

EL SALVADOR: EARTHQUAKE

*16 February
2001*

*appeal no. 02/2001
situation report no. 7; Revised budget
period covered: 14 - 15 February 2001*

Initial assessments following the second earthquake to hit El Salvador in a month, indicate that the departments of Cuscatlán and La Paz are the worst affected. There has been extensive additional damage to housing, hospital infrastructure and the water supply. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC) / Federation / PNS rescue and assessment teams implemented an immediate emergency phase. As a result of the second quake, the Federation's beneficiary caseload has almost doubled and 11,600 vulnerable families affected by the disaster are targeted. The budget for the operation has therefore increased to CHF 7,645,698 and donors are encouraged to reinforce their support of the operation.

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 heavily affected area was 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 as rural areas across the country were severely damaged, resulting in the displacement of whole communities.

One month to the day after this earthquake, another after shock registering 6.6 on the Richter scale, struck some 30 km east of San Salvador on the morning of Tuesday, 13 February at 8:22 a.m The departments which have incurred most damage are San Vicente, La Paz, Cuscatlán and Cabañas (see Annex 3 below). The tremor caused considerable panic in San Salvador as thousands rushed to return home or to check on children in schools.

Latest events

Yesterday, 15 February, as assessment teams returned, estimates of damage escalated, especially in Cuscatlán and La Paz . Damage to houses is significant, hospital infrastructure and particularly the water supply in a number of communities are also affected. The government has stated that funding for the first earthquake cannot be diverted, therefore additional assistance and financial support has been requested for the needs of the new caseload. The government has requested assistance in the form of field hospitals from the international community.

The latest figures from COEN relating to the second earthquake are recorded below, together with the current population of the Cafetalón shelter.

	Dead	Injured	Victims, Displaced or in need	Houses destroyed	Houses damaged	Estimated population Cafetalón
Second quake	277	2,937	134,570	20,783	2,783	3,245
First quake	827	4,520	1,160,530	92,080	130,005	
TOTAL	1,154	7,457	1,295,100	112,863	132,788	

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The latest earthquake has resulted in an increase in the Federation appeal caseload of some 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries). Therefore, numbers of beneficiary families have risen from 6,600 to 11,600. This report summarises the effects of the recent earthquake, identifying areas of assistance requiring a revision of the plan of action and the budget. In the next situation report, this data will be included in the overall plan of action and follow the standard format used in previous reports. The objectives of the appeal remain unchanged, with an increase in beneficiary numbers, some of whom are located in areas which were not covered under the original plan of action.

SRC rescue and assessment teams supported by four Federation and a number of PNS teams completed the immediate emergency phase during the night of 14 February. Details of the most recent distributions and relief assistance are attached in appendix I. The following summaries are taken from detailed Federation assessment mission reports. On 13 February, the Federation health and water and sanitation delegate, together with the disaster preparedness delegate, the shelter manager and PNS delegates, visited the region from Cojutepeque to Candelaria. On 14 February, health delegates visited San Vicente, Zalatecoloca and Calantenango. The water and sanitation delegate and a SRC team from the Federation /SRC Sonsonate project continued to focus on Cojutepeque, continuing the assessment and drawing up a plan of action.

National Societies in the region have provided the following since the incidence of the recent earthquake: Costa Rican Red Cross - 2 ambulances and 2 pick ups; Honduran Red Cross - 4 ambulances and 1 tanker.

Cojutepeque

Hospital: The 90 bed hospital was evacuated given the risk of the collapse of the building. By the end of the day, 13 February, the Ministry of Health (MoH) engineers had certified the building safe, but the staff will probably continue to work outside for several days in case of aftershocks. The hospital is well organised, with plenty of medical staff. The provision of medicines is adequate, with a shortage of intra muscular analgesics only. The water supply was disrupted, but the fire brigade had already supplied 30,000 litres of water. During the day, the hospital received 300 referrals for care. The situation appeared under control, however, the provision of safe water will pose a problem.

