With only 19,000km2 and 6.2 millions inhabitants El Salvador is the most densely populated country of America (292.5/km 4 / 5 times the Central America average).

Close to 2 millions Salvadorians live abroad

In the last two hundred years it lost 98% of its original forestry.

Host 28 volcanoes, half considered active.

Several geodesic failures produce frequent earthquakes.

Share the hurricane basin of the east pacific and the Caribbean.

Poor in natural resources, is a net importer of food

Salvadorians are recognized as a hard worker, self sufficient and .... stubborn.
EL SALVADOR 2001 EARTHQUAKE

General Background 2

- 1978-92 a cruel civil war killed more than 125,000 people and ravaged the economy and major infrastructures.

- 1986 a severe Earthquake hit San Salvador, more than 40 thousand houses destroyed.

- 1998 hurricane Mitch produced serious floods, killing 250 people and affecting the most successful experiences of the post conflict reintegration process.

- 2001 in 30 days two major earthquakes (7.9 & 6.6 Richter), affected 85% of the national territory
EL SALVADOR 2001 EARTHQUAKE
Institutional Setup on the Response

- UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UNCT, efficiently managed relief response efforts.
- ECLAC & IFIs led assessment processes.
- UN Country Team developed its Reconstruction Strategy after Donors conference.
- Governmental structures adjusted their reconstruction strategies to expected donors funding. Strong advisory role from IFIs and some donors.
- UN specialized Agencies, develop closed linkages with local structures and civil society.
- Donor community become strategic partner of the UN, to address missing gaps of the recovery and reconstruction.
EL SALVADOR 2001 EARTHQUAKE
Addressing Risks and Vulnerabilities

- Social Vulnerabilities: vulnerable groups are more exposed to the risks, i.e. children, women head households, youth, unemployed, recovery and reconstruction could revert this processes.
- Economic damages are not self-evident. Informal economic activities are both the origin of major vulnerabilities as well as one of the most affected compartments, yet “less visible”.
- Reconstruction should contribute to enable local economic environment for livelihood recovery
- Quick impact responses, could contribute to convince reconstruction actors and mainstream strategic recommendations.
EL SALVADOR 2001 EARTHQUAKE Lessons Learns

- Impacts assessment led by ECLAC, with other UN agencies and IFIs, heavily concentrated on physical losses and macroeconomic impacts.
- UN Country Team Response Strategy, formulated too late to influence the process of the reconstruction conference.
- Donors Community defined their support strategies on the basis of proposals submitted in the Reconstruction Conference.
- Lack of operational coordination in recovery and reconstruction, reduced efficiency and effectiveness, principally with regard to major vulnerabilities.
- RE-construction many times led to reproduce factors of vulnerability, increasing risks, principally not addressing the informal world.
- Employment recovery was not directly targeted. Vulnerability reduction and the employment dimension of the recovery process should be addressed simultaneously.
WORLD CONFERENCE
IN DISASTER REDUCTION
KOBE, JAPAN
JANUARY 2005

THANKS