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Chapter 12

Incremental housing in Villa Verde, Chile: A view through the Sendai Framework lens

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1 Introduction

Researchers, community leaders, and general observers often claim that resilient communities cope with “natural” and human-made disasters in ways that significantly improve their recovery processes (Carrasco, Ochiai, & Okazaki, 2016; Davis, 2013; Lizarralde, 2009; Oliver-Smith, 1991; O'Brien & Ahmed, 2012; Schilderman, 2004). Thus, by empowering resilient communities and leveraging their capacities to rebound from disasters, governments and other support networks can promote households' quick and efficient recovery. Likewise, private-sector enterprises have a stake in resilient recovery processes as they also suffer from losses to productivity and facilities, and with impacts on their workers' housing and livelihoods.

The Villa Verde settlement in Chile exemplifies this type of inclusive approach. Following the 8.8-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that devastated many coastal cities in Chile in 2010, the city of Constitución, where 500 people died, lost nearly two-thirds of its housing stock (Fig. 12.1). The Chilean housing policy previously followed a top-down approach. However, the Villa Verde settlement embraced lessons from informal-housing procurement models, which encourage residents to take an active role in developing their houses. Aside from easing the financial burden on the government, this strategy reduces the economic risks faced by residents, who take control of their housing improvements according to their financial capacities. They are also able to develop their houses based on personal needs and aspirations.

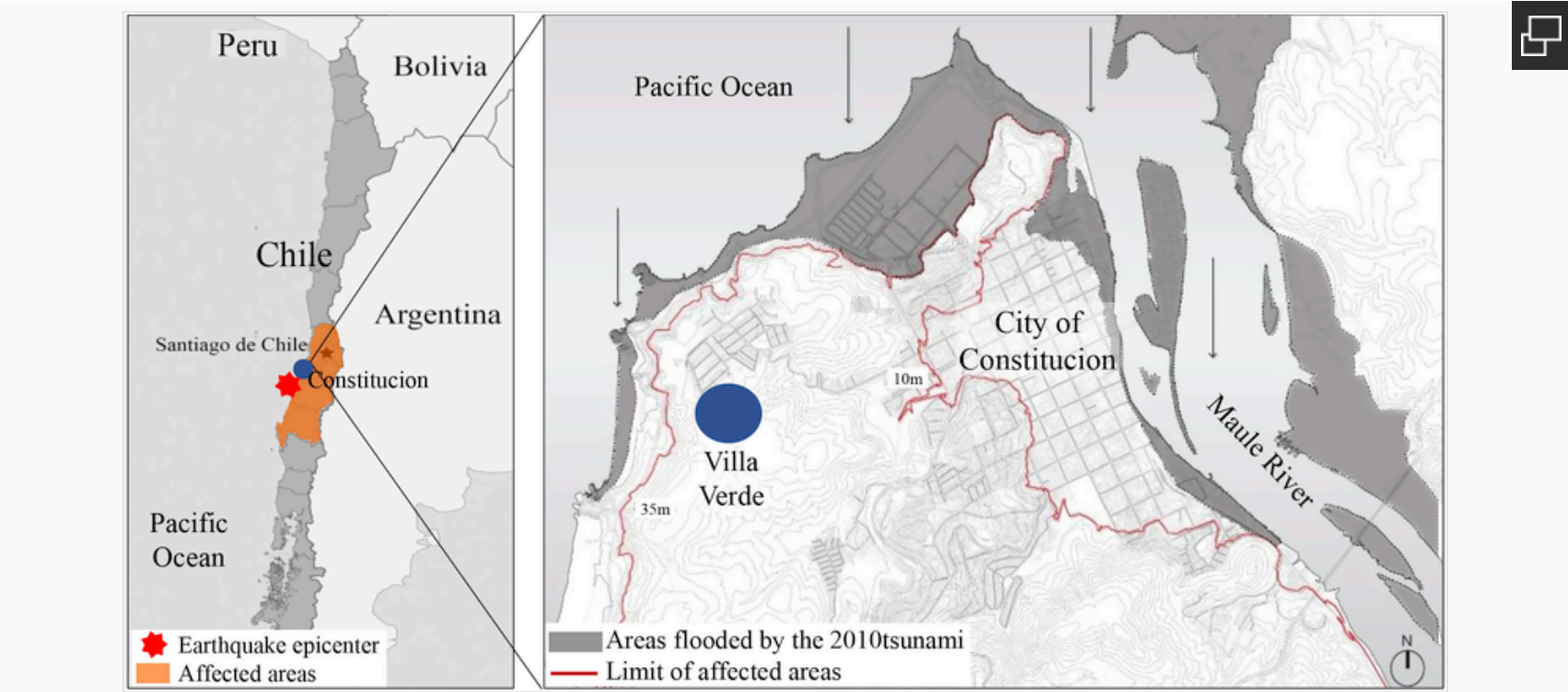


Figure 12.1 Location of Constitución and Villa Verde, in Chile.

Credit: The authors (2020), based on MINVU (Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo), Municipio de Constitución, & Arauco. (2010). Plan de Reconstrucción Sustentable PRES Constitución [Plan for the sustainable reconstruction of Constitución]. Retrieved from http://minvuhistorico.minvu.cl/links/download.aspx?alb_cod_nodo=20100010140077&bdd_nom_archivo=Plan