

Development Workshop

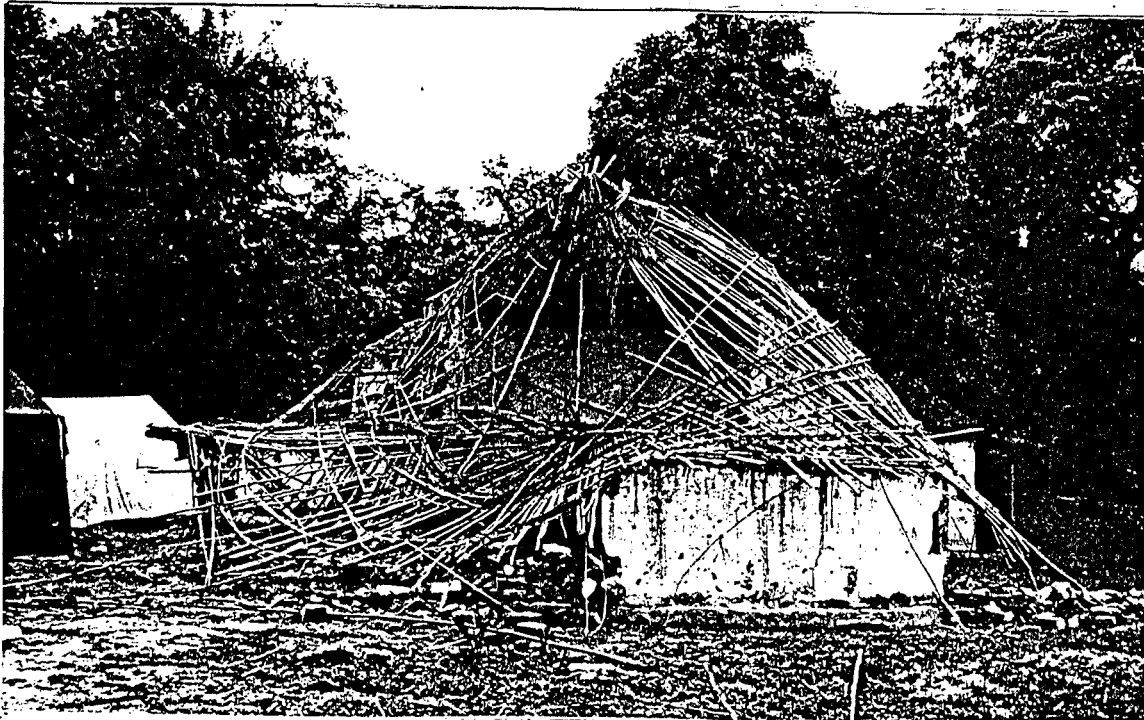
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project

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE ANALYSIS
Guinea, Koumbia earthquake

client

USAID



Damaged round house, Koumbia



Temporary shelter behind collapsed house, Koumbia

Development Workshop surveyed the damage in villages and the regional centre, Koumbia, following the December 1983 earthquake (Richter scale 6.3).

The survey included an assessment of local conditions, and identified main weaknesses in existing building forms and techniques.

Identifiable weaknesses were: instability of tall thin walls in all types of construction; poor lintels; lack of horizontal ties.

Recent trends towards the use of mud block walls in local material construction, and poor technique and shortage of materials in reinforced concrete construction increased the severity of damage sustained. Older, traditional construction, using timber lattice and mud plaster was quite resistant.

Survey results led to a practical construction training programme.