

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

## EL SALVADOR: FLOODS AND VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

Appeal no. 05EA020  
24 October 2005

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 REVISED EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,288,347 (USD 1,000,432 OR EUR 835,891) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 21,000 BENEFICIARIES (4,200 FAMILIES) FOR 6 MONTHS**

*(click here to go directly to the attached Revised Appeal budget)*

#### Appeal history:

- LAUNCHED ON 6 OCTOBER 2005 FOR CHF 487,000 (USD 379,798 OR EUR 315,055) FOR 4 MONTHS TO ASSIST 21,000 BENEFICIARIES (4,200 FAMILIES).
- DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) ALLOCATED: CHF 149,400 (USD 114,820 OR EUR 96,262)

**GIVEN THE RESULTS OF ASSESSMENTS AND THE MAJOR NEEDS OF VULNERABLE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY FLOODS AND VOLCANIC ACTIVITY, THE SALVADOREAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (SRC) DREW UP A "COUNTRY PLAN"; THIS APPEAL HAS BEEN REVISED TO INCLUDE A REHABILITATION COMPONENT WHICH FORMS PART OF THE OVERALL COUNTRY PLAN OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY.**

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>

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

## The situation

El Salvador has been struck by two natural disasters in recent weeks. Firstly, the Ilamatepec volcano, which has shown increased activity in recent months, began hurling out hot lava rocks on 1 October, killing at least two people and forcing more than 2,000 to flee. Secondly, the country has experienced heavy rains, flooding and landslides as a result of the passage of Hurricane Stan through the region. To date, rains brought on by Hurricane Stan have killed an estimated 747 people in Mexico and Central America, including 69 in El Salvador.

The Ilamatepec volcano, also known as Santa Ana, located 66 kilometres (41 miles) west of the capital, began rumbling and emitting thick plumes of smoke that reached more than 10 kilometres (nine miles) into the sky just after 8:30 a.m. (1430 GMT) on Saturday, 1 October. Military emergency sirens blasted, calling for an immediate area evacuation of the nearby towns and soon after the volcano began hurling glowing lava and ash from its crater. The volcano began to expel magma on the side of the town of San Blas, while the ash was carried by a south-south-westerly wind. Hot lava rocks expelled by the volcano ranged from the size of a football to the size of a car. Layers of ash up to five millimetres thick spread over the canton of Los Naranjos, to the west of the volcano. The municipalities of Nahuizalco and Juayua in the department of Sonsonate and La Hachadura in the department of



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Ahuachapan were also affected. The National Emergency Committee (COEN) declared a red alert in the area within 4,000 metres of the volcano, and a yellow alert in other nearby areas.

Officials with the National Emergency Committee said that by 1 p.m. Saturday 1 October 2,250 people had been evacuated from the danger zone and at least seven people were injured by red hot lava rocks spewed into the air by the eruption, according to the national police. Two people were killed when 200 residents were evacuated from the town of Palo Campana, located just two kilometres from the crater. Residents fled aboard trucks when a flood of boiling water from an underground lake rushed down from the crater from three directions. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture estimates that some 7,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the country's coffee crops have been covered in ash and have likely been destroyed.

Some 20,000 people live in the area surrounding the volcano. In addition to the activity in the Ilamatepec Volcano, localized tremors have been detected in the Chaparrastique Volcano, in

the department of San Miguel, according to the National Service of Territorial Studies (SNET). The Chaparrastique Volcano, also known as the San Miguel Volcano, has been one of the most active volcanoes in El Salvador in recent years.

El Salvador was seriously affected on 4 October by heavy rains when Hurricane Stan, at that time a category one hurricane, passed over the Gulf of Mexico, near the Yucatan Peninsula. Hurricane Stan, the 18<sup>th</sup> named storm of an extremely busy Atlantic hurricane season, first formed as a tropical depression off the east coast of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. It quickly strengthened to a tropical storm as it moved across the peninsula, bringing heavy rains to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and southern Mexico. The storm continued to build strength once it was again over the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and became a category one hurricane just before coming ashore in the Mexican state of Veracruz. Rains brought by Stan were particularly heavy on the Pacific coast of Central America.

