures, actors and functions.” (Mitchell & Harris, 2012 p. 2).

Following the same “Vulnerability Preference” modality of Lei *et al.* (2013), vulnerability can lead to resilience, and resilience can lead to adaptive capacity. Resilience has also relation with adaptive capacity (Turner *et al.*, 2003; Lorenz, 2013; Klein *et al.*, 2003 in Garschagen, 2011; Folke, 2006; Smith & Wandel, 2006; Adger, 2006; Liao, 2012). Adaptive capacity is the ability “...to learn in response to disturbances” (Gunderson & Holling, 2002 in Turner *et al.*, 2003, p. 8075); coping response mechanisms can promote adaptation in long term (Turner *et al.*, 2003) (Image 10)<sup>25</sup>. Adaptive capacity allows to develop a process were “...groups of people add new and improved methods of coping with the environment to their cultural



**Image 10.** Conceptual linkage between Vulnerability, Resilience and Adaptive Capacity where Resilience and Adaptive capacity are nested concepts within an overall vulnerability structure (taken and modified from third perspective of understanding in figure 1 of Cutter *et al.*, 2008). Shows ideal development through time.

<sup>25</sup> There has been related coping capacity to a short-term capacity, and the adaptive capacity to a long-term capacity (Gallopin, 2006).

repertoire”(O’Brien and Holland, 1992, p. 37, in Smith & Wandel, 2006, p. 283).

## Proposed theoretical framework for Community flood resilience assessment

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This research assessment differs from much of previous work on disaster resilience, because it is not based on measure vulnerability levels<sup>26</sup>, but to measure concrete outcomes from the use of resilience capacity through disaster risk reduction management cycles.

In order to introduce the rapid resilience assessment method, theory behind it is explained in this section. In general terms, the theoretical framework for the assessment follows a community approach, in which resilience capacity is understood in terms of concrete outcomes (coping response measures) from a resilient performance at the community. These measures develop within time through constant adjustments and adaptations that seek to refine them in order to become more localized, diverse and redundant with other internal and external efforts (key properties of resilience).

### Community resilience approach: definition and main traits

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Community concept can serve as a framework to study a group of individuals development of resilience related skills and capabilities (Edwards, 2009). A community can be related to several aspects, but in the case of hazard research, the spatial delimitation is key to define a community. A community can be understood as a small group of people that has came together through shared concerns (Maguire & Cartwright, 2008 in Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012), this people also live in the same geographical area (Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012; Twigg, 2007) and near the same risks (Twigg, 2007). In this research, community approach study allowed to group

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<sup>26</sup> “Much of the work on disaster resilience draws understanding of the relationship with vulnerability and seed to measure levels of that vulnerability rather than resilience itself” (Mitchel & Harris, 2012 p. 3).

agents with similar, but not totally equal, vulnerability and exposure conditions but also alike hazard-response perspective.

Community scale is relevant in resilience paradigm, because it is consider the focal point of impact related to hazards and disaster events (Rolfe, 2006; Kulig, 2000 in Gwimbi, 2009), where efforts can be conducted in order to achieve basic resilience, community resilience (Longstaff *et al.*, 2010).

The community resilience concept is the ability of a "...community...exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to, and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner..." (UNISDR, 2009, p. 24). Unlike other approaches that focus on vulnerability to disaster or on needs during disaster emergency, community resilience approach is interested on understanding what can be done by the community itself (Twigg, 2007), how it can develop a dynamic response to change by generating an ability to use "...community resources to transform and respond to change in an adaptive way" (Maguire & Cartwright, 2008 in Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012, p. 4), and how this can be self-fostered (Twigg, 2007).

Community resilience is also not a final state but a dynamic process (Mitchell & Harris, 2012). A "disaster resilient community" is an ideal because any community will ever be fully capable to be safe to all possible hazards (Twigg, 2007; UNISDR, 2012). Then community resilience is not about reaching an overall reduced vulnerability condition but instead it is only related to the capacity to adapt to changes in the physical, social or economic environment, learn from experience and improve over time (Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012). In this research, changes are disaster events (like a flood event in a suburb) and they can deteriorate the community-system and at the same time they can perform as a development-agent of disaster resilience capacity inside the community (Liao, 2012); this event can be seen as a chance to adjust structures and processes and also to build knowledge (Liao, 2012; Folke, 2006).

### Urban community flood resilience: definition and key properties

Likewise community resilience concept and ecological resilience approach, urban resilience to floods has to do with survive and benefit from flooding (Liao, 2012). The urban community has to maintain a desirable regime during these events in terms of livelihood security, economic performance, etc. (Adger 2000, Cumming et al. 2005, Gunderson 2010 in Liao, 2012) through enhancing “floodability” (physical ability to accommodate flooding with minimum to null damage) and by reorganizing when damages have been presented in community (Liao, 2012). Liao (2012) has defined urban flood resilience in terms of “floodability” and capacity of reorganizing, critical for a community’s survival, and has stated three key properties of urban resilience to floods:

#### *1. Localized flood-response capacity*

Communities’ ability to self-organize in order to generate decentralized measures to cope with floods and not to entirely rely on centralized measures<sup>27</sup> like flood-control infrastructure measures. Community by itself has to be able to quickly come out with alternative measures to reduce or avoid flood damages, and not just depending on external help provided by government or aid agencies. (Liao, 2012)

#### *2. Timely adjustments after every flood*

This property has to do with the ability to learn from each flood and make improvements. Learning process and associated adaptive capacity can be traced when there have been adjustments in behavior, physical or institutional aspects once a flood or several flood events have previously occurred. Flood events provide the community with new understanding about them and people’s own vulnerability aspects. Novelty is key to generate new adjustments that does not follow the previous configuration of community traits (Walker et al. 2004, Adger 2006, Berkes 2007 in Liao, 2012).

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<sup>27</sup> Centralized measures are planned and implemented by a single entity (like Civil Protection Agency) on which all responsibility relies; but decentralized measures emerge and are implemented by local entities, like the community and even from different levels of its own organization so responsibility relies on several entities and not on a central government (Oxford Dictionaries, 2014).

### *3. Redundancy in subsystems*

This property relates to flood-response diversity of alternatives across organizational scales. “A flood hazard management system with redundancy would comprise a diversity of measures for mitigation, preparedness, response, and reorganization” (Liao, 2012 p. 6) distributed across the different levels of urban organization, for example, households, communities and municipality. The inter-scale diverse-functional replication allows overall flood-response capacity not to be easily overwhelmed, because flood-related responses between scales are being mutually backed up.

These three key properties strongly rely on diversity and flexibility aspects. Diversity provides new opportunities, in terms of several ways to re-organize, several ideas to adjustments, and several measures to choose from in case actual structure and functions of the community is not providing a convenient flood-response. Also, flexibility provides capacity to embrace new opportunities, and thus define the resilience development process of the community. With flexibility, immediate changes based on diverse options can be made in a community. (Liao, 2012)

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### [\*Community disaster resilience process\*](#)

As stated in previous chapters, the resilience capacity can be understood as an outcome but also a process that implies a dynamic and complex set of several conditions (Mitchell & Harris, 2012) (driven by interrelated factors of vulnerability, exposure, and other external) that determine particular community responses to hazard impacts; such responses can promote (or not) development of key properties of urban flood-resilience.

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### [\*Community resilience as a response\*](#)

Following the need for more practical understanding of resilience capacity for more accessible and rapid assessments, present research proposes to approach community resilience capacity in terms of actual flood-coping responses, and not by focusing on complex sets of internal and external community traits that can behave

sometimes as resilience enablers (see other assessment frameworks for resilience in State of the art chapter).

Turner *et al.* (2003) through his proposal of vulnerability framework, generates a concrete approach to understand resilience capacity in terms of responses without losing the consideration of its dynamic essence. In his framework, vulnerability is described in terms of exposure to hazard, sensitivity and resilience, under double-way logic of "hazard-consequence" where sensitivity and resilience relate to the consequence part.

It is worth to highlight that even though the present research does not consider that exposure is part of vulnerability, the resilience components that Turner *et al.* (2003) explore are borrowed for this research. This approach is found useful in this research because it reduces the complexity of resilience concept, instead of focus on explore vulnerability-interrelated traits it focuses on its concrete outcomes (coping measures) while also considering dynamism within time.

Turner *et al.* (2003) implies that resilience capacity can be identified as three kinds of responses:

### *1. The Coping Response*

It has to do with the exercise of the coping capacity, "The ability of people, organizations and systems, using available skills and resources, to face and manage adverse conditions, emergencies or disasters." (UNISDR, 2009, p. 8). Coping response measures can be of several natures: planned from previous learning or totally improvised, originated from or adopted by the community, public or private, individual or group, short- or long-term, preventive or reactive, etc. The outcomes of the measures are determining the developed resilience level of the community at a specific moment, and can even impact higher hierarchical systems like the neighborhood or the city.

## 2. The Adjustment and Adaptation Response

It is related to the adaptive capacity and is the ability "...to learn in response to disturbances" (Gunderson & Holling, 2002 in Turner *et al.*, 2003, p. 8075). This response takes place when "the capacity of response...is...enhanced by learning and reorganizing strategies to respond to the experience of loss over time" (Zhou *et al.*, 2009, p. 30). This response represents the dynamic component of resilience, because it provides the changes in coping response based on previous experience; and "in some cases, coping mechanisms *per se* give way to adaptation, significant system-wide changes in the human–environment conditions" (Turner *et al.*, 2003 p. 8077).

## 3. The Impact Response

The Impact Response consists of the actual losses that the community suffer due to the disaster event. The impact responses are fully influenced by the other two responses, together with sensitivity, hazard exposure and other external conditions of the community.

The development of Community's Flood-Coping Response over time implies also the development of the resilience key properties of localized, adjusted and more diverse and redundant coping measures. More developed Flood-Coping Response will allow "floodability" and capacity of reorganizing for future flood-disaster events.

### Resilience in Disaster Risk Management cycle

The resilience concept has been often viewed as a property that mainly defines in-disaster and post-disaster measures inside a Disaster Management Cycle (Zhou *et al.*, 2009) but it also has implications in pre-disaster measures (Djalante *et al.*, 2013). Related to urban environment resilience approach, resilience can have strong implications in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts (UNISDR, 2012); Twigg (2007) even considers that DRR is the sum of actions, or the process itself, to achieve a resilience level (Twigg, 2007). Resilience process can even be a major determinant

for urban systems to improve sustainability<sup>28</sup> (UNISDR, 2012; Batica & Gourbesville, 2012) at least to flooding processes (Batica & Gourbesville, 2012).

Djalante *et al.* (2013), Edwards (2009) and Queensland Government (2011) considered resilience to be implicit within the actions that are being taken under risk management frameworks. They propose to apply resilience concept in disaster risk management cycle in order to achieve development of such capacity inside communities. Djalante *et al.* (2013) exposes the term Integrated Disaster Resilience, which depends on the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and its development through all the stages of “risk knowledge, mitigation, preparedness and emergency management, and recovery and reconstruction” (Djalante *et al.*, 2013, p. 2111). He also highlights that the community has to be the center of all the efforts (Djalante *et al.*, 2013). Edwards (2009) has reached a similar conclusion with the proposed term of “social resilience cycle”. The skills and capabilities that confer resilience ability need to be based on the social resilience cycle, comprised of four stages, which are consistent with the components of a disaster risk management cycle: mitigation, preparedness, response phase and recovery phase. Moreover, the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience of Australian Governments have developed a definition of disaster resilience concept based on the disaster risk management cycle phases. Resilience is understood as the capacity to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from the impacts of disasters (Queensland Government, 2011); and by this disaster resilience is the capacity to perform a successful Disaster Risk Management towards the reduction of risk (Disaster Risk Reduction Management)<sup>29</sup>. The Queensland government has even

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<sup>28</sup> “Within the context of sustainable development, which aims at an efficient use of an area whilst maintaining equity between generations and within the current generation, flood risk management aims at coping with uncertain and variable discharge waves” (De Bruijn, 2003 in De Bruijn, 2004 p. 53-54)

<sup>29</sup> Disaster risk management “is an extension of the more general term “risk management” to address the specific issue of disaster risks.” (UNISDR, 2009 p. 10) Disaster risk management is a systematic process of using skills and capacities to implement strategies with the final objective of “...avoid, lessen or transfer adverse effects of hazards through activities and measures for prevention, mitigation and preparedness.” (UNISDR, 2009 p. 10) Disaster risk reduction is “The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters” (UNISDR, 2009 p. 10-11).

based its building-resilience project in measures along the disaster risk management cycle comprised of prevention, preparation, response and recover phases.

The present research uses the disaster risk reduction management cycle phases to provide temporal scale to the analysis of the process of development of flood resilience capacity within a community. Djalante *et al.*'s Disaster Risk Reduction phases (2013) have been chosen because they can provide more detail to the analysis; the three common phases (pre-, in- and post-) are described in terms of stages as follow:

#### Pre-disaster phase

- Risk knowledge stage has to do with the access to information on the frequency of weather-related hazards and the expected impact of such events (McAslan, 2010).
- Mitigation stage has to do with minimizing damage via reducing vulnerability and exposure conditions (Edwards, 2009)
- Preparedness stage is related to preparatory measures for when an event occur, this efforts seek to produce an optimal coping with the effects that come along with such event (Queensland Government, 2011).

#### In-disaster phase

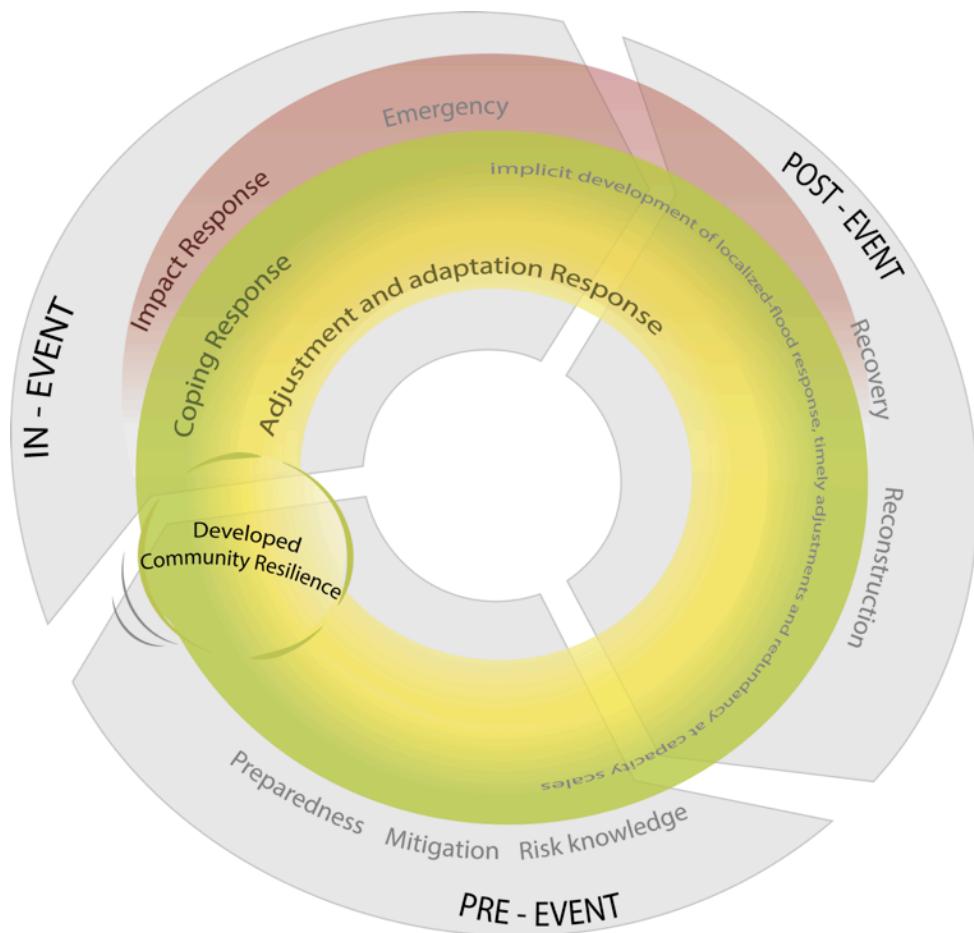
- Emergency management stage consists of relief and support measures immediately before or after and during the hazard event, in order to achieve an immediate reduction of the affectations (Queensland Government, 2011).

#### Post-disaster phase

- Recovery and reconstruction stage is characterized by the execution of efforts that aim to restore basic functions of the social and physical components of the community such as infrastructural services, emotional stability, economic wellbeing, restoration of environment, etc. (Queensland Government, 2011).

### *Conceptual model for disaster resilience process*

Previous sections stated the theory in which is based the present proposal of conceptual model for disaster resilience process. The conceptual model of the process of resilience building is based on the idea of Turner *et al.* (2003) resilience responses and Liao (2012) urban-flood resilience key properties, temporarily framed in Djalante *et al.* (2013) stages of Disaster Risk Reduction Management cycle, supported by the Social Resilience Cycle idea of Edwards (2009) and the resilience-based disaster management project of Queensland Government (2011).



**Image 11** Conceptual model for community disaster resilience building process. Source: own

Community Resilience ability (shown in green and yellow ring at image 11) is developed and performed at every stage in the Disaster Risk Reduction cycle (light gray background). This ability is an emergent capacity that builds on a complex set of

dynamic conditions internal and external to community, but that can be concretely traced in terms of Coping Response measures (green ring) that the community performs before (risk knowledge, mitigation and preparedness measures), during (emergency measures) and after the disaster event (recovery and reconstruction measures).

The Developed Community Resilience is represented by a stock of coping response measures that has been built due to the development of Adjustment and Adaptation Response over time. The community passes through a Disaster Risk Reduction cycle each time it suffers from a disaster event and presents different kinds of damage as Impact Response (red form). To pass through this cycle several times means to suffered from several disaster events but also means that community accumulates disaster-related knowledge and experience over time.

And while transiting each cycle, the community generates Adjustment and Adaptation Response (yellow ring), which consists of all new measures or improvements (either by improvisation or learning from past) that will be later internalized and adopted by the community, thus will become part of the Coping Response. By having developed Adjustment and Adaptation Response in the past, Coping Response has being constantly developing through time, promoting adaptation process to disaster events.

The Developed Community Resilience (shown in green and yellow “moving” ball) is the actual resilience state of the process that can be identifiable at any specific time. It is the latest version of Coping Response (green ring) that the community has implemented and thus it reflects the development stage so far of the urban flood-resilience key properties.

Moreover, this model is supported on Liao (2012) perspective where flood events are periodic and each event brings new knowledge and experience that can lead to an improvement or even creation of diverse coping strategies over time, and sometimes can also to lead to bigger adjustments at structural or functional level of a community (Liao, 2012).

## METHODS

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As stated before, the rapid assessment proposal seeks to find out if a community shows evidence of resilience capacity to flash floods by analyzing (1) its performance in terms of previous flash flood impacts and flood coping measures developed at disaster risk management cycle stages by the community through time, and (2) what does this measure-related performance has meant in terms of strengths and weaknesses for urban flood resilience key properties.

The rapid resilience assessment proposal of this research consists of two main qualitative sub-assessments that are consistent with research questions and sub-questions (Objectives chapter) (Image 12). Each sub-assessment involves specific products and will be described in next subchapters.

### 1. Assessment of community flood resilience responses:

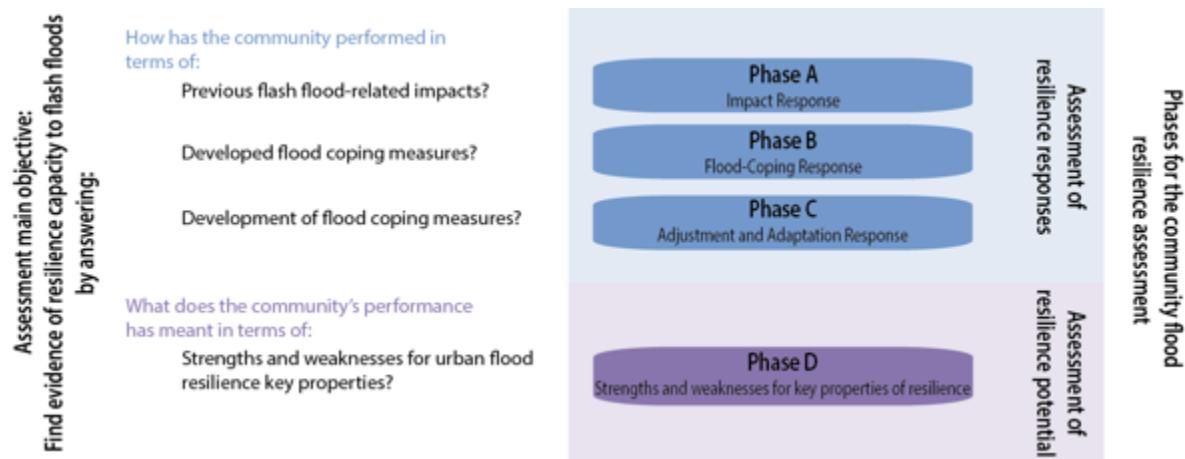
Objective: Identify and analyze the three resilience responses in DRMcycle (Impact Response, Coping Response, Adjustment and Adaptation response, for details see Theoretical Framework). It comprises:

- Phase A: Assessment of Impact Response, by identifying the most common types of impacts that floods have cause to the suburb.
- Phase B: Assessment of Coping Response, by identifying the developed community's coping measures at pre-, in- and post-disaster phases.
- Phase C: Assessment of Adjustment and Adaptation Response, through a description of the origin and development of the community's coping measures through time.

### 2. Assessment of community flood resilience potential:

Identify and analyze strengths and weaknesses at resilience development so far, based on analysis of resilience key properties implicit in community's flood-related measures. It comprises:

- Phase D: Analyze the community's main strengths and weaknesses regarding key resilience properties, for the own development of flood resilience capacity.

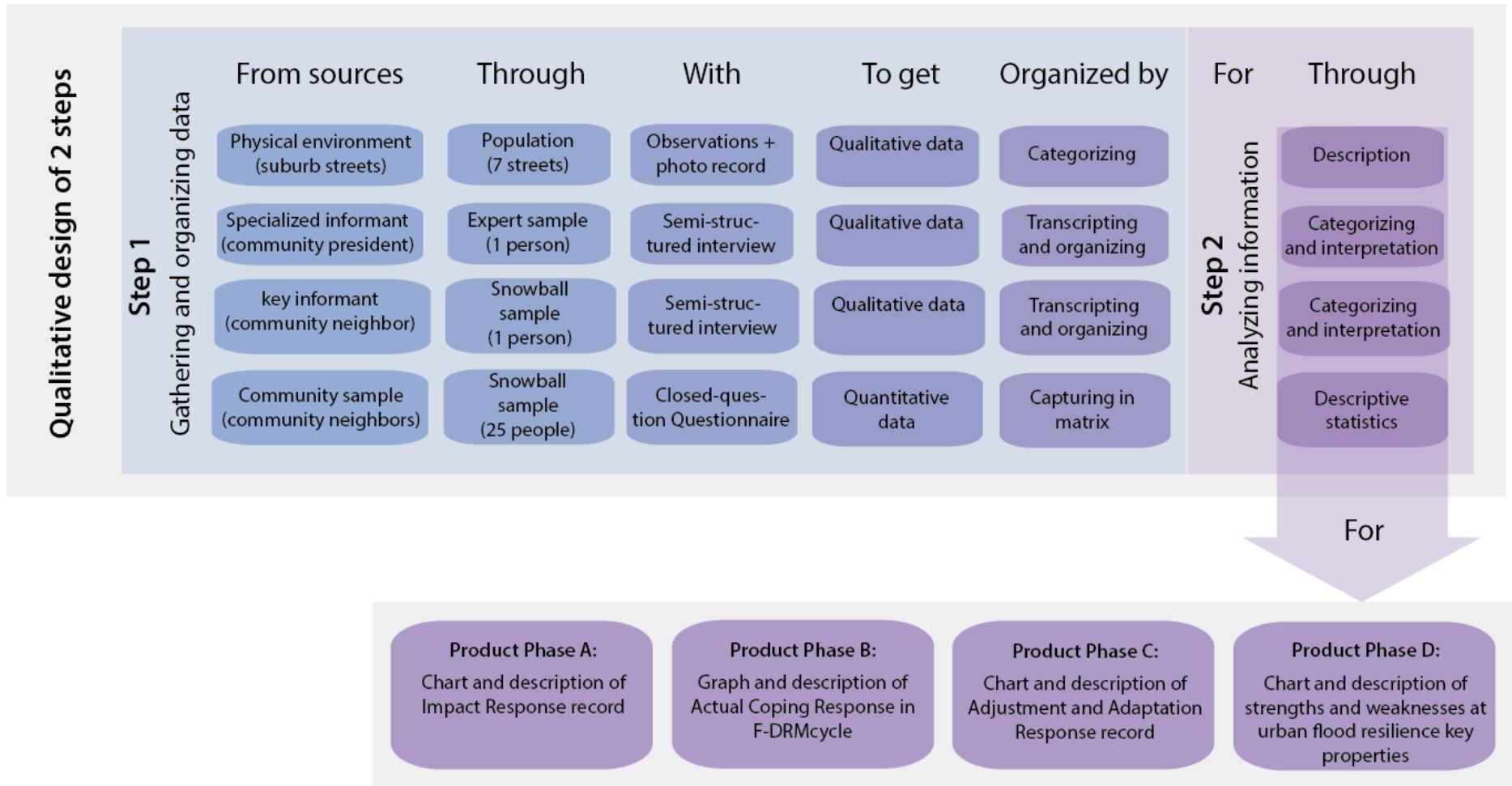


**Image 12 Overall community flood resilience assessment comprises two main sub-assessments that are consequent with main objective of assessment and related-research questions. Source: own**

## Methodological considerations for application to case study

The methods in the overall assessment research are divided into two methodological steps: (1) recollection and process of data and (2) analysis of information (Image 13).

This research follows a qualitative design of an interpretative case study. A qualitative design considers qualitative data and does not imply a hard statistic treatment because it focuses on the process and seeks to find out how people act (Monje, 2011). An interpretative case study provides descriptions that allow interpretation and theorization about the case (Monje, 2011). A case study is focused on the intensive assessment of a specific phenomena, process, or unit, in order achieve specific comprehension of it (Monje, 2011). The case study research modality also allows quantitative data to support qualitative views, and it is more focus on empiric work but needs a theoretical reference framework to analyze and interpret the data recollected from the study case (Monje, 2011).



**Image 13 Methods for each step of the research design and the products within each phase of community flood resilience assessment. The research design consists of a group of successive and organized activities that indicate the steps and the techniques involved in recollecting and analyzing the data (Monje, 2011). Source: own**

## **Step 1: Gathering and organizing data from field**

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This first step consists of the process of familiarizing, selecting, registering and organizing the data obtained from the samples or the whole population of the sources at field.

To familiarize with the suburb a visit was made previous to fieldwork. There was the opportunity to present the project to some members of community's local committee and to familiarize with the physical environment as well as with some neighbors.

### *Sources of data and samples*

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The collection of data was made through specific sources from the community of interest (image 13). Consistent with the community concept previously stated at theoretical framework, the main criterion for the delimitation of the community of interest was the closeness with community committee, followed by the antique and the high-flood exposure condition of their households. Community's local authority (community committee) was detected as the main institution leading suburb's flood-related initiatives inside Magisterial suburb, and it was made the assumption that any neighbor presenting this characteristics would take part of the concerned and active people regarding flood management in the suburb.

The sampling in every case was a nonprobability purposive sampling. The researcher decided the purpose that the informants will have within the research and by own judgment informants are chosen, expecting of them to reflect the things relevant to the research (Russell, 2006). In this type of sampling, the size is defined on the ability to get informants or respondents and not pre-established by equations; this kind of sampling can be used in case studies (Russell, 2006).

Four sources of the suburb were consulted: the physical environment, the community committee's president (specialized informant), an outstanding neighbor (key informant) and related community (neighbors involved with the committee).

- The physical environment consisted of all the streets of the Magisterial suburb were surveyed in order to gather data.
- The specialized informant was selected following an expert sampling under a *phenomenon nature criterion* for selection; which is based on the feasibility of founding frequent and accessible important cases (Hernández-Sampieri *et al.*, 2010). At the suburb, there could not be identified many experts who have broad panorama about community's flood performance, the community committee's president was considered the most accessible important case that could be interviewed. Besides, since he is also a neighbor, he was considered an extreme case of deeply involved neighbor on community committee's flood-related initiatives.
- The key informant was selected by snowball technique. In this selection modality informants and/or documents are used to locate one or two people in a population; it is an effective method to build a complete sampling when dealing with a small and well connected-neighbors population (Russell, 2006), but can also present only the people willing to cooperate (Monje, 2011).

Due to limited capacity of *recollection and analysis criteria* (term by Hernández-Sampieri *et al.*, 2010) only one key informant was selected. It is an extreme case (according to Monje, 2011) of a pioneer neighbor (20 years living at the suburb) living inside the highest flash-flood exposure zone and close to the community committee.

- Community sample of respondent neighbors was also defined by a snowball method. The specialized informant pointed out the candidates to become respondents of the questionnaire, since he knows neighbors that are: antique residents, close to the committee and highly exposed to flash floods (traits that were thought to be characteristics of the most informed and involved neighbors in community organization related to flood-issues). This sampling method was used because of the lack of time and support (in terms of human resources) to cover all

community population of involved neighbors. The size chosen (25 people) was pertinent because the results could evidence that the saturation principle was more less reached<sup>30</sup>.

The community of neighbors was consulted in order to eco the information of the community president, but also to have a cleared sight of the community level degree of organization, besides exploring the individual level of coping response to floods.

