

# **Bogota Humana's climate resettlements: Displacement at the limits of the housing market in Colombia**

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## **Abstract**

This dissertation examines climate resettlements, and the challenges to this practice, posed by the housing market in Bogota, Colombia. Climate resettlements, unlike other types of resettlements, aim to relocate people who live in areas which climate model projections show are potentially at risk of disasters caused by floods and landslides. Specifically, the dissertation focuses on the city's development plan for 2012-2016 named *Bogota Humana* which called for a greater investment in climate resettlements. *Bogota Humana's* resettlements can be understood as an example of one of several emerging strategies cities are developing to adapt to the effects of climate change. Despite directing more resources to the resettlement policy than any previous administration it proved to be the least successful in completing resettlements. And, despite constructing more social housing units than previous administrations most of these were built in the urban periphery in areas classified at risk by the city's own zoning code. How can these contradictory results be explained? This dissertation argues that implicated in *Bogota Humana's* resettlement outcome are two defining features of the city's housing market, a growing housing deficit and growing informal settlements in the urban periphery. Therefore, this dissertation relies on a political and economic frame to examine the role played by the housing market in this case of climate resettlements. Through three independent though related chapters this research discusses the financial reforms to Colombia's housing subsidy system in the late 1990s, the subsequent housing crisis, and its contribution to the construction of Bogota's geography of risk. It also provides a spatial analysis, relying on GIS and statistical modeling, of Bogota's risk zoning strategy relative to the building of new social housing. It concludes with an analysis of the results from a household survey of neighborhoods targeted by Bogota's climate resettlement program. The dissertation finds a uniform prospective policy increased climate risks for residents given the city's limited resources, the heterogeneity of informal settlements, and the nature of the local housing market. Moreover, relying on the existing social housing subsidy system resulted in the displacement of families participating in the climate resettlement program further into the urban periphery often into risk areas.