

EL SALVADOR: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

27 December
2000

***appeal no. 01.17/2000; Revised budget
situation report no. 1
period covered: 1 January - 30 June 2000***

Significant progress has been achieved over the reporting period through the drawing up of a national development plan which will be ready for implementation in 2001. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC) is working in the areas of disaster preparedness, health - which will be reinforced by the introduction of the community based Golfo de Fonseca project - institutional development and dissemination of humanitarian values. Coordination with PNSs and external partners is ensured.

The context

Important steps have been taken in the making of the national development plan, the first draft of the plan will be finished in December and the final plan ready for February 2001. A new development plan will permit the national society to have a more coherent and better functioning administration, enabling the Governing Board to focus on their political role and not on management issues. The plan is also essential for the definition of the new role of the Salvadorian RC in a post-war society.

Referring to the CAS the plan has been implemented according to schedule and norm, particular referring to rehabilitation of communities affected by Mitch. The Institutional Development part goes more slowly. When the rehabilitation phase finishes, the National Society will have more time and recurses to focus on Institutional Development.

El Salvador is the smallest of the Central American countries and has a population of 5.9 million. From 1980 to 1992, the country endured a civil war, which caused serious economic, political and social deterioration. During this period, approximately 20% of the population fled El Salvador and the country experienced negative economic growth. The situation was aggravated by the devastation of hurricane Mitch in 1998, which had a severe impact. Rehabilitation and support programmes for those affected by Mitch are being implemented by governmental and non-governmental institutions, mainly in the central and eastern regions.

Although El Salvador is now making progress, the country still faces serious problems: 71% of the population lives in extreme poverty, and 34% is without access to safe water. In such conditions of post-war hardship, violence is on the increase, making El Salvador the second most violent country in the Americas after Colombia. Recently there have been outbreaks of cholera and dengue fever. In addition, El Salvador is vulnerable to hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and increasingly, the effects of a 98% destruction of its forest.

Latest events

In March, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC) General Assembly took place. Approximately 150 volunteers from 54 branches participated in the event. The work on the drawing up of the national development plan commenced in April. Significant steps were taken towards the signing of the Federation Status Agreement with the El Salvador government.

In May the Red Cross responded to an explosion in a military police ammunition dump. The SRC was on the scene ten minutes after the explosion and co-operated with the army in evacuation and rescue activities. In total, the SRC sent 12 rescue vehicles to the scene together with 27 paramedics and rescue personnel. The National Society transported 41 people to the hospital and organised food for 120 children in the affected area.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The Salvadorean Red Cross

During the civil war, the activities of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society related primarily to the armed conflict. Once the war was over, outside assistance to the Society was halted and the National Society had the difficult task of carrying out the transition to peacetime services, an issue which is still not resolved satisfactorily. Although the Society maintains ambulances, first-aid services, a blood bank and water safety activities at central level, the work of the branches requires strengthening. The current Salvadorean Red Cross leadership recognises the urgent need to strengthen its capacity at all levels and to develop nation-wide coverage of its services, particularly in an environment where a number of organisations are competing for limited resources. Based on this, the Salvadorean Red Cross has decided to draw up a national development plan (NDP).

The National Society has defined rehabilitation, community development and institutional development as its priority. The most important themes with regard to rehabilitation are: health, water and sanitation, housing, education, agriculture, disaster preparedness and environmental issues.

One of the Federation's key objectives in El Salvador as defined by the Country Assistance Strategy, is to assist the National Society in the drawing up and implementation of the national development plan and give overall support to the institutional development of the Salvadorean Red Cross.

The Federation

The Federation is supporting the National Society in health activities through the “Golfo de Fonseca” project and in disaster preparedness through the DIPECHO programme which was finalised in March. While the support of the Federation seeks to promote institutional development, PNSs are supporting the National Society in rehabilitation and community development.

The Federation and PNSs have conducted activities in the framework of the country assistance strategy. There is active co-ordination between the Salvadorean Red Cross, the Federation and Participating National Societies and monthly co-ordination meetings of all partners take place.

The Participating National Societies are involved in the following projects:

The Spanish Red Cross is involved in construction of houses, three health projects and a water project. Support has been provided to the Salvadorean Red Cross to purchase scuba diving and aquatic rescue equipment. It is expected that co-operation between these two National Societies will continue for at least another year.

