At the end of each training, program participants build a community infrastructure project incorporating locally available materials, such as bamboo, into the construction. Photo courtesy of Miyamoto International

It has been more than two years since a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Ecuador’s northern coast, causing at least 660 deaths and displacing more than 30,000 people. While seaside communities in Ecuador remain vulnerable to seismic activity, USAID/OFDA and partners are working with local authorities and disaster-affected community members to promote the building of earthquake-resistant homes.

With nearly $350,000 in USAID/OFDA funding, structural engineering company Miyamoto International is targeting nearly 750 homeowners, local builders, and masons from Manta, Pedernales, and Portoviejo cantons in Manabí Province for participation in a 20-hour training program, entitled the Ecuador Building Resilience Program (EBRP), on cost-effective solutions for constructing seismically sound structures.

EBRP was designed specifically for the Ecuadorian context and includes workshops on how to build safer, reinforced houses using locally available materials such as bricks, cement, and bamboo. The workshops feature hands-on participation so that trainees receive practical experience using the construction methods and are prepared to apply skills learned in their communities.

At the conclusion of each training program, homeowners and builders work together on a community infrastructure project, applying skills learned in the classroom and incorporating locally available building materials into the design and construction. In addition, a public awareness campaign reinforces key messages from the training through mass media, social media, and community fairs.

“This training program was designed to provide builders with the latest information on seismically resilient construction practices while empowering earthquake-affected, low-income homeowners to recognize and hold local builders accountable for adhering to construction standards and codes,” said Miyamoto International Regional Program Manager Corey Michaud.

“ội program has taken steps to promote the expanded use of bamboo as a cost-efficient, eco-friendly, and locally available building material. The use of bamboo not only enhances the structural integrity of the homes but also supports local livelihoods and sustainable development.”

At the end of each training, program participants build a community infrastructure project incorporating locally available materials, such as bamboo, into the construction. Photo courtesy of Miyamoto International
EBRP training program includes workshops on how to build safer, reinforced homes using locally available materials such as bricks, cement, and bamboo.

Photo courtesy of Miyamoto International