

> Emergency Response in Peru

Within 48 hours of the magnitude 7.9 earthquake which struck south central Peru, the CHF Emergency Response Team (CERT) deployed to Pisco, and is currently on the ground, coordinating its relief efforts with the Government of Peru, the United Nations (UN), and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). The CERT is focusing its needs assessments on those affected communities where no assistance has been provided yet.

CERT has already identified San Jose de Los Molinos, an Afro-Peruvian community of about 7,000 which is traditionally underserved and is suffering its second catastrophe in less than a decade:

".... in January 1999, flooding washed away our district. Then, like today, relief assistance came late...we are Afro-Peruvian communities, and still we suffer from discrimination," said Guillermo Falcon, leader of a local NGO which is partnering with CHF to address the needs of the community.



"When a major disaster occurs, relief and early response tends to be concentrated in the most accessible areas. We at CHF always try to respond to underserved communities that usually don't get immediate attention," said Milton Funes, CERT leader.

Here, Milton is pictured with Mrs. Juana Araujo, 83 years old, who lost her home in the quake. In CHF's efforts to target the most vulnerable community members, Mrs. Araujo will be one of the first to receive a new transitional home.



"85% of the houses in San Jose were [destroyed] by the quake. Everything will need to get demolished, and we'll need to start from zero. Heavy equipment provided by the municipality has already started with this task," said Mariano Marcilla, municipal engineer.

Along the streets of San Jose de los Molinos, rubble and debris are scattered everywhere. As heavy equipment goes about tearing down unsalvageable wreckage, dust is increasingly spewed into the air, and masks are not available.

CHF's proposed plan of action to support San Jose's reconstruction & livelihoods

- > Provide **transitional shelter** to those identified as the most needy (the elderly, the disabled, women-headed households, and those with large families);
- > Build a **daycare services center** for small children, the disabled, and the elderly;
- > **Reconstruct and refurbish public buildings** such as damaged schools and the local health post;
- > Provide small individual (or community) **entrepreneurial grants** for women;
- > Design and build a **youth activity center**; and
- > Promote **Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs)**, in which groups of individuals come together and make regular cyclical contributions to a common fund. In each cycle, the lump sum is given to a different member of the group.

In order to accomplish these targets and reach even more underserved communities, CHF needs your help. Donate online (www.chfinternational.org/donate), or by phone: 1-866-7792-CHF.



Mr. Felix Escobar is the mayor of San Jose de los Molinos. CERT meets with him regularly to receive the latest report on damages. He told our team that within the 24 communities of the district, 971 houses are destroyed and 496 severely damaged. Still unknown is how many of the damaged houses will need to be demolished. At least **4,516 people in the district are homeless**, and 24% are children below the age of 10.

Due to the destroyed homes, schools, clinics, and other infrastructure, San Jose looks like a **war zone** with debris and rubble strewn everywhere. Entire classrooms were destroyed, and it is inevitable that classes will be delayed. In the meantime, children spend their time hanging around in dusty streets, or helping their parents tear down what is left of their houses.

In line with CHF's community-based approach to emergency response, the CERT team is working closely with the government of San Jose de Los Molinos, local NGOs, and the community members themselves, to identify community needs and priorities.

One such priority is the rebuilding of the community's only health post. At the moment, **one doctor** serves the entire community and can only provide basic medical services. Health risks are high due to dust, rats in open areas, and exposure to the severe desert climate. Additionally, the earthquake damaged the town's cemetery and left bodies and coffins exposed.



The CHF team provides emotional support to Mrs. Rosa Valenzuela. She is currently living with her mentally handicapped daughter of 11 years in a shelter made of debris.

At least 40% of households in San Jose de los Molinos are run by single working mothers. Some 90% of them work as labor in the extensive agricultural plains of Ica. Today these women are facing the decision to either go back to work and leave their children and few assets behind, or stay at home cleaning up debris but not earning income.

CHF proposes providing these women with small, entrepreneurial grants instead. "This could bring the freedom that single working women need to take care of their families, and to carry on with reconstruction activities while generating income at the same time," said Mayor Escobar.



CHF was the first organization to begin rebuilding shelters following the quake. However, in order to continue helping the people of San Jose de los Molinos, and others in rural areas which have not yet been served, **CHF urgently needs your help.**

We look forward to partnering with your organization to provide underserved communities in Peru with the resources and know-how to begin rebuilding their lives. If interested, please contact our Office of External Relations. For regular updates on our progress, visit our website at www.chfinternational.org.