

BELIZE: HURRICANE KEITH

5 March 2001

appeal no. 29/2000

situation report no. 3; programme and budget revision; programme extension to 31 May 2001

period covered: 19 December 2000 - 31 January 2001

The relief phase of the Hurricane Keith operation has been completed, focusing on the distribution of relief, well-cleaning and vector control activities. Given the generous response to the Hurricane Keith appeal, a programme and budget revision have taken place in view of the implementation of both expanded and additional programme components including improvement of the disaster preparedness capacity of the Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS).

The Context

Belize was battered by Hurricane Keith for 3 days, between 30 September and 2 October 2000, causing significant flood damage across the country. For weeks after the hurricane struck, the water levels continued to rise as persistent heavy rains caused more rivers to flood. This continuous flooding and the contamination of the water supply increased the risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases, as well as resulting in serious economic setbacks for the country.

Immediately following the disaster, the Belize Red Cross Society began distribution of emergency supplies from its disaster preparedness stocks to the affected communities. A team of Federation delegates was deployed to provide support to the National Society, and on 6 October, the International Federation issued a preliminary appeal for assistance. Further assessments identified the priorities for the Federation/Belize Red Cross plan of action as the provision of food, hygiene, water and sanitation assistance in support of 7,000 beneficiaries for four months.

Latest Events

Food relief and vector control projects were completed at the end of December. Well cleaning teams have been working well and activities have been finalised. Water tank construction and siting for latrine reconstruction and composting latrines is underway. The health training team has completed a 3 day training session with the Ministry of Health, while plans have been developed for a further five community training courses to take place up to the end of February.

Following the earthquake in El Salvador in January, a pick up truck and 250 tarpaulins were sent from Belize to support the disaster operation.

National Society/Federation Revised Plan of Action

Thanks to a strong response from both the international and local donor communities, the Belize Red Cross/Federation plan of action has been expanded. Current activities are being reinforced to reach additional beneficiaries, and new components will be included aimed at strengthening the disaster response capacity of the National Society. Due to the expansion of work, the duration of the operation will be extended to 31 May 2001. In addition, a revised budget for CHF 1.8 million has been drawn up.

The expanded, second phase of the operation will include:

- Weatherizing 5 “container-warehouses” by adding roofing and ventilation to prevent spoilage of supplies due to extreme heat which creates condensation and moisture in the containers.
- Expanding the current water tank project to cover an additional 20 tanks - reaching a total of 120 tanks.
- Reconstruction of 150 latrines - earlier targeted at 95 while awaiting confirmation of additional funding.
- Extension of the health training programme to cover disease prevention and hygiene; water security; and latrine use and maintenance.
- A pilot project for 20 above ground, composting pit latrines - a project in which the government has indicated strong interest.
- A joint workshop for the BRCS and government officials in damage assessment and needs analysis.
- Upgrading of two of the most strategic operational centres for the National Society in the event of a disaster in order to allow the Society to increase its disaster preparedness and mitigation capacity. The Belmopan centre in the nation’s capital and the district centre in Orange Walk are critical to the operation of the BRCS, both in terms of providing a managerial centre in an emergency, as well as in providing secure shelter to the vulnerable in the event of a hurricane.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Relief •

The relief programme was completed before the end of the year with final distributions of 1,250 food parcels to Belize Rural and Orange Walk. In total, approximately 7,276 food parcels and 4,086 hygiene kits were distributed in Belize Rural, Orange Walk and Belmopan region. A final distribution report including all food and relief items issued has been compiled.

Health •

The health training programme is continuing, with workshops designed for two different target groups. The first group focuses on community members such as village council leaders, Red Cross volunteers, teachers,

PTA members, women's groups, church groups and youth groups. This is a one day intensive training course focusing on basic health and sanitation issues. In total, 420 community volunteers will be trained during nine separate workshops in Orange Walk and Belize Rural. So far, four of the nine workshops have been completed. It is expected that the remaining five will be completed by the end of February.

The second category of training courses target community nurses and vector collaborators in a 3-day training-of-trainer (ToT) workshop. This workshop covers the same health and sanitation topics as the community members training, but in greater detail. These health professionals will then return to their communities to train others in their profession. One ToT health workshop was planned for 100 participants, and took place during the last week of January.

Further training sessions are being planned for March in conjunction with the completion of the latrine and water tank programmes to promote hygiene and safe water, in addition to tank and latrine maintenance.