The rainy season in El Salvador generally runs from the end of May through to the middle of October. This year, the rainy season began in mid May and has been particularly heavy; according to SNET, the country received 500

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percent more rain during September than the historical average for that month. In addition, in May the country experienced heavy rains due to the passage of the first hurricane of the hurricane season in the eastern north Pacific. COEN declared a red alert as the intense rains caused severe flooding in many areas of the country. The National Legislative Assembly also declared a State of Public Calamity and National Disaster, effective 4 October 2005.

The heavy rains have caused several of the country's rivers and lakes to overflow, causing flooding in the following departments:

Department	Rivers
Ahuachapán	Paz, Carasucia, El Rosario, Los Zanjones El Chino and Aguacate, Sacramento
La Libertad	Sucio, Perla, Majahual, Colón, Cosamagua, Chilama, Huiza, Tihuapa and Sunzal
La Paz	Comalapa, comapa, Jiboa, Afluentes Tilapa y Sepaquiapa, Jalponga, Amayo, Sapuyo, Guayabo con sus afluentes San Antonio and Aguacate
La Unión	Sirama, Goascorán, Pasaquina and Santa Rosa
Morazán	San Francisco, San Carlos and Corola
San Salvador	Guazapa, Las Cañas, Acelhuate and its tributaries in the metropolitan area of San Salvador
San Vicente	Lempa
Sonsonate	Suncita, San Pedro, Sensunapán, Ceniza, Apancoyo and Ayacachapa
Usulután y San Miguel	Grande de San Miguel and smaller tributaries

Departments	Lakes
Santa Ana	Lago Coatepeque and Lago de Guija
San Miguel	Laguna de Olomeda
San Salvador	Lago de Ilopango

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society, in coordination with other relief agencies, has evacuated thousands of people affected by the flooding and volcanic activity and transported them to shelters that have been set up in the affected areas. The following numbers of people in El Salvador have been affected by the floods and volcanic activity:

Department	No. of beneficiaries in shelters	No. of shelters	Deaths
Ahuachapan	3,963	54	1
Cabañas	259	3	--
Chalatenango	381	9	--
Cuscatlan	1,710	30	2
La Libertad	13,606	150	26
La Paz	8,502	64	5
La Unión	---	--	1
Morazán	113	1	1
San Miguel	180	3	--
San Salvador	10,605	132	22
San Vicente	6,259	30	2
Santa Ana	6,941	54	2

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Sonsonete	12,160	98	3
Usulután	4,924	25	4
<b>Total 14 departments</b>	<b>69,603</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>69</b>

**The needs****Immediate needs:**

Through damage and needs assessments, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society has determined that the greatest needs as a result of the volcanic activity and floods are for food, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets, and mosquito nets as many residents were forced to flee their homes, bringing with them only a few personal items. There is also a need for educational kits as many school age children lost their school supplies. Of the families that have been relocated to the official shelters set up both as a result of the volcanic activity and of the flooding, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society will prioritize 4,200 families to receive essential relief items.

**Longer-term needs:**

In the longer-term, given that many vulnerable families' homes were lost or damaged, together with their possessions and/or crops, there is a need for assistance with housing in order that families may leave the shelters; the Salvadorean Red Cross Society also plans to distribute seed packages to help farmers whose crops were lost so that they may replant. The National Society also seeks to distribute vouchers for the purchase of educational supplies to encourage families to continue sending their children to school. In addition, vulnerable communities and those living in shelters will be assisted with training in basic hygiene and sanitation, access to clean drinking water and psychosocial support to help beneficiaries recover from the effects of the disasters.

*These longer-term activities were defined through the Salvadorean Red Cross Society "Country Plan" developed to address the needs arising from the volcanic activity and floods emergencies.*

**Coordination**

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society is part of the National Emergency System (SISNAE), which coordinates all disaster response activities on the part of the Salvadoran government through the Emergency Operations Centre. The SRC is also coordinating its actions with international organizations, such as the United Nations agencies and NGOs. The SRC is working in close coordination with the Panama Regional Delegation and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), as well as Partner National Societies present in the country.

