

# 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

## **LANDSLIDE: GUATEMALA**

28 April 2003

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*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A*

***This Bulletin is intended for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.***

### ***The Situation***

On 23 April, at 4.18 hours, a landslide caused by heavy rains occurred in Cerro Cocol, San Pedro, in the department of San Marcos in the west of the country. The national coordination body in times of disaster, CONRED, informs that 22 houses were buried in Aldea Chím in the hamlet of San Francisco El Chichicaste, San Pedro Sacatepequez, in the department of San Marcos. As a result, at least 22 people are missing and search and rescue work is continuing, although there now remains little hope of finding survivors.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The San Marcos branch of the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) immediately provided support for the rescue operations and also assisted in the evacuation of around 220 people whose houses were in high risk areas, according to the findings of an initial survey.

A crisis management centre established in the affected area allocated responsibility to each of the organizations taking part in humanitarian activities. The Guatemalan Red Cross is responsible for managing and supervising a temporary shelter set up in the primary school in the village of La Barraca where those affected by the landslide are being housed, for the management of the centre for collecting relief goods and for first aid care. A campaign has been organized at local level through the media for the collection of household items such as soap, tooth paste and brushes, shampoo, toilet paper and sanitary towels for distribution in the shelter. The collection centre is within the San Marcos branch of the National Society, and a similar collection is also taking place at the headquarters in Guatemala city. Food such as sugar, salt, rice, maize, beans, oil and other goods are also reaching the centres.

GRC relief volunteers are providing first aid care and coordination is ensured with the Ministry of Health to ensure the provision of medicines required. Volunteers from the branch of Tecún Umán are also providing assistance, as well as eight relief volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross. Furthermore, a team was set up to carry out a damage and needs assessment .

On the spot, members of the Guatemalan army, volunteer firemen, CONRED representatives at the local level, departmental and municipal authorities and Guatemalan Red Cross relief volunteers, continue to work together. CONRED confirmed that 1,500 litres of water, 450 family food rations, 300 blankets and 200 mattresses have been sent to the disaster area.

On 25 April, the Guatemalan Red Cross mobilized a group of crisis intervention team members (TICs) who will work at the site of the disaster; its members of trained experts will help those affected with psychological support.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

*For further details please contact :*

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*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.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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