

VENEZUELA: FLOODS

7 April 2000

appeal no. 35/99

situation report no. 9

period covered: 1 - 31 March 2000

Because of renewed heavy rains and the expected onset of the rainy season shortly, the Federation and the Venezuelan Red Cross are preparing contingency plans for a new emergency. Meanwhile, the food distribution component of the operation is due to end soon. Most target figures for the distribution of clean up kits, hygiene kits and jerry cans have been met or adjusted to needs. The three mobile health teams have dealt with nearly 4,500 patients. Relocation of the displaced, rehousing and safe water supplies remain issues.

The disaster

Weeks of torrential rains in Venezuela reached record proportions on 15 and 16 December 1999, causing massive landslides and severe flooding in seven northern states of the country. Overflowing rivers swept through poor districts in the capital, Caracas, washing away thousands of homes. In the coastal valleys, mud slides buried most of the towns of Macuto and Caraballeda while the towns of Los Corales, Camuri Chico and Carmen de Uria totally disappeared under avalanches of mud.

Although the official death toll is still very low, the media and other unofficial sources estimate the disaster left some 20,000 dead, between 6,000 and 7,000 missing and 300,000 affected by the landslides and floods. Damages are put at over USD 3,200. The Venezuelan Civil Defense's initial damage assessments indicate at least 64,707 houses affected and over 23,200 destroyed.

Latest events

- In Caracas it rained for 14 hours (29 February - 1 March). In the mountain ranges it rained for four days non-stop, activating the red alert in the state of Vargas where the military once more urged people still living in high risk areas to evacuate their homes. Roads that had been reopened were again covered by debris washed down by the rain.

VENEZUELA: FLOODS

7 April 2000

appeal no. 35/99

situation report no. 9

period covered: 1 - 31 March 2000

Because of renewed heavy rains and the expected onset of the rainy season shortly, the Federation and the Venezuelan Red Cross are preparing contingency plans for a new emergency. Meanwhile, the food distribution component of the operation is due to end soon. Most target figures for the distribution of clean up kits, hygiene kits and jerry cans have been met or adjusted to needs. The three mobile health teams have dealt with nearly 4,500 patients. Relocation of the displaced, rehousing and safe water supplies remain issues.

The disaster

Weeks of torrential rains in Venezuela reached record proportions on 15 and 16 December 1999, causing massive landslides and severe flooding in seven northern states of the country. Overflowing rivers swept through poor districts in the capital, Caracas, washing away thousands of homes. In the coastal valleys, mud slides buried most of the towns of Macuto and Caraballeda while the towns of Los Corales, Camuri Chico and Carmen de Uria totally disappeared under avalanches of mud.

Although the official death toll is still very low, the media and other unofficial sources estimate the disaster left some 20,000 dead, between 6,000 and 7,000 missing and 300,000 affected by the landslides and floods. Damages are put at over USD 3,200. The Venezuelan Civil Defense's initial damage assessments indicate at least 64,707 houses affected and over 23,200 destroyed.

Latest events

- In Caracas it rained for 14 hours (29 February - 1 March). In the mountain ranges it rained for four days non-stop, activating the red alert in the state of Vargas where the military once more urged people still living in high risk areas to evacuate their homes. Roads that had been reopened were again covered by debris washed down by the rain.

- The latest government figures show that there are 30,080 families registered as having lost their homes. Out of these, 30% (17,507) are unemployed and therefore do not have medical coverage.
- The last 342 families remaining in the Poliedro (Central Stadium) are being transferred to other locations. The majority will be moved to the interior of the country: heads of households have been asked to indicate to which state they would prefer to be moved.
- The Fondo Unico Social (United Social Fund) estimates that at least 16,193 families are still living in 218 shelters and 61 military bases being used as shelters. In addition, the new rains drove out another 2,000 families who either left on their own or were persuaded to leave by the military.
- The Mayor of La Guaira estimates that over 5,000 of those who were sent to the interior of the country have returned to their old houses in high risk areas. He points out that the vast majority of these areas are still without public utilities, making the evacuees' return a potential health hazard. One of the most important problems in the area is the collapse of the sewage system.
- Three hundred displaced from the state of Miranda marched to the capital, Caracas, to protest the lack of a solution to their housing problem.
- The municipality of Caracas reports that it must clear 298 canyons which serve as natural drains for the mountains around the city before May, when the rainy season usually starts. This will involve cleaning up 147,195 meters of river beds, and removing 16,250 cubic metres of rubbish.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Venezuelan Red Cross (VRC) w

The VRC has purchased two 3.5-ton trucks and two 7.5-ton trucks to assist the distribution of humanitarian aid to the 1,000 families in the interior of the country. Some of the distributions in areas furthest away are continuing with the assistance of a Hercules cargo airplane from the Venezuelan Air Force.

