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Coordinating Office

# Appeal

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Venezuela

## Assistance to Flood Victims – LAVE01

**Appeal Target: US\$ 497,350**

***(Balance Requested from ACT Network – US\$ 162,273)***

Geneva, 5 January 2000

Dear Colleagues,

Incessant and heavy rainfall during the first two weeks of December 1999 triggered devastating flooding and landslides on 16 December. The National Assembly of Venezuela declared a state of emergency for the Federal District of Caracas along with eight other states. Many of the worst hit areas were those of the very poor and especially the shanty towns perched on steep mountain sides which were swept away in torrents of mud.

After communication with ACT members “Accion Ecumenica”, the Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches of Venezuela, the Pentecostal Evangelical Union, the Episcopal Church and Centro de Educacion Popular “Exeario Sosa Lujan” (CEPEXSOL) an ACT Emergency Committee was formed with the support of the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI).

On December 17 the ACT Coordinating Office provided US\$17,500 from the Rapid Response Fund to Ecumenical Action for ‘Crisis Response’ and US\$22,500 to the Lutheran Church on 23 December. ACT/Church World Service (CWS) provided a US\$20,000 blanket fund for provision of 2,000 blankets and 2,000 mattresses for displaced families relocated to Barquisimeto through its partner CEPEXSOL. A shipment of health kits, baby kits and medicines is being prepared by CWS. ACT/The Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) has sent US\$5,000 to the Prebysteran Church and US\$ 16,000 to ACT/CWS to cover transportation and consulting needs.

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ACT is a worldwide network of churches and related agencies meeting human need through coordinated emergency response.  
The ACT Coordinating Office is based with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Switzerland.

ACT/CWS/LWF put together an assessment team which was in Venezuela from 27 December to 2 January 2000. The team was composed by one representative from the Comision Cristiana de Desarrollo (CCD) in Honduras and one from the LWF office in El Salvador. The aim of this visit was to support the creation of the ACT committee in Venezuela, organization of activities and assessment of the needs.

In order to avoid further delays this appeal is being issued with an incomplete budget – to a large extent there is no break down of line items. An update/revision will be issued once this information has been received.

Please kindly send your contributions to the ACT bank account.

We would appreciate being informed of any intent to submit an application for EU funding, and the subsequent results. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

**For further information, please contact:**

ACT Co-ordinator, Miriam Lutz (phone 41 22 791 6033 or mobile phone ++ 41 79 203 6055)  
or ACT Latin America and Caribbean Appeals Officer, Elsa Moreno (phone +41 22 791 6031)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.act-intl.org>

Ms. Geneviève Jacques  
Director  
WCC/Cluster on Relations

Miriam Lutz  
ACT Coordinator

Rev. Rudolf Hinz  
Director  
LWF/World Service

## **I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBERS/IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**

- ◆ Lutheran Church of Venezuela
- ◆ Presbyterian Church of Venezuela
- ◆ Pentecostal Evangelical Union of Venezuela
- ◆ Accion Ecumenica
- ◆ Centro de Educacion Popular “Exeario Sosa Lujan” – CEPEXSOL

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION**

Fifteen days of constant and intense rainfall in Venezuela culminated, on 16 December, in extensive flooding and landslides in the Federal District of Caracas, as well as in the States of Miranda, Vargas, Nueva Esparta (The island Margarita), Yaracuy, Balcon Carabobo, Zulia and Tachira. Rivers overflowed their banks and swept through poor districts in the capital city of Caracas. The worst hit areas were those with shanty towns perched precariously on steep mountainsides where one third of the capital’s residents live.

The National Assembly