#### *Characterization of the samples*

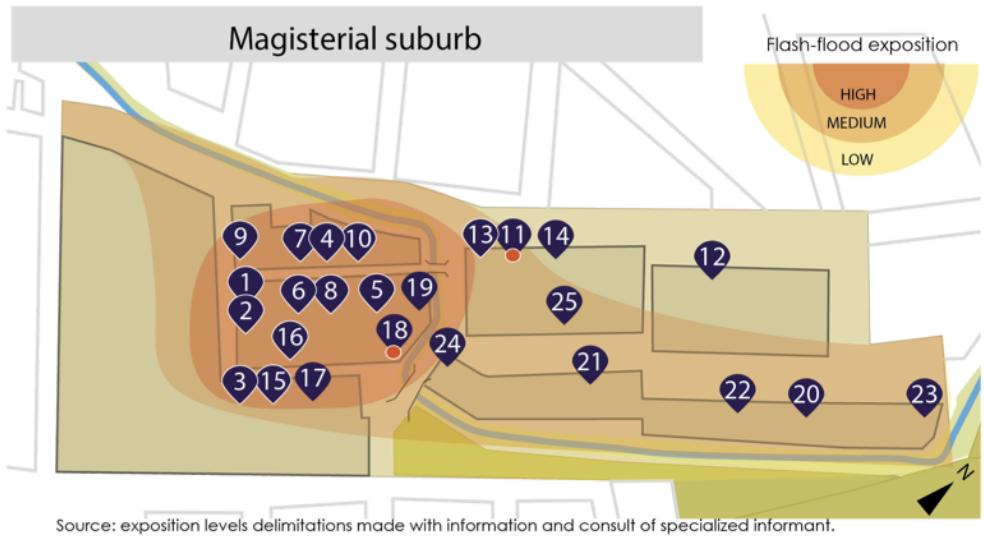
The present research assesses community flood resilience based on a fraction of 27% (25) of inhabited households from community of Magisterial suburb, plus two extreme cases of neighbors<sup>31</sup>. The non-probabilistic purposive sample sought to gather the perspective from the most informed members of the community regarding community committee's initiatives against floods. Most informed neighbors are allegedly to be the closest to committee's president and the most antique neighbors that live in or near the areas with highest flash-flood exposition. In order to cover more possible perspectives of suburb-community members, other neighbors from different exposition zones and years of arrival were included in the sample in a smaller proportion.

Related to the flash flood exposition in the Magisterial, specialized informant, the community president, recognizes that the suburb can be divided in three main flash-flood exposition zones where samples are located (Image 14).

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<sup>30</sup> This principle says that during the recompilation and interpretation of the data, research reach certain point where any new data can appear, anything else can be known about a category, due to the saturation of the source (Monje, 2011)

<sup>31</sup> As stated in methods chapter, the qualitative sampling is not probabilistic but purposive and theoretical. This means that it does not look for statistical representativeness of the population, but cultural representativeness in order to have a reconstruction of the experiences and related senses associated to communities. It seeks to gather all possible subjective perspectives of members towards a subject. And the size of the sampling is not fixed, but depends on the needs of information and data saturation. (Monje, 2011)



**Image 14 Flash-flood exposition zones recognized by the specialized informant, and location of household of respondents (25) and informants –in red dots- (2). Source: own**

The community scheme of flood exposed areas was produced in more less a participative way. The first draft of the flood-exposition scheme was build based on information provided by the specialized informant and the scheme of the suburb streets (Image 1. from [Annex Documents provided by Specialized informant](#)). This draft was reviewed and perfected by him also. The final version gathers his perspective about critical flash flood areas inside the suburb.

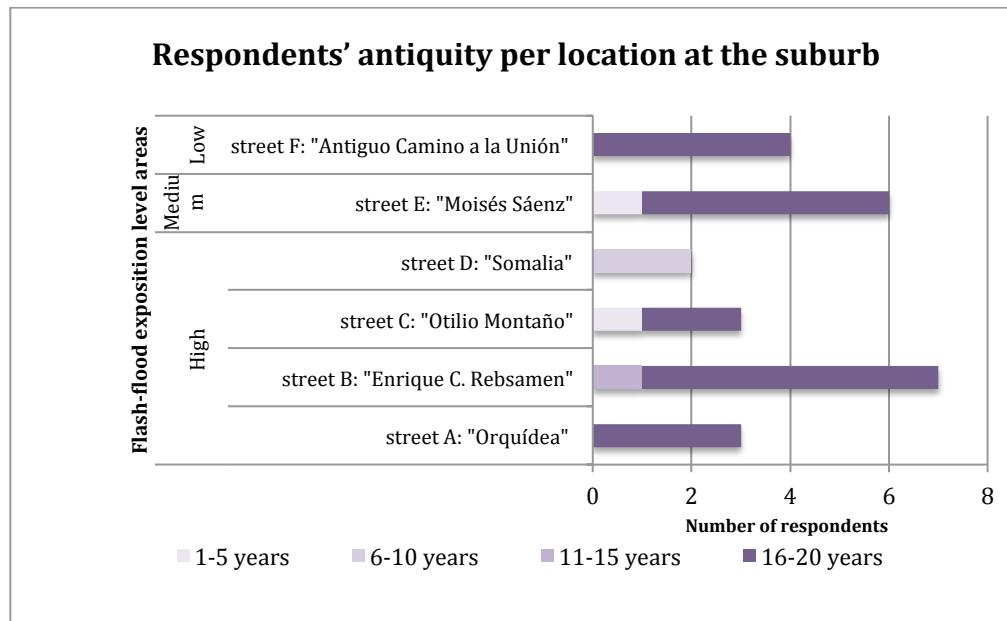
#### *Informants' main characteristics*

Specialized informant is a 48 years-old man that owns and inhabits a house at the suburb for over 20 years (pioneer neighbor) together with his family. He has the professional degree of professor and is an active member of the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE). His actual main occupation is English professor at secondary level, and his secondary occupation is at the community local committee under the charge of community's president of the committee (since 2013, second year of first period of the committee). He might be the most informed person about the efforts made at community level, and for that he is considered an extreme case of the community.

Key informant, Key informant, is a 51 years-old women that owns and inhabits a house at the suburb for over 17 years (pioneer neighbor) together with her family consisting on her partner (an active professor) and two grown-up children. She has the High school degree, and she is the chief accountant for the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE). Her secondary occupation is house care. She lives at the second house floor and rents to one student the lowest level. She is a pioneer neighbor that lives at the highest flood risk zone and that has experienced the two biggest flood events of the suburb; such characteristics allowed to consider her an extreme case. Her case is worth to analyze under the supposition that she would be among the most involved members of the community in flood-relates issues.

#### *Respondents' main characteristics*

25 neighbors conform the respondents group for this research. The average of the community sample antiquity in the suburb was 16 years, 21 respondents (of 25) have lived at the suburb for at least 16 years, and 13 of them are pioneer neighbors whom have resided since the beginning of the suburb (Graph 1).



**Graph 1 Magisterial suburb community sample: respondents' antiquity per location at the suburb.**  
Street locations are shown in Image 15. Source: own

Related to their personal and family general information:

- The respondents are adults from both genders. Consisted on 11 men and 14 women of an average age of 49 years.
- Most of them are owners of their residence. 80% (20) of them are owners of their household, and 16% (4) are renting the houses, and one is living at his parents' house (not by inheritance).
- Most reside with their nuclear family, which is often small in numbers. Most of them (80%) are family head of an average family size of 1 partner of 51 years of age-average, and 2 children of age-average of 23 years<sup>32</sup>.
- It is a group with high level of studies. 76% (19) reached University level of studies, and 12% (3) have High school degree<sup>33</sup>.
- Almost share a common organization group. Almost half of them (56% - 14 respondents) belong to the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE) under the "normal teacher-member" and "retired-teacher member" modalities.
- Most of them are teachers, with apparently secondary occupations without revenue. More than half (15 respondents) are teachers, whether retired (24%) of active teachers (36%), and 12% (3) are current employees from different enterprises<sup>34</sup>. Regarding their secondary occupation, only 9 respondents (36%) provide information, where housewife was the most common occupation (4 women), but 2 respondents stated to belong to the community committee as the secretary and the head of surveillance subcommittee<sup>35</sup>.
- Even though they reside in different exposition areas apparently, all of them have stated experienced a flood event at the suburb. And 70% (18) identify that floods does not happen every year, but floods do happen only during rain season (84%).

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<sup>32</sup> The family profile of the respondents does not have additional members such as grandparents or other kind of family members, they consists on nuclear families.

<sup>33</sup> Only one person indicated to have Elementary school level and the rest 2 people did not answer.

<sup>34</sup> Regarding the principal occupation of the rest of the people, only two (8%) are university students, the rest of them are retired employee (1), housewife (1) and independent lawyer (1).

<sup>35</sup> One people stated to have a farm and another to exercise as sales agent.

Based on the previous information, the general profile of the community sample can be described as follows: Adults of both genders living in own houses together with their small families of adult members, for a period of time of 16 years approximately; that have achieved an university degree and that are teachers (active or retired) and belonged to the national union of teachers (SNTE); that have experienced a flood event in the suburb (always during rain season); and that also identified affectation to out and indoors items, as well as health problems and partial interruption of daily activities caused by floods' impacts.

*Magisterial suburb's main physical characteristics*

Finally, the physical environment of the suburb presents the following main characteristics (image 15). Streets can be described as partially or deficiently paved, two streets are only for walkers (streets B and C) and the rest have an average width of 7 meters, not all streets have sidewalks, but in general sidewalks are narrow (1.5 meters approx.). Each property is conformed by a terrain of dimensions around 16x8 meters (image. 2 from [Annex Documents provided by Specialized informant](#)). Houses are all made from cement-coated standard-bricks and present diverse designs and sizes. But most of them consist on one floor (mainly) with no garage and small gardens.

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**Image 15 Views from Magisterial suburb's main streets and from its limits' environment. Source: own**

### *Instruments for data gathering*

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The instruments for the collection of data differed from each type of source. For the physical environment of the suburb, observation through a photographic record was made. For the community's president and the community member, data was collected from a semi-structured interview. And for the community itself, a closed-question questionnaire was elaborated and applied to the community sample of neighbors.

#### *Observation and photographic record*

The observation consisted of a survey. The 7 streets that comprise the suburb were walked by foot, and photographs were taken to register outstanding features of the infrastructure, exposition and other community behaviors related to flood coping response, such as garbage disposal. The president of the community guided the walk and indicated most of the important features.

The photographs were organized by categories and their descriptions were used as support for analysis through the whole research report.

#### *Semi-structured interview*

A semi-structured interview was selected to obtain detailed information from 2 informants related to flood coping response of community<sup>36</sup>.

The interview format in this project consists of a 5 sheet document containing 25 main themes arranged in 7 categories: City context, Suburb context, Flood context at Magisterial suburb, Magisterial neighbors' reaction to flood-problem, Measures previous to flood, Measures during a flood, Measures after a flood. The final part of the questionnaire is for general information about the respondent, and it consists of 12 fields. The original language of the format is in Spanish, a translation to English was

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<sup>36</sup> Semi-structured requires a general script containing several topics following a particular order; the intention is to softly guide the interview so that relevant issues for the research can be explored and talked (Monje, 2011; Russell, 2006). This type of instrument is best for situations when informants are not easy reachable or tend to use efficiently their time (Russell, 2006), which was the case for this research.

made with help of a native speaker ([Annex Interview format for Magisterial Informants](#)).

The qualitative data gathered with the interview was processed through transcriptions from each interview ([Annex Transcription of first interview to Specialized informant](#), [Annex Transcription of second interview to Specialized informant](#), [Annex Transcription of interview to Key informant](#)).

#### *Closed-Question Questionnaire*

A closed-question questionnaire was chosen to gather general data from the community neighbors' sample of respondents<sup>37</sup>. The idea was to obtain a general idea about community-neighbors' perception of community's flood coping response.

The questionnaire was elaborated following the steps established by Monje, 2011): decide to whom will be applied, consider their characteristics (type of vocabulary, days off, etc.), determine information needed, determine structure (sections, general format), design questions, proof instrument, correct instrument.

The final format consisted of three parts ([Annex Questionnaire format for Magisterial Informants](#)). First part of 8 individual questions arranged by categories: Flood impacts in Magisterial suburb (with 5 questions), Individual flood strategies at Magisterial suburb: Previous a flood (4 questions), During the flood (2 questions) and after the flood (2 questions). Questions ranged between multiple selection, fixed alternative (yes/no), classification (consecutive-related questions), and estimation-gradient questions (According to definitions of Monje, (2011)). The second part consisted of 4 matrix of questions related to Group flood strategies at Magisterial suburb (with closed check-box answers), Flood measures in Magisterial suburb (with estimation-gradient questions), Collaboration between neighbors and Civil Protection in flood-related measures (with closed check-box answers), Measures against floods (with closed check-box answers). Third part gathered general information of the respondent and it consisted of 12 fields (same as in interview script).

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<sup>37</sup> This instrument was chosen because it makes easier the analysis of data and reduces the costs of application in terms of money and time (Monje, 2011).

The questionnaire was distributed to 26 members of the Magisterial suburb community living at 6 different streets; where 25 of them turned out fully answered. The questionnaire was individually filled to avoid the influence of an interviewer. The data collected by the questionnaire follows a quantitative nature and was processed through a capture of answers on a matrix of frequencies at Excel program.

Interview script and questionnaire format were assessed by a scientific researcher of Anthropology science adscript to Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí. Format and questions were discussed and improved during a session.

## Step 2: Analyzing information from field

The photographic record was analyzed through a simple description of what was captured by the image, and often to serve as proof of past experiences that were documented by the informants.

The interviews' transcriptions were analyzed method for analysis of content consisting of conceptual-based reduction<sup>38</sup>. First a categorization was made, where extracts of interviews' transcriptions were fitted into conceptual categories (defined previously to fieldwork). Later, a matrix of synthesis was made in order to compare and synthesize information from both interviews ([Annex Matrix of synthesis of interviews' data](#)).

Additional audio-interview information consisted of several documents provided by the specialized informant. Documents were enlisted by date and a short description of each one was added ([Annex. Documents provided by Specialized informant](#)).

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<sup>38</sup> This method consists of reducing the data in a conceptual, numerical or graphic way; for qualitative research the reduction of data is made through a conceptual way based on categorization of data (Monje, 2011).

The data from the questionnaire was analyzed through codification and descriptive statistic. Codification is like categorization but for quantitative data, and it consists of assign numbering units to collected data (Monje, 2011) to obtain frequency values per category. Descriptive statistic was used to obtain position statistics such as mode and mean to better conclude the knowledge from the sample. The frequencies were presented as graphic when indicating coping measures, as text (percentages or phrases) in order to support or contrast informants' information.

### Expected products of Community Flood Resilience Assessment

For each phase a general product is obtained:

- Phase A makes a description of the flood impacts record based on a chart for general profile of the impacts caused by floods.
- Phase B presents a general description of community measures within the Flood Disaster Risk Management cycle (FDRM cycle) also on a concentration chart.
- Phase C presents a concentration chart and makes a description of community's resilience development process through time, based on the application of the conceptual model of flood-resilience process.
- Phase D makes a general description of strengths and weaknesses of community's performance related to urban flood resilience key properties of Liao (2012)<sup>39</sup>, based on a concentration chart.

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<sup>39</sup> Despite some conceptual differences between this research, Liao's (2012) approach is pertinent because it is focused on urban flood resilience at small scale. Some differences are that Liao (2012) sees resilience as a capacity that prevents disaster, and this research considers resilience as that but also as the capacity to recover and overcome from disaster. Liao also states that adaptive capacity increase resilience through time; this research follows the idea that resilience capacity acts in short term to provide adaptive capacity in long term.

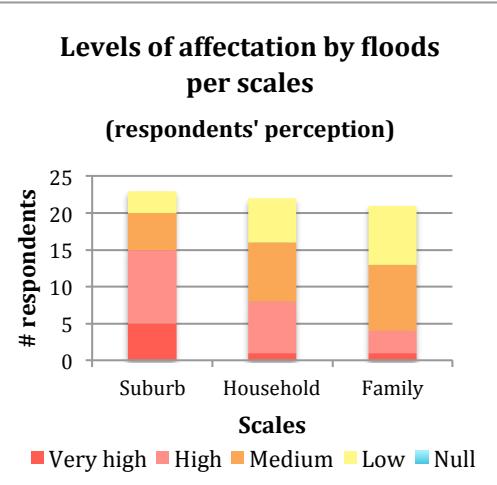
## RESULTS

### 1. Assessment of community flood resilience responses

#### Phase A: Identification of Impact Response

All respondents and informants recognized that floods have somehow affected the suburb, households and families.

The level of affection due to floods that the respondents perceived is more like in a gradient. Respondents tended to perceive a higher affection at suburb scale than at family or household scale. Affection at suburb's level is considered to present more high to very high level (40%, 20% respectively), household affection level is more fairly perceived among high-medium to low levels (28%, 32%, 24% respectively), and family affection level is more perceived between medium and low levels (36% and 32% respectively) (Graph 2).

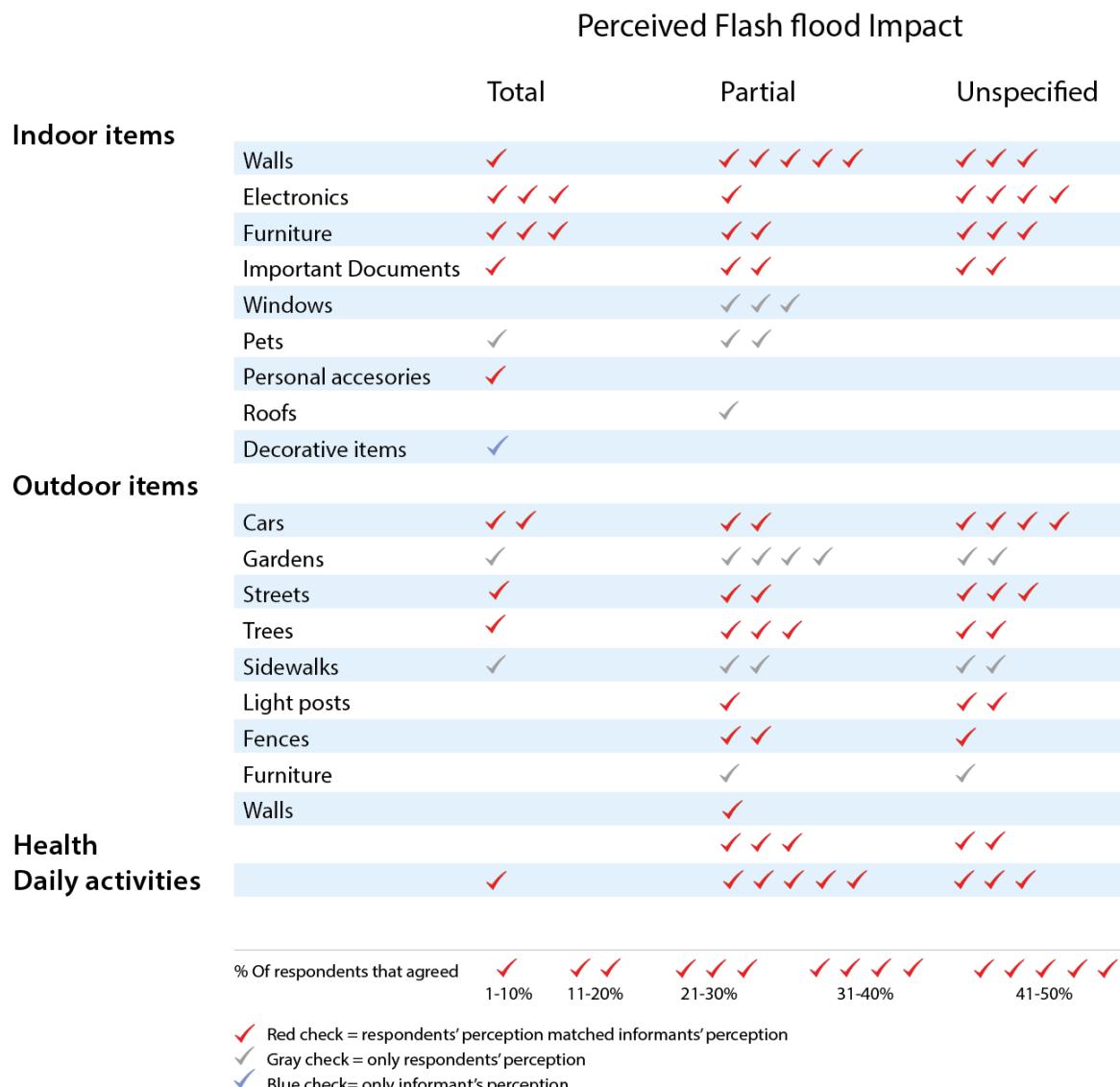


Graph 2 Community sample perception of levels of affection by floods at their suburb, household (infrastructure) and family (persons) levels. Source: Own

The respondents' perception of affection by floods was described in terms of partial, total or nonspecific level of damage for out and indoor belongings, human health and interruption of daily activities (Chart 1). Partial damages' perception was higher than total, but unspecified damage was more often perceived at all previous categories. More specific levels of damage was perceived among indoor items, health and daily activities than for outdoor items. Moreover, total damage was more perceived for indoor items.

The informants and almost half of the respondents perceive that daily activities were interrupted because of flood events. Any total loss of health (assuming death)

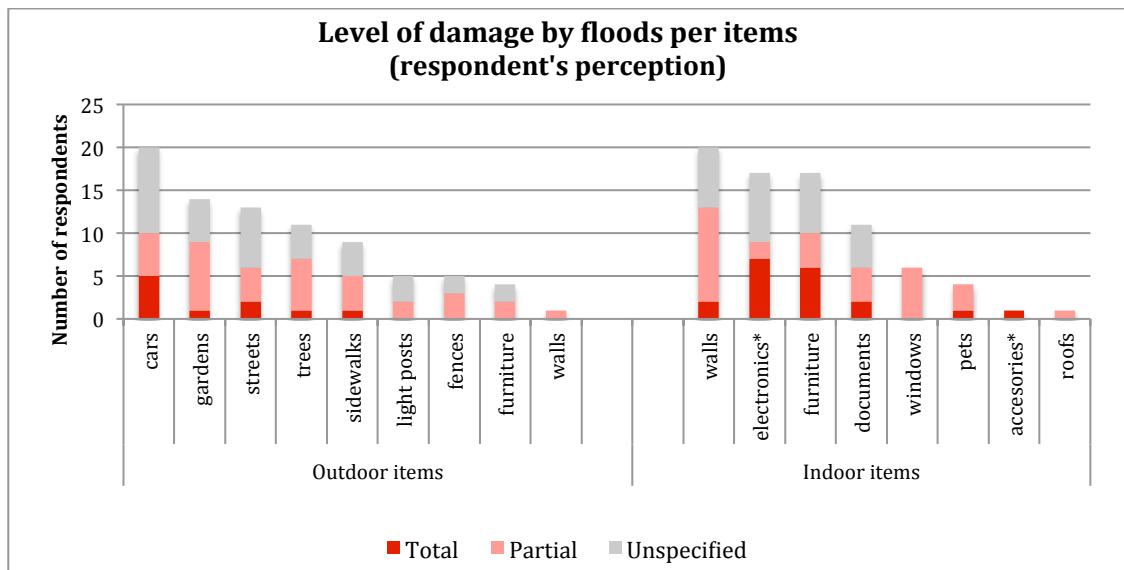
was perceived but partial damage was mentioned as gastrointestinal affection and dengue, and nervous breakdown.



Related to outdoors items, cars were the most reported item (by 80% respondents) that have suffered any level of damage by floods (Graph 3). Cars also are seen as the item that has suffered most of total damage (20% of the respondents), and streets item follows (8%). Gardens, trees and cars are considered items that have suffered most partial damage during a flood (32%, 24% and 20% respectively). And

fences and light posts are considered to have not suffered from any total damage, and low degree of partial damage during a flood (12% and 8% respectively) (Graph 3)(for photographs of impacts go to [Annex Photographic register of extreme flood event in 2008 at Magisterial and Ciudad Valles city](#)).

Related to indoor items, walls were the most reported item (by 80% respondents) that have suffered any level of damage by floods. Electronics and furniture are seen as the items that have suffered most of total damage (28%, 24% respectively). Walls, windows, important documents and furniture are considered items that have suffered most partial damage (44%, 24%, 16% and 16% respectively). Even pets were reported to have suffered damage. (Graph 3).



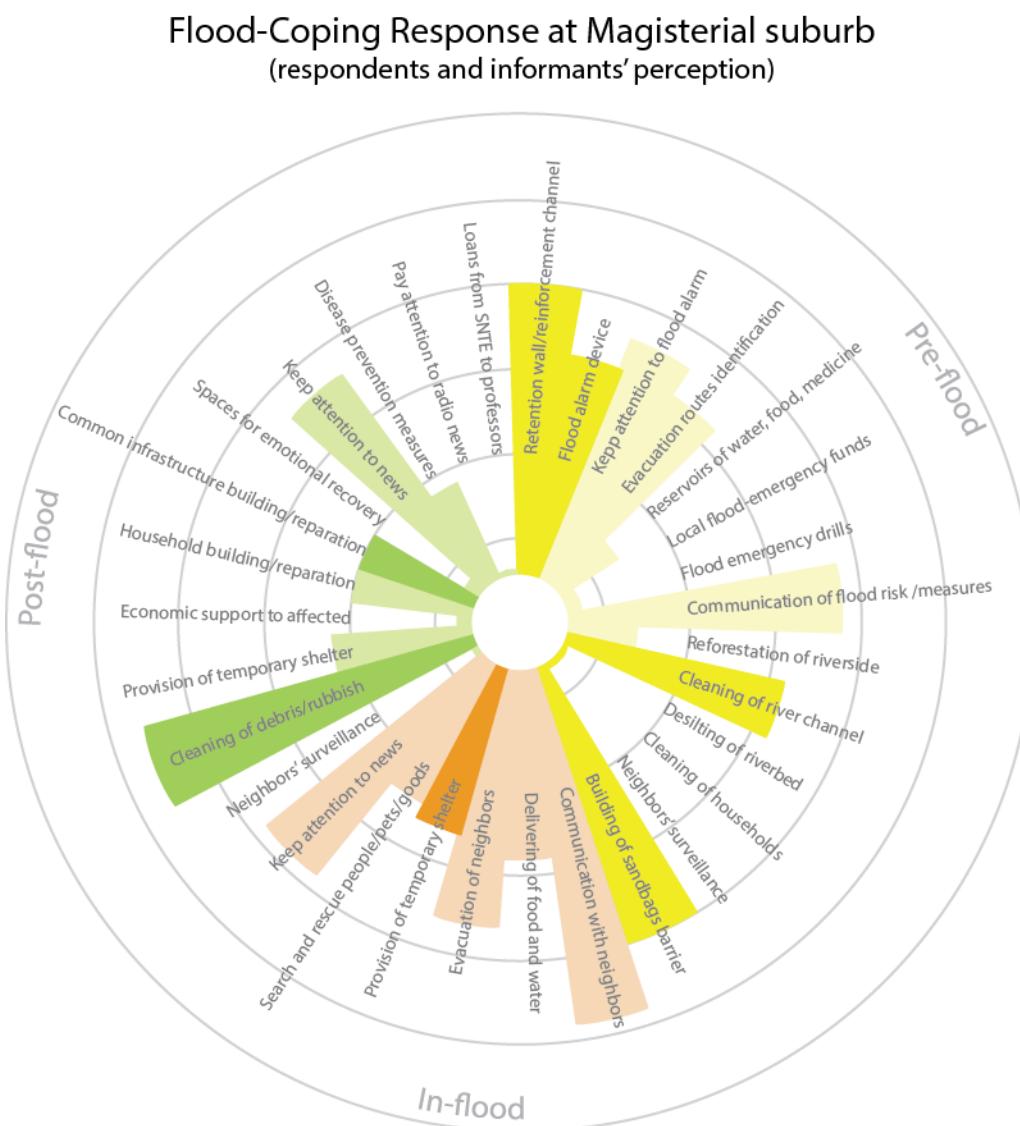
**Graph 3 Total, partial or unspecified damage made to outdoor and indoor belongings by floods, according to respondents' perception. Accessories: clothes, school materials, personal items. Electronics: refrigerator, stoves, etc. Source: Own**

*"horrible! We lost everything! <during 2004 flood> mattresses, beds, refrigerators, dining rooms all we had! ...we had a car...the water entered in it...we sold it"*  
 [Key informant, 2014 – translation]

Perceptions of level of damage may be partly influenced by level of belonging respondents have over the items, for example: own belongings (like cars and gardens) may got higher level of damage due to this, but not so furniture and walls.

## Phase B: Identification of Coping Response

The Magisterial has conducted community flood coping measures. Community measures identified by both, informants and respondents, are shown in next graph under brighter colors under the frame of pre-, -in and -post phases of disaster cycle (Graph 4).



**Graph 4 Actual Flood-Coping Response of Magisterial suburb based on respondents' perception.** Each circumference indicates the number of respondents who identified the measure (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 people); each bar represent a measure and its height indicates the number of respondents that recognize the existence of the measure at the suburb. Only brighter colored bars represent community measures that have been corroborated also by informants. The bars' color represents the flood stage. Source: own.

A description of each measure is provided in short, and extra details regarding the actors that implement each measure is also provided at extra charts from [Annex Details of performance of Coping-Response at Magisterial suburb.](#)

### *Pre-flood measures*

Pre-flood phase, according to Djalante *et al.*'s Disaster Risk Reduction stages (2013), consists of stages of communication of risk knowledge, mitigation and preparedness. In Magisterial suburb, pre-flood measures have not been formally arranged under a disaster risk reduction plan.

### *Communication of risk measures*

Any community measure related to communication of risk knowledge was identified at the suburb; instead there is informal communication among neighbors. According to informants, neighbors talk to each other about flood risk and share advises based on their own previous experiences<sup>40</sup>. An example can be seen at the entrance design of the houses, most of them share a common feature: concrete fences, as a barrier (image 16). Another example was that some houses started to build a second floor so they could have a shelter<sup>41</sup>. But these measures are not considered community measures.



**Image 16 Shared design on houses' entrance with a stone fences to protect house from flood impact. Source: own**

<sup>40</sup> It seems that any scientific information related to risk research on the area has not been communicated to the whole suburb's community, but only to its authorities. The specialized informant (community committee president) talked about a risk research at city level that apparently was communicated to the committee, in which Magisterial suburb was identified among the 5 places under higher flood-risk at the city.

<sup>41</sup> Even though these measures may not necessarily implicate a previous risk communication with neighbors.

