



Action by Churches Together

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Coordinating Office

Appeal

Nicaragua

Famine caused by Rat & Worm Infestations LANI 51 Appeal Target: US\$ 162,252

Geneva, 25 October 2005

Dear Colleagues,

A rat infestation combined with a worm plague has devastated 14,224 hectares of subsistence crops in the northeastern part of Nicaragua. The affected areas are the municipality of Waspan, which is located 634 km northeast of the capital Managua in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region, and the municipalities of Wiwili and San Jose Bocay in the Jinotega department.

The affected municipalities are the largest and poorest in the country. They are inhabited by the indigenous Miskito population who live along the Coco River banks and survive on subsistence farming and fishing. 129 communities have been severely affected and 49,000 persons are facing hunger as their subsistence crops have been completely destroyed. Due to the extreme poverty in the region and the high level of malnutrition - particularly among women and children - the situation is seriously threatening the survival of the population.

ACT Nicaragua Forum is proposing to respond to this emergency by providing food aid to 800 families and psychosocial support to 39 communities. The ACT response is part of a wider co-ordination of agencies responding to this emergency which is led by ACT member **Christian Medical Action (AMC)**. AMC will implement this project along with ACT member **Interchurch Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS)**.

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:

31 March 2006

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

Total Appeal Target(s)	<u>US\$</u> 162,252
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>0</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Alliance	162 252

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 MEMBERS

This appeal will be jointly implemented by :

Christian Medical Action (AMC) is a Christian non-governmental organization (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 organization defines itself as ecumenical, with health services and development activities as an expression of Christian practice. Its mission statement affirms, “AMC is a Christian organization 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 organization.

Its mission defines the organization as “A comprehensive educational and rural development organization, formed by evangelical churches and ecumenical service organizations 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 fulfillment 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 Cooperation.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION

The extreme poverty in which the communities (mostly indigenous people) along the Coco River live is conditioned by many factors which, in turn, increase the vulnerability of the population: marginalization, difficult to access, poor housing conditions, overcrowding, little investment or presence of the government. Deforestation and poor management of the watershed has contributed to 12 disasters in the last 17 years - five hurricanes, six tropical storms and the current situation of crops affected by plagues of rats, worms, fall army-worms and grubs.

Exacerbating the poverty of these communities was the massive forced relocation (by the army) of Sumu – Mayagna and Miskito communities in the 1980s from the areas between the Wawa River and the Coco River to the resettlement areas of Tasba Pri in 1982 and Tasba Ray (by armed indigenous groups). Approximately 8,500 Miskitos and Sumus – Mayagnas from the Coco River were moved to the territory of Tasba Pri along the highway that connects Rosita to Bilwi while another 10,000 emigrated to refugee camps in Honduras.

Under the dictates of the Statute of Autonomy, the populations returned to their original communities and began reconstruction. However, there was a new danger - anti-personnel mines from the civil war and this forced them to relocate to flood zones along the banks of the river. This is currently being addressed by a **territorial government project**. The Municipal Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis DANA team describes the situation as below:

“Since the destruction of the Coco or Wangki River by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, our communities have been extremely vulnerable due to the shattering of the environmental balance associated with the extreme poverty and destitution of our population. The lack of governmental economic and social policies for the indigenous peoples further accentuates the sub-human living conditions of our people.

*For many years now the community has suffered various emergency situations that have been stoically faced in the hope that some day the situation would improve. Currently the municipality faces serious damage to the farming infrastructure. The crops are being decimated by **plagues of worms and rats**. To date they have destroyed more than 14,224 hectares, including rice, corn, plantains and yucca in 14 communities of the lower river, 44 communities in the upper river and 32 in the plains. A total of 90 communities are affected out of 112. The plague is devastating. The DANA Commission of the Emergency Committee confirmed that the worms eat the leaves, stems and roots of the plants and massive hoards of rats are devastating the rice, yucca and other crops.*

*Agriculture is the only form of livelihood for the communities, therefore it is imperative that some action is taken to alleviate the situation. The plague that attacks the rice and corn crops is **Spodoptera frugiperda** (fall armyworm). Its larvae mostly feed on leaves, fruit and stems of the rice plant. The eggs are deposited in a mass, covered by a protective tissue on the back of the leaf.*

We are urgently requesting international and domestic assistance to confront the dire famine situation. We are also requesting seeds to plant in order to have an alternative for the coming months”.

