



Action by Churches Together

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Coordinating Office

Appeal

Dominican Republic

Flood Assistance - LADR-31

Appeal Target: US\$ 133,490

Balance Requested from ACT Alliance: US\$ 93,714

Geneva, 16 December 2003

Dear Colleagues,

The north-west and the north-east of the Dominican Republic was lashed by the heaviest rains for more than 20 years during the last two weeks of November 2003. The rains resulted in extensive flooding which, according to official data, affected 12,000 families (more than 65,000 persons) of which 47,000 were evacuated and 17,000 rescued. Ten persons died as a result of the floods and landslides while 1,250 persons lost their homes.

The flooding also totally devastated agriculture in the area.

The Social Services of the Dominican Churches (Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas - SSID) church members have been supporting the affected communities materially and morally. For example the pastors in the provinces of Monte Cristy and Dajabón, has been collecting and distributing food and clothes with the support of members of the churches, schools, businesses and friends. These members have now requested support from the SSID to assist them in their endeavours.

SSID is requesting ACT support to respond to the needs of those families who have not received any support and are in dire need of food, shelter and health services. The SSID will work on the distribution of food, medical assistance, construction and repair of houses. A programme will also be developed for the recovery of agriculture through short cycle crops. The project will assist 30 communities in the north and the north-west of the Dominican Republic – namely Monte Cristy and Dajabón as well as the districts of the Yaque inlet in Santiago. Priority will be given to rural communities and some marginal urban districts.

ACT is a worldwide network of churches and related agencies meeting human need through coordinated emergency response.
The ACT Coordinating Office is based with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Switzerland.

Project Completion Date:

31 May 2004

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

	<u>US\$</u>
Total Appeal Target(s)	133,490
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>39,776</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Network	93,714

Thor-Arne Prois

Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

Full details of programme and budget are on following pages.

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

▪ Servicio Social De Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID)

The SSID is an inter-denominational, non-profit development organisation comprising 16 protestant evangelical churches in the Dominican Republic. It was created in 1962 to respond to the most urgent needs of the population after the fall of the dictatorship

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION

The north-west and the north-east of the Dominican Republic was lashed by the heaviest rains for more than 20 years during the last two weeks of November 2003. The rains resulted in extensive flooding which, according to official data, affected 12,000 families (more than 65,000 persons) of which 47,000 were evacuated and 17,000 rescued. Ten persons died as a result of the floods and landslides while 1,250 persons lost their homes. The flooding also totally devastated agriculture in the area.

The flood waters of the Yaque River covered 18,700 hectares, from Santiago to Monte Cristy while its tributaries - Anima, Mao, Guayubín, Gurabo and Cana rivers flooded an area of 8,000 Km² in the provinces of Mao, Monte Cristy and Dajabón.

In Santiago the greatest damages were suffered by those families living on the river banks to the north of the Yaque River inlet who lost their houses in the rush of flood waters and landslides. Agriculture in the form of crops, grains and vegetables, the only means of livelihood for the affected population, was totally destroyed.

The National Emergency Committee (NEC), a disaster response network comprising the Civil Defence, the Red Cross and Armed Forces, firemen and rescue units of different regions, responded immediately. Public ministries were also put on alert.

A concerted effort has been made to handle the situation and try to restore some normality. The Dominican Government, through the municipal and provincial authorities and the institutions of health and other public ministries in co-ordination with the NEC, has been offering support to those families who have been evacuated due to their houses being destroyed or flooded. However, this support does not reach all the victims and does not cover even minimum needs.

The President has expressed willingness to continue helping the victims. However, as the country is in the middle of an electoral campaign and is going through an economic and social crisis it is very doubtful that the government will be able to cover all the needs. Therefore, the future situation of the affected population is worrying. The flood will have a long-term impact due to the destruction of crops - the basic food and main means of livelihood of the population. There is also a risk of waterborne related epidemics due to lack of potable water and contamination of water sources by dead animals and other debris.

The SSID church members have been supporting the affected communities materially and morally. For example the pastors in the provinces of Monte Cristy and Dajabón, has been collecting and distributing food and clothes with the support of members of the churches, schools, businesses and friends. These members have now requested support from the SSID to assist them in their endeavours.

