

#### 4. Socio-economic Impact

Several major civil infrastructures in the north of Honduras along the Valle de Sula (Petrochemical Terminals, Bridges, and Levees) were crippled by the earthquake events of May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and will have a lasting impact on the socio-economic recovery. The Chevron Terminal at Puerto Cortés has been closed for more than a month due to safety concerns, most tanks have been emptied and gasoline distributed on trucks. This terminal supplies about 40% of the gasoline to the country and in some service stations gasoline is becoming scarce. The 60km of damage levees due to large longitudinal cracks and lateral spreading are currently being repaired by the CEVS corps of engineers. However, these weakened earth structures will remain vulnerable to flood events during hurricane season which starts in September. Other building damage, primarily residential and small commercial, was also observed throughout the region and was not the focus of this investigation. The officials at the local municipality in Puerto Cortés, in conjunction with COPECO, conducted a detailed damage assessment survey and identified more than a thousand damaged residences.

#### 5. References

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