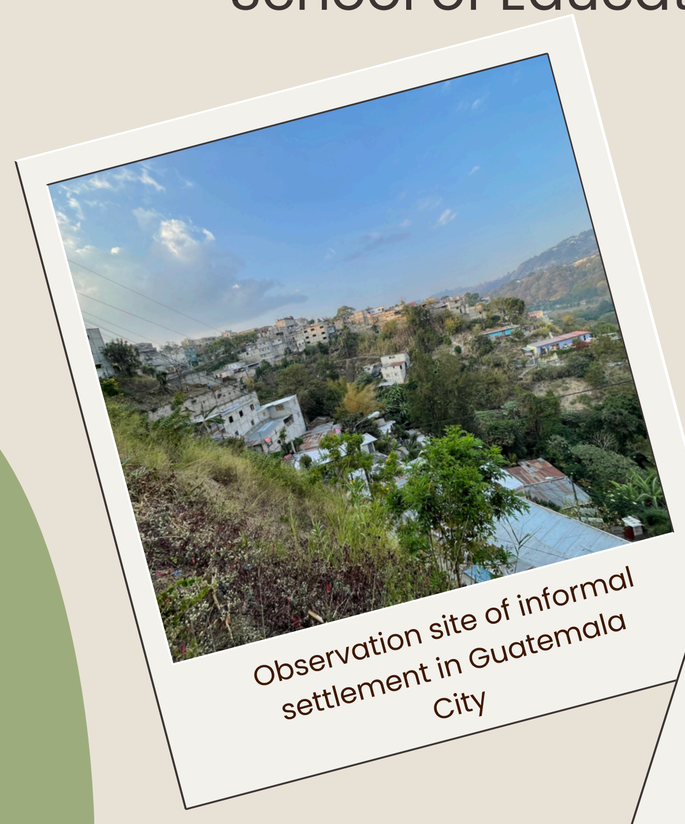
Left Behind Before a Disaster: Local Voices, Global Aid, and the Struggle for Preparedness

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Project Description

- Examines **international cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction** (DRR) in Guatemala City's infromal settlements
- Analyzes how **disaster preparedness funding** reaches vulnerable communities
- Evaluates whether DRR strategies **incorporate local knowledge**
- Investigates **the level of community engagement** in disaster preparedness initiatives
- The goal is to understand how international DRR efforts can better support vulnerable populations



Observation site of informal settlement in Guatemala City



Community project on waste management

Swedish Development Link

Expanded and streamlined climate aid

- Consideration shall be given to **climate and environmental impact** where relevant
- **Strengthen efforts** to ensure that development financing globally can be used to a **greater extent for proactive measures** in climate-related humanitarian crises

Methodology

The Methodology of the field study encompassed:

- **Semi-structural interviews** with NGOs, a Governmental institution, UN organizations, Aid agencies, and Community leaders
- One **field observation** at an informal settlement

Findings



Slopes where houses used to be before landslides



Informal settlement infrastructure

- **Fragmented DRR efforts in Guatemala City**
  - Fragmented governance and power asymmetries shape preparedness efforts
- **Limited influence of community engagement**
  - Engagement exists, but decision-making remains centralised
- **Exclusion of at-risk communities**
  - Aviodance of high-risk areas reduces inclusivity and impact