

MEXICO: FLOODS

22 September 1998

Information Bulletin N° 02

The Disaster

Hurricanes "Isis" and "Earl" triggered six days of non stop rain that began on 9 September. The state of Chiapas was the hardest hit by the downpour but the rains also caused flooding and damage in the States of Baja California, Veracruz, Puebla and Sinaloa.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

From the beginning the Mexican Red Cross has provided relief, including food, clothing, medicines, clean water, and other emergency items, from its Headquarters in Mexico City and 13 other branches. Operations centres, coordinated by the National Committee of Emergency Operations (COEN) in Mexico City, are running in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Tapachula, and Arriaga. The President of the Mexican Red Cross, Mr. José Barroso Chávez, a member of the COEN, has visited the area. Hundreds of Red Cross volunteers and para-medics have been sent there. Despite the bad road conditions, 570 MT. of relief items have been distributed and an additional 929 MT. are on the way. Some items have been sent by sea from Acapulco. To speed up distributions the Mexican Red Cross is involving local NGOs and churches.

Nearly 400 tracing requests have been received. This service is functioning with the participation of the Red Cross Youth section.

Needs

The Mexican Red Cross is conducting a national fund raising campaign which has so far raised \$ 743,488 within Mexico and brought in an additional \$ 6,362 from abroad. Many contributions are gifts in kind. The Society is continuing its appeal, stressing the need for cash for transport to hard to reach areas. So far the Society has the capacity and resources to cope with the emergency. If the situation worsens it will evaluate the needs and possibly seek international assistance.

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