

TEMPORARY SHELTERS WILL MEET ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Engineer Corps of the Ecuadorian Army will apply accessibility criteria for setting up temporary shelters in the areas affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Ecuador on May 16, thanks to the advisory provided by the Technical Secretariat for the Inclusive Management on Disabilities (SETEDIS) of the Vice Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador.

Among the considerations for enabling the accessibility of the planned temporary shelters are: location on regular topography; circulation areas allowing effortless, fluid, unobstructed mobility; preferential cell (section) for priority attention groups (pregnant women, families with children up to 5 years old, older persons and persons with disabilities), located nearby the medical assistance area, dining room, main access, recreation area, and the accessible bathroom module; so as to keep a direct connection with all spaces and ensure security and autonomy.

Additionally, in the recovery and reconstruction phase, SETEDIS will deliver to the Committee for Reconstruction and Productive and Employment Reactivation methodological tools for designing accessible urban environments, which include ramps, tactile flooring, Braille signs, accessible restrooms, accessible furniture design, access to information and communication technologies, etc.

In this way, “Accessible Temporary Shelters” (in the emergency phase) and “Accessibility of Urban Physical Environments” (in the recovery and reconstruction phase) are two of SETEDIS’ contributions for ensuring the safety and protection of persons with disabilities and other priority attention groups in the aftermath of the earthquake in Ecuador. These measures are the result of the development by SETEDIS of the “Tool for the Validation, Selection, and Basic Equipment Kit Calculation for Accessible Shelters” and the “Ecuadorian Methodology for the Preparation of Universal Accessibility Plans”, both internationally awarded. These instruments adhere to and complement the Accessibility Chapter of the Ecuadorian Construction Norm, jointly created by SETEDIS and the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of Ecuador.

These measures, which comply with national and international norms, are part of the National Strategy for Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and the “Ecuador Lives Inclusion” Program, both implemented by SETEDIS.

Actions taken by SETEDIS in affected areas (since April 16, 2016)

Data

- SETEDIS is operating in the provinces of Los Ríos, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Esmeraldas, Santa Elena and Manabí, with volunteer psychologists, physicians, medical technicians, nurses, and Inclusive Disaster Risk Management specialists.
- In the province of Manabí, SETEDIS is operating in the cities of Portoviejo, Manta, Pedernales, Chone, Calceta, Crucita, Jama, San Vicente, Bahía de Caráquez, Tosagua, Montecristi, Jaramijó, and Rocafuerte.
- The 177 volunteers deployed have to this date identified 1,887 persons with disabilities in the affected areas.
- 715 persons with disabilities require housing.
- 431 persons with disabilities own land property.

Executive Decree 547

Issued on January 14, 2015, it stipulates the attributions of the Technical Secretariat for the Inclusive Management on Disabilities (SETEDIS). One of these is: the development and execution of plans, programs and projects aimed at providing attention for persons with disabilities, in the areas of Participative Inclusion, Productive Inclusion, and Universal Accessibility.