The VRC is planning to hold a press conference to inform the affected population the food distribution phase of the emergency will soon come to an end, as the Federation and most PNSs are winding down this part of the response to the emergency.

An external auditing company has been hired to review the finances of the operation. The results will be published shortly.

VENEZUELAN RED CROSS ACTIVITIES REPORT

MONT H	Medical Assistance	Distributions IFRC items	Distributions VRC items	Volunteers	Shelters	“Self-Shelters”	Total Families	Total Individuals
January	2,007	17,456	15,491	1,077	149	1,504	5,415	32,224
February	2,254	32,350	712	1,111	94	1,444	4,822	30,627
March*	342	10,167	951	1,206	53	1,943	4,904	30,704
Total:	4,603	59,973	17,154	3,394	296	4,891	15,141	93,555

* Incomplete data because the reports from the branches are still coming in.

- The latest government figures show that there are 30,080 families registered as having lost their homes. Out of these, 30% (17,507) are unemployed and therefore do not have medical coverage.
- The last 342 families remaining in the Poliedro (Central Stadium) are being transferred to other locations. The majority will be moved to the interior of the country: heads of households have been asked to indicate to which state they would prefer to be moved.
- The Fondo Unico Social (United Social Fund) estimates that at least 16,193 families are still living in 218 shelters and 61 military bases being used as shelters. In addition, the new rains drove out another 2,000 families who either left on their own or were persuaded to leave by the military.
- The Mayor of La Guaira estimates that over 5,000 of those who were sent to the interior of the country have returned to their old houses in high risk areas. He points out that the vast majority of these areas are still without public utilities, making the evacuees' return a potential health hazard. One of the most important problems in the area is the collapse of the sewage system.
- Three hundred displaced from the state of Miranda marched to the capital, Caracas, to protest the lack of a solution to their housing problem.
- The municipality of Caracas reports that it must clear 298 canyons which serve as natural drains for the mountains around the city before May, when the rainy season usually starts. This will involve cleaning up 147,195 meters of river beds, and removing 16,250 cubic metres of rubbish.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Venezuelan Red Cross (VRC) w

The VRC has purchased two 3.5-ton trucks and two 7.5-ton trucks to assist the distribution of humanitarian aid to the 1,000 families in the interior of the country. Some of the distributions in areas furthest away are continuing with the assistance of a Hercules cargo airplane from the Venezuelan Air Force.

The VRC is planning to hold a press conference to inform the affected population the food distribution phase of the emergency will soon come to an end, as the Federation and most PNSs are winding down this part of the response to the emergency.

An external auditing company has been hired to review the finances of the operation. The results will be published shortly.

VENEZUELAN RED CROSS ACTIVITIES REPORT

MONT H	Medical Assistance	Distributions IFRC items	Distributions VRC items	Volunteers	Shelters	“Self-Shelters”	Total Families	Total Individuals
January	2,007	17,456	15,491	1,077	149	1,504	5,415	32,224
February	2,254	32,350	712	1,111	94	1,444	4,822	30,627
March*	342	10,167	951	1,206	53	1,943	4,904	30,704
Total:	4,603	59,973	17,154	3,394	296	4,891	15,141	93,555

* Incomplete data because the reports from the branches are still coming in.

International Federation w

A contingency plan for the rainy season in May is being prepared by Federation delegates in conjunction with the Relief Department of the VRC for the city of Caracas and state of Vargas. The Federation relief delegates in Vargas are identifying possible warehouses to be leased if needed. Emergency supplies and the centre of operations could be moved to this location if necessary.

There are currently 19 expatriate delegates working in the operation. The Regional Relief Coordinator has returned to her regional duties. A field delegate is now coordinating all field relief activities. There are currently three field delegates in the state of Vargas and two field delegates covering the states of Aragua and Carabobo.

