

## **A human Development Approach for the Construction of Safe and Healthy Adobe Houses in Seismic Areas**



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### **ABSTRACT**

The Pisco (Peru) earthquake of August 15<sup>th</sup> 2007 caused the death of more than 500 persons and the destruction of many historical monuments and more than 50 thousand homes mainly built with adobe. The Peruvian government promptly created a special agency to manage the reconstruction process.

This paper presents a proposal developed by the Catholic University of Peru and CARE-Peru for the construction of new earthquake-resistant and healthy houses made of reinforced adobe, to be built by the low-income families which have access to a reconstruction bonus offered by the government.

The philosophy behind the proposal is that the communities involved in the reconstruction process should not be mere patients of external aid, but should be agents of their own development. An important goal of the process is therefore the development of the capacities of the participants in such a way that in the future they will be capable of building safe and healthy adobe houses. The proposal involves the development of educational materials, dissemination strategies for improving adobe construction, training of the community builders, supervision of the construction by the home owners, and follow-up of the quality of future construction with adobe.

### **KEY WORDS :**

Adobe, earthquake safety, human development.