



Situation Report No. 3
UNCT
El Salvador

TIME/DATE

- 18:00 (Local) Thursday 12 November, 2009
- 00:00 (GMT) Thursday 12 Noviembre, 2009

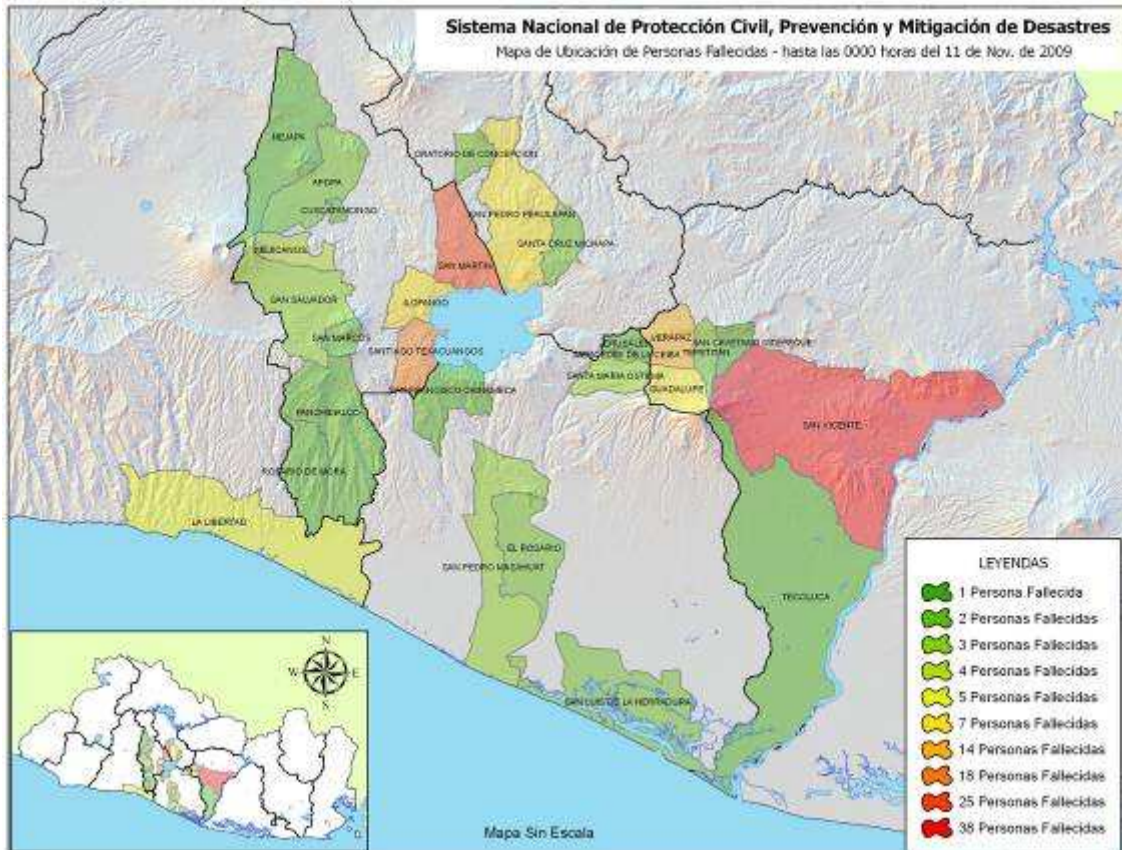
SITUATION

The humanitarian situation in El Salvador is still delicate after the country experienced unprecedented heavy rainfalls provoked by the passing of Hurricane IDA (category 1) and a low pressure system off the Pacific Coast, causing flooding and landslides in many parts of the country.

To date, 157 people have been reported dead, 14,166 people are currently being attended in 129 shelters (up from 12,930 Tuesday) in 40 municipalities of 6 departments (Cabañas, Cuscatlan, La Paz, La Libertad, San Salvador, San Vicente). The official number of missing persons is 58, although reports from Municipalities suggest this number may be higher. After carrying out more detailed analysis the number of homes affected has been estimated officially at 1,779 and 220 destroyed. Current field assessments indicate much highest figures as well.

At this time, the total number of people affected remains unknown, although based on the most recent needs assessments, the UN and other international partners estimate some 15,000 families (75,000 people) could be affected.

Access to affected areas remains difficult; many roads are still blocked with debris from the flooding. Many critical points of access remain vulnerable.



Shelters

In general the following needs have been identified in the temporary shelters: Drinking water, water and sanitation, beds, blankets, cooking utensils, construction materials, psycho-social rehabilitation, recreational material for children. It has been observed that the organizational capacity within the shelters must also be strengthened.

Education

Total of 46 education centers are been used as shelters, gathering 6,447 people, including 1,912 children in 7 departments. The Ministry of Education has deployed seven psychologists to provide psycho-social assistance to affected children. It is estimated that 80 more psychologists will provide support to affected population in shelters in the coming weeks. So far, 106 schools have disrupted classes in 8 departments of the country.

Health

The majority of the health attention has been concentrated in San Salvador, San Vicente and La Paz totaling 13,874 attentions with the installations of the shelters.

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The principal medical problems reported are respiratory infections, dermatitis, diarrhea, conjunctivitis, anxiety attacks, traumas and pneumonia.

Of a total of 1,319 emergency-related medical attentions carried out, 228 people have been hospitalized, the current availability is 776.

Around 1,359 health professionals are currently attending the population in shelters, supporting the distribution of food of drinking water and personal hygiene kits. The health professionals have monitoring the A (H1N1), dengue and leptospirosis. The Mental Health Plan has been implemented. An evaluation on the transportation of vaccinations has also been carried out.

