

EL SALVADOR: EARTHQUAKE

8 February 2001

appeal no. 02/2001

situation report no. 5

period covered: 2 - 7 February 2001

The global plan of action is under implementation by the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC), the Federation and the PNS and is progressing well. The Federation is playing a major coordination role. The Cafetalon shelter is now fully managed by the SRC, supported by the Federation. Assessments have revealed that rural communities throughout the country have been severely affected by the earthquake, giving rise to displacement of whole communities.

The context

A major earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale occurred off the coast of El Salvador on Saturday, 13 January 2001 at 11:33 am local time (17:33UTC). The epicentre of the earthquake was located at latitude 12.8 degrees north, longitude 88.8 degrees west, or about 105 km south-south east of the capital, San Salvador.

The earthquake caused major damage in the departments of San Miguel, Santa Ana, La Libertad, La Paz and San Salvador. The most severely affected area is the neighbourhood of "Las Colinas" in the suburbs of Santa Tecla/Nueva San Salvador, where the earthquake triggered a landslide covering an estimated 400 houses entirely in mud. However, later assessments subsequently revealed a far broader impact and rural areas across the country have been severely damaged, resulting in the displacement of whole communities.

Latest events

The earthquake has revealed aspects of social and institutional vulnerability within the country, and in particular, the rural population has been most affected. The government has declared that those most seriously affected by the earthquake will not pay taxes during the reconstruction of their houses, shops, or businesses. Surveys indicate that one third of the country's water system has been affected. The social investment and local development fund - (El Fondo de Inversión Social y Desarrollo Local - FISDL) estimates that 150 municipalities have incurred some level of damage.

Recent indications are that there has been a significant movement of displaced persons returning from shelters to their municipalities and villages of origin (see objective 1 for the Cafetalon shelter). The stated objective of the government, supported by the Red Cross, is to seek to resolve the status of all shelters by identifying land for resettlement and reconstruction as soon as possible with the hope being able to close the shelters by the end of June. The latest COEN figures are shown below:

	Dead	Injured	Victims, Displaced or in need	Houses destroyed	Houses damaged	Estimated population Cafetalon
Total	827	4,520	1,160,530	92,080	130,005	4,000

Source: Salvadorean Red Cross Society / COEN

Last updated: Wednesday, 7 February 2001

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

With the stabilisation of the emergency phase the SRC, the Federation and the PNS have increased their activities defined within the plan of action. The Federation delegation has been particularly involved in the preparation and organisation of the SRC plan of action for Cafetalon; implementing the change in management from the emergency response functions based on the FACT/regional intervention team support to a longer term delegation structure able to implement the plan of action in line with the appeal objectives. This week at a press conference in San Salvador, ECHO funding for the French, German and Spanish Red Cross Societies was announced ensuring their participation as envisaged in the overall plan of action. The German Red Cross has decentralised its office to its primary area of operation in Santa Tecla.

Objective 1: To meet the basic needs and support the resettlement of the population of the Cafetalon macro-shelter.

Following the hand over of the Cafetalon shelter to the Salvadorean Red Cross, the National Society has progressively taken over sectoral responsibilities and coordination. With the Federation as its planning coordinator and delegates now working in the shelter in key positions of support, the priority has been to develop a strategy to carry out the mandate over the coming months. A detailed plan of action for the management and servicing of the Cafetalon is included as part of the SRC operational plan for humanitarian assistance and is now being implemented under the supervision of the Salvadorean Red Cross. The plan details the full range of activities through to the end of June and includes the work of the American, Spanish and Netherlands Red Cross Societies as well as other agencies.

There has been a drop in the population of the camp where a registration process has been implemented in order to assess the population and movements. Over the past week, there has been a net movement of approximately 120 families (600 persons) from the camp. The majority have returned to their villages

or municipalities of origin and moved in with relatives and friends. An additional 90 families have been moved to a new site in Santa Tecla (adjacent to the Polodeportivo sports complex). While the reduction in the camp population is regarded positively, the caseload for the Red Cross has not necessarily dropped as most families will continue to need assistance within their host family who themselves may need some help. The Red Cross is monitoring these movements in order to evaluate the implications on the overall relief plan and is ready to make any necessary adjustments. The Federation health delegate has been monitoring the health status in the shelter with the Ministry of Health (MoH) which has a multidisciplinary team in Cafetalon and reports a well organised service.

Objective 2: *To provide the basic needs and support the resettlement of 30,000 families in the departments of Sonsonate, Ahuachapan, Cuscutulan, San Miguel, San Miguel, Santa Ana, La Paz, Usulután, San Vicente, and San Salvador.*

Logistics & Relief: During the past week, distributions have been implemented according to plan. Ongoing difficulties with the SUMA analysis do not yet allow a detailed item by item break down of the food, kitchen, bedding and hygiene kits, however the beneficiary details are noted.

