

PWR El Salvador NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Situation Report #7

Adverse event	Floods and mudslides caused by heavy rain
Date of occurrence	7-8 November 2009
Specific area of impact	Departments in the central part of El Salvador
Date of report	17 November 2009

1. Current situation:

Response activities are being concentrated on the recovery of water systems and epidemiological surveillance to prevent outbreaks of dengue, leptospirosis, diarrhea and other diseases.

According to the Ministry of Health, between 8 and 15 November, a total of 22,340 people received medical care at the shelters. The main cases treated include respiratory infections, skin infections, trauma, severe diarrhea, bacterial conjunctivitis and pneumonia.

The five departments affected by the emergency have reported confirmed and suspected cases of dengue—most of them classic.

The Ministry of Health also confirmed that 25 Health Units suffered damage. The cost of replacing the lost installations and equipment has been calculated at US\$3.7 million. An additional US\$6 million are needed to purchase medicines to treat the population affected by the emergency.

According to U.N. reports, US\$5.8 million have been pledged by bilateral agencies, U.N. agencies and NGOs.

The Ministry of Public Works, together with the Salvadorian Association of Engineers, has estimated the damage to the infrastructure at US\$870 million. This includes damage to bridges, highways, and water systems.

2. Impact of the event: (Information provided by Civil Defense)

Deaths: 196

Missing: Approximately 78 **People in shelters:** 13,371

No. of shelters: 85

Affected population: Approximately 75,000 (15,000 families).

3. Summary of general activities undertaken by the country:

- The recovery of roads and basic services infrastructure continues, including the reestablishment of drinking water service and electricity in the Central and Midcentral regions.
- The Salvadorian government, with the help of LSS/SUMA, has established three distribution centers for supplies in the most affected areas. Local personnel is also being trained in the use of this tool.

4. Summary of activities undertaken by the health sector:

- A pectoral technical health commission has been activated to define mechanisms and procedures for rapid response to the health needs of the affected population. Special attention is given to vulnerable groups. The strategies defined include:
 - o Focus on actions and definition of roles, in coordination with the institutions of the Technical Committee of Health.
 - o Coordination with Civil Protection at the national, departmental and municipal levels.
 - o Implementation of the plan based on a diagnosis of the situation and the human resources available at each institution.
 - Distribution resources affected areas as needed, defining responsibilities by institution.
 - o Management and coordination of resources for general medical care in mental health and environmental health.
 - o Epidemiological and environmental surveillance.
 - o Areas of intervention include general medical care and mental health.
 - Control of food and water quality
 - Vector and pest control
 - Basic sanitation
- Interventions in the hospital network: 1,830
- According to the Ministry of Health, between 22,340 people have received medical care at the shelters. The main cases treated include respiratory infections, skin infections, trauma, severe diarrhea, bacterial conjunctivitis and pneumonia.

5. Summary of activities undertaken by PAHO/WHO:

- The PAHO/WHO Representative, together with technical personnel, visited the department of San Vicente to assess the condition of health facilities and shelters.
- A workplan is being formulated based on the evaluations of the technical teams that visited the affected departments.
- More than 123,000 water bottles were purchased for the affected populations of La Paz, Cuscatlán and San Vicente; water distribution is a priority for PAHO/WHO.
- Medicines have been purchased to be used in shelters.

- Latrines were rented for a month to be used in the shelters of the most affected departments.
- Topographic maps were purchased for the Disaster Unit at the Ministry of Health.
- Fourteen international experts have been mobilized. They specialize in crisis management, damage assessment, communications, water and sanitation, LSS/SUMA, health services, and mental health.
- Three White Helmets from Argentina are assisting in the application of LSS/SUMA.
- PAHO/WHO has been coordinating activities with the Ministry of Health, other U.N. Agencies and NGOs working in the emergency.

6. Most urgent needs identified by PAHO/WHO:

- 1. Ensure treatment in:
 - Mental health
 - Sexual and reproductive health, in coordination with UNFPA
 - Food and nutritional security
 - General medical care
 - Rehabilitation of affected services
- 2. Support for epidemiological surveillance and outbreak control.
- 3. Support in environmental health management.
- 4. Support in the Management of humanitarian supplies.

Write to emergencia@els.ops-oms.org for additional information