

EL SALVADOR: EARTHQUAKE

5 February 2001

appeal no. 02/2001

situation report no. 4

period covered: 25 January - 1 February 2001

The operation has moved into the relief and rehabilitation phase. At the government's request, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC) has taken on responsibility for the main shelter for the homeless. Relief distributions are continuing in stricken communities, delivery of water supplies are being increased and health brigades are moving into action to improve sanitation. After field surveys identified needs for basic housing reconstruction materials, distribution of plastic sheeting and other items began.

The context

A major earthquake, recorded at 7.6 on the Richter scale, occurred off the coast of El Salvador on 13 January 2001 at 11:33 am local time. Its epicentre was about 105 km south-Southeast of the country's capital, San Salvador.

The earthquake caused major damage in the departments of San Miguel, Santa Ana, La Libertad, La Paz and San Salvador. The most heavily affected area is the neighbourhood of "Las Colinas" in the suburbs of Santa Tecla/Nueva San Salvador, where the quake triggered a landslide that buried an estimated 400 houses in mud.

Latest events

The number of tremors following the earthquake has diminished in the past few days. The earthquake operation in El Salvador has now entered the relief and rehabilitation phase. The government has formally handed over the Cafetalón shelter to the Red Cross. All earthquake victims have been awarded a 900 colones allowance for reconstruction, which will be distributed through the mayors.

There are indications that the security situation may be deteriorating in some areas and the overall political climate continues to be a complicating factor for humanitarian activities.

The UN system (WFP, UNDP, UNICEF) has appealed for a total of some USD 35 million and other major agencies have announced additional assistance, in particular for infrastructure and reconstruction.

Figures of those affected by the earthquake, provided by the government emergency organisation (COEN) are shown below.

	Dead	Injured	Victims, Displaced or in need	Houses destroyed	Houses damaged	Estimated population Cafetalón
Figures	827	4,520	1,160,316	91,726	130,005	5,000

Source: Salvadorean Red Cross / COEN

Updated: Thursday 1 February 2001

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society is supported by the Federation and the PNS in the implementation of its plan of action described in the Federation appeal issued on 24 January. Implementation of the operation is proceeding utilising resources donated through this appeal as well as those generated through PNS bilateral projects under the global plan of action. This and future situation reports will report on the ten operational objectives listed in the appeal including the implementation of activities funded through PNS multilateral support which contribute to the achievement of these objectives.

- **Objective 1** *To meet the basic needs and support the resettlement of the population of the “Cafetalón” macro-shelter.*

Following a request by the government that the SRC take over responsibility for the Cafetalón shelter in San Salvador, the COEN and the SRC signed a formal agreement. The hand over process has begun, with Federation support in the form of a specialised shelter manager and additional sectoral contributions in health and water and sanitation from the PNS. The SRC and the Federation have introduced daily co-ordination with other participants: MSF, Medicos del Mundo, Save the Children, Caritas, fire-fighters from Germany, the Ministry of Health, the national human rights office, the municipality, the armed forces, the police, the university of El Salvador and others.

Some 920 families are located in the macro shelter and are living in tents, of these around 678 families are living in Red Cross tents donated by the Netherlands Red Cross, whilst the remainder are living in tents donated by the Peruvian air force. The population fluctuates in the course of the day and control and security are likely to become an increasingly important management issue.

This shelter management undertaking is considerable for the National Society since the political environment, as is often the case in shelter programmes, will give rise to challenges. To ensure that both the public and donors are kept well informed and to disseminate the activities and objectives of the Red Cross, the SRC media and public relations department is being strengthened through a project

co-ordinated by the Federation delegation and the regional delegation in Guatemala, funded through the appeal with Japanese and Canadian Red Cross funds.

With the departure from the shelter of the Mexican army medical support team this week, the core health activities of the camp will revert to the Ministry of Health, with material support from the SRC, as necessary. Additional assistance to the shelter in terms of psycho-social support has been developed by the American Red Cross psycho-social programme. No significant outbreaks of disease have been reported, although MSF has set up an "isolation area" as a precaution. The American Red Cross has been asked to co-ordinate water and sanitation activities in the camp. Water supplies have been delivered regularly by tankers and distributed with the collaboration of MSF and ANDA (national institution for water supplies). To date, 266 latrines have been set up by the Red Cross, MSF and the private sector. The SRC has distributed 3,222 blankets provided in response to the appeal. SRC youth volunteers and other relief volunteers are completing the registration of beneficiaries and are installing community kitchens. Garbage management has been carried out by the municipality.

