

NICARAGUA: TROPICAL STORM

25 October, 1996

Information Bulletin no. 1

The Disaster

The whole of Nicaragua was affected on 14 October by heavy rain caused by tropical depression 12, which during its passage over Central America became Tropical Storm Lili and some days later, upgraded to hurricane strength, struck Cuba and the Bahamas.

A total of 12,000 people were severely affected by major damage to their homes and crops: 178 houses were badly damaged and 45 were completely destroyed. There was also serious damage to the public service networks (particularly roads, electricity and telecommunications) as well as to forests. The disaster has occurred while the country is undergoing an acute economic crisis, which severely limits the Nicaraguan Red Cross's financial capability.

Action by the Government and other agencies

The Civil Defence, supported by the Nicaraguan Red Cross and non-governmental organisations, is implementing the National Emergency Plan. This operation has included the evacuation of people from the affected areas and the setting up of emergency shelters.

Red Cross Action

The Nicaraguan Red Cross participated with 400 volunteers in the disaster-preparedness and rescue phases of the operation. Most of these volunteers are continuing to work in the relief phase.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross is assisting 900 families (5,400 persons), representing 68% of the affected population. It plans to maintain this assistance for one month.

The operation's budget is as follows:

	CHF

- food and other relief supplies	50,000
- transport	3,600
- local personnel	3,400
- technical assistance and administrative support by the Secretariat	8,000
- administration and communication	1,000
- contingencies	4,000

TOTAL

70,000

The Secretariat has advanced CHF 70,000 from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the operation. CHF 60,000 has already been transferred to the Nicaraguan Red Cross through the San José Regional Delegation, which has been helping the National Society in the organisation of the operation.

Donors are invited to contribute in cash to the replenishment of the Fund.

Donations in kind should be sent directly to the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

We thank donors in advance for their contributions.

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