

## *EL SALVADOR: EARTHQUAKE*

26 April 2001

*appeal no. 2/2001*

*situation report no. 12*

*period covered: 3 April - 23 April 2001*

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*The operation following the earthquake is progressing smoothly and, at present, a transition between the emergency and the rehabilitation phase is taking place. During the reporting period, 3,250 hygiene kits were distributed in the department of Sonsonate and material for construction of 2,500 temporary homes was purchased. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC) has conducted a series of assessments in the light of its contingency plan. These have concentrated on areas at risk given the approaching rainy season and on potential additional beneficiaries in need of support through the temporary housing component of the operation.*

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### *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. The epicentre of the earthquake was some 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 heavily affected area was 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 as rural areas across the country were severely damaged, resulting in the displacement of whole communities.

One month to the day after this earthquake, an aftershock registering 6.6 on the Richter scale struck some 30 km east of San Salvador on the morning of Tuesday, 13 February at 8:22 a.m local time, reducing many rural communities to rubble, killing over 300 persons and causing major damage to water systems.

On Saturday, 17 February, at approximately 14.24 hours local time, El Salvador was shaken by a further tremor, the epicentre of which was in the south of the city of San Salvador. The quake measured 5.3 on the Richter scale, caused landslides and damaged more homes.

## ***Latest events***

Seismic activity in El Salvador seems to be decreasing and in recent weeks the population has been relatively calm. However, when a strong tremor occurs, there is fear and panic and in rural areas, people can be found sitting on the streets after such an event. Nevertheless, there is a general sense of hope as the population now looks towards the future.

Red Cross activities are currently undergoing a transition from the emergency phase to longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction. In order to prepare for the rainy season due to start in early May, and the danger of floods and landslides, Salvadorean Red Cross Society branch volunteers and Federation delegates have conducted field visits to different areas of the country in accordance with the SRC relief department contingency plan. Information was collected concerning the current situation in the communities, potential risks and needs, together with details on community and branch contingency plans. Historically, there are 75 areas in the country which are considered to be at high risk during the rainy season. However, this year the National Emergency Committee (COEN) has declared that as many as 350 areas are vulnerable to flooding and landslides.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### ***Objective 1 To meet the basic needs and support the resettlement of the population of the "Cafetalón" macro-shelter***

The SRC continues to support families remaining in the Cafetalón macro-shelter in accordance with agreements between the National Society, the local municipality and the Ministry of the Interior. Red Cross assistance includes water and sanitation, supported by the American Red Cross and activities relating to the return home programme. These activities include transportation of families leaving the shelter with support from the German Red Cross and provision of kits (food, water, bedding, kitchen, hygiene and sanitation sets) with the assistance of the Spanish Red Cross. At present, there are 441 families remaining at the Cafetalón shelter (35 less than during the previous reporting period). In addition, 124 families previously at Cafetalón are currently in the Polideportivo shelter.

The local authorities have not yet identified land for resettlement of families; therefore, families which have left both the Cafetalón and the Polideportivo shelters in the last few weeks have either returned to their own land or are living with relatives. SRC support to the Polideportivo shelter includes latrines and kitchens in cooperation with the Federation, the American Red Cross and MSF. The Red Cross agreement with the local municipality expires on 22 May and the agreement with the Ministry of the Interior expires on 2 June.

To date, a total of 151 families have received kits, and the total number of families who will benefit under the return home programme from temporary houses and kits is expected to increase from 664; however, the number of beneficiaries is yet to be determined.

### ***Objective 2 To provide the basic needs and support the resettlement of 30,000 (6,600 Federation case load) families in the departments of Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, Cuscatlán, San Miguel, San Miguel, Santa Ana, La Paz, Usulután, San Vicente and San Salvador.***

#### ***- Relief Distribution 3 April - 23 April 2001***

9,900 families have been assisted with food distributions to date. During the reporting period, distribution of 3,250 hygiene kits took place in Sonsonate and distributions in Cojutepeque will continue over the next weeks. With support from the Belgian Red Cross, a total of 7,100 kits are to be provided to the beneficiaries.

***- Water and Sanitation***

Other activities in Sonsonate include the completion of the two month emergency hygiene promotion programme which aims to assist 1,040 people in 25 communities. A project seeking to strengthen branch capacity is to be launched shortly. To date, four water tanks remain in the field, two in Sonsonate and two in Cojutepeque; however, these are to be dismantled shortly. Tanking continues in Cojutepeque in those communities which rely on spring or river water and which were affected by the earthquake. The possibility of support for youth programme activities at the local branch is being reviewed.