The SSID will work on the distribution of food, medical assistance, construction and repair of houses. A programme will also be developed for the recovery of agriculture through short cycle crops.

SSID is requesting ACT support to respond to the needs of those families who have not received any support and are in dire need of food, shelter and health services.

The project will assist 30 communities in the north and the north-west of the Dominican Republic – namely Monte Cristy and Dajabón as well as the districts of the Yaque inlet in Santiago. Priority will be given to rural communities and some marginal urban districts.

III. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal

To provide humanitarian assistance and help with the rehabilitation of the victims of the floods in the north-west Dominican Republic

Objectives

- To provide food, medicines and basic materials such as quilts, mattresses and health kits
- To support the construction/reconstruction of the affected houses
- To support the rehabilitation of food production

IV. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of the project are the poorest and most vulnerable families affected by the floods, who do not have the resources to satisfy their basic needs. These families have lost their homes either totally or partially along with all their possessions as well as their means of livelihood.

1,178 families, approximately 5,000 people, will be assisted in 30 communities in the north and north-west of the Dominican Republic

Selection Criteria

- Families of limited resources
- Families who have not received support for the construction or reconstruction of their houses from another institution.
- People who have had health problems as a result of the flooding.
- People who have suffered great losses to their agriculture.

Location

Communities	Food Assistance	Health Assistance	Houses Construction	Houses Reconstruction	Agriculture	Beneficiaries Families
Castañuelas		250		5		100
Lomas de Castañuelas		70		2		50
Martín García		50				50
El Ahogado		40		3		30
Palo Verde		50				30
Batey Walterio	20	50	2	2		30

Batey Maguaca	20	80	2	3		30
Batey Madre	20	50		3		30
Villa Vásquez		300		4		100
Juan Gómez		50				50
Boca de Mao		60		3		30
Montecristi		100		4		100
Guayubín	30	150				30
El Posito	30	50				30
Las Matas de Santa Cruz	30	100				30
Batey Isabel	30	50	2	3		30
Batey Juliana	30	50	2	3		30
Batey Jaramillo	30	50	2	3		30
Batey Higüero	30	50	3	3		30
Batey La Cruz	30	50	2	3		30
Hato del Yaque, Santiago		300	5	6		200
Cruz de Cabrera					14	14
Rancho Pedro					10	10
El Hato					14	14
Baúl					10	10
Los Cerezos					10	10
Las Agüitas					10	10
Las Rosas					12	12
Garrapata					10	10
Las Lagunas					18	18
Totals	300	2000	20	50	108	1178

V. PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE & IMPLEMENTATION

Food assistance

The average number of family members is five. Rations of basic nutritional products will be distributed to the affected families for a duration of one month and will be delivered on a weekly basis. The food package will contain rice, beans, salt, sugar, oil, pasta, tomatoes paste and canned fish.

Beneficiary families will be mainly those working in the banana plantations and sugar refineries in the affected area.

Health assistance

Some of the major threats that the population is currently facing are waterborne diseases such as dengue, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, conjunctivitis, leptospirosis, intestinal parasites, infections of the skin and others, due to stagnant water and the lack of potable water. SSID has alerted health professionals from the public sector, universities and other service institutions on this situation and they have committed themselves to support SSID health work on a voluntary basis. Therefore, they will be offering medical assistance to the affected population in the communities where SSID is working.

The services will be provided in health centres and rural clinics already existing in some of the communities, as well as in schools, churches and community centres.

In the Dominican Republic there are some rural clinics in the countryside. However, they are only operated intermittently by health students and do not have the essential equipment, resources and medicines to operate. SSID policy is to support such existing centres by contributing medicines and monitoring distribution and use.

The assistance in this area will include:

- **Kits** containing personal cleaning items as soap, dental paste, tooth brush and towels.
- **Medicines.** The medicines will be delivered through the health services provided by the voluntary doctor working with SSID.
- **Blankets and mattresses** and other materials to reduce the health risks for the affected population.

Reconstruction of houses

SSID intends to support the reconstruction of the most damaged houses in the communities affected. The selection of the beneficiaries for this component will be made taking into account the severity of the damages. Priority will be given to the most needy families.

