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Coordinating Office

Appeal

El Salvador

Emergency Relief to Victims of Floods & Landslides

LASA 31 (Revision 1)

Appeal Target: US\$ 175,334

Balance Requested from the ACT Alliance: US\$ 147,504

Geneva, 27 October 2003

Dear Colleagues,

For the last five years El Salvador has been affected by drastic changes in weather conditions ranging from droughts to tropical depressions. During rainy seasons heavy rains and major landslides have caused many human casualties and severe devastation to entire regions, destroying houses and staple crops in poor communities.

At the beginning of October 2003, heavy rains, landslides and flooding resulted in the evacuation of several thousand people in the capital San Salvador and in the western department of Sonsonate and San Vicente, in the central part of the country. The flooding has destroyed or damaged hundreds of houses in poor communities in various areas of San Salvador, sweeping away homes and possessions.

On 6 October 2003, torrents of rainwater caused massive landslides around Lempita Creek in the town of San Benito, Piedra Gorda, where Guadalupe city municipal landfill is located. As the land opened and moved, an enormous landslide of mud and garbage came loose and overran an agricultural zone and buried houses that were in its path. ACT member the **Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (SLS)** is proposing to assist 200 affected families of San Benito, Piedra Gorda with Community Health, Environmental Education and Risk Management, Water and Sanitation and Advocacy activities. For the sake of brevity this revision comprises the SLS proposal only. To view the Lutheran World Federation, Department of World Service, El Salvador and the Diakonie Emergency Aid proposals which remain unchanged, please refer to the original appeal of 17 October 2003.

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:

30 September 2004

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

	SLS	LWF/DWS	DEA	Total Target US\$
Total Appeal Targets	45,000	52,504	77,830	175,334
Less: Pledges/Contr Recd	0	0	27,830	27,830
Balance Requested from ACT Network	45,000	52,504	50,000	147,504

Thor-Arne Prois
Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

Full details of programme and budget are on following pages.

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER

- **The Salvadorian Lutheran Synod (SLS)**

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER & PARTNER INFORMATION

The Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (SLS). Maintains permanent teams capable of responding to emergency situations. The Department of Diaconia and Development is in charge of co-ordinating efforts related to humanitarian assistance, with the support of all church departments. All congregations and parishes are involved in emergency and rehabilitation activities.

III. BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION of LOCATION of RESPONSE

Guadalupe in the Department of San Vicente

On 6 October 2003, torrents of rainwater caused massive landslides around Lempita Creek in the town of San Benito, Piedra Gorda, where Guadalupe city municipal landfill is located. As the land opened and moved, an enormous landslide of mud and garbage came loose and overran an agricultural zone and buried houses that were in its path. The landslide also buried and contaminated the only two potable water sources available to the communities of San Benito, Piedra Gorda. The landslide also contaminated the water sources of the towns of El Limon, La Ceiba and the Municipality of Jerusalen. The consequences of such contamination of the water are extremely serious because Guadalupe, located on the side of the Chichontepec volcano, has volcanic veins running at a very shallow depth underground, which impedes excavations necessary to provide the population with water. Thus, the population has to collect rainwater to drink and to use the few other sources of water in the area.

The smell in the area of the landslide is intolerable, and the residents fear that epidemics could develop because of the proliferation of mosquitoes. Some families are already showing signs of health problems such as colds, diarrhoea, fever, and rashes. The health situation is aggravated by the resurgence of dengue, conjunctivitis, and pneumonia on the national level.

There are 200 families directly affected by the landslide, of which 33 were evacuated and given shelter for 30 hours in the National Institute of Guadalupe because of the imminent danger of being overrun by an avalanche of mud and garbage. Later these families returned to their houses in spite of the serious health risk and contamination in the area. With the help of the Guadalupe Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters and the Health Committee, the families have organised themselves and begun to clean up the houses.

The first efforts to help the affected families were co-ordinated by the Lutheran Church of El Salvador accompanied by the Municipality of Guadalupe's Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters, the Committee of Health Promoters, and volunteer teams. The Mayors office and government health units later joined in the effort. The emergency action included the actual evacuation procedures and then the return of the 33 families, providing medical attention to 200 affected families in the town of San Benito, and supporting initial work on environmental cleanup.

The Mayor's office is participating in the initial actions of environmental cleanup by collecting garbage and taking it to receptacles in neighboring municipalities, committing to donate a piece of land sufficient and they are accepting the territorial order technical study for the selection of a new landfill..

