

# ***HONDURAS: FLOODS***

appeal no: 22/96  
2 December 1996

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 240,000  
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES  
TO ASSIST 12,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR ONE MONTH***

## ***Summary***

Recent floods along Honduras' Atlantic coast have severely affected some 50,000 people, mostly poor agricultural workers. After participating in the emergency relief efforts, the Honduras Red Cross is now preparing to respond to a government request to assist 12,000 of the most vulnerable with a variety of relief items covering one month's needs.

## ***The Intended Operation***

The Honduran Red Cross plans to provide 2,000 families or 12,000 persons affected by the recent floods with basic food, blankets, cooking utensils and chlorine for water purification for a period of one month, through a single distribution. The Red Cross has been assigned by the Government to provide this assistance in the areas where it has operational branches: Pimienta, Villanueva, San Manuel, San Pedro Sula, La Lima, Cortes, Progreso and Choloma.

## ***The Disaster***

Heavy rains over a 10 day period from 10 to 20 November have caused severe flooding along the Atlantic Coast of Honduras, leaving 50,000 persons (9,000 families) badly affected. The departments of Cortes, Atlantida, Yoro and Colon have suffered the most from the loss of livestock and crops. Scattered rains are still occurring. As usual the very poor, usually living along the rivers and mostly engaged in agriculture, are the ones who have suffered the worst damage.

## ***The Response so far***

The Honduran Red Cross participated with the authorities in rescue, evacuation, first aid and health care efforts and the setting up of temporary shelters. It distributed food and clothing from its own stocks, which are now depleted.

### **Co-ordination •**

The assistance of the Government, Red Cross and other agencies was co-ordinated at meetings of the National Emergency Committee (CODER). The President of the Republic has just declared a Regional Emergency and the Government followed up by requesting the National Red Cross to provide assistance for 2,000 families over a one month period.

## ***The Needs to be met***

### **Assessment of Needs •**

The assessment of needs was carried out last week in the disaster area by RC staff from the NS headquarters and local RC personnel, in collaboration with the authorities.

## ***National Society/Federation Plan of Action***

The Society plans to begin the operation as soon as funds are available for local purchase. It anticipates it will take a total of 18 days to complete the identification of the most vulnerable families, obtain price quotes, make purchases, transport, package and distribute goods and prepare reports. All families selected will be from among the poorest victims and most are expected to be farmers.

The National Society will open 4 to 5 warehouses to package the items for each family in San Pedro Sula, La Lima, Progreso, Puerto Cortés and possibly one in San Manuel. This means that they will have to rent some warehouse space as they do not have sufficient space in these branches. They will also have to rent transport capacity. There exists a network of staff and trained volunteers capable of carrying out this operation but there will be a need to hire additional local personnel including four warehouse managers. A Federation delegate will be assigned to assist the Honduran Red Cross. The central operations management and control will be handled by the National Headquarters who will also be responsible for accounting and reporting. Due to frequent disasters of this kind, the staff and volunteers are highly experienced in the execution of operations.

## ***Budget summary***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

CHF 50,000 has been advanced from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund for this operation so that the Honduran Red Cross can take immediate action. National Societies are urged to respond rapidly to this appeal, since the sooner aid is provided, the more effective it will be.

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