### *Mitigation measures*

Mitigation measures at community level were identified among others; all consisted of infrastructural measures, cleaning and desilting efforts to maintain the volume capacity of the river's channel.

Only one infrastructural measure was identified by respondents and informants and consisted of the reinforcement of the river channel. It consists of a pavement channel that also broadens the riverbed right where it crosses the suburb; the channel has high walls among each side that protect from flood when river level rises (Image 17). Neighbors built it by their own means since there was no support from the authorities. It has provided the population with more time to react when a flood is coming.

A community infrastructural measure that was identified only by informants was the backwater. It consists of a broaden on the river channel right where it changes its direction; its objective is to generate sort of a retention area in order to reduce the speed of the water flow (image 18). This project was planned with help of an engineer and implemented by the community together with unspecified external help.

Nonstructural measures at community level regarding cleaning and desilting efforts were also found. The neighbors clean the river from objects that could block the water



**Image 17 Reinforcement of the channel, made by neighbors with help of City Hall.**  
Source: own



**Image 18 Backwater work at the river channel, the rocks barrier -behind the truck- delineates the limits of the canal.**  
Source: own

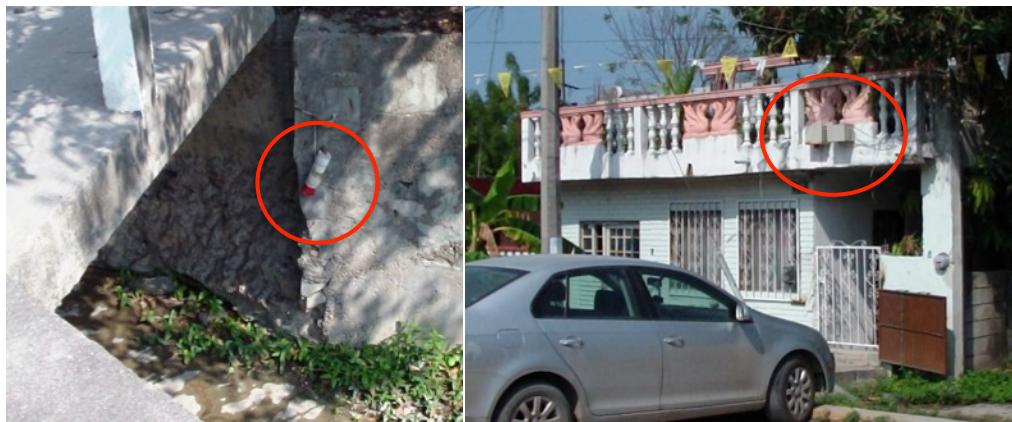
flow, such as tires or trash (according to informants and one respondent). Also, since 2011 the community asks twice a year authorities for desilting the riverbed through a formal petition to the City Hall ([Annex Documents provided by Specialized informant](#)).

Moreover, specialized informant and one respondent also mentioned that cleaning of households helps to reduce the amount of debris that flood-avenue can carry; debris is responsible for much of its destructive force. The community committee has locally conducted “Permanent cleaning sessions” along with the community.

#### *Preparedness measures*

Respondents and informants identified two flood-preparedness measures at community level.

A flood alarm device was installed at river channel inside the suburb's area (image 19). Civil Protection authorities installed it by petition of the neighbors, apparently after the 2008 flood. But this alarm has not been accurate; according to both informants, it sometimes goes on when river has not even rose. Due to this inefficiency, neighbors do not fully trust on it and keep constant attention to it but they also survey the river level during rainy season. No further details regarding the surveillance were given.



**Image 19 Flood alert device (left) in Magisterial suburb (red) installed by Civil Protection. Flood alert speakers located at Key informant's house (right). Source: own**

The sandbag barrier measure is totally based on community initiative. It has been considered as a preparedness effort once the study realize that suburb faces only flash floods, and thus sandbags are placed with anticipation when rainy season starts. The whole community performs this measure annually since the 2004 flood. According to specialized informant, the committee asks City Hall for sand and bags, and all neighbors fill and place the sandbags as a barrier (Image 20).

*“...after 2004, each year...starts the rain week and we start to put sandbags and we make them...the women to fill them with shovels and the men to carry them and start to make the barrier to protect ourselves...”*

[Key informant, 2014 - translation]

Aside these measures, some respondents identified efforts like reforestation of the riverside, local emergency funds, emergency drills, reservoirs of food and water and evacuation routes identification. Contradiction was found between sources at least for evacuation routes identification. Specialized informant identified a community measure consisting of creation of parking lot for flood emergencies. Each sector has the duty to search for a safe place where they can park their cars before a flood event.



Image 20 Sand deposit where sand is delivered by authorities and were sandbags are filled by all neighbors. Place is at front key informant's household.

### In-flood measures

#### Emergency measures

In-flood phase of DRMcycle consists of the emergency management stage, which means relief and support measures during or right after a flood event (Queensland Government, 2011). In the Magisterial there have been relief and support measures, but all of them seem to respond to instinctive individual actions of neighbors, and not to planned strategies or protocols the community develops and implements.

Regarding the implementation, informants and most of the respondents identify that only neighbors are implementing them, but some respondents have also identified external participation from Civil Protection; this aspect could not be verified due to the lack of official reports and specific site-news.

Provision of temporal shelter might be the closest community flood-emergency measure that has been identified by respondents and informants. People climb to the roof of their houses or other neighbors' houses, to stay safe from the flood. Most of the time it is a household-measure but it sometimes involves more neighbors; houses with two levels tend to serve as shelter for several neighbors when higher floods come.

*"...all hopped up, every neighbor was up<at the roof>, all of them! and it was a shouting scene, it was horrible!"*

[Key informant, 2014 – key informant - translation]

Among the household emergency measures provided by informants, some of them are outstanding. There has been an informal neighbor-alarm during the first moments of the flood (first 10 minutes, approximately) that consists on door knocking and yelling plus providing help for evacuation.

*"...and once he <her husband> sees that the stream is rising and starts to run to knock on doors...house by house"*

[Key informant, 2014 - translation]

Neighbors have also saved other neighbors that were being pulled away by the water flow.

*"...Mrs. Gloria would have died if I don't grab her!"*

[Friend of specialized informant, 2014 - translation]

### *Post-flood measures*

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#### *Recovery and reconstruction measures*

Post-flood phase comprises of recovery and reconstruction stages where basic functions of social and physical elements of a suburb are restored (Queensland Government, 2011). In Magisterial suburb main recovery efforts are related to

cleaning and restoration of infrastructure.

Respondents and informants identified a community recovery effort consisting on cleaning of debris. It is a measure that all neighbors instinctively started to do after the 2004 flood, and continued at the 2008 flood. The

measure does not seem to follow a formal protocol; it is only based on neighbors' solidarity and disposition. External help comes from authorities by sending help for cleaning debris (image 21), or by providing machinery. For example, after the 2008 flood the municipal Direction of Potable Water and Sewerage provided a machine to pull out the jammed cars at the river channel. Authority has also sent trucks to pick up the rubbish.

*“...what we do is that we put ourselves to clean...”*  
[Friend of specialized informant, 2014 - translation]

Regarding to reconstruction measures, both sources identified that building and reparation of common infrastructure has been implemented at the suburb. According to informants, mainly streets' holes have been repaired and a part of the wall of the reinforced channel was rebuilt. The community itself through donatives has made both efforts.

*“...to repair...lets all put money to it...< referring to the wall reparation that a cow broke during the 2008 flood>”*  
[Specialized informant, 2014 - translation]

Measures post-flood that where identified by respondents but not by informants were: provide temporal shelter, deliver economic support to affected, spaces for emotional recovery, build and repair houses, keep attention to news and radio-news, and loans from SNTE to professors. Emotional recovery and economic support are community measures that were reported missing by informants.



**Image 21 Cleaning rubbish joined efforts between neighbors and authorities (man with yellow pants).**  
Source: Professor Carvajal and Professor Garay personal archive

## Phase C: Identification of Adjustment and Adaptation Response

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The assessment of the adjustment and adaptation response of Magisterial community of neighbors is based on the conceptual model proposal provided in Conceptual Framework Chapter and consists of a revision of indirect indicators of resilience development process, which are emergence and development of flood-coping responses at pre, in and post-flood stages of DRR management cycle. Due to the detail needed, this assessment was fully based on informants' provided information.

### *First round of big-disaster risk reduction management cycle*

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#### *In-flood stage*

Within 10 years of living without extreme flooding, the 2004 flash-flood event caught Magisterial neighbors unaware and without any flood-related measure, thus damages were considerable. Prior to this event, the retention wall structure was the only flood-related measure, but it has not been made by the community but by the builders of the suburb. It was built in order to deviate the river channel (Image 22). Alarm and evacuation of neighbors and temporal shelter were emergency measures that few neighbors instinctively applied during the 2004 emergency, and by that, those measures are not considered as part of the Community Coping Response stock.



Image 22 Retention wall at upper part of Magisterial suburb. Source: own

#### *Post-flood stage*

Community Flood Coping Response was likely to have started during Post-flood phase of 2004. After the flood, the neighbors organized for the first time to attend basic recovery needs. They joined together to help cleaning the streets from fallen trees and for

cleaning out the mud from households. It took them around 1 month for recovery normal activities. This cleaning measure apparently involved the participation of authorities that provided trucks for taking out the debris and mud. There were other emergent measures that involved the participation of external people (friends from work and religious group) and consisted of providing food, blankets and clothes to affected people.

*“Coworkers gave us blankets for the kids, clothes, because we ran out of clothes...”*

[Key informant, 2014 – translation]

They were some measures that were created right after this flood. Sandbags barrier measure was conducted for the next rainy season. It has become an every year activity where all neighbors participate.

*“...after 2004, each year...starts the rain week and we start to put sandbags...”*

[Key informant, 2014 – translation]

Another measure was the building of the reinforcement of the river channel, which also incorporated a protection wall measure for protecting from river-level risings.

*“We did the walls...the wall at the stream”*

[Specialized informant, 2014 – translation]

### *Second big disaster risk reduction management cycle*

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#### *In-flood stage*

It seems that the emerged Coping Response from previous cycle (which was totally focused on Pre-flood phase) was not able to reduce the disaster risk. The 2008 flood at the suburb could not get avoided or diminished by the preventive measures of sandbags barrier and the protection wall around the river channel; the massive amount of water that came downstream overwhelmed these barriers.

Flash-flood event again surprised the neighbors because it was more intense than the 2004 flood. Impact Response was even stronger, the water ran faster with such strength that the avenue could lift heavier things like cars and even farm animals; it also broke entire walls (image 23).



**Image 23** 2008 flash flood torrent was able to destroy a wall from a Magisterial suburb property (according to specialized informant) located between the two walkways from the suburb. Source: own

In-flood phase measures started again as improvised individual actions, like alerting and evacuation of the neighbors. But there was also improvised provision of temporal shelter. The 2004 flood reached the 1.20 meters approximately and people found shelter at the roof of their one-floor household; but because the 2008 flood reached the 1.80 meters approximately, people had to find shelter at the highest households of the suburb, this need caused an improvised joined-effort among neighbors. Adjustment and Adaptation Response was made to convert an individual measure into a more group-coordinated measure, but still instinctive. Community Coping Response for emergency stage was still not organized.

#### *Post-flood stage*

During Post-flood stage, the Coping Response seemed to be the same. The neighbors got organized again in order to clean the facilities, and authorities helped them to dispose the debris. This time it took them around 15 days to clean streets and households, apparently they did it faster this time, even though the work seemed to be more exhausting.

2008 flash-flood event caused formal community organization from the first time. The Impact Response in terms of damage was such that Magisterial residents of around 200 households jointly demanded the authorities for their relocation (Martínez-Castro,

2008)<sup>42</sup>. But instead of that, *Civil Protection* (a state government institution advocated to emergency procedures) installed a flood-emergency alarm under the bridge of the stream channel (according to informants; Rodríguez-Coronado, 2011; Julio-Miranda, 2012). Parallel to this, a community committee inside the suburb was formed (for more details see Phase D chapter).

*“...they did not get together to make the committee because no, there were no problems! ...but the day we got flooded we saw the whole magnitude, and an emergent committee was made...”*  
[Specialized informant, 2014 – translation]

This committee promoted Adjustment and Adaptation Response in Pre-flood stage. Since 2011 desilting of the riverbed was periodically asked to and made by the City Hall. Cleaning of households and river channel has been done since 2012. Parallel to this, there were two adaptations to infrastructure of the river channel. A backwater on the river channel was made in order to lessen the force of the stream. Moreover, the committee and neighbors also made reconstruction and improvement of the protection wall of the river-channel. This time the wall was extended and a segment was modified in order to discharge overflow that formed a dangerous swirl during 2008 flood (image 24). Parking lots for flood emergencies is probably the most relatively new preparedness measure and it involves community sector-coordination.

Summarized community's Adjustment and Adaptation Response record is shown at Chart 2. Based on informant's perception, it suggests that Adjustment and Adaptation Response has been performed through past Flood-DRM cycles. This has lead to an increase on the pre-flood measures' stock of Actual Coping Response at 3rd cycle, but also



**Image 24 Adjustment of protection wall in order to discharge overflow from streets back to the river channel. Source: own**

<sup>42</sup> Unfortunately there is no available register of any relocation carried out by the government.

provide potential implementation or even improvement of past in-flood and post-flood measures.

Community's Adjustment and Adaptation Response record per Flood-DRM cycles  
(informants' perception)

	1st - 2004	2nd - 2008	3rd - ?
Pre-flood		Reinforcement river channel Protection wall Sandbags' barrier	Reinforcement river channel(backwater) Protection wall (rebuilt + extended) ?
In-flood		Temporal shelter	?
Post-flood	Cleaning debris	Cleaning debris Common infrastructure building/repair	?

Chart 2 Community's Adjustment and Adaptation record in terms of new (blue), repeated (orange) and improved (green) flood-related measures. Record is presented per rounds of DRRM cycle at Magisterial suburb (each round is triggered by a massive flash-flood event) each with pre-, in- and post-flood stages. Question marks indicate uncertainty regarding the future implementation of past measures. Based on informants' perception. Source: own

## 2. Assessment of community flood resilience potential

### Phase D: Strengths and weaknesses at key properties of resilience

To know details about availability or lack of community resources can set an idea about the potential for community resilience capacity (Rademacher, 2013). This chapter analyzes what community measures have meant in terms of key properties of urban flood resilience according to Liao (2012): (1) localized-flood response in terms

of having decentralized measures, (2) timely adjustments at physical, behavior and institutional aspects and (3) redundancy at different capacity scales. The assessment is based on informants and respondents' information.

#### *Localized flood-response capacity*

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Localized flood-response capacity has to do the ability to self-organize for creating decentralized coping measures (Liao, 2012). Even though Liao's (2012) work focuses at urban resilience to floods at city level, and refers to decentralized<sup>43</sup> measures and not depending on national level, localized flood-response can be also be applicable to lower scales. At suburb-community level, localized flood-response can be expressing the local community measures performed without dependency of the local authorities and other external organizations.

According to informants, the Flood Coping-Response of community from Magisterial suburb has centralized community measures (table 1). These measures strongly rely on authorities' performance and seem to have more organized implementation than decentralized measures. Pre-flood centralized community measures are done under neighbors' formal request, while post-flood measures seem to follow independent recovery-protocols of municipal authority.

Decentralized measures at the Magisterial seem to have developed mostly in terms of structural measures<sup>44</sup> for mitigation and prevention of floods, and basic recovery measures. Non-structural decentralized community measures are only in terms of cleaning efforts.

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<sup>43</sup> Decentralized measures developed within the local governments frame of authority (Oxford Dictionaries, 2014).

<sup>44</sup> Structural measures are defined as "Any physical construction to reduce or avoid possible impacts of hazards, or application of engineering techniques to achieve hazard-resistance and resilience in structures or systems" (UNISDR, 2009 p. 28). While Non-structural measures are "Any measure not involving physical construction that uses knowledge, practice or agreement to reduce risks and impacts, in particular through policies and laws, publica awareness raising, training and education (UNISDR, 2009 p. 28).

Flood phase	Decentralized community measures	Centralized community measures
Pre-flood	<i>Cleaning of river</i> <i>Cleaning of households</i> <i>Emergency parking lots</i> <b><i>Reinforcement of channel, bridges and protection wall</i></b> <i>Backwater</i>	<b><i>Flood alarm device</i></b> <b><i>Desilting of riverbed</i></b> <b><i>Sandbags' barrier</i></b>
In-flood	<b>Provide temporal shelter</b>	
Post-flood	<b>Common infrastructure building/reparation</b> <i>Cleaning debris from streets and households</i>	<b><i>Cleaning streets and disposing debris*</i></b>

**Chart 3 Decentralized vs Centralized measures implemented inside Magisterial suburb.** Measures marked with an asterisk are done without neighbors' previous petition to authorities, are not community measures. Table shows in bold, measures that could be equally identified by respondents and informants, and measures identified only among informants are not in bold. Measures written in italics seem to have organized implementation (according to informants). (For details of each measure see Phase B chapter). Source: own

### *Timely adjustments after every flood*

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Liao (2012) states that this key property of resilience has to do with the ability to learn from each flood and adjust in terms of behavior, physical or institutional aspects. Information provided by informants allows tracing adjustments since 2004 flash flood event in urban infrastructure, local organization and even among neighbors' behavior.

### **Behavioral adjustments**

Behavioral adjustments have been towards a positive and a negative performance. Since flood events of 2004 and 2008, neighbors seemed to become more solidary; at least 92% of the respondents assured that flood events have made neighbors become more solidary between them and internal cooperation among them is strong (Graph 5).

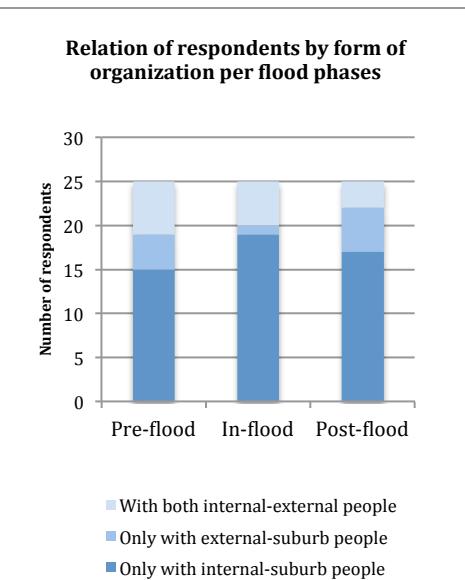
“...here the solidarity of neighbors is enough...the company, the support...”  
 [Key informant, 2014 – translation]

More than 50% of the respondents stated to join only with people that belong to the suburb at pre-, in- and post-flood phases (60%, 76% y 68% respectively) (Graph 5). Respondents also considered neighbors to be participating on pre-, in- and post-flood measures, with a medium-to-high level of effort on their performance. Most respondents also stated that the neighbors and whole community were responsible for most part of the Magisterial success on flood-coping performance ([Annex Details of](#)

[performance of Coping-Response at Magisterial suburb](#) provide graphs that show higher frequencies for categories related to Magisterial neighbors' performance in flood-response measures).

People have apparently become more experienced with flash floods and more solidary. The increasing of flash flood-related knowledge is perceived at diverse adjustments at household and suburb infrastructure. Informants could identify main characteristics of past flash flood events such as temporality, duration, intensity, magnitude and even possible causes related to urbanization and land erosion.

But also some people seemed to have developed negative response during emergencies. Even though only one respondent highlighted to have experienced nervous breakdown during floods, both informants recognized that people get really stressed or even paralyzed, and this may lead to inefficient response during a flood.



Graph 5 Relation of respondents' form of organization before, during and after flood events.

*“...there was people that stood paralyzed <during 2008 flood>...we have to pull them up <to the higher part of certain households> like bags because...they couldn't do it”*  
 [Specialized informant, 2004 – translation]

Another negative behavior towards community resilience is the temporal and even permanent move out from the suburb. Even though only 3 respondents stated to move temporarily during rainy seasons, informants could also agree that people has left the suburb after the 2008 flood (image 25).

*“...and many families have gone from here...there was a time when it looked like a cemetery...”* [Friend of specialized informant, 2014 – translation]



**Image 25** Two behaviors of neighbors at Magisterial suburb can be identified, the ones that desert and sell its property (left), and the ones that stay and adjust to the situation (right). Car has been called "Moises" by its owner (look sticker at windshield), this name makes allusion to the fact that it was one of the cars that was dragged during 2008-flood event. Moises is a religious character that while being a baby her mother put him on a basket on Nile River in order to save him from death.

#### Physical/infrastructural adjustments

Related to the development of a more positive behavior among some neighbors, infrastructural adjustments within Magisterial suburb facilities were also developed. According to informants, all infrastructural projects of building and adjustment have surged from neighbors' initiative (with exception of the retention wall). Among the infrastructural adjustments there is the improvement of the protection wall in order to avoid swirls at flooded streets, and the modification of the river channel in order to provide a backwater that could reduce the force of the river flow.

Moreover, at household-infrastructural level, independent from flood events, there have been considerable physical adjustments. All the houses that were built at the Magisterial suburb at the beginning shared the same design and size, but within time neighbors have made adjustments in order to fulfill their various needs (image 26). Some adjustments have to do with floods' previous experience; for example, most households are provided with concrete low fences and some doors even have reinforcements of metal (image 27).

*"...the majority has concrete fences... preventing... following the first flood..."*

[Key informant, 2014 - translation]

Another feature that seems like a tendency among the neighbors (according to informants) consists of building a second floor in order to have shelter if flash flood does not give time to get out of the house.

*"...but yet people... keep on building, now upwards, they keep searching ..."*  
[Specialized informant, 2014 - translation]



**Image 26 Physical adjustments at household-level infrastructure at Magisterial suburb.** Top left photo shows original design of households (according to specialized informant), top right photo contruction of second floor of house. Photos from the bottom example of diverse adjustments. Source: own

### Institutional adjustments

The biggest institutional adjustment traced is the community committee of the suburb. As it was previously said, 2008 flash-flood event caused community organization for the first time. But it was not until 2011 (according to table in [Annex Documents provided by specialized informant](#)) that community committee was officially recognized by the City Hall administration from 2009-2012<sup>45</sup>. The committee is conformed by 4 directive members, 1 community president (specialized informant), 1 secretary and 3 coordinators of the 3 subcommittees. The committee comprises two scale organization hierarchies; at community level it is organized by



**Image 27 Household-level infrastructure adjustment at Magisterial suburb: Metal protection for doors.** Source: own

<sup>45</sup> At the beginning, right after 2008-flood event, it was an emergent committee not officially registered the City Hall. When City Hall administration changed (in 2009), the register requirements of size (at least 20% of suburb's population had to form part of the committee) could not be fulfilled and committee waited until next administration (2012-2015) when requirements changed and allowed smaller community committees. Community committee was then recognized with only 5 members. Even though it consisted on only 5 members, they seem to convoke the rest of the neighbors to do community work with success (according to informants).

3 community subcommittees in charge of security, religious and general-concerns respectively, and at the block level through 9 sectors (each one consisting of approximately 6 houses). These two scales allow attend from general to more particular projects with diverse orientation towards solving needs at different scales.

*“...but it is not the same here that in the next sector...each millimeter there is a different interest...”*

[Specialized informant –, 2014 – translation]

Several projects have been developed through the subcommittees and targeted diverse issues from organization for chapel service, hiring of night watcher and even making environmental awareness sign campaign (Image 28). Several projects have been successfully done at least since 2012 (according to specialized informant), like the “Neighbors’ watching” local security project and the Permanent Cleaning Sessions (other projects are described in table of [Annex Documents provided by Specialized informant](#)).



**Image 28. Example of signs made by the community committee. Left- environmental campaign, right- Traffic signs to avoid accidents. Source: own**

#### *Redundancy in subsystems*

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This property relates to flood-response diversity of alternatives across capacity's scales (Liao, 2012) of the community. Community's resilience level is influenced mainly from internal capacities, but also external capacities (Twigg, 2007); thus subsystems regarding resilience capacity, are both internal and external. The

Magisterial can be understood as an open community-system comprising essential internal and external components across household, suburb's community and municipality capacity scales. Inside each level of capacity, flood-response measures are being implemented at their respective spatial scale by household-members, joined suburb's neighbors (often with external aid) and municipal authorities respectively. It is worth notice that national capacity scale was not considered because municipal authorities represent it; national capacity determines the amount of human and financial resources that will be supporting state and municipal authorities at a time of crisis (Edwards, 2009).

According to information gathered in Chart 5, there is functional diversity of flood-response measures at the Magisterial system. Per capacity scale, community-scale diversity of measures seems to be less (11 measures) compared to household (22) and municipal (18) organizational scales. Per flood stage, diversity seems to be higher at pre-flood measures, within 19 different measures identified, versus 6 measures for in-flood and 9 measures for post-flood stage. Combining capacity scale with flood stage, main diverse actions are being taken at pre-flood and in-flood stage at household level (mostly by preparedness and rescue and shelter provision, respectively) and at post-flood stage at municipality level (by more diverse measures ranging from cleaning of debris to health recovery).

In terms of redundancy of flood response at the Magisterial system, per flood-stage redundant measures per capacity scale were identified. Pre-flood stage presents more common measures (7) among organizational scales than in-flood and post-flood stages (2 and 3 redundant measures respectively).

Redundant measures at all capacity levels were also identified; one overall redundancy was identified per each flood-phase (orange color at Chart 5), but such redundancy is not strict at least at community level. At pre-flood phase, alert of flood modalities seen to be present at three scales, even though both informants have report that community level flood alarm device often fails. At in-flood phase matched efforts at three scales are regarding the provision of shelter; but temporal shelter

Capacity scales of Magisterial suburb system components			
	Household <sup>46</sup> (Household-members)	Community <sup>47</sup> (Joined suburb's neighbors) * =Suburb's neighbors with external help	Municipal <sup>48</sup> (CPA coordinating with other City Hall authorities)
<b>Pre-flood</b>	Reserves of water, food and medicines  Sandbag's barrier	Sandbags' barrier * Reinforcement of channel, bridges and Protective Wall Backwater Desilting of riverbed* Cleaning of river and households	Collection centers for food, blankets, etc. - DIF
	Protections for windows, doors, etc. Car insured House insured Special saving  Luggage ready Attention to news Communicate risk to neighbors Neighbors surveillance		Fund for disaster contingencies – Municipal president
	Protect furniture/documents Move cars to a safer place Alert by door knocking-yelling Temporal relocation	Emergency parking lots Flood alert device*	Foster risk prevention workshops - CPA Monitoring of river rises and rain-forecasting -DAPA Emergency drills (schools, buildings) - CPA
	Protect furniture/electronics Protections on entrances/windows Rescue efforts Attention to radio Provide temporal shelter	Provide temporal shelter	Send alert – DAPA through CPA Preventive evacuations from critical zones- CPA, Bombers, Mexican Army, State and municipal public security, Enable shelters -DIF
<b>In-flood</b>			Search and rescue efforts – Red Cross
	Provide temporal shelter	Provide temporal shelters with food- DIF Medical service at shelters – Health Secretary First psychological aid - DIF	
<b>Post-flood</b>	Clean debris Repair (indoors/outdoors) items	Cleaning streets and disposing debris* Common infrastructure rebuilding/repair	Cleaning streets, households and rivers - Public Works Agency
			Extraction of residuary flood-water - Bombers Restricts entrance and survey flooded zones - State and municipal public security Provision of day-off for affected workers - City Hall
	Help others	Cleaning debris from streets and inside households	Provision of day-off for affected – City Hall Prevention of diseases (dengue)-Health Secretary Facilitate the reprinting of important documents - DIF

**Chart 4 Flood-response measures per flood stages per capacity scales of internal and external components of Magisterial suburb system. Redundant measures are located at same row. Measures marked with an asterisk are done with help from authorities. Table visualization allows rough assessment of functional diversity and redundancy in flood-response measures per components. DAPA- Municipal Agency of Potable Water and Sewage. DIF- Integral Family Development Agency.**

<sup>46</sup> Individual flood-response measures are fully based on informants' information enriched with respondents information, all answers were considered since it is household-member level.

<sup>47</sup> Community flood-response measures are based on respondents' information collated with informants information.

<sup>48</sup> Municipal flood-response measures were taken from Valadez (2011) field information from 2009 and 2010, and some supported by several sources (Valles City Hall, 2012; regionvalles.com, 2008; difvalles.com, 2014; González, 2013).

seems to switch from household to community measure depending on the actual depth the flood is gaining (if it's very deep, people seek for the highest household). And at post-flood phase, cleaning debris efforts at community scale get abilitated only when household level cleaning measure is not done, since it is based on neighbors' good will to help others. Other measure-redundancies between two scales were found. At pre-flood stage, 4 main redundancies were between household and municipal scales, and community level shares only 2 common measures with the household scale. At in-flood only one common measure was identified and has to do with rescue efforts between household and municipal level. At post-flood two redundancies were found that involved household and community scales.

Next table summarizes main aspects of Resilience potential assessment based on the three key properties of resilience capacity.

Resilience's key property	Strengths	Weakness
Localized-flood response	Centralized community-level measures have organized implementation	Centralized community-level measures are absent at flood-emergency stage
	There are more decentralized than centralized measures at all flood-stages	Decentralized measures are limited to structural measures and non-structural seems few and disorganized
Timely adjustments after every flood	Behavior adjustment: Some neighbors have became more pro-active and organize actions before floods	Behavior adjustment: some neighbors get really stressed or even paralyzed during floods, and this lead to inefficient response
	Behavior adjustment: Neighbors became more solidary between them.	Behavior adjustment: Temporal and even permanent move out of the suburb.
Redundancy in subsystems	Physical adjustment: All infrastructural projects of building and improvement have surged from neighbors' initiative	Physical adjustment: Infrastructural adjustments have been apparently greater at household level than at community level.
	Institutional adjustments: Flood event from 2008 has lead to the creation of the community committee	
Redundancy in subsystems	There is functional diversity and redundancy of flood-response measures at the Magisterial system	Most diversity and redundancy of measures is presented at pre-flood stage, mainly due to household and municipal scales.
	One overall redundancy was identified at each flood-phase	Community level performance is poor or not constant

## Discussion of results

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The assessment method allows analyzing the community flood resilience capacity through the evaluation of the flood-coping measures (understood as outcomes of resilience ability) and not by assessing the complex set of vulnerability-related enablers of resilience like most assessment proposals do (Mitchel & Harris, 2012). Also it was not found a coping capacity assessment method that could make direct relation with resilience capacity. This is why a comparison of the case study results is difficult to perform (and even improper) with other case studies that have been analyzed through different theoretical approach.