Well Cleaning •

The well cleaning teams finalised their activities in early February with a final post-cleaning visit to all 63 wells cleaned in order to take water samples to test for any contamination in the water. This was carried out in order to determine if the well cleaning activity has increased knowledge and modified behaviour concerning well use and maintenance. In total 40 villages were visited. The initial target was for 50 villages, but some villages in Belize have bore holes rather than hand dug wells, which are not suitable for this project due to the nature of the submersible pumps used to clean the wells. Of the 40 villages visited with hand dug wells, 21 were found to have wells suitable for cleaning (i.e. wells with a level of sophistication which would enable them to remain free of contamination after the cleaning - some poorly maintained wells would be re-infected immediately after cleaning, and were therefore excluded). A total of 63 wells were cleaned which involved completely emptying the well, cleaning it out if necessary, and then disinfecting it while the well was refilled.

Of the three submersible pumps provided by Oxfam, one unused pump was sent to Oxfam in Nicaragua at the request of the UK office. The other two pumps will be shipped to the Federation Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama, at the completion of the programme.

Vector Control •

The vector control programme was successfully completed in January. The campaign focused on spraying certain communities affected by post-hurricane flooding which created ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes carrying both malaria and dengue. Three different chemicals (Malathion, K-Othrine, and Abate) were used for indoor and outdoor spraying in Belize Rural district, and the western region of Cayo district. In addition, a special clean-up campaign was organized for the village of Benque Viejo which borders Guatemala and is an area where the mosquito which spreads the deadly haemorrhagic dengue fever breeds.

Water Tank Construction •

The rain water collection programme is designed to enable residents in communities to collect rain water drained off community building roofs into two 660 gallon storage tanks. This water would then be available to the communities as an alternative source of drinking water during emergencies. A total of 50 villages have been selected (with 10 more to be selected as part of Phase II), each village receiving two tanks. So far, three foundations have been completed (Rancho Dolores, Lemonal, and Belriv Center), and six tanks have been installed. Materials for guttering should be delivered by the end of the week.

Materials and tanks for three more villages have been delivered to Bermudian Landing, Double Head Cabbage, and Isabella Bank, and work began in early February at which time five further deliveries of tanks and materials were scheduled.

Two tank supervisors have been hired and began work in early February; it is expected that the first 100 tanks will be completed by the end of March.

Large vinyl decals, identifying the emergency water programme, the donors and the Belize Red Cross have been designed and are now being printed.

Latrine Repair •

Due to severe flood and wind damage suffered during Hurricane Keith, 150 latrines are scheduled for repair in the villages of Douglas, Lemonal, and Santa Cruz. Final assessment to determine which latrines will be repaired has been completed in Lemonal and Douglas. Assessment in Santa Cruz took place in mid February. In addition, recommendations from community leaders in Lemonal and Douglas will be accepted for latrine supervisors. It is planned that construction will be carried out by community volunteers under the guidance of the latrine supervisor and the water and sanitation delegate. However, in order to encourage the villagers to complete the work in a timely manner, ensuring good quality work, a small stipend will be provided to each team at the satisfactory completion of each latrine. The first delivery of materials for the latrines took place in early February.

Composting Latrine Pilot Project •

The composting latrine project is a pilot project encouraged by the government of Belize. In a country prone to flooding, where the majority of the population lives in rural communities and rely on outdoor latrines, it is essential to public health that sanitary waste disposal is established. Current latrines, even the VIP latrine, are all subject to flooding, and the subsequent contamination of drinking water. This pilot project will build 20 above ground, composting latrines in two different communities (Douglas and Lemonal) in order to test their effectiveness, and monitor the compliance and cultural acceptance of this method. Once the latrines are built, and the families are trained in how to use them, it is expected that there will be a one year follow up to monitor their success, and determine if such a programme could be expanded in the country.

A community meeting was held in Douglas, where the technology was presented and “volunteer” families selected for the pilot project. In Lemonal, families have also been selected. Materials were delivered in early February in both Douglas and Lemonal, and construction was scheduled to take place concurrently with the general latrine repair project - all scheduled for completion by the end of March.

Outstanding Needs

Given the generous response to the appeal, the time frame of the operation has been expanded and donors' approval is sought to go ahead with plans for capital improvement to strategic branch offices in Belmopan and Orange Walk, which will further the potential of the Belize Red Cross Society to serve as a command centre and emergency shelter in the event of another hurricane.

External Relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The head of the regional ECHO office visited Belize during the reporting period, and spent a day and a half meeting members of the National Society, and visiting areas in the field where activities sponsored by ECHO are taking place.

Contributions

See annex 1 for details. The revised budget has a current coverage of 97.2 per cent.

The BRCS local appeal has, to date, raised over CHF 400,000, including a recent donation of USD 50,000 from the VISA corporation.

Conclusion

The emergency phase of the Hurricane Keith operation has now been completed and relief, well cleaning, and vector control activities have been finalised. Work is currently focused on construction of water tanks and latrines and health training. Anticipated completion dates for most projects are the end of March, however, given the generous response to the disaster from national and international donors, the BRCS/Federation are expanding the latrine, water tank, and training programmes, ensuring weatherization of warehouses and conducting disaster assessment and needs analysis training for Belize Red Cross volunteers and government officials. In addition, the capacity of the Belize Red Cross in disaster preparedness and mitigation will be supported by implementing necessary capital improvements to the key branch offices in Belmopan and Orange Walk districts. These centres serve a large percentage of the population and are of critical importance in disaster management, in addition to serving as emergency shelters for evacuees from the Cayes and other low lying areas in Belize.

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Hurricane Keith: Belize						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 29/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			03/05/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,828,287		TOTAL COVERAGE 97.2%
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		100	USD	177	22.12.00	
BRITISH - GOVT DFID		98,039	GBP	245,098	17.10.00	
CANADA - GOVT		50,000	CAD	57,230	20.12.00	DIRECT TO DELEGATION
ECHO (01001)		550,000	EUR	827,255	06.12.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,235	11.10.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,055	14.12.00	
IRISH - GOVT		94,613	IEP	183,521	07.11.00	
JAPANESE - RC				67,000	21.10.00	
MONACO - RC		20,000	FRF	4,586	30.11.00	
OXFAM		15,332	GBP	38,790	20.12.00	
SWISS - GOVT		50,000	USD	88,675	20.10.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,520,622	CHF	83.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NORWAY RC	DELEGATE			10,513	10/13/00	HEALTH DELEGATE
OXFAM		34,450	GBP	87,159	20.12.00	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEER & WATER & SANITATION EQUIPMENT
SPAIN RC	DELEGATE			14,291	10/13/00	RELIEF DELEGATE
SWEDEN RC	DELEGATE			30,000	10/13/00	TEAM LEADER 6 MONTHS
GERMAN - RC		70,000	USD	113,960	30.10.00	KITCHEN SETS AND BUCKETS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				255,923	CHF	14.0%
CONTRIBUTIONS DIRECT TO NATIONAL SOCIETY						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - PRIVATE (LDS)		30,000	USD	53,205	16.10.00	
AMERICAN - RC		28,500	USD	50,544	16.10.00	
AMERICAN - RC		7,500	USD	13,301	16.10.00	IRT TEAM ASSISTANCE
AMERICAN - RC		81,000	USD	143,653	16.10.00	2'700 FOOD PARCELS AND 4'080 HYGIENE KITS
HONDURAN - RC				30,000	15.01.01	2 CONTAINERS OF RICE, FLOUR, KITCHEN SETS, BLANKETS AND CLOTHING
SPANISH - RC		30,000	USD	53,205	06.10.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				343,908	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL: PBZ503						

<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	AP29/2000	
Hurricane Keith - Belize		
	Budget	Revised Feb 2001
RELIEF NEEDS	In CHF	
Shelter		41,850
Construction (Branch & Warehouse improvements)		327,780
Food & Seeds	126,702	218,154
Water & Sanitation	435,597	158,720
Medical & first aid	175,133	46,700
Teaching Materials		2,125
Utensils & Tools		896
Kitchen Sets		100,000
Other relief supplies		42,574
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	737,432	938,799
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Vehicles		49,000
Computers & Telecom	25,135	4,160
Other equipment	100,641	13,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme Management	84,996	123,281
Technical Support	25,443	36,904
Professional services	28,216	40,926
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		56,465
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff	104,088	244,480
National staff	20,220	107,111
Training material	81,673	120,653
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses		19,220
Information expenses	14,188	35,953
Administrative & general expenses	38,470	38,335
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	523,070	889,488
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	1,260,502	1,828,287
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		1,776,545
NET REQUEST		51,742