

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

30 June 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 Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

At least 33 people have been killed in El Salvador following heavy rains that have been falling over the Central American region for several days. According to the National Emergency Committee, at least 3,116 houses have been damaged by landslides and flooding, seriously affecting more than 2,332 people. Some 3,000 people have been evacuated from high risk areas as the heavy rains have caused landslides and have cut off some of the main highways in the country.

Most of the victims were travelling by truck on Sunday night when their vehicle was swept away by the swelling of a nearby river in the area of San Lucas, just outside the town of Cuisnahaut, south west of San Salvador. Local authorities have thus far recovered 20 bodies and are on the look out for at least 17 more. Police, fire-fighters, military personnel and local citizens have been searching the area for survivors. In addition, one woman and two children were reportedly killed when a landslide buried their house in the town of Comasagua. There have also been reports of injuries in the affected areas.

According to the National System of Territorial Studies, the rains are expected to continue for the next 24 hours, particularly in the north and west of the country.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRCS) has been responding to the needs of the populations in the affected areas of the country. The SRCS has mobilized National Intervention Team (NIT) members from the Santa Tecla, La Libertad, Juayua, Nahuizalco Ahuachapán and Apaneca branches to monitor and evaluate the situation as well as to provide emergency first aid and support the evacuation of affected people to temporary shelters. The shelters are being managed by the local municipal governments, together with other organizations. The Red Cross has also sent plastic sheeting and rubber boots to Sonsonate from the SRCS central warehouse. The SRCS is maintaining contact with the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit, located in Panama, but no assistance has been requested to date.

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