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Emergency appeal operation update

El Salvador: Tropical Depression 12-E

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRSV004

GLIDE n° TC-2011-000157-SLV

Operation update n°1

21 December 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 5 November to 12 December 2011

Appeal target (current): 1,054,611 Swiss francs

Appeal coverage: This appeal currently stands at 64 per cent based on the total of in-kind donations and registered pledges; further contributions are still needed to help the Salvadoran Red Cross Society to meet the needs of the affected families in a comprehensive manner.

[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

An interim financial report will be issued together with the next operations update.

Appeal history:

- On 17 October 2011, 191,129 Swiss francs were allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)'s [Disaster Relief Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) to support the emergency response.
- A [Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) was initially launched on 21 October 2011 for 1,185,025 Swiss francs for 9 months to assist 2,000 families.
- An [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 4 November for 1,054,611 Swiss francs and an additional 42,029 Swiss francs to cover the cost of supporting the shelter cluster coordination.

Summary: The Civil Protection System has reported that 181 of the 262 municipalities were affected by Tropical Depression 12-E. This is 69% of the municipalities with approximately 300,000 people affected. Immediate risks to life were reduced through extensive evacuation efforts of over 56,000 people in high-risk areas to safer locations. Sheltering occurred in 260 collective centres and immediate needs were supported through distribution of non-food relief items. In the initial phase of the response the Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS) reached 927 families with the support of pre-positioned stock. With the launching of the Emergency Appeal an additional 1,227 families have been assisted with food parcels, blankets, hygiene kits and mattresses.



Volunteers of the Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS) have distributed basic necessities to affected families.
Source: SRCS

Another priority for the SRCS has been health care and reduction of health risks. Thus far, 204 volunteers and staff members of the SRCS as well as 513 children residing in collective centres have received psychosocial support. The National Society, with the support of the private sector in El Salvador, has also reached 2,237 persons with health care through mobile clinics in the departments of La Libertad, Usulután, San Miguel, La Unión and Morazán. Furthermore, as part of the efforts to reduce health risks, the SRCS has installed water tanks in the departments of Ahuachapán, Usulután, and La Paz. These tanks, which contain up to 10 cubic metres or 10,000 litres, are replenished on a daily basis to assist some 500 families (2,000 people). In addition, at the time of distribution of hygiene kits, volunteers complete a 30-minute informative session on personal hygiene and safe storage of water.

Once distributions are concluded, the National Society will begin the recovery phase of the Plan of Action, including activities to support the recovery of livelihoods and shelter, as well as activities to address medium to long term health needs.

The situation

On 10 October 2011 Tropical Depression 12E met with another low pressure front and brought intense rain - 1,500 mm in just under a week. Severe precipitation had already been occurring in the region since September 2011 (see chart below). This extensive rain, which exceeded the levels experienced during Hurricane Mitch, caused at least 132 rivers to overflow, 185 floods, 419 landslides, 18 sunken areas and 20 cases of ground subsidence. On 14 October, the Salvadoran government declared a state of emergency once the extent of the damage became apparent and because precipitation was still continuing across the country. It is estimated that 300,000 people were economically, socially and psychologically impacted by the storm and heavy rains, and many of these people are living in poverty.

As assessments continue the damage reported continues to increase, with government reports from 7 December indicating that 24 streets have been damaged, 20 streets blocked, 1,195 landslides have occurred in streets, 20 bridges have been damaged and 7 bridges destroyed. Furthermore, 392 electric poles have fallen, and damage to 12 sewage and water systems continues to affect access to safe water and sanitation. The United Nations recently reported on 25 November that 947 schools have incurred damages. This is higher than initial estimates, and 30 of these buildings are severely damaged and four will require relocation.

The Secretariat for Vulnerability Issues (Secretaría de Asuntos para la Vulnerabilidad) reported on 20 October that La Libertad was the department with the highest number of persons severely affected (2,450 families - 9,626 persons, La Paz and San Vicente followed, each with 2,502 families - 8,430 persons, Sonsonate with 2,148 families, and Usulután with 1,411 families. Usulután also had the largest displacement, with 30 per cent of the total population of Jiquilisco displaced (see map below). At the peak of the emergency on 20 October 56,399 persons were forced to evacuate their homes, many of them took shelter in 640 collective centres. Currently, there are seven collective centres still active in the departments of La Libertad and San Salvador with 262 people still being sheltered. There are also approximately 3,000 people sheltering in the homes of family and friends. Thus, the recovery and rehabilitation of houses to facilitate affected people's return home remains a priority.

