

Appeal

Argentina

Rehabilitation for Flood Affected LAAR-31 Appeal Target: US\$ 253,498

Geneva, 6 June 2003

Dear Colleagues,

Intense rains in the north-eastern part of Argentina has caused unprecedented flooding of the Salado river severely affecting the provinces of Santa Fe, Entre Rios and Santiago del Estero. The worst hit area was Santa Fe City being almost totally inundated by water. The official reports indicate that 23 persons died, 600 were missing and 140,000 affected (125,000 in Santa Fe City). It is also reported that 24,000 houses were damaged and 4,000 completely destroyed.

The population, whose houses were not destroyed, has gradually begun to return to their houses to clean up the debris. However, there are still areas under water and pumping of flood waters continues. Management of garbage and debris in the streets has been a major challenge. To date, there are still some 12,000 persons living in temporary shelters: schools; public and social centres as well as churches. 33,000 children will not be able to start school on time due to the occupation of the schools.

As unemployment is rife people are living in deplorable conditions, with no resources to access sufficient food, education or health assistance. There are hundreds of children roaming the streets without anyone to take care of them. The government is providing assistance to the most affected population, however, due to the precarious economic situation this help is insufficient.

ACT member in Argentina, **The Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches (FAIE)** responded immediately to the emergency (through the pastoral council of Santa Fe City) providing material assistance and pastoral counselling to the most severely traumatised of the population. The ACT CO disbursed U\$35,800 from the Rapid Response Fund to contribute to the initial response. Now, FAIE is proposing to contribute to the initial reconstruction efforts providing:

- Food assistance
- Cleaning and reconstruction of damaged houses
- Agricultural recovery
- Health and psycho-social assistance

Project Completion Date:

31 March 2004

Summary of Appeal Targets, Pledges/Contributions Received and Balance Requested

	<u>US\$</u>
Total Appeal Target(s)	253,498
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>0</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Network	253,498

John Nduna
Acting Director, ACT

Full details of programme and budget are on following pages.

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER

➤ Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches

The Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches is an organisation made up by the following churches in Argentina: Argentina Reformed Evangelical Church, Argentine Methodist Evangelical Church, Bible Christian Church, Buenos Aires Christian Community, Calvary Pentecostal Church of Christ, Congregational Evangelical Church, Disciples of Christ Church, Evangelical Christian Congregation, Evangelical Church of River Plate, Evangelical Pentecostal Apostolic Church, Evangelical Pentecostal Missionary Church, Goya Christian Congregation, Mennonite Evangelical Church, Northern Zone Christian Community, Pentecostal Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church of Taiwan in Argentina, Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church, The Church of God Association, The Salvation Army, United Evangelical Church, United Lutheran Evangelical Church and the Waldensian Evangelical Church. Argentine League of Evangelical Women (LAME) and ECLOF are associate members.

The Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches has a long experience in emergency response, the latest ones include :

- the 1998 floods caused by rains and overflowing of the Paraná River in the Provinces of Chaco, Formosa, Corrientes, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios. Crisis and post- crisis activities. Local Responsibility: Ecumenical Committee in Chaco.
- 1999 floods caused by rains and overflowing of Bermejo and Parana Rivers, Provinces of Salta and Formosa; rains in Cordoba, Santiago del Estero, Santa Fe and Entre Rios: FAIE in co-operation with Waldensian Church, Church of God Association, Anglican Church Dioceses of Salta, Fundapaz.

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER & PARTNER INFORMATION

In response to the current emergency some members have grouped together to form an ACT/FAIE Emergency Committee. The churches involved include: the Argentine Evangelical Methodist Church, Church of God Association, Evangelical Church of River Plate, Evangelical Pentecostal Missionary Church, Waldensian Evangelical Church as well as the Council of Pastors and two NGOs (the Ecumenical Movement for Human Rights, Educational Action and CANOA) in the city of Santa Fe. Other churches and civil organisations have been invited to join the Committee.

Argentine Evangelical Methodist Church

The activities of this church were started in 1810 by the work of missionaries from the UK and the United States. In 1969 it took on independent status with its own structure and strategies. Social work is one of its main priorities. The Methodist Church collaborates with other Protestant and Pentecostal churches as well as the Roman Catholic Church and secular organisations. The Methodist Church has played significant roles in previous disasters such as the Mendoza earthquake and various floods. In response to the current emergency the Methodist Church (through its local church in Santa Fe and Paraná) is extending assistance to those affected by floods in Santa Fe.