Crops Lost to Plagues and Flooding (Waspam Municipal DANA, 22 August 2005)

Territory and Population Affected				Crops Affected							
				Rice		Corn		Yucca		Plantains	
Areas	N° Communities	N° Residents	N° Families	Planted	Damaged	Planted	Damaged	Planted	Damaged	Planted	Damaged
Upper River	54	20,092	8,368	3,781.48	2,822	1,007	823	3,068	1,589	3,239	1,123
Lower River	14	7,489	1,497	1,557.22	954	33.25	26	465	453	863	392
Plains	32	16,500	3,300	3,559.04	2,681	865	507	3,342	1,325	3,654	1,529
Total	90	44,081	13,165	8,897.74	6,457	1,905.25	1,356	6,875	3,367	7,756	3,044

Economic Losses Due to Plagues and Flooding

<i>Communities Affected</i>	<i>Number of Hectares of Crops Affected</i>				Total
	Rice	Corn	Yucca	Plantains	
Total 90 Communities	6,457	1,356	3,367	3,044	14,224
Economic Losses C\$	32,285,000	8, 417,500	4,068,000.00	7,610,750	52, 81,250
Economic Losses USD	1,904,719	496,607	240,000	449,011	3, 090,339

b. Basic Needs of the Indigenous Communities (Waspam Municipal DANA, August 22, 2005)		
Food	Health Care	Clothing
Rice, beans, flour, oil, sugar, coffee, water, etc.	Medications for dengue, diarrhoeal illnesses, dermatological problems, malaria, etc.	Clothing for children, the elderly, pregnant women (lightweight for tropical climate).

Assistance needed (Waspam Municipal DANA, August 22, 2005)

Seeds for the Second Planting Season				For Food			
N°	Product	Amount	Unit of Measurement	N°	Product	Amount	Unit of Measurement
1	Rice	6000	6000	1	Rice	81,825	QQ
2	Corn	2,750	2,750	2	Corn	84,304.91	QQ
3	Beans	4,500	4,500	3	Beans	42,152.45	QQ
4	Plantain Rootstalk	15,000	15,000	4	Sugar	64,468.46	QQ
5	Yucca Rootstalk Thirds	15,000	15,000	5	Oil	247,995.62	Gallons

Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA), Miskito Indian Tasbaika Kum (MITK) and Mayangna Sauni Bu (MSB) Territories, September 13, 2005 (Municipalities of Wiwilí and San José de Bocay)

The Bosawás Biosphere Reserve Area in the north of Nicaragua harbors indigenous communities in semi-isolation from the rest of the country. They have extremely limited basic services and live in extreme poverty. The consequences of such a precarious standard of living are seen in the high rates of maternal and infant mortality, crime, malnutrition, infectious and contagious diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, and illiteracy.

The lack of resources in the country to attend to the enormous demands of the different communities living in remote and partially isolated areas results in these communities being relatively abandoned by the government institutions. Those institutions that currently have a presence in the territories are: the Nicaraguan Army, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health which operate with many limitations and, although willing to provide support, lack the proper resources and plans.

The indigenous communities are scattered geographically and are located along the banks of the rivers. It is important to highlight that the municipalities of Wiwili and San José de Bocay, where these indigenous communities are located, are categorized at the level of extreme poverty according to the national poverty map. The indigenous population of the MITK and MSB territories totals 8,910 inhabitants. They live in extreme poverty with incomes of approximately US\$120 per year per family, without any access to clean water, energy and transportation services. Their major productive activities center around subsistence agriculture, hunting and artisanal fishing, with very limited trade among the communities and the nearest population centers.

Historically, the communities have lacked the basic services offered by the government, and are very far below the national rates for development in the areas of health and education. In recent years, advancements have been made in this direction, however, the basic needs of the communities are still not satisfied. Despite their presence in the area, the government ministries do not have sufficient resources to satisfy the growing demands of the indigenous populations.

Emergency

Currently, both territories are facing the destruction of livelihood as the crops are being decimated by worm and rat plagues. At this point, they have destroyed more than 4,000 (four thousand thirteen) manzanas including rice, corn, plantains, cane and yucca in the 39 communities of both territories.

The plague that is attacking the rice and corn crops is the *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm). The larvae feed mainly on the leaves, fruits and stems of the rice plant. The eggs are deposited in a mass, covered by a protective tissue on the back of the leaf.

The rats are of different species and they are proliferating at a great rate. It has not yet been possible to quantify the rodent population, but according to the residents, they can devastate a manzana in an average of four days.