A recent technical evaluation has been completed and determined that around 8,000 homes have been damaged and 631 homes destroyed. There are also issues of land rights that will affect this process. To this end, the shelter cluster has been activated and is currently coordinating activities to plan the relocation, adaptation or reconstruction for the affected families. Two working groups have also been initiated: one for micro finance and another to address legal land rights issues.

In a 2010 study on the economic effects of climate change, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) stated that Central America's agriculture would suffer increasingly in the future. The Government has reported a 4% loss to the country's gross domestic product totaling 840 million dollars due to these recent floods, with 362 million dollars in damages to assets and around 478 million dollars in losses to economic activity. Agriculture, road infrastructure, housing, and social infrastructure (health and education) sectors have been the most affected. Agricultural production has been affected in 188 municipalities, and on the coastal fringe and lowlands families have lost 100 per cent of their subsistence crops as well as jobs related to agricultural production. The Ministry of Agriculture and Husbandry (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería) reported losses of corn crops at over 54 per cent, 33 per cent in the case of bean crops, 50 per cent of dairy production; and about 80 per cent of vegetable crops have been lost in Riego de Zapotitlán, one of the main sources for San Salvador city. Some 27,000 small fishermen and 40 ships for large scale fishing were also

damaged. Thus the recovery of livelihoods, specifically in agriculture and fishing is essential and interventions for this are being explored.

Damage to health establishments was reported by the Technical Health Commission (Comisión Técnica Sectorial de Salud) consisting of 110 health centres, 9 hospitals and 3 administrative buildings, most of them in La Paz, La Libertad and Chalatenango. The Ministry of Health has reported that 10,186 wells have been contaminated and 1,833 wells destroyed, and according to the National Water and Sewer Administration (ANDA), most of the wells tested have high levels of contamination. The situation is also critical in the area of sanitation, due to the destruction of 28,862 latrines.



The SRCS, in coordination with municipal authorities, the Civil Protection System and community leaders, provides information on hygiene care and safe use of water. Source: SRCS

Vector proliferation due to stagnant waters and waste accumulation, as well as an increase of acute diarrheic diseases as a result of the lack of safe drinking water has been a concern, as has the possibility of a dengue outbreak, since the country was already close to red alert level before the tropical depression. Finally, the Ministry of Health reported a case of leptospirosis associated with the flooding in Jiquilisco, Usulután in November. Assessments carried out by the Salvadoran Red Cross

Society found that most communities and the collective centres did not have access to safe water, nor adequate systems for excretal disposal. Thus the need for safe water was

prioritized. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) cluster has been activated with the participation of 19 organizations.

Serious problems with infrastructure persist, including water systems, damage to health care services, and educational institutions. The main problems are poor access to potable water, contaminated wells and precarious access to basic sanitation. Disease prevention and health concerns are a key priority. It is now possible to conduct health and hygiene promotion activities as families have started to return home. Flood waters began receding at the end of October and throughout November, but recovery will take much longer, as the cumulative effect of annual flooding has pushed national capacities to their limit. Food prices have risen since the flooding.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the disaster began, national coordination has been underway with involvement of the municipal-level communities, participation from the humanitarian actors in the country, and support from the international community. The Civil Protection System has been leading the governmental response and coordination between the agencies involved in the response has been facilitated through the Emergency Operations Centre. Several working groups in the technical sectors (logistics, shelter, water and sanitation, health) have been working to coordinate and plan efforts.

The government has created a National Committee of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (CNRR) to manage resource planning in this area. The UNDP is providing technical support and coordinating with all the humanitarian clusters to develop a strategic framework to identify areas of work and gaps in the response, recovery and rehabilitation phases. An evaluation on the needs for early recovery, with a focus on governance and livelihoods is being undertaken.

The following humanitarian organizations are involved in response activities: CARE El Salvador, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Fundación Seraphim, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Lutheran World Federation, Oxfam America, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), Plan, UNDP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and World Vision International - El Salvador. The United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) has requested funds through the Cash Emergency Grant (CEG), the Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) and a Flash Appeal. The clusters

are active with agriculture led by the FAO, education; education, and protection and security led by UNICEF; food and logistics by WFP; water, sanitation, and health, by PAHO; and shelter by the IFRC.