Town: The major concern in the town is the lack of water due to the damage to the main water processing plant. The Federation, the SRC and OXFAM are working together with the water company, ANDA to set up water distribution points and a tankering system within the town (see the report on water and sanitation). It is planned that on 15 February, the team in Sonsonate will install a 70,000 litre tank.

Rural Areas: In the communities visited south of Cojutepeque (San Ramon, Candelaria) there is almost total destruction of housing. Landslides have affected the road, but single line traffic can reach Candelaria. Other areas remain difficult to access. Health centres have been reinforced by supplementary medical staff with the aim of reducing referrals to the central hospital in Cojutepeque. The population has only minimal supplies of water and the main distribution system is not functioning at present. The Federation, the SRC and OXFAM will look to set up a similar project to that currently under implementation in Sonsonate. It appears that the population also requires psychological support.

San Vicente

Hospital: The hospital has been partially affected with the administration block incurring most of the damage. The building has been assessed and an evaluation is presently underway to ascertain which parts of the building will be safe in future. The results of the assessment will be ready in the coming days. According to the hospital director, the Mexican government has promised that a hospital unit will be deployed in San Vicente. The main water storage unit of the hospital has been damaged and now holds 30% of its original capacity. The local water company (ANDA) has promised to set up a bore hole in a football field next to the hospital. The hospital is well supplied with medicines and staff and is well organised.

Town: There has been extensive damage to the town. Fortunately, the Red Cross branch was unaffected. Water supply is a major problem. Presently, the American Red Cross, the SRC and OXFAM are working together. On 13 February, the teams supplied 15,000 litres of drinking water, on the 14 February this was increased to 30,000 litres. Given that 5 extra tankers are to be sent from San Salvador, the amount will increase considerably in the coming days. However, the supply will continue to be minimal for the population of San Vicente. Temporary shelters (albergues) are already being set up in the town (presently 5 of differing sizes). The population is suffering from stress as many strong aftershocks continue.

Rural areas: Early indications are of extensive damage in the rural areas south west of San Vicente and the northern part of the La Paz region. Water, shelter and food will be priorities.

Zacatecoluca

Hospital: The hospital has been evacuated and the MoH is presently assessing its safety. It is likely that the damage will not prevent the reopening of the hospital in the coming days. There was a heavy workload on the day of the earthquake, but on 14 February the situation appeared calm. The hospital is clean, well-organised and hot food is being distributed to patients. The lack of latrines is a potential problem and will be discussed with the American Red Cross.

Town: There was only moderate damage to the town and no problems with the water supply.

Priorities for Water and Sanitation/ Health

Water and Sanitation

Water appears to be the priority for the towns of San Vicente and Cojutepeque as well as for many of the rural communities in the area. The possibility of setting up water distribution points and installing tankers for water will be the key to a co-ordinated strategy as regards water supply on the part of the Federation, the SRC, the Spanish Red Cross, the American Red Cross, ANDA and OXFAM. The ANDA water company has begun to repair the water processing plants which could take more than two weeks, following which it will be possible to ascertain the damage to the water distribution system. The American Red Cross will work with OXFAM in the San Vicente area and with the Federation and OXFAM focusing on the Cojutepeque area. The Spanish Red Cross will concentrate its efforts in San Vicente. The Federation/SRC technical team from Sonsonate will work in Cojutepeque to train the local branch volunteers to erect water tanks. Since the recent earthquake, the Federation team has provided equipment, logistical and technical support and SRC teams are employed in installing water distribution points in Cojutepeque, Paraiso, Candelaria and San Ramon, as well as setting up four 10,000 litre tanks in other villages. The Federation has supplied four water tankers (including one provided by the Honduran Red Cross) and four have been provided from the SRC. A tanker filling point has been established in San Rafael and, after some repairs, is now operating at high capacity.