The psychological support delegate ended a two-month mission, having set up the structure for the psychological support programme to be carried out by the VRC on a nation wide basis. This programme will from now on be undertaken by the American Red Cross.

The Information delegate finished her one-month mission on 19 March and a local person was hired to give the Federation activities coverage in the local media. Her duties will also include assisting the Information Department of the VRC.

A vehicle rented by the Federation was hijacked on 10 March. The local driver was forced at gun point to surrender the car and his valuables. He remained hostage for a couple of hours, before being released unharmed. Due to this incident, stricter safety rules will be enforced.

Logistics (Caracas):

- There are now four Federation Toyota vehicles in the field as follows: 2 for Relief, 1 for WatSan and 1 for Headquarters.
- Of the total 35,000 food kits purchased locally, 7,760 were delivered during the period 1-13 March (1,760 to the Caracas warehouse and 6,000 to the Vargas warehouse).
- The remaining 10,000 hygiene kits purchased locally were scheduled to be delivered during the second half of March.

STATUS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

ITEM:	TARGET (Units):	PURCHASE ORIGIN:	RECEIVED TO DATE:	OUT-STANDING:	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	REC'D :
Family food parcels	25,000	Panama	25,000	0	0	0
Family food parcels	35,000	Local	7,760	27,240	2,000	0
Hygiene kits *	10,000	Panama	10,000	0	0	0
Hygiene kits	10,000	Local	0	10,000	0	0
Cleanup kits *	2,000	Local	4,159	0	0	0
Kitchen sets *	6,500	Local	6,500	0	0	0
Kitchen sets	2,500	Panama	2,500	0	0	0
Blankets	50,000	In-kind donations	50,550	0	0	0
Jerry cans *	10,000	In-kind donations	10,010	0	40,000	3,500
Vehicles	15	Local	4	11	0	0

* See explanations below

International Federation w

A contingency plan for the rainy season in May is being prepared by Federation delegates in conjunction with the Relief Department of the VRC for the city of Caracas and state of Vargas. The Federation relief delegates in Vargas are identifying possible warehouses to be leased if needed. Emergency supplies and the centre of operations could be moved to this location if necessary.

There are currently 19 expatriate delegates working in the operation. The Regional Relief Coordinator has returned to her regional duties. A field delegate is now coordinating all field relief activities. There are currently three field delegates in the state of Vargas and two field delegates covering the states of Aragua and Carabobo.

The psychological support delegate ended a two-month mission, having set up the structure for the psychological support programme to be carried out by the VRC on a nation wide basis. This programme will from now on be undertaken by the American Red Cross.

The Information delegate finished her one-month mission on 19 March and a local person was hired to give the Federation activities coverage in the local media. Her duties will also include assisting the Information Department of the VRC.

A vehicle rented by the Federation was hijacked on 10 March. The local driver was forced at gun point to surrender the car and his valuables. He remained hostage for a couple of hours, before being released unharmed. Due to this incident, stricter safety rules will be enforced.

Logistics (Caracas):

- There are now four Federation Toyota vehicles in the field as follows: 2 for Relief, 1 for WatSan and 1 for Headquarters.
- Of the total 35,000 food kits purchased locally, 7,760 were delivered during the period 1-13 March (1,760 to the Caracas warehouse and 6,000 to the Vargas warehouse).
- The remaining 10,000 hygiene kits purchased locally were scheduled to be delivered during the second half of March.

STATUS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

ITEM:	TARGET (Units):	PURCHASE ORIGIN:	RECEIVED TO DATE:	OUT-STANDING:	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	REC'D :
Family food parcels	25,000	Panama	25,000	0	0	0
Family food parcels	35,000	Local	7,760	27,240	2,000	0
Hygiene kits *	10,000	Panama	10,000	0	0	0
Hygiene kits	10,000	Local	0	10,000	0	0
Cleanup kits *	2,000	Local	4,159	0	0	0
Kitchen sets *	6,500	Local	6,500	0	0	0
Kitchen sets	2,500	Panama	2,500	0	0	0
Blankets	50,000	In-kind donations	50,550	0	0	0
Jerry cans *	10,000	In-kind donations	10,010	0	40,000	3,500
Vehicles	15	Local	4	11	0	0

