

Appeal

Costa Rica

Rehabilitation Assistance to Flood Affected – LACR51 Appeal Target: US\$ 82,750

Geneva, 2 February 2005

Dear Colleagues,

During the first two weeks of January 2005 heavy rains lashed the North Atlantic Coast of Costa Rica causing severe flooding in 11 cantons: Sarapiquí, Matina, Talamanca, Siquirres, Pococí, Guácimo, Limón, Paraíso, Alvarado, Turrialba and San Ramón. By 11 January more than 6,000 people had been evacuated. According to the National Emergency Commission as of 18 January, the death toll had reached five, 2,143 persons were still in temporary shelters, 5,304 houses were affected and over 7,000 hectares of cultivated land were totally inundated.

Talamanca province was the most severely affected by the flooding. Talamanca is a natural reserve populated by indigenous peoples who lives in poverty-stricken conditions, isolated from the rest of the country. Their livelihood is basically production of banana, rice and beans for their own consumption.

ACT member in Costa Rica, **the Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (ILCO)** has been working in the Talamanca region for more than 10 years. After the flooding, ILCO sent an assessment mission to identify the more pressing needs. They are already responding to the crisis distributing food and clothes that have been collected by the church in the country. ILCO is requesting support from the ACT Alliance to assist 200 families of the affected indigenous population in Talamanca in recovering their agriculture activities by providing :

- Banana plants, rice and beans seeds
- Training and assistance in agriculture recovery
- Training in disaster preparedness

The implementation of the activities will be monitored by the Lutheran World Federation program in El Salvador.

Project Completion Date:

31 December 2005

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

Total Appeal Target(s)	<u>US\$</u> 82,750
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>0</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Alliance	82,750

Jenny Borden
Interim Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

Full details of programme and budget are on following pages.

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

- **Asociación Iglesia Luterana Costarricense (ILCO).**

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER & PARTNER INFORMATION

The Costa Rican Lutheran Church (ILCO) was founded in 1988 by people who shared a common desire to create a church that would promote a holistic ministry that includes service to the poor and the most in need. That same spirit fuels the growth of the church today and has led to the development of a strong call for service to the socially and economically disadvantaged in poor urban communities, indigenous reserves, peasant farm communities and Nicaraguan immigrant communities.

The ILCO relies on the direction and interdisciplinary commissions of pastors, social workers, attorneys (registered with the Costa Rica Legal Association) and specialists in natural medicine and organic agriculture, to carry out projects in the communities. In addition there are various work teams and individuals at the community level. Their work comprises legal organisation/representation, job productivity, cultural events and disaster/emergency response co-ordination. There are approximately 5,000 such people affiliated with the ILCO.

The ILCO collaborated with organised efforts and reconstruction in the North Atlantic Region of Costa Rica following the aftermath of: Hurricane Juana (1989); The Limón Earthquake (1991); Hurricane Cesar (1996); and Hurricane Mitch (1998). In addition, it provides assistance to the most vulnerable affected by flooding that the region suffers approximately every two years.

The ILCO is the only Costa Rican organisation that is a member of ACT, and will maintain co-ordination with the Lutheran World Federation (the Central American office located in El Salvador).

The ILCO will adhere to the principles and guidelines of ACT, to the Humanitarian Code of Conduct and is committed to working according to the Sphere standards.

III. DESCRIPTION of the EMERGENCY SITUATION

The North Atlantic region of Costa Rica covers approx. 9,881 km² and has approximately 427,000 inhabitants. The land is used extensively for agricultural purposes – both commercial and personal consumption. There are indigenous reserves in the upper and lower parts of Talamanca. These areas are among the poorest in the country and have suffered many earthquakes and other natural disasters.

During the first ten days of January 2005 heavy rains lashed the area causing the worst flooding in 35 years. Around 345 mm of rain fell (the average is around 300 mm for the same period) causing the water levels in the rivers to rise and result in flooding.

Flooding has been reported in nearly all the counties of the North Atlantic Region: Sarapiquí, Matina, Talamanca, Siquirres, Pococí, Guácimo, Limón, Paraíso, Alvarado, Turrialba and San Ramón. Of these affected areas, the indigenous communities face the most difficulty due to their remote locations and poverty-stricken conditions.

The National Commission for Emergencies (an official organisation that tends to disaster situations) has released the following summary of figures:

- The death toll is five with more than 8,000 people displaced and living in shelters, of which approximately 2,000 have not yet been able to return to their communities
- 275 towns affected, 5,373 homes affected (many of which have suffered heavy damages or are total losses)
- 30 health buildings damaged; 42 reports of damage and breakdown of electrical services; 31 water lines damaged; 4,027 wells damaged - which considerably limits clean water access to the majority of the population in these areas.
- 42 school buildings and 9 public buildings damaged
- 234 highways and roads damaged, 140 bridges and 28 dikes damaged
- 7,750 hectares of farmland damaged

IV. DESCRIPTION of the SITUATION in the AREA of PROPOSED RESPONSE

Current situation in the area of proposed response

Assessments in the indigenous reserve of Talamanca, in the county of Limon, have been completed. The majority of the people affected are indigenous, small-business farmers who cultivate plantains and bananas. The crisis phase is over and now support is required for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the communities in production and basic infrastructure, which has been organised and negotiated by the community leaders with governmental organisations.

