

# PWR El Salvador NATIONAL EMERGENCY Situation Report #9

Adverse event	Floods and mudslides caused by heavy rains originated by Tropical Storm Ida
Date of occurrence	7-8 November 2009
Specific area of impact	Departments in the central part of El Salvador
Date of report	24 November 2009

## **1. Current Situation:**

Civil Protection has announced that they are moving from the emergency phase to rehabilitation.

Until 22 November, the toll was 198 deaths, 77 missing, and 2,614 evacuations. The main diseases reported in the shelters are acute upper respiratory infections (75%), skin infections (10%), and anxiety (4%).

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

**Deaths:** 198

**Missing:** 77

**People in shelters:** 5,759, including 84 pregnant women and 40 people with special needs.

**No. of shelters:** 64.

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

## **3. Summary of general activities undertaken by the country**

- The Legislature passed a temporary law allowing the prompt legalization of the deaths of victims of the tragedy.
- The Ministry of Public Works has estimated that the damage to the country's infrastructure will reach US\$ 1 billion, including education, health and tourism. For reconstrucion, the Ministry will receive \$ 90 million from the reorientation of loans.
- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has offered a loan of US\$ 20 million for the implementation of water projects, housing, rural roads and bridges

#### **4. Summary of activities undertaken by the health sector:**

- The Sectoral Technical Health Commission has coordinated the work among its agencies working in the fields of medical care, epidemiological surveillance, environmental health, promotion and prevention and mental health.
- The Ministry of Health made a summary of intervention made during the emergency (8-22 November). There was a total of 26,382 interventions, of which 1.870 were at hospitals and 427 admitted patients.
- A total of 2,866 Ministry of Health employees were deployed, including doctors, nurses, health workers, environmental health inspectors, administrative, and others.
- The Mental Health Subcommittee planned mental health activities in the affected areas.
- There has been advance the implementation of the Situation/Sectoral Crisis Room, to which all participating agencies are providing information for updates.
- Guidelines have been developed for health promotion, an information plan, education and communication, for use in shelters and affected areas in general.
- Healthy habits for families are being promoted through lectures, interviews and distribution of educational materials to support the prevention of communicable diseases, with emphasis on hand washing, influenza and dengue.

#### **5. Summary of activities undertaken by PAHO/WHO:**

- Field visits have been made to verify the extent of damage in different affected areas.
- Coordination with the Ministry of Health and Public Assistance and NGOs supporting OXFAM for the installation of 17 water storage bubbles in the Department of La Paz.
- An epidemiologist is supporting the work of the Metropolitan Health Region.
- Support the entry of 1000 home water filters for OXFAM using the organization's exemption to support emergency care.
- LSS/SUMA professionals remain in the country supporting Civil Protection.
- Survey of the conditions of 122 water boards run by communities to identify damage and needs in affected areas.
- Support for active surveillance for fever and respiratory cases with brigades of MOH.
- A Health Systems and Services professional is working on the assessment of infrastructure.

## **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.

## **7. Funds assigned by PAHO/WHO for the emergency:**

PAHO/WHO has assigned US\$190,000 from the regular budget and emergency response funds from AECID, intended primarily for the supply of medicines, mental health care, safe water and latrines. In addition, PAHO has mobilized 14 human resources to provide support in water and sanitation, health services, mental health, information and social communication, coordination of response, supply management, active surveillance of cases, and economic assessment of impacts.

### Sources:

- Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance
- Civil Protection
- Graphic press digital version

Write to [emergencia@els.ops-oms.org](mailto:emergencia@els.ops-oms.org) for additional information

### Recommended links:

[www.mspas.gob.sv](http://www.mspas.gob.sv)  
[www.proteccioncivil.gob.sv](http://www.proteccioncivil.gob.sv)  
[www.nacionesunidas.org.sv](http://www.nacionesunidas.org.sv)  
[www.paho.org/desastres](http://www.paho.org/desastres)  
[www.snet.gob.sv](http://www.snet.gob.sv)