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Deborah Tyroler

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El Salvador: National Reconstruction Plan

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 30, Planning Minister Mirna Lievano told reporters that US\$900 million will be needed for the government's National Reconstruction Plan to be implemented once definitive peace accords between the government and rebels are reached. Lievano said the government plans to spend about US\$17.5 million for the initial stage of the program. Officials hope to obtain the remaining funds from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the European Economic Community (EEC), among other foreign sources. The three-stage reconstruction program is based on an exhaustive evaluation of damage and destruction to the nation's infrastructure over the past 12 years of civil war, and on similar plans carried out in Nicaragua, Colombia and Sri Lanka. The program would be implemented by government agencies and independent organizations. Priorities during the first 12 to 18 months of reconstruction are job creation, industrial recovery, production incentives, and delivery of basic health care services. For the next three to five years, the program would focus on national reconciliation, and repair and expansion of public services such as electricity, telecommunications, and transportation. Lievano said principal target populations include 120,000 persons displaced by the war, 30,000 repatriated refugees and 800,000 Salvadorans residing in war zones. The number of demobilized rebels and former soldiers to receive assistance under the reconstruction program will be defined in the cease-fire negotiations. Self-help and economic recovery projects are planned for communities located in 99 municipalities most severely affected by the war. According to Lievano, damage to the telecommunications system is estimated at US\$327 million; to the electricity grid, US\$255 million; roads and bridges, US\$99 million; water treatment and distribution, US\$58 million; railways, US\$92 million; and, transportation facilities, US\$94 million. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 11/30/91, 12/02/91; Notimex, 12/02/91)

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