Church of God Association (Pentecostal)

This is a national church established in the 50's through the efforts of the inhabitants living in the poor neighbourhoods surrounding Buenos Aires. One of their main priorities is to assist mothers and children in poor urban neighbourhoods. Their work has extended all over the country and they have established congregations in Paraná (Entre Ríos Province) and missionary posts in Santa Fe.

This church has assisted in previous emergencies in the provinces of Chaco and Misiones.

Evangelical Church of River Plate

This church started working in Argentina as an ethnical church and began to develop their national identity in the 70's. They also have experience in providing assistance in such emergencies as the Mendoza earthquake and floods in the north-east and centre of the country. At present they are providing assistance to affected people in the provinces of Santa Fe and Entre Ríos, in cities such as Esperanza, Paraná and Humboldt and also in the surrounding rural areas.

Evangelical Pentecostal Missionary Church

This church was established in Argentina in 1959 and at present they have churches in the city of Buenos Aires and the provinces of Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos and Santa Fe. In the current emergency they have, through their local congregations, given assistance to poor people in Santa Fe.

Evangelical Waldensian Church

This church was brought to Argentina during the 18th Century by Italian immigrants who established their churches in rural areas in the provinces of Santa Fe, Entre Ríos, La Pampa y Buenos Aires. As part of their religious mission, they work on development programs with poor farmers. At present they are assisting flood victims in La Paz and northern areas of Entre Rios Province.

Council of Pastors in Santa Fe City

The Council represents around 30 churches (Baptist, Carismatic, Free Brethren, Methodist, Pentecostal, Salvation Army and independent churches) in different districts in the city and the surrounding areas. They organise and co-ordinate a network of solidarity providing assistance to affected people in Santa Fe.

Ecumenical Movement for Human Rights

They have Regional Branches in Santa Fe and Entre Ríos provinces. In the present emergency they are working with churches and NGOs assisting the flood affected. In general, the assistance consists of food, clothes and some medicines collected in churches and other secular organisations. Volunteers are also playing an important role, specially assisting people in the shelters.

Two other NGOs **Educational Action** and **Canoa** are available to work with churches in surrounding areas of the city.

All the churches and ecumenical organisations mentioned have offices or headquarters in Santa Fe, Paraná, La Paz or Esperanza.

III. DESCRIPTION of the EMERGENCY SITUATION

Very heavy rains for most of April and beginning of May have resulted in rivers breaking their banks and provoking severe flooding in the provinces of Santa Fe and Entre Ríos. Santa Fe was severely affected with flood waters totally covering three neighbourhoods while other areas were inundated to a lesser extent.

In Santa Fe City 36,000 persons were and remain evacuated – living in 196 shelters. 96 of these shelters are schools which should be freed soon as pupils have to continue their education. Others are sheltering in community centres, churches and clubs.

The authorities have commandeered several dilapidated buildings as transitory shelters. There is also a significant number of people (estimated at around 70,000) who have had to leave their homes as the waters advanced and did not go to the official shelters. They call themselves “autoevacuados”. These are mostly poor people now living with friends or family members, in similar conditions of poverty.

Unemployment is rife and people are living in deplorable conditions, with no resources to access sufficient food, education or health assistance. There are hundreds of children roaming the streets without anyone to take care of them.

The official sources put the death toll at 25, but there are still many missing persons. The Solidarity Committee estimates that about 250 persons have disappeared.

According to the most recent information, the flood reached up to nine (9) departments in the north of the Santa Fe Province, where there are 250 municipalities and communes, with a total population of 900,000 inhabitants. About 15% of these people are directly affected by the floods with 15,000 people having been rendered homeless. Fifteen days after the disaster, the most affected city district representing 30% of the total flooded area, was still under water.

The social program from the government to help families that have no means to an income, currently benefiting around 62,000 families, will not be enough as at least 20,000 new families are now in the same situation. The unemployment insurance granted by the government for a maximum period of three months, was extended until the end of the year. Additionally, companies will be given resources for employment reactivation.

In the province of Entre Ríos, although the situation was not so dramatic, floods also affected cities and small towns in the rural areas. Parana City (the capital) and small towns in rural areas were affected by the overflowing of the Parana River which caused people to evacuate their homes. The people affected are mostly very poor families, living in similar conditions of poverty to those in Santa Fe.

The most vulnerable of those affected are children, single mothers, pregnant women and the elderly. In the rural areas and small towns, people live more or less from hand to mouth taking transitory employment at harvest time and living from any domestic animals they may keep or garden produce.

The last information received from La Paz and the rural areas speaks of 200 families having lost their homes and another 280 families having lost their livelihood – specifically kitchen gardens or domestic animals that they were using for food.