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

The Ministry of Health (MoH) continues to coordinate health care to the populations affected by the earthquakes. The MoH is presently training staff in preparation for a countrywide campaign against dengue fever. The aim is to prevent the emergence of an epidemic during the forthcoming rainy season.

A major health campaign, targeted at young children has been organised by the Salvadorean Red Cross with support from the American Red Cross. Short 30-minute programmes on diarrhoea prevention are televised during peak children's viewing times. The main character for the programmes is a cartoon style red cross who is named "Cruz Rojin" (little red cross). The programme is shown on the three main television channels and will be played 150 times per month over the next six months.

The Salvadorean Red Cross continues to coordinate its health support activities with the MoH and other organisations. The issues of food, shelter, safe water, psycho-social support and the prevention of disease through education are presently the emphasis of Red Cross activities.

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

Although aftershocks have diminished, the number of referrals for psycho-social support remains high according to reports from the MoH. To increase public awareness of psycho social support needs after disasters and the work of the Salvadorean Red Cross in this field, the Red Cross held a press conference on World Mental Health Day.

The Salvadorean Red Cross was presented with an award by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) in recognition of its psychological support activities in response to the recent earthquakes.

The first stage of debriefings for volunteers and staff of the Salvadorean Red Cross has been completed. Psychological support for volunteers was well received and has proved valuable for both volunteers and the organisation. Continuing support in terms of further counselling sessions for volunteers needing follow up is now underway in coordination with the American Red Cross.

The seven Red Cross psycho-social brigades continue to intervene in the communities most affected by the earthquakes (Sonsonate, La Paz, Cuscatlán, and San Vicente). At present, the main focus of these brigades is to build up community support networks for the victims of the earthquake. To this end, the teams are presently training teachers, community leaders and volunteers to support their communities and to refer those needing formal treatment to mental health professionals. The Salvadorean Red Cross brigades supported by the American, Italian and French Red Cross Societies are coordinating activities with the MoH and other organisations such as UNICEF and MSF.

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

To provide medical care to target communities, the Salvadorean Red Cross presently has four mobile teams including doctors and nurses who are regularly visiting rural communities affected by the earthquakes (La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente and Usulután). These visits are coordinated with the MoH and local health centres. As part of their visits, the Red Cross teams are assisting the MoH in the formation of community health committees and providing training to local people in the area of preventative health. The SRC medical brigades are receiving assistance from the Japanese, Spanish and French Red Cross Societies. The need for continued activity of these health brigades will be reviewed in the coming month when the impact of the rainy season on health can be better assessed.

***Objective 6 To ensure the capacity of the National Society to deliver effective disaster response services in the immediate and medium term future.***

The National Society contingency plan has been concluded and approved by the SRC committee. The plan aims to assist communities in case of flooding and landslides in areas previously identified through field assessments and outlined in risk maps. This plan is supported by the Federation both in its design as well as through internal and external dissemination and will be initiated in the first week of May.

Over the reporting period, Federation field assessments were carried out in support of the SRC relief department contingency plan. A two person field team worked over three day periods in different areas of the country, accompanied by a volunteer from the SRC branch. The objective of these visits was to provide information concerning potential risks during the forthcoming rainy season. As a result of these assessments, general recommendations include the need to promote the drawing up and dissemination of local disaster response, preparedness and prevention plans, and to ensure further support to SRC branch development both with capacity building and equipment.

PNS present in the country have also provided essential information concerning risk areas where they are carrying out their activities. Furthermore, the plan was produced with assistance from the National Emergency Committee and in co-operation with UNDP and PAHO.

The proposal for a two day workshop has been concluded and sent to the regional delegation. The objective of this workshop is to measure the impact of development workshops as well as the effectiveness of community response to the previous disasters. As a complement, a survey took place at community level and the results demonstrate tangible outcomes. The efforts to promote prevention culture is little by little showing that it is the most efficient alternative for counteracting disaster outcomes.

The telecommunications delegate will shortly conclude his mission in El Salvador during which he assisted the National Society in improving its response capacity in the field of communications. Technical meetings with the National Society took place to define the implementation of the telecommunications project as well as setting the terms for the procurement of equipment, with the support of the American Red Cross. Planning of capacity building activities and the respective budgets have been drawn up. In addition, the telecommunications delegate joined the delegation in the recent field assessment visits, following which he recommends the upgrading of telecommunications equipment in certain branches.

***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 National Society branches and vulnerable communities.***

The long-term disaster preparedness programme continues to work towards meeting the objective of strengthening the organisational, technical and operational capacity of the National Society. This programme is built on Strategy 2010, recommendations following recent operations in the region including hurricane Mitch, hurricane Georges and floods in Venezuela, together with response analysis in the wake of the recent earthquakes. The main aim is to strengthen the national relief department and its structures through an implementation plan of one or two years' duration. To date, support identified

includes telecommunications with the assistance of the American Red Cross, and a community disaster education programme supported by CIDA, Canada.