* See explanations below

- The appeal called for a total of 2,000 clean-up kits (one for every five families) which meant that five families had to share the contents - soap, mops, etc. The initial kit composition was modified to produce individual family packages: without exceeding the budget. A total of 4,159 kits were acquired and are being distributed to beneficiaries whose houses were flooded.
- The appeal called for a total of 30,000 hygiene kits (one per family, per month, for three months). It was decided to reduce this item to 20,000 kits as the personal hygiene products in each kit are sufficient for 1.5 months and kits could therefore be distributed twice during the three-month duration of the project. As a result, 10,000 kits were purchased in Panama; the second 10,000 kits, purchased locally, include items obtained from in-kind donations.
- The appeal called for the purchase of 10,000 jerry cans -- one per family. A total of 10,010 collapsible water containers were received as in-kind donations from Spain and Great Britain. These have been distributed (two per family) together with 20 chlorine tablets, exclusively to beneficiaries in the state of Vargas where it is expected that the population will not receive drinking water for quite some time. Because these containers have a relatively short life span, it has been decided to purchase 40,000 additional jerry cans with the LASMO donation. A new "Clean Water" campaign will be launched around these water containers in coordination with the WatSan and Health delegates. Leaflets are being printed with instructions on the correct use of the chlorine tablets and will be distributed with the jerry cans.
- Because of in-kind donations from the Colombian Red Cross, only 9,000 kitchen kits were purchased instead of the 10,000 the appeal called for. In addition, the Netherlands Red Cross, which together with the Colombian Red Cross is working in the western border, has offered to contribute another 1,000 kits.

CONSOLIDATED CENTRAL WAREHOUSE REPORT

ITEM:	TONS HANDLED IN JANUARY:	TONS HANDLED IN FEBRUARY:
Food items	105.00	704.48
Temporary shelter items	47.20	2.50
Jerry cans/Water equipment	18.00	0.18
Health items	12.00	8.78
Personal hygiene items/Clothing	26.13	26.13
Total:	208.33	742.07

Logistics (Panama City)

Relief:

- Distribution activities were suspended for five days (4 - 8 March) due to the annual Carnival. The coordinators instead work on a contingency plan for the next rainy season during which there is a high risk of floods, cave ins and mud slides.
- The consolidated distribution report below is an incomplete reflection of distributions, as there is usually a delay in receiving reports from the field, as they cover longer periods of time and must contend with transportation and communications difficulties.

- The appeal called for a total of 2,000 clean-up kits (one for every five families) which meant that five families had to share the contents - soap, mops, etc. The initial kit composition was modified to produce individual family packages: without exceeding the budget. A total of 4,159 kits were acquired and are being distributed to beneficiaries whose houses were flooded.
- The appeal called for a total of 30,000 hygiene kits (one per family, per month, for three months). It was decided to reduce this item to 20,000 kits as the personal hygiene products in each kit are sufficient for 1.5 months and kits could therefore be distributed twice during the three-month duration of the project. As a result, 10,000 kits were purchased in Panama; the second 10,000 kits, purchased locally, include items obtained from in-kind donations.
- The appeal called for the purchase of 10,000 jerry cans -- one per family. A total of 10,010 collapsible water containers were received as in-kind donations from Spain and Great Britain. These have been distributed (two per family) together with 20 chlorine tablets, exclusively to beneficiaries in the state of Vargas where it is expected that the population will not receive drinking water for quite some time. Because these containers have a relatively short life span, it has been decided to purchase 40,000 additional jerry cans with the LASMO donation. A new "Clean Water" campaign will be launched around these water containers in coordination with the WatSan and Health delegates. Leaflets are being printed with instructions on the correct use of the chlorine tablets and will be distributed with the jerry cans.
- Because of in-kind donations from the Colombian Red Cross, only 9,000 kitchen kits were purchased instead of the 10,000 the appeal called for. In addition, the Netherlands Red Cross, which together with the Colombian Red Cross is working in the western border, has offered to contribute another 1,000 kits.