Distributions 20 January - 3 February 2001

Delegation	Department	Families	Persons	Food Kits	Water Kits	Bed Kits	Shelter Kits	Hygiene Kits	Psychological support	Water Distribution
Spanish RC*	San Vicente	3,964	19,820	x	x			x		
German RC	La Libertad	500	2,500	x				x		
American RC	La Libertad	5,485	27,426		x	x	x		x	x
	San Salvador	1,238	6,189		x	x	x			x
	La Paz	7,247	36,237		x	x	x			x
	Sonsonate	9,075	45,373		x	x	x			x
	San Vincente	401	2,004		x	x	x			x
	San Miguel	966	4,828		x	x	x			x
	Usulután	17,932	89,660		x	x	x		x	x
	Santa Ana	495	2,475		x	x	x			x
	Cabañas	80	400		x	x	x			x
French RC	La Libertad	2,461	12,305			x	x			
	Sonsonate	17	85				x			
	Usulután	23	115				x			
	San Salvador	12	60				x			
	Santa Ana	5	25				x			
	Cabañas	5	25				x			
Spanish RC**	La Libertad	2,118	10,509		x	x	x			
	San Miguel	290	1,450		x	x	x			
	Usulután	905	4,525		x					x
	La Union	124	620		x	x	x			
	San Vicente	1,110	5,550	x	x			x		
Federation	Sonsonate	800	4,000	x						x
	Santa Ana	200	1,000	x						x
	San Vicente	1,000	5,000	x						x
TOTAL		51,865	228,952							

** Distributions 1 & 2

Over the reporting period, efforts were concentrated on coordination of the planning for distributions, liaison and meetings with PNS and other agencies. Field trips to meet with and assist branches in Usulután, La Paz, La Libertad, Sonsonate, El Cafetalon allowed the delegates to identify areas for improved management and monitoring of distributions and of beneficiary selection and registration. Recommendations were made for the adjustment and modification of plans.

Water distribution is being undertaken by water tanker to 15 communities in the department of Sonsonate where two water systems were damaged by landslides and falling rocks. After visits to the water source by a joint Red Cross/Oxfam team, 800 metres of damaged pipe work have been scheduled for repair. Two 16,000 litre water tankers have been rented by the Federation for water distribution in Sonsonate, supported by a 7,600 litre water tanker from the Salvadorean Red Cross. Water is being distributed from 15 community and 2 school water points to around 27,000 people in municipalities of Santa Caterina de Masahuat, Nahuizalco, San Antonio del Monte, Juayau and Izalco in department of Sonsonate. There is therefore increased water trucking capacity in Sonsonate and improved data available concerning deliveries.

Hygiene promotion activities in support of water distribution have been initiated in Sonsonate using four teams of Red Cross volunteers from the Sonsonate branch to train community facilitators, who will be responsible for training other members of the community. As a first step, a training of trainers' course for volunteers has taken place. The Federation is chairing the water and sanitation information sharing meeting which is taking place weekly. Hand dug well cleaning work has taken place in Usulután. Forthcoming activities include a more accurate population census of beneficiaries; a survey of hand dug wells in the coastal strip of Sonsonate in collaboration with local branch of the SRC; an exploratory mission to the department of Santa Ana in order to investigate needs for drinking water in affected communities identified by relief delegates and a distribution of water containers and hygiene kits in Sonsonate in collaboration with Oxfam.

The logistics delegate has completed procurement procedures for the majority of the relief goods needed for the coming three months: food, hygiene, bedding, water and sanitation kits. The review of the fleet has resulted in the procurement of seven vehicles. These will replace those loaned from the other Federation operations in Guatemala, Belize, Nicaragua and Honduras as well as the land cruiser provided by the ICRC. The reorganisation and review of the warehouse is complete and intensive training is under way under the supervision of the two logistics delegates. As part of a better programming approach and as a capacity building and developmental exercise, it is planned to hold an externally researched SWOT analysis as well as a case study on the logistics and warehouse status to ensure ongoing improvements are maintained.

Objective 3: *To prevent the outbreak of epidemics by providing primary and preventative health care for targeted displaced populations.*

The Federation health delegate has mostly been involved with the coordination and review of the mental health needs in the context of the SRC and American Red Cross psychological support programme. Distribution of the medical stock has begun (see situation report no. 4). Health promotion through the water and sanitation programme has been expanded to other regions. Additional water activities include a review of the SRC health department's capacity and sustainable programmes.

Objective 4: *To provide psycho-social support to the affected population and volunteers.*

The MoH is proposing to use the Red Cross programme to train its emergency response teams through 25 health professionals in each department. The SRC has identified the need for internal psychological assistance to its staff and emergency workers and made the request for professional support from the Mexican Red Cross.

Objective 5: *To improve the health of communities affected by the disaster through the development of community health brigades.*

Four health brigades are now operational and are working with the most affected branches in cooperation with the MoH; the teams are focusing on training, disease surveillance and psycho-social support. Activities are to be monitored through the Federation health delegate with a view to adjusting

and refining the terms of reference of the additional teams planned through Japanese Red Cross funding.

Objective 6: *To ensure the capacity of the national society to deliver effective disaster response services in the immediate and medium future. Phase II / III*

The disaster preparedness delegate will complete a hand over of shelter management responsibilities and start to work with the National Society's director of relief to review the national relief plan. Specific attention will be paid to the areas of logistics and relief training. Additional funds have been pledged that will allow this activity to be incorporated within phase II as well as phase three.