At the same time, the dikes of the Lajas Creek, which runs through the city of Guadalupe, are collapsing and threatening to flood the city. For this reason the Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters, which has been organised, trained and accompanied by the Lutheran Church and by the Lutheran World Federation, carries out constant monitoring of the creek to ensure an early warning. They have also closed the landfill and are demanding of the authorities that an official analysis be carried out by geologists along with a hydraulic and a civil engineer in order to prevent a disaster in the city.

IV. GOAL & OBJECTIVES

The main **goal** is to assist 200 vulnerable families severely affected when mud and garbage swamped their houses and land at Lempita Creek in Guadalupe, San Vicente.

Objectives

- Provision of basic health training and services.
- Provide continued training to the health promoters who have daily contact with the affected families. The training will focus on basic aid in health, natural medicine and mental health (crisis intervention).
- Assist the 33 families whose homes are at high risk to the sludge by providing the services of a professional mason and volunteers to help them construct new water cisterns to collect rain water.
- With the supervision of the Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters, organise and encourage the affected families in cleaning up the environment, restoration and cleaning of water sources, planting of trees and other greenery and at the same time elicit the support of the general population and authorities of the municipality of Guadalupe.
- Provide environmental education and risk management training to 30 volunteers who will pass this knowledge on to the affected population. The volunteers will participate in and direct the cleaning and decontamination process with the technical assistance of an environmental specialist.
- Disaster prevention awareness sessions.
- Instigate the search for an alternative site for dumping of waste.

V. BENEFICIARY INFORMATION & TARGETED AREAS

Two hundred families located on the banks of the Lempita Creek, in the town of San Benito, in the municipality of Guadalupe (department of San Vicente) are the most directly affected. They are farm workers, and have no permanent income. Because of the landslide, the destruction of the crops, with which they worked, and the flooding and contamination of their houses, these families have been left without work and in the most abject poverty. The greatest danger was faced by 33 families that were evacuated for 30 hours during the emergency and taken to a temporary shelter. Priority was given to women and children and to people whose houses were flooded.

The project will indirectly benefit the entire population of Guadalupe, because Guadalupe's Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disaster, composed of men and women from both urban and rural communities and supported by the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod and LWF, played a key role in the provision of assistance during the current emergency. They are petitioning the local authorities to take concrete steps in disaster prevention and reduce the risks that the people of Guadalupe face. Also, the training of the 30 environmental volunteers will stress the importance of improving the environmental situation in Guadalupe, particularly in the disaster zone.

Criteria for the selection of the participants

- Families affected by the landslide and collapse of the municipal landfill, living in conditions of high risk, lack of water, threat of flooding and contamination.
- Families that work collectively and participate in the organisation and activities of risk management and in various training.
- Families with single mothers, female headed and large families.

VI. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Emergency Phase

The work carried out during the emergency phase included: 24 hour surveillance and monitoring of the dikes and creeks in the municipality; early warning, evacuation and return of the 33 families whose houses were flooded; and medical and psychological consultations for the 200 families most affected by the landslide and collapse of the landfill.

Work has commenced on the cleanup of the environment and restoring the damaged water sources. The work is being carried out with the municipal government, International Red Cross, Ministry of Health, Agriculture and Environment. SLS has supported Guadalupe's Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters in co-ordinating and assisting the affected population in their dealing with the emergency.

Rehabilitation Phase

This project includes three areas of intervention

COMMUNITY HEALTH

This component includes attention to physical and mental health as well as the promotion and organisation of the community.

The 25 Health Promoters are trained on basic health assistance and management of first aid kits. They will be equipped with basic work tools so that they can take care of the basic health needs of the people affected by the landslide, through consultations, home visits, and community meetings. The promoters are in charge of surveying and attending to the first aid needs and the common illnesses of the affected population. They are in charge of the campaigns to cleanup and restore the environment in the disaster area. They will receive continued training focusing on basic health, natural medicine and mental health (crisis intervention) – during a period of six months there will be 24 training sessions.

For a period of six months, a doctor will visit San Benito town to provide consultations to patients who are beneficiaries of this project. The patients will be referred to the doctor by a promoter. The doctor will be available for 8 hours, once a week, for a total of 24 journeys.

There will be three cleanup campaigns which will also be co-ordinated through the Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters. Residents of the affected communities and the members of the environmental volunteers team will work on the cleanup and decontamination of flooded areas.

The Health Promotion Committee of Guadalupe comprises 25 volunteers who will assist the affected population, through alternating teams of 5 promoters, providing assistance for four hours every day.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & RISK MANAGEMENT

The goal is to achieve a change of attitude in the population toward the care and preservation of the environment. SLS will work with the Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters, strengthening their advocacy work, management, prevention and mitigation of disasters.