CONSOLIDATED CENTRAL WAREHOUSE REPORT

ITEM:	TONS HANDLED IN JANUARY:	TONS HANDLED IN FEBRUARY:
Food items	105.00	704.48
Temporary shelter items	47.20	2.50
Jerry cans/Water equipment	18.00	0.18
Health items	12.00	8.78
Personal hygiene items/Clothing	26.13	26.13
Total:	208.33	742.07

Logistics (Panama City)

Relief:

- Distribution activities were suspended for five days (4 - 8 March) due to the annual Carnival. The coordinators instead work on a contingency plan for the next rainy season during which there is a high risk of floods, cave ins and mud slides.
- The consolidated distribution report below is an incomplete reflection of distributions, as there is usually a delay in receiving reports from the field, as they cover longer periods of time and must contend with transportation and communications difficulties.

CONSOLIDATED DISTRIBUTION REPORT
Period covered: 16 January - 11 March, 2000

Distribution Dates:	Food Kits	Hygiene Kits	Bedding Kits	Water Kit	Kitchen Kits	Clean - Up Kits
16 - 22 Jan.	1,238	410	410	403	0	0
23 - 29 Jan.	2,971	1,525	2,971	2,499	0	0
30 Jan./5 Feb.	3,392	50	2,637	1,747	0	0
6 - 12 Feb.	3,246	0	111	449	0	0
13 - 19 Feb.	4,024	0	417	0	0	1,338
20 - 26 Feb.	2,450	0	0	0	560	1,595
27 Feb./4 Mar.	1,943	575	0	0	0	0
5 - 11 Mar.	4,610	3,110	0	1,331	2,551	0
TOTAL:	23,874	5,670	6,546	6,429	3,111	2,933

State of Vargas

- The number of beneficiaries in the La Guaira sector has increased due to the return of many IDPs. These families have been incorporated into the distribution process but will receive three two-week family food parcels instead of six, in order that aid may reach everyone.
- The fourth round of distributions was completed end March in Vargas, except for the recently incorporated district of La Guaria which has just received its first round of distributions. If there are no further delays, it is expected food and non-food distributions will be finished in this state on 25 April.

States of Carabobo and Aragua

The number of beneficiaries turning up at the distributions is diminishing. The VRC and the Federation delegates are reviewing this situation, possible due to the IDPs from these states being relocated to the interior of the country and/or their return to their places of origin, in most cases the state of Vargas. The fourth round of distributions has been finished in these two states .

Health:

CONSOLIDATED HEALTH BRIGADES ACTIVITIES
(2 Falcón Brigades - 1 Vargas Brigade)
Period reported: 15 January to 18 March, 2000

Month	Communities Attended	Patients Treated	Homes Visits	Education Sessions	Persons Attending	Pamphlets Distributed
January	18	758	244	56	878	520
February	56	2,107	1,436	114	2,440	2,658
March	18	472	383	43	1,170	984
Total:	92	3,337	2,063	213	4,488	4,162

CONSOLIDATED DISTRIBUTION REPORT
Period covered: 16 January - 11 March, 2000

Distribution Dates:	Food Kits	Hygiene Kits	Bedding Kits	Water Kit	Kitchen Kits	Clean - Up Kits
16 - 22 Jan.	1,238	410	410	403	0	0
23 - 29 Jan.	2,971	1,525	2,971	2,499	0	0
30 Jan./5 Feb.	3,392	50	2,637	1,747	0	0
6 - 12 Feb.	3,246	0	111	449	0	0
13 - 19 Feb.	4,024	0	417	0	0	1,338
20 - 26 Feb.	2,450	0	0	0	560	1,595
27 Feb./4 Mar.	1,943	575	0	0	0	0
5 - 11 Mar.	4,610	3,110	0	1,331	2,551	0
TOTAL:	23,874	5,670	6,546	6,429	3,111	2,933

State of Vargas

- The number of beneficiaries in the La Guaira sector has increased due to the return of many IDPs. These families have been incorporated into the distribution process but will receive three two-week family food parcels instead of six, in order that aid may reach everyone.
- The fourth round of distributions was completed end March in Vargas, except for the recently incorporated district of La Guaria which has just received its first round of distributions. If there are no further delays, it is expected food and non-food distributions will be finished in this state on 25 April.

States of Carabobo and Aragua

The number of beneficiaries turning up at the distributions is diminishing. The VRC and the Federation delegates are reviewing this situation, possible due to the IDPs from these states being relocated to the interior of the country and/or their return to their places of origin, in most cases the state of Vargas. The fourth round of distributions has been finished in these two states .