Water& Sanitation

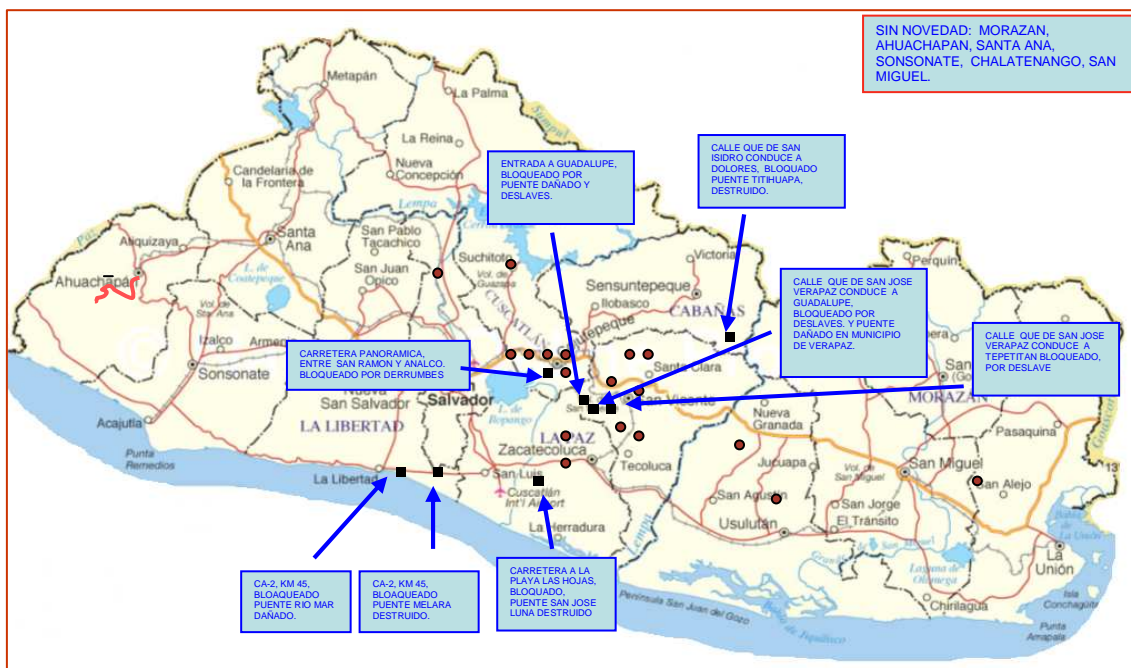
The Ministry of Public Work (MOP), Water Management authority (ANDA) and Ministry of Health (MSPS) are carrying out a detailed assessment of the WASH situation. In urban areas in La Paz and San Salvador, ANDA has rehabilitated water supply in the majority of areas. Assessments and rehabilitation of water pipeline in other areas is ongoing.

Food Security

The Governmental Secretariat for Social inclusion has reported the distribution of 52 MT of food to up to 6,000 displaced people in shelters. However despite the governments' efforts to ensure that adequate supplies of food and non food items are available for displaced populations in shelters, these will become increasingly insufficient as national governmental stocks run out. National authorities have already requested from WFP food aid assistance to cover current gaps in coverage.

Logistics

Access to the affected areas is still limited; the government has formulated 12 projects (value of \$4million) which seek to improve access to the most critical affected areas.



NATIONAL RESPONSE

The Director of the National Civil Protection System continues its efforts to assess damage and immediate humanitarian needs, coordinate relief interventions and distribute aid to affected populations.

Coordination and Information Management

All 7 sector-based commissions met together to share developments to date and to consolidate damage and needs assessments. Civil Protection is currently consolidating the EDAN received by the Governors and the Mayors. Various committees have organized meetings with humanitarian partners to jointly assess the damage.

Focal points of the 7 sectors are working in the Operations Centre in Civil Protection to coordinate the response. A liaison has been established between national commissions and clusters/sectors identified by the UN country team and humanitarian partners.

Key information is still missing and the delivery of humanitarian aid has been delayed due coordination and communication issues.

RESPONSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The UNDAC team has been coordinating with the National Civil Protection Committee to consolidate the work of the sectorial committees, especially in the systematization of the Damage and needs assessment.

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The UN System is supporting the government in the coordination of international assistance and is currently coordinating the formulation of a Flash Appeal/CERF with key humanitarian actors, through established clusters/sectors agreed with UN agencies, NGOs, IFRC and OIM.

International experts in many sectors have been deployed in order to support the emergency efforts, including some 35 UN from the region and Headquarters.

The UN agencies continue to support the National Response and to date have delivered emergency aid for some **US\$1,750,000**.

WFP expects to distribute a further 5.2 MT to 5,800 beneficiaries in shelters across La Paz over the coming 24 hours.

PAHO has supported the Ministry of Health in the needs assessment of the Health Sector in coordination with the Health Sector Committee, and has deployed staff to manage LSS/SUMA.

UNDP continues to support the coordination of the international response to the emergency and has activated early recovery mechanisms.

IFRC is currently preparing an international appeal. After a monitoring and evaluation mission, ECHO is analyzing the possibility of an Emergency Decision.

According to the information recollected by the UN System, bilateral donations and NGOs have delivered approximately **\$US1,250,000 in emergency aid** in the form of cooking kits, medicine, tents, covers, sleeping bags, basic need products such as towels, diapers, mats, water reservoirs, telecommunication equipment.

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