



150 route de Ferney, P.O. Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Tel: 41 22 791 6033 Fax: 41 22 791 6506
e-mail: act@act-intl.org

Coordinating Office

Appeal

Central America – Hurricane Beta

Hurricane Beta – Nicaragua LACE53 Appeal Target: US\$ 85,604

Geneva, 18 November 2005

Dear colleagues,

The north east coastal areas of Honduras and Nicaragua were affected by the remnants of a low- pressure system in the aftermath of Hurricane Beta at the end of October 2005.

In Nicaragua the most affected area was the Atlantic region. In the Atlantic Northern Region, Waspam, there was a significant evacuation of people as initially it was estimated that it would be the worst hit area. However, just hours before the hurricane landed it veered south towards Pearl Lagoon. Significant flooding was registered in the Atlantic Northern Region due to the torrential and continuous rains brought by Beta. Fourteen communities along the Rio Coco were inundated and had to be evacuated to schools, churches and health centres located above the flood level.

In the Atlantic south region, tropical storm Beta lashed several communities aggravating the situation of poverty in which the Miskitos, Garifunas and Maygnas indigenous people live. Their flimsy houses were snatched up in the winds and harvests were devastated. The municipalities of Laguna de Perlas and the estuary of the Grande river were the most severely hit municipalities. Around 5,000 persons were seriously affected, of these some 2,700 were at the centre of the impact and lost all their belongings. Around 80% of the buildings and infrastructure in the area were destroyed. Some 500,000 hectares of forests, coconut palms, palm trees, bananas, etc were flattened by the hurricane force winds. Livestock and livelihood materials were totally devastated. Water borne illnesses and pneumonia are on the increase and there are currently insufficient medical supplies available to tackle any outbreak of disease.

ACT Nicaragua Forum is proposing to respond to this emergency by providing food assistance, health services, reconstruction of latrines and housing materials to 266 families in 5 communities. ACT member **Christian Medical Action (AMC)** will implement this project along with ACT member **Interchurch Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS)**.

ACT members in **Honduras** have been assessing the situation and a project for Honduras might be forthcoming in a revision of this appeal.

ACT is a global alliance of churches and related agencies working to save lives and support communities in emergencies worldwide.

The ACT Coordinating Office is based with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Switzerland.

Project Completion Date:

15 February 2006

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

Total Appeal Target(s)	US\$ 85,604
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>0</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Alliance	85,604

Jenny Borden

Interim Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

ACT Forum Nicaragua:

- **Christian Medical Action (AMC)**
- **Christian Aid (CAID) – Nicaragua Office**
- **Council of Evangelical Churches for a Denominational Alliance (CEPAD)**
- **Lutheran Church of Nicaragua (ILN)**
- **Lutheran World Relief (LWR) – Regional Office**
- **Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) – Nicaragua Office**
- **The Interchurch Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS)**
- **Swiss Interchurchaid (HEKS) – Nicaragua Office**

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER & PARTNER INFORMATION

Christian Medical Action (AMC) is a Christian non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded in 1984. Since 1989 it has been implementing a Community Health Program in the Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua and in Matagalpa, benefiting 30,000 people in a sustained fashion. Its current coverage is 119 communities and approximately 75,689 people.

The organisation defines itself as ecumenical, with health services and development activities as an expression of Christian practice. Its mission statement affirms, “AMC is a Christian organisation that implements community health and development activities in poor communities of Nicaragua, with an emphasis on women, children and adolescents”.

Interchurch Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS) was founded in July 1986 by the protestant churches and ecumenical service organisations as a non-profit educational and development organisation.

Its mission defines the organisation as “A comprehensive educational and rural development organisation, formed by evangelical churches and ecumenical service organisations in order to promote: comprehensive theological education, sustainable human development and interdisciplinary research in order to contribute to an improvement in the standard of living of the population and to improve the quality of church ministries and their community programs”.

The fulfilment of its mission and objectives is achieved through two programmatic areas: the Division for Agro-ecological Formation and Community Development; the Institute of Co-operation for Agriculture and the Environment, the Evangelical School of Theological Studies and the Institute for Pastoral Action and Ecumenical Co-operation.

