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Peru's Economic Present Situation and Infrastructure After El Nino Coastal Phenomenon

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PERU'S ECONOMIC PRESENT SITUATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE AFTER EL NIÑO COASTAL PHENOMENON



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RECONSTRUCTION PHASE CANNOT FAIL

- After three months of heavy rains since December of last year, the National Emergency Operation Center (COEN) has registered important data that by knowing it could make people think that the reconstruction phase will be difficult.
- This data includes injuries which are irrecoverable, such as the dead of 75 people, wounded and missing (more than 200), but also those who have been affected due to other cases (almost 630,000), until being considered victims (more than 100 thousand cases) and about 140 thousand houses damaged in different magnitude and 1,900 km of destroyed roads. In Lima, the largest number of affected people are concentrated in the district of Lurigancho (4,058), followed by Chaclacayo (720), San Juan de Lurigancho (45) and Punta Hermosa (45).
- A budget was calculated including the reconstruction phase work, in terms of roads, bridges, housing, irrigation canals, dams and cultivated areas, within total of 17.5 billion soles. To reverse this scenario would require an investment of the order of 7,000 billion dollars.
- El Niño Coastal Phenomenon has affected the economic projection growth. In February the Gross Domestic Product- GDP would have grown half of what was registered the previous month in a 4% by 2017.



These are some concepts that may be useful for the rehabilitation phase process:

1. Decision-making

Regarding the decentralization policy the local authorities should be responsible for the rehabilitation process. For this reason, the government or, eventually, the Congress of the Republic, should establish policies that facilitates the recovery of the city by sharing competencies that allows the approach in the reconstruction process under a centralized management, and with in coordination of the local and regional authorities.

2. Those who have less are the most affected

Local authorities have contributed to the contingency every time they have given land titles. Normally a family lives in a danger zone, because the land or rent is cheaper and has no alternative for their families.

3. Reconstruction will cost more than it would have cost to prevent

The State has to design a national program for zones in high risk, which forces them to look for soil services for the reconstruction task in order to relocate the affected people in the same or new areas, but with better building houses.

4. Have a strategy for facing reconstruction process.

With almost 150 bridges to be rebuild it is impossible to think that these will be tendered individually. Therefore, it should be taken into consideration that this type of infrastructure is key to the economic dynamism of the peoples and has to be restored in the shortest time, ensuring which is built taking care to foresee future similar situations.

5. Time is the key.

Already with more than 100 thousand victims, the 5 shelters that the government has created are not enough to meet the needs of families, while the reconstruction process lasts. Therefore, the task is to implement a greater number of these centers to meet the needs of the victims who have being affected with the support of the psychologists, social workers, among others.

EL NIÑO COASTAL PHENOMENON

EMERGENCY CHALLENGES

1. The characteristics of the El Niño Coastal Phenomenon as an unforeseen phenomenon.

The rapid evolution of the characteristics of the ocean-atmospheric system due to the El Niño Coastal 2017 did not allow the technical scientific institutions to give an early alert on the occurrence of the event, reason why there was no opportunity for the national government to put into action the Preparedness phase to allow risk mitigation actions in the affected areas.

2. According to the scientific institutions consulted, it is considered that although the impacts generated by the El Niño Coastal phenomenon was severe, it is estimated that the damages could have been three or four times the current ones if the country had not developed the projects of Mitigation and preparedness in 2015-16.

3. Vulnerability affected urban population in areas exposed to hazards.

The most vulnerable population to danger was (+ 1.55% per year) expressed to a greater extent comparing to the national level (+ 1.44% per year). In other words, in the future a greater proportion of people will find themselves in vulnerability.

Vulnerability studies point out that adverse and recurring natural phenomena have a direct effect on access to food, for about 7.1 million people (23% of the population) who live in districts with high or very high vulnerability to food security caused by natural phenomena.

4. Accessibility to affected areas.

The emergency caused many damage to basic infrastructure such as roads and bridges, limiting the traffic of goods and people normally between north and south. This aspect is very important, because these logistical difficulties are typical events by the El Niño Coastal phenomenon.