La Paz is a city with a population of 28,000, of which around 68% are under the line of poverty, with 35% of children and teenagers at risk of malnutrition. Single mothers and the elderly represent another group at risk.

The situation is similar in Esperanza and Humboldt located in rural areas of Santa Fe and Entre Ríos.

IV. GOAL & OBJECTIVES

Goal: to provide immediate assistance and to facilitate initial rehabilitation activities for the most vulnerable people affected by the flooding in eastern Argentina.

Objectives:

- To provide food to reinforce nutrition in children, teenagers, pregnant women, single mothers and the elderly.
- Provide basic cleaning materials to remove mud from the houses
- Contribute to the initial reconstruction of houses on the urban areas
- Contribute to the initial reconstruction of livestock on the rural areas
- Provide health resources and psycho-social support to vulnerable families.

V. BENEFICIARY INFORMATION & TARGETED AREAS**Number and location**

The beneficiaries will be 1,300 families severely affected by floods in Santa Fe, Paraná, Esperanza, Humboldt and La Paz. Each family comprises an average of five members making a total of 6,500 persons.

The estimated composition of the beneficiaries is:

Children and teenagers	45 %
Pregnant women	5 %
Single mothers	30 %
Elders	5 %
Men	15 %

Criteria for beneficiary selection

The selection of the beneficiaries will be made by the local ACT/FAIE committee comprising the churches and NGO's participating in the implementation in co-ordination with the community organizations.

The churches and organizations participating in each location are:

Santa Fe

Methodist Church

Church of God Association

Evangelical Pentecostal Missionary Church

Council of Pastors

MEDH

CANOA

Rural areas: La Paz

Waldensian Evangelical Church

Food assistance

Food assistance will be distributed to the families most affected by the flooding. These families were living in very insalubrious and ramshackle housing in the poorest neighbourhoods of Santa Fe. The flooding washed away their houses and belongings. They have been already registered by the government and are subject to receive some assistance from them. However, as the majority of these people are destitute (unemployed and without resources) the assistance received does not allow them to cover their most basic needs. Therefore,

FAIE assistance will be oriented to complement their nutritional basic requirements. 750 families will benefit from this project.

Cleaning kits and reconstruction of houses

The assistance will be oriented to 450 families whose houses suffered severe damage. It is estimated that these houses were under water from 2 to 20 days. Those families selected will be from the most vulnerable living below the poverty line. Families whose houses were totally destroyed are being assisted by the government and other national and international NGO's, with whom FAIE is co-ordinating.

Livestock recovery

The assistance will be oriented to 100 rural families that have lost their livestock in the flooding.

Location

Area	Type of Assistance	Families	Persons
Santa Fe City	Food Assistance	750	3,750
Santa Fe City	Cleaning materials and reconstruction of houses	450	2250
La Paz	Livestock recovery	100	500
Santa Fe City	Health services	Undetermined	
Santa Fe City	Psycho- social assistance	Undetermined	
Total		1,300	6,500

VI. PROPOSED ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Food Assistance

A package of food assistance will be given to each family. The package will contain: Milk powder (3 kilos), rice (6 kilos), sugar (4 kilos), floor (6 kilos), yerba mate (2 kilos), oil (2 litres), lentils (4 kilos), Salt (4 kilos).

The package is oriented to complement basic nutritional needs and will be delivered monthly for a period of four months.

Cleaning and reconstruction of houses

Materials for the cleaning and reconstruction of the houses will be provided to 450 families. The materials will include: chlorine, detergent, sticks, dusters, rubber gloves, nasal and mouth protector and a broom. Reconstruction materials will include: water-colour paint, doors (2), windows (2), electric items.

A local builder will be hired to assist families in the reconstruction.

Livestock recovery

In the rural areas a package of seeds and tools will be given to the families. Seeds, shovels and hoes will also be provided. An agronomist will provide technical assistance to the families.

Medical equipment

Due to the lack of appropriated equipment in the health centers to respond to the increased health needs of the

affected population, a kit containing medical equipment will be provided to the health centers of the most affected communities in Santa Fe City . Each kit will contain: Stretcher (1), sterilization oven (1), nebulizator (1), curation ray (1), blood pressure meter (1), stethoscopes (1), thermometers (5), curation boxes (2), disposable syringes (500), sterile gaze (100), gloves (100), mouth and nose protectors (100).

Psycho-social support

This component will be developed by the volunteers of the churches and will be provided to the affected communities where the project is being implemented.

Implementation

FAIE will form an ACT/FAIE Emergency Committee comprising one delegate from each church and ecumenical institution involved in the present emergency. This Committee will in turn form a Co-ordination Committee to work in the relevant affected areas according to the needs of the people to be assisted.