However, McAslan (2011 in Price- Robertson & Knight, 2012; McAslan, 2010) proposal of enablers of resilience presents similarities with this assessment method. He proposes that resilience enablers are physical characteristics of the community like local infrastructure and services, procedural characteristics like local plans for facing and recovering from disasters, and social characteristics like presenting community cohesion and leaderships. The proposed assessment method might be comparable only among measures that direct reflect the existence of any of these characteristics of the community. For example, local flood-control infrastructure or elevated parking lot can be considered as physical enablers of resilience, knowledge about improvised temporal sheltering among neighbors can be a procedural characteristic since it is local knowledge to face floods, and community committee organization can be representing a social characteristic of the community. Main disadvantage of considering McAslan's approach must be that it is sort of a check-list and does not take into account the dynamism implicit in resilience capacity as Alexander (2009) has identified after an extensive review of the concept.

Moreover, Longstaff *et al.* (2010) consider components related to resilience like diversity and redundancy of resources and innovative learning that are close to some aspects that the present resilience assessment method considers. Cutter *et al.* (2008) also explore indicators of resilience (like infrastructural and institutional) that present similar nature as some aspects involved in present assessment method.

Related to its application, the assessment method allows identify at case study the existence of resilience properties, which are selforganizing, learning and adapting, and having redundancy of resources (Carpenter et al. 2001, Low et al. 2003, Tompkins and Adger 2004 in Liao, 2012). The first sub-assessment provides the knowledge about the stock of flood-coping measures, its development and effectiveness in terms of damage record, and second sub-assessment of the assessment method provides a sort of “translation” of such stock of flood-coping measures into urban flood resilience key properties (taken from Liao, 2012).

The Magisterial has developed self-organization in two ways: organized and improvised. Community measures can be conducted by community committee or by joined neighbors, but all seem to be decentralized from the municipal government, so community posees localized flood response because it self-organizes its own performance to cope with floods. At suburb-level, only improvised measures are ultimate decentralized because do not depend on a central agent in order to develop like the organized measures that are fully coordinated by the community committee. Committee has organized and conducted the flood-coping measures' stock at community-level in terms of mitigation and preparedness, and spontaneous groups of neighbors have performed emergency (temporal provision of shelter) and recovery measures (cleaning of debris). It seems that this division on self-organization has favoured the strong dependency of the centralized flood-control infrastructure as pre-flood measures since there are no other alternatives of community measures for mitigation and preparedness like a decentralized early warning system<sup>49</sup>. A system like this may be possible to develop within the community since neighbors already perform surveys of the river and have stated that they communicate during rainy season as a preparedness measure.

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<sup>49</sup> The early warning system is “The set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.” (UNISDR, 2009 p. 12)

Both ways of self-organization have been key to the maintenance of the community resilience capacity. But it seems that improvised community measures are reflecting more this dynamic resilient capacity of survival and maintenance of functionality over time under an uncertain environment. Cutter *et al.* (2008) states that when coping responses are insufficient and community capacity is overwhelmed by a hazard event, the community will improvise and if such improvisations turn out to be beneficial, those will be added to formalized institutional measures resulting on a social learning; and also states that when social learning is driven by improvisation, then both are directly having implications to the developed community resilience. Expressed in terms of adaptive capacity process, on acquisition of new or improved coping measures to the cultural repertoire (O'Brien and Holland, 1992 in Smith & Wandel, 2006), if this process is driven by improvisation, then improvisation is altering community resilience. This situation is partially identified at case study. The suburb's stock of organized pre-flood coping measures does not produce a significative reduction of extreme flash flood vulnerability condition (obliged condition to develop resilience), even more, such measures get completely overwhelmed when an extreme flash flood strikes, measures instead provide neighbors with time to develop improvised temporal sheltering efforts where instinctive communication and individual actions have been key for survival. Community recovery measure of cleaning debris has been also effective to provide the full recovery of basic functions when family measures get overwhelmed by the amount of work that cleaning debris implies. Such improvised measures have not become formal as a community planned and organized measure, despite that the neighbors know and count on them if needed. The Magisterial might strengthen its recent flood resilience capacity by simply acting when there is the need to overcome a change at the environment. But because of the limitations of the assessment it could not identify signs that suggest the existence of an intrinsic development of resilience like the one Edwards (2009) refers to be based on the everyday activity that "manifests itself in meetings and conversations, dialogue and training, skills and information and – when disaster occurs – action" (Edwards, 2009 p. 79).

The Magisterial has been learning from disasters and has made adjustments. The community committee itself has been the most outstanding institutional adjustment at the Magisterial, despite that any sub-committee has specialized in flood-related affairs. Neighbors that have also adjusted their behavior towards a more flood-concerned have supported the initiatives. And physical adjustments at the suburb have reconfigured the stream channel and improved the overall physical environment of the suburb.

Moreover, at the Magisterial community flood-coping measures have been disaster-driven. Liao's (2012) statement regarding the roll of disasters as development-agents of resilience capacity development inside a community is met for this case study. Neighbors got organized by the first time just after the first massive flood event, they conducted recovery measures and generated first flood-coping measures at the suburb without a formal organization. Second massive flood event caused formal organization for the first time. A community committee was created in order to demand authorities for support. Second flood served to prove initial measures, to improve some and to generate others. First adjustments to measures have just surged from previous flash flood experience. This dynamism at the measures' stock indicates an ability to learn from disturbances (adaptive capacity according to Gunderson & Holling, 2002 in Turner *et al.*, 2003); and as Turner *et al.* (2003) suggests this process can lead to adaptation in long term. This community performance in terms of flood coping response development fits to what Liao (2012) suggests that flood events are periodic and each event brings new knowledge and experience that can lead to an improvement or even creation of diverse coping strategies over time.

The community stock of flood-coping measures produced by self-organization based on learning from disasters allows partial redundancy with household (family) and municipal measures. Community measures tend to present inter-dependency mainly with household measures. For example, the measure of moving cars is initially a household measure that is now becoming a community measure; committee sectors' organization is now promoting the establishments of emergency parking lots per sector. Also provision of temporal shelter and cleaning-recovery effort is strongly

dependent from household measures. As Rademacher (2013) highlights communities made important contributions because neighbors are the first respondents that perform initial response actions like search and rescue and provision of shelter to others. Moreover, most community measures at pre- and post-flood involve local authorities measures. At pre-flood phase they help to desilt the stream channel periodically (there is a municipal campaign), allow infrastructure projects inside the suburb, provide a flood alarm device, sand and bags. During post-flood phase, authorities help by providing machinery and human resources to the cleaning efforts. Previous finding is supported by Valadez (2011) findings at Ciudad Valles, where author found that family and municipal authorities (specially CPA) are the institutions that lead the flood-coping responses at this municipality. The Magisterial flood-coping measures are not certain to never present total failure, as Liao (2012) suggests the disadvantage of not having redundancy on flood-response.

Aside from previous considerations, community from the Magisterial sets an example of what Valadez (2011) refers to in sense that all societies that are aware of its exposition to any risk, even more when a disaster has happened to them, have developed inside their social organization strategies that help them at some point, to prevent, diminished and even recover from the damages that can cause the impacts of a materialized hazard. Within a flood disaster record consisting on two main flood events, some people have stayed and dealt with floods. Even though assessment did not include analysis of causes of the flood coping performance, place attachment might be explaining why some people have chosen to stay and cope with floods. Similar to case study of Orissa town, India, from Mishra *et al* (2010) where place attachment (to a flood prone area) influenced flood preparedness measures among strongly-bonded people, people from the Magisterial have shown an increase in their solidary attitude that may have promoted bonds strong enough to cause place attachment and having implications on their ability as a community, to use resources to cope with floods. Moreover, most family heads of the Magisterial community are teachers and belong to the Teacher's Union of the region, such condition may also strength closeness between them and even facilitate community organization.

Another plus might be that suburb's size is relatively small and most neighbors seem to know each other, besides they already organize per sectors of 6 households for perform basic functions like garbage disposal. Rademacher (2013) in its analysis of farmers' community resources to face disasters at Delaware considers that having access to community and professional netowrks is a community resource of social capital.

Also, perhaps solidary attitude is ultimately driven improvised measures for survival and recovery. Solidarity may promote survival during a flood emergency, testimonies from informants prove that solidary efforts have saved people's life by providing temporal shelter or performing evacuation and rescue effors during floods. Solidarity may also promote recovery after a flood. Recovery measure of cleaning of debris is the only communitary effort at the Magisterial and it is conducted when neighbors are solidary and provides help to rehabilitate public spaces and even other neighbors' houses. As Valadez (2011) highlights, solidarity and cooperation emerges among the affected and non-affected people. Rademacher (2013) also identifies that recent research has reported solidarity among the community networks that have made significant contributions to initial disaster-response activities. A case study in Semaran, Indonesia, by Dewi (2007) also supports this idea of solidary communities because it is reported solidarity as been one of the most outstanding values among the community; the study also suggested that the high levels of solidarity allowed social coping mechanism that was useful especially during flood events.

And at the end any assessment can tell for sure if a community has reached a resilient state, because resilience is not about reaching a final condition of reduced vulnerability, but it is more related to the capacity to constantly adapt, learn and improve over time (Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012).

### **Limitations of the assessment application at case study**

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- Assessment was almost completely based on perceptions of a sample of Magisterial neighbors.
  - Community was defined as a small group of suburb's neighbors joined by shared-flood concern and joined initiatives towards this, and community committee was identified as the main institution carrying out this joined efforts inside Magisterial suburb.
  - The main criterion for the sampling was the closeness to community's local authority, followed by the antique and the high-flood exposure condition of their households.
    - Snowball sampling based on the judgment of the community committee's president, the specialized informant. Thus, representativeness level of the sample is apparently high.
    - Population size was not known, since all people involved in community committee was not listed or registered by committee's president.
    - Inferences regarding the population cannot be established under a specific degree of confidence because it is not a probabilistic sample but a non-probabilistic purposive sample. Moreover, inferences could not be statistically backed up since the analysis used descriptive statistics.
  - Nevertheless, results seemed to achieve certain data saturation, but also shown inconsistencies.
    - Among informants, key informant seemed very limited regarding detailed information about the community's flood-measures. And key informant seemed sensitive regarding to the flood subject at the suburb. Data can also get blurred or distorted by emotions that the informant prints on his/her ideas and memories (Monje, 2011).
    - Among respondents, they did not seem to share the information about community efforts that would be expected at an organized social net.
- Questionnaire format could have leaded to contradictions and lack of information.
  - Questionnaire lacked of exhibit questions that could give an idea of the degree

of subject understanding, or to identify possible underestimation or overestimation of (1) community measures, (2) amount of effort per organization and (3) level of success of Flood Coping Response at Magisterial suburb. Like showed in research conducted by Rademacher (2013) where a farm community reflected underestimation of used community resources at DRM, similar situation can be happening at Magisterial community.

- Between respondents and informants there were strong differences in terms of community measures per flood stage and level of participation of external entities such as government (e.g. CPA and City Hall). Questionnaire format included a checklist of community measures that could have influenced respondents' answers, while open questions at interviews could offer more honest and complete answers.
- External authorities like CPA were not consulted even though it's performance and flood-measures were analyzed.
  - Mainly due to lack of time, secondary sources of information, mainly Valadez (2011), were consulted instead of interviewing local authorities involved in flood-measures.
- Further research related to assessment of Magisterial community flood resilience would be likely to target:
  - Perception assessment of Magisterial committee-related community
  - Organization and implementation of flood-coping measures at sectors' organizational level of community. And in order to identify most consensed community driven efforts, an assessment of flood resilience capacity at sector scale and comparison with community-scale findings.
  - Consideration of non-extreme flood events at flood resilience developing process.
  - Relation of resilience capacity per flood-exposure level of inhabited area at suburb.

## **Analysis of assessment method performance**

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The community flood resilience assessment method proposed here allows the understanding of resiliences capacity "...to resist, absorb, accommodate to, and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner" (UNISDR, 2009, p. 24) in terms of community's flood-coping performance. Strengths and weaknesses can be found at this assessment method.

Regarding the weaknesses, the community flood assessment proposal provides a rapid but limited evaluation. By focusing on outcomes (flood coping measures), details get not evaluated. Internal vulnerability context and the diverse external factors that contribute to the community measures' appearance, maintenance and improvement over time are not directly addressed and analyzed. For example, at the case study, resilience development could be partially explained by the increasing of solidarity sense among neighbors plus the shared condition of primary occupation as teacher, and even the small size of the community can allow more organization, while other apparently negative factors, like migration, could be setting a threat or even facilitating future resilience capacity building; but all this suggestions can not be assured with confidence until further studies are done around these aspects that were found during this initial rapid assessment.

In order to try to compensate previous lack of detail to causes, the assessment considers the resilience potentiality sub-assessment, which identifies critical strengths and weaknesses in terms of resilience key properties; but this evaluation will only point out critical aspects that can later be studied at detail. This sub-assessment is a first step to bigger contributions to the community, because "The importance of simply identifying where a community's strengths and fault lines lie should not be underestimated. This identification can form the foundation for the construction of truly effective services, practices and policies—effective precisely because they are tailored to the unique circumstances of individual communities"

(Price-Robertson & Knight, 2012 p. 10). Moreover, assessment method can enrich other resilience assessment frameworks more focused at causal factors.

Also design-related weaknesses were identified in terms of integration of results and categorization of flood-related measures. Products per phases A, B and C could not be merged into a final product of assessment, like as an index, instead visual subproducts and detailed descriptions were obtained. The nature of the contents did not allow this possibility; A and B express a final condition of the community while C analyzes a process. Also, there was a lack of integration of both assessments (resilience response and resilience potentiality) results into one final outcome, like indexes provide; instead it provides separate analysis and charts of responses and potentiality assessments. This weakness can be a strength because indexes omit detailed information regarding processes.

Furthermore, the application of the assessment method proposed had practical complications. Categorization of flood-related measures was not always easy and often require of arbitrary organization. Some measures had to be put under community-driven category even when there were not in strict sense developed by the whole community but only by the community committee. Also, the categories of disaster phases (pre-, in- and post-) few times complicated the arrangement of flood-related measures. Some measures overlapped at pre- and post-flood stages, like flood alarm device and prevention of diseases, and an arbitrary selection had to be made by the researcher. This can mean a weakness in terms of easy application, but also a strength because categorization is more specific to the site and the potential hazard-traits. For example, at case study, sandbags' barrier was considered a preparedness measure and not an emergency measure since the hazard is flash flood and people put the bags once rainy season starts.

Nevertheless this community flood resilience assessment method presents strengths. It is general, concrete and inclusive. It follows a community resilience approach; this means it focuses on the things that can be done by the community itself (Twigg, 2007). Assessment is general because it allows a broad scope on ultimate

determinants of community flood-resilience capacity: community flood-coping performance in terms of flood-coping measures at pre-, in- and post-flood stages.

And by this assessment is also concrete. Flood-related measures are understood as outcomes of a whole resilience capacity development process, so they are ultimately representing the developed resilience capacity of a group of people.

Moreover, assessment proposal is inclusive in terms of applicability, coverage and complementariety with other assessments. The assessment has high applicability. It can be applied at other scales of resilience capacity, live individual or even city scale. It allows any kind of information, in this case it was mostly based on perceptions form informants and respondents, but it accepts information coming from other sources like data basis. It is applicable to any kind of hazard-related resilience capacity, and it also easily allows any kind of coping measure, whether is structural or non-structural. Moreover, the assessment proposal allows a general understanding of the process of resilience capacity building at community scale, but also considers an inter-scale scope for analyze flood-coping measure stocks. Finally the assessment can also complement other resilience assessments focused on evaluations of vulnerability traits, because it provides the inverse appreciation of resilience capacity building through the outcomes of the modulation of such vulnerability aspects.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

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A proposal of a method for rapid assessment of community flood-resilience was developed. Such method was built upon a basis consisting of a theoretical framework about community flood resilience capacity building process. The theoretical review leaded to the generation of a basic model for community flood resilience development process at FDRM cycle. First part of assessment was based in this theoretical model in order to identify community's flood-coping performance. Second part of assessment analyzed community's flood-coping performance potential in terms of urban flood resilience key properties.

Application of the proposed assessment method was performed at case study of Magisterial suburb community and despite some methodological limitations, perception-based results allowed to identify community's flood-coping performance and its potential in terms of resilience key properties.

In relation to flash flood events, community has a recent performance driven by flood disaster events. More organized measures inside the community are related to mitigation and preparedness efforts, while emergency and recovery measures are improvised. Despite community flood coping measures have became more, they have not been improved (with the exception of two structural mitigation measures) and had provide little positive impact in aminorate or avoid flood-related damage. Despite that inefficiency of pre-flood measures, the suburb has survived and recovered from previous massive flash floods. Research suggests that improvised measures at emergency and recovery flood-stages are key to the recent suburb's flood resilience capacity at the suburb. A solidary behavior among neighbors is likely to be promoting group-improvised measures.

This community performance regarding floods has meant development of urban flood resilience key properties. Timely adjustments after every flood have guided community performance; the first massive flood event caused institutional adjustment with the creation of a community committee which has been in charge of planning and promoting community performance; behavior changed among neighbors towards a more solidary and active response to floods; and physical adjustments are evident at suburb's infrastructure. Also, community's flood coping performance has meant the development of localized flood response because it consists of city-decentralized local flood-coping measures that have become more diverse within time. Unfortunately, these measures have not present high redundancy with measures performed at household and municipal subsystems, they also do not provide alternatives at all flood stages.

Comparison of the case study results is difficult to perform (and even improper) with other case studies that have been analyzed through different theoretical approach.

Overall analysis of community flood resilience assessment method performance was also developed. It is a rapid assessment that allows identification of concrete aspects regarding flood-coping measures that can be implying an exercise of the resilience capacity. It is inclusive in terms of type of hazard of interest and type of input-data sources; it also involves assessment of inter-capacities scales, e.g. individual and municipal scale-measures. It can complement resilience assessment tools based on evaluations of vulnerability traits, because it provides the opposite appreciation not from the causal factors but from the consequential outcomes of resilience capacity exercise in a community. Moreover, it can be compatible with monitoring efforts in terms of flood-coping measures development through time. This sets a strength because community resilience "...is not static—communities are complex and dynamic social structures—and so an "assessment of resilience is never complete"" (Resilience Alliance, 2007, p. 6).

## **Outlook**

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The present research contributed to the understanding and practical measure of the urban community flood resilience capacity by providing a proposal of a technique for rapid assessment of community flood-resilience.

It is worth to highlight that the proposed method is a first attempt made by the researcher in order to translate resilience complex concept into a simpler frame that could allow its application. Assessment's theoretical framework and method presented here can improve at least in terms of establishing a clearer connection among resilience capacity involved in coping response that can even be concrete and measurable in reality. The products per phases can be also improved in order to allow better integration of the sub-assessments.

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## ANNEXES

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## Annex Interview format for Magisterial Informants

Interview no.	Date and place of application:
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Note: Audio recording during the interview is intended to enhance information provided by interviewer

### City Context

1. Interviewer: suspect background, Place of origin and length of residency in Ciudad Valles
2. General description of problems affecting the city.
3. Flood frequency in Ciudad Valles.  
When floods tend to occur?  
Which has been the worst flood of the city? Mention some of the characteristics of last flood occurred.

### Suburb Context

4. History of the suburb  
-When, who and how did the suburb start?  
-How has the suburb grown?  
Have more streets and/or houses been built lately?  
Have more people arrived to the suburb?  
  
-Why did you choose to live in this suburb, considering that is close to a river?
5. General problems in the suburb  
-Which are some problems that the neighbors and the suburb face?
6. General positive traits of the suburb  
-Which are some positive traits found at the suburb?

### Flood Context at Magisterial's suburb

7. History and causes of floods at the suburb  
-Do you remember when floods started to happen?  
-Do you have any idea of what causes the floods?
8. The worst flood occurred in this suburb  
-From all floods that have occurred, which one has been the worst? Was it the flood from 2008?  
- Why do you think this happened?  
-How many days did it last?  
-How intense it was?  
Number of blocks flooded, neighbors affected, consequential damages
9. 2008 flood event  
- Why do you think this happened?  
-How was it?  
-How many days did it last?  
-How intense it was?  
Number of blocks flooded, neighbors affected, type of main damages  
-What happened after the flood?

### Magisterial neighbor's reaction to flood-issue

10. Neighborhood organizing effort

- When and how do the Magisterial's neighbors start to organize to confront flood issues?
- Currently, how many neighbors get involved and participate in initiatives to confront floods (prepare, face them and recover from them)?
- Do you think now days neighbors participate and show more interest in regards to flood issues?
- What are some of the main characteristics of the neighbors association?
- What kinds of activities neighbors perform and how often?
  - Do they do community service? Do they communicate neighbors demands to authorities?
  - Reconstruction plan? Create re-construction plans? Have administrative funds for flood emergency plan?
- Are there any new activities planned to be done in the near future?
- How often does neighbors association gather to discuss flood related issues?
- Are they becoming more and more organized?
  - Why?

#### Preventive measures for flood events

11. What preventive measures are taken for flood events? (Mitigation, risk knowledge and preventive management measures)

##### 12. *Implementation of pre-flood measures*

- Who is performing these measures?
  - The neighbors? Civil Protection? Other organizations?
  - Do they collaborate between them?

##### 13. *Origin of preventive flood measures*

- Since when these preventive measures have been performed? (Before or after 2008 flood event?)
- Who created them?
  - The neighbors? Civil Protection? Other organizations?
  - Did the measures come from learning from mistakes, imitating other neighbors, Civil Protection suggestions, local ingenuity?

##### 14. *Improvement of pre-flood measures*

- Have there been any improvements to these measures?
  - What kinds of improvements have been done?
    - Who proposed such improvements? (Neighbors, Civil Protection, others)
    - Since when have these improvements been applied? (Before or after 2008)
    - These improvements were originated from lessons learned, following other neighbor's preventive actions, expert suggestions, or local ingenuity?
  - Are there any new prevention and preparation actions to be implemented in the future?
    - Who proposed these measures? (Neighbors, Civil Protection, others)
    - Who will be performing these measures? (Neighbors, Civil Protection, others)

##### 15. *Pre-flood Magisterial suburb performance*

- Do you consider that the Magisterial neighbors are prepared to overcome the next flood event?
  - Why?

#### Measures during a flood

16. Do you follow any plan during a flood? What do you often do when a flood is coming?

##### 17. *Implementation of flood measures*

- Who is performing these measures?
  - The neighbors? Civil Protection? Other organizations?
  - Do they collaborate between them?

##### 18. *Origin of in-flood measures*

-Since when these flood-emergency measures are been performed? (before or after 2008 flood event?)

-Who created them?

The neighbors? Civil Protection? Other organizations?

-Did those measures surge from learning from mistakes, imitating other neighbors, Civil Protection suggestions, local ingenuity?

**19. Improvement of in-flood measures**

-Have there been improvements to these measures?

What types of improvements have been done?

Who proposed such improvements? (neighbors, Civil Protection, others)

Since when have these improvements been applied? (before or after 2008)

This improvements where originated from lessons learned, imitating other neighbors, expert suggestions, or local ingenuity?

-Are there any new emergency measures plan to be implemented in the future?

Who is planning these measures? (neighbors, Civil Protection, others)

Who will perform these measures? (neighbors, Civil Protection, others)

**20. In-flood Magisterial suburb performance**

-Do you consider that the Magisterial neighbors know how to act quickly and efficiently during a flood?

Why?

**Flood relief Measures**

**21. What relief measures are conducted after a flood event?**

**22. Implementation of post-flood measures**

-Who is performing these measures?

The neighbors? Civil Protection? Other organizations?

Do they collaborate between them?

**23. Origin of post-flood measures**

-Since when these flood-recovery measures are been performed? (before or after 2008 flood event?)

-Who created them?

The neighbors? Civil Protection? Other organizations?

-Did those measures surge from learning from mistakes, imitating other neighbors, Civil Protection suggestions, local ingenuity?

**24. Improvement of post-flood measures**

-Have there been improvements to these measures?

What types of improvements have been done?

Who proposed such improvements? (neighbors, Civil Protection, others)

Since when have these improvements been applied? (before or after 2008)

This improvements where originated from lessons learned, imitating other neighbors, expert suggestions, or local ingenuity?

-Are they new recovery and reconstruction measures plan to be implemented in the future?

Who is planning these measures? (neighbors, Civil Protection, others)

Who will perform these measures? (neighbors, Civil Protection, others)

**25. Post-flood Magisterial suburb performance**

-Do you consider that the Magisterial neighbors together know how to efficiently recover from a flood?

Why?

Finally,

Would you like to add any additional comments to this interview?

## Informant general information

**Important:** All the information provided in this section will remain confidential. Serve as reference only.

1	Full name			
2	Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Masculine / <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine		
3	Address	Street: House number: Suburb:		
4	Family relation info	<input type="checkbox"/> Family leader <input type="checkbox"/> Son/daughter <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
5	Age	_____ years		
6	Highest level of education attained	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> High school <input type="checkbox"/> University		
7	Main occupation			
8	Secondary occupation			
9	Member of teachers union:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, under the charge of:  <input type="checkbox"/> No		
10	Household members info	Number	Age	Occupation
		Partner		
		Sons/daughters		
		Grandparents		
		Others		
11	Length of residency	Number of years: _____ Or year of arrival: _____		
12	Homeownership status/ Residence type	<input type="checkbox"/> I own it <input type="checkbox"/> I rent it <input type="checkbox"/> I inherited it  Other: _____		

Thank you so much for your time and attention!

SPANISH VERSION

Entrevista número:	Fecha y lugar de aplicación:
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Nota: Requerimos grabar la entrevista para no perder detalle de la información que usted nos proporcionará.

Contexto de la ciudad

Historia del entrevistado, lugar de origen y llegada a Ciudad Valles

Problemas generales de la ciudad

Frecuencia de inundaciones en la ciudad

¿Cuándo tienden a ocurrir las inundaciones?

¿Cuál ha sido la peor inundación en la ciudad? ¿cuáles fueron algunas de sus características?

Contexto de la colonia Magisterial

Historia de la colonia

-¿Cuándo, quién y cómo comenzó la colonia?

-¿Cómo ha crecido la colonia?

¿Se han construido más calles o casas ultimamente?

¿Ha llegado más gente a la colonia?

-¿Por qué usted eligió vivir en esta colonia, tan cercana a un río?

Problemas generales en la colonia

-¿Cuáles son algunos de los problemas que enfrentan los vecinos y la colonia?

Cualidades generales de la colonia

-¿Cuáles son algunas cualidades encontradas en la colonia?

Contexto de las inundaciones en la colonia Magisterial

Historia y causas de las inundaciones en la colonia

-¿Recuerda en qué año comenzaron a tener inundaciones?

-¿Tiene alguna idea de porqué ocurrieron las inundaciones?

La peor inundación de la colonia

-De las inundaciones ocurridas, ¿cuál ha sido la peor? ¿fue la inundación del 2008?

-¿Por qué cree que pasó?

-¿Cómo fue?

¿Cuántos días duró?

¿Qué tan intensa fue?

Número de cuadras inundadas, colonos afectados, daños ocasionados

La inundación del 2008

-¿Por qué cree que pasó?

-¿Cómo fue?

¿Cuántos días duró?

¿Qué tan intensa fue?

Número de cuadras inundadas, colonos afectados, daños ocasionados

-¿Qué pasó después de la inundación?

Reacción de colonos de Magisterial al problema de inundaciones

#### Esfuerzo de organización entre vecinos

- ¿Cuándo y por qué empezaron a organizarse entre vecinos de la Magisterial en torno al problema de inundaciones?
- Actualmente, ¿cuántos vecinos se involucran con el propósito de estar mejor organizados para las inundaciones (prepararse, enfrentarlas y recuperarse)?
- ¿Han aumentado la participación y el interés de los colonos en torno al problema de las inundaciones?
- ¿Cuáles son algunas de las principales características de la organización entre vecinos?
- ¿Qué tipos de actividades realizan entre vecinos y cuándo?
  - ¿Trabajo comunitario? ¿Presentar demandas a las Autoridades? ¿Crear planes para construcción? ¿Organizar fondos para preparación, emergencias o recuperación de inundaciones?
- ¿Cuáles son algunas actividades planeadas realizar a futuro?
  - ¿Cada cuándo se reúnen para discutir cuestiones relacionadas con las inundaciones?
- ¿Están cada vez más organizados?
  - ¿Por qué lo cree?

#### Medidas previas a una inundación

- ¿Qué medidas toman para prepararse para una inundación? (Mitigación, conocimiento del riesgo, preparación)

##### *Implementación de medidas pre-inundación*

- ¿Quién está haciendo estas medidas?
  - ¿Los vecinos? ¿Protección Civil? u otras organizaciones?
  - ¿Hay colaboraciones entre estos?

##### *Origen de las medidas pre-inundación*

- ¿Desde cuándo se hacen estas medidas de preparación a inundaciones? (antes o después del 2008)
- ¿Quién las creó?
  - ¿Los vecinos? ¿Protección Civil? u otras organizaciones?
- ¿Surgieron a raíz de aprender de errores, de imitar a vecinos, de sugerencias de Protección Civil, de ingenio local?

##### *Mejoras de las medidas pre-inundación*

- ¿Han hecho mejoras a estas medidas?
  - ¿Qué tipo de mejoras se les han hecho?
    - ¿Quién propuso las mejoras? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)
    - ¿Hace cuánto tiempo se hicieron las mejoras? (antes o después del 2008)
    - ¿Estas mejoras provienen de lecciones aprendidas, de imitar a vecinos, de sugerencias de expertos, de ingenio local?
- ¿Se tienen nuevas medidas de prevención y preparación a futuro?
  - ¿Quién planea estas medidas a futuro? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)
  - ¿Quién pretende realizar estas medidas? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)

##### *Actuación de la colonia Magisterial previo a inundaciones*

- ¿Considera que los colonos en conjunto están listos para enfrentar la siguiente inundación?
  - ¿Por qué?

