

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

NICARAGUA: MUDSLIDES 1 July 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Three tropical waves have passed over Nicaragua in recent days, bringing heavy rains that have affected the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North, Central and Pacific regions of the country. The Department of Matagalpa in the centre of the county has been particularly hard hit. The rains have caused more than 60 mudslides in the area around Musun Mountain, killing 19 people. Another 13 people are reported missing. The number of casualties has been relatively low since the area is sparsely populated, but Nicaraguan officials say the death toll could rise as high as 50. About 1,400 people from the Musun Mountain area have taken shelter in the nearby town of Río Blanco.

In the Atlantic region of the country, there are more than 60 communities located along the banks of the Prinzapolka River. The rising river level has caused flooding in the communities of Walpasixa, Layasixa, Wuanta, Tuburu, Dos Amigo, Linbayka and Alamikamba. Thus far, there has been no loss of life or structural damage, but there has been damage to farmland, which is affecting the subsistence farmers in the area. The National Emergency Committee, through the Prinzapolka Municipal Committee, is coordinating activities with NGOs to provide assistance to the affected population.



The Nicaraguan government's National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System (SINAPRED) has activated the Disaster Operations Centre, the National Emergency Committee and the Municipal Committees for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response. The Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) has been participating in decision-making regarding response to the emergency through representation in these organizations.

Red Cross action

Since the beginning of the emergency, the NRC has been working in the affected areas to provide relief to those affected by the mudslides. In the hard-hit department of Matagalpa, the Río Blanco branch of the NRC, with the support of the National Society's Emergency and Disaster Response Unit, has been assisting affected persons in the Musun Mountain area, moving them from high risk zones to the shelters that have been set up in Río Blanco. Red Cross volunteers from nearby Mantiguas are also participating in the relief effort.

The National Society plays a key role in SINAPRED and is part of SINAPRED's Special Operations Commission, and the Commission for Logistics, Supplies and Temporary Shelters. The Special Operations Commission consists of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces, the National Police, Fire fighters and the Nicaraguan Red Cross. Rescue teams from this commission, including members of the NRC, have been carrying out search and rescue, evaluation and emergency care activities in the affected areas. With the Commission for Logistics, Supplies and Temporary Shelters, the NRC has taken charge of the administration of shelters in the affected areas.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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