Economic Losses from the Plagues in the Municipalities of Wiwilí and San José de Bocay

Communities Affected	Number of Manzanas of Crops Affected						Total
	Rice	Corn	Yucca	Plantains	Cane	Beans	
Total 39 Communities	1,414	1,681	621.5	189.5	166	41	4,113.00
Economic Losses C\$	7,070,000	10,086,000	745,200	473,750	415,000	205,000	18,994,950.00
Economic Losses USD	417,109	595,044	43,964	27,949	24,483	12,094	1,120,646

IV. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries will be 800 families from 38 communities of the Miskito ethnic group located along the Coco River in the municipality of Waspam and 39 communities of the MITK and MSB territories. The population comprises 23,787 inhabitants or 4,484 families, who have survived over the years in conditions of extreme poverty and vulnerability through repeated flooding of the Coco River due to hurricanes, tropical storms, intense rains, etc.

Data on the Targeted Communities of Waspam

Priority 1 Communities			Priority 2 Communities		
Community	Families	Nos Inhab.	Community	Families	Nos Inhab
Raity	394	1,891	Krasa	240	1,176
Polo Paiwas	21	101	Santa Rosa	9	44
Lakusta	30	144	San Carlos	271	1,327
Wailaska	83	394	Umbrá	36	176
Sumapipi	196	941	Amaki	44	215
Arandak	36	172	Naranjal	21	102
Puramayra	26	124	Florida	21	102

Kayotigni	28	134	San Esquipulas	102	499
Siksayari	216	1,036	Sang Sang	110	539
Yahbrahstigni	50	240	Kitaski	90	441
Linda Vista	42	201	Casa Sola	38	186
Andristara	194	931	Tulimbila	41	200
Kiplamahsta	29	139	Pil Pilia	36	176
Arrizal	72	345	Namaska	35	171
San Pedro	67	321	San Alberto	151	739
Asang	235	1,128	TOTAL	1,245	6,093
Santa Isabel	133	634			
Santa Fe	139	667			
Sih	285	1,368			
Livingcreek	97	465			
Waspukta	55	302			
Klisnak	91	500			
Cocal	38	209			
TOTAL	2,557	12,387			

Demographic Data on the Prioritized Communities of the MITK and MSB Territories of the Municipalities of Wiwilí and San José de Bocay

Priority I						
MITK Territory						
N°	Communities	Zones	Inhabitants			
			Men	Women	Families	Total
1	Pueblo Nuevo	Zone 2	27	100	24	127
2	Kiplalila		32	36	17	68
3	Kauratara		122	130	25	252
4	Siminka		215	250	55	465
5	La Esperanza	Zone 3	102	116	37	218
6	Laukuwas		48	54	18	102
7	Piu		52	58	25	110
8	Kiwayang	Zone 4	67	63	25	130
9	Paraiso		50	60	18	110
10	Pankawas		183	150	76	333
11	Los Angeles		41	45	20	86
12	Tuburus	Zone 5	200	205	84	405
13	San Andrés		317	400	162	717
14	Mukuwas		84	70	26	154
15	Pansik		26	30	14	56
16	Inipuwas	Zone 6	40	46	18	86
17	San Juan		35	30	12	65
18	Aniwas		200	230	90	430
19	Aras Ahwika		35	43	19	78
20	Walakitan	Zone 7	650	600	240	1250
Subtotal			2526	2716	1005	5242
MSB Territory						
1	Tunawalan	Zone 1	41	51	18	92
2	Sibiwas		61	50	25	111
3	Silamplanta		23	31	14	54
4	Wisuh	Zone 2	129	88	42	217
5	Kiushi		46	64	25	110
6	Yapuwas		36	48	23	84
7	Kudahwas		60	46	24	106
8	Wina	Zone 3	80	86	38	166
9	Okuhly		64	88	29	152
10	Nawashwas		53	52	24	105
11	Kayayawas		80	90	32	170
12	Brikputwas		30	36	13	66
13	Puluwás	Zone 4	65	58	27	123
14	Amak		368	300	120	668
15	Peñas Blancas		59	61	23	120
Subtotal			1,195	1,149	477	2,344
Overall Total			3,721	3,865	1,482	7,586
Priority II						
MITK Territory						
N°	Communities	Zones	Inhabitants			
			Men	Women	Families	Total
1	Ulwaskin	Zone 1	200	87	54	287
2	Yakalpanani		320	410	137	730
3	Amarrana		76	78	31	154
4	Plis		80	73	25	153
Overall Total			676	648	247	1,324

V. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Goal: to alleviate the suffering of the residents of 77 most vulnerable communities located on the banks of the Coco and Bocay Rivers in the municipalities of Waspam, Wiwilí and San José de Bocay. These already very poor communities are facing a famine situation as their food security and livelihood is currently being destroyed by plagues of rats and worms.