The American Cross is participating in a water project in the Lemba lowlands region. It is supporting the Salvadorean Red Cross in analysing the institution’s capacity in terms of health services and is providing financial support to the National Society’s Executive Board for Relief Assistance. The American Red Cross is also supporting the Federation through the provision of a disaster preparedness delegate. The American Red Cross Delegation expects to remain in El Salvador for two more years.

Swiss Red Cross is supporting the community development project in the Burras community, which is integrated with the Spanish Red Cross construction and American Red Cross water and sanitation services projects.

Disaster preparedness and response •

The disaster preparedness programme is supported by the Spanish and the American Red Cross Societies. A Federation disaster preparedness delegate is in place and is financed for a period of six months. He will work together with the newly appointed full-time Salvadorean Director of Relief Assistance to finalise contingency plans and response projects.

The Salvadorean Red Cross runs first aid services with 120 ambulances, which operate permanently nation-wide, making it possible to react effectively in the event of a disaster. The response capacity of the Society was proven during hurricane Mitch, when the National Society, together with the Federation and the PNS, was at the forefront of relief efforts, providing shelter and food, first aid health services and clean water. The competence of the Salvadorean RC was also proved more recently, following an explosion in the capital in May, at which time the SRC was on the scene 10 minutes after the explosion. Nevertheless, the National Society is continuously working to strengthen its response capacity, primarily with respect to technical, organisational and financial aspects of response, at both national and branch level.

The Federation continued to support the community education programme over the reporting period with funding from Canadian CIDA and DIPECHO. The DIPECHO programme was finalised in March 2000, while the CIDA funds have facilitated continuation of the programme until September/October 2000.

Evaluations of the DIPECHO programme were held in the period from January to March in order to estimate the social impact, systemize the experience and draw up future plans.

The aim of the DIPECHO programme is to train individuals in the most vulnerable and poor areas in order to improve their capacity in disaster prevention and disaster response. Through workshops in the communities, “risk maps“ and important risk factors were detected in order to identify micro projects.

In the period from April 99 to March 00, 150 workshops were held and 150 micro projects implemented in 70 different communities, with 4,100 individuals taking part.

The strengths of the programme have been the participative approach, aiming at developing local capacities and local structures. There was also significant participation of women and on a regional basis, 57% of the participants are women.

The programme was not, however, sufficiently integrated into the Society's national development plan and this is an area for improvement in the future.

Health •

As a result of the increase in dengue fever and haemorrhagic dengue fever, the Salvadorean Red Cross, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Health, has developed a prevention campaign, which involves the distribution of information material to volunteers and health personnel in the Red Cross branches in the country.

Gulf of Fonseca Project

El Salvador will participate in the *Golfo de Fonseca* project. This is an integrated community development programme, with emphasis on community health and disaster preparedness. To date, the Spanish Red Cross, through the Federation, has financed the activities. The Spanish Red Cross will support the project in El Salvador for an initial period of one year. The British Red Cross has conducted a review mission and will fund the project in 2001. British Red Cross funds will also be available for Nicaragua, while the Swiss Red Cross is implementing a similar project together with the Honduran Red Cross in the Gulf area of Honduras; close coordination between all partners is a priority.

A co-ordinator has been contracted in El Salvador, and two branches selected to participate in the project (Santa Rosa de Lima and La Union). Two field technicians have been hired who will be responsible for community identification and Red Cross co-ordination. The Federation hopes for significant impact from this project. This is as a result of its regional character as it involves countries from the same region and also because it demonstrates the potential of multilateral co-operation, in particular, of inter-institutional collaboration between the Red Cross Movement and governmental and non-governmental organisations. It is expected that the project will prove the capacity of the Salvadorean Red Cross and the Societies involved to implement community health care programmes, which is a non traditional activity in the region. The implementation of the project will also assist the National Society to strengthen its commitment to working in the four core areas of Strategy 2010.

Humanitarian values •

Increasing violence in the country, attributed to the civil war and its aftermath, is particularly widespread amongst young people who have dropped out of school, are unemployed and have few opportunities to develop their potential. The Salvadorean Red Cross has begun a national dissemination programme, supported by the Federation, focusing on the Red Cross principles and its mandate in peacetime. One of the purposes of the programme is to encourage young people to become community service volunteers.

During the period, the SRC has received technical and financial support from the Federation and the ICRC to train 90 instructors in dissemination. When the instructors have completed their training, under the direction and guidance of the dissemination department, they will be responsible for dissemination at a national level.