**The proposed operation****Objectives and activities planned****Emergency relief (food and non-food)**

**Objective: 1,000 families affected by the volcano and 3,200 families affected by the floods will have benefited from the distribution of food and non-food relief items.**

Food kits contain the following items:

<b>FOOD PARCELS</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Corn flour	30 pounds
Rice	20 pounds
Beans	30 pounds
Salt	2 pounds
Sugar	10 pounds
Vegetable Oil	1 gallon (17.5 pounds)
Incaparina	2 pounds

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111.5 pounds</b>
<i>Food parcels are calculated to provide 2,100 calories for a family of five for 30 days.</i>	
<b>KITCHEN KITS</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
7-L aluminium pot with handles	1 unit
5-L aluminium pot with handles and lid	1 unit
2.5-L aluminium saucepan with lid	1 unit
aluminium bowls	5 units
aluminium plates	5 units
plastic mugs	5 units
plastic glasses	5 units
aluminium cutlery (spoon, knife, fork)	5 units
15-cm kitchen knife	1 unit
30-cm kitchen spoon	1 unit
<b>FAMILY HYGIENE KITS</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Bath soap (125g)	5 units
Shampoo (125mL)	2 units
Toothbrush	5 units
Toothpaste (130g)	5 units
Toilet paper (roll)	12 units
Sanitary towels (box of 10)	3 units
Cotton towels (70 x 30cm)	5 units
Disposable razor	5 units
Deodorant	2 units
Comb (men)	1 unit
Comb (women)	2 units
<i>Hygiene kits are designed for a family of five for 30 days</i>	

It is planned that during distributions, SRC volunteers will give educational talks on the subject of community-based disaster preparedness in order to promote contingency and response planning in risk-prone communities and amongst families living in hazardous areas.

**Activities to date:**

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has mobilized 85 vehicles to the affected areas, including ambulances, pick ups and water tankers, carrying 2,500 volunteers, relief supplies and generators, among other equipment. The distribution of relief items is being carried out by the SRC relief department, in coordination with departmental

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branches and with the support of National Intervention Teams (NITs) and volunteers from the affected departments. Currently, the SRC is carrying out search and rescue, psychosocial support and distribution of relief supplies to shelters, water distribution, as well as damage and needs assessments. The SRC began distributing relief items on 2 October in the municipalities of El Congo, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Izalco, Armenia, Nahuizalco, and Juayua. In total, 1,412 families received food kits, hygiene kits, kitchen kits blankets and drinking water on the first day of the relief operation. In addition, volunteers have received personal protection equipment, including gloves, masks and protective goggles.

To date, the following relief items have been distributed to a total of 7,853 families (38,787 people) in El Salvador with funding from the Federation, together with funding provided through national donors and PNS working directly with the National Society including the Spanish Red Cross, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) and the Swiss Red Cross.

Department	Persons	Families	Hygiene Kits	Food Kit	Kitchen Kits	Blankets	Buckets	Plastic Sheeting	Mattresses
Ahuachapán	1,145	229	229	229	0	0	229	0	
Cuscatlán	1,325	265	361	175	0	260	225	27	
La Libertad	3,159	781	1,585	715	26	420	689	0	
La Paz	4,865	1,006	638	279	0	42	3	98	
La Union	175	35	35	35	0	70	35	0	
Santa Ana	3,200	640	655	595	492	862	112	0	
San Miguel	2,225	445	445	445	0	890	445	0	
San Salvador	7,649	1,332	1,287	754	17	1,811	436	152	13
San Vicente	4,240	848	815	0	0	0	757	681	
Sonsonate	3,754	772	772	18	0	1,544	397	0	
Usulután	7,050	1,500	1,498	1,498	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,787</b>	<b>7,853</b>	<b>8,320</b>	<b>4,743</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>5,899</b>	<b>3,328</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>13</b>

In addition, on Sunday, 16 October, four trucks were dispatched from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit to El Salvador carrying the following relief goods: 14,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, 2,000 kitchen sets and 2 sets of visibility items. Of these relief goods, 10,000 blankets, 2,000 hygiene kits and 2,000 kitchen sets were mobilized on behalf of the Spanish Red Cross for the distributions to be carried out by the Salvadorean Red Cross Society/Spanish Red Cross.

The SRC is also using the relief distributions as an opportunity to share information with the beneficiaries about food preparation, personal hygiene, psychosocial support and disaster preparedness. Posters are being hung in shelters, schools and other public areas containing education messages. Shelters are also working to provide recreational activities for children to help them cope with the disaster.

The SRC branches in Santa Ana, Sonsonate and Juayua have been provided with portable radio communication equipment as well as equipment to repair the repeater that is being used near the volcano. Two additional repeaters have been moved from the National Society headquarters in San Salvador to the affected areas to further facilitate communication.

