

# Restart in the crisis region - Reconstruction and strengthening of public services

## Context

Heavy rainfalls in 2017 led to flash floods and flooding with devastating consequences for the Peruvian north coast. Large parts of the local infrastructure were destroyed, the water supply collapsed and many municipalities –the platform for emergency relief and reconstruction– were practically incapacitated. Particularly affected were the communities of the Trujillo metropolitan area.

## Objective

The municipal administrations of the particularly affected communities of Laredo, El Porvenir, La Esperanza, Víctor Larco Herrera and Huanchaco in the Trujillo metropolitan area (La Libertad) have well-functioning structures in order to ensure rapid restoration of public services.

## Approach

The collapse of centralized supply systems in the worst affected areas of the Peruvian north coast by flash floods and flooding required rapid and unbureaucratic action. German cooperation and municipal water companies provided emergency relief for the temporary restoration of drinking water supply and sanitation in the crisis region.

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Based on these emergency measures, municipalities in the Trujillo region will be supported in setting up an improved drinking water supply. In addition, the establishment of local early warning systems and the development of strategies and the optimization of processes of public administration will be promoted to prevent collapses of the administrative structures caused by climate events. In this context, the municipal emergency control centres are accompanied in the analysis and identification of potential hazards as well as in the preparation of risk maps and contingency plans. In order to efficiently supply public services during and immediately after extreme weather events, the project advises municipalities in optimizing their municipal centres, administrative procedures and local infrastructure. Employees of the municipalities are trained in the correct and rapid implementation of emergency plans.



*Left: Earth masses were swept away by rivers and brooks in the district of Laredo.*

*Right: House destroyed by flash flood in the village of Quirihuc, Laredo district.*



*Flooding in the district of Laredo.*

## Results

A total of nine villages with more than 9,000 inhabitants in the municipality of Laredo have access to treated drinking water of good quality. The Technical Department for Rural Drinking Water Supply is able to support the facilities run by village micro-cooperatives in emergency situations to ensure the constant drinking water supply of the population. The regional government, which has participated in the project and installed a new treatment plant, has the necessary know-how to introduce the technologies in other rural communities.

In the municipalities of El Porvenir and La Esperanza, municipal emergency control centers were set up or strengthened in their readiness of operation. They are equipped with manuals on

emergency measures for flooding, flash floods and earthquakes. The employees are able to apply these manuals as well as implement packages of measures in emergency situations. The emergency control centers are linked with each other and exchange their experiences with the control center of the higher provincial government.

In the communities of Victor Larco and Huanchaco, the weaknesses and vulnerability of their tax collection systems were analyzed. Employees in all relevant areas of the tax collection system in Huanchaco municipality were trained.

Civic Platforms in all five communities are improved and able to support citizens during and after disasters.

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