The Americas Zone office including PADRU's disaster management team have been providing assistance to support the National Society in conducting its activities. Additional assistance has been provided by the IFRC, with the support of the Canadian Red Cross, with a RIT deployed in the first month of the response, and a second RIT has since taken over and will be in-country for three months. A Disaster Management Delegate was also deployed in the initial response phase to assist the National Society in coordinating a Plan of Action.

The SRCS is actively involved with the national coordination mechanism, is coordinating with Participating National Societies (PNS) in country, including the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross. Coordination is also ongoing with the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross.

Shelter Cluster Coordination: The IFRC took the lead in Shelter Cluster coordination through the Americas zone office's shelter coordinator with support from the Global Shelter Cluster focal points in Geneva and Canada. The shelter cluster team has two dedicated staff supporting the in-country coordination in information management, and recovery and technical expertise. The organizations active in the emergency phase are the Salvadoran Red Cross Society, the Office of Civil Protection, Habitat for Humanity - El Salvador, IOM, Save the Children, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and World Vision. In recovery, the coordination team is working with the Vice Minister of Housing and Urban Development, CHF International, Habitat for Humanity - El Salvador, IOM, Plan International, World Vision, and the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN HABITAT).

It was decided that to improve operations, working groups would be developed by the shelter cluster members, and agencies working at the country level would take the lead in facilitating these different working groups, both in the emergency and the recovery phase. Five working groups will guide activities: *a technical group* to provide advice on repair and reconstruction methods ("build back better"), including traditional construction techniques; *a capacity building group*, which will link the technical construction work with livelihoods activities and income generation; *a legal assistance group*, which will address issues such as land tenure and subsidies and provide information and assistance to affected families; *a financial group* to provide advice on the use of different tools such as micro-credit and loans; and *a construction group* to support material and service providers. So far, two working groups have been started, the legal assistance group and a financial group. A technical construction group is also in the process of being formed. Throughout December the group will evaluate what repair and reconstruction activities will be necessary and then consult with the Government's Housing Coordinator.

Support to shelter cluster coordination is through earmarked funding, with a separate budget and financial code linked to this Emergency Appeal. This additional funding will support shelter cluster coordination when the partners expressly indicate their interest to do so. The Vice-Ministry has requested an extension of the coordination support until at least the end of the year. The IFRC coordination is funded through this emergency appeal, but additional funds will be needed to extend the coordination activities. Based on an agreement at global level between IFRC and UN HABITAT, the latter is submitting a project seeking 60,000 US dollars for this purpose.

National Society Capacity Building: The pre-positioning of stocks provided the National Society with the ability to initiate distribution immediately following the disaster. The National Society was also swift and effective in its evacuation activities as risk prone areas were previously identified and the loss of lives was significantly lower than that in other emergencies. The SRCS also initiated the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) for the first time during the flooding of 2011. This coordination mechanism is continually improving their communication and coordination with other agencies. The National Society has previously worked in the areas of water and sanitation promotion and psycho-social support, thus they have some expertise in these areas – this emergency appeal will build on these past experiences to continually improve upon the delivery of these services.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

As 70 per cent of the country has been affected, relief and recovery efforts are extensive, but progress is being made. Based on assessments by the National Society in collaboration with the government and other agencies the priority areas for distribution of relief items have been determined as Ahuachapán, Sonsonate, La Libertad, La Paz and Usulután. In the initial phase of the response the SRCS reached 927 families with the support of pre-positioned stock. With the launching of the Emergency Appeal an additional 1,227 families have been assisted with food parcels, blankets, hygiene kits and mattresses.

Another priority for the SRCS has been to provide psychosocial support to both affected families and members of the Red Cross involved in the emergency response operation. Thus far, 204 volunteers and staff members of the SRCS as well as 513 children residing in



Providing psychosocial support for their volunteers and staff has been a priority for the Salvadoran Red Cross Society. Source: SRCS

collective centres have been assisted. The National Society, with the support of the private sector in El Salvador, has also reached 2,237 persons with health care through mobile clinics in the departments of La Libertad, Usulután, San Miguel, La Unión and Morazán. Furthermore, as part of the efforts to reduce health risks, the SRCS has installed water tanks in the departments of Ahuachapán, Usulután, and La Paz. These tanks, which contain up to 10 cubic metres or 10,000 litres, are replenished on a daily basis to assist some 500 families (2,000 people). In addition, at the time of distribution of hygiene kits, volunteers complete a 30-minute informative session on personal hygiene and safe storage of water.