#### Medidas durante la inundación

- ¿Siguen algún plan durante una emergencia por inundación?

##### *Implementación de medidas durante-inundación*

- ¿Quién está haciendo estas medidas?
  - ¿Los vecinos? ¿Protección Civil? u otras organizaciones?
  - ¿Hay colaboraciones entre estos?

##### *Origen de las medidas durante-inundación*

-¿Desde cuándo se hacen estas medidas de emergencia ante inundaciones? (antes o después del 2008)

-¿Quién las creó?

  ¿Los vecinos? ¿Protección Civil? u ¿otras organizaciones?

-¿Surgieron a raíz de aprender de errores, de imitar a vecinos, de sugerencias de Protección Civil, de ingenio local?

#### *Mejoras de las medidas durante-inundación*

-¿Han hecho mejoras a estas medidas?

  ¿Qué tipo de mejoras se les han hecho?

  ¿Quién propuso las mejoras? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)

  ¿Hace cuánto tiempo se hicieron las mejoras? (antes o después del 2008)

  ¿Estas mejoras provienen de lecciones aprendidas, de imitar a vecinos, de sugerencias de expertos, de ingenio local?

-¿Se tienen nuevas medidas de emergencia a futuro?

  ¿Quién planea estas medidas a futuro? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)

  ¿Quién pretende realizar estas medidas? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)

#### *Actuación de la colonia Magisterial durante inundaciones*

-¿Considera que los colonos en conjunto saben cómo actuar efectivamente durante una inundación?

  ¿Por qué?

### Medidas después de inundaciones

-¿Qué medidas toman para recuperarse de una inundación?

#### *Implementación de medidas post-inundación*

-¿Quién está haciendo estas medidas?

  ¿Los vecinos? ¿Protección Civil? u ¿otras organizaciones?

  ¿Hay colaboraciones entre estos?

#### *Origen de las medidas post-inundación*

-¿Desde cuándo se hacen estas medidas de recuperación ante inundaciones? (antes o después del 2008)

-¿Quién las creó?

  ¿Los vecinos? ¿Protección Civil? u ¿otras organizaciones?

  ¿Surgieron a raíz de aprender de errores, de imitar a vecinos, de sugerencias de Protección Civil, de ingenio local?

#### *Mejoras de las medidas post-inundación*

-¿Han hecho mejoras a estas medidas?

  ¿Qué tipo de mejoras se les han hecho?

  ¿Quién propuso las mejoras? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)

  ¿Hace cuánto tiempo se hicieron las mejoras? (antes o después del 2008)

  ¿Estas mejoras provienen de lecciones aprendidas, de imitar a vecinos, de sugerencias de expertos, de ingenio local?

-¿Se tienen nuevas medidas de recuperación a futuro?

  ¿Quién planea estas medidas a futuro? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)

  ¿Quién pretende realizar estas medidas? (vecinos, Protección Civil, otras)

#### *Actuación de la colonia Magisterial después de inundaciones*

-¿Considera que los colonos en conjunto saben cómo recuperarse efectivamente de una inundación?

  ¿Por qué?

Finalmente,

¿Quisiera añadir algo a esta entrevista?

## Información general del encuestado

**Importante:** Todos los datos proporcionados en este apartado se mantendrán bajo confidencialidad de manera que jamás serán publicados. Únicamente sirven de referencia.

1	Nombre completo			
2	Género	<input type="checkbox"/> Masculino / <input type="checkbox"/> Femenino		
3	Dirección	Calle: Número: Colonia:		
4	Posición ocupa en su vivienda	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabeza de familia <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____		
5	Edad	<u>  Años</u>		
6	Máximo grado de estudio que tiene:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sin nivel <input type="checkbox"/> Primaria <input type="checkbox"/> Secundaria <input type="checkbox"/> Preparatoria <input type="checkbox"/> Universidad		
7	Ocupación principal:			
8	Ocupación secundaria:			
9	Pertenencia al sindicato de maestros:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí, con el puesto de: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No		
10	Número de integrantes de la familia con edades y ocupaciones	Número	Edad	Ocupación
		<input type="checkbox"/> Pareja		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Hijos		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Abuelos		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Otros		
11	Tiempo viviendo en la colonia	Número de años: _____ o Año de llegada a la colonia: _____		
12	Sobre su residencia:	<input type="checkbox"/> Soy propietario <input type="checkbox"/> Rento <input type="checkbox"/> La heredé <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____		

**¡Agradecemos por su tiempo y disposición!**

## Annex Questionnaire format for Magisterial respondents

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Questionnaire no.	Date and place of survey:
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**This questionnaire** is a fundamental part of the thesis that the student Cynthia Peñaloza is developing for the Master in Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENREM) by the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí.

**The objective of the questionnaire** is to know the actual estate of the Magisterial suburb in terms of impacts and related flood-measures.

Instructions: The estimated time for filling this questionnaire is about 10 minutes. The questions require you to mark with an "x" the answer of your choice and/or write in the space provided as the case may be. Add Comments/remarks in the designated space. Take note of the additional indications in some questions.

### 1. Flood impacts in Magisterial suburb

1	How many flood events have happened in this suburb?	<input type="checkbox"/> I have never faced a single flood in this suburb <input type="checkbox"/> It does not get flooded every year <input type="checkbox"/> One flood event per year <input type="checkbox"/> More than one flood event per year
	Would you say that the suburb only gets flooded during rainy season?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, floods only occur during <u>rainy</u> season <input type="checkbox"/> No, they also occur during the months of _____
3	what kind of damage do floods have caused??  (Indicate with a <b>T</b> if the damage has been <b>Total</b> and with a <b>P</b> if the damage has been <b>Partial</b> )  *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> External household damages <input type="checkbox"/> cars <input type="checkbox"/> streets <input type="checkbox"/> light posts <input type="checkbox"/> gardens <input type="checkbox"/> sidewalks <input type="checkbox"/> fences <input type="checkbox"/> trees <input type="checkbox"/> others: _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Internal household damages <input type="checkbox"/> furniture <input type="checkbox"/> electronic devices <input type="checkbox"/> walls <input type="checkbox"/> important papers <input type="checkbox"/> windows <input type="checkbox"/> pets <input type="checkbox"/> others: _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Health damage _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Interruption of daily activities (Work assistance, school, shopping, etc.)
4	Level of flood impact cause in:	My family is: <input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high My household is: <input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high My suburb is: <input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high
5	What have flood events have generated among the neighbors:  *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> solidarity <input type="checkbox"/> conflicts <input type="checkbox"/> have not generated anything <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

## 2. Individual flood strategies at Magisterial suburb

Previous a flood		
1	Do you take precautions against floods?	<input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Almost never <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Most of the times <input type="checkbox"/> Always
	If you never take precautions against floods, it is because... *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not know how to prepare myself <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have time to prepare myself <input type="checkbox"/> I consider that does not corresponds to me, that is an Authority's labor <input type="checkbox"/> I am not interested on preparing myself <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
3	If you do take precautions against floods, you do it... *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> Only with household members <input type="checkbox"/> Together with friends__, family__, or neighbors __ from the same suburb <input type="checkbox"/> Together with friends/family that do not live at the suburb <input type="checkbox"/> Together with a local organization (religious association, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> With support of an authority (as Civil Protection) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
4	Inside your house, how do you get prepared to floods? *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> I have reserves of water, food and medicines <input type="checkbox"/> I have sand bags to avoid the water enters my house <input type="checkbox"/> I have protections for windows, doors, cars or any other item <input type="checkbox"/> I have my car __ house __ insured <input type="checkbox"/> I have a special saving for these occasions <input type="checkbox"/> I have luggage ready in case of having to leave immediately <input type="checkbox"/> I stay tuned for news from authorities <input type="checkbox"/> I constantly communicate with neighbors of the suburb <input type="checkbox"/> I temporarily move outside the suburb <input type="checkbox"/> I do not do anything special <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
During the flood		
1	You face floods... *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> Only with household members <input type="checkbox"/> Together with friends__, family__, or neighbors __ from the same suburb <input type="checkbox"/> Together with friends/family that do not live at the suburb <input type="checkbox"/> Together with a local organization (religious association, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> With support of an authority (as Civil Protection) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
2	Inside your house, how do you face a flood? *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> I put furniture, electronic devices and other items away from the floor <input type="checkbox"/> I put protections on doors, windows, cars, or other items <input type="checkbox"/> I turn the radio on stay tuned for last minute news <input type="checkbox"/> I have luggage ready in case of having to leave immediately <input type="checkbox"/> I do not do anything special <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
After a flood		
1	You recover from a flood... *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> Only with household members <input type="checkbox"/> Together with friends__, family__, or neighbors __ from the same suburb <input type="checkbox"/> Together with friends/family that do not live at the suburb <input type="checkbox"/> Together with a local organization (religious association, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> With support of an authority (as Civil Protection) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
2	Inside your house <del>hold</del> , how do you recover from a flood? *More than one option is valid	<input type="checkbox"/> I clean debris <input type="checkbox"/> I repair walls, windows, doors and other parts of the house <del>hold</del> <input type="checkbox"/> I repair the car, garage, garden and other external parts of the house <del>hold</del> <input type="checkbox"/> I do not do anything special <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Performed by:				
	Magisteria I neighbors	Civil Protection	Together: Neighbors and Civil Protection	Other organizatio n (write down the name)
<b>Before flood</b>				
1. Build retention walls or reinforce stream channel				
2. Set a device that alerts the suburb				
3. Stay tuned to flood alarm				
4. Identify and communicate evacuation routes in case of emergency				
5. Create local reservoirs of water, food and medicine				
6. Create local funds for emergency situations				
7. Practice flood emergency drills				
8. Communicate other neighbors about the risk and give advises about measures				
9. Plant trees along the stream channel				
10. Keep clean the river				
11. Other:				
<b>During flood</b>				
1. Keep constant communication with neighbors				
2. Put sand bags to avoid the water flow				
3. Deliver food and water to the affected				
4. Evacuate neighbors from their house <del>holds</del>				
5. Provide temporary shelter to neighbors				
6. Search and rescue people/goods/pets				
7. Stay in tuned for news about the emergency				
8. Other:				
<b>After flood</b>				
1. Clean the rubbish/debris				
2. Provide temporary shelter				
3. Deliver economic support to affected				
4. Build and repair house <del>holds</del>				
5. Build and repair common infrastructure				
6. Have self-help groups (spaces for emotional recovery)				
7. Stay tuned for related news				
8. Carry out measures for preventing diseases				
9. Others:				

#### 4. About the flood measures in Magisterial suburb

	You consider that the effort made is:		
	Before flood	During flood	After flood
<b>Magisterial neighbors</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high
<b>Civil Protection</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high
<b>Together: Magisterial neighbors and Civil Protection</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high
<b>Other organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high	<input type="checkbox"/> null <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium <input type="checkbox"/> high <input type="checkbox"/> very high

#### 5. Collaboration between neighbors and Civil Protection in flood-related measures

	Collaboration does not exist	Collaboration exists * More than one option is valid	
		Civil Protection propose and neighbors help to implement	Neighbors propose and Civil Protection implements
<b>Measures before flood</b>			
<b>Measures during flood</b>			
<b>Measures after flood</b>			

## 6. Measures against floods

		Before	During	After
My suburb is successful in measures of:		Prevention and preparation before the flood	Emergency during the flood	Recovery after the flood
It is successful, due to the measures that:	Each neighbor <u>does per household</u>			
	Neighbors do together			
	Authorities do			
	Other:			
It is not successful, due to the lack of measures:	Per neighbor inside its house <u>hold</u>			
	Shared by neighbors			
	From the authorities			
	Other:			

## Respondent general information

**Important:** All the information provided in this section will remain confidential. Serve as reference only.

1	Full name			
2	Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Masculine / <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine		
3	Address	Street: House number: Suburb:		
4	Family relation info	<input type="checkbox"/> Family leader <input type="checkbox"/> Son/daughter <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
5	Age	_____ years		
6	Highest level of education attained	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> High school <input type="checkbox"/> University		
7	Main occupation			
8	Secondary occupation			
9	Member of teachers union:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, under the charge of: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No		
10	Household members info	Number	Age	Occupation
		<input type="checkbox"/> Partner		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sons/daughters		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparents		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Others		
11	Length of residency	Number of years: _____ Or year of arrival: _____		
12	Homeownership status/ Residence type	<input type="checkbox"/> I own it <input type="checkbox"/> I rent it <input type="checkbox"/> I inherited it <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

Thank you so much for your time and disposition!

## SPANISH VERSION

Cuestionario no.	Fecha y lugar de aplicación:
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**Esta encuesta es** parte fundamental de la tesis de maestría en Ambiente y Manejo de Recursos Naturales (ENREM) que la estudiante Cynthia Peñaloza realiza en la Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí bajo la supervisión de la Dra. Patricia Julio Miranda.

**El objetivo del cuestionario es** conocer el estado actual de la Colonia Magisterial en términos de impactos y medidas relacionadas con las inundaciones.

**Indicaciones:** El tiempo estimado de llenado de este cuestionario es de alrededor de 10 minutos. Las preguntas requieren que usted indique con una "X" la opción u opciones que crea más conveniente, así mismo puede añadir opciones en casos donde se presente un renglón en blanco. Observe las indicaciones adicionales en algunas preguntas.

### 1. Impactos de las inundaciones en la Colonia Magisterial

1	Al año, ¿Cuántas inundaciones ocurren en esta colonia?	<input type="checkbox"/> Nunca he experimentado una sola inundación en esta colonia <input type="checkbox"/> No se inunda todos los años <input type="checkbox"/> Una inundación al año <input type="checkbox"/> Más de una inundación al año
2	¿Diría usted que la colonia se inunda sólo en temporada de lluvias?	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí, sólo ocurren inundaciones durante la temporada de lluvias <input type="checkbox"/> No, también ocurren en los meses de _____
3	¿Qué tipo de daños o pérdidas ha ocasionado las inundaciones?  (indique con una <b>T</b> si el daño ha sido <b>Total</b> y con una <b>P</b> si el daño ha sido <b>Parcial</b> ) * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> Daños externos a la vivienda <input type="checkbox"/> coches <input type="checkbox"/> calles <input type="checkbox"/> postes de luz <input type="checkbox"/> jardines <input type="checkbox"/> banquetas <input type="checkbox"/> rejas <input type="checkbox"/> árboles <input type="checkbox"/> otros: _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Daños internos a la vivienda <input type="checkbox"/> amueblado <input type="checkbox"/> aparatos electrodomésticos <input type="checkbox"/> paredes <input type="checkbox"/> documentos importantes <input type="checkbox"/> ventanas <input type="checkbox"/> mascotas <input type="checkbox"/> otros: _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Daños a la salud _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Interrupción de las actividades diarias (asistencia al trabajo, escuela, ir de compras, etc.)
4	El nivel de afectación por inundaciones de...	Mi familia es: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> nulo      bajo      medio      alto      muy alto  Mi vivienda es: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> nulo      bajo      medio      alto      muy alto  Mi colonia es: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> nulo      bajo      medio      alto      muy alto
5	Los eventos de inundación han generado entre los vecinos: * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> solidaridad <input type="checkbox"/> conflictos <input type="checkbox"/> no han generado nada <input type="checkbox"/> otro: _____

## 2. Estrategias individuales ante las inundaciones en la Colonia Magisterial

<b>Antes de una inundación</b>		
1	¿Toma precauciones ante las inundaciones?	<input type="checkbox"/> Nunca <input type="checkbox"/> Casi nunca <input type="checkbox"/> Algunas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Casi siempre <input type="checkbox"/> Siempre
2	Si usted <b>nunca</b> toma precauciones ante las inundaciones, es porque... * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> No sé cómo prepararme <input type="checkbox"/> No tengo tiempo para prepararme <input type="checkbox"/> Considero que no me corresponde, eso es labor de las autoridades <input type="checkbox"/> No estoy interesado en prepararme <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____
3	Si usted toma precauciones ante las inundaciones, lo hace... * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> Sólo con los que viven en su casa <input type="checkbox"/> Juntándose con amigos____ familia____ o vecinos____ de la misma colonia <input type="checkbox"/> Juntándose con amigos/familia que no viven en la colonia <input type="checkbox"/> Uniéndose a alguna organización local (grupo religioso, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Con apoyo de una autoridad (como Protección Civil) <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____
4	Al interior de su casa, ¿qué precauciones toma ante las inundaciones? * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> Tengo reservas de agua, comida y medicinas <input type="checkbox"/> Tengo sacos de arena para impedir el paso del agua a mi vivienda <input type="checkbox"/> Tengo protecciones para asegurar mis ventanas, coches, u otro bien <input type="checkbox"/> Tengo asegurado: coche ____ casa ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Tengo un ahorro especial para estos casos <input type="checkbox"/> Tengo maletas listas en caso de tener que salir de inmediato <input type="checkbox"/> Me mantengo al pendiente de noticias de autoridades <input type="checkbox"/> Me comunico constantemente con vecinos de la colonia <input type="checkbox"/> Me mudo temporalmente fuera de la colonia <input type="checkbox"/> No realizo nada en especial <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____
<b>Durante una Inundación</b>		
1	Usted enfrenta las inundaciones... * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> Sólo con los que viven en su casa <input type="checkbox"/> Juntándose con amigos____ familia____ o vecinos____ de la misma colonia <input type="checkbox"/> Juntándose con amigos/familia que no viven en la colonia <input type="checkbox"/> Uniéndose a alguna organización local (grupo religioso, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Con apoyo de una autoridad (como Protección Civil) <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____
2	Al interior de su casa, ¿cómo se enfrenta usted a una inundación? * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> Coloco muebles, electrodomésticos y otros artículos en lugares elevados del suelo <input type="checkbox"/> Coloco protecciones para asegurar puertas, ventanas, coches, u otro bien <input type="checkbox"/> Enciendo la radio o permanezco atento a noticias de última hora <input type="checkbox"/> Tengo maletas listas en caso de tener que salir de inmediato <input type="checkbox"/> No realizo nada en especial <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____
<b>Después de una inundación</b>		
1	Se recupera de una inundación... * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> Sólo con los que viven en su casa____ familia____ o vecinos____ de la misma colonia <input type="checkbox"/> Juntándose con amigos <input type="checkbox"/> Juntándose con amigos/familia que no viven en la colonia <input type="checkbox"/> Uniéndose a alguna organización local (grupo religioso, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Con apoyo de una autoridad (como Protección Civil) <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____
2	Al interior de su casa, ¿cómo se recupera usted de una inundación? * Más de una opción es válida	<input type="checkbox"/> Hago limpieza de escombros <input type="checkbox"/> Hago reparaciones de paredes, ventanas, puertas, y otras partes de la casa <input type="checkbox"/> Reparo el auto, cochera, jardín u otras partes externas a la casa <input type="checkbox"/> No realizo nada en especial <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____

<b>3. Medidas en conjunto en torno a las inundaciones</b> <small>* Marque con una X Más de una opción es válida</small>	<b>Realizadas por:</b>			
	<b>Vecinos Magisterial</b>	<b>Protección Civil</b>	<b>En conjunto: Vecinos y Protección Civil</b>	<b>Otro</b> (anote el nombre)
<b>Antes de la inundación</b>				
12. Construyen bordos o refuerzan el arroyo				
13. Existe algún dispositivo que alerta a la colonia				
14. Están atentos a la alarma que indica que puede haber inundación				
15. Identifican y comunican vías de evacuación en caso de emergencia				
16. Hacen reservas locales de agua, comida y medicinas				
17. Crean fondos locales o tandas para situaciones de emergencia				
18. Hacen simulacros de emergencia ante inundaciones				
19. Comunican a vecinos el riesgo y aconsejan sobre medidas				
20. Plantan árboles a lo largo del canal del arroyo				
21. Mantienen limpio el río				
22. Otros:				
<b>Durante la inundación</b>				
9. Mantienen una comunicación constante con vecinos				
10. Coloca sacos de arena u otra medida para impedir el paso del agua				
11. Se entrega comida y agua a los afectados				
12. Evacuan vecinos de sus casas				
13. Proveen refugio temporal a vecinos				
14. Buscan y rescatan a personas/bienes/mascotas				
15. Se mantiene al pendiente de los comunicados sobre la emergencia				
16. Otros				
<b>Después de la Inundación</b>				
10. Realizan limpieza de escombros				
11. Proveen refugio temporal para los afectados				
12. Se entregan apoyos económicos a los afectados				
13. Construyen y reparan casas				
14. Construyen y reparan infraestructura común				
15. Tienen grupos de auto-ayuda (espacios para recuperación emocional)				
16. Se mantiene al pendiente de los comunicados				
17. Se realizan medidas para prevenir enfermedades				
18. Otros:				

#### 4. Sobre las medidas en relación a las inundaciones en la Colonia Magisterial

		Usted considera que el esfuerzo realizado es		
		Antes de la inundación	Durante la inundación	Después de la Inundación
<b>Vecinos Magisterial</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto	<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto	<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto
<b>Protección Civil</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto	<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto	<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto
<b>En conjunto: Vecinos con Protección Civil</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto	<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto	<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto
<b>Otras organizaciones</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto	<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto	<input type="checkbox"/> nulo <input type="checkbox"/> bajo <input type="checkbox"/> medio <input type="checkbox"/> alto <input type="checkbox"/> muy alto

#### 5. Colaboración entre vecinos y Protección Civil en torno a medidas ante inundaciones

Medidas antes de la inundación	No existe colaboración	Existe Colaboración	
		* Más de una opción es válida	
<b>Medidas durante la inundación</b>		Protección Civil propone y vecinos ayudan a la implementación	Vecinos proponen y Protección Civil implementa
<b>Medidas después de inundación</b>			

## 6. Medidas ante las inundaciones

Mi Colonia es exitosa en medidas de:	* Más de una opción es válida	Antes	Durante	Después
		Prevención y preparación antes de la inundación	Emergencia durante la inundación	Recuperación después de la inundación
Sí es exitosa, debido a las medidas que:	Cada vecino realiza en su casa			
	Los vecinos realizan en coordinación			
	Las autoridades realizan			
	Otro:			
No es exitosa, debido a que faltan medidas:	Por vecino al interior de su casa			
	Compartidas entre los Vecinos			
	Provenientes de las autoridades			
	Otro:			

## Información general del encuestado

**Importante:** Todos los datos proporcionados en este apartado se mantendrán bajo confidencialidad de manera que jamás serán publicados. Únicamente sirven de referencia.

1	Nombre completo			
2	Género	<input type="checkbox"/> Masculino / <input type="checkbox"/> Femenino		
3	Dirección	Calle: Número: Colonia:		
4	Posición ocupa en su vivienda	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabeza de familia <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____		
5	Edad	Años		
6	Máximo grado de estudio que tiene:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sin nivel <input type="checkbox"/> Primaria <input type="checkbox"/> Secundaria <input type="checkbox"/> Preparatoria <input type="checkbox"/> Universidad		
7	Ocupación principal:			
8	Ocupación secundaria:			
9	Pertenencia al sindicato de maestros:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí, con el puesto de: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No		
10	Número de integrantes de la familia con edades y ocupaciones	Número	Edad	Ocupación
		Pareja		
		Hijos		
		Abuelos		
		Otros		
11	Tiempo viviendo en la colonia	Número de años: _____ o Año de llegada a la colonia: _____		
12	Sobre su residencia:	<input type="checkbox"/> Soy propietario <input type="checkbox"/> Rento <input type="checkbox"/> La heredé <input type="checkbox"/> Otro:		

¡LE AGRADECemos MUCHO POR SU TIEMPO Y DISPOSICIÓN!

## Annex Documents provided by Specialized informant

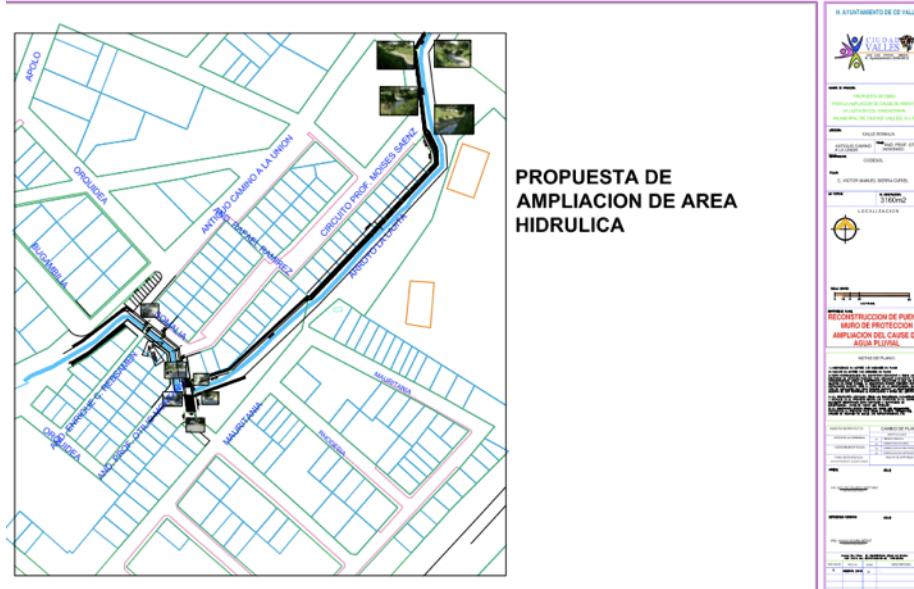
### List of documents expedited by the Community Committee of Magisterial Suburb (presented in chronological order)

Year of publication	Date of publication	Title of document	Delivered to	General description
2011	May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Solicitude for desilting activities	City Hall	Solicitude of help for desilting La Lajita riverbed to prevent floods in Magisterial suburb
	December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Solicitude for diffusion activities	Media	Solicitude of publication and recognition of Magisterial suburb's community activities in several aspects (flood-prevention, security, religious, environmental, and pending solicitudes to City Hall) presented on their 2 <sup>nd</sup> annual report that delivered to their local representatives.
2012	May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Solicitude for diffusion activities: Public recognition to neighbors	Media	Recognition to all Magisterial suburb neighbors for their work during the 100 hours of social labor for improving their urban environment. This suburb sets an example of organization, security, culture, compromise, support and willingness.
	November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Solicitude for economic support for installation of local chapel	City Hall	Solicitude of 500,000.00 mxn for buying a house inside the suburb that will be conditioned to become the local chapel
	December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Solicitude for diffusion activities	Media	Solicitude for diffusion of community's current activities: integral project advances in technical studies of terrain, and 48 hrs for cleaning the suburb through collective effort.
	December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Solicitude for desilting activities	City Hall	Solicitude of help for desilting La Lajita riverbed to prevent floods in Magisterial suburb
	December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas festivities' calendar	Magisterial neighbors	Handout about Christmas festivities' details: general dates and responsible neighbors per sectors.
2013	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Donation for chapel chairs	Magisterial neighbors	Call for neighbors to support the chapel by donating 200 mxn per family to buy chairs for the informal local chapel. Also informs about the catechism that is been done at the facilities of the SNTE
	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Information about the night watcher of suburb	Magisterial neighbors	Handout with general information about the hired night watcher of the suburb. It communicates that he is register at the Public Security Authority of San Luis Potosí State.
	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Call for cleaning the suburb	Magisterial neighbors	Handout where participation of each neighbor is asked to clean the streets in order to give a good impression to visitants.
	November 28 <sup>th</sup> & December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Notice of permanent cleaning session of Magisterial suburb	Other suburbs' neighbors and Magisterial neighbors	Handout where neighbors are noticed about the permanent cleaning session until 2014. Plus, it gives three more news: suggestion of get organize with other neighbors for better cleaning efforts, installation of 3 signs to improve ecological awareness among neighbors, and giving the option to neighbors that can not participate in cleaning efforts to instead donate with materials to improve the suburb's facilities.
	November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Solicitude for chair donation	City Hall	Solicitude of a donation to the suburb of 50 chairs
	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Solicitude for material for constructing a "mini-sport's field" at the suburb	City Hall	Solicitude of 30 trucks of specific materials for the construction of a recreational space at suburb
	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Solicitude of implementation of project	Municipal president of Ciudad Valles	Solicitude of implementation of the federal executive project of Magisterial suburb consisting of enlargement and modification of a bridge and the construction of a second bridge that connects suburb with a highway. They add the agreements done in 2012 under another government period, the petition in 2011 and the economical evaluation for the project's implementation that a local authority submitted on 2010. This last document states that project was going to be implemented in march of 2011.
	Dece	Christmas	Magisterial	Handout about Christmas festivities' details: general

	ember	festivities' calendar	neighbors	dates and responsible neighbors per sectors.
	Dece mber 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Solicitude for chair donation	City Hall	Solicitude of a donation to the suburb of 50 chairs. It adds that chapel has not been installed because the house can not be bought yet due to the unsolved agreement that priest will pay 50% of the house price and City Hall the remaining part.
	Dece mber 15 <sup>th</sup>	Announcement of continuity of the "Neighbors' Watching" local project	Magisterial neighbors	The continuity of the project from 2013 until 2015. And handout also informs about the government authorities in charge of local security and provides local phone numbers in case any neighbor detects an anomalous behavior.
	Dece mber 16 <sup>th</sup>	Solicitude for diffusion	Media	Solicitude of reporting to local suburbs about the current project 2013-2015 that Magisterial suburb is carrying out, called "Neighbors' Watching". The project is realize under mandate of local security related authorities.
	Dece mber 24 <sup>th</sup>	"Neighbors' Watching" 2013-2015 project	Media	Handout about current implementation of "Neighbors' Watching" 2013-2015 project
	Dece mber 24 <sup>th</sup>	Solicitude for Diffusion	Media	Informs about the report of Magisterial suburb's community committee activities in several aspects (flood-prevention project is not yet implemented, citizen's participation is high at the suburb, success of Permanent Cleaning session project and extension of it until 2016, security project "Neighbors' Watching" is being implemented, religious activities, signage at streets to avoid accidents, petition to City Hall for making an assessment of suburbs' needs and unfinished projects). The report is the 1 <sup>st</sup> annual report and has been delivered to their local representatives.
	Dece mber	Handout of miscellaneous advertisements	Magisterial neighbors	Informs about: the garbage recollection schedule and neighbor survey of illegal littering, schedule of the night watcher, and the extension of the chair donation project until January 2014.
	Extra	Daily motivating phrases	Magisterial neighbors	List of motivating phrases that the community president uses at every local handout as farewell message.

