



El Salvador News

El Salvador suffers the worst catastrophe in 40 years
Preliminary reports estimate \$ 840 million USD in losses and damages and
the need of approximately \$ 1,500 million USD for reconstruction



President Mauricio Funes is accompanied by the Heads of State of Central American: Alvaro Colom, Guatemala; Porfirio Lobo, Honduras; Laura Chinchilla, Costa Rica, and Samuel Santos Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua.

Panama, were also present to analyze the impact of the storms and issued appeal for international assistance to tackle the reconstruction.

President Funes expressed that a team of national experts trained by the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL, for its initials in Spanish), is carrying out the task of evaluating the damage. "To date, we estimate at \$840 million USD, approximately, the provisional total amount of direct damages suffered. This is about 4% of the Gross Domestic Product of El Salvador."

The region jointly agreed to convene an Advisory Group on 16 December in San Salvador to search out for cooperation to supplement the funds needed to recover from the millionaire damages to infrastructure, crops and the most vulnerable population.

President Mauricio Funes reported that early estimates of the damages, indicate the country will need at least \$1,500 million to recover. He added "I can say without any exaggeration, that we are experiencing the greatest disaster in the last forty years."

"At the end of this week, the government will be able to further adjust these figures that, again, are tentative," indicated the President to the other Central American Presidents and representatives.

President Funes added that the Ministry of Public Works officials estimate that 80% of public infrastructure in El Salvador has been affected.

As reported in our last publication, in the beginning of October, heavy rains associated with Tropical Depression 12E resulted in what is now believed to be one of El Salvador's worst catastrophes in the last forty years. The severe weather and the vulnerable conditions affecting the country, led President Mauricio Funes to declare State of National Emergency on October 14th, followed three days later, by the issuance of the Decree of State of Public Calamity and Disaster by Legislative Assembly of El Salvador.

To date, El Salvador continues to experience severe hardship due to the devastation left behind by the ravaging storms. The country has started assessing the magnitude of the damages, and has moved to the rehabilitation phase and planning for the reconstruction.

Though the Government of El Salvador has had full control of the mechanisms and devices to face this Emergency, the nature of the crisis required to call upon

the international community for humanitarian assistance to overcome this daunting disaster. (Read executive summary in page 4.)

Last October 24th, President Funes held an extraordinary meeting of Central American Secretariat of Integration (SICA for its Spanish Acronym) with the heads of State of the Northern Triangle, nations most affected by the storms, Guatemalan president Alvaro Colom; Honduran president, Porfirio Lobo.

The President of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua, Samuel Santos, and the delegate from

"El Salvador is the most devastated country in the region; the UN emergency call seeks to raise \$15.7 million to serve the affected population with food assistance, health systems and drinking water, in order to mitigate the effects of the storms in the areas of agriculture, education, health and protection of vulnerable areas, among others."

Mr. Roberto Valent, UN Resident Coordinator in El Salvador.

Secretary Ban Ki-moon offers to seek international cooperation for El Salvador's rehabilitation process

On October 27, the Secretary for Social Inclusion, Vanda Pignato and the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), Mr. Ban Ki-moon, met at the UN headquarters in New York City. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon offered to arrange an immediate search for international cooperation to address the rehabilitation process, following the severe damages caused in El Salvador by tropical Depression 12E.

During the meeting Secretary Pignato detailed the impact of the tragedy, as well as economic estimates of the disaster, and particular needs of international cooperation. "I invite you to visit my country and that way we can have the world see the Salvadoran tragedy." The UN Secretary expressed he would visit El Salvador as soon as possible to follow up on the call for international cooperation and verify the rehabilitation process.

The meeting between the two officials was held as an early response of the UN representative, following the call of support that United Nations made at their headquarters in Geneva on Tuesday, October 25. The United

Nations Resident Coordinator in El Salvador, Mr. Roberto Valent, made the request for international cooperation together with members of the cabinet of President Mauricio Funes' government.

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The "Flash Appeal" is the mechanism used



for structuring a humanitarian response coordinated during the first three to six months of an emergency. It provides an analysis of humanitarian needs and response plans with specific projects that have been prepared by the United Nations system in coordination with sectorial technical committees of the National Emergency Commission, to respond to the priorities established by the Government of El Salvador, which will alleviate the devastation caused by the rains.

President Bill Clinton highlights President Funes' efforts on the attention given to the emergency and calls upon the international community to assist El Salvador

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton and leader of the "Clinton Global Initiative" (CGI for its acronym in English) recognized President of the Republic of El Salvador, Mauricio Funes, for his strong performance in the attention given to the emergency declared in El Salvador, after the passage of Tropical Depression 12E through the Central American country.

The acknowledgment was made at the headquarters of the William J. Clinton Foundation in New York City, during a meeting between El Salvador's First Lady and Secretary for Social Inclusion, Vanda Pignato and the former United States president. In the meeting, the First Lady requested President Clinton's support in seeking international cooperation needed for the country's rehabilitation and reconstruction process El Salvador.

President Clinton in a letter recently sent to all members of the "Clinton Global Initiative," requested their solidarity with El Salvador and called upon their support to help them overcome this tragedy, which according preliminary estimates its the economic losses reach about \$ 840 million USD.