III. DESCRIPTION of the EMERGENCY SITUATION

On 26 October the Territorial Studies Institute (INETER) noted the formation of a new tropical storm threatening the North Atlantic Autonomous Regions. The next day a yellow alert was decreed with the threatened arrival of the tropical storm. Beta had reached a category three on the Saffir Simpson scale, with winds of 185 kilometres per hour. However, its trajectory was very erratic and unpredictable and constantly changing direction. Finally, on 29 October, the storm veered towards Cabo Gracias a Dios on the most north western point of the RAAN near Puerto Cabezas, (Bilwi). The storm then suddenly veered south west, decreasing in strength as it neared Bilwi city, capital of the Autonomous Region of the North Atlantic (RAAN).

The storm finally decreased to a low pressure system, but not before leaving incalculable damage to the environment: destruction of houses, plantations, loss of livestock, etc.

IV. DESCRIPTION of the SITUATION in the AREA of RESPONSE

Autonomous Atlantic North Region (Waspam)

Once the alert was declared, most of the government's attention was focussed on RAAN since it was forecast that the storm would hit Puerto Cabezas or Cabo Gracias a Dios. Consequently there was a significant evacuation of people in the threatened area - 13,717 people were transferred to 31 shelters.

Just hours before the hurricane made landfall it veered at an angle of 90° hitting Laguna de Perlas. At the same time there was significant flooding in the RAAN area due to the torrential and continuous rains brought by Beta. Fourteen communities along the Rio Coco were inundated and had to be evacuated to schools, churches and health centres located above the flood level.

Autonomous Atlantic Southern Region (Pearl Lagoon)

With its tropical and humid climate, this is one of the wettest regions in the world. Thus, when there are heavy rains there is very little capacity for absorption.

Laguna de Perlas is located in the area around a lagoon into which flows a number of rivers. Laguna Municipality does not have access by land, so all transportation is by water. Consequently the rivers are the only means of transport/travel between communities and towns. This limited access has repercussions on services available to the inhabitants of the area - health and education services are very limited if not totally lacking in some areas. Materials brought from the capital of the autonomous region, Bluefields, or other parts of the country are significantly more expensive because of the added cost of transport. The isolation, lack of infrastructure and services contributes significantly in the lack of development in the area.

Tropical storm Beta lashed several communities on the Caribbean coastal area on 31 October, aggravating the situation of poverty in which the Miskitos, Garifunas and Maygnas indigenous people live. Their flimsy houses were snatched up in the winds and harvests were devastated.

The municipalities of Laguna de Perlas and the estuary of the Grand river were the most severely hit municipalities. In Laguna de Perlas, the most affected communities were Tasbapounie, Set Net Point, Orinoco and Marshall Point. Other communities down-river, such as New Town, Chaca Chaca, Ponderer Creek, El Papel and Blue Lagoon suffered minor damages.

Around 5,000 persons were seriously affected of these some 2,700 people were at the centre of the zone of impact and lost all their belongings. They are unable to return to their houses until they have been reconstructed. Around 80% of the buildings and infrastructure in the area were destroyed. Most buildings were largely constructed of wood and unable to withstand the strong winds. Some 500,000 hectares of forests, coconut palms, palm trees, bananas, etc were knocked flat by the hurricane force winds. Livestock and livelihood means were totally devastated.

Water borne illnesses and pneumonia are on the increase and there are currently insufficient medical supplies available to tackle any outbreak of disease.

Christian Medical Action visited the zone and found that food is of the highest priority as regional government assistance has provided food for only 2-3 weeks. Furthermore, the dry period is about to start in this area, which means, that sowing will not be possible for another seven months. This jeopardises the food security for the inhabitants of the area. It is estimated that at least 2,600 people will need food assistance for the next three months.

In Tasbapounie, one of the most vulnerable communities, the local committee has planned to construct a refuge the size of a base ball playing field, which would be able to lodge some 400 people for a period of 12 hours. This disaster preparedness action is motivated by the need year after year to evacuate children, pregnant women and the elderly to surrounding communities - an undertaking which puts the evacuees lives at further risk as it involves a trip in a speedboat on a raging river in flood.

Other priorities are :

- Reactivation of craft fishing.
- Provision of agricultural tools and seeds to 1,200 farmers
- Support the reconstruction of health centres.
- Supplying health centres with medicines and basic equipment.
- Support in strengthening of the communal and municipal leaders in disaster management.

