

MEXICO: FLOODS

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The Disaster

Widespread flooding continues in Mexico and has recently intensified in the state of Tabasco, where 70% of the rural communities were flooded after the opening of Peñitas dam which had been on the verge of bursting. Severe flooding has affected the municipalities of Centla, Centro, Huimanguillo, Jonuta, Macuspana, Nacajuca and Tenosique. Due to the flooding of the Carrizal and Grijalva rivers, low lying areas around the state capital Villahermosa have been flooded. Both the government and the Mexican Red Cross estimate that 827 communities in Tabasco state are directly affected by flooding.

Some 8,000 people were evacuated to temporary shelters yesterday bringing the total to 46,000 accommodated in 576 temporary shelters throughout the state. Presently, a total of 227,000 people have been affected by the rising water, according to the Civil Defence.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Mexican Red Cross has sent to Tabasco 254 metric tonnes of food, water, medicines, clothing and other relief items from its headquarters that have been distributed in the temporary shelters. The Chiapas branch has sent additional volunteers, vehicles and a water purification plant to strengthen the local branch's operation and has also promised additional help as needed. All assistance provided by the Mexican Red Cross has been co-ordinated with governmental authorities.

Needs

The Mexican Red Cross has advised that additional food, medicines, clean water, clothing and blankets are needed. Also, boats are needed to help with the distribution of relief supplies.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Santiago Gil
Director
Americas Department

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