Health:

CONSOLIDATED HEALTH BRIGADES ACTIVITIES
(2 Falcón Brigades - 1 Vargas Brigade)
Period reported: 15 January to 18 March, 2000

Month	Communities Attended	Patients Treated	Homes Visits	Education Sessions	Persons Attending	Pamphlets Distributed
January	18	758	244	56	878	520
February	56	2,107	1,436	114	2,440	2,658
March	18	472	383	43	1,170	984
Total:	92	3,337	2,063	213	4,488	4,162

Medical Case study analysis:

Diagnosis	N° Cases	%
Intestinal Parasites	568	19.83
Respiratory Syndrome	405	14.14
Viral Syndrome	400	13.96
Skin Diseases	372	12.98
Diarrhoea Syndrome	242	8.45

CONSOLIDATED VECTOR CONTROL BRIGADE Period reported: 10 February to 14 March, 2000

Month	Communities Attended	Fogging with Light equipment	Larvae Control	Rat control	Fly control	Protected Homes	Protected Inhabitants
Feb.	35	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4,692	24,953
Mar.	25	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8,656	43,370
Total	60	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	13,348	68,323

Clean Up Campaign

Fifteen VRC volunteers, outfitted with Red Cross coveralls and tools, participated in a second Cleanup Campaign on 17 March in the village of Colinas de Pariata. They helped remove debris washed down from the mountain above. The local authorities provided two dump trucks for the removal of the garbage collected.

Psychological Support Programme

- The Federation Psychological Support programme, planned for one month (January-February), was extended one more month (February-March) with LASMO financing. As of 6 March, it became an American Red Cross programme.

Water-sanitation

- The drainage and tapstand locations in the “Vista Caribe” housing project have been modified. A meeting with community leaders has been held to start hygiene education activities.
- The Federation continues supplying two water tankers to replace the two tankers previously operated by the German Red Cross in Vargas.
- A through analysis has been carried out of water storage at household level in the towns of Purity and MireMire in the state of Falcón.
- Fifteen tapstands similar to Oxfam’s design have been ordered, to be installed in Caraballeda.
- A list of contingency materials for the rainy season is being prepared.

Tracing Programme

- Official contact has been established with the Venezuelan Armed Forces to obtain lists of the deceased, including recently recovered bodies.

Medical Case study analysis:

Diagnosis	N° Cases	%
Intestinal Parasites	568	19.83
Respiratory Syndrome	405	14.14
Viral Syndrome	400	13.96
Skin Diseases	372	12.98
Diarrhoea Syndrome	242	8.45

CONSOLIDATED VECTOR CONTROL BRIGADE Period reported: 10 February to 14 March, 2000

Month	Communities Attended	Fogging with Light equipment	Larvae Control	Rat control	Fly control	Protected Homes	Protected Inhabitants
Feb.	35	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4,692	24,953
Mar.	25	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8,656	43,370
Total	60	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	13,348	68,323

Clean Up Campaign

Fifteen VRC volunteers, outfitted with Red Cross coveralls and tools, participated in a second Cleanup Campaign on 17 March in the village of Colinas de Pariata. They helped remove debris washed down from the mountain above. The local authorities provided two dump trucks for the removal of the garbage collected.

Psychological Support Programme

- The Federation Psychological Support programme, planned for one month (January-February), was extended one more month (February-March) with LASMO financing. As of 6 March, it became an American Red Cross programme.

Water-sanitation

- The drainage and tapstand locations in the “Vista Caribe” housing project have been modified. A meeting with community leaders has been held to start hygiene education activities.
- The Federation continues supplying two water tankers to replace the two tankers previously operated by the German Red Cross in Vargas.
- A through analysis has been carried out of water storage at household level in the towns of Purity and MireMire in the state of Falcón.
- Fifteen tapstands similar to Oxfam’s design have been ordered, to be installed in Caraballeda.
- A list of contingency materials for the rainy season is being prepared.

Tracing Programme

- Official contact has been established with the Venezuelan Armed Forces to obtain lists of the deceased, including recently recovered bodies.

- An invitation has been received from the National Institute for Minors to participate in a meeting with parents of missing children to obtain further information and details on their disappearance.
- A collaboration agreement was signed with CANTV (Venezuelan Telephone Company) under which the company will supply complete information for cases where there is only a telephone number available.
- According to the budget established by the Federation and the American Red Cross, the office equipment required for the Tracing and Family Reunification programme is now complete. This programme was transferred entirely to the American Red Cross as of 1 April.