Agriculture: There are 12 communities around the lagoon living from fishing and agriculture for commerce and home-consumption. Basic grains, roots, tubers and bananas are grown and all of these plantations were seriously affected by the hurricane. Some families have cattle, but livestock is a very small part of the home economy.

At this time the emergency committee does not have accurate information for the fishing sector, however it is estimated that much of the fishing equipment has been lost in the storms and flooding.

V. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Assistance will be prioritised for those who, without government help, had to leave their homes and possessions behind to find shelter elsewhere. There are around 4,000 such people in various improvised shelters. The communities to be targeted are as follows:

Community	Less than 1 year.	Men	Women	Children	Total	Families
Orinoco	16	289	338	337	980	124
Marshall Point	4	66	100	82	253	59
Tasbapounie	21	430	444	405	1300	204
Wawashan river	127	1.509	1.873	1.696	5.205	819
Patch river	32	437	542	497	1.508	308
TOTAL	200	2.731	3.297	3.017	9.246	1.514

Since resources are limited and there are others assisting it is planned to provide food aid for **200** families. Sanitation is also a priority as the wells and latrines were totally inundated with flood waters. **46** families will benefit from the rehabilitation of latrines.

A further **20** families whose houses were seriously damaged along the Wawashan and Patch rivers will be provided with zinc sheeting to rebuild their homes.

Since these communities are quite far from Laguna de Perlas, the main village in this municipality, it is planned to provide two medical teams to assist the people affected by hurricane Beta.

VI. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Goal

To provide assistance to some of the most vulnerable people affected by hurricane Beta by providing shelter materials and helping them regain some means of food security, as well as providing health services to combat the hazardous sanitary conditions caused by the tropical storm.

Objectives

- To provide immediate assistance in the form of food for 4,000 people in shelters during and immediately after the hurricane.
- To assist 200 of the most vulnerable families in regaining food security for a period of 90 days following the hurricane.
- To reconstruct sanitary infrastructure and houses damaged as a direct result of the hurricane.
- To provide medical services for 1,127 families through mobilising two medical teams

Activities

Medical Christian Action has permanent presence in the areas and co-ordinated with the local government in evacuating people to safer places, providing temporary shelters and providing food and medical assistance. This project includes the assistance provided to those people who were evacuated without any help from the government except perhaps some help from the mayor's office.

Food assistance

CIEETS and AMC, in co-ordination with the mayor's office and community committee representatives will be responsible for distributing the food to the targeted communities.

Sanitation

In co-ordination with community representatives, 46 families will be selected for assistance in rebuilding latrines that have been destroyed. Families will receive the necessary materials for the reinstallation of latrines. Each family will have to guarantee that they will build the latrines well above the normal flood levels.

Housing reconstruction

20 of the poorest families will be provided with material for them to rebuild their homes.

Medical assistance

ACT Nicaragua, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Health, plans to mobilise two medical teams to provide medical services and care to seven communities located in the forest along the rivers Wawashan and Patch. This assistance will be provided for a period of 14 days. Each team will be made up of two doctors, 3 auxiliaries, 2 nurses and a panguero (boat driver). This support will involve providing fuel, travel expenses and the means of transportation for the mobilisation of the health care personnel to the areas of response.

Inputs for project implementation

Staff

The project will be managed by a supervisor familiar with the area and with experience in the handling of emergency projects. The supervisor will facilitate the work of AMC's technicians and contact with the municipal government.

There will also be a need for financial and administrative support.

Offices

The ACT Nicaragua Forum has an office in Managua which will work to establish communication and co-ordination between the operations, particularly in Laguna de Perlas.

Vehicles and Equipment

Boats will be required for transportation to the communities. Trucks will also be needed to take the supplies from Managua to the targeted areas of operation. Some flights will also be necessary.

Communications

A communications team will facilitate the dissemination of information and reports to the media.

Implementation timetable

15 November 2005 to 15 February 2006.

Transition

Christian Medical Action has had a presence in the RAAS for more than a decade and the accompaniment of all these communities forms part of their Health Program Strategy for vulnerable communities. Consequently, the project activities will be part of AMC's accompaniment process and will further strengthen the co-ordination that has been established with the Ministry of Health and with local community organisations in the area. AMC has developed solid relationships at the municipal level with key actors such as the municipal health commission, the civil society network and the municipal government. That means that all projects are linked with a development strategy including involvement of the communities and local government.