Impact on human lives in the area of proposed response

Communities	Number of Families	Estimated No of people
Talamanca: Sepecue 1, Sepecue 2, Mojoncito 1 , Mojoncito 2 y Oro Chico	900	4,500

Please note that among the families affected and facing the greatest disadvantage are those with many children, elderly people and families headed by single mothers.

The communities affected have been totally inundated by the flood waters covering their dwellings. This has resulted in:

- Total loss of household goods
- Severe structural damage or total destruction of homes
- Total paralysis of economic activity, which will be felt in terms of loss of income.
- Loss of agricultural land.
- Risk of spread of disease.
- Difficulty in accessing some communities due to highway and bridge damage.
- Shortage of water for human consumption.
- Absence of basic food requirements.
- Absence of blankets, mattresses and goods for basic shelter.
- Absence of clothing and personal use items.

Description of the damages in the area of proposed response

According to the National Commission for Emergencies the damages in the County of Talamanca are as follows:

Institutions/People Affected	Quantity
Population Groups Affected	52
Homes Affected	129
Health Buildings Affected	14
Educational Buildings Damaged	14
Water Lines And Wells Damaged	1,200
Electrical Services/Lines Damaged	3
Roads Affected	42
Dikes & Bridges Damaged	17
Agricultural Impacts	3,849

Security situation in the area of proposed response

It is reported that 42 roads have been affected and 17 bridges damages, however it is still possible to enter these communities. There are no security concerns, no military presence and no risk of looting.

Location for proposed response: Talamanca: Sepecue 1, Sepecue 2, Mojoncito 1, Mojoncito 2 y Oro Chico

All the communities mentioned above will receive assistance and training for the indigenous organisations to facilitate reactivation of productive activities. This will include provision of basic seed packages.

The ILCO has been implementing development programs in this region for the past 10 years and maintains relationships and co-ordination with community-based organisations.

Because this is an area that frequently faces emergencies, there are other NGOs present and official government aid is also available. However, the ILCO works with the most isolated and remote communities and where access is difficult. These communities also tend to distrust any assistance offered by the government as, in their experience, the assistance does not always benefit those most in need of it.

V. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Number and type

ILCO proposes to assist 200 families (around 1,500 persons) located in the Talamanca Province in the following communities: Sepecue 1, Sepecue 2, Mojoncito 1, Mojoncito 2 y Oro Chico

Criteria for selection

ILCO will work with the community-based organisations in selecting beneficiaries. The following criteria will be used:

- Affected families headed by a female.
- Affected families with children and/or elderly persons.
- Affected families with disabled persons
- Families who have not yet received help
- Affected families who reside in remote and difficult-to-access locations

Number of targeted beneficiaries according to proposed assistance

Assistance	Families	Persons
Basic seed kits (plantain, banana, corn, beans, rice)	200	1,500
Training and technical assistance for agriculture recovering	200	1,500
Training in disaster preparedness	5 communities	

VI. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Goal: To assist at least 1,500 people affected by the floods in the North Atlantic region to restart their agricultural activities and again become productive.

Objectives:

- Provision of basic seed packages to restart the activities
- Provision of training and technical support to restart agricultural activities
- Provision of training in disaster preparedness

PROVISION OF BASIC SEED PACKAGES TO RESTART AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Each family will receive a package of seeds (sufficient for one hectare of land) that will contain 1,000 banana plants, 12,5 kilos of bean seeds, 12,5 kilos of corn seeds, 12,5 kg of rice seeds and 12.5 kg of seeds for vegetable gardens.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO RESTART AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The training and productive assistance in the indigenous communities will be assumed by representatives of the ILCO and its NGO counterparts CEDECO and MANU. In the training and assistance for the reactivation of agricultural activities, the beneficiaries will also be empowered to negotiate resources with the government.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

Talamanca province is prone to floods and earthquakes. Therefore, in the process of accompanying communities a disaster preparedness program will be developed with the support of the National Emergency commission and the Costa Rica University. This component will be developed with the support of the ACT regional Fora.

Project implementation methodology

The general co-ordination efforts of the project, preparation and transportation of assistance will be assumed by the project co-ordinator who will be contracted to implement the project.

The selection of beneficiaries and delivery of aid will be assumed by the community-based organisations that ILCO co-ordinates with. The beneficiaries will be involved through their participation in the community-based organisations.

The Sphere Standards have been taken into consideration specifically the sharing of the needs of the people; co-ordinating with local organisations; respect for the cultural and productive organisation; including all people without discrimination; giving emphasis to the most affected such as children, women and elderly, etc.

Inputs for project implementation

- Project co-ordinator
- Support person for finances
- Technical training services for productive rehabilitation.