Once distributions are concluded the National Society will start with the recovery phase of the Plan of Action, including activities to support the recovery of livelihoods and shelter, as well as activities to address medium to long term health needs.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate needs of 2,000 families living in collective centres are met through the distribution of relief items.

Outputs	Activities planned
2,000 families living in collective centres will receive blankets, mats/mattresses, food parcels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance in the collective centres. • Identify priority families. • Develop a distribution plan. • Procure and distribute relief items (blankets and mats) and food parcels in collective centres. • Replenish relief items distributed. • Monitor the relief activities and provide reporting on distributions.

Progress: In the initial phase of the response the SRCS reached 927 families with the support of pre-positioned stock. With the launching of the Emergency Appeal an additional 1,227 families have been assisted. The beneficiary selection used three criteria: general conditions of vulnerability, the degree of affectation and the

vulnerability to food insecurity. The general vulnerability was determined using the human development index; the degree of affectation was determined using the per cent of flooding and landslides in the region, as well as the number of municipalities within that region that were affected; and the vulnerability to food insecurity was determined using malnutrition rates. Annex 2 in the Emergency Appeal explains this process and classifies the departments according to overall vulnerability. The beneficiary departments were selected based on this vulnerability analysis.

The feasibility of coordination with other agencies to avoid duplication of efforts was also considered. Based on these criteria, the following communities were identified as the most vulnerable: Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, La Libertad, and San Salvador. Consideration was also given to the vulnerability of the individuals within these regions. Within these communities, vulnerable individuals were identified by volunteers using a standardized data collection tool. The information collected focused specifically on the following factors: women with children under 5 years old, pregnant women, the elderly and those with special needs. Based on this assessment it is anticipated that 10 per cent of distributions will be given to persons with special needs, 20 per cent to pregnant women, 30 per cent to the elderly, and 40 per cent to children under 5 years old, taking an estimate of 5 persons per family. Detailed information on actual distributions will follow in the next updates.

Thus far, the SRCS with the support of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has reached 4,705 families (19,786 people) who have received 11,251 blankets, 1,653 mattresses, 1,689 food parcels, 852 mosquito nets, and 1,852 jerry cans (see table below).

Department	No. of families	No. of persons	Blankets	Mattresses	Food parcels	Mosquito nets	Jerry cans
Santa Ana	8	25	34	25	-	-	-
Sonsonate	415	1,793	771	178	312	-	-
Ahuachapán	373	1,692	623	623	250	-	500
San Salvador	315	1,710	316	-	226	-	-
La Libertad	912	4,019	3,748	219	501	852	852
La Paz	779	3,098	1,772	608	400	-	500
Cuscatlán	85	289	357	-	-	-	-
Usulután	1,818	7,160	3,630	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4,705	19,786	11,251	1,653	1,689	852	1,852

Although information on relief distribution is still arriving from departmental branches, at least 1,227 families (6,135 persons) in Sonsonate, San Salvador and La Libertad departments have been reached with the support of the Emergency Appeal.

Department	No. of families	No. of persons	Blankets	Food parcels
San Salvador	226	1,130	-	226
Sonsonate	265	1,325	-	265
La Libertad	736	3,680	2,135	309
TOTAL	1,227	6,135	2,135	800

Challenges: Due to the large geographic scale of the affectation, the capacity of the National Society to transport volunteers and distribute relief items has been stretched. The SRCS and the IFRC are currently considering whether the fleet should be increased to improve transportation capacity. In addition, the SRCS has been challenged in the management of information on relief distribution, particularly in relation to the flow of information between the departmental branches and headquarters. The operations coordinators of the National Society and of the IFRC are evaluating the possibility of decentralizing certain elements of the relief distribution process.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: the health risks in the emergency affected population are reduced in the medium and long term through a strategy based on community health promotion

