ON THE FRONTLINES OF EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS: A Q&A WITH KATHERINE ELIZABETH PEÑA NUNFIO

In El Salvador, earthquake risk is a constant reality. As Technical Specialist for Research and Risk Analysis at the General Directorate of Civil Protection, Katherine Elizabeth Peña Nunfio plays a crucial role in safeguarding communities. In this Q&A, she sheds light on the valuable insights gained through the FORCE project workshops and how they are empowering El Salvador to build a more resilient future.

How will the FORCE project workshops help you improve your earthquake emergency response capabilities?

The FORCE project workshops have been instrumental in strengthening our knowledge of earthquake risk management. This allows us to improve logistics by developing and updating our planning instruments based on realistic scenarios. These scenarios define the necessary resources (human, material, and financial) in advance, ensuring a more effective and timely response when an earthquake strikes.

How do you plan to use information from the workshops to develop more effective earthquake preparedness and mitigation strategies?

The insights gained from the workshops will be directly applied to our Earthquake Contingency Plan. We plan to use the information to develop specific response scenarios based on probable earthquake events. This will allow us to better prepare for and respond to future earthquake risks.

What are some of the challenges you face in communicating earthquake risk to the public in El Salvador?

Effectively communicating earthquake risk to the public in El Salvador presents several challenges. Striking a balance between generating appropriate warnings and avoiding unnecessary alarm is crucial. We need to convey the information in a clear, digestible, and inclusive way that is understandable by all segments of the population.

Using maps and graphs can be vital for this purpose. These tools help visualise the magnitude of an event and help the public grasp the magnitude of an event and facilitate our efforts to transmit the necessary information during such critical moments.