

## ***EL SALVADOR: EARTHQUAKE***

*14 February  
2001*

*appeal no. 02/01*

*situation report no. 6*

*period covered: 8 - 13 February 2001*

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*A further earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale shook El Salvador in the early morning of 13 February. Initial assessments indicate that there has been significant loss of life and damage to infrastructure, including hospitals, particularly in the departments of San Vicente, La Paz, Cuscatlán and Cabañas. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society, (SRC), the Federation and the PNS immediately implemented search and rescue and relief assistance. An upwards revision of the budget for the appeal 02/01 is expected.*

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### ***The context***

A major earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale occurred off the coast of El Salvador on Saturday, 13 January 2001 at 11:33 am local time (17:33UTC). The epicentre of the earthquake was located at latitude 12.8 degrees north, longitude 88.8 degrees west, or about 105 km south-south east of the 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 severely affected area is the neighbourhood of "Las Colinas" in the suburbs of Santa Tecla/Nueva San Salvador, where the earthquake triggered a landslide covering an estimated 400 houses entirely in mud. However, later assessments subsequently revealed a far broader impact and rural areas across the country have been severely damaged, resulting in the displacement of whole communities.

## Latest events

A further earthquake, initially described as an after shock, but which registered 6.6 degrees on the Richter scale, struck some 30 km east of San Salvador on the morning of Tuesday, 13 February at 8.22 hours, just one month after a devastating earthquake left a total of 844 people dead and damaged thousands of homes, leaving hundreds of thousands in need of humanitarian assistance.

The departments where significant loss of life and major damage to infrastructure occurred are San Vicente, (60 kilometres east of the capital), La Paz (35 km. south-east), Cuscatlán (28 km north-east) and Cabañas (28 km north east). El Salvador’s airport was temporarily closed for some hours as a precaution but reopened for normal business in the afternoon. The earthquake caused some landslides along the main highway to the airport and along the pan-american highway. The tremor caused considerable panic in San Salvador as thousands rushed to return home or to check on children in schools. This caused heavy traffic congestion and an overload on the cellular telephone network, and to a lesser extent, the main land lines as families both inside and outside El Salvador sought to make contact with each other.

Both the telecommunications system has been re-established and power resumed in San Salvador, however many of the affected outlying communities still lack these services. In the department of La Paz and San Vicente, the system providing drinking water has collapsed in several communities.

The Salvadorean population, already traumatised by the earlier earthquake on 13 January, is once again faced with uncertainty and fear.

The information available from the national emergency coordination centre (COEN) on the current situation on 13 February at 21.00 hours local time is provided below. However, it is important to take into consideration that this information is preliminary in nature as Red Cross teams continue to evaluate detailed information with government teams as it comes in from the field. This data will be constantly updated as evaluations of damage and surveys are received

Places affected	Fatalities	Injured	Homes Destroyed	Municipalities Affected	Hospitals Damaged	Red Cross Volunteers in the field
La Paz	50	514	*	9	1	56
San Vicente	45	503		6	1	35**
Cuscatlan	72	540	141	7	1	41
San Salvador	4	---		1		154
La Libertad	2	---		1		
San Miguel					1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>173***</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>286</b>

\* Information incomplete

## Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Immediately after the earthquake struck, the SRC, with support from the Federation and PNS delegations, activated its contingency plan. Within the first minutes following the impact, a total of 70 search, rescue and response volunteers were in the field. Eight evaluation teams immediately started to

assess damage and needs. These teams remain in the field in the areas of the disaster working exclusively on data collection. Rescue brigades continue to work where up to 40 missing persons are still believed to be trapped, mainly in San Vicente and La Paz. Evacuations have been possible thanks to the coordination between the Red Cross and the Salvadorean air force.

**The relief distributions carried out by SRC/Federation/PNS during the first hours following the disaster are detailed in the attached appendix I.**

In addition, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society has provided personnel as indicated below to work in the following areas of assistance.

Rescue	First Aid	Ambulance Deliveries	Blood Bank
5	324	125	244

The SRC has supplied potable water in the department of La Paz, mainly in the communities of San Miguel and San Juan Tepezontes. In San Juan Tepezontes, two medical brigades have reinforced the Red Cross volunteers. 50 m2 of plastic sheeting has been allocated to the hospital of Sacatecoluca, district of La Paz, to provide shelter material for sick persons who have been evacuated from the damaged hospital. The hospital of Santa Gertrudis, department of San Vicente, is supported by three medical brigades of Red Cross workers who are supporting health in emergency activities and 50 rolls of plastic sheeting have been distributed. The Hospital of Chalatenango has received ten tents and 20 rolls of plastic sheeting. At the parochial school of the municipality of the Calenderia, department of Cuscatlan, five bodies were recovered (4 children and a teacher).

Three teams of Federation delegates are making more detailed evaluations of damage in Cojutepeque, Zacatecoluca and San Pedro Nonuhualco and a fourth team is in San Vicente. As of 21.00 hours on Tuesday, 13 February, one team had returned to the Federation operations centre and the others were due to report back by this morning (14 February), local time. Four technical delegates will return to the field on 14 February specifically to review further the medical, health, water and sanitation and relief needs in La Paz, Cuscutalan, Chalatenango, Zacatecoluca and San Vicente. A meeting will be held on 14 February with the national water board (ANDA) to assess needs specifically as regards potable water. The American Red Cross is assisting San Vicente department with distribution of water and is also positioning 1,000 blankets.