Other documents also provided but not made by the Magisterial community committee:

1. 2012- City Hall questionnaire to gather priority needs for municipal development. This questionnaire was directed to the community committee president.
2. Manual for training of community committees from the municipality made and delivered by the City Hall and titled as "Training 2012-2015 welcome Urban area community committees". Manual consists of the regulation, obligations and rights of community committees under the frame of the local authorities regulations. It highlights the responsibilities of committees regarding the construction of local works: they have to contribute with the 20% of the total cost of any project, provide the materials needed, and enable the zones designated for works.



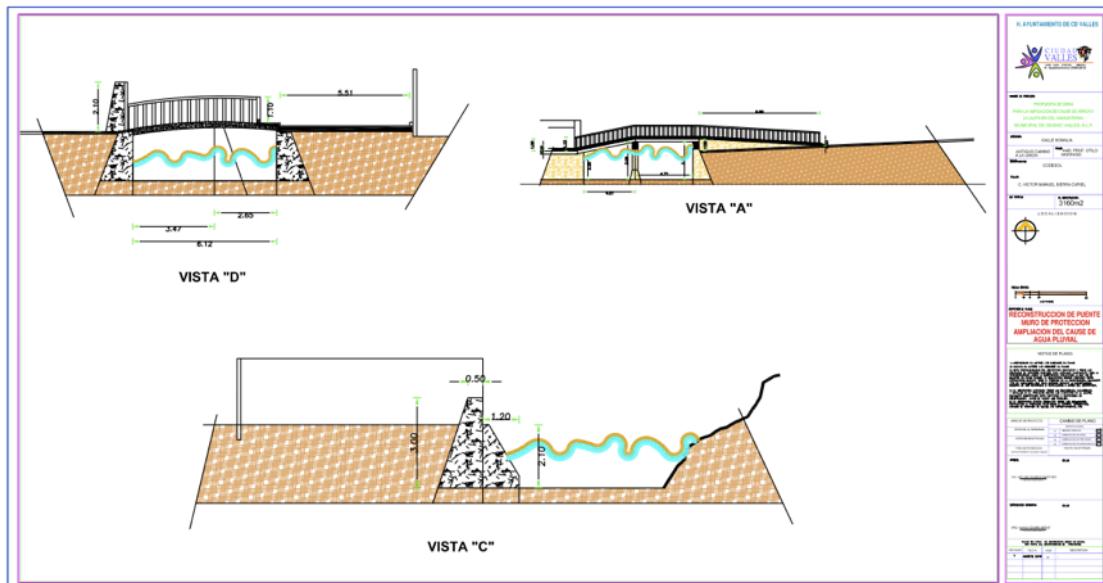


Image 29 Sketches of the infrastructure project for the river channel presented to the City Hall 2009-2012 administration.

Sketches were made with support from the Social Development Coordination municipal agency (Codesol)<sup>50</sup>. Plan for reconstruction and extention of the retention wall along the river is presented in black lines (upper sketch). Plan for extention and reinforcement of the river channel ans bridges also provided (lower sketch).

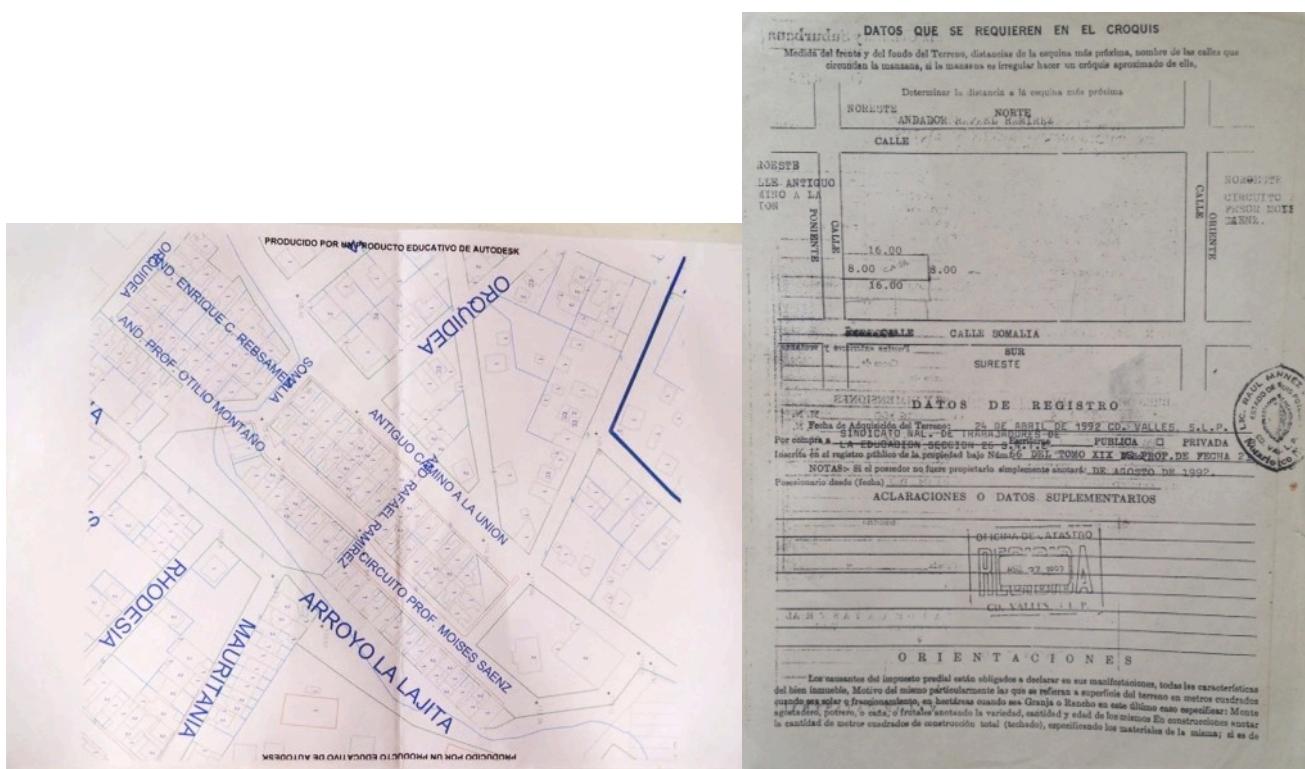


Image 30 (left) Sketch from Magisterial suburb installations (taken from the municipal government data base)

Image 31 (right)Terrain specifications in document of property delivery from teacher Garay's own property

<sup>50</sup> Social Development Coordination municipal agency (Codesol) is in charge of the management of the fund for municipal social infrastructure, so it validates

infrastructure work done at the municipality. It is also in charge of productive projects execution. (inafed.gob.mx, 2014)

## Annex Transcription of first interview to Specialized informant

Specialized informant. 2014. Floods in Magisterial Suburb. Cynthia Marisol Peñaloza Guerrero and Patricia Julio Miranda.

[audio/mp3]. House of informant in Marz 29th.

(Original version in Spanish)

Amigo de Informante: ...Todo se llevó...todo! Colchones todo!  
Muebles! Todo! Todo todo!...()...los vecinos venían a...  
darnos café en la noche verdad?

Amigo 2 de Informante: sí....

Amigo de Informante: La gente nos ayudaba...sí...

Dra. Julio: Y esa vez ocurría la inundación en todos lados verdad?  
(me acuerdo que...)

Amigo de Informante: pues mire a diferencia de los que viven (a  
orillas del río)..ya saben...

Dra. Julio: ajá....

Amigo de Informante: la magnitud, sin embargo ahí están...y ya  
les dieron... terrenos y no

Dra. Julio: no se quieren ir para allá...

Amigo de Informante: no!...

Dra. Julio: ...Y también es otra de las cosas que nosotros, eh,  
bueno, bueno, el porqué unas personas afectadas no se  
quieren ir

Amigo de Informante: Nosotros (dije) vamos a dejar las casas,  
porque nos dieron la...acá arriba unos terrenos

Dra. Julio: ajá

Amigo de Informante: y sí...y ya ya no sí arriba acá arriba...

Dra. Julio: ajá

Amigo de Informante: oye yo no quiero vivir esto...por los niños...o  
sea...el trauma que les causa a los niños....porque llueve  
tantito y suena la alarma y jórale! ...ya, ya, ya traen la carga en  
el subconsciente que jórale! ¡hay peligro! ...y cuando en otros  
lados no lo ha...no lo hay...

Dra. Julio : claro...

Amigo de Informante: y muchos familias ya salieron de aquí...

Dra. Julio: sí?

(...)

Cynthia: ¿fueron casi todos?

Amigo de Informante: Sí...sí...hubo un tiempo en donde parecía  
cementerio...

Cynthia: aaah...

Amigo de Informante: muchas casas este...en mal  
estado...tiradas...y obviamente nada ()...

Cynthia: ¿de que las abandonaron?

Amigo de Informante: sí....y es que mira cómo...ahora sí...¡cómo  
bufa el...no! No! No no no! Pum! Pum! Se oye pero...¡van  
rebotando piedras! ¡rebota todo! ....

Cynthia: aja...

Amigo de Informante: Y ¡la vaca que no nos rompió todo ahí!...no,  
no, pasó....¡hombre! ¡tanques de gas! Pasan un montón de  
cosas...PA! Bum! ...¡suena pero feo!....y luego el ruidero de la  
gente "¡Que no puedo salir! ()"

Cynthia: ay....

Amigo de Informante: Desafortunadamente en estos momentos  
uno no...no...uno quisiera estar en todos lados...pero...está  
descuidando también los suyos....

Dra. Julio: aja...

Amigo de Informante: Si nos pasó con que una señora también  
este...que vivía ahí sola, con sus dos niños...eh...fue como si le  
es, si se le estuviera acabando el mundo y lo único fuerte que  
la detuvo, pues es el amor por sus hijos

Cynthia: ah...

Amigo de Informante: porque...eh, todo lo (construimos) por  
nosotros mismos...pero cuando platicábamos "oye aquella  
señora que estuvo apunto de llevarse...llevarse el agua a...a  
un niño...y este...y aunado a eso las cosas que viene  
arrastrando el agua..."

Dra. Julio: es una trampa...

Amigo de Informante: sí...o sea nada más abre una puerta y ¡Fum!  
¡hasta adentro!...el agua...sí...() abrió la puerta y ....

Dra. Julio: por la fuerza...

Amigo de Informante: ipum! La aventó hasta la cocina...()

Cynthia: porque va subiendo (cada vez más )...

Amigo de Informante: sí ...pues como se mete el agua y va  
subiendo así, va subiendo, va subiendo, va subiendo y tienes  
una planta ¿pa' dónde? ...jahí te ahogas!

Dra. Julio: claro...()...en la azotea ()....

Amigo de Informante: Y luego de...deja de eso...y ya...eso, eso es  
así...¿y los que estamos en medio? ¿cómo? ¡¿cómo?  
salimos?!...y la gente acá todos viendo "eh!" pues ¿Qué?  
¿pues por dónde? Pues...() allá ¿por dónde? ¡Mas que en mi  
casa!....hasta siempre tengo la idea...de siempre...también por  
eso levanté ahí...poner una carrucha hasta, hasta acá...

Dra. Julio: ajá

Amigo de Informante: Y ahora...¡yum! ¡vámonos a mover a la  
gente!

Cynthia: ándale

Amigo de Informante: En eso sí, esa, esa idea y, y la hemos  
platicado...

Cynthia: que dé para acá arriba...ahí



Cynthia: jah! Si es cierto sí ...	Cynthia: jah! Ok va por acá
Informante: bueno y este bulto...este es el burocratismo que les digo...	Amigo de Informante: sí, () ese viene de acá...aquí es...rompiéndose ese de aquí...de aquí....
Dra. Julio: ah	Dra. Julio: ajá
Informante: Cuatro años y medio y no se hace nada	Amigo de Informante: estos de aquí, esto exactamente aquí, porque esto viene así, y luego hace así, y luego así
Dra. Julio: ¿4 años y medio?	Dra. Julio: y luego la curva...
Amigo de Informante: ajá	Amigo de Informante: rompiéndose esto....
Informante: Y y pues no se ve que...() eh la experiencia que (hemos)()se politizan ()()se hace burocrático...entonces todo eso limita mucho la... nuestro proyecto...	Dra. Julio y Cynthia: ya
Cynthia: ah eso sí	Amigo de Informante: todo esto...se acaba
Informante: Y (...)entonces este...esta situación hace que nosotros...pues ya (al momento de) desesperanzas porque...() ...porque este...yo cuando voy allá a la...presidencia () les digo...yo, yo no vengo por lámina, no vengo por despensas...() ..."oye que tenemos esto" ... –"no, no, no yo no vengo...el objetivo es este y no hay otro"...	Dra. Julio: porque hay esta pendiente va hacia...
Dra. Julio: ajá	Amigo de Informante: ajá, porque este es el cauce (...)yo me acuerdo que cuando llegué aquí al lugar, un ratito a bañarnos
Informante: o sea "vengo por las vidas de mis compañeros" ....entonces este, esa () suficiente es esto que limita a uno, te vas por, por lo más sustantivo y te olvidas de, del objetivo real.	Dra. Julio: ¿ah sí?
Cynthia: medias de lo más...pronto así "a ver ¿qué necesitan ahorita?" jeje...y estas de acá ¿no se desbordó el arroyo?	Amigo de Informante: sí, así (...)yo venía () así...no tenía nada de...
Informante: No mire, lo que pasa es que no se desborda, () yo le voy a hacer otra aclaración,	Dra. Julio: de curvas
Cynthia: ajá	Amigo de Informante: no tenía así...() por eso le quedó la lajita porque ahí nos bañábamos todos ...entonces esto lo hicieron así para poder construir todas estas casas...
Informante: cuando, cuando yo vine a ver...	Cynthia: mmm
Cynthia: ajá	Amigo de Informante: es más fácil, si ven porque acá hay valle alto
Informante: cuando yo vine a ver, estos terrenos estaban limpios, que andaba apenas poniendo que...la primera piedra	Dra. Julio: ()
Dra. Julio: ¿eso cuándo fue?	Cynthia: ah sí, llegamos por acá verdad
Informante: y deberíamos ir a...a tomar una foto ahí dónde está el...el día de la inauguración	Amigo de Informante: sí, por acá...()
Amigo de Informante: ahí esta	Cynthia: esa de allá es la bajadita...
Cynthia: ah...ahí tiene una plaqüita	Amigo de Informante: () después de la inundación de allá arriba
Informante: sí, ¿si la vieron?	¿verdad?
Cynthia y Dra. Julio: no, no, no la ubicamos	Amigo 2 de Informante: sí ()
Informante: bueno, entonces estábamos acá por este espacio...hice un recorrido y el agua...el agua no corría	Cynthia: entonces cuando....cuando ustedes llegan, todavía no existían estas casas
Amigo de Informante: no, el agua venía aquí, exactamente, fue desviada por ()	Informante: no eh la verdad, cuando pusieron la primera piedra pusieron ahí eh...un murito
Dra. Julio: ah	Amigo de Informante: un murito nada más
Amigo de Informante: () el cauce original	Cynthia: ah ok
Dra. Julio: (habla al mismo tiempo) el cauce...el cauce original, digamos, o el río mmm...	Informante: entonces este....
Amigo de Informante: (habla al mismo tiempo) el cauce original...ya ve que muchos ()....	Amigo de Informante: empiezan a construir
Dra. Julio: mmm...eso lo podemos ver en una imagen de...una fotografía aérea...	Informante: ya empiezan a construir...y en eso, todo los árboles que están este aquí estaban acostados....
Informante: entonces...la realidad, la realidad aquí de que esto aunque supuestamente trabajen, "no pasa nada al cabo se va por acá" ...no...si se rompe...	Cynthia: ah
Dra. Julio: ajá	Informante: por eso me di cuenta de que el agua corría por aquí
Informante: si no hay muro de contención, todo, ¡todo se acaba!	Amigo de Informante: en todas estas casas, por abajo se, se...y por ahí se les mete el agua ...por la de Elsa, todas esas...este...y ¡nombre!
	Informante: ah sí, cuando llueve el agua se sale por la coladera
	Cynthia: ah
	Amigo de Informante: sí
	Cynthia: se desborda la...
	Amigo de Informante: sí
	Cynthia: se satura la cloaca...
	Informante: y entonces ()era un plan que era el muro de contención, el acorazamiento del arroyo y la ampliación del proyecto...pero ()
	Cynthia: mmm
	Informante: () que no se puede acorazar()...que pongan un parque para una caminata...qué sé yo

Dra. Julio: ()

Informante: verdad, este...no pues yo le decía algo para caminar...

Dra. Julio: jun andador!

Informante: un andador... y este...pues...el muro este esta muy caro...)()

Dra. Julio: () y bueno todos esos puntos van a ir saliendo

Informante: () bueno esto, solicitó (...)pero en una ocasión ya casi tocábamos la luna  
(risas)

Informante: vinieron personas de México y ya le hicieron el estudio de suelo...y () pero luego se metieron en más problemas porque...() al último lograron la ampliación del puente pero de 40 metros (siendo que ellos) (...)o sea...si () yo quiero un perro ¿por qué me están dando gato?...¿sí?  
entonces...no, no puede ser....pero aún así firmamos y pues bien y todo, i pero!...ahí va el pero, ahí va el cambio de sexenio...

Cynthia: ah

Informante: el cambio de políticos...

Amigo de Informante: y para abajo

Informante: y empezar otra vez...()...pero yo...están todos los gastos () ahorita pues ya () no está actualizado

Dra. Julio: ¿cuánto necesitan o de cuánto era ()?

Informante: No en aquel tiempo eran...este...ahora sí que nada más era el proyecto 1, digamos no era el proyecto integral, pero digamos eran 10 millones de pesos

Cynthia: mmm

Informante: y ahorita ¡no! ()

Dra. Julio: claro

Informante: ahí esta el punto...

Cynthia: ah para el...

Amigo de Informante: ajá

Informante: y qué no podía ()

(plática irrelevante)

Informante: y a raíz de eso pues ya mejor nos metimos a...(saben qué no nos van a dar nada )...ahora vamos a hacerlo nosotros...y empezamos a construir hasta la bajada esa del...

Amigo de Informante: sí, ahí empezamos a construir...y yo lo inauguraré jaja ¿te acuerdas?

Informante: (lo modificamos) a modificarlo (...)este  
desafortunadamente tuve un contratiempo de salud y ya...()...pero vamos a reactivarnos

Cynthia: ajá

Amigo de Informante: los letreros () él, él los hizo

Dra. Julio: sí era lo que le decía a Cynthia que esos letreros blancos ustedes los hicieron

Amigo de Informante: e hizo las letras y todo....

()

Informante: el señalamiento vial fue porque...era incongruente, los que van de subida que disque para que ()pero no hay ni un señalamiento () que...

Amigo de Informante: Hacemos () pintamos ahí todos ayudamos  
¿Verdad?

Amigo 2 de Informante: mm

Dra. Julio: no y () porque () en las mejores condiciones posibles

¿no?

Cynthia: mjm

Dra. Julio: no sino también con la cámara () podemos sacar algunas fotografías y ya con eso (plática irrelevante)

Informante: pero cuando las casas nos las entregaron...nos (...)para un préstamo bancario ()

Amigo de Informante: Bancario, nuestro dinero, no es fofisste...()

Informante: Y este () y este llegó un momento en que la inflación () este multiplicó todas las deudas que teníamos juntando de para acá...la mayoría siguen...y este hicimos un proyecto a nivel nacional, yo estuve tomando un curso y fui a México con (), teníamos buena dirección, pero a la hora que hicimos todos los acuerdos...no pues (vámonos)...a Valles (...)y...era de esperarte porque no convino con los intereses de los jefes...luego cuando este...fuimos a reclamar () también la empresa dijo ya no se llama así... () ni a quién demandar...ni a quién demandar...

Entonces esta situación hace que, que veamos a un país muy diferente al que uno aspira. Y luego y no es relativo que esto es de ahorita () es de siempre (). Tendremos que irnos directamente a otro (). Este...()...ahora qué bueno que ()

(plática sobre Alemania)

Amigo de Informante: en mi escuela, alrededor no esta pavimentado...() y no,

Dra. Julio: y no está pavimentado pero aparece como pavimentado

Informante: puro bandido, puro bandido

Dra. Julio: ese es nuestro grave problema

Informante: ()cada año manejamos informes anuales, (bueno ahí con los vecinos pues es más seguido pero ya a nivel año entonces tengo algunos apuntes que les pueden servir...(se los pueden llevar), de ahí sacan algunos elementos. () Pero pues mire aquí nos hemos ido...la orientación que se ha ido dando también, () la combinamos, en lo religioso y en lo, este, () cultura. ¿por qué? Porque de alguna manera este esas dos formas hacen que haya una un bien común. () nosotros apoyamos en todos. Este, eso ha sido parte de. Que algunos no trabajan en alguna cosa pues trabajan en otra. El último proyecto que hicimos fue Sesión permanente de limpieza. ¿Por qué? Porque decíamos vamos a hacer un proyecto un sábado, y luego cada quince días nos reunimos. Mira sabes qué? Tú lo puedes hacer en la mañana, en la tarde, en la noche...mira a veces yo veo gente barriendo a la media noche. ¡Sí! Nada más adáptate al tiempo, no hay problema. Entonces, este, pero tienes que ir busc, conociendo su gente para poder ...in incidir en, en lo que queremos ya, como, como comunidad ¿verdad? Entonces, la planeación empieza ahí o sea no, no, no, se puede venir() y este (pueden andar) trabajando todos ahí este... (pero en la tarde acá no)...no importa si es sábado o ()eso equivale a la organización de cómo, cómo trabajan...yo tampoco puedo disponer de ti todo el sábado, ni de él, bueno







Dra. Julio: me decía su esposa que incluso en algunas casas eh la fuerza del agua rompió los vidrios  
Amigo de Informante: sí, todo, no, todo....  
Informante: es que la, la primera, de la casa que esta ahí primera....  
(se despide el señor Mario después de llenar su encuesta)  
Informante: este...la puerta la destrozó...la puerta...la arrancó...al momento de abrir, la señora a ver qué pasaba, no pues ¡la aventó y la golpeó! A ella...a ella...y este...yo lo veo bien porque le dije oye pues...()...que pues del impacto ()...  
Dra. Julio: pero las casas, algunas...que hayan destruido alguna barda...  
Informante: ah no sí...las bardas las hicimos nosotros, nadie vino a construirlas...no, es que sí la barda del arroyo, o sea después le dije, mal hecho pero los maestros antes le hicieron los cajones, ese es error... sí porque quién autoriza también...bueno, entonces llega un momento en que la capacidad de agua no era no...y venía una vaca así una vaca ipero venía pataleando! Y entonces ahí estaba atorada, sí porque estaba () pero una buena patada con el esfuerzo de la vaca y tronó la barda...ahorita vamos a ir a ver...sí() y después pasaron puercos, y pasaron...jahí iba todo!...entonces este...()...si usted lo ve ahorita dice: "ay qué bonito arroyo" pero ()....  
Dra. Julio: sí, hay muy poco agua...jno se imagina uno!....  
Informante: y esa agua natural que sale de por aquí arriba  
Dra. Julio: ah es como un manantial, como una noria,  
Informante: entonces este...pues ahí total () de todo...  
Dra. Julio: si pero, ay que complicado ¿no?  
Informante: () ya la sicosis es otra cosa....hubo gente que se quedó paralizada, o sea, uno que los veía así que bien () llega el momento del, del impacto, unos no, grandototes los tenía que subir uno como bultos porque no, no tenían la capacidad...estaban bloqueados...este había otros que estaban... bueno hubo familias que ¡quién sabe cómo se prepararon! ¡quién sabe! Pero estaban así arriba en la azotea...  
Amigo de Informante: sí estaban arriba  
Informante: arriba, este por las ventanas...subieron, es difícil de subir y estaban arriba...  
Amigo de Informante: digamos yo, yo...no me explico cómo ¿cómo? ¡cómo se prepararon!  
(todos hablando)  
Amigo de Informante: cómo lo logró esa señora con los niños...() este muchacho anda loco, loco con que su carro y no "espérese, iespérese!" () ...el mío le digo "el mío ya se fue" ...pero ahí esta mi carro...()...pero no, no, no...pero en fin  
Dra. Julio: pero eso fue nada más, ¿cuánto tiempo estuvieron en las azoteas? Subieron a las seis, ¿a qué horas se pudieron bajar?  
Informante: en menos de 10 minutos el agua se había ido  
Dra. Julio: a otra comunidad  
Informante: en 10 minutos ya no había...()...  
Amigo de Informante: increíble...  
Informante: tan sólo de aquí, al llegar a la (pared) del río duró una hora () porque ahí estaba peor, ya el agua no entraba al

río...por que aparte de que era eso (el...)() fueron 9 días completos...hay un video...() ...pero este el día que el (Valles) subió permanente...yo me acuerdo que la ropa, o sea los zapatos, ya no tenía zapatos secos, y tení...y eran tiempos de graduación que sí, teníamos que ir pero "¿y ahora qué me pongo?" pues así...porque como quiera andabas en el agua, iya te habías acostumbrado!...fueron 9 días de agua...  
Amigo de Informante: (...)desbordado...el Valles...  
Informante: 9 días de agua más la tromba...  
Dra. Julio: claro...y tenemos también fotos que usted nos dio ahí de la zona donde hay unas canchas de basket...y hasta donde se ve, hasta dónde llegó de...  
Amigo de Informante: sí ....  
Informante: a ve haber sido de la inundación 2008  
Dra. Julio: sí, fue la del 2008....() y cuando eso pasó, ¿vinieron los de protección civil a ver qué había pasado, si necesitaban algo? En ese momento o sea inmediatamente después o no, o ustedes in...()?  
Informante: no e...este...nosotros nos tuvimos que meter, toda la colonia, a apoyar a los que estaban más afectados  
Amigo de Informante: Sí.  
Informante: eran tareas muy, muy cansadas. ¿por qué? Porque apenas entrabas una casa y (se notaba) todo el día, y eran camiones y camiones...en lo que sí ayudaban ellos era en sacar todo lo que no servía  
Cynthia: el escombro...  
Informante: pero todo lo de limpieza (...) seis de la tarde ...ya no podía el cuerpo  
Dra. Julio: básicamente era primero retirar escombros y luego sacar como el lodo ¿no?  
Cynthia: y reparar lo...  
Amigo de Informante: () cada quién, (y esperar porque ellos querían que) el carro lo jale de arriba, y a veces "mi carro, no me lo maltraten"...pues ¿cómo lo haces?  
(risas)  
Amigo de Informante: () un gritadero...  
Informante: hubo una máquina...era un bulldozer....jno era una mano de chango!  
Amigo de Informante: Ese lo mandó la DAPA  
Informante: sí, pero...  
(irreconocible)  
Amigo de Informante: Ese, truena y desaparece la colonia...  
Informante: arriba hay una laguna, ¿cómo se llama? O sea la presa La Lajilla, entonces me imagino que si truena inundaría toda la ciudad...  
Amigo de Informante: truena ese y se acaba, ¡todo Valles se acaba yo creo!  
Dra. Julio: ¿cómo se llama la presa?  
Informante y Amigo de Informante: la lajilla  
Dra. Julio: ah presa La Lajilla...el, el río de la laja...habrá qué ver cuando la...la construyeron...() eh ¿cómo se llama? La de AGAPA? Cómo se llama?  
Amigo de Informante: DAPA, D-A-P-A Dirección de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado







sobre su hija) (devuelve la hoja de formato) (habla de cuando regresaría y cosas así)...

Informante: a mi me gustaría saber qué piensa la gente que no presentó problemas...(hablan de la aplicación de la encuesta) Hacer recorrido, por la colonia, videos...platicar con alguna familia que resultó muy afectada, una entrevista de 20-30 minutos...

Informante: hay dos...pero (...) realmente perdió mucho valor y perdió la confianza, los que están ahí (...) si vas a construir arriba.... (...) una vez les ofrecieron una cantidad...pero era muy poco...y los ubicaban donde ellos querían... (...) donde nadie quiereirse...y les dijeron: "sabes qué? Muchas gracias pero no"...Aquí arriba tenemos que checar, la planta de agua anteriormente cómo cae de arriba, porque esta desviado todo...luego hay un montón de tierra .... (...) y acá abajo se atoran los carros donde esta la casa de...dónde es un cuadrito...es que al final de cuentas si arreglamos aquí abajo va a ser lo mismo o sea, no, el problema es de infraestructura de ciudad, no es aquí la colonia, pues aquí pues ya llegamos y aquí estamos, (...) la parte baja donde desboca, donde desemboca...cuando el agua, mire aquí en el Limón Tamaulipas, todo lo de ahí es parte baja, parte alta, pero es lo más bajo...toda esa agua baja aquí, entonces el río aumenta su...y el agua que va cayendo pues se regresa...debe haber fotos de...

Informante: en el sexto año de primaria...el último tema es...desastres... (...) a mí me interesó mucho ahorita que...cómo si es un problema de inundación, cómo les gustó ver todo...eso es importante, y es que así deben ser los problemas, debes ver todo. Proyectos integrales... () mira un día, así nada más, ahí se puso un muro de aquél lado, y pelearon por él, por la corriente de agua, y ellos peleaban por que la casa se estaba queriendo derrumbar y que ¡bueno! Total...y yo dije bueno, ¿y yo porqué peleo por este muro jsi nos queda todo el universo!...sí, (...) el muro era de tantos metros, este muro estaba por acá...este, entonces, iba a estar más bajito, más bajito que...más largo...iba a quedar más largo...entonces no garantizaba nada...entonces me dijo "no sabes que mejor recórremelo y házmelo más grande y aunque quede más chiquito" ...ahora el problema nada más en vez de que el agua mordiera acá muerde de este lado ...y en vez de que el agua se baje así, agarra y hace una laguna... () "oye y qué vamos a hacer?" –“pues es de ustedes jejeje” , () Vamos a ver qué, pero es que tienen que estudiarle, no nada más es de ir a meter tierra, (para empezar qué tipo de tierra), si luego va a hacer más lodo ahí no, ahí que ver el declive, no...entonces todo eso tenemos que verlo (...)?

