

# ***VENEZUELA: FLOODS***

*24 August 1999*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 01***

### ***The Disaster***

Between August 19 to 21, heavy rains affected 7 states of Venezuela. The hardest hit was the state of Anzoategui where 15,560 persons were affected according the local Civil Defence authorities. Some 8,103 persons are now accommodated in 22 temporary shelters, 14 managed by the Venezuela Red Cross (VRC). As of 23 August no deaths are reported but 368 persons have been treated for moderate to light injuries. As water levels recede, some people accommodated in the shelters are expected to begin to return to their homes today. Many homes were damaged by water, but there was evidently little structural damage. Roads have been flooded leaving access to the affected areas difficult. Electricity has been affected in some areas but no breakdown in water and sewer lines so far. The Ministry of Health is helping to assure that clean water is available.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The VRC has despatched 42 relief workers to the zone from nearby branches to help manage the temporary shelters and to provide medical assistance at three health posts, and have also launched a health education campaign in cooperation with other organisations. A campaign for funds and in kind donations has been launched and there has been a reasonable response.

### ***Needs***

The VRC advise that so far they are able to meet the needs using local resources, and an international Appeal is not considered necessary at this time. Unfortunately heavy rains are predicted for today and tomorrow, and the VRC will therefore continue to carry out needs assessments and will consider the need for international assistance as the situation evolves.

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