This global initiative, brings together over 300 members, among them heads of state, prominent businessmen, political leaders and important dignitaries who focus their energies on channeling humanitarian aid to those places in the world that have been affected by major disasters; such as the case of Haiti.

Secretary Pignato thanked President Clinton for all the support offered and invited him to visit El Salvador to see and learn more about the impact of the tragedy, committing him to do so as soon as possible.

Immediately after the meeting, President Clinton issued a video with statement launching a global message to all nations of the world to turn their attention to El Salvador

and Central America, urging to cooperate with the rehabilitation and reconstruction process.

Link to see the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJtQ7uTXeIQ>.

Executive Summary: Flash Appeal El Salvador 2011

- October 10th - Tropical Depression 12E arrives in El Salvador with unprecedented rainfall, accumulating more precipitation than those caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, surpassing the levels recorded in the last 50 years.
- Most affected areas: the coast and the volcanic mountain range, in the East and Midwest, historically most vulnerable to natural disasters.
- October 14, President Mauricio Funes Declared State of National Emergency for the entire nation.
- October 17, the Legislative Assembly declared State of Public Calamity and Disaster throughout the country for the next 60 days.
- The storms persistence created two low pressure systems, resulting in torrential stationary rains for over ten days, causing extensive flooding and landslides in the 14 departments.
- The record levels of rain caused all dams to reach their maximum capacity levels, triggering in some cases an increase in the discharge volume of 9,000 cubic meters per second, further flooding populated areas and crops in the lower of rivers.
- The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources' (MARN) data shows that in just eight days rainfall levels reached 1,500 mm.
- The storms left us with a death toll of 35, more than 55,976 people were evacuated to 638 shelters all over the country and over 300,000 Salvadorans affected.
- More than 20,000 homes were flooded, 1,183 wells were seriously affected and the damaged infrastructure continues to hamper access to affected areas due to roads blocked by debris or isolated by floods and landslides.
- Given the extent and magnitude of impact, and serious damage in every area, we are now facing one of the worst disasters our nation has experienced in the last forty years.
- El Salvador has the highest exposure to natural disasters. There is also a series of high impact natural hazards, among them earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, storms, floods, landslides and droughts, and the physical and socio-economic vulnerability, that make El Salvador the country with the highest risk in Latin America.
- Immediate actions taken by national and municipal authorities, and the community, prevented further loss of lives.
- October 31, President Mauricio Funes reported an estimate of \$ 840 million USD in losses and damages and the need of approximately \$ 1,500 million USD for reconstruction.
- Although the Salvadoran government is responding quickly and effectively to the crisis, there are still important gaps in humanitarian response that this appeal seeks to fill.
- This *Flash Appeal* is to solicit and mobilize the international community for additional support and complement government efforts in maintaining the basic rules of humanitarian aid to respond effectively to immediate humanitarian needs and the most vulnerable the devastation of livelihoods.
- The *Flash Appeal* also aims to fill gaps in targeted assistance to isolated communities that have so far received very little help.
- From the beginning of the disaster a nationwide coordinated effort with the participation of all humanitarian actors in the country, with the support and cooperation of the international community and the active participation of communities at the municipal level, has been in place to ensure the most effective way to move from the emergency to recovery and reconstruction. All projects presented in this Flash Appeal will maintain a coordinated approach, ensuring synergies and complementarities and economies of scale, with the active participation of all stakeholders.
- Strategic priorities for humanitarian response: a. emergency shelters, including management of collective centers; b. life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); c. meet immediate food needs of the population, and d. ensure access to primary and secondary health care to save lives, including psychological support detection and prevention of communicable disease outbreaks that may threaten life.
- The *Flash Appeal* also focuses on providing practical support and integral to the affected population so as to contribute to laying the foundations for sustainable recovery and reconstruction.



The Storms left severe devastation throughout the country.



Salvadorans living in the United States and Canada may contact 1-888-30-111-30 or visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Web site: www.rree.gob.sv/emergencia for more information and also to learn how to contribute.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS GROUPED BY CLUSTERS

Flash Appeal El Salvador
As October 23, 2011 - <http://fts.unocha.org>

Compiled by OCHA based on information provided by the applicant organizations

<i>Grupo/Sector</i>	<i>Requirements (\$)</i>
Agriculture	2,771,400
Education	1,256,612
Food Asistanse	4,617,272
Health	1,177,769
Protection and Security	984,266
Shelters	2,755,000
Water, Sanitation and Health	2,201,893
Grand Total	15,764,212



Iberoamerica stands in solidarity with Central American countries impacted by Tropical Depression 12E

The Latin American Ministers agreed to include in the Declaration of Asuncion, a statement of solidarity with the Central America tragedy and to support the efforts from countries due to the tragedy caused by Tropical Depression 12E and to support the efforts from countries in the isthmus to convene on December 16, 2011, for and advisory group to accompany the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

As representative of El Salvador and in his capacity as President Pro-Tempore of the Central American Integration System (SICA), Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Hugo Martinez, expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Central American countries for the solidarity express in the declaration. At the Summit the king of Spain, Juan Carlos, and the head of the Spanish government, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, stated their willingness to continue helping the region on its reconstruction efforts. On behalf of Colombia, Minister of Foreign Affairs Angela Holguín, also expressed the support of her government to the Central American region.



**STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY
IN EL SALVADOR**