***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.***

Activities for the temporary homes programme, supported by the Japanese Red Cross, continue to be carried out; recent weeks have concentrated on the verification of the census and site locations in the regions of Santa Tecla, Tacuba, Congo, Santa Ana and Potrerillo. The purchase of materials for 2,500 temporary homes is being undertaken, and the first delivery will be to Tacuba to the communities of El Sincuyo, Agua Fria, Monte Hermosa and El Jicaro, for a total of 1,000 beneficiaries in the region. Furthermore, as a complement to the temporary homes, the American Red Cross has expressed interest in supporting this programme with latrines and possibly further water and sanitation education components.

During the recent field evaluations, in support of the National Society contingency plan, post-earthquake housing needs were also considered in order to identify further locations and potential beneficiaries of the temporary housing programme. Results of these assessments will be available shortly and will be helpful to the Netherlands Red Cross which has expressed interest in providing temporary shelter for the resettlement of 1,500 families. The construction expert provided by the Federation and the Italian Red Cross completed his two month mission in El Salvador and has provided an final report on assessment of damage for the National Society. The proposal presented to UNDP was produced on the basis of this assessment, and UNDP support is yet to be determined. The initial steps for the construction of 9 classrooms in San Esteban Catarinas, with the support from the Netherlands Red Cross, is underway. Once these classrooms are finished, 360 children will be able to attend regular schooling in this community. Representatives from the Belgian Red Cross who are currently in the field, will visit this project and may support similar projects in future.

***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**

The Federation continues activities to support the finalisation of the national development plan and the disaster preparedness delegate has presented three project proposals with the aim of strengthening and improving the overall capacities of the National Society at branch level. These three projects include institutional development, branch capacity strengthening and improvement of response capacity components.

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

The SRC, with support from the Federation and as continuation of the recent regional seminar for journalists on information during disasters, has drawn up a proposal for a further seminar. The goal of this seminar is to create a network of journalists able to deal with the flow of information during a disaster, to promote coverage of Red Cross activities, to create awareness of the importance of information during disasters, and to strengthen Red Cross media relations. In addition, and also as a result of the regional seminar, the SRC is currently formulating an information contingency plan to be presented to its executive committee for authorisation. This plan will form part of the global disaster contingency plan of the National Society.

## ***Outstanding needs***

As a result of the scale of rehabilitation needs together with potential needs as a result of the forthcoming rainy season, a budget revision is currently taking place and the appeal target is expected to increase to a total of approximately CHF 9.6 million. A revised budget will be issued with the next situation report.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

On 7 April the Salvadorean Red Cross, with support from the Federation, the American, French and Italian Red Cross Societies, co-ordinated a press conference to celebrate World Health Day. This year the theme was mental health, an area in which the SRC has made significant contributions, particularly following the earthquakes. Co-ordinators of psychosocial support programmes addressed the press and the event was successfully covered by television and written media.

The SRC is planning a series of events commemorating Red Cross Day on 8 May , all of which will be covered by the press including a special section in showing Red Cross activities in El Salvador.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details. The appeal coverage currently stands at 108.4 per cent

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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			26.04.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>7'645'698</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 108.4%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - PRIVATES				8'626	24.01.01	
AMERICAN - 2 PRIVATES				2'688	02.02.01.	
AMERICAN - PRIVATES		5'400	USD	8'791	15.02.01	
ANDORRAN - RC				31'976	02.02.01	
ARGENTINIAN - RC		1'896	ARS	3'087	16.03.01	
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
AUSTRALIAN - RC		65'000	AUD	58'429	14.02.01	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		33'595	AUD	30'199	06.04.01	
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		5'437'402	BEF	207'355	22.01.01	PURCHASE OF 7'172 HYGIENE KITS
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		98'039	GBP	242'156	16.01.01	EARMARKING TO BE SPECIFIED
BRITISH - RC				170'000	12.02.01	REIMBURSEMENT DREF
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		55'792	GBP	134'459	19.02.01	2X WATER TANKERS (MAX. 6 MONTHS)
BRITISH - RC		90'000	GBP	216'900	02.03.01	
BRITISH - PRIVATE		100'000	GBP	241'000	15.03.01	
BRITISH - PRIVATE				126	29.01.01	
CANADIAN - RC		70'000	CAD	77'112	16.01.01	
CANADIAN - GOVT		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
CANADIAN - RC		150'000	CAD	162'375	16.02.01	HEALTH CLINICS & WATER SANITATION
CANADIAN - RC		300'000	CAD	324'750	19.02.01	CANNOT BE USED FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD ITEMS
CANADIAN - RC		200'000	CAD	216'500	19.02.01	HEALTH & CAPACITY BUILDING
CHILEAN - RC		11'000	USD	17'908	20.02.01	
CYPRUS - RC				5'270	14.02.01	
DANISH - RC		92'500	DKK	18'657	19.01.01	
DANISH -RC		185'000	DKK	38'110	15.02.01	
FINNISH - RC		43'729	EUR	65'773	15.01.01	
FINNISH GOVT		159'778	EUR	245'802	02.03.01	
HONG KONG - RC				57'631	26.02.01	
ICELANDIC - RC		1'000'000	ISK	19'411	15.01.01	
IRANIAN - RC		20'000	USD	34'264	17.04.01	
IRISH - RC		20'000	IEP	38'190	16.01.01	
IRISH - GOVT		200'000	IEP	381'900	15.01.01	
IRISH - RC				136'710	20.03.01	

ITALIAN - RC		100'000'000	ITL	77700	18.01.01	EMERGENCY SHELTER MATERIALS & FOOD
ITALIAN - PRIVATE				335	02.02.01	
JAPANESE - RC				37000	16.01.01	
JAPANESE - GOV'T		498'870	USD	812'160	16.02.01	TEMPORARY DWELLINGS (2'500 KITS)
JAPANESE - RC				142'000	16.02.01	COSTS OF DELEGATE TO BE CHARGED
JAPANESE - RC		347'933	USD	566'435	16.02.01	MOBILE COMMUNITY HEALTH BRIGADES PROGRAMME (3 BRIGADES 3 MONTHS)
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				30'000	17.01.01	
KUWAIT - RC		50'000	USD	83'950	28.02.01	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				53'150	13.02.01	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				42'650	17.04.01	HEALTH AND WATER
LIECHTENSTEIN - PRIVATE				15'000	27.02.01	
MALTESE - RC				29'725	16.02.01	
MONACO - RC		200'000	FRF	46'900	14.01.01	
NETHERLANDS - GOV'T		504'490	NLG	352'176	01.02.01	FOR PURCHASE OF HYGINE KITS, INDUSTRIAL KITCHENS, BED KITS, MANAGEMENT / OPERATION SUPPORT
NETHERLANDS - GOV'T/RC		66'800	NLG	46'632	01.03.01	
NEW ZEALAND - gov't		100'000	NZD	71'770	16.01.01	
NORWEGIAN - RC		250'000	NOK	46'350	18.01.01	
NORWEGIAN - GOV'T		2'060'000	NOK	385'410	24.01.01	
OPEC		200'000	USD	335'000	18.01.01	EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES
PHARMACIA & UPJOHN FOUNDATION		25'000	USD	40'700	29.01.01	RELIEF ITEMS
SHELL INTERNATIONAL		25'000	USD	40'700	24.01.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				23'000	22.01.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				2'918	14.02.01	
SPANISH - PRIVATE				1'000	27.02.01	
SWEDISH - GOV'T/RC		600'000	SEK	104'580	15.01.01	
SWEDISH - GOV'T/RC		1'045'000	SEK	181'517	21.02.01	
SWEDISH - RC		502'895	SEK	87'353	19.04.01	
SWISS - PRIVATES				200	16.01.01	
SWISS - 10 PRIVATES				2'765	14.02.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE				300	26.02.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE				2'500	05.03.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE		679	USD	1'180	23.03.01	
TURKISH - RC				50'000	17.01.01	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		10'000	AED	4'433	05.02.01	
UNHCR STAFF				4'248	19.02.01	
VENEZUELA - PRIVATE		36'518'000	VEB	85'087	15.02.01	
WHO STAFF				2'000	22.01.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS		415	USD	687	30.01.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				5'315	22.02.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				11'865	26.02.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				5'928	08.03.01	
SUNDRY INCOME - PRIVATES				188	27.02.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				2'318	20.03.01	
ONLINE DONATIONS				4'741	10.04.01	
PRIVATE DONOR		3'000	USD	4'974	13.03.001	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>7571'739</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>99.0%</b>

<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH - RC		7'487	GBP	18'044	27.02.01	MDPE PIPE, PUMPS, TAPS, SUCTION HOSE, TRANSPORTATION
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
FRENCH - RC		223'430	EUR	343'725	21.02.01	160 TENTS 27 M2, 600 FAMILY TENTS 12M2
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
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				718'198	CHF	9.4%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				0	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PSV507						