TRACING AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACTIVITIES

Period reported: 25 February - 11 March, 2000

TRACING REQUESTS:	THIS PERIOD:	TO DATE:
Received - National	-	7,700
Received - International	-	118
Total requests received:	0	7,818
Unresolved cases - National	-	2,911
Unresolved cases - International	-	36
Total unresolved cases:	0	2,947
Closed cases - National	346	4,789
Closed cases - International	5	82
Total closed cases:	351	4,871

There are currently 11 local volunteers and one American Red Cross volunteer working with the assistance of one American Red Cross delegate and one Federation delegate.

Participating National Societies (PNS) w

American Red Cross (ARC)

- ARC is continuing its food distributions in Vargas, Falcón and Aragua. It expects to finish this phase of the project around 20 May. The Family Reunification/Tracing programme and the Psychological Assistance programme will continue beyond this date.

Spanish Red Cross (SRC)

- The food distributions being carried out to 2,200 families will be cut down by one fourth as of next month.
- The SRC has just initiated the distribution of hygiene and clean-up kits. It will continue the potable water distribution for six more months.
- Work in the schools identified in the state of Miranda for possible reconstruction will begin in two or three weeks.
- The census for the identification of beneficiaries for the 150 houses to be built in the state of Miranda has been finished. There are still some problems with land tenure which have to be resolved in coordination with IVI (Instituto de la Vivienda - Housing Institute) before the building process starts.
- The SRC has received extra funding which it plans to use for "productive packages" -- the donation of small farm animals, seeds and/or farming tools to the same, previously identified beneficiaries who are currently receiving family food parcels.

- An invitation has been received from the National Institute for Minors to participate in a meeting with parents of missing children to obtain further information and details on their disappearance.
- A collaboration agreement was signed with CANTV (Venezuelan Telephone Company) under which the company will supply complete information for cases where there is only a telephone number available.
- According to the budget established by the Federation and the American Red Cross, the office equipment required for the Tracing and Family Reunification programme is now complete. This programme was transferred entirely to the American Red Cross as of 1 April.

TRACING AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACTIVITIES

Period reported: 25 February - 11 March, 2000

TRACING REQUESTS:	THIS PERIOD:	TO DATE:
Received - National	-	7,700
Received - International	-	118
Total requests received:	0	7,818
Unresolved cases - National	-	2,911
Unresolved cases - International	-	36
Total unresolved cases:	0	2,947
Closed cases - National	346	4,789
Closed cases - International	5	82
Total closed cases:	351	4,871

There are currently 11 local volunteers and one American Red Cross volunteer working with the assistance of one American Red Cross delegate and one Federation delegate.

Participating National Societies (PNS) w

American Red Cross (ARC)

- ARC is continuing its food distributions in Vargas, Falcón and Aragua. It expects to finish this phase of the project around 20 May. The Family Reunification/Tracing programme and the Psychological Assistance programme will continue beyond this date.

Spanish Red Cross (SRC)

- The food distributions being carried out to 2,200 families will be cut down by one fourth as of next month.
- The SRC has just initiated the distribution of hygiene and clean-up kits. It will continue the potable water distribution for six more months.
- Work in the schools identified in the state of Miranda for possible reconstruction will begin in two or three weeks.
- The census for the identification of beneficiaries for the 150 houses to be built in the state of Miranda has been finished. There are still some problems with land tenure which have to be resolved in coordination with IVI (Instituto de la Vivienda - Housing Institute) before the building process starts.
- The SRC has received extra funding which it plans to use for "productive packages" -- the donation of small farm animals, seeds and/or farming tools to the same, previously identified beneficiaries who are currently receiving family food parcels.

German Red Cross (GRC)

- Due to lack of financing for water distribution in the State of Vargas project, the GRC will discontinue this activity. It had been distributing water with four cistern trucks since 28 December at 35 distribution points. As of 15 March, the Federation took over water distribution at the distribution points established by the GRC.
- The GRC is carrying out an assessment in the state of Falcón, looking into the possibility of assisting small fishermen who lost their boats and other fishing implements during the floods.
- To initiate the ECHO II project (food assistance for a further 2 months) GRC must first redo a population census in the states of Vargas, Falcón and Bolivar, because of major IDP movements. It expects to assist 2,500 families in Vargas, 500 in Falcón, 568 in Bolivar and 180 in Lara, leaving a small reserve for the state of Vargas, if required.

