**Meeting at Iztapalapa**

Grupo “Cielo azul” is a health centre for the elderly. It is a non-partisan neighbourhood organization. They also started a cooperative that supports small-scale economic initiatives.

* In the context of the city sinking, risk mitigation has been focused in the problem caused by fractures in the subsoil.
* During rain water comes from the ‘Santa Catalina’ mountain range and collapse the drainage and contaminating the streets with sewage.
* That same day this group is having a meeting with those affected by the last flooding.
* The last census determined that there were 372 homes affected by the conditions described above.
* Ermita Zaragoza housing complex was built on top of the swamp ‘Santa Marta’. Historically, water would come from the hill forming a lagoon on this area. La Colmena complex was also located here in a total of 5,006 houses and from 18,000 to 30,000 inhabitants.
* Until 1998 the lagoon was formed during periods, as the water was filtered through the existing fracture. Here was not possible to build houses larger than one floor, however that still happened. Where La Colmena is located there was an old ‘regulating vessel’, the first flood here was due the latter exceeded its capacity. The authorities today are considering the location of a collector here; however, it is first necessary to know or what happens in the subsoil.
* From the last earthquake the communities began to communicate with each other. The biggest problem is that there was no water after the earthquake and the water stored was also over.
* The first flood began in 1994
* Currently, in the face of the last flood, an insurance will be activated in the La Colmena, which consists of economic repairs of the houses, does not solve the underlying problem. The authority told them to stay on the second floor of the houses since the light poles were giving discharges into the water, being of high risk to people. Water came out of the bathrooms. Despite being a very local rain, I generate a high level of damage.
* Some people in the meeting had taken a course with the resilience agency and a SACMEX crew helped them find a sinkhole that began to generate floods where there were none before. Civil protection began walking with neighbours to see the state of the houses. Thus, they were detecting new subsidence, homes with collapse, etc.
* The problem that these people see is that the wider community is not dimensioning the problem, they think the problem is only associated with the rains and they do not consider the danger generated by soil fractures.
* On the other hand, there are almost no green areas left that could have prevented flooding in homes.
* There was a scientific opinion that determined the need for a study of soil mechanics, since, as one of the neighbours says ‘we need to know where we stand.’ There is no insurance money to cover a disaster of such magnitude as the one that will cause the fracture.
* The reality of this area of ​​the city is not in the reported or documented. ‘You need to do more field work, travel the streets’ as one of the community members commented.
* Today this group is working with those who are interested. They will have meetings in 9 points of the council, where they expect to meet around 400 people. They are sure that in three weeks there will be more floods.
* Finally, 70% of the rainwater drainage network is collapsed due to the fracture in the soil. The options are either to fix the houses or relocate the families.
* What is necessary:
* Know the problem.
* Know what is going to be done. If it is a lawsuit, complete the forms.
* Coordinate with authorities. One option is to activate insurance for drainage failures paid by the state.
* Specific and on time help. Request SACMEX the reports
* Educate and train citizens (‘so they don't need us’ referring to the group that trained with SACMEX)
* One proposal from the group is that the team of researchers support them with a workshop aiming to prepare people for emergency. Reporting the events from the last flood, simulate them in real time and ask for the actions that were appropriate and useful for everyone.