The American Red Cross has provided psycho-social support to around 500 children in the Cafetalón shelter who have also each received a colouring book and crayons.

Objective 2 *To meet the basic needs and support the resettlement of 30,000 families in the departments of Sonsonate, Ahuachapan, Cuscutulan, San Miguel, San Miguel, Santa Ana, La Paz, Usulután, San Vicente, and San Salvador*

Logistics and Relief: As part of the plan of action, the Federation, with the SRC and the PNS, has developed a relief plan to support these communities. Since the end of the search and rescue phase regular distributions have been made.

In the course of the relief efforts it has become clear that systems for warehouse and stock management and central and field reporting need to be expanded and improved. This is being worked on by the recently arrived logistics delegate who is familiar with the central SUMA system in use.

The SRC, with Federation encouragement, has decided to decentralise logistics and operations functions under the control of a relief operations manager, with individual unit heads for the various functions, including transport and warehousing. The warehousing complex is adequate and improvements have been introduced in warehouse space utilisation and the tracking of goods; work is continuing on implementing basic logistics control procedures. The warehouse is now 85% physically organised. An agreement exists on SPHERE standard kit composition for food, hygiene, sanitation, water, kitchen and bedding kits. 2,000 food kits have been procured and distributed and the next phase for all items procurement and distribution is under way.

On Saturday 27 January, the delegates visited El Congo, Santa Ana and area and SRC branches. The Tacuba branch has not yet received any assistance from SRC headquarters and needs funds to repair its two vehicles. Tacuba village has been seriously affected. Many houses have been destroyed but most could be repaired with plastic sheeting and iron sheets for the roofing. The other places visited could also be assisted through the delivery of roofing, plastic sheeting and tool kits (shovels, picks, hammers, saws, nails). Most people have already erected a wooden frame using materials they recovered from their own house. The Federation Secretariat in Geneva procured 5,250 sheets of reinforced plastic for temporary shelters; these and additional materials delivered through French and Netherlands Red Cross airlifts and donated by other PNS have been distributed (see annex 1). A standard kit for temporary housing has been agreed with the PNS.

Assessments for two projects, one in health and one in the shelter programme, were completed in the areas where they will take place (districts of Santa Ana, Coatepeque, El Congo, Ahuachapan and Tacuba). The projects (each approximately USD 500,000) will begin immediately. They are part of the appeal and are being financed by the Japanese Red Cross.

- **Objective 3** *To prevent the outbreak of epidemics by providing primary and preventative health care for targeted displaced populations.*

SRC/Federation/PNS co-ordination with the Ministry of Health continues as a more comprehensive health strategy emerges. At present, the SRC health management capacity requires reinforcement. A large stock of medicines has been inventoried and is to be distributed to clinics and branches very shortly. Health promotion activities through the water and sanitation programme and in Cafetalón are under way. (see objective 1).

Additional water activities include the following:

- Water is being distributed from nine community water points to around 25,000 people in the municipalities of Santa Caterina de Masahuat, Nahuizalco, San Antonio del Monte and Juayau in the department of Sonsonate (see Annex 1). Checking of chlorine levels and batch chlorinating at the water points is undertaken. Other water points are being installed. An assessment mission has been carried out with the Spanish Red Cross to the municipality of Jiquilisco (Usulután). Hand dug well cleaning activities have begun there, with community participation and the support of the local SRC branch and the municipality.
- Local Salvadorean staff (two drivers logisticians) have been recruited and three vehicles have been provided to support activities. A 7,600 litre water tanker from Salvadorean Red Cross has been delivering water in Sonsonate.
- An exploratory mission to the department of Santa Ana is planned to investigate needs for drinking water in affected communities identified by relief delegates.
- A more accurate population census is being conducted in the areas where water distribution is taking place. Distribution of water containers and hygiene kits from the appeal plan are under way with OXFAM participation.
- **Objective 4** *To provide psycho-social support to the affected population and Red Cross volunteers.*

The American Red Cross has undertaken this project as a continuation of its post-Mitch programme. Other PNS have expressed interest. A plan for the debriefing of SRC volunteers is being formulated. Regional resources such as the Mexican Red Cross will rapidly become involved in this exercise. It is now planned to train volunteers at branch level under a national outreach strategy within the communities, in co-ordination with the mobile brigades which will also receive training in water and sanitation. Home visits will be carried out by health brigades to assess post-disaster mental health needs. The delegation's health delegate will play a co-ordination role and support, monitor and reinforce the project as required.