Psychological Support

The PNS are working together under the co-ordination of the Federation to ensure an appropriate emergency response to the present disaster. The Italian Red Cross has set up two mobile brigades in the area between Cojutepeque and Candelaria. In addition, Italian Red Cross personnel will train staff from the local branch to work in psychological support activities. After one week, the Italian Red Cross will move its focus back to the Sonsonate area, having created branch capacity. The French Red Cross has one mobile medical brigade and one brigade which specialises in psychological support. These will focus on the area in the north of La Paz with five volunteers trained by the American Red Cross team. The Spanish Red Cross has two medical brigades working in the western part of the San Vicente region (around Guadalupe). The American Red Cross will supply volunteers trained in psychological support to reinforce these brigades in the short term, whilst the training of other volunteers is carried out. The American Red Cross has around 20 volunteers specialised in psychological support who will focus on the areas around San Vicente. They will, in addition, train the San Vicente branch staff to make interventions within the town itself. The volunteers will also adapt the material for working with children (colouring books) to the specific context of El Salvador. Furthermore, the American Red Cross plans to support 30 minute television slots during programmes for children.

Health

In the coming days, the reports of the structural damage to the 4 affected hospitals will be available and the medium and long-term needs for hospital care will be defined. Contacts with the MoH and, in particular, the hospital directors will be maintained. The medical brigades will work in the affected areas to support the MoH work. Response in terms of medicines and equipment will be assessed over time.

Priorities for Relief support

The Federation will provide support to the SRC to deliver a relief package to the additional case load: food, water, bedding, kitchen, hygiene and sanitation sets, plastic sheeting and shelter kits, as detailed in

the appeal and previous situation reports. Priority distributions will commence today (16 February) to meet immediate additional needs. The Federation will support the SRC to meet the supplementary needs in La Paz and Cuscatlán. The Spanish Red Cross is working in San Vicente.

The distribution Plan for 16 - 18 February 2001 focuses on provision of 1,000 family food kits and 1,000 kitchen sets for San Pedro Nonualco and San Juan and San Miguel Tepezontes.

On going Relief Operation

Objective 1 *To meet the basic needs and support the resettlement of the population of the "Cafetelon" macro-shelter.* The current population of Cafetalón has reduced further to 3,245 people (642 families). The water supply (American Red Cross) is maintained at 44,000 litres per day. The SRC/Federation team has been involved in latrine cleaning and maintenance, sanitation and hygiene education, a Red Cross census and work on a "Return Home" programme providing support for those moving with food, kitchen, bedding, hygiene and sanitation kits. An instruction manual to assist both the displaced and authorities in this process has been produced.

Objective 2 *To provide the basic needs and support the resettlement of 30,000 families in the departments of Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, Cuscatlán, San Miguel, Santa Ana, La Paz, Usulután, San Vicente, and San Salvador.* The relief plan detailed in the last report was delayed by three days because of the emergency caused by the second earthquake. This distribution plan is now to be implemented with the additional caseload, as noted earlier.

Additional procurement has been initiated to take into account the increased caseload. Seven vehicles have arrived to support ongoing operations and additional vehicles will be rented as needs and operational demands require. Negotiations are under way to augment the much increased water tankering needs. A construction corporation consortium has been approached with a view to ensuring the coordination of the availability of tankers. A British Red Cross proposal to support tankering operations with two tankers purchased locally is under favourable consideration if the vehicles can be delivered rapidly.

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

During the reporting period, a total of 247 units of blood were distributed at blood centres in 12 hospitals.

Objective 4 *To provide psycho-social support to the affected population and volunteers.*

In Juayúa and Armenia, the Spanish Red Cross psychological support team was operational. Following the second earthquake, the American Red Cross has reinforced its support in this essential field. (See section above on psychological support).

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

The French, Spanish and Italian Red Cross health brigades have been active particularly in the areas hit by the second earthquake, as follows: Santa María Ostuma - French Red Cross, San Pedro Nonualco - Salvadorean Red Cross Society; Federation - San Cayetano, Guadalupe and Tepetitán. Planning has been completed on the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) / Federation health brigade following confirmation of the JRCS pledge for this initiative. A second brigade may be considered given the additional workload created by the recent earthquake.