VII. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

This project was designed by ACT's technical staff members in Nicaragua in co-ordination with the technical staff working in the area of operation.

A Supervisor responsible for the implementation, supervision and production of reports will be hired. He/she will be the principal information channel with ACT .

A Community Promoter will be in charge of following up the daily plan during the implementation of the project. This promoter will be integrated temporarily into the AMC team in the field office.

Finance: The funds will be managed by the ACT Nicaragua co-ordinating organisation (CIEETS) which has a computerised accounting system that facilitates knowledge about the project's accounting transactions. Disbursements will be made through the CIEETS office. AMC will be responsible for preparing financial and technical reports to be registered and checked before being sent to ACT international.

At the conclusion of the project implementation period, a narrative and financial report will be provided to ACT International according to the ACT Guidelines.

VIII. MONITORING, REPORTING & EVALUATIONS

ACT Nicaragua, will hire a person to co-ordinate the project along with a promoter at local level. The ACT/Nicaragua national co-ordinator along with AMC direction and technical staff will be in charge of supervision and monitoring.

The Co-ordinator will ensure monthly reports to ACT's national co-ordination with copy to Christian Medical Action (AMC). ACT co-ordination in Nicaragua will maintain communications to the other ACT Nicaragua members concerning progress of the project.

Financial reports will be the responsibility of CIEETS.

Reporting Schedule

- Final narrative and financial reports to be received by the ACT CO by 15 April 2006, i.e. within two months of end of project.
- Audit report to be received by ACT CO no later than 15 May, i.e. within three months of end of project.

IX. CO-ORDINATION

AMC has developed solid relationships at the municipal level with key actors such as the municipal health commission, the civil society network, the municipal government, mayor's office and community committees. The relationships and co-ordination/co-operation will continue and be strengthened through this project.

X. BUDGET

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u> <u>C\$</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>C\$</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>US\$</u>
DIRECT ASSISTANCE					
Food					
Food packages	Families	200	3,000.00	<u>600,000.00</u>	<u>35,294</u>
Subtotal				600,000.00	35,294
Assistance in Shelters					
Subtotal		1	74,529.00	<u>74,529.00</u>	<u>4,384</u>
Medical Assistance					
Fuel	Gallons	200	90.00	18,000.00	1,059
Travelling expenses (per diem)	days/person	98	150.00	14,700.00	865
Medications kits	Kits	2	22,671.00	<u>45,342.00</u>	<u>2,667</u>
Subtotal				78,042.00	4,591

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost C\$</u>	<u>Budget C\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>
Transport					
Transportation by truck to zones	journey	4	28,050.00	112,200.00	6,600
Distribution (boat)	journey	34	2,550.00	86,700.00	5,100
Fuel for distribution	gallons	960	90.00	<u>86,400.00</u>	5,082
Subtotal				285,300.00	16,782
Sanitation					
Latrines	unit	46	1,700.00	78,200.00	4,600
Houses	unit	20	5,300.00	<u>106,000.00</u>	<u>6,235</u>
Subtotal				184,200.00	10,835
Salaries					
Co-ordinator	month	3	6,800.00	20,400.00	1,200
Supervisor	month	3	6,800.00	20,400.00	1,200
Book keeping (partial)	month	4	4,250.00	17,000.00	1,000
Travel					
Travelling communication team	trip/person	12	150.00	1,800.00	106
Plane ticket ACT coordinator	trip	3	3,317.00	9,951.00	585
Promoter & boat driver	days/person	108	150.00	16,200.00	953
Communication team	Trip	3	3,317.00	<u>9,951.00</u>	<u>585</u>
Subtotal				95,702.00	5,630
Mobilisation	months	3	15,000	45,000.00	2,647
Administration, Communication & Other					
Administration	months	4	5,000	20,000.00	1,176
Communication & office	month	3	10,000	30,000.00	1,765
Audit	unit	1	42,500	<u>42,500.00</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Subtotal				92,500.00	5,441
TOTAL				<u>1,455,273.00</u>	<u>85,604</u>

Exchange Rate (Local Currency : 1 USD = 17.00 C\$)