

EL SALVADOR: EARTHQUAKE

6 April 2001

appeal no. 2/2001

situation report no. 11

period covered: 10 March - 2 April 2001

Currently, 476 families remain in the Cafetalón shelter. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC), supported by the Federation and the PNS, has carried out food distributions which have reached a total of 9,900 families. Furthermore, over the reporting period, 2,500 hygiene kits were distributed and hygiene promotion activities carried out. More communities are regaining access to the piped water supply. However, others continue to face difficulties, particularly where wells have been filled or have dried up. Mobile teams continue to provide medical care in La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente, Usulután, with the support of the Japanese, Spanish and French Red Cross Societies.

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. The epicentre of the earthquake was some 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, an aftershock 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 local time, reducing many rural communities to rubble, killing over 300 persons and causing major damage to water systems.

On Saturday, 17 February, at approximately 14.24 hours local time, El Salvador was shaken by a further tremor, the epicentre of which was in the south of the city of San Salvador. The quake measured 5.3 on the Richter scale, caused landslides and damaged more homes.

Latest events

After a period of relative calm, a tremor of 5.4 on the Richter scale on 29 March reminded the population of the uncertainty of earthquakes and the imminent danger of natural disasters. The epicentre was situated 30 km south of Cordoncillo in the department of La Paz at a depth of 61.7 km, and was felt throughout the whole country. The national emergency committee (COEN) reports a total of 7,432 tremors since 13 January. Fortunately, no further major damage has been reported.

In addition to the continuation of activities focused on assistance to the most vulnerable affected by the earthquakes, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society is preparing for the Easter festivities. Holy week is a yearly event which the local population traditionally spends at the beach and the National Society has drawn up an assistance plan for the period. The plan envisages the setting up of 72 assistance posts and 5 macro posts in strategic locations. The Federation and PNS working in the country will contribute to the plan with support and equipment.

Furthermore, as the rainy season has now arrived, the SRC presented its national contingency plan for planning and coordination of actions to take place given the annual occurrence of flooding as rivers burst their banks.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Objective 1 To meet the basic needs and support the resettlement of the population of the "Cafetalón" macro-shelter

In accordance with the agreement between the SRC and the local municipality, 476 families are housed at the Cafetalón shelter. Since the local authorities have not yet identified the land on which families will be resettled, 130 families have moved to the Polideportivo shelter situated in Santa Gertrudis, and 118 are living on their own land or with relatives. These families have received SRC assistance kits which include food, water, bedding, kitchen, hygiene and sanitation sets. The Spanish Red Cross supported the Salvadorean Red Cross Society to carry out distributions and the German Red Cross provided transportation for the families. The American Red Cross continues to support the Cafetalón shelter with water and sanitation facilities including community education.

Objective 2 To provide the basic needs and support the resettlement of 30,000 (6,600 Federation case load) families in the departments of Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, Cuscatlán, San Miguel, San Miguel, Santa Ana, La Paz, Usulután, San Vicente and San Salvador.

- Relief Distribution 10 March - 2 April 2001

SRC food distributions continued during the reporting period under the revised plan of action, with assistance from the Federation and the French Red Cross. Food packages included five packs of pasta, three packets of soup, three kg of rice, one box of biscuits, four cans of tuna, four kg of beans, one litre of oil and one five pound bag of sugar. Distributions took place in La Paz and San Vicente departments targeting 1,591 and 231 families respectively (a total of 9,110 beneficiaries). The total number of families assisted to date is of 9,900 (3,300 families more than initially planned).

At present, capacity building activities such as training and organisation of the warehouse continue to be one of the main areas of Federation support to the National Society, including the implementation of standard Federation control systems.

- Water and sanitation

With support from the Belgian Red Cross, distribution of 2,500 hygiene kits containing toothpaste, tooth brushes, towels, toilet paper and sanitary towels took place in Sonsonate, together with hygiene promotion activities.

In Cojutepeque, with assistance from the American Red Cross and in coordination with OXFAM, the use of water tanks is on going, according to needs. In the communities of San Ramon, San Emigdio, Santa Cruz Analquito, Paraiso de Osorio, San Miguel Tepezontes and San Juan Tepezontes, the water supply has returned to pre-earthquake norms, therefore removal of tanks is taking place. Most of the water tanks in various communities of Sonsonate and Cojutepeque have been dismantled and OXFAM has donated a large part of the equipment to the Red Cross for future activities.

More communities are regaining access to the piped water supply. However, other communities continue to face difficulties when looking for sources of water since, as a result of landslides in some areas, rivers are no longer accessible. In addition, some wells have filled or dried up; therefore it is recommended to assist these communities to find a more sustainable solution for water supply.

The delivery of equipment from the British Red Cross for water and sanitation activities took place recently and has been installed.