*The Salvadorean Red Cross Society is working in the framework of a two year “Country Plan” which the National Society drew up in order to address the needs resulting from the volcanic activity and floods emergencies. The rehabilitation component of this Revised Appeal is taken from the overall country plan which includes numerous medium to long-term objectives and activities. Should you be interested in receiving the El Salvador country plan for volcanic activity and floods in the wake of Hurricane Stan, please contact the National Society. In addition to the emergency relief component, this Revised Appeal includes the objectives below focused on medium-term rehabilitation initiatives. In line with the Federation’s volunteering policy, assistance will also be provided to those Red Cross volunteers that were already vulnerable before the disaster and whose livelihoods have been jeopardized by the floods.*

**Shelter**

**Objective 1: 1,000 families (5,000 people) whose homes were destroyed by the floods will have constructed temporary houses enabling them to move back to their communities and Red Cross branches damaged by the floods will have been repaired.**

**Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Carrying out of damage and needs assessments to determine those vulnerable families whose homes were totally destroyed as a result of floods and mudslides and coordination with municipal authorities to ensure that land tenure issues are resolved.
- Assessment of damage to Red Cross branches in the flood-affected regions.
- Distribution of galvanized zinc sheets, plastic sheeting, nails and tools as a basic assistance package to target beneficiaries.
- Construction of the homes through mutual assistance or by setting up working groups with the technical support of Red Cross volunteers.
- Provision of materials to repair damage to Red Cross branches affected by the floods.

**Water and Sanitation and Health**

**Objective 1: 1,000 families (5,000 people) will have access to clean drinking water, benefit from improved sanitation and will have increased awareness of sound hygienic practices.**

**Activities planned to reach this objective:*****Water and Sanitation***

- Assessment of damage sustained to wells and sanitation systems, together with current needs.
- Cleaning of community wells to remove debris caused by the floods.
- Disinfection, repair and improvement of wells.
- Cleaning of water sources including the repair of water collection systems, repair of protecting walls, improved sealing of water collection points.
- Improvement and rehabilitation of water systems in schools used as temporary shelters.
- Repair and rehabilitation of collective washing areas.
- Awareness-raising regarding solid waste disposal.
- Distribution of water containers.

***Health***

- Intervention of health brigade team members in communities and shelters to promote safe water and sound hygienic practices
- Promotion of appropriate care for children of five years and under and of pregnant women in emergency situations.
- Prevention of the spread of disease including HIV/AIDS through education of families living in shelters and in vulnerable communities.

**Psychosocial support**

**Objective 1: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society's capacity in psychosocial support is strengthened and care is offered to vulnerable families targeted by the appeal as well as volunteers and staff working in the disaster operation.**

**Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Training and strengthening of the capacities of members of 15 Salvadorean Red Cross brigades in the area of psychosocial support.
- Creation of possibilities for volunteers and administrative personnel to access psychosocial support whilst working in response to the disaster.
- Carrying out of activities to assist vulnerable families, and in particular, children who have experienced a traumatic situation as a result of the disaster.

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### **Agricultural Support**

**Objective 1: 1,000 families (5,000 people) will have sown crops with the perspective of a successful harvest, thus contributing to ensuring the availability of adequate food.**

#### **Activities planned to achieve this objective:**

- Assessment of vulnerable families who lost their crops in the flood disaster and coordination with representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to identify the affected areas where the Red Cross will work.
- Coordination with local agricultural suppliers who will participate in the scheme.
- Distribution of kits consisting of seed and fertilizer.

A similar project was launched in El Salvador in the context of the severe drought which hit the region in 2001 and 2002; the project which assisted farmers with seeds and tools was a particular success in El Salvador, producing a good harvest and boosting farmers' livelihoods.

### **Educational Support**

**Objective 1: 2,000 families' children will have school stationery and supplies, facilitating their continued attendance in class.**

#### **Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Assessment of families in need of support in order for their children to attend school, taking into consideration families who were obliged to leave for shelters with minimum possessions and the number of children per family of school age.
- Distribution of vouchers to targeted families for the purchase of school supplies: exercise books, pencils, backpack, books.

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has experience in the issue of vouchers during floods response operations in recent years. This has worked well in the past, saving on logistics costs, whilst guaranteeing that beneficiaries receive the relief goods that they need through designated suppliers.