- **Objective 5** *To improve the health of communities affected by the disaster through the development of community health brigades.*

Two of the four planned SRC health brigades are operational -- one supported by the Spanish Red Cross and the other by the French Red Cross. The Japanese Red Cross will provide a delegate to the Federation. The other two brigades are being set up. A central component of the brigades will be support to the psycho-social programme (see above).

- **Phase III**
Objective 6 *To ensure the capacity of the National Society to deliver effective disaster response services in the immediate and medium-term future.*

The identification of capacity building opportunities has been prioritised. The disaster preparedness delegate will start to prepare training programmes in consultation with the regional delegation, with technical support from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) delegates who are specialists in logistics and relief management. National Society and community training activities are now included in all water and sanitation programmes as part of the disaster preparedness component of the appeal. A detailed telecommunications plan of action has been completed by the FACT telecommunications delegate. The American Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross will address a part of the plan which reflects the Federation's ongoing development of the Central American communications network recommended in the Santo Domingo declaration. The Federation will try to identify other donors through the appeal. As part of the global partnership with Ericsson, discussions are taking place both at headquarters and at local level in El Salvador.

- **Phase III**

Objective 7 *To strengthen the disaster response capacity and preparedness of the SRC and of communities to explore and implement appropriate mitigation measures at the local level and to strengthen the links between NS branches and vulnerable communities.*

Branch development opportunities have been identified in order to achieve objective 7 and a branch development delegate will be sought in due course in order to facilitate branch activities.

- **Objective 8** *To increase the social well being of the affected population through increased respect for the rights of the most vulnerable - including children and the elderly - and a reduction of family violence.*

Through the American Red Cross/SRC support of the psycho-social programme, the Federation will identify trainers and resource persons from the region to target and address needs. This has already begun in Cafetalón shelter and Sonsonate department.

- **Phase III**

Objective 9 *To strengthen the NS branches and to increase their ability to address the needs of the most vulnerable through sustainable and effective programming and service delivery.* Through the better programming initiative, the holding of a series of workshops to ensure improved programming is under discussion with the regional delegation and the PNS.

- **Objective 10** *To promote a coherent Red Cross image.*

The regional information delegate, with the Spanish Red Cross/Federation information delegate, has established a new structure for the SRC information department. A global strategy for the year 2001 is being drawn up. An information officer has been hired by the National Society with the support of the Federation. A web site designer has been recruited with Spanish Red Cross support; a new computer for designing and web site work, and a digital camera have been bought with Japanese Red Cross support. The Spanish Red Cross provided banners and other PR materials and the Canadian Red Cross also provided funds for this project.

Outstanding needs

Delegate needs have now been met with the exception of the recruitment of a head of delegation. All procurement for Phase II can be carried out in country, but the tankering capacity, critical to the water distribution programme, is inadequate: a water tanker is needed. Donors are asked to note the importance of funding the disaster preparedness and capacity building components of the appeal, even during the relief phase of the operation.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Complementary activities of other organisations include:

- MSF is carrying out psychological support activities in Cafetalón.
- UNDP appealed for USD 12.7 million to provide immediate assistance to 50,000 people. It made available funds from its emergency response division for co-ordination of international aid and logistical support.
- WFP has distributed 910 tonnes of food aid in six communities: 10,500 people in La Libertad, 15,000 in La Paz, 10,000 in Usulután, 5,000 in Don Rúa, 6,000 in Tecoluca and 8,000 in Comasagua.
- UNICEF has carried out surveys which indicate that the total number of children under 18 years of age affected is at least 50,000 but could exceed 100,000.
- ECHO has approved a grant of ECU 2,000,000.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Coverage of the appeal currently stands at 53.1 per cent.