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

Support assessment and advisory services have been provided to the SRC and the PNS, particularly in the areas of disaster mitigation and alternative and appropriate material technology.

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.* **Phase III**

The Italian RC has contracted a specialist in post disaster earthquake reconstruction and water and sanitation technology.

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.*

Identification of post emergency projects is continuing.

Objective 9 *To strengthen the NS branches and to increase their ability to address the needs of the most vulnerable sustained and effective programming and service delivery. **Phase III***

A Federation branch development delegate will be sought in the coming days.

Objective 10. *To promote a coherent Red Cross image.* The SRC media office has extended its activity and provided a total of 15 articles and interviews as well as co-ordinated interviews for the Federation and PNS through the local media. The Canadian Broadcasting Service co-ordinated a series of syndicated interviews, concentrating on aspects of post disaster mental health and disaster preparedness. The head of the Federation delegation and the health delegate were interviewed by 8 different television and radio stations which contributed to promoting the image of the Red Cross.

Outstanding needs

The latest earthquake has resulted in an additional 5,000 vulnerable families, almost doubling the caseload. The primary needs are for food, hygiene, kitchen, water and shelter kits. It is anticipated that the shelter needs will be particularly acute, as will those for water supply. The amended budget reflects the need to seek funds to procure additional relief supplies.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

As part of the coordinating role of the Federation, delegates attend regular meetings with the mayor of Santa Tecla, COEN, the IOM and the WFP which is providing food rations for the Cafetalon shelter through COEN. On-going contact continues with UN agencies.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details. Given the revision of the budget, current coverage of the appeal stands at 48.7 per cent.

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>

			ANNEX 1
<u>REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 2/2001	
El Salvador - Earthquake			
TYPE	Initial budget	Revised budget	Variances
RELIEF NEEDS			
Shelter & constructions	633,231	1,210,731	(577,500)
Plastic Sheeting		332,760	(332,760)
Clothing & textiles	7,862	7,862	0
Food kits	421,608	643,608	(222,000)
Water kits for 6,600 families	144,706	144,706	0
Water tankers		200,000	(200,000)
Medical & first aid	36,036	36,036	0
Teaching materials	18,018	18,018	0
Utensils, tools, kitchen kits	321,375	506,275	(184,900)
Other relief supplies: hygiene kits, sanitation kits, bed kits	894,677	1,037,477	(142,800)
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	2,477,513	4,137,473	(1,659,960)
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT			
Vehicles: 2 trucks, 13 landcruisers	585,311	585,311	0
Computers	37,674	37,674	0
Telecom. equipment	14,414	14,414	0
Office furniture & equipment	8,190	8,190	0
Other equipment: industrial kitchens, water equipment	221,293	221,293	0
PROGRAMME SUPPORT			
Programme management (automatic calculation)	365,615	515,549	(149,934)
Technical support (automatic calculation)	109,446	154,328	(44,882)
Professional services (automatic calculation)	121,375	171,149	(49,774)
TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS	249,087	468,087	(219,000)
PERSONNEL			
Expatriate staff	456,814	456,814	0
National staff	318,412	318,412	0
Personnel (Training)	8,190	8,190	0
ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES			
Travel & related expenses	49,674	49,674	0
Information expenses	23,517	23,517	0
Administrative & general expenses	191,000	291,000	(100,000)
External workshops & seminars	184,622	184,622	0
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	2,944,634	3,508,225	(563,591)
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	5,422,147	7,645,698	(2,223,551)
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		3,688,290	
NET REQUEST		3,957,408	

Central America / El Salvador, earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			02/16/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				7,645,698		TOTAL COVERAGE 48.7%
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	
DANISH - RC		185,000	DKK	38,110	15.02.01	
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	
SINGAPORE - RC				2,918	14.02.01	
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	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,369,971	CHF	44.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				356,429	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						

ANNEX 3