- Technical consulting services for indigenous organisations in negotiating resources.
- General help services (secretarial, accountant, supervisory, follow-up and evaluation of the project)
- Rent of 4x4 vehicle to access isolated communities
- Hiring of heavy goods vehicle to transport aid packages.

Planning assumptions, constraints and prioritisation

- The ILCO has been present in the region for more than 10 years and has strong relationships with community-based organisations in the affected area.
- The local organisations are interested in becoming involved in the project and joining forces with the ILCO for the selection of beneficiaries and the distribution of aid in the communities.
- The farmers are motivated to take part in rehabilitating the agricultural industry for the region and in receiving training and assistance to that end.

Constraints would include:

- the possibility that the rains could intensify and that access to some communities would only be by air, the cost for which has not been accounted for in this project.
- Lack of funding would mean that the project could not be implemented or assistance would be cut. Should insufficient funds be made available, then priority will be given to single-mother households in the indigenous communities.

Implementation Timetable

Eleven months from February 2005 to December 2005.

Transition or Exit strategy

During the project the logistic and organisational conditions, as well as the negotiation of financial resources, will be evaluated for further development of disaster preparedness training in the North Atlantic region, ultimately increasing the abilities of the people to face these events and reduce their vulnerability.

VII. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Finance

The ILCO has a financial/accounting unit for implementation of projects. The funds are received into an account designated for the project and from there are disbursed to the representatives involved either directly or into their accounts.

For purchases the representatives request estimates from at least three sources, making selections based on price and quality. The same method is used for contracting specific services or recruitment of people for the project, and contracts are also signed with these individuals.

The ILCO also has an auditing firm that meets the quality of standards required for financial control on projects of this type.

VIII. MONITORING, REPORTING & EVALUATIONS

The ILCO has a unit which plans, monitors and evaluates projects. The unit executes follow-up and monitoring actions on projects to identify possible diversions that require adjustments or other decisions. This unit supports the planning of projects and creates time for and instruments of evaluation both at the beginning and end of a project to identify critical factors that facilitate or inhibit the project development.

For the present project, an initial session of planning and general program operation, three sessions of follow-up and monitoring, and one final evaluation session are being considered (as indicated in the timetable).

The person in charge of the PME unit is responsible for narrative reports and he/she will co-ordinate with the person in charge of finance.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) – El Salvador Programme will support and monitor the implementation of the project. It is foreseen that three visits will take place at the launching of the activities, in the middle of the implementation and at the end of the implementation

Reporting Schedule:

Interim narrative and financial reports due at ACT CO by 15 July 2005.

Final narrative and financial reports are due by 28 February 2006.

Audit report due by 31 March 2006.

IX. CO-ORDINATION

The ILCO is the sole implementing organisation for this project and the community-based organisations will be the co-executors - they will be the entities who distribute the aid to the beneficiaries they have identified.

The actions of the ILCO in the North Atlantic region of Costa Rica are always co-ordinated with other equivalent organisations such as:

- MANU pathways for development, NGOs for training and service in the North Atlantic region
- CEDECO: Educational corporation for development, specialising in organic agriculture
- FOSBAS: Fund for small projects for community-based organisations
- COPROALDE: Network of 25 NGOs and organic agriculture organisations
- UCANEO: Indigenous Union for the commercialisation of organic bananas
- Foro Emaús: Coalition of NGOs, churches and unions for environmental and labour rights

These groups work in the areas of organisation, production and defence of rights with community-based organisations. The ILCO will establish an alliance with them for the implementation of this project.

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>
Post Crisis Phase				
Rehabilitation - food Security				
Banana plants	Plant	200,000	0.20	40,000
Beans & Maize seed	Kilo	5,000	1.00	5,000
Rice	Kilo	5,000	0.50	2,500
Garden vegetables	Kilo	5,000	0.50	<u>2,500</u>
Sub total				50,000
Direct Programme Related Costs				
Co-ordinator	Months	11	1,000.00	11,000
Training Workshops	W/shop	5	200.00	1,000
Disaster Preparedness Workshops	W/shop	5	200.00	<u>1,000</u>
Sub Total				13,000
TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE				<u>63,000</u>
TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING				
Transport				
20 ton Truck rental	month	4	800.00	3,200
Fuel	Gallons	1,000	2.00	2,000
4x4 vehicle rental	Vehicle	1	1,500.00	1,500
Handling				
Wages for labourers	month	12	100.00	<u>1,200</u>
TOTAL TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING				<u>7,900</u>
PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS & SUPPORT				
Staff salaries				
Finance Director and operations	month	6	300.00	1,800
Salaries for 1 promoter	month	5	250.00	1,250
Staff benefits (4 salaries)	per diem	2	1,000.00	2,000
Office Operations				
50% office rent	month	6	100.00	600
Communications				
Telephone and fax	month	6	200.00	1,200
Other				
Insurance				<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL, ADMIN & SUPPORT				<u>7,850</u>
AUDIT & MONITORING				
Audit of ACT Funds	Lump sum			1,000
Monitoring & Evaluation	Lump sum			<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL AUDIT & MONITORING				<u>4,000</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE				<u>82,750</u>