Objectives:

- Support government efforts to eradicate the rats and worms.
- Mitigate the situation of hunger in the Priority I and Priority II Communities (see table on page 8).
- Facilitate emotional recovery through psycho-social accompaniment of the famine victims.
- Develop local capacities for disaster mitigation and management.

Activities

ERADICATION OF THE RATS & WORMS

The Health Ministry is applying a biological rodenticide that kills the rats without affecting human beings. They have already obtained quantities of this rodenticide and are currently carrying out the necessary action to clear the area of the rats and worms. AMC will support the government efforts through providing transport expenses (U\$20) for 3 technicians for a period of 30 days.

FOOD AID

A food aid package will be provide monthly to each family (average 7 members) for a period of three months. The package will contain: Rice (84kg), Oil (7,35 lts), Sugar (5,25 kg) and salt (0.6kg) at a cost of U\$56.16.

This package will be complemented with 21 Kg of beans that have been provided by OXFAM.

The Municipal Commission for the Prevention of Disasters (COMUPRED), through the Supply Commission, will be responsible for timely and proper distribution of food packages to the prioritized communities, with ongoing communication and co-ordination with AMC staff and the project co-ordinator.

EMOTIONAL RECOVERY AND PSYCHO SOCIAL ACCOMPANIMENT

The aim of this component will be to activate a network of local indigenous leaders that restore hope and promote a change in beliefs and attitudes in relation to disasters among the indigenous communities. The long suffering communities have a fatalist attitude towards disasters and a sense of hopelessness. A local expert (Miskito) in psycho-social issues will be hired to facilitate this process. She/he will develop workshops for local indigenous leaders. The training will include the AMC local technical team.

The local indigenous leaders to be included in this process will be those that have been already identified by AMC. It will also include the local indigenous leaders that were working with CEPAD and CIEETS when they were operational in these areas.

RE-ASSESSMENT FOR DISTRIBUTION

Before proceeding with the food distribution AMC staff will reassess the current situation in the communities to ensure that food will be delivered to the most needy families. 10 technicians will visit the communities for a period of around 8 days. It is estimated that transportation costs will be around US\$ 20 per person.

Implementation methodology

The project will be implemented in close coordination with the local government. The local government authorities will facilitate the transportation of food aid by river. The communities will select the families to receive the food aid and AMC staff will supervise the distribution.

Inputs for project implementationStaff

A project coordinator will be hired to be responsible for the implementation, supervision, preparation of reports and will serve as the chief channel of information with ACT – Nicaragua (CIEETS and AMC), both in the territory and at the central level. The project coordinator will be based in Managua but will regularly visit the project area and keep permanent contact with AMC staff in the area.

A local indigenous psychologist will be hired to develop the psycho-social training of local indigenous leaders. She/he will be based in the project area and work in co-ordination with AMC staff in the area.

An expert in communication will ensure dissemination through the media of the project achievements and limitations.

Vehicles and Equipment

Water (motorboats and pangas), land and air transportation will be hired to move personnel and cargo to the prioritized areas. In addition, a portable computer will be needed to manage information in the area.

Implementation timetable

The project will run for a period of five months beginning 1 November 2005 and concluding on 31 March 2006. The food distribution will be implemented from October to December. The psychosocial component from November to January. February will be used for processing narrative, financial and audit reports.

Transition or exit strategy

Christian Medical Action has worked in the RAAN for more than a decade and the accompaniment of the Miskito communities is a strategy within the Health Program for these less favored populations. This means that the actions implemented in this project will be part of AMC's accompaniment process and will strengthen the co-ordination that has been established with the Ministry of Health and other government agencies in the area as well as with the indigenous organizations and the local governments.

In the case of the municipalities of Jinotega, follow-up will be conducted through ACT forum alliances with other organizations that have accompaniment processes in the communities and in co-ordination with the municipal offices. Thus, this initiative will serve to strengthen the relationships between ACT Nicaragua and these local agencies.

VI. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**Administration**

The project will be administered and supervised by the ACT Nicaragua Forum. The current co-ordinating member of the Forum, CIEETS will be responsible for the day to day administration of the project. CIEETS will channel the resources of the appeal, will hire staff for the project and will be responsible for the reporting.