Dra. Julio: y () muerde de este lado...?

Informante: o sea es cuestión de buscarle, pa qué me sirve, ¿a tí pa qué? (...) tuquieres espacio ahí esta. () primero cuando llegamos aquí no teníamos ni un carro () luego cada quién con su carrito, después agarraron dos, ahorita los hijos ya tienen, ya, ya empezamos a saturarnos, pues ya, busquen, por sectores cada quién su espacio, y ahí usamos los sectores () y se adaptan...y este entonces estamos en eso de los vehículos...

Informante: () es difícil, sí porque...hasta eso no les quedó muy bien, pero (...) y esta tronada, no pues ni para ellos...pero es que ellos ven lo estético no ven la realidad... () como todos tenemos ideas, no todas las ideas son buenas, porque falta conocimiento, entonces este, para unos está bien para otros está mal, nunca van a estar contentos () y eso se da en todos lados. A unos creen beneficiar y al último ellos se meten en problemas. Aquí en Valles tenemos un problema, () un solo puente que hicieron y se cayó... () es el único puente que tenemos...le llaman "la largatija" (...) *<hablan sobre el puente que hicieron mal pero no sabe porqué>*.

Dra. Julio: y en el caso de las inundaciones, no hacen como una reunión de todos los...presidentes o comités comunitarios... () bueno ustedes tienen problemas de inundación, no hay, no habrá?...claro tampoco les conviene....

Informante: no tienen nada qué ofrecer...desafortunadamente, yo les digo a los presidentes comunitarios (...) este...ya ve que, no sé si es (...) pero les digo es que no están ofreciendo nada... (...) todas estas colonias tienen un presidente comunitario social, sí, u ese comunitario social es el que se encarga de () de vigilar que sean obras prioritarias y que...que les está diciendo a ellos sobre ellos, pues yo le digo (...) apenas sí me presumió es que traigo un celular nuevo, el celular este me lo acaba de dar el (...) "yo desde cuándo que no te encuentro y tu bien gustoso porque traes nuevo celular que te dio tu jefe..." digo no pues así que...dijo "vamos a hacer esa calle" le digo "se lo recordaré después" ...espero que sea la (...) ni eso, si no puede con unas banquetas... () si nosotros tenemos harto, () tenemos 10 camiones de piedra...este...de aquí donde hicimos esta situación de aquí de...sacamos 10 camiones de piedra, y hay demasiada piedra...y la partí...yo la mandé tronar, y cuando ya la teníamos ahí órale ¿no llegaron a llevársela todos? , digo "bueno pues qué, pues sino la partí para ustedes..." este, ahí (...) este, iahora todos eran dueños! Que porque era federal, que porque era...de la DAPA, que por...bueno ¡los trabajadores de la DAPA eran los que estaban ahí! (y fuimos a la DAPA a ver qué fue lo que pasó, "no es que....no, no sabemos") ... (...) ¡todos agarrando piedras! Le digo "hubieran venido cuando estaban () ahí las piedras, se las hubieran llevado" (...) pero el recurso esta, se puede reciclar, de esa excavación que hicimos, ¿del remanso que le dije? Salieron 10 camiones de piedra, y no, y nada más la que (...) entonces sí hay mucho recurso...

Dra. Julio: y eso quién lo pagó? (al final, ...) ()

Informante: esa...es que traigo muchas máquinas, quise emparejar ahí (...) trabajaba en el ayuntamiento esa persona hace tiempo y él fue el que me dijo "te voy a decir vamos a hacer eso" <el ingeniero del remanso> humanamente (...) entonces () entonces llegamos a acuerdos "mira yo sé que no se puede pero en qué te ayudo y en qué me ayudas?" ... ino pues ya no se veía ni la colonial, estaba el montón de cosas, ahorita pues porque salí y ya no pude checar unas cosas... (...) eran montones de piedra, piedra, todo, o sea tuvimos que emparejar ahí (...) Y la conciencia ecológica es muy difícil, la gente agarra y pasa y nos avienta basura... (como

















## Annex Matrix of synthesis of interviews' data

A matrix of synthesis was made in order to present the information given by the informants (columns) per category of analysis (lines). Interpretation and a conclusive synthesis of each category is presented by the researcher also inside this matrix (last column).

Category	Subcategory	Specialized informant with additional participation of a closed friend of him.	Key informant	Interpretation-Conclusion
City context	Flood in Cd. Valles	<p>Informant: "arriba hay una laguna, ¿cómo se llama? O sea la presa La Lajilla, entonces me imagino que si trueno inundaría toda la ciudad..."</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "up there is a lagoon, how is it called? I the Lajilla damn, then I imagine that if it breaks it would flood the entire city"</p>	-no comments-	<p>La Lajilla damn can have the potential to influence flood risk in Ciudad Valles city.</p>
	General problems	<p>Informant: "el problema es de infraestructura de ciudad, no es aquí la colonia...aquí en el Limón Tamaulipas, todo lo de ahí es...parte alta...toda esa agua baja aquí, entonces el río aumenta"</p> <p>Informant: "Aquí en Valles tenemos un problema...un sólo puente que hicieron y se cayó..."</p> <p>Informant: "se olvidan de calles de puentes, de toda la infraestructura..."</p> <p>Informant: "...y los apoyos son muy pocos... que a nosotros poco nos ayuda porque como están todos pensionados jubilados"</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "the problem is about city infrastructure, not about the suburb...here in El Limón Tamaulipas, everything from there is...elevated zone...all that water comes down here, so the river grows"</p> <p>Informant: "Here in Valles we have a problem...a single bridge was made and it fell down"</p>	-no comments-	<p>A general problem of Ciudad Valles city is rooted in lack of urban planification and lack of good infrastructure, as bridges.</p> <p>The help of the government does not apply to them in most cases because most of them are retired informants</p>

	Risk knowledge	Informant: "en el sexto año de primaria...el último tema es...desastres."  Translation: Informant: "at sixth year of elementary...the last theme is...disasters..."	-no comments-	Possible sensibilization about flood risk in young community
Suburb context	Origin	Informant: "las casas nos las entregaron... para un préstamo bancario ...Lo que pasa es que las casas fueron...este terreno fue donado al sindicato..."  Informant: "hace 20 años...fue en el ...1994 marzo <entrega de casas>"  Translation: Informant: "the houses were given to us...for a bank loan...What happens is that the houses were...this terrain was donated to the syndicate..."  Informant: "20 years ago...was in the...1994 march <house delivery>"	-no comments-	The houses were delivered 20 years ago to the people that could obtain a bank loan, even though the terrain was donated to the professorade syndicate.
	Inhabitants	Informant's friend: "Sí, yo creo...< todos son informantes aquí en la colonia>"  Translation: Informant's friend: "Yes, I believe so...<all are professors here at the suburb >"	-no comments-	Apparently professors are an important fraction of the community of this suburb
	General problems at suburb	Informant: ".... están todos los...los hoyos...y nadie se hace responsable de una calle"  Informant: "el muro... pero es que tienen que estudiarle...falta conocimiento"  Informant: "sacamos 10 camiones de piedra... llegaron a llevársela todos..."  Informant: "Y la conciencia ecológica es muy difícil, la gente agarra y pasa y nos avienta basura..."  Informant: "...después de 10 años...se dan cuenta <Protección Civil> en el estudio...de riesgo ...que esta colonia es de los 5 puntos de más alto riesgo en Ciudad Valles"	no comments-	There is a lack of maintenance of streets by the authorities that are supposed to survey that aspect.  And there is a lack of knowledge for building efficient flood-preventive infrastructure  Community building materials have been apparently taken away by external people without their permission

	<p>Translation: Informant: "...there are all the...the holes...and nobody gets responsible of a single street"</p> <p>Informant: "the wall...but they must study it... knowledge lacks"</p> <p>Informant: "we took out 10 trucks of rock...everybody came to take it"</p> <p>Informant: "And the ecological conscience is very dificult, people pass and throw us trash"</p> <p>Informant: "...after 10 years...they &lt;Civil Protection&gt; realize that in the risk study...that this suburb is one of the 5 points within the highest risk in Ciudad Valles"</p>	-	<p>Ecological awareness and care from the external people is lacking, suburb has to deal with their trash sometimes</p> <p>The suburb is one of the top 5 suburbs with the highest flood risk in Ciudad Valles.</p>
Qualities	<p>Informant: "...el problema de las demás colonias es que la gente no apoya...y pues sí pues aquí lo que tiene la colonia es que apoya"</p> <p>Informant: "si la colonia esta organizada es porque es pequeña..."</p> <p>Informant: "este es el único arroyo que está limpio, a pesar de que es poquita agua...y esa...sale de por aquí"</p> <p>Informant: "...de esa excavación que hicimos...Salieron 10 camiones de piedra...entonces sí hay mucho recurso"</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "...the problem with the other suburbs is that people does not support...and...here what people have is that it supports"</p> <p>Informant: "if the suburb is organized is because it is small"</p> <p>Informant: "this is the only stream that is clean, despite it is very Little water...and that...comes out from here"</p> <p>Informant: "...from that excavation we did...10 trucks of rock came out...then there is a lot of resource"</p>	<p>"...aquí la solidaridad de los vecinos es bastante...la compañía, el apoyo..."</p> <p>Translation: "...here the solidarity of the neighbors is quite much...the company, the suppor</p>	<p>The people from this suburb is solidary and supportive to all group effort, and the level of organization reached has to do with the fact that it is a small suburb</p> <p>The suburb is dotted with clean fresch water from a stream and with</p>
External relations	<p>Informant: "están impactados...otras colonias...viene a verme ... con la intención de hacer equipos... ya no se tiene que ir a ....ser del montón...no tu has, trabaja"</p>	-no comments-t..."	<p>Other suburbs have wanted to join Magisterial organization in order to make petitions to the government, but that has not been posible valuable rock resource for building</p>

		<p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant: "they are shocked...other suburbs come to see me...with the intension of making teams...we don't have to go to...be like all the others...no...you do, work"</p>		because suburb is not interested on manifestations, but in hard work to build their suburb
Flood context at the suburb	Floods temporality	<p>Informant: "...los vecinos que están más en peligro, que están aquí, en la parte baja..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant: "...the neighbors que are most in danger, that are here, at the low part"</p>	<p>"ya no las olemos cuando es la temporada de lluvias..."</p> <p>"...pero el tiempo pasa, y uno se hace más viejo... en aquél entonces yo alcancé a brincar ...pero y ¿quién nos garantiza que en 4, 5 o 10 años...?"</p> <p>Informant: "...2004, 2008, 2012 pero en el 2012 ya no..."</p> <p>"...pero el peligro sigue, sí, el peligro sigue..."</p> <p>Translation: "we expected them when is rain season..."</p> <p>"...but time goes by, and we are getting older...back then I could jump...but who can guarantee us that in 4, 5 or 10 years...? "</p> <p>Informant: "...2004, 2008, 2012 but in 2012 it did not..."</p> <p>"...but danger remains, yes, danger remains..."</p>	<p>Apparently, floods are possible to appear during rain season.</p> <p>Floods affect more neighbors from the less elevated part of the suburb.</p>

	Floods origin	<p>Informant's friend: "el agua...fue desviada...el cauce original...no tenía nada de...curvas...entonces esto lo hicieron así para poder construir todas estas casas..."</p> <p><i>Informante: "...esto era un...arroyo de más o menos 4 o 5 metros"</i></p> <p><i>Informante: "...antes no teníamos asentamientos de colonias arriba...y...ya hay, entonces el agua corre más rápido"</i></p> <p>Translation: Informant's friend: "the water....was diverted...the original channel...did not have any...curve...then this make it like that so that they could build all these houses"</p> <p>Informant: "...this was a...stream of more less 4 or 5 meters"</p> <p>Informant: "...before we did not have suburbs upstream...and now there are, then the water runs faster"</p>	-no comments-	The floods are recurrent because suburb location is over the original river channel, and also because the city has grow and upstream terrains are becoming impermeable due to urbanization.
	2004 flood (causes and loses)	<p>Informant: "...no fue tan fuerte...el nivel de agua... en el mismo nivel...pero no la misma fuerza"</p> <p>Informant: "...la primera fue...lluvia continua...duró 3 días ...y ya después se vino la inundación"</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "...it was not that strong...the water level...at the same level...but not the same strength"</p> <p>Informant: "...the first was...continuous rain...lasted 3 days...and then the flood came"</p>	<p>"12 años, nunca había pasado que subiera el agua... el agua ya estaba acá &lt;señala su pecho&gt; ipero con corriente!"</p> <p>"y en 10 minutos bajó..."</p> <p>"¡horrible! Perdimos itodo! Colchones, camas, refrigerador, comedor itodo lo que teníamos! ...Teníamos carro... le entró el agua...: lo vendimos"</p> <p>"...sí...nos daban...simbólico .... grupos religiosos que nos traían de comer...nos dieron zapatos... ropa, pero ...una estufa... una cama...no..."</p>	<p>The 2004 was probably the first flash flood in a decade. It maybe was due to a constant 3-day rain that cause the water level to suddenly rise and flow with considerable strength. A flash flood that took no more than 30 minutes to appear and disappear.</p> <p>The flash flood caused many loses at the suburb's households. The neighbors received basic aid from external entities, but most of the recovery was covered by themselves.</p> <p>It is believed that all the measures pre-, in- and post floods were triggered since this 2004 flood event.</p>

		<p><i>"Compañeros del trabajo nos daban cobijas para los niños, ropa, porque nos quedamos sin ropa..."</i></p> <p>Translation: "12 years, it had never happened that the water rise...the water was here &lt;mark her chest&gt; but with current!"</p> <p>"and in 10 minutes it went down..."</p> <p>"horrible! We lost everything" mattresses, beds, refrigerators, dining rooms, all we had! ...we had a car...the water entered in it...we sold it"</p> <p>"...yes...they gave us...symbolic...religious groups brought us something to eat...they gave us shoes...clothes, but...a stove...a bed...no"</p> <p>"Coworkers gave us blankets for the kids, clothes, because we ran out of clothes..."</p>	
2008 flood (causes and traits)	<p>Informant: "...fueron 9 días completos... de agua más la tromba..."</p> <p>Informant: "...arriba tenemos una presa...y...presumimos...que desahogaron..."</p> <p>Informant: "...a las seis...en menos de 10 minutos el agua se había ido..."</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "...there were 9 full days...of water plus the waterspout..."</p> <p>Informant: "...upstream we have a damn...and...we suspect...that they vented..."</p> <p>Informant: "...at six...in less than 10 minutes the water was gone..."</p>	<p>"pues....como 1.80"</p> <p>"No pues igual...igual...en media hora..."</p> <p>Informant: "...En el 2004 1.20 y 2008, 1.80".</p> <p>Translation: "well...like 1.80"</p> <p>"No well the same...the same...in half hour..."</p> <p>Informant: "In 2004 1.20 and 2008, 1.80"</p>	<p>The 2008 flood was similar to 2004 flood: started early in the morning (5 to 6 am), was due to extreme rain event, and both lasted more less half hour to start and ended. The difference was in the depth of the flood level, around 60 cm more (1.20 in 2004 and 1.80cm in 2008).</p>

<b>During 2008 flood</b>	<p>Informant: "...venía una vaca...¡pero venía pataleando! ...tronó la barda... y después pasaron puercos...¡ahí iba todo!..."</p> <p>Informant: "...hubo gente que se quedó paralizada...los tenía uno que subir &lt;a lo más alto de ciertas casas&gt; como bultos porque...no tenían la capacidad---"</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "...there came a cow...but it came swimming!...broke the fence...and then pigs passed...everything was there!"</p> <p>Informant: "...there was people that stood paralyzed...we have to pull them up &lt;to the higher part of certain households&gt; like bags because...they couldn't do it"</p>	<p>"¡andaban flotando los carros!"</p> <p>Translation: "the cars were floating!!"</p>	<p>The water ran faster and with more strength, that could lift heavier things like cars and farm animals, and that caused more damage than in 2004.</p>
<b>After 2008 flood: external participation</b>	<p>Informant: "No sabemos de dónde salió tanta ayuda...era imposible que el ayuntamiento se hiciera cargo de todo... gente que conociera y "préstame tu camión" y vámonos"</p> <p>Informant: "...en lo que sí ayudaban ellos &lt;autoridades&gt; era en sacar todo lo que no servía ...pero todo lo de limpieza (nosotros)..."</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "We do not know from where such help came out...it was impossible that the authority could be in charge of everything...people that we knew and "lend me your truck" and lets go"</p> <p>Informant: "...in what they &lt;authority&gt; did help was in taking out all that was broken...but all about the cleaning (we)"</p>	<p>-no comments-</p>	<p>There was minimal participation from authorities after the 2008 flood. Other people (known by the neighbors) from outside did voluntary work to clean the debris in the suburb.</p>
<b>After 2008 flood</b>	<p>Informant: "...ese lodo...no se limpia tan fácil...las casas huelen mal, entonces las enfermedades se vienen..."</p> <p>Informant: "...enfermedades ...cada quién se ocupó."</p> <p>Informant: "...en una vivienda cuando se inunda se pierde todo &lt;los servicios&gt;...para ir ...acomodando las cosas son 15 días...el agua...tardó..."</p>	<p>"...es una zona de desastre aquí...tengo 4 carros ahí empalmados... carros de los vecinos los fueron a encontrar... allá abajo del arroyo"</p> <p>"igual, igual o peor &lt;el proceso de limpieza comparado con el 2004&gt;"</p>	<p>After the 2008 flood, the suburb had at least four main problems: (1) cleaning and item-recovery process was hard and it was a task only made by the neighbors themselves. (2) the recovery of the basic services was relatively fast except the potable water service that took longer. (3) the diseases that the mud in decomposition generated among the population, and the cost it represented for every neighbors to</p>

	<p>Informant: "sí se tardó mucho ... no se quieren desprender de sus cosas...nada sirve!..."</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...y muchos familias ya salieron de aquí...hubo un tiempo en donde parecía cementerio..."</p> <p>Translation: Informante: "...that mud can not get easily cleaned...houses smell bad, then diseases come"</p> <p>Informant: "diseases...each everyone got responsible"</p> <p>Informant: "in a household when it gets flooded &lt;the services&gt; ...to go...arraging things there are 15 days...the water...took time..."</p> <p>Informant: "it did take long...they do not want to let go their items...nothing works!"</p> <p>Informant's friend: "---and many families have gone from here...there was a time when it looked like a cemetery..."</p>	<p>"...iya no soportábamos oír llover! Porque nos afectaba...iya no queríamos estar aquí!</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>"...is a disaster zone here...i have four cars here overlapped...neighbors' cars were founded...there downstream"</p> <p>"the same, the same or worse &lt;the cleaning process compared to the 2004&gt;"</p> <p>"...we no longer stand hearing rain! Because it affected us...we did not wanted to be here"</p>	<p>threat themselves. (4) the psychological trauma that neighbors developed and the permanent migration of many of them.</p>
Neighbors' reaction to flood problem	<p>Begining of local organization</p> <p>Informant: "...ni se juntaban para armar el comité porque no, no había problemas! ...pero el día que nos inundamos vimos toda la magnitud, y se hizo un comité emergente..."</p> <p>Informant: "...el ayuntamiento tiene fecha...apenas ingresa como...nuevo ayuntamiento y hacen toda esta elección de...comité comunitarios...se tiene que juntar...20%...y no nos juntábamos ni como 5!...ahora no, júntate 5 y ya puede ser..."</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "...they did not get together to make the committee because no, there were no problems! ...but the day we got flooded we saw the whole magnitude, and an emergent committee was made..."</p> <p>"...the City Hall has a date...just when start...as new City Hall period and made all that election of...communitary committees...20% has to be gathered...an we could gather not even 5!...now no, get 5 together and it can be &lt;a community committe&gt;"</p>	<p>-no comments-</p>	<p>The local organization was triggered by a flood event as a emergent committee (there is the suposition that was 2008 flood). And later there was a formal community committee register at City Hall (apparently in 2011)</p>

	<b>Causes of the local organization</b>	<p>Informant: "Cuatro años y medio y no se hace nada &lt;el gobierno no les ayuda&gt;..."</p> <p>Informant: "...no nos van a dar nada...ahora vamos a hacerlo nosotros..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant: "Four and a half years and nothing gets done &lt;the government does not help them&gt;..."</p> <p>Informant: "...they wont give us nothing...now lets do it ourselves..."</p>	-no comments-	The main causes of the local organization reside in the inefficient support from the local authorities.
	<b>Characteristics of local organization</b>	<p>Informant: "combinamos &lt;la organización&gt;... lo religioso...Porque... hacen que haya...un bien común."</p> <p>Informant: "...yo antes de tomar una decisión primero consulto a varia gente..."</p> <p>Informant: "...aquí trabajamos por comités, ...comité de seguridad, el comité de capillas y coordinador de servicio religioso y el comité comunitario."</p> <p>Informant: "...nos hemos ...por sectores...son 9 ...como de seis &lt;seis casas por sector&gt;...líderes...modificables..."</p> <p>Informant: "hay mucha conexión &lt;entre comités y sectores&gt;....pero esos 9 sus intereses están aquí...entonces decimos "vamos a hacer este proyecto", y ya...pero no es lo mismo aquí que al siguiente sector... a cada milímetro hay un interés diferente..."</p> <p>Informant: "...la organización de cómo, cómo trabajan...puedes adaptarte..."</p> <p>Informant: "&lt;explicación organización con el gobierno&gt; ...son tres partes, nosotros estamos aquí: "comité comunitario"...aquí esta &lt;señala el otro extremo&gt; "CODESOL" que es que se encarga de todas esas obras, entonces aquí en medio se eligen por cada 12 colonias...un ..."representante comunitario social" ...Él</p>	<p>"la solidaridad de los vecinos...la compañía, el apoyo..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>"the solidarity of the neighbors...the company, the support..."</p>	Some main characteristics from the local organization of the community suburb are: (1) two scale organization hierarchies rely inside the community: community level through the 3 community committees (security, religious and general-concerns); and the block level through the 9 sectors. General or more particular community-drive projects are developed at these two scales. (2) the connection with the government is established through the "social community representant" and it has been quite inefficient due to the lack of responsibility of this representant. (3) the organization mix religious aspects in order to get closer to people, and also establish an adaptive framework for neighbors participation in community activities, allowing them to participate when they have the time; since neighbors are very supportive, projects have been embraced by the whole community. (4) the new decisions are consulted with some neighbors.

	<p><i>supuestamente debe ver aquí prioridades, en función de esto propone, y vigila que se ...hagan las cosas...de los cuáles ni una cosa ni otra..."</i></p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant: "we mix &lt;the organization&gt; with the religious...because...they produce a common good"</p> <p>Informant: "...me before taking a decisión first I consult several people"</p> <p>Informant: "...here we work by commitees...security committee, committee of chapel and religious service coordination, and the community committee."</p> <p>Informant: "...we have...by sectors...they are 9...about of six &lt;six houses per sector&gt;...leaders...modifiables"</p> <p>Informant: "there is a lot of connection &lt;between committees and sectors&gt;...but those 9 their interests are here...then we said "lets do this Project", and that is it...but it is not the same here that in the next sector...eachcmilimeter there is a different interest..."</p> <p>Informant: "the organization of how, how they work...you can adapt..."</p> <p>Informant: "&lt;explanation oranization with the government&gt;...there are 3 parts, we are here "community commitee"...here it is &lt;mark the other extreme side&gt; CODESOL &lt;government institution for development&gt; that is in charge of all these works, then here in the middle per each 12 suburbs...a "social community representant" is selected...he is supposedly must see here the priorities, based on that he propose, and survey that...things get done...of which betwixt and between..."</p>		
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	<b>Characteristics of local communication inside organization</b>	Informant: "ah sí, todo es por escrito...<a través de informes y circulares a los vecinos>"  Informant: "...es una atención personalizada <la forma en la que se recogen sugerencias de la comunidad>, pero no la busco...las necesidades se llegan solitas...llega una persona y me dice...no nos ha fallado <esta forma de comunicación>..."  Translation: Informant: "oh yes, everything is written...<through reports and handouts>"  Informant: "...it is personalized attention <the way in which the community suggestions are gathered>, but I do not look for it...needs come along...a person arrives and tells me...it has not failed is <this way of communicate>"	-no comments-	The local communication between neighbors is through written media distributed to all households, and each neighbor can express directly and personally, their suggestions to the community president whenever they wish to.
	<b>Age of the local organization</b>	Informant: "... son 3 años...<edad del comité comunitario>"  Translation: Informant: "...there are 3 years...<age of community committee>"	-no comments-	The local organization in its formal way has more less 3 years old through the formal creation of the community committee. It was formalized to authorities in 2011.
	<b>Attachment to the suburb</b>	-no comments-	"...mi hijo...estaba chiquito tenía sus amigos aquí...fue por seguridad y por estar bien..."  Translation: "...my son...was little had his friends here...it was for safety and for being ok..."	Apparently people who decided to stay did it because of the social network the community posees.

<b>Type of communal activities (not related to flood management)</b>	<p>Informant: "el señalamiento vial en el 2013, pintamos bardas"</p> <p>Informant: "El último proyecto que hicimos fue Sesión permanente de limpieza"</p> <p>Informant: "aquí...atrapamos a los...rateros... nos metimos en un proyecto..."</p> <p>Informant: "...aquí se paga a una persona por todas las noches, &lt;velador&gt; y se le da un extra para que lo haga por las tardes..."</p> <p>Informant: "...él los diseñó...&lt;los carteles para generar conciencia ecológica&gt; yo le di varios &lt;frases&gt;....también conseguimos mamparas ...nos los donaron aquí unos vecinos..."</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...y viene el padre y aquí la hacemos &lt;misa&gt;, cada quién con su sillita...&lt;la ceremonia y el catecismo también&gt;"</p> <p>Informant: "...aquí no había lámparas de luz &lt;en las calles&gt;...esas las compramos nosotros..."</p> <p>Informant: "la basura...los mismos sectores concentran lo de afuera de las casas y pasa la basura, y se les da una compensación...es voluntaria..."</p> <p>Translation: Informant: "the road signs in 2013, we painted walls..."</p> <p>Informant: "The last Project we did was the permanent cleaning Sesion"</p> <p>Informant: "here...we catch the...burglars...we got us into a project"</p> <p>Informant: "...here we pay a person for all nights, &lt;watcher&gt; and it is given to him an extra for doing it by afternoons..."</p> <p>Informant: "...he designed them...&lt;the posters to generate ecologic awareness&gt; I gave him several &lt;phrases&gt;...we got screens too...they were donated here by some neighbors.."</p>	<p>-no comments-</p>	<p>Several comunal activities are done in this suburb. Non flood-management realted activities are: (1) put road signs and give maintenance and clean households, (2) neighbors hire a watcher and they also watch themselves over burglars, and prevented crime inside the suburb, (3) elaborate and put posters for ecological awareness in the streets of the suburb, (4) mass in public open spaces once a month and also catechism lessons to children (5) put street lights, (6) organize and manage garbage per sectors</p>

		<p>Informant's friend: "...and comes the reverend and here we make it &lt;mass&gt;, each person with his little chair...&lt;the ceremony and the catechism too&gt;</p> <p>Informant: "there there were no light lamps &lt;at the streets&gt;...those we bought them..."</p> <p>Informant: "the garbage...the same sectors concentrate what is outside the households and the truck passes, and a compensation is given to them...is voluntary..."</p>	
	<p><b>Future communal activities</b></p> <p>Informant's friend: "<i>y estamos con la idea de hacer ...una capillita...</i>"</p> <p>Informant: "<i>este espacio que esta aquí en la entrada...queremos rescatar como plazuela pero es particular...ayuntamiento no da pero nos da...otro...en 15 días &lt;comienzan la planeación&gt;...</i>"</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant's friend: "and we have the idea of making...a chapel..."</p> <p>Informante: "this space that is here...we want to rescue it as a small square but it is a particular &lt;tenency&gt;...city hall does not give but give us...another...in 15 days &lt;starts the plannification&gt;..."</p>	<p>-no comments-</p>	<p>There are future community activities planned, the instalation of a chapel and the construction of a small square for the community.</p>
<p><b>Measures previous to floods</b></p> <p><b>Actual measures</b></p>	<p>Informant: "...si no hay muro de contención, todo, ¡todo se acaba!"</p> <p>Informant: "...las bardas las hicimos nosotros...la barda del arroyo..."</p> <p>Informant: "...la alarma la pusieron &lt;Protección Civil&gt;...uno nada más esta vigilando de que sea permanente..."</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...a mover carros...andamos limpiando arroyos ...prepararnos con los sacos, con arena...¡todos...llenamos y ponemos!"</p> <p>Informant: "...aquí traen el montón de arena y aquí se arman..."</p>	<p>"...Y les digo "¿saben qué mis hijos?, hagan maleta, la vamos a dejar ahí" empieza a llover y ¡nos vamos!"</p> <p>"...empieza a llover y ya la gente...sale...&lt;a vigilar el arroyo&gt;"</p> <p>"...le digo a mi esposo: "saca el carro...va a subir el arroyo, está subiendo el arroyo" ...sube el carro porque pues allá arriba ya no sube &lt;el agua&gt;..."</p> <p>"...la gran mayoría &lt;de vecinos&gt; tiene barditas de piedra...previniendo... a raíz de la primera inundación..."</p>	<p>Some of the developed community measures the community has previous to floods are: (1) related to infrastructure, like a retention wall at the upper part of the suburb, a wall was built along the stream channel at the center of the suburb, a backwater was built at the critical part of the stream channel, (2) related to behaviour neighbors clean the stream from garbage or other items that can block the water flow, they fill and build a sandbag barea along the most critical part, they constantly survey the river level during rain events</p>

	<p>. Informant: "...vino un señor &lt;un ingeniero&gt; y me dijo...haga remanso &lt;arreglos del canal&gt;, pierde fuerza...esto nos ha ayudado..."</p> <p>Informant: "...el arroyo...si acaso quitamos llantas ...o algo que esté obstruyendo..."</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...muchos &lt;vecinos&gt; ya no se quedan, se van para otro lado &lt;durante la temporada de lluvias&gt;....y luego esta el velador... pasa...toque y toque..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant: "...if there is not retention wall, everything, ieverything ends!"</p> <p>Informant: "We did the walls...the wall of the stream"</p> <p>Informant: "...the alarm they put it &lt;Civil Protection&gt;...we are just watching it is permanent..."</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...to move cars...we are cleaning streams...preparing ourselves with bags, with sand...jall...fill and put them!"</p> <p>Informant: "...here they bring the pile of sand and here they are put together..."</p> <p>Informant: "...came a man &lt;an engineer&gt; and said to me...make a backwater &lt;arrangements of the cannel&gt;, it looses strength...this has helped us..."</p> <p>Informant: "...the stream...if any case we took away tires...o things that can be blocking it..."</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...many &lt;neighbors&gt; do not stay, they go to somewhere else &lt;during rain season&gt; ...and then there is the night watcher...passess...knocking and knocking..."</p>	<p>"...después del 2004, cada año...empiezan la semana de lluvias y empezamos a poner costales y los construimos nosotros...las mujeres a llenar con palas y los hombres a cargar y empezar a hacer la barrera para protegernos...es una solución momentánea...para evitar el golpe del agua, pero ya cuando sube mucho pues ya no..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>"...And I say to them "you know what my children?, make bags, and we are going to leave it there &lt;at the car&gt;" starts to rain and we leave!"</p> <p>"...starts to rain and the people ...come out...&lt;to survey the stream&gt;"</p> <p>"...I tell my husband: "take out the car...the stream is rising" ...he puts the car in an high place because up there it does not rise &lt;the water&gt;..."</p> <p>"...the majority &lt;of neighbors&gt; has stone fences...preventing...following the first flood..."</p> <p>"...after 2004, each year...starts the rain week and we start to put sandbags and we make them...the women to fill them with shovels and the men to carry them and start to make the bareer to protect ourselves...it is a momentary solution...to avoid the impact of the water, but when it rises a lot is no longer..."</p>	<p>Other individual actions are taken by the neighbors, such as (1) they share the measure of building stone fences outside their homes in order to prevent them from flooding and the flow impact, (2) they move their cars to a higher and safer location, (3) some of them prepare bags with their belongings and put them in the car just in case they must ran out, (4) some of them go to live somewhere else during rain season</p>
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	<b>Future measures</b>	<p>.</p> <p>Informant: "...vamos a restablecer los proyectos...de la sesión permanente &lt;de limpieza&gt;..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant: "...we will establish the projects...of the permanent session &lt;of cleaning&gt;..."</p>	-no comments-	The permanent cleaning session seems to be the only measure closely-related to flood management that is planned to be done in the future.
	<b>Missing measures</b>	<p>Informant: "...no hay una evacuación de emergencia es...no, no la tenemos..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant: "...there is not an emergency evacuation is...no, we do not have it..."</p>	-no comments-	An plan for emergency evacuation is a missing measure in the community.
	<b>External institutions measures</b>	<p>Informant: "...la alarma...sí es de protección Civil..."</p> <p>Informant: "&lt;por Protección Civil&gt;...están monitoreadas...&lt;las colonias más afectadas&gt;"</p> <p>Informant: "...la arena &lt;para los sacos de arena&gt; si la pone el ayuntamiento...pero pues nada más la avientan ahí, nosotros la pedimos..."</p> <p>Informant: "El desazolve...es lo único que puede hacer ayuntamiento... eso sí es preventivo, porque...dos veces al año &lt;a través de una petición oficial&gt;..."</p> <p>Employer of Health Secretary<sup>51</sup>: "...son medidas preventivas que están ahorita tomando para evitar que haga mucho caso de dengue..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant: "...the alarm...yes it is from Civil Protection..."</p> <p>Informant: "&lt;by Civil Protection&gt;...they are monitored...&lt;the most affected suburbs&gt;"</p> <p>Informant: "...the sand &lt;for the sandbags&gt; is given by the city hall...but they only throw it there, we ask for it..."</p>	-no comments-	Civil Protection, City Hall and Health Secretary are some external institutions that had provided help with some measures previous to floods. Civil Protection's main participation on the suburb was through the installation of the flood-alarm. The City Hall has provided the neighbors with sand and with river-bed-desilting process. And Health Secretary is monitoring the probability of Dengue appearance in the region, in order to take precautions when a flood comes.