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

The Ministry of Health (MoH) launched a dengue fever prevention campaign on 28 March given the early emergence of two cases. Last year, the National Society, with support from the Spanish Red Cross, carried out a tropical disease programme at community level, mainly targeting schools with youth volunteers. The programme focused on community education regarding tropical diseases (dengue fever, malaria, cholera) prevention. Activities in most of the country continue this year. At present, with growing concern in respect of the arrival of the rainy season, the National Society is discussing with the MoH the possibility of cooperating with the dengue fever campaign.

In addition, there is growing concern over the number of hepatitis cases - 525 to date - whereas last year at this same time there were 223 cases, particularly in view of the fact that the MoH does not have a stock of hepatitis vaccinations. The Spanish Red Cross continues to support the National Society with two health brigades.

Coordination meetings on health issues including water and sanitation are considered an integral part of the "return home" programme, particularly in those areas without basic infrastructure.

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

Psychosocial support, aimed to assist volunteers and staff, was successfully implemented during the reporting period with assistance from the American Red Cross. Although the results are difficult to assess, it has become clear that this activity was not only necessary for those working under stressful conditions, but will prove fruitful to ensure completion of the programme.

The SRC health brigades continue their activities in psychosocial support, with assistance from the Italian Red Cross and the French Red Cross, in the areas of Sonsonate, La Paz, Cuscatlán and San Vicente which were affected by the earthquake in February. The American Red Cross continues its support in this area of work, and an experienced psychologist has been recruited to monitor and manage the activities.

A psychosocial delegate will be deployed to the field to assist in the coordination and standardisation of PNS activities, as well as the transition from direct service to development of local skills. The delegate

will also be responsible for strengthening links with the MoH and relevant NGOs, particularly through participation in the mental health advisory group to the MoH, and will develop a strategy for psychological support which will be reflected in the national development plan of the SRC.

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

Mobile teams continue to provide medical care in La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente and Usulután, with the support of the Japanese, Spanish and French Red Cross Societies.

In addition, training of SRC branch volunteers, community network members and MoH staff has taken place with assistance from the Italian and French Red Cross Societies. To date, these activities have benefited 23 volunteers from the Sonsonate branch and 30 from the Armenia branch, including community leaders and health personnel.

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

During the reporting period, the SRC presented a contingency plan for the forthcoming rainy season. The plan reviews the most vulnerable areas in each department which are affected each winter. The Federation is supporting this plan by presenting a proposal for assistance, both through operational support and equipment. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has also provided its contingency plan for the winter season.

In April, a two day workshop will take place with the objective of evaluating community disaster response programmes in the region in coordination with several NGOs. The objective of this workshop is to measure the impact of development workshops as well as the effectiveness of the community response to the previous disasters. As a complement, a survey will take place at community level in order to be aware of the opinion of the beneficiaries.

The presence of a Federation telecommunications delegate in the field for a period of one month is helping to improve the response capacity of the National Society. The delegate, who will stay for a period of one month, has the aim of branch capacity building, installation of equipment provided with support from the American Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross and the building of a SRC technical team.

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 National Society branches and vulnerable communities.

The focus in this area has been the development of a long-term disaster preparedness programme. The details relating to revision of the programme will depend on PNS participation and support.

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.

The purchase of materials for 2,500 temporary homes is underway. In addition to the 664 families from Cafetalón who will be provided with temporary homes, 336 more families are to be identified as beneficiaries of this programme in various parts of the country. The breakdown of beneficiaries identified is as follows: 1,000 in Tacuba, 300 in El Congo, 130 in La Laguna, and 70 as a reserve. The next step will be to conduct the site analysis for the resettlement of the beneficiaries in cooperation with the local authorities.

The construction expert provided by the Federation and the Italian Red Cross is now fully operational in the field, primarily in Sonsonate where he has travelled within the department evaluating the type and

nature of damage, building materials and planning. This evaluation served as a basis for the presentation of a proposal to UNDP on 20 March.

The Netherlands Red Cross has expressed interest in providing temporary shelters for the resettlement of 1,500 families as well as for rehabilitation of schools. 9 schools in San Esteban and Catarinas have already been identified which will allow 360 children to follow regular schooling.

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

The Federation has started activities which support the finalisation of the national development plan, with the aim of strengthening the National Society's capacity as well as carrying out institutional development programmes. In addition, the Netherlands Red Cross has expressed interest in supporting the SRC with the rehabilitation and improvement of branches, which will enable the National Society to better respond and be better prepared to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable in times of disaster.

Objective 10 To promote a coherent Red Cross image.

As a result of the recent seminar on information for disasters organised by the regional delegation and with support from AECI (Spanish International Cooperation Agency), relations between the SRC and the major local written media have been promoted. Furthermore, the possibility of holding another such seminar locally is being studied in order to strengthen relations with the media, as well as broadening the scope for visibility.

Following the seminar, and in order to strengthen the SRC information department, an information contingency plan which forms part of the SRC disaster contingency plan, will be produced and disseminated throughout the SRC. In addition, the regional long distance education programme for branch volunteers who are communicators at local level which is in place in Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama, will begin in El Salvador.