The Spanish Red Cross is providing water and it has integrated two medical brigades in the emergency work in San Vicente department. The Spanish Red Cross has also provided 1,500 blankets to the SRC. The French Red Cross and SRC now have two medical brigades in the department of La Paz. The Spanish and American Red Cross Societies will concentrate on the response for additional needs in San Vicente, whereas the SRC and the Federation will concentrate activities in La Paz and Cuscatlán. Updated strategies to meet the new needs are being developed to reinforce the current SRC plan of action on which the Federation appeal 02/01 is based. Additional resources are being brought in from the Regional Delegation in Guatemala.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Taking into account the large numbers of houses that were damaged (169,632) in the earlier earthquake in January and the probability that a considerable number of additional houses have been destroyed, the immediate necessities are additional financial resources to maintain the operation and to cover additional needs in shelter, water and health. Concern is expressed as regards the need for continued psychological support. **It is estimated that approximately 5,000 additional families will need basic support over the next months. Medical brigades will need to be enhanced to assist rural communities and support the health infrastructure. The previous concerns as**

**regards the water tankering capacity are now exacerbated as water distribution has been identified as a serious problem in the newly hit areas.** Following consultations with the delegation, the Secretariat is reviewing the availability of an emergency response unit (ERU) field hospital as the government feels this may be needed given that four hospitals have been seriously damaged. The SRC and the Federation delegation are also looking into this issue. The outstanding need for a finance and administration delegate is now critical to deal with the added workload

## *Contributions*

See Annex 1 for details. The current appeal coverage stands at 68 per cent. A revised budget to incorporate additional needs will be issued in the coming days once the results of evaluations have been analysed.

The British Red Cross has announced a contribution of CHF 170,000 which will be used to reimburse funds allocated from the disaster relief emergency fund (DREF).

## *Conclusion*

The earthquake which hit San Salvador on 13 February has caused further suffering amongst the population hit by the earthquake one month previously. Given that several main hospitals have been damaged by the second quake and considerable numbers of houses have been damaged, it is anticipated that vital needs will be for medical care, food, shelter and water.

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

Central America / El Salvador, earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			02/14/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>5,422,147</b>		<b>68.0%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - PRIVATES				8,626	24.01.01	
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
AUSTRALIAN - RC		65,000	AUD	58,429	14.02.01	
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		98,039	GBP	242,156	16.01.01	EARMARKING TO BE SPECIFIED
BRITISH - RC				170,000	12.02.01	REIMBURSEMENT DREF
BRITISH - PRIVATE				126	29.01.01	
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
CANADIAN - RC		150,000	CAD	162,375	02.02.01	WATER & SANITATION TRAINING & DP
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	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				53,150	13.02.01	
MONACO - RC		200,000	FRF	46,900	14.01.01	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		504,490	NLG	352,176	01.02.01	FOR PURCHASE OF HYGINE KITS, INDUSTRIAL KITCHENS, BED KITS, MANAGEMENT / OPERATION SUPPORT
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
PHARMACIA & UPJOHN FOUNDATION		25,000	USD	40,700	29.01.01	RELIEF ITEMS
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	
SWISS - PRIVATES				200	16.01.01	
TURKISH - RC				50,000	17.01.01	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		10,000	AED	4,433	05.02.01	
VENEZUELA - PRIVATE		10,000	USD	16,750	22.01.01	
WHO STAFF				2,000	22.01.01	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>3,328,943</b>	CHF	<b>61.4%</b>

<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
ERICSSON		36,506	USD	59,432	15.01.01	SEE PMN FOR DETAILS
FINNISH - RC		6,500	EUR	10,000	15.01.01	FACT TEAM MEMBER COSTS
NETHERLANDS - RC		411,122	NLG	286,997	16.01.01	EMERGENCY HEALTH KITS, GENERATORS, DISPENSARY TENTS, FAMILY TENTS, REINF. PLASTIC SHEETING, JERRY CANS, KITCHEN SETS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				356,429	CHF	6.6%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				0	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PSV507						



ANNEX I

Location	Tents	Plastic Rolls	Plastic Sheet	Compress	Blankets	Camp Mattress	Generator	Lantern	Pick	Shovel	Collapsible Stretcher	Helmet	First Aid Kit Refill	Collapsible Bed	Bed Mattresses	IV Saline Solution	Bandage-20 ea	Wheelbarrow	Surgical Thread
Hospital La Maternidad-San Salvador	2 (CRH)	5																	
Hospital Chalatenango	10 (CRE)	20																	
CRS Rescue Operations									20	20		30							
Zacatecoluca	10 (CRE)																		
Cojutepeque (Fed)				1 box									2						
Cojutepeque (CRS)		30				50 (CRF)		25	10	10	10 (CRG)		5				3		5 boxes
Zacatepeque (CRS)	10 (CRE)					50 (CRF)										240 liters			
San Vicente (CRS)		30	500				1 (CRH)		200	200				100 (CRE)				20	
Shelter and Blankets Night Operation (CRS)			245		1,000 (CRA)														
Hospital BLUM															50				

**Additional Logistics Support to Salvadorean Red Cross Operations**

	<b>FED</b>	<b>CRE</b>	<b>CRF</b>	<b>CRG</b>	<b>CRA</b>	<b>CRI</b>
Vehicle	6			camion	3	2
Medical Brigade		2	1			
Damage Assessment Team	3					

**Fed=Federation**  
**CRG=German Red Cross**  
**CRE=Spanish Red Cross**  
**CRA=American Red Cross**  
**CRF=French Red Cross**  
**CRI=Italian Red Cross**  
**CRH=Netherlands Red Cross**



## Áreas de distribución por parte de Cruz Roja Salvadoreña/FICR y las Sociedades Nacionales Participantes

