

EL SALVADOR: EARTHQUAKE

25 July 2001

appeal no. 2/2001

situation report no. 15

period covered: 01 June - 22 July 2001

The objectives of the relief phase of the earthquake operation have been reached following the delivery and installation of temporary housing for 2,500 beneficiary families. The focus of the Salvadorean Red Cross (SRC) and the Federation operation is currently on longer term initiatives in disaster preparedness and strengthening of branch capacity. There is concern over potential water shortages given the lack of rain to date and this situation will be the subject of constant evaluation.

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 epicenter was 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 engulfed an estimated 400 houses in mud. However, later assessments subsequently revealed a broader impact as rural areas across the country were severely damaged, resulting in the displacement of whole communities.

One month after the earthquake, an aftershock registering 6.6 on the Richter scale struck 30 km east of San Salvador on Tuesday, 13 February at 8:22 am, killing more than 300 persons, reducing many rural communities to rubble, and causing major damage to water systems.

On Saturday 17 February, at 2.24 pm, El Salvador was shaken by a further tremor, the epicentre being south of San Salvador. The quake measured 5.3 on the Richter scale, caused landslides and damaged more homes.

Latest events

Since the first rains in May, rainfall has been below average. In El Salvador the government has produced a “Harvesting Plan” for food security and neighbouring countries are referring to the risk of food shortages. The local media has reported the possibility of drought. Government figures indicate that between 12 and 28 June,

rainfall was 58 per cent lower than the 20-year average and this could cause a 16 per cent decrease in agricultural production this year.

It is too early to determine if the low rainfall will significantly affect the 2001 harvest, but the Salvadorean Red Cross is analysing the current situation. Fortunately, tremors have decreased significantly and only occasional weak tremors are being felt.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

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

On 12 May, the Cafetalón macro shelter was closed as a result of government efforts to house the population there. Families remaining in tents at the shelter were accommodated at two sites set up by the government and the municipality: El Cobanal (150 families) and El Chanmico (350 families). The small number of people who remain at the Polideportivo shelter are being assisted by the government and MSF, and the remainder have either returned to their previous homes or are living with family members.

To complete the support to families which had lived in El Cafetalón, 149 families received temporary shelters in Santa Tecla.

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, Santa Ana, La Paz, Usulután, San Vicente and San Salvador.

•Relief Distribution

Red Cross activities related to relief distribution have been reduced over recent months because, six months after the earthquake, work is focused on rehabilitation projects.

•Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation activities continue through the provision of two tanks in two communities within the Department of Cojutepeque, each with water storage capacity of five thousand litres. After an assessment, the two tanks which were in Sonsonate, were reinstalled in two additional communities within Cojutepeque. As a result of the same assessment, one additional tank with a capacity of ten thousand litres has been installed in the Department of Santa Ana. Following a survey, an additional two tanks may also be deployed to the field.

The rain water project in Cojutepeque has been set up in three communities and is now ready. If the current low rainfall persists, the two tanking trucks provided by the British Red Cross will be mobilised together with storage tanks.

The “child to child” project, in coordination with CARE, continues smoothly in Cojutepeque. This project is targeted towards children between the ages of 7 and 12 through health activities and hygiene promotion as well as behaviour change in relation to sanitation. Six volunteers from the branch have been trained to carry out the project and the children targeted will pass on their new knowledge to other children in their schools, family and community in general.

Further branch strengthening activities include the conclusion of the tank installation training which was carried out in four workshops during June and early July. A total of 78 volunteers from five Departments: Cuscatlan, Sonsonate, San Salvador, Santa Ana and Usulután were trained.

At national level, PHAST (participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation) training was carried out in June, to which, in addition to Federation and National Society participants, members of Oxfam, UNICEF, PROVIDA, CARE, CHF and the Ministry of Health were invited. This training had the objective of facilitating community participation in the process of hygiene education methods.

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

In accordance with *Strategy 2010* and to meet the health needs of the population, the Salvadorean Red Cross and the Federation aim to prevent epidemics through the provision of primary and preventative health care. During a recent visit, the Japanese Red Cross Society expressed interest in supporting the health programme. It aims to strengthen the health department of the SRC with human and material resources, working through the branches and linking with other areas of work such as water and sanitation. There was also a community capacity building element involving social organisation and training. These activities will be carried out with the support of a health delegate in the medium term and in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

The Japanese Red Cross also expressed its willingness to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of government structures, such as health posts and schools. These structures would be chosen through careful evaluation, taking into consideration those areas where branch development activities were taking place. In this way, the rehabilitation programme would also ensure the strengthening of the National Society at branch level.