This component will include:

Reconstruction materials: Cement, blocks, wood and zinc.

Skilled builders support: To advise the families in the reconstruction of the houses. They will be recruited from the same communities.

SSID will also support the construction of houses for some of the most vulnerable affected families that have completely lost their homes in the floods. The families benefiting from this component will be the most needy according to the criteria above mentioned.

It is estimated that the construction of the houses will take approximately 3 months. Skilled building workers will be hired within the communities to help the beneficiary families with the construction.

Agriculture Recovery

SSID will support the rehabilitation of agriculture destroyed by the floods in the communities selected. The support will be oriented to short cycle crops such as vegetables, cereals and others. The assistance is oriented to ensure the immediate recovery of the basic products for consumption. This component will include:

- **Preparation of the land:** Fertilisers, etc.
- **Seeds :** kidney bean, guandules, maize and vegetables

Expected outcomes

- Health and sanitary assistance to 2,000 persons
- Food assistance to 300 families
- Reconstruction of 50 affected houses.
- Construction of 20 houses
- Agricultural rehabilitation support to 108 families
- Training on ACT vision and Sphere Project (60 participant leaders)
- Disaster prevention/mitigation training (30 pastors and community leaders)
- Community disaster prevention/mitigation committees set up

VI. ADMINISTRATION FINANCE, MONITORING & REPORTING

There will a Project Manager who will report to the Project Management and Operations Director and to the Executive Director. SSID has health and educational promoters, who have extensive experience working with the communities and with local leaders.

SSID will be responsible for the reconstruction project and will set up a committee comprising elected church member leaders, beneficiaries, neighbours, technicians from the emergency network in the region and allied institutions.

Finance

The finances will be handled by the Accounts Department under the responsibility of the Financial Manager. A special account will be designated for the project funds.

Monitoring

The activities will be monitored through regular visits and reports will be written according to ACT requirements.

Reporting Schedule

First interim report	-	29 February 2004
Final report	-	within 3 months of closing date of 31 May 2004

VII. IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

It is estimated that the project will be completed within a period of 6 months. December 2003 to May 2004.

VIII. CO-ORDINATION

SSID co-ordinates its work with other relief groups and NGOs in the region. It also receives technical support from the State Ministries such as the Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture. SSID also co-ordinates with the National Emergency Committee (NEC), a disaster response network comprising the Civil Defence, the Red Cross and Armed Forces, firemen and rescue units of different regions.

IX. BUDGET

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>	<u>Local Contrib</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Direct assistance					
Food Aid					
Food Package	Families	300	56	16,800	4,200
Health Aid					
Kits, medicines, blankets & mattresses	People	2000	15	30,000	9,000
Reconstruction of houses					
Materials and technical assistance	Houses	50	300	15,000	1,500
Construction of houses					
Materials and technical assistance	Houses	20	1,875	37,500	3,750
Agricultural recovery					
Seeds	Families	108	70	7,560	3,780
Land preparation	Families	108	30	3,240	1,620
Disaster preparedness					
ACT principles & Sphere standards	Participants	60	12	720	216
Pastors & community leaders training	Participants	30	12	360	360
Operative staff					
Project Manager	Month	6	500	3,000	1,500
Promoters and colaborators	Days	100	15	1,500	750
Perdiem	Days	100	10	1,000	250
Lodging	Days	80	15	<u>1,200</u>	<u>900</u>
Subtotal				116,680	26,926
Transport:					
Transport	Month	6	560	3,360	1,680
Maintenance and fuel	Month	6	200	<u>1,200</u>	<u>600</u>
Subtotal				4,560	2,280
Administrative expenses					
Accounting services	Month	6	500	3,000	2,700
Secretary services	Month	6	250	1,500	1,350
Office equipment	Month	6	300	1,800	1,620
Storage	Month	3	750	2,250	2,025
Communication	Month	6	125	750	675
Rent Office	Month	6	375	2,250	2,025
Audit				<u>700</u>	<u>175</u>
Subtotal				12,250	10,570
TOTAL				133,490	39,776
Local contribution				<u>39,776</u>	
BALANCE REQUESTED FROM ACT ALLIANCE				93,714	