French Red Cross (FRC)

- The FRC expects to work in Caraballeda town, in the state of Vargas, until end May.
- It has been supplying drinking water at a rate of 25 litres per person per day to approximately 18,000 inhabitants. Since it is unable to meet the demand for more, a campaign to save water has been started with the assistance of a Community Mobilizer hired by the Federation as part of the WatSan team.
- In the Anare sector in the state of Vargas, it is expected to increase the water supply to cover 2,000 inhabitants. This will be done by pumping water to a water deposit and installing several more onion bladders.
- The construction project in the village of Nuevo Guapo has run across several problems, the most difficult of which is the definition of land tenure. Once this is solved, it is expected that the FRC will build 100 homes - 98 for an equal number of families already identified, one as a model home and a second to be used as a warehouse for food parcels.

Italian Red Cross (IRC)

- An IRC delegate will arrive shortly to begin the second phase of the IRC health project, supported by UNDP and the Italian government. This phase will consist of the rehabilitation of two more medical laboratories and two mobile medical brigades.
- An assessment will be carried out of the feasibility of starting small community run pharmacies and other rehabilitation projects in the state of Miranda.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Meetings take place with HidroVen and HidroCapital to coordinate WatSan activities, and with Agua 2000, an NGO, to coordinate activities in the town of Caraballeda. A good working relationship exists with the military who cooperate by giving preference in the one congested street open to traffic in the coastal areas to Red Cross convoys during food distributions. The Venezuelan Air Force continues to assist the VRC with transportation of goods to distant places. Co-ordination meetings have been held with UNDP and ECHO.

Contributions

See Annex 1.

Peter Rees-Gildea

Santiago Gil

German Red Cross (GRC)

- Due to lack of financing for water distribution in the State of Vargas project, the GRC will discontinue this activity. It had been distributing water with four cistern trucks since 28 December at 35 distribution points. As of 15 March, the Federation took over water distribution at the distribution points established by the GRC.
- The GRC is carrying out an assessment in the state of Falcón, looking into the possibility of assisting small fishermen who lost their boats and other fishing implements during the floods.
- To initiate the ECHO II project (food assistance for a further 2 months) GRC must first redo a population census in the states of Vargas, Falcón and Bolivar, because of major IDP movements. It expects to assist 2,500 families in Vargas, 500 in Falcón, 568 in Bolivar and 180 in Lara, leaving a small reserve for the state of Vargas, if required.

French Red Cross (FRC)

- The FRC expects to work in Caraballeda town, in the state of Vargas, until end May.
- It has been supplying drinking water at a rate of 25 litres per person per day to approximately 18,000 inhabitants. Since it is unable to meet the demand for more, a campaign to save water has been started with the assistance of a Community Mobilizer hired by the Federation as part of the WatSan team.
- In the Anare sector in the state of Vargas, it is expected to increase the water supply to cover 2,000 inhabitants. This will be done by pumping water to a water deposit and installing several more onion bladders.
- The construction project in the village of Nuevo Guapo has run across several problems, the most difficult of which is the definition of land tenure. Once this is solved, it is expected that the FRC will build 100 homes - 98 for an equal number of families already identified, one as a model home and a second to be used as a warehouse for food parcels.

Italian Red Cross (IRC)

- An IRC delegate will arrive shortly to begin the second phase of the IRC health project, supported by UNDP and the Italian government. This phase will consist of the rehabilitation of two more medical laboratories and two mobile medical brigades.
- An assessment will be carried out of the feasibility of starting small community run pharmacies and other rehabilitation projects in the state of Miranda.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Meetings take place with HidroVen and HidroCapital to coordinate WatSan activities, and with Agua 2000, an NGO, to coordinate activities in the town of Caraballeda. A good working relationship exists with the military who cooperate by giving preference in the one congested street open to traffic in the coastal areas to Red Cross convoys during food distributions. The Venezuelan Air Force continues to assist the VRC with transportation of goods to distant places. Co-ordination meetings have been held with UNDP and ECHO.

Contributions

See Annex 1.

Peter Rees-Gildea

Santiago Gil

Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Director
Americas Department

Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Director
Americas Department