A bilateral meeting was conducted this spring between the National Societies of El Salvador and Colombia in order to exchange experiences regarding Red Cross participation in post-war situations. As a result of this meeting, the Salvadorean RC decided to set up school brigades which will concentrate on subjects such as: first aid, dissemination of the fundamental principles of the Movement, recreation and protection of the environment.

The Salvadorean RC is also participating in a commission which aims to include international humanitarian law in the country's norms and laws; particular emphasis is placed on respect for the Red Cross emblem.

Institutional development •

During the first six months of the year, the process of drawing up the national development plan made significant progress, despite delays in decision-making within the National Society. The focus was on negotiations and lobbying at national level in order to ensure a participatory process in the creation of the plan. Strategic planning workshops were carried out in which 48 of the 54 SRC branches took part. 28 facilitators were identified who will be responsible for managing nationwide consultations on the development of the plan. As part of this same process, six workshops on Strategy 2010 were carried out for different Salvadorean Red Cross stakeholders: the governing board, branch directors and volunteers from the relief unit, youth and female staff and volunteers.

During this period, the Salvadorean Red Cross made efforts to update its infrastructure and equipment inventories, improved its administrative organisation, and has achieved greater co-ordination between its operational departments, especially those dealing with training and first aid services. This process has been led by the National Society, with technical and financial support from the Federation and the PNSs.

Progress achieved by the Salvadorean Red Cross was evidenced through the participation of the National Society in social service and volunteer training activities, of which the most notable are specialised vehicle rescue courses, training courses for facilitators within the framework of the community-based disaster preparedness programme, the creation of the Executive Board for Relief Assistance with the presence of a full time director and the completion of the community disaster preparedness micro-projects.

Outstanding needs

The budget for the appeal has been revised in accordance with the level of contributions received. The budget revised is attached. Current appeal coverage stands at 87.8 per cent. Contributions for the balance of funds are encouraged in order that the programme objectives may be met.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Salvadorean Red Cross maintains close technical and administrative relations with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and the Ministry of the interior. In addition, the Society co-operates with the Ministries of Finance, Education, Defence, Planning and Agriculture. Within the private sector, the Salvadorean Red Cross works with the chamber of trade and industry and the Salvadorean manufacturers association, providing information on Red Cross services, preventive health campaigns in favour of workers and employees and volunteer recruitment.

The Federation has concentrated its efforts on strengthening relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Emergency Committee. Contacts have also been established with PAHO, WFP, UNICEF and NGOs working in El Salvador.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

El Salvador	APPEAL No. 01.17/2000		
		ANNEX 1	
<u>REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY</u>			
TYPE	CHF		
RELIEF NEEDS	<u>Initial Budget</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	<u>Variances</u>
Shelter & constructions	170,100		170,100
Clothing & textiles	7,500		7,500
Food & seeds			
Water			
Medical & first aid	50,608	27,450	23,158
Teaching materials	22,500	20,250	2,250
Utensils & tools			
Other relief supplies	75,000		75,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	325,708	47,700	278,008
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Vehicles	276,404	94,045	182,359
Computers & telecom	43,200	13,568	29,632
Office furniture & equipment		19,128	(19,128)
Medical equipment	12,948		12,948
Other equipment	41,175		41,175
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme management (automatic calculation)	76,822	43,577	33,245
Technical support (automatic calculation)	22,996	13,045	9,952
Professional services (automatic calculation)	25,503	14,467	11,036
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	48,800	24,040	24,760
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	11,250	167,242	(155,992)
National staff	213,768	68,574	145,194
Training		65,639	(65,639)
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses		5,318	(5,318)
Information expenses	13,110	20,067	(6,957)
Administrative & general expenses	27,600	49,851	(22,251)
Consultant fees			0
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	813,576	598,561	215,016
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	1,139,284	646,261	493,024
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		567,578	
NET REQUEST		78,683	

El Salvador						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.17/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			12/22/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				646,261		TOTAL COVERAGE 87.8%
Balance carried forward from 1999				100,000		
NORWEGIAN - RC		163,250	NOK	31,073	26.10.00	REHABILITATION
SPANISH - RC		45,000,000	ESP	436,005	07/02/99	
UNITED STATES - PRIVATE				500	02/11/00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				567,578	CHF	87.8%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
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:						
PSV506						