Objective 7: *To strengthen the disaster response capacity and preparedness of the SRC and of communities to explore and implement appropriate mitigation measures at the local level and to strengthen the links between NS branches and vulnerable communities. Phase III*

Branch development opportunities have been identified. The Italian Red Cross has proposed to hire an engineering expert who has worked in many disaster stricken areas in post-earthquake reconstruction. The Federation has been asked to provide managerial and administrative support and to assist in coordination.

Objective 8: *To increase the social well being of the affected population through increased respect for the rights of the most vulnerable - including children and the elderly - and a reduction of family violence.*

Identification of post emergency projects is continuing.

Objective 9: *To strengthen the National Society branches and to increase their ability to address the needs of the most vulnerable through sustained and effective programming and service delivery. Phase III*

Progress related to this objective will be reported on in future situation reports.

Objective 10: *To promote a coherent Red Cross image.*

The newly structured media department is now fully functional and has been asked to participate and take the lead in a number of Federation and PNS functions such as providing stories and reports from the field and headquarters on the ongoing operation.

Outstanding needs

Donors are encouraged to provide further contributions to the appeal and also to release funds in accordance with pledges which have been made. One major area which requires funding is increased water tanker capacity in order to meet water supply needs as outlined in the plan of action.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

As part of the coordinating role of the Federation, delegates attend regular meetings with the mayor of Santa Tecla, COEN, the IOM and the WFP which is providing food rations for the Cafetalon shelter through COEN. On-going contact continues with UN agencies. The head of the regional delegation has held meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with regard to the Federation's status agreement and its application in the earthquake operation. An Oxfam engineer continues to support the joint Federation/SRC/Oxfam activities taking place in Sonsonate. Some specialised water and sanitation equipment has been donated to the Federation for use in El Salvador by MSF Holland.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details. Appeal coverage stands at 62 per cent; further contributions are essential in order to ensure successful implementation of the operation.

Conclusion

The operation to assist victims of the earthquake disaster is progressing in accordance with the global plan of action. Support has been provided to a number of branches and, as a result, improved management and monitoring of distributions to affected communities has been implemented. Further contributions are required, particularly in respect of phase III of the operation.

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

Central America / El Salvador, earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			02/08/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5,422,147		TOTAL COVERAGE 62.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - PRIVATES				8,626	24.01.01	
AUSTRIAN - RC		1,000,000	ATS	111,799	15.01.01	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		100,000	AUD	91,330	23.01.01	FOOD, MEDICINES, SHELTER MATERIALS AND BLANKETS
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		98,039	GBP	242,156	16.01.01	EARMARKING TO BE SPECIFIED
BRITISH - PRIVATE				126	29.01.01	
CANADIAN - RC		70,000	CAD	77,112	16.01.01	
CANADIAN - RC		150,000	CAD	165,240	17.01.01	CANNOT BE USED FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD ITEMS
CANADIAN - RC		150,000	CAD	162,375	02.02.01	WATER & SANITATION TRAINING & DP
DANISH - RC		92,500	DKK	18,657	19.01.01	
FINNISH - RC		43,729	EUR	65,773	15.01.01	
ICELANDIC - RC		1,000,000	ISK	19,411	15.01.01	
IRISH - RC		20,000	IEP	38,190	16.01.01	
IRISH - GOVT		200,000	IEP	381,900	15.01.01	
ITALIAN - RC		100,000,000	ITL	77,700	18.01.01	EMERGENCY SHELTER MATERIALS & FOOD
JAPANESE - RC				37,000	16.01.01	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				30,000	17.01.01	
MONACO - RC		200,000	FRF	46,900	14.01.01	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		504,490	NLG	352,176	01.02.01	FOR PURCHASE OF HYGINE KITS, INDUSTRIAL KITCHENS, BED KITS, MANAGEMENT / OPERATION SUPPORT
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100,000	NZD	71,770	16.01.01	
NORWEGIAN - RC		250,000	NOK	46,350	18.01.01	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT		2,060,000	NOK	385,410	24.01.01	
OPEC		200,000	USD	335,000	18.01.01	EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES
SHELL INTERNATIONAL		25,000	USD	40,700	24.01.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				23,000	22.01.01	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		600,000	SEK	104,580	15.01.01	
SWISS - PRIVATES				200	16.01.01	
TURKISH - RC				50,000	17.01.01	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		10,000	AED	4,433	05.02.01	
VENEZUELA - PRIVATE		10,000	USD	16,750	22.01.01	
WHO STAFF				2,000	22.01.01	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,006,664	CHF	55.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
ERICSSON		36,506	USD	59,432	15.01.01	SEE PMN FOR DETAILS
FINNISH - RC		6,500	EUR	10,000	15.01.01	FACT TEAM MEMBER COSTS
NETHERLANDS - RC		411,122	NLG	286,997	16.01.01	EMERGENCY HEALTH KITS, GENERATORS, DISPENSARY TENTS, FAMILY TENTS, REINF. PLASTIC SHEETING, JERRY CANS, KITCHEN SETS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				356,429	CHF	6.6%
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:						
PSV507						