Conclusion

The operation in El Salvador to assist the victims of the earthquake disaster is progressing well and phase II is now underway. An official hand over has taken place with the authorities and the Salvadorean Red Cross now has full responsibility for the management of the Cafetalón macro shelter in coordination with the PNS. Assistance is being provided to those affected by the disaster in accordance with the global plan of action to which the Federation, the SRC and the PNS are fully committed.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Santiago Gil
Head
Americas Department

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR WEEK BEGINNING 31 JANUARY 2000

REGION	SHELTER	FOOD	HYGIENE	WATER	SANITATION	KITCHEN	BLANKETS
St Ana							
Congo	300	300	300	300			
Poterillo	130	130		130		130	500
Ahuachapan							
Tacuba	1,000				800	500	2,000
Sonsonate							
Sta Catalina			515				
Nauhuizalco			622				
St. Antonio			575				
St. José			400				
La Paz							
St. Pedro							
Nonuhalco		500				300	500
TOTAL	1,430	930	2,412	430	800	930	3,000

DISTRIBUTIONS - 22 - 31 JANUARY 2001

LOCATION	FAMILIES	LOCATION	FAMILIES
Tecoluca		Juayua	300
Caserio el playon	60	Coatepeque	200
S. Luis las posadas	38	S. Elena	150
S. Fe	195	Camino al Cielo	51
Barrio el Calvario	151	Col Unidades	47
S. Isidro Labrador	64	Meson Martinez	18
S. José Pasaquina	88	Bueno Vista	4
Sec Linea Vaquero	45	Barrio el Carmen	6
S. Luis Los Altos	20	El Calevario	10
S. José las Flores	103	Las Mercedes	200
Comunidad el Salto	50	Armenia	500
Barrio el Centro	81	S. Juan las Minas	12
Barrio Santa Tecla	96	Las Arcas	32
		S. Antonio	16
		ColAlicai/Damien	34
		Armenia (rest)	406

Central America / El Salvador, earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				02/05/01
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5,422,147		TOTAL COVERAGE 53.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AUSTRIAN - RC		1,000,000	ATS	111,799	15.01.01	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		100,000	AUD	91,330	23.01.01	FOOD, MEDICINES, SHELTER MATERIALS AND BLANKETS
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		98,039	GBP	242,156	16.01.01	EARMARKING TO BE SPECIFIED
CANADIAN - RC		70,000	CAD	77,112	16.01.01	
CANADIAN - RC		150,000	CAD	165,240	17.01.01	CANNOT BE USED FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD ITEMS
DANISH - RC		92,500	DKK	18,657	19.01.01	
FINNISH - RC		43,729	EUR	65,773	15.01.01	
ICELANDIC - RC		1,000,000	ISK	19,411	15.01.01	
IRISH - RC		20,000	IEP	38,190	16.01.01	
IRISH - GOVT		200,000	IEP	381,900	15.01.01	
ITALIAN - RC		100,000,000	ITL	77,700	18.01.01	EMERGENCY SHELTER MATERIALS & FOOD
JAPANESE - RC				37,000	16.01.01	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				30,000	17.01.01	
MONACO - RC		200,000	FRF	46,900	14.01.01	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100,000	NZD	71,770	16.01.01	
NORWEGIAN - RC		250,000	NOK	46,350	18.01.01	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT		2,060,000	NOK	385,410	24.01.01	
OPEC		200,000	USD	335,000	18.01.01	EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES
SHELL INTERNATIONAL		25,000	USD	40,700	24.01.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				23,000	22.01.01	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		600,000	SEK	104,580	15.01.01	
TURKISH - RC				50,000	17.01.01	
WHO STAFF				2,000	22.01.01	
CANADIAN - RC		150,000	CAD	162,375	02.02.01	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,624,353	CHF	48.4%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINNISH - RC		6,500	EUR	10,000	15.01.01	FACT TEAM MEMBER COSTS
NETHERLANDS - RC		360,489	NLG	246,015	16.01.01	EMERGENCY HEALTH KITS, GENERATORS, DISPENSARY TENTS, FAMILY TENTS, REINF. PLASTIC SHEETING, JERRY CANS, KITCHEN SETS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				256,015	CHF	4.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PSV507						