30 volunteers will be trained in environmental care and risk management, who will in turn multiply this knowledge in the affected communities. They will be given the necessary tools to restore and preserve the environment, clean up and care for the damaged water sources; promote and organise community cleaning and caring campaigns and raise general awareness of the importance of the environment.

A study will be carried out to identify the appropriate place to establish the new municipal landfill where it will not provoke contamination or other risks to the population or to the environment.

WATER & SANITATION

In meetings with the affected SLS was requested to assist in the building of water cisterns for the most affected to guarantee the provision of potable water. The cisterns will be constructed according to the SPHERE Standards and this includes adequate water treatment for human consumption.

The 30 volunteers will help to build the water cisterns together with the 33 beneficiary families and with the help of a mason along with the supervision and monitoring of the SLS.

Twenty-four training sessions for 30 environmental volunteers will take place over six months. The attitudes of the population regarding nature and the environment will not change except through concrete action where the population learns by doing, such as in the case of the building of the cisterns, cleaning up campaigns, etc.

ADVOCACY

The Lutheran Church is attempting to build the communities capacity through training, information sharing, organising and carrying out concrete action to improve conditions. The aim is to empower the people and put them in control of their own lives and community development. The goal for the community is to organise themselves, develop abilities and resources, mobilise and participate in the administration of resources and demands to resolve their problems, and work with national and international organisations. It is important to point out that the community has become aware of the environmental problems and high risk in which they live as well as understand which municipalities have not given adequate and opportune responses. Thus it is necessary to strengthen the assertiveness and negotiating power with municipal authorities and the central government.

SLS will carry out a study to identify a new area to locate the landfill. The study is a useful scientific tool for Guadalupe's Committee of Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters that gives them more legitimacy when making demands to competent organisations and authorities.

Implementation

- All technicians contracted to work in the affected community and volunteer promoters will be instructed to respect the Code of Conduct and the Minimum Standards (SPHERE).
- The project will take into consideration the principles of gender, environment and strengthening of local

capacity.

VII. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, MONITORING & REPORTING

The Salvadoran Lutheran Synod will be responsible for the administration of the project. A separate bank account will be opened for the funds. The accounting and administrative procedures, the monitoring and evaluation of the project will be conducted by the Director of Planning and Monitoring of the SLS. The narrative and financial report will be sent to Geneva by the ACT Co-ordinating Table, after implementing a joint audit.

Reporting Schedule

First interim report	-	31 December 2003
Second interim report	-	31 March 2004
Third interim report	-	30 June 2004
Final report	-	within 3 months of closing date of 30 September 2004

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

The Appeal implementation will be of one year. October 2003 to September 2004.

IX. 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				
Community health				
Small surgery equip, tensionmetres, Stethoscopes etc	Set	5	130.00	650
Campaigns in environmental sanitation	Unit	3	1,000.00	3,000
Medicine for communities	Community	5	900.00	4,500
Material for training of health promoters	Unit	55	36.36	2,000
Health Prom equip (manuals, thermometers, Flashlights, T-shirts, coats, caps & backpacks)	Set	25	50.00	1,250
Food cost for health promoters & squad teams (6 mths -24 journeys-55 pers)	Unit	24	165.00	3,960
Environmental Education, and Risk Management				
Equip for squad teams (Gloves, Shirts, boots, hats, covering coats, flashlights, machetes, canteens, folding knives, haversacks, ropes)	Set	15	100.00	1,500
Tools & Equip for cleansing (shovels, trimmers, hoes, etc)	Set	30	95.00	2,850
Utensil garden bags	Unit	10,000	0.01	100
Community organization & advocacy	Family	200	10.00	2,000
Meetings, mobilization, legal services				
Study for location of new landfill	Unit	1	1,000.00	1,000

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>
Water and sanitation				
Water collection cisterns 2 x 2.15m materials: bricks, iron, cement, sand, stone, gravel	Unit	33	290.61	9,590
Operative staff				
Medical doctor	Month	6	600.00	3,600
Mason	Month	3	500.00	1,500
Environmental specialist	Day	24	25.00	600
Social worker	Month	6	400.00	<u>2,400</u>
Sub total				40,500
PERSONNEL, ADMIN, OPERATIONS & OTHER SUPPORT COSTS				
Staff Salaries & Benefits				
Accounting	Month	6	125.00	750
Office Operations costs				
Stationery and Supplies	Lumpsum	1	500.00	500
Vehicle Operations costs				
Vehicles Fuel Maintenance	Day	20	6.67	800
Vehicles Maintenance	Month	6	166.67	1,000
Communications costs				
Communications -Tel, fax, email	Month	6	166.67	1,000
Financial Audit costs				
	Lumpsum	1	450.00	<u>450</u>
Sub total				4,500
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE				<u>45,000</u>