Outputs	Activities planned
<p>Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to 2,000 families (10,000 people)</p> <p>Affected population have access to first aid services.</p> <p>Selected affected groups and communities receive psychosocial support to increase their resilience and coping mechanisms.</p> <p>The capacity of the volunteers to respond to health needs is strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the development and maintenance of inter-institutional coordination. • Assess the health situation within the affected population in coordination with the established national mechanism. • Train health National Intervention Teams through the Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) tool kit. • Implement educational activities to prevent health risks at the community level. • Conduct vector control activities to targeted affected groups in communities. • Provide first aid care to the affected population • Review and update inventories of equipment and medical supplies. • Train SRCS volunteers in community based psychosocial support and psychological first aid. • Provide psychosocial support to targeted affected groups in communities, collective centres and to SRCS volunteers. • Conduct community-based health first aid training for volunteers (CBHFA) • Implement educational activities at the community level to promote behavioural change related to health care. • Monitor, evaluate and provide reporting on activities.

Progress: In the early stages of the operation the SRCS concentrated their efforts on providing emergency relief items and access to safe water (further discussed in the respective sectors). However, the National Society has also provided health care to affected persons, particularly psychosocial support.

As affected families occupied collective centres, 30 volunteers (18 university students) from the SRCS completed recreational activities for children in an effort to assist them in processing the stress of the situation and strengthen their coping mechanisms. As a result, 513 children were reached as stated in the table below:

Collective Centre	No. of children reached
Centro Escolar Católico San Antonio Atheos La Libertad	220
El Polvorín (from communities of Minerva, Nicaragua 2 and 3)	61
Centro Escolar República Federal Centroamericana, Jiquilisco, Usulután.	65
Iglesia de Dios Mundial, Col. Parada # 2 Jiquilisco, Usulután.	59
Iglesia Remanente, Jiquilisco, Usulután	53
Auditorio Ricardo Chávez, Cantón San Nicolás Lempa, Tecoluca	55
Total	513

In addition, the National Society has also provided psychosocial support to the volunteers and staff involved in the response operation. The intervention has been both in groups and for individuals. Thus far, 204 persons have received support

Unit	Type of support	No. of persons
Youth	Group	12
Youth	Individual	3
Lifeguards	Group	15
Lifeguards	Individual	3
Rescue	Individual	3
Jiquilisco branch	Group	80
Spanish Red Cross (ISSS)	Group	36
Departmental relief units	Group	20
Emergency relief managers	Group	20
Volunteers in relief distribution		12
Total		204

Moreover, the SRCS, with the support of private companies, has been able to assist affected areas with mobile clinics. The personnel from these clinics have assisted and provided medication for respiratory, gastrointestinal and skin diseases. A total of 2,237 consultations have been completed in the departments of La Libertad, Usulután, San Miguel, La Unión and Morazán.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion within the population affected by Tropical Depression E-12.

Outputs	Activities planned
<p>Access to safe water is provided to 2,000 families as damaged systems are restored.</p> <p>2,000 families receive hygiene kits.</p> <p>2,000 families are reached through hygiene promotion and sanitation activities.</p> <p>5 communities are benefited with micro-projects to rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the existing coverage of water supply and select the most vulnerable families in coordination with the established national mechanism. • Distribute safe water to families in collective centres (through water trucking and/or water filters). • Clean 200 wells and establish community water well committees. • Support well management activities and training at the community level. • Distribute hygiene kits and water filters. • Review and update educational materials on safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. • Complete micro-projects to repair community water and sanitation infrastructures. • Conduct sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns. • Print and distribute educational materials. • Support the cleaning of living spaces. • Conduct monitoring and evaluation of activities.

Progress: El Salvador is the only Central American country faced with water shortages¹, a situation that could aggravate the health conditions of families affected by Tropical Depression 12-E. In an effort to reduce the risk of epidemics and outbreaks of diseases related to lack of safe water and adequate sanitation, the

¹ *The Status of Water Resources in Central America: Towards Integrated Management.* Global Water Partnership (GWP), April 2011.

SRCS is currently following a three step approach: access to safe water, distribution of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion activities.

In accordance with their plan of action, the SRCS is working to provide access to safe drinking water to affected families. At present the National Society has installed water tanks in the departments of Ahuachapán, Usulután, and La Paz. These tanks, which hold up to 10 cubic metres or 10,000 litres, are replenished on a daily basis to assist some 500 families (2,000 people).

