

PERU : EARTHQUAKE

appeal no: 21/96
15 November 1996

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 913,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 10,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR THREE MONTHS***

Summary

Although difficult terrain is slowing down damage and needs assessments, the earthquake that hit southern Peru on 12 November is estimated to have affected at least 39,000 people . The Peruvian Red Cross is actively involved in the emergency relief operations. The Federation appeal seeks relief and rehousing assistance for some 10,000 beneficiaries.

The Intended Operation

The operation will seek to assist at least 10,000 victims of the 12 November earthquake in Peru with medical care, relief supplies and some construction materials

The Disaster

A one-minute earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4/ 7.3 on the Richter scale occurred at 11:55 a.m. (14:55 GMT) on 12 November near the coast of Peru, about 100 km south-southeast of Lima. The earthquake was followed by 40 tremors later the same day. Its epicentre was located 135 km southwest of Nazca.

Preliminary assessments, including that of the Peruvian Red Cross and the Federation Development Delegation to the National Society, have not yet been finalised because of the difficult geographical and logistical context. However, initial official estimates put the number of people affected at about 39,000 (the number of very seriously affected is being assessed), with 11 dead, 560 injured (72 very seriously, now hospitalised) and at least ten missing. A total of 1,266 houses were destroyed and 6,637 badly damaged.

Major damage was caused to public-services infrastructures (roads, phone, electricity etc.) in an area of 60,000 sq. km., population 200,815, in the departments of Ica, Arequipa and Ayacucho. Arequipa and Ayacucho department areas are mountainous and rainy, and access is very difficult. The Ica department area is flat, dry and almost desert-like. Malnourishment was already widespread in the affected areas prior to the disaster.

The worst affected area was the province of Nazca (Ica department). In the town of Nazca 18,000 of the 21,000 inhabitants were badly affected: 15% of the houses were destroyed (including the Nazca RC offices) and another 50% were seriously damaged. Seven people died and 165 were injured. Most of the injured from the surrounding villages were transported to Nazca's small hospital, which is now over crowded.

In Arequipa department, the Caraveli province and Acari district are the worst affected. Several mines collapsed in Lomas, Chala and Jaqui, and mine workers were still trapped yesterday. In Acari (a mining centre in Arequipa) five people died, one is missing and 150 houses and some mining facilities were destroyed.

In Santa Lucía (Ayacucho) many people were injured and 80% of the houses were damaged. In Haway (Chincha) 120 people were injured. In Huantan 4 persons died, over 100 other were injured and many houses are destroyed. In Santa Rosa (Opaca) some mines collapsed. The same happened in Lucanas province (Ayacucho department). In Chala, 50 houses were damaged.

People fear a new strong earthquake, as the epicentre is still experiencing an average of 150 tremors daily.

The Response so far

Government Action •

The Government reacted immediately through the Civil Defence and other organisations. Its damage and needs assessments are ongoing.

The Civil Defence provided two lorries loaded with tents, blankets, mattresses, rescue and corrugated-iron sheets, triplex, kitchens, household items, medicines and blood. Quantities are not available. An air lift was established between Lima and San Juan de Marcona for relief-supply transportation.

The Health Ministry set up a mobile hospital in Nazca. The Ministries of Transport and Defence are working on reopening and repairing the roads.

The municipality of Lima dispatched six lorries with five tonnes of food. A similar action has been undertaken by PRONAA (a national food programme).

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action •

The Peruvian Red Cross cooperated with the Civil Defence in the rescue and relief operations. It made 91 volunteers available, many of them doctors and nurses, and 16 administrative staff, as well as one lorry and six ambulances. These RC workers belong to the PRC chapters of Lima, Piura, Pisco, Ilo, Ayacucho, Callao, Moquegua, Trujillo, Tacna, Arequipa and Puno. They have distributed all of their limited stock of tents, clothes and blankets.

The Peruvian Red Cross launched a national appeal, and is collecting relief supplies from many parts of the country.

The Federation Development Delegate (Spanish Red Cross), assisted by the ICRC Cooperation Delegate (Norwegian Red Cross), has been helping the National Society with the needs assessment and putting together a plan of action. They are now going to the disaster area to reassess the situation.

The Spanish Red Cross, with Spanish-Government funds, will fly in relief goods totalling about USD 208,000 on 20th November. This includes 125 tents, 2,000 blankets, clothes and medicines.

One Federation relief delegate from the Colombian Red Cross will leave shortly for the disaster area to support the Federation Development Delegate. The Bolivian Red Cross is flying 200 kg. of relief supplies to the disaster area and the Chilean Red Cross is sending clothes.

Other Agencies' Action •

The Lima Fire Brigade sent 2 medical rescue units and two vehicles to Nazca to transport the injured. Other local organisations are also contributing to rescue and relief efforts.

"Médicos sin fronteras" ("Doctors without borders") are providing medical care and wood for reconstruction.

The European Union will donate 350 mt. of food through the Government .

Co-ordination •

An inter-agency committee chaired by the Civil Defence in consultation with the Peruvian Red Cross is coordinating the operation.

The Needs to be met

Assessment of Needs •

This is underway.

Immediate Needs •

- Food
- Drinking water (particularly water purification systems and materials)
- Medicines (particularly for diarrhoea and other infections)
- Clothing
- Shelter (tents and plastic sheeting)
- Bedding
- Household items (particularly kitchen items)
- Hygiene items
- Power generators
- Radio and other tele-communications equipment
- Vehicles

Anticipated Later Needs •

House-reconstruction materials (roofing, slabs etc.).

Red Cross Objectives

- 1) To provide medical care and relief items to the victims.
- 2) To provide house-reconstruction materials and promote community participation in reconstruction.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: November 1996 •

Distribution of food and hygiene parcels, medicines, water purification items, blankets, bedding, clothes, household items and other relief supplies to 2,000 families (about 10,000 people) in the areas of Nazca, Lucanas and Puquio.

Phase Two: December/January 1997 •

Distribution of 20,000 corrugated-iron tiles (see attached budget) and, depending on funds available and the capabilities of the Peruvian Red Cross, other construction materials.

Capacity of the Peruvian Red Cross •

The National Society embarked on a development process in 1995 with the help of the Federation and the ICRC and, with financial and technical assistance, has the capacity to cope with the planned operation.

Present Capacity of the Federation in Peru •

A Federation Development Delegate assisted by a Relief Delegate will assist the Peruvian Red Cross in further planning and implementing the plan of action.

Evaluation •

A weekly evaluation will be made by the Peruvian Red Cross HQ and the Federation Delegation and a final report will be made available to donors.

Immediate action

Acquisition and distribution of relief supplies is starting.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Donors are urgently invited to contribute to the appeal, preferably in cash.

In-kind contributions should be sent directly to the Peruvian Red Cross (address in the Federation's directory).

Additional details about the operation may be obtained from Santiago Gil, Director, and Luis Luna, Desk Officer, Americas Department (phones 41-22-7304391 and 41-22-7304274).

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