



## **El Salvador Emergency**

*Situation Report No. 5*

*Reporting period: From Sunday 15 November, 2009/ 18:00 (local) 00:00 (GMT)  
To Tuesday 17 November, 2009/18:00 (local 00:00 (GMT)*

### **I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES**

- **USD2.5 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund was approved today for saving lives activities in the coming three months.**
- **Flash Appeal for DUS13 million was launched locally today to cover the immediate needs of 15,000 families for the coming six months.**
- *To date, 196 people have been reported dead and 78 missing persons.*
- *Some 13,000 people are currently being attended in 85 collective centers (camps, schools, churches etc.).*
- *Ministry of Public Work estimated damage of infrastructure at USD800 million.*

### **II. Situation Overview**

The combined effect of Hurricane IDA and a low pressure system off the Pacific Coast led to unprecedented heavy rainfalls in El Salvador, from Saturday 7 to Sunday 8 November causing severe flooding and landslide in many parts of the country. In just a few hours, 355mm of rainfall was registered in the most adversely affected areas, compared to the 400mm registered during 4 days of Hurricane Mitch (1998).

To date, 196 people have been reported dead, 78 missing persons, around 13,000 people are currently being attended in 85 collective centers (camps, schools, churches etc.) Many roads are damaged (109 of which) are still blocked by large rocks and debris from the flooding and landslides. Of these, 37 have already been cleared. Furthermore, damages to the electricity, water and sanitation infrastructure have left many affected communities without access to basic services. An estimated 2,000 homes, 17 schools and 25 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed.

### **III. Humanitarian Needs and Response**

#### **Agriculture**

##### **Response:**

FAO has carried out two evaluation missions to meet with local authorities and farmers in the some of the affected municipalities to assess the level of damage to infrastructure, agricultural equipment and livelihoods.

## **Camp Management**

- Needs :

According to IOM, the department of La Paz appears to have the largest number of people currently being attended in collective centers, where basic services are minimal, the sheltered population lack access to water services, cooking and drinking water and sanitation. Many health problems have also been identified especially respiratory infection and dermatological disease. Major health problems have also been identified in the collective centers in San Salvador and security is an issue. It is estimated that collective centers both La Paz and San Salvador have less than a week's worth of food supplies.

- Response:

IOM is supporting the National commission for Collective centers in the organization, management, monitoring and distribution of information in collective camps, facilitated the generation of reliable information and the decision making process.

To date UNFPA has delivered 3,825 feminine hygiene kits directly to beneficiaries in shelters and to NGO's working in the affected areas. Estimated cost of kits: USD 15,000

## **Protection:**

- Needs :

UNFPA carried out an evaluation mission to six collective centers at the Port of La Libertad area and four others in La Paz. The need of providing support to the affected population in trauma care and psychosocial emotional support was evident. People complained of headaches and presented depression symptoms, anxiety disorders. In general, women are assuming the domestic activities in the collective centers, as well as duties related to child care and care of the elderly.

- Response:

UNFPA is providing support to the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) for the amount of USD 7,000, destined to equip and provide adequate conditions in a temporary shelter for women victims of domestic violence, that was severely damaged; as well as to cover some basic hygiene needs of the women and children who are currently under protection.

## **Food Assistance**

- Response:

WFP is currently complementing food assistance provided to the population in collective centers by non governmental organizations, local authorities, governmental institutions (such the Secretariat for Social Inclusion), with the distribution of High Energy Biscuits: 6.26 metric tonnes of High Energy Biscuits have so far been distributed to 6,954 people in 42 shelters in 15 municipalities in San Vicente, La Paz and Cuscatlán. An Immediate Response Emergency Operation Fund of USD460,000 has been approved; this will allow for the immediate local purchase of 486 MT of food to attend the immediate needs of the above described target groups, as well as replace High Energy Biscuits stocks loaned by the Regional Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response. A further 1,159 MT of food commodities are available under the Regional Proactive Relief and Recovery Operation.

## **Water and sanitation**

- Response, including local government

PAHO/WHO purchased 123,300 bottles of water to be distributed to affected population in Departments of La Paz, Cuscatlan and San Vicente. The cost of this contribution is USD 36,990. OPS also delivered 1,000 water purification tablets to ensure access to safe water in collective centers and affected areas.

## **Health**

- Response, including local government

PAHO/WHO has also purchased USD60,000 in drugs to be delivered to the Ministry of Health and to be used in collective centers. The Organization mobilized 14 international experts in crisis management, damage evaluation, communication, water and sanitation, LSS/SUMA, health services and mental health. Five evaluation teams, including the PAHO/WHO Representative, have visited five affected departments.

Mental Health Workshops will be funded by PAHO/WHO in support of National Mental Health Plan. USD5000 has been allocated to cover supplies costs related to this activity.

## **Logistics**

- Response, including local government

The Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Centre for Central America, continues to provide logistical services to UN and donor partners such as UNFPA and USAID.

LSS/SUMA has become an official tool for the Government to register and distribute the national and international humanitarian aid. Three White Helmets arrived in country to assist in the use of this tool.

## **IV. Coordination**

In coordination with Civil Protection, UNETE/UNDAC organized a meeting with national and international NGOs in order to coordinate sectoral efforts and establish partnerships between Government, National Technical Committees and the humanitarian community.

A consolidated “who does what where” contact list is being prepared by Red Hum, OCHA.

MapAction continues to work on a map set that reflects the existing data on affected communities, collective centers and damaged areas.

UNDAC continues to support Civil Protection in the consolidation of the Damage Assessments and Needs Assessments.

## **V. Funding**

- USD2.5 million from CERF was approved today by CAP.
- A Flash Appeal for USD13 million has been launched locally today.
- UN System, bilateral donors and NGOs have delivered approximately USD 5 million in emergency aid.
- International experts in many sectors have been deployed in order to support the emergency efforts, including 37 UN staff and volunteers from the region and Headquarters and more than 60 field missions.
- IFRC launched its appeal (DREF) in support of the El Salvador emergency for USD 1,681,039.

## VI. Contact

United Nations El Salvador  
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### **National Civil Protection System Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil**

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