Outstanding needs

Further needs may arise, particularly with the onset of the rainy season as flooding may increase the numbers of vulnerable and homeless. A revised budget will be issued in a forthcoming situation report.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The SRC, with support from the Federation, and the American, French and Italian Red Cross Societies, is currently coordinating a press conference to celebrate World Health Day.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details. The appeal coverage currently stands at 106.3 per cent

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>

Central America / El Salvador, earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			04.04.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				7'645'698		TOTAL COVERAGE 106.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - PRIVATES				8'626	24.01.01	
AMERICAN - 2 PRIVATES				2'688	02.02.01.	
AMERICAN - PRIVATES		5'400	USD	8'791	15.02.01	
ANDORRAN - RC				31'976	02.02.01	
BRITISH - PRIVATE		100'000	GBP	241'000	15.03.01	
ARGENTINIAN - RC		1'896	ARS	3'087	16.03.01	
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	
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		5'437'402	BEF	207'355	22.01.01	PURCHASE OF 7'172 HYGIENE KITS
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 - GOVT (DFID)		55'792	GBP	134'459	19.02.01	2X WATER TANKERS (MAX. 6 MONTHS)
BRITISH - RC		90'000	GBP	216'900	02.03.01	
BRITISH - PRIVATE		100'000	GBP	241'000	15.03.01	
BRITISH - PRIVATE				126	29.01.01	
CANADIAN - RC		70'000	CAD	77'112	16.01.01	
CANADIAN - GOVT		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
CANADIAN - RC		150'000	CAD	162'375	16.02.01	HEALTH CLINICS & WATER SANITATION
CANADIAN - RC		300'000	CAD	324'750	19.02.01	CANNOT BE USED FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD ITEMS
CANADIAN - RC		200'000	CAD	216'500	19.02.01	HEALTH & CAPACITY BUILDING
CHILEAN - RC		11'000	USD	17'908	20.02.01	
CYPRUS - RC				5'270	14.02.01	
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	
FINNISH GOVT		159'778	EUR	245'802	02.03.01	
HONG KONG - RC				5'7631	26.02.01	
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
ITALIAN - PRIVATE				335	02.02.01	
JAPANESE - RC				37'000	16.01.01	
JAPANESE - GOVT		498'870	USD	812'160	16.02.01	TEMPORARY DWELLINGS (2'500 KITS
JAPANESE - RC				142'000	16.02.01	COSTS OF DELEGATE TO BE CHARGE
JAPANESE - RC		347'933	USD	566'435	16.02.01	MOBILE COMMUNITY HEALTH BRIGADES PROGRAMME (3 BRIGADES 3 MONTHS)

KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				30000	17.01.01	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				53150	13.02.01	
LIECHTENSTEIN - PRIVATE				15000	27.02.01	
MALTESE - RC				29725	16.02.01	
MONACO - RC		200'000	FRF	46900	14.01.01	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		504490	NLG	352'176	01.02.01	FOR PURCHASE OF HYGINE KITS, INDUSTRIAL KITCHENS, BED KITS, MANAGEMENT / OPERATION SUPPORT
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		66'800	NLG	46632	01.03.01	
NEW ZEALAND - govt		100'000	NZD	71'770	16.01.01	
NORWEGIAN - RC		250'000	NOK	46350	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	40700	29.01.01	RELIEF ITEMS
SHELL INTERNATIONAL		25'000	USD	40700	24.01.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				23000	22.01.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				2918	14.02.01	
SPANISH - PRIVATE				1'000	27.02.01	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		600'000	SEK	104'580	15.01.01	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1'045'000	SEK	181'517	21.02.01	
SWISS - PRIVATES				200	16.01.01	
SWISS - 10 PRIVATES				2765	14.02.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE				300	26.02.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE				2500	05.03.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE		679	USD	1'180	23.03.01	
TURKISH - RC				50'000	17.01.01	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		10'000	AED	4'433	05.02.01	
UNHCR STAFF				4'248	19.02.01	
VENEZUELA - PRIVATE		10'000	USD	16'750	22.01.01	
VENEZUELA - PRIVATE		36'518'000	VEB	85'087	15.02.01	
WHO STAFF				2'000	22.01.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS		415	USD	687	30.01.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				5'315	22.02.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				11'865	26.02.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				5'928	08.03.01	
SUNDRY INCOME - PRIVATES				188	27.02.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				2'318	20.03.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS		1'100	USD	1'837	28.03.01	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				7'406'485	CHF	96.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH - RC		7487	GBP	18'044	27.02.01	MDPE PIPE, PUMPS, TAPS, SUCTION HOSE, TRANSPORTATION
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

FRENCH - RC		223'430	EUR	343'725	21.02.01	160 TENTS 27 M2, 600 FAMILY TENTS 12M2
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				718'198	CHF	9.4%
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						