In addition, the SRCS has continued with the distribution of hygiene kits. Based on the information received thus far from departmental branches 3,015 families (15,075 persons) have been reached, of which 427 families (2,135 persons) were supported through the Emergency Appeal.

Department	Hygiene kit
Santa Ana	3
Sonsonate	111
Ahuachapán	123
San Salvador	89
La Libertad	725
La Paz	378
Cuscatlán	85
Usulután	1,501
TOTAL	3,015

Thirdly, to ensure a comprehensive approach, 20 volunteers and 5 staff members from the SRCS are involved in the implementation of a hygiene and sanitation promotion campaign. At the time of distribution of relief items, volunteers carry out a 30 minute session providing information on personal hygiene and safe storage of water, using the items included in the hygiene kit as reference. This activity is being completed in coordination with the office of Civil Protection, municipal authorities and community leaders.

Challenges: due to the extent of affectation across the country, the mobilization of volunteers and relief items has stretched the capacity of the National Society's fleet. Currently, the SRCS and the IFRC are considering the possibility of increasing the numbers of vehicles available for the operation.

Shelter

Outcome: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met in the most affected municipalities.	
Outputs	Activities planned
<p>2,000 families are assisted with cleaning kits.</p> <p>250 families are assisted with essential shelter-related items and technical assistance.</p> <p>Basic rehabilitation of 10 collective centres is carried out</p> <p>10 community trainings on house rehabilitation are completed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with local authorities and community leaders to assess shelter needs and preferred assistance to be provided, as well as to select the beneficiary families and identify priority collective centres to be rehabilitated. • Promote increased awareness and understanding of safe shelter. • Conduct shelter reinforcement trainings. • Enable the provision of means for households to recover or reach safe and adequate locally appropriate solutions. • Identify and enable the provision of means to improve living conditions in collective centres. • Provide technical assistance to most vulnerable households.

Progress: The National Society has been supporting the shelter partners in assessments. Recent results indicate that 1,193 houses have been destroyed and 9,082 have been damaged. A technical evaluation conducted by the government found that 8,000 homes will require repair or relocation and 631 homes have

been destroyed. The evaluation is now being reviewed at the field level by cluster partners in the shelter coordination framework.

Coordination is also ongoing with the local authorities regarding the collective centres and the preferred assistance to be provided. The SRCS will concentrate on the implementation of the shelter sector of their plan of action in early 2012, once all distributions have concluded.

Initial evaluations indicated displacement was around 60,000 people, however most of the population started returning in to their homes as soon as possible. This has prompted the merging of the collective centre and camp management (CCCM) cluster with the shelter cluster. Therefore, funding has been reallocated from the collective centre cluster budget to support shelter needs.

It is estimated that within four days, 48,000 people returned to their homes. In many cases, the environmental risks and structural vulnerabilities of homes were underestimated. It is estimated that 7,000 households are living in inappropriate shelter solutions, due to soil saturation, structural deficits and land instabilities. Many of the structures are unsafe and contaminated water is an additional concern. A preliminary assessment revealed that 3,592 families require urgent intervention to provide them with safer temporary shelter solutions or need repair kits. As a result, distribution of 998 repair kits is underway.

It is estimated that at least 3,000 people are being housed with relatives or friends, and these families are excluded from the National Civil Protection register and are therefore not receiving any type of support. This increased burden on the host families increases health risks and unsanitary conditions.

For more information:

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/Americas/ElSalvador/ElSalvadorFloods2011/Pages/default.aspx>

Challenges: There is strong capacity in El Salvador in this sector but funding has been lacking; nevertheless, the emergency appeal and the presence of the shelter coordination team has drawn increased attention both nationally and internationally to the needs of this sector and to place it on the national agenda. This should prove beneficial for shelter activities.

Livelihoods

Outcome: Contribute to the early recovery of 250 families who have lost their livelihoods as a result of the floods.	
Outputs	Activities planned
250 families receive technical and material support to recover their agricultural production and/or fishing activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and develop a technical assessment and intervention strategy. • Establish mutual collaboration agreements with national institutions (agricultural associations, cooperatives and/or NGOs). • Provide technical support. • Distribute kits or cash-transfer / vouchers for agricultural and/or fishing endeavours. • Conduct monitoring and evaluation activities.