### **Disaster Preparedness for Response**

**Objective 1: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has restocked essential emergency relief items and has received additional training in response and preparedness activities in order to facilitate future disaster response.**

In order to facilitate efficient response to a disaster situation, the SRC ensures that emergency relief items are pre-stocked and can be mobilized immediately. This policy enabled the National Society to distribute hygiene kits, blankets and water containers to over 2,000 families during the first 72 hours of the occurrence of volcanic activity and the flooding resulting from Hurricane Stan.

#### **Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Implementation of standard procedures to procure and stock 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 kitchen sets, 2,000 blankets and 1,000 tarpaulins to replace the stocks mobilized to respond to the volcanic activity and floods emergency.
- Identification and training of brigade members in first aid, early warning systems, emergency planning, inter-institutional coordination and vulnerability and capacity assessment.

**Objective 2: National Society branches communicate effectively by radio in the event of a disaster.**

#### **Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Improvement of the VHF radio network.
- Purchase and distribution of batteries to ensure functionality of radio equipment.

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Through continued public and media relations it is hoped that the public will develop an even better understanding of the mission of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society and the activities the organization undertakes in serving humanity. As a member of the International Federation, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society seeks to promote the Fundamental Principles in all activities. Communications and visibility activities will be carried out by the public relations department of the SRC, through its national communicators' network, which exists in all 14 departments in the country.

The SRC will work with the government and UNICEF in order to promote the rehabilitation of damaged schools so that children can resume classes as soon as possible once the occupants leave the shelters, and in order that facilities are in place in the event of the need to use these schools as emergency shelters in a disaster situation.

**Capacity of the National Society**

The SRC was able to significantly strengthen its national structure through the relief operation following Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The National Society enjoys a positive image vis-à-vis the authorities and the community, thanks to the role it played in the January and February 2001 earthquakes, and throughout its long history of providing humanitarian service in El Salvador. The SRC has a National Emergency Plan, which was approved by the Executive Council in December 2004. The National Society also has personnel specialized in monitoring and communications, emergency services, health services, public information and logistics.

**Capacity of the Federation**

The Federation's PADRU has a number of experienced disaster management delegates who monitored the activity of the volcano and the development of the rains in the region. PADRU's disaster management staff will provide any necessary support to the Salvadorean Red Cross Society in order to ensure the success of the relief operation. The Panama Regional Delegation, the Regional Reporting Unit and the Regional Finance Unit are also providing support to the operation, as required.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

Members of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society Floods Rescue Team (TREPI) are monitoring the situation in affected and at-risk communities, and evaluating the damages in hard hit areas. The National Relief Department of the SRCS, through the Emergency Operations Centre, is maintaining permanent follow up of the reports published by the National Service of Territorial Studies and the National Emergency Committee in order to keep branches informed of changes in climatic conditions and alerts issued.

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society will ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of the operation in line with the objectives of the Emergency Appeal, with the support of the Federation. Regular reports on the operation will be published on the Federation's web site and news articles issued.

**Budget summary**

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson  
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Markku Niskala  
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**[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)**

**REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY**

APPEAL No. 05EA020

**EI Salvador - floods and volcanic activities**

TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	IN CHF		
Shelter & constructions		277,474	277,474
Clothing & textiles	52,000	41,885	-10,115
Water & sanitation		100,000	100,000
Food & seeds	134,000	234,000	100,000
Medical & first aid	70,000	70,000	
Teaching materials		100,000	100,000
Utensils & tools	72,000	42,166	-29,834
Other relief supplies	20,000	57,922	37,922
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>348,000</b>	<b>923,447</b>	<b>575,447</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>			
Computers & telecom. equipment	13,000	50,000	37,000
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>			
Programme support (6.5% of total)	32,000	83,742	51,742
<b><u>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</u></b>			
Distribution & storage		15,000	15,000
Transport and vehicle costs	25,000	52,870	27,870
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>			
Expatriate staff		10,000	10,000
National & regional staff	20,000	40,000	20,000
Workshops & training		37,470	37,470
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u></b>			
Travel & related expenses	10,000	18,000	8,000
Information expenses	4,000	17,818	13,818
Administrative & general expenses	35,000	40,000	5,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>	<b>139,000</b>	<b>364,900</b>	<b>225,900</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	<b>487,000</b>	<b>1,288,347</b>	<b>801,347</b>
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>		<b>144,825</b>	
<b>NET REQUEST</b>	<b>487,000</b>	<b>1,143,522</b>	