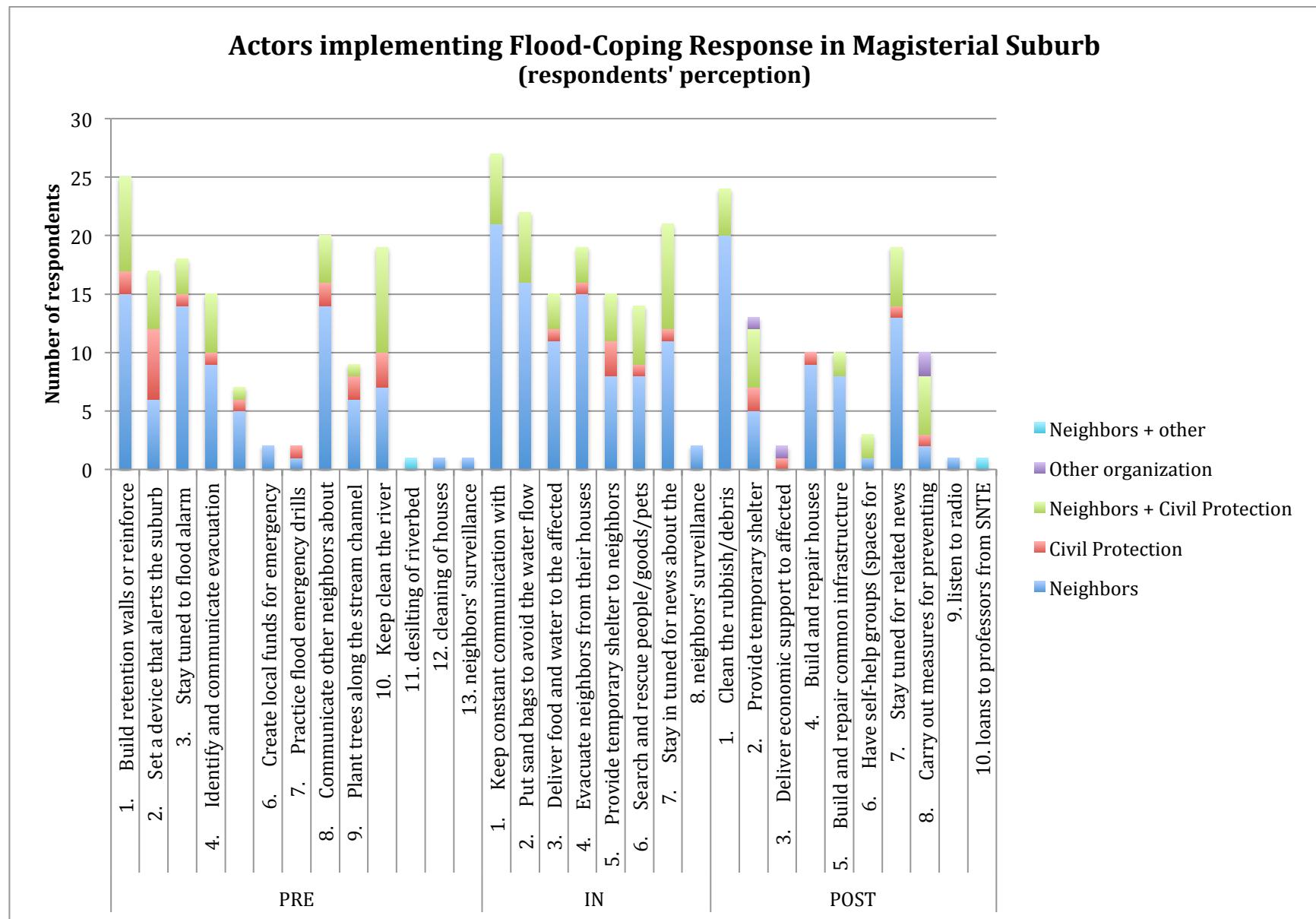
<sup>51</sup> Mrs. María del Socorro Sánchez Monarca,

appear during the interview because she was monitoring the mosquito's egg traps that are located in some households of the location. She works for the Health Secretary of the Federal government, for the monitoring of the egg of the Dengue mosquito.

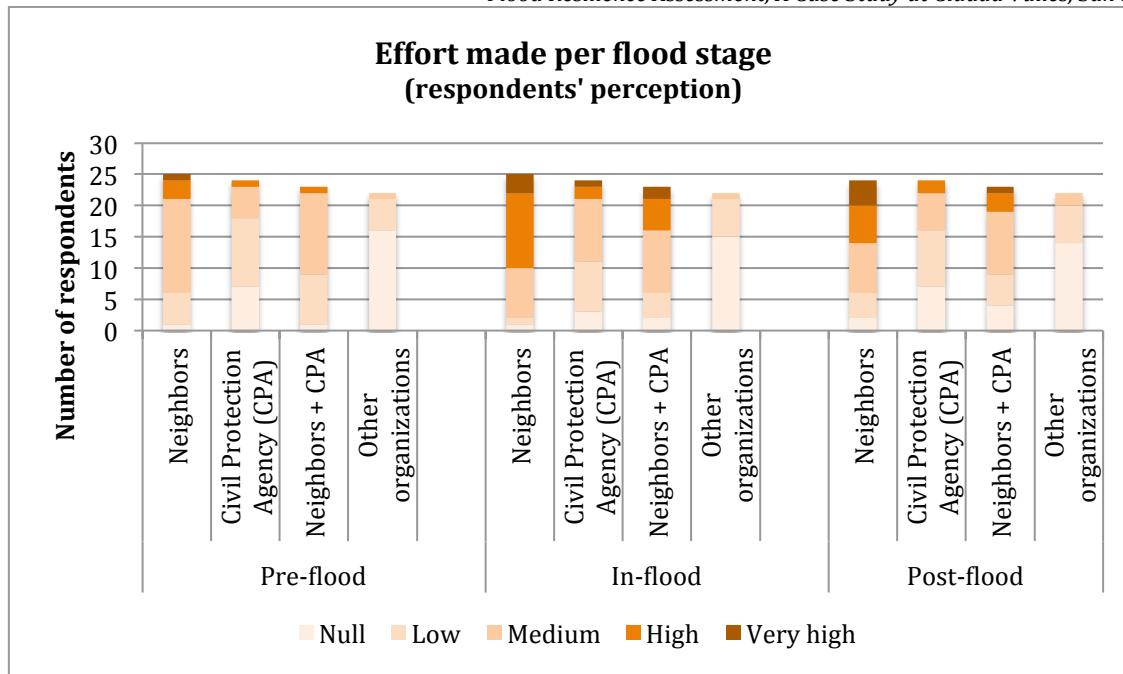
		<p>Informant: "The desilting...is the only thing that the city hall can do...that is indeed preventive, because...twice a year &lt;is done through an official petition&gt;..."</p> <p>Employer of Health Secretary: "...they are preventive measures that are being taken now to avoid many Dengue chases..."</p>		
<b>Measures during a flood</b>	<b>Actual measures</b>	-no comments-	-no comments-	There are no specifically planned measures of any kind (individual or group) to implement during a flood.
	<b>Actual improvised measures</b>	<p>Informant's friend: "...<i>j</i>se nos hubiera muerto doña Gloria sino la jalo!"</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...Mrs. Gloria would have died if I don't grab her""</p>	<p>"...y pues ya de ver que el arroyo esta subiendo y empieza a correr &lt;su esposo&gt;a tocar puertas...casa por casa"</p> <p>"...todos brincaron arriba, todos los vecinos estaban arriba, ¡todos! &lt;en la azotea&gt; y era una gritadera ¡horrible!"</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>"...and once he sees that the stream is rising and starts to run &lt;her husband&gt; to knock on doors...house by house"</p> <p>"...all hopped up, every neighbor was up&lt;at the roof&gt;, all of them! and it was a shouting scene ¡it was horrible!"</p>	The only measures during floods that neighbors do are improvised measures. They consists of disorganized activities such as spreading a flood alarm to all households, rescuing people trapped inside their houses, hopping up their roofs, among others.
	<b>Future or missed measures</b>	<p>Informant's friend: "...podemos poner una carrucha &lt;tirolesa&gt; ahí arriba &lt;el segundo piso de su casa&gt; para una evacuación de emergencia..."</p> <p>Informant: "tenemos que hacer rutas de evacuación"</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...we can put a pulley &lt;a zipline&gt; up there &lt;the second floor of his house&gt; for an emergency evacuation..."</p> <p>Informant: "we have to do evacuation routes"</p>	-no comments-	There seem to be any future measures planned, instead they identificate that an emergency evacuation procedure must be established.

<b>Measures after a flood</b>	<b>Actual measures</b> <p>Informant's friend: "...lo que hacemos es que nos ponemos a limpiar nosotros mismos...."</p> <p>Informant: "...&lt;sobre la reparación de la barda que la vaca tronó durante la inundación del 2008&gt;...a reparar...ponerle coperacha entre todos..."</p> <p>Informant: "al principio...Perdieron todo su valor adquisitivo ... no se vendían por nada... pero poco a poco como le hemos dado imagen y todo eso se ha ido rescatando..."</p> <p>Translate:</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...what we do is that we put ourselves to clean..."</p> <p>Informant: "...&lt;about the wall reparation that a cow broke during 2008 flood&gt; ...to repare...lets all put money to it..."</p> <p>Informant: "...at the beggining...they lost all their adquisitive value &lt;the houses&gt; they did not get sold by nothing...but slowly as we have been giving them image and all that was rescued..."</p>	<p>"Eran camionetas que llenábamos de basura, de lodo...Y pues no aguantábamos &lt;el trabajo excesivo cuando limpiaban escombros&gt;..."</p> <p>"...Y sí quedamos muy mal...con psicólogo...como medio año de que ocurrió eso &lt;la inundación del 2004&gt;...era por mi cuenta &lt;los costos de la terapia&gt;..."</p> <p>"...la vez pasada &lt;la primera vez&gt; nos tumbó la barda de acá &lt;el impacto del agua&gt;...Miguel &lt;su esposo&gt; la volvió a construir..."</p> <p>Translate:</p> <p>"They were trucks that were full of garbage, of mud...and we could not take it &lt;the excessive work when cleaning debris&gt;..."</p> <p>"...And we did ended very bad...with psychologist...like half year since that happened &lt;the flood of 2004&gt;...it went on my own &lt;the therapy costs&gt;..."</p> <p>"...last time &lt;the first time&gt; it overthrew the wall from here &lt;the impact of the water&gt;...Miguel &lt;her husband&gt; built it back together..."</p>	<p>The actual measures after a flood that the community perform are also responding to improvisation efforts. The cleaning effort is made in group at the begining, but at the end all neighbors focus more on their properties.</p> <p>The common infrastructure reparations are supported by community, but few ones seem to be fully involved in the process of repairing.</p> <p>The permanent cleaning sesions and the infrastructure reparations have helped to improve the suburb's image and returning its economic value to the properties.</p>
<b>Local authorities measures</b>	<p>Informant's friend: "...Protección Civil a veces avisa que se suspenden actividades &lt;suspensión oficial en la ciudad cuando ha habido una inundación extrema&gt;...en lo que sí ayudaban ellos era en sacar todo lo que no servía &lt;escombro &gt;..."</p> <p>Informante: "...hubo una "mano de chango" &lt;máquina para sacar los coches atorados y lo mandó la Dirección de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado&gt; ..."</p> <p>Translation:</p> <p>Informant's friend: "...Civil Protection sometimes announce that activities are suspended &lt;official suspension at the city when there has been an extreme flood&gt;...in what they do helped was in taking out all that does not functioned anymore &lt;debris&gt;..."</p> <p>Informant: "...there was a "mano de chango" &lt;machine to take out the cars that were jammed and it was sent by the Direction of Potable Water and Sewerage&gt;..."</p>	<p>-no comments-</p>	<p>The local authorities measures after the floods seem to be also minimal but key. Civil protection tends to help to remove the debris and machinery to remove heavy things, like cars, is borrowed by local authorities sometimes.</p>

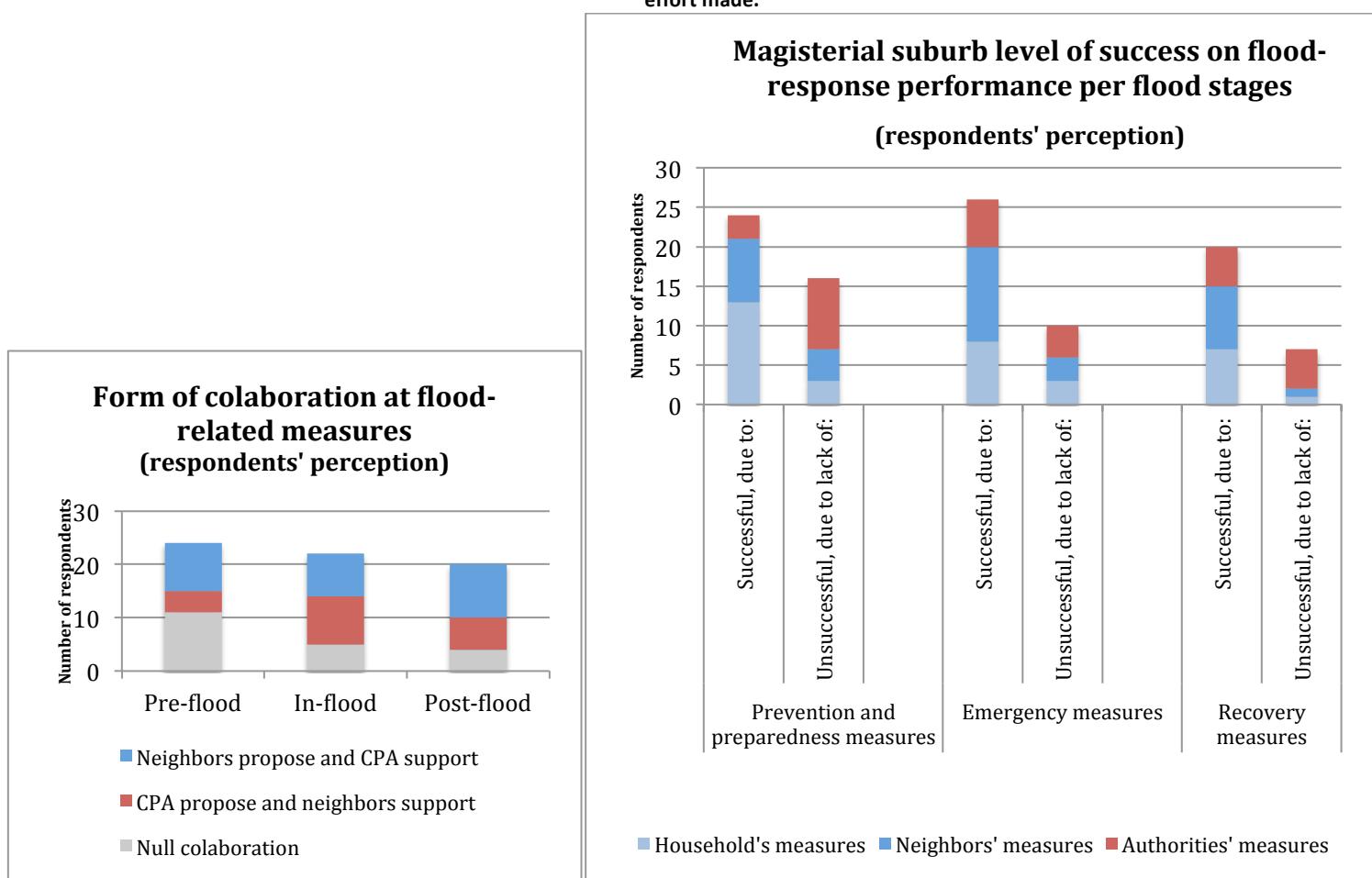
## Annex Details of performance of Coping-Response at Magisterial suburb



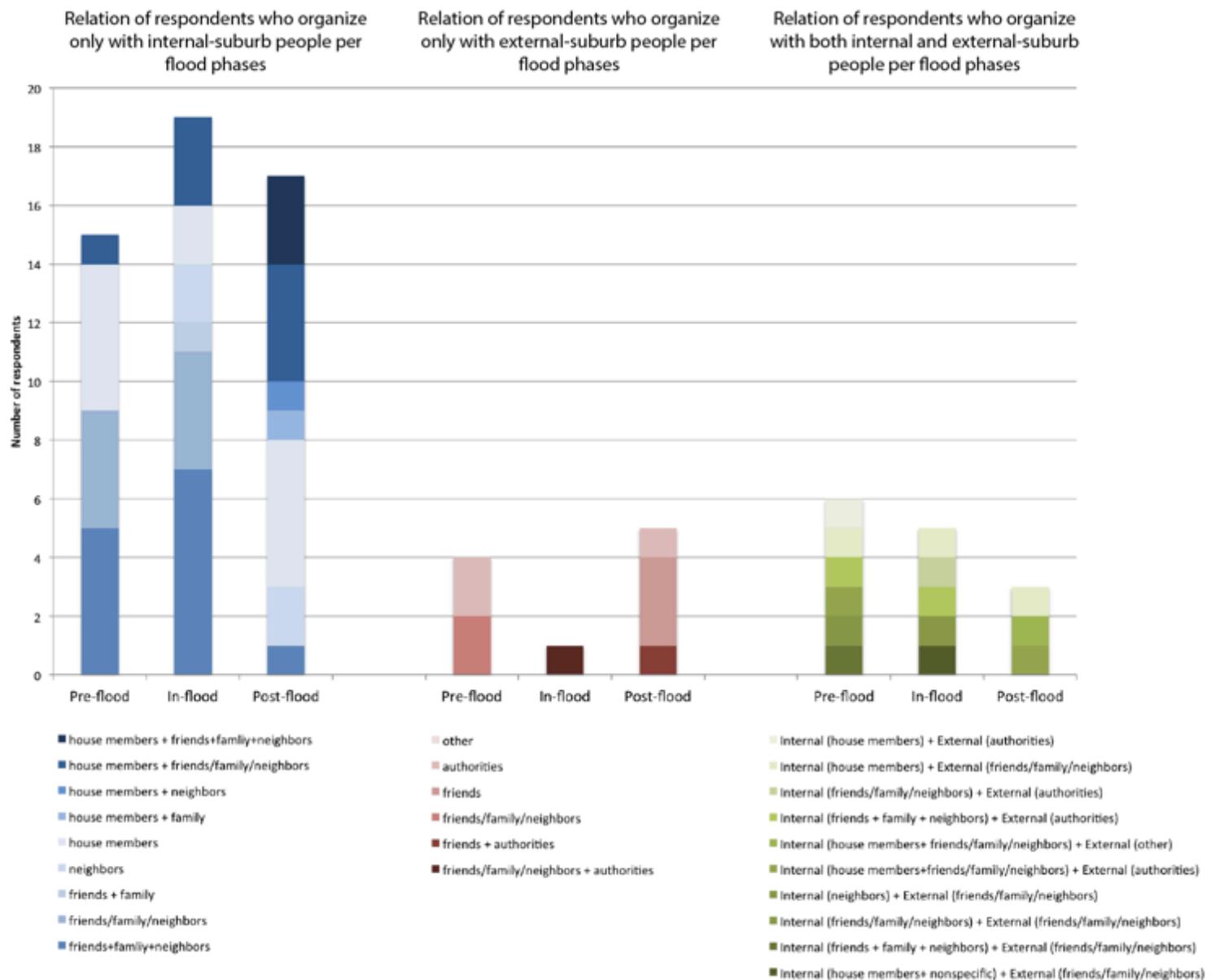
Graph 6 Actors involved in the implementation of pre-, in- and post-flood coping measures at Magisterial suburb.



**Graph 7** Level performance-effort made at Magisterial suburb by several actors during Pre-, In- and Post-flood stages. Darker colors mean higher effort made.



**Graph 8** Graph to the left presents respondents' perception regarding the form of collaboration between neighbors of Magisterial and Civil Protection Agency related to flood pre-, in- and post-flood stages. Graph to the right presents the respondents' perception of level of success/unsuccess of Magisterial suburb performance at pre-, in- and post-flood and cause of such success in terms of measures coming from household, neighbors (as group) and authorities' initiatives.



**Graph 9** Graphs that detail the relation of respondents' way of organizing before, during and after a flood event. Darker colors mean that organization implies more joined participation, in other words, involve more agents (e.g. house members + friends + family + neighbors has more agents than house members + family).

## Annex Suburbs of Ciudad Valles municipality under Flood Risk

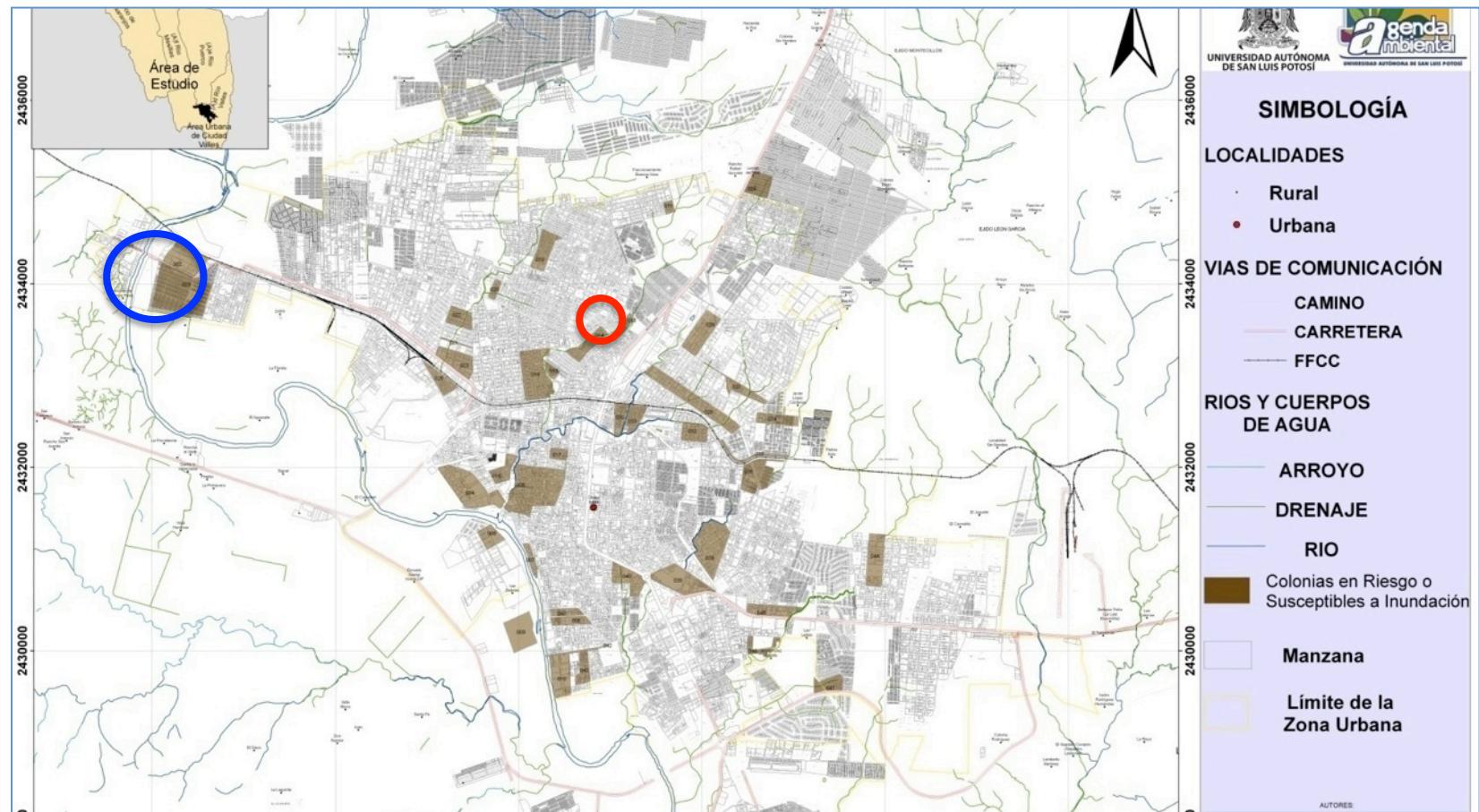


Image 32 The *Praderas del Río* suburb (under the blue circle) is the most affected suburb in Ciudad Valles, with a register of 112 affected households by the rising river of *Río Valles*, and Magisterial suburb (under the red circle) presents a total of 80 households but it is quite more small than *Praderas del Río*. Source: Agenda Ambiental, 2008.

## Annex Photographic register of 2008 flood event at Ciudad Valles city

Photographs provided by Specialized informant and close friend, both neighbors from Magisterial suburb Ciudad Valles



**Image 33 Left:** Damage caused to the fence and the car at the higher part of the city during the flood.  
**Right:** trees and light posts were completely broke and dragged by the torrent.



**Image 34** In the lower parts of Ciudad Valles municipality, the water reached considerable depths and higher retention time. Bottom pair of photos shows the same basketball court without flood (own actual photo) and during the 2008 flood.



**Image 35** Ciudad Valles population during the flood of 2008.

### Magisterial suburb



Image 36 People of Magisterial suburb after the flash flood of 2008



Image 37 Internal household damage (left), damaged furniture (chairs) (right).



Image 38 The neighbors of Magisterial reported total loss of cars. These cars were drag several meters by the torrent and ended up at lower parts of the city completely destroyed. Green car was found stocked over a bridge, blocking the river channel.



Image 39 Cars were lifted up and crashed against houses and light posts.



Image 40 Damages to public infrastructure (left); according to witnesses a floating cow destroyed this channel wall during the flood. The National Pedagogical University adjacent and immediately at the lower part of Magisterial suburb suffer great damage during the flood. Watermarks on the walls inside their library are visible and fence was blended by debris within the flash flood torrent. (photos from the bottom were taken at field survey 2014, own source)