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

Psycho-social support initiatives continue through the work of the French Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross and are to be integrated as an essential component of the global health programme. At the outset of the operation, crisis intervention brigades were trained in psychological first aid and identification of serious cases. As support to the National Society's health department, a local coordinator will oversee the implementation of the overall psycho-social support project and monitor progress, as well as assist the health brigades specialising in psycho-social support.

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

To continue with the improvement of health in the communities, the health brigade working in the Departments of La Paz, San Vicente and Usulután with Salvadorean Red Cross volunteers and the support of the Japanese Red Cross, having completed its work in mid May, will continue for three to six additional months. Priorities will be in accordance with necessities. In addition, as a result of the inclusion of a health delegate, and in accordance with the plan to strengthen the National Society's health department at both national and branch level, three brigades may be formed. Following the arrival of the health delegate, and after evaluation, the future of the project will be defined.

The brigade working at present assisted the communities of El Roble Viroleño, San José Costa Rica and La Concepción Lourdes. The total population assisted was of 3,000 people, mostly children. Most frequent pathologies encountered by the brigade include parasites, headaches and acute respiratory infection in Concepción Lourdes and El Roble Viroleño, and anxiety syndrome in San José Costa Rica.

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

With the lack of rainfall leading to potential food shortages, the Salvadorean Red Cross has made contact with the local authorities and the WFP to discuss possible consequences and plans of action. The Ministry of Agriculture has included in its "Harvesting Plan" initiatives such as programmes which include credit components, food for work in cooperation with the WFP, permanent monitoring of harvest development and assessment of water availability in the hardest hit areas.

Between 4-8 June, the Salvadorean Red Cross was host to the regional sphere project workshop. Volunteers and staff from national societies throughout the region participated in this workshop for a total of thirty participants. The main objectives were: the strengthening of capacities for disaster response by improving the quality of initial evaluations and project design; the promotion of a strong commitment to the use of the minimum standards; and consideration of human rights issues and the creation of capacity in the region for further dissemination of the Sphere project.

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.

On 2-3 June, a facilitators' workshop took place in San Salvador. This was carried out with support from CIDA with the goal of strengthening the community's capacity to reduce risk and improve its response in case of disaster. Concepts including disaster prevention, shelter management and healthy homes were included in this workshop. By training facilitators, the communities will become the agents of change in their own environments, thus being able to identify risks and vulnerabilities, but more importantly, to react to reduce the impact of disasters and emergencies.

Objective 8: To increase the social wellbeing 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.

With the delivery of the last 100 temporary houses in mid July, the "Techos" project was concluded. This project, which was carried out by Salvadorean Red Cross volunteers with support from the Federation delegation and the Japanese Red Cross Society, aimed to alleviate housing problems for 2,500 families. The families prepared the land themselves, and with the training and instruction of branch volunteers in their area, constructed the "Techos". Initial instruction and a demonstration to branch volunteers was carried out by the suppliers. The following table shows the "Techos" delivery by geographical area:

Department	Municipality	Number of Families
Ahuachapan	Tacuba	350
Santa Ana	El Congo	500
Santa Ana	Santa Ana	425
Sonsonate	Sonsonate	500
La Libertad	Ciudad Arce	200
Cuscatlan	Santa Cruz Analquito	60*
La Libertad, Santa Ana	Chanmico, Santa Ana	250*
La Libertad, Santa Ana	Nancintepeque, La Libertad	66*
San Salvador	Santa Tecla	149*
TOTAL:		2,500

* As per the cooperation agreement, these "Techos" were delivered and set up in collaboration with OIM: 60 techos in Cuscatlan, ACSUR; 250 techos in La Libertad and Santa Ana, MDM (Doctors of the World); 66 techos in La Libertad and Santa Ana, and the German Red Cross; 60 techos in Santa Tecla.

