

EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

EL SALVADOR: FLOODS AND VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

Appeal no. 05EA020
6 October 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 487,000 (USD 379,798 OR EUR 315,055) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 21,000 BENEFICIARIES (4,200 FAMILIES) FOR 4 MONTHS
(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget)

CHF 149,400 (USD 114,820 OR EUR 96,262) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to mount the initial response to this operation. Unearmarked funds to reimburse the DREF are encouraged.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org> For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In El Salvador: Salvadorean Red Cross Society; email secretaria.ejecutiva@cruzrojasal.sv, phone (503) 219-2200, fax (503) 222-7758
- In Panama, Nelson Castaño, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email ifrcpa07@ifrc.org, phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1082
- In Geneva: Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email luis.luna@ifrc.org, phone (41 22) 730-4274, fax (41 22) 733-0392

The situation

El Salvador has been struck by two natural disasters in the last week. Firstly, the Ilamatepec volcano, which has shown increased activity in recent months, began hurling out hot lava rocks on 1 October, killing at least two people and forcing more than 2,000 to flee. Secondly, the country has experienced heavy rains, flooding and landslides as a result of the passage of Hurricane Stan through the region. To date, rains brought on by Hurricane Stan have killed almost 100 people in Mexico and Central America, including 49 in El Salvador.

The Ilamatepec volcano, also known as Santa Ana, located 66 kilometres (41 miles) west of the capital, began rumbling and emitting thick plumes of smoke that reached more than 15 kilometres (nine miles) into the sky just

El Salvador: Floods and Volcanic Activity; Appeal no. 05EA020

after 8:30 a.m. (1430 GMT) on Saturday, 1 October. Military emergency sirens blasted, calling for an immediate area evacuation of the nearby towns and soon after the volcano began hurling glowing lava and ash from its crater. The volcano began to expel magma on the side of the town of San Blas, while the ash was carried by a south-south-westerly wind. Hot lava rocks expelled by the volcano ranged from the size of a football to the size of a car.

The volcano has been rumbling for days, and on Friday some 30 families living in the area were evacuated after columns of sulphuric smoke rose from the crater. Officials with the National Emergency Committee (COEN) said that by 1 p.m. Saturday 2,250 people had been evacuated from the danger zone. At least seven people were injured by red hot lava rocks spewed into the air by the eruption, the national police said. Two people were killed when 200 residents were evacuated from the town of Palo Campana, located just two kilometres from the crater. Residents fled aboard trucks when a flood of boiling water from an underground lake rushed down from the crater from three directions. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture estimates that some 7,000 km² of the country's coffee crops have been covered in ash and have likely been destroyed.

The National Emergency Committee has declared a red alert in the area within 4,000 metres of the volcano, and a yellow alert in other nearby areas. The country's civil protection forces have been deployed and are operational.



Rescue workers try to retrieve victims at the site of a mudslide in San Salvador October 4, 2005. Photo courtesy of Reuters

Some 20,000 people live in the area surrounding the volcano. At 2,381 meters (7,812 feet) above sea level, the Santa Ana volcano is the highest point in El Salvador and the largest volcano in the country. It last erupted in 1904.

The rainy season in El Salvador generally runs from the end of May through to the middle of October. This year, the rainy season began in mid May and has been particularly heavy; according to SNET, the country received 500 percent more rain during September than the historical average for that month. In addition, in May the country experienced heavy rains due to the passage of the first hurricane of the hurricane season in the eastern north pacific.

Hurricane Stan, the 18th named storm of an extremely busy Atlantic hurricane season, first formed as a tropical depression off the east coast of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. It quickly strengthened to a tropical storm as it moved across the peninsula, bringing heavy rains to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and southern Mexico. The storm continued to build strength once it was again over the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and became a category one hurricane just before coming ashore in the Mexican state of Veracruz. Rains brought by Stan were particularly heavy on the Pacific coast of Central America. According to the National Service of Territorial Studies, the rains are expected to continue for the next 24 to 48 hours and additional flooding is expected.

The National Emergency Committee issued a red alert for El Salvador as the heavy rains caused several of the country's main rivers to overflow. Damages have been particularly severe in the departments of San Miguel and Usulután, in the south of the country, and in the departments of San Salvador and Sonsonate, in the north of the country. Additional flooding is a concern in the capital city of San Salvador, where the grounds have been saturated with flood waters. Evacuations are being carried out in particularly vulnerable parts of the city due to the risk of landslides in the areas around the San Salvador volcano. The areas around the Coatepeque and Guija lakes in the department of Santa Ana are also at risk of flooding. To date, 49 deaths have been registered as a result of the flooding and the volcanic eruption, and some 32,045 residents have been evacuated to 309 shelters set up in the areas.

El Salvador: Floods and Volcanic Activity; Appeal no. 05EA020

The needs

Immediate needs: Through damage and needs assessments, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC) has determined that the greatest needs as a result of the volcano and floods are for food, hygiene kits, blankets and kitchen kits as many residents were forced to flee their homes, bringing with them only a few personal items. Of the families that have been relocated to the official shelters set up both as a result of the volcanic activity and of the flooding, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society will prioritize 4,200 families to receive essential relief items.

Coordination

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society is part of the National Emergency System (SISNAE), which coordinates all disaster response activities on the part of the Salvadorean government through the Emergency Operations Centre. The SRC is also maintaining close coordination with the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), based in Panama.

The proposed operation

Objectives and activities planned

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective: 1,000 families affected by the volcano and 3,200 families affected by the floods will have benefited from the distribution of food and non-food relief items.