AMC staff will work in co-ordination with the project staff and will be responsible for the direct implementation.

Finances

The funds will be managed by the ACT – Nicaragua coordinating agency which is currently CIEETS. It has a computerized accounting system that facilitates information on the accounting generated by the project. Accounting support will also be hired as part of the project.

Once the implementation period for the project has been completed, a narrative and financial report will be prepared on the use and outcome of funds received from ACT International, accompanied by the statement of the external auditor.

Christian Medical Action will provide the reports, both narrative and financial, along with all the supporting receipts and documentation for its expenses.

VII. MONITORING, REPORTING & EVALUATIONS

The supervision of the project will be the responsibility of ACT – Nicaragua, together with the technical team and project coordinator. Monitoring will be conducted on a monthly basis.

The national ACT co-ordinator and the administration of Christian Medical Action will be responsible for supervision and monitoring, along with the project's technical team.

The project co-ordinator will prepare monthly reports, a quarterly report and a final report to be submitted to the national ACT co-ordinator with a copy to the director of Christian Medical Action.

The co-ordinator of ACT – Nicaragua will maintain communication with the rest of the members of ACT about the progress of the project.

Monitoring will be conducted on behalf of the ACT – Nicaragua Forum and the outcome will be presented on an ongoing basis to the co-ordinating committee which comprises the directors of the institutions, so that there is cross-monitoring of the implementation and the final outcome of the project.

ACT (the administrative office of CIEETS) will be responsible for the financial reports.

Reporting Schedule

- Final narrative and financial reports to be received by the ACT CO by 31 May 2006 i.e. within two months after the end of project.
- Audit report to be received by ACT CO no later than 30 June 2006 i.e. within three months of the end of project.

VIII. CO-ORDINATION

This project is part of a wider co-ordination established to respond to the emergency. The lead agency is AMC representing the ACT Nicaragua Forum. Other members of the co-ordination are: OXFAM, Centro Humboldt, WFP, WHO and the local government.

IX. BUDGET**ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE**

<u>Category / Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No. of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost in C\$</u>	<u>Budget in C\$</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
FOOD PACKETS					
Families	Unit	800	2,864.50	<u>2,291,600.00</u>	<u>134,800</u>
Subtotal				<u>2,291,600.00</u>	<u>134,800</u>
PSYCHO-SOCIAL ATTENTION					
Coordinator Psycho-social Component	Months	3	9,367.00	28,101.00	1,653
Food and Housing	Months	3	5,661.00	16,983.00	999
Workshops	Workshops	3	3,400.00	10,200.00	600
Educational Material	Kits	3	2,266.66	6,799.98	400
Laptop Computer	Unit	1	27,200.00	27,200.00	1,600
Systematization of the Experience	Study	1	17,000.00	<u>17,000.00</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Subtotal				<u>106,283.98</u>	<u>6,252</u>
PERDIEMS FOR RODENT POISON DISTRIBUTION					
3 technicians x 30 days	Trips	3	10,200.00	<u>30,600.00</u>	<u>1,800</u>
Subtotal				<u>30,600.00</u>	<u>1,800</u>
PROJECT PERSONNEL					
Project Coordinator	Month	5	14,450.00	72,250.00	4,250
Accounting Support	Month	5	4,250.00	21,250.00	1,250
Communicator	Month	3	10,200.00	30,600.00	1,800
Transportation for Coordinator	Trips	4	2,550.00	10,200.00	600
Per Diems for Coordinator	Months	4	1,700.00	6,800.00	400
Transportation for Communicator	Trips	8	2,550.00	20,400.00	1,200
Per Diems for Communicator	Trips	40	340.00	13,600.00	800
Cost of Transportation other staff	Months	4	4,250.00	<u>17,000.00</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Subtotal				<u>192,100.00</u>	<u>11,300</u>
RE-ASSESSMENT FOR DISTRIBUTION					
Subtotal		1	52,700.00	<u>52,700.00</u>	<u>3,100</u>
				<u>52,700.00</u>	<u>3,100</u>
TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES					
	Months	5	5,100	25,500.00	1,500
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES					
	Months	5	3,400	17,000.00	1,000
AUDIT	Unit	1	42,500	<u>42,500.00</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Subtotal				<u>59,500.00</u>	<u>3,500</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES				<u>2,758,283.98</u>	<u>162,252</u>

Exchange Rate: 1USD = 17.00