In addition to the above-mentioned housing distribution, 1,500 temporary "Techos" were delivered to cover further housing needs for families in San Martin-San Salvador (1,000) and San Vicente (500) with support from the Netherlands Red Cross. Nine temporary classrooms in San Esteban Caterina have been completed and classes will begin soon.

To ensure adequate sanitation, latrine installation will take place in those sites where the "Techos" have been delivered. House by house evaluation has taken place in Sonsonate, and the need for latrines has already been reviewed. Furthermore, an information visit to the communities as regards the sanitation component of the project was carried out.

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.

The National Society has concluded dissemination of its national contingency plan nation-wide, which aims to assist communities in case of flooding and landslides in areas previously identified through field assessments and

outlined in risk maps. Fifty branches participated in this dissemination exercise and will now produce their own contingency plans at departmental level and in accordance with each type of risk.

In addition to the previously mentioned programmes in health and water and sanitation, which will work to strengthen the branches of the geographical areas concerned, the branch development delegate who is to arrive shortly, will focus on strengthening of the Salvadorean Red Cross branches. Disaster preparedness and prevention will also form part of this integral programme and its three main areas of focus will be community brigades trained in first aid response, preparation for disasters in schools and branch development including health, water and sanitation and rehabilitation components. This integrated programme is planned for implementation in four departmental branches in Ahuachapan, Santa Ana, Sonsonate and Cojutepeque.

Objective 10: To promote a coherent Red Cross image.

As a follow up to the seminar for journalists on disasters, close contact has been maintained with these media representatives and new journalists who have joined the network. On 17 July, the *World Disaster Report 2001* was launched in El Salvador, which various television, radio and print journalists attended. On 21 July, a working breakfast was organised and Federation disaster preparedness delegate gave a thorough presentation of the *World Disasters Report*.

Outstanding needs

As a result of recent developments and the possibility of inadequate rainfall, the Salvadorean Red Cross and the Federation participated in meetings with the local authorities and the WFP in order to discuss and evaluate the situation. Further meetings will take place as the situation evolves to assess any potential food shortages. In the meantime, the rehabilitation programmes are being initiated and the arrival of both a health and a branch development delegate is awaited.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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Central America / El Salvador, earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			25.07.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				9'385'698		TOTAL COVERAGE 88.8%
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	
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	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		33'595	AUD	30'199	06.04.01	
BARBADOS - RC				3'262	01.06.2001	
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		5'437'402	BEF	207'355	22.01.01	PURCHASE OF 7'172 HYGIENE KITS
BELIZE - RC		500	USD	885	18.07.2001	
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	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				57'631	26.02.01	
ICELANDIC - RC		1'000'000	ISK	19'411	15.01.01	
IRANIAN - RC		20'000	USD	34'264	17.04.01	
IRISH - RC		20'000	IEP	38'190	16.01.01	
IRISH - GOVT		200'000	IEP	381'900	15.01.01	
IRISH - RC				136'710	20.03.01	

IRISH - RC				38'700	29.05.2001	
IRISH - PRIVATE		25'395	EUR	39'133	09.05.2001	
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				30'000	17.01.01	
KUWAIT - RC		50'000	USD	83'950	28.02.01	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				53'150	13.02.01	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				42'650	17.04.01	HEALTH AND WATER
LIECHTENSTEIN - PRIVATE				15'000	27.02.01	
MALTESE - RC				29'725	16.02.01	
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
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		66'800	NLG	46'632	01.03.01	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		100'000	NZD	71'770	16.01.01	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		36'439	NZD	25'285	12.04.2001	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		8'621	NZD	6'277	28.05.2001	
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	
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	
SWEDISH - RC		502'895	SEK	87'353	19.04.01	
SWISS - PRIVATES				200	16.01.01	
SWISS - 10 PRIVATES				2'765	14.02.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE				300	26.02.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE				2'500	05.03.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE		679	USD	1'180	23.03.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE				1'500	15.02.2001	
TUNISIAN - RC		1'977	USD	3'338	19.04.2001	
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		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				7'390	10.04.01	
PRIVATE DONOR		3'000	USD	4'974	13.03.001	
PRIVATES				1'892	23.05.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				7'553'660	CHF	80.5%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH - RC		7'487	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
Canada	Delegate(s)			14'620		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			24'640		
Finland	Delegate(s)			24'312		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				781'770	CHF	8.3%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	