Progress: The destruction of essential assets, including homes, rural infrastructure, livestock and the loss of harvests and stock has severely affected livelihoods and increased food insecurity, which was already high before the emergency. In order to support recovery of livelihoods, the National Society evaluated the possibility of distributing agricultural tool kits. Detailed assessments and selection of families, and therefore a detailed early recovery plan of action, will be completed at a later stage of the operation, once relief distributions have concluded. The implementation timeframe for this sector is, however, linked with the start of the next planting season that starts in the second quarter of 2012. Currently, the National Society is considering distributing tool kits including a rake, a point shovel, a flat shovel, and a 12 litre bucket. The fishing tool kits items have yet to be determined, and both tool kits are flexible and dependent on the needs identified.

Logistics	
Outcome: The local logistics capacity of the Salvadoran Red Cross Society to respond is strengthened with technical support for procurement and distribution.	
Outputs	Activities planned
<p>Enhanced logistics capacity is achieved and technical support facilitates the procurement and distribution of relief items.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of non-food items by the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU). • Technical approval for local procurements as per rules and regulations. • Procure transport services (light vehicle) through the RLU transport network. • Deploy a logistics IFRC staff member to support warehouse management. • Maintain the level of stock in El Salvador sub-regional warehouse to meet required demand from the National Society. • Replenishment of IFRC stock to sub-regional warehouse to support regional requirements from the Salvadoran Red Cross Society and Partner National Societies.

Progress: The pre-positioned stocks in the National Society made immediate distribution possible. The Procurement Unit is carrying out relevant bids for the purchase of items necessary to continue the operation, including hygiene kits, food, water filters, vehicles, cameras, computer equipment. Purchasing processes are based on the procedures and guidelines of the International Federation. In recent days logistics has supported the development of an overall process for both international and local procurement procedures. The following is being undertaken: a tendering process, a comparative bid analysis and IFRC procedures for contracts of a value of less than 400,000 Swiss francs are being followed.

Capacity of the National Society	
Outcome: The capacity of the SRCS to support search, rescue, first aid care, and relief activities as well as evacuations in flooded and at-risk areas is strengthened.	
Outputs	Activities planned
<p>At least 100 volunteers have the equipment necessary to safely support evacuations.</p> <p>People living in high-risk areas are evacuated to safer locations by the SRCS in coordination with different humanitarian actors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide equipment (20 first aid kits and 100 personal protection kits) to volunteers. • Mobilize SRCS volunteers, rescue workers and lifeguards to the affected areas. • Conduct search and rescue activities in coordination with the Civil Protection System authorities. • Monitor the population at risk at the national level focusing on possible landslides and rising river levels. • Mobilize evacuees to collective centres. • Provide logistic support to field activities (vehicles, motor boats, radio equipment and rescue material). • Provide SPHERE training. • Carry out a participatory evaluation at the end of the operation. • Monitoring and reporting of activities.

Progress: As high risk areas had been identified previously, it was possible to activate search, rescue and evacuation plans quickly. Although 35 people lost their lives, loss of life has been much greater in previous disasters. According to the Government of El Salvador and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 240 people died in Hurricane Mitch, and 198 people in Hurricane Ida. The decrease in loss of life can be attributed in part, to the swift evacuation and assistance provided to those at high risk. The National Society supported preventive evacuations of some 15,100 persons in La Libertad, Usulután, San Vicente, Ahuachapán, Sonsonate, La Paz, San Salvador and Cuscatlán. Additionally, volunteers specialized in aquatic rescue assisted some 3,000 persons. The mobilization of members of the National Intervention Teams also continues to contribute to the response phase.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The National Society has been closely coordinating with the America zone office including PADRU. The communications department of the SRCS has written 20 press releases, held eight press conferences and coordinated site visits for the media. They are also reviewing situation reports and have been providing information for the SRCS website. However, there are limitations to effective communication because the National Society has out-of-date equipment that slows the process of recording, monitoring and sharing information. In order to counter this challenge, the National Society hired professional photographers to accompany them during field activities. The emergency appeal has supported the purchase of new equipment to strengthen the capacity of the communications department.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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