Activities planned to reach this objective: The Federation and the SRC will distribute food kits, hygiene kits, blankets and kitchen sets to 4,200 families staying in shelters. Each family will receive one food kit, one hygiene kit, three blankets, and one kitchen set. The food, kitchen and hygiene kits or parcels contain the following items:

FOOD PARCELS	
Item	Quantity
Corn flour	30 pounds
Rice	20 pounds
Beans	30 pounds
Salt	2 pounds
Sugar	10 pounds
Vegetable Oil	1 gallon (17.5 pounds)
Incaparina	2 pounds
TOTAL	111.5 pounds
<i>Food parcels are calculated to provide 2,100 calories for a family of five for 30 days.</i>	
KITCHEN KITS	
Item	Quantity
7-L aluminium pot with handles	1 unit
5-L aluminium pot with handles and lid	1 unit
2.5-L aluminium saucepan with lid	1 unit
aluminium bowls	5 units
aluminium plates	5 units
plastic mugs	5 units
plastic glasses	5 units
aluminium cutlery (spoon, knife, fork)	5 units
15-cm kitchen knife	1 unit
30-cm kitchen spoon	1 unit
FAMILY HYGIENE KITS	
Item	Quantity
Bath soap (125g)	5 units
Shampoo (125mL)	2 units
Toothbrush	5 units

El Salvador: Floods and Volcanic Activity; Appeal no. 05EA020

Toothpaste (130g)	5 units
Toilet paper (roll)	12 units
Sanitary towels (box of 10)	3 units
Cotton towels (70 x 30cm)	5 units
Disposable razor	5 units
Deodorant	2 units
Comb (men)	1 unit
Comb (women)	2 units
<i>Hygiene kits are designed for a family of five for 30 days.</i>	

Where necessary, specialized hygiene kits for infants and clean up kits for families will also be distributed. These consist of the following items:

INFANT HYGIENE KIT	
Item	Quantity
Bath soap (100g)	2 units
Baby shampoo (250mL)	1 unit
Lotion (250mL)	1 unit
Talcum powder (250g)	1 unit
Cloth diapers	12 units
Diaper pins	5 units
Cotton towel (70 x 30cm)	1 unit
Plastic bottle (8oz)	1 unit
Plastic bottle (4oz)	1 unit
<i>These hygiene kits are designed for infants up to two years of age.</i>	
CLEAN UP KITS	
Item	Quantity
Plastic bags (20 gallons)	30 units
Powdered detergent (2 kg)	1 unit
Laundry soap (package of 3)	3 units
Broom	1 unit
Bucket	1 unit
Bleach or chlorine (1L)	2 units
Cleaning soap (package of 3)	1 unit
Sponge	1 unit
<i>Clean up kits are designed for a family of five for 30 days.</i>	

During distributions SRC volunteers will deliver educational talks on the subject of community-based disaster preparedness in order to promote contingency and response planning in risk-prone communities and amongst families living in hazardous areas. In addition, volunteers will receive first aid kits, masks, gloves and protective glasses to assist them in their work in the affected areas.

A cargo plane carrying relief supplies from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit for 1,000 families will leave Panama for El Salvador on Thursday. The remaining relief supplies will be transported by land to the affected areas.

Based on the timely availability of DREF in response to the volcanic eruption (please see Minor Emergency Bulletin no. 05ME059; El Salvador: Volcanic Eruption), distributions have already been carried out in the departments of Santa Ana, Sonsonate and La Paz. Details regarding these distributions will be provided in subsequent operations updates.

El Salvador: Floods and Volcanic Activity; Appeal no. 05EA020



The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has helped evacuate residents from affected areas to some of the 309 shelters that have been set up across the country and has already begun distributing much needed relief items to shelter residents in the departments of Santa Ana, Sonsonate and La Paz.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Through continued public and media relations it is hoped that the public will develop an even better understanding of the mission of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society and the activities the organization undertakes in serving humanity. As a member of the International Federation, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society seeks to promote the Fundamental Principles in all activities and subsequently facilitate additional visibility of the Movement on whole.

Capacity of the National Society

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society was founded in 1885 and recognized by the Movement in 1925. The current statutes were approved in 1995 and the respective regulations were updated in 2000. The SRCS consists of an executive council with national jurisdiction, 12 departmental (provincial) branches and 52 local boards with municipal jurisdiction. Its volunteers belong to “branch bodies” of relief workers, rescuers, women volunteers and the Red Cross youth, which belong to both departmental branches and local boards. The SRC was able to significantly strengthen its national structure through the relief operation following Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The National Society enjoys a fairly positive image vis-à-vis the authorities and the community, thanks to the role it played in the January and February 2001 earthquakes, and throughout its long history of providing humanitarian service in El Salvador.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation’s PADRU has a number of experienced disaster management delegates who monitored the activity of the volcano and the development of the rains in the region. PADRU’s disaster management staff will provide any necessary support to the Salvadorean Red Cross Society in order to ensure the success of the relief operation.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society will ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of the operation, with the support of the Federation. Regular reports on the operation will be published on the Federation’s web site and news articles issued.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 05EA020

El Salvador - floods and volcanic activities

TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Clothing & textiles	52,000
Food & seeds	134,000
Medical & first aid	70,000
Utensils & tools	72,000
Other relief supplies	20,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	348,000
<hr/>	
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Computers & telecom. equipment	13,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	32,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Transport and vehicle costs	25,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
National staff	20,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	10,000
Information expenses	4,000
Administrative & general expenses	35,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	139,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	487,000
<hr/>	
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NET REQUEST	487,000
<hr/>	