The distribution of the materials will be made by volunteers from the churches participating in the project. A general co-ordinator of the project and local co-ordinators will be provided as local contributions of the implementing partners.

An architect will be hired to co-ordinate the house reconstruction program. There will be also a builder and a social worker hired locally in Santa Fe to give assistance to the families in the reconstruction of the houses.

An agronomist will be hired to provide support to the rural families in La Paz.

VII. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, MONITORING & REPORTING

FAIE The Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches will be responsible for the implementation of the project and the administration of the funds.

Their functions will be:

- To establish an accounting system according to national laws and practices.
- To ensure the financial follow up of each member implementation.
- To account separately for the disbursement and expenses of each member.
- To make the disbursements requested by the members and approved by the committee.
- To elaborate the narrative, statistical and financial reports to the members and to ACT.
- To maintain co-ordination with the Office in Geneva.
- To follow up in the field the implementation of activities.

FAIE will hire the services of an accounting and auditing firm (Marty, Kowalski, Togneri and Santander associates)to ensure adequate financial reports. Reports will be presented according to ACT guidelines.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Nine months

IX. CO-ORDINATION

FAIE is coordinating with the government and other national and international NGO's working in the areas where the activities will be developed.

X. BUDGET

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>
DIRECT ASSISTANCE				
Relief food distribution - 750 Food Bags - 4 months				
Milk powder	kg.	9,000	2.47	22,230
Rice	kg.	18,000	0.33	5,940
Sugar	kg.	12,000	0.42	5,040
Floor	kg.	18,000	0.48	8,640
Yerba Mate	kg.	6,000	0.50	3,000
Oil	liters	6,000	0.59	3,540
Lentils	kg.	12,000	1.10	13,200
Salt	kg.	12,000	0.10	<u>1,200</u>
Sub total				62,790
Non food items				
450 cleaning kits				
Chlorine	liters	2,250	0.20	450
Detergent	liters	2,250	0.30	675
Sticks	unit	900	1.00	900
Dusters	unit	4,500	0.10	450
Rubber gloves	pairs	1,800	0.50	900
Nasal and mouth protector	unit	10,800	0.08	855
Brush	unit	900	0.30	270
Broom	unit	900	1.00	<u>900</u>
Sub total				5,400
Housing				
Reconstruction of 450 houses				
Water-color painting	liters	13,500	1.50	20,250
Door	unit	900	35.00	31,500
Window with glasses	unit	900	35.00	31,500
Electricity stuff	kit	450	160.00	72,000
Technical assistance		450	15.00	<u>6,750</u>
Sub total				162,000
Health				
Medical equipment for 8 health Centers				
Stretchers	unit	8	48.00	384
Sterilization oven	unit	8	90.00	720
Nebulizators	unit	8	98.00	784
Curation rays	unit	8	36.00	288
Blood Pression Meter	unit	8	26.00	208

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>
Stethoscopes	unit	8	12.00	96
Thermometers	unit	40	0.90	36
Curation boxes (Cutter, scissors, needles)	unit	16	18.00	288
Disposables 5ml Syringes	unit	4,000	0.10	400
Sterile Gaze	unit	800	0.05	40
Latex and plastic gloves	unit	800	0.50	400
Mouth and nose protectors	unit	800	0.08	64
Sub total				3,708
Food security and agricultural				
100 rural families				
Seeds (corn, vegetables, potatoes)	bgs.	400	5.00	2,000
Shovels	unit	100	8.00	800
Hoes	unit	100	8.00	800
Sub total				3,600
TRANSPORT				
Transport cost	month	9	250.00	2,250
PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS & SUPPORT				
Staff FAIE				
Secretary	month	9	150.00	1,350
Accounter	month	9	150.00	1,350
Architect	month	9	150.00	1,350
Sub total				4,050
Staff Santa Fe				
Builder assistant	Month	6	250.00	1,500
Social worker	Month	6	250.00	1,500
Sub total				3,000
Entre Rios Staff				
Agricultural Technical assistant	month	4	200.00	800
Sub total				800
Operational Expenses: Telephone-posts-	month	9	200.00	1,800
Audit and Evaluation				1,600
ACT monitoring	Lump sum			2,500
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE				<u>253,498</u>

Note:**LOCAL CONTRIBUTION**

Medical and Psychologist Support (6 months)	3,000
Vehicles and computers in Santa Fe (6 months)	600
Volunteers (80 people x 40 hrs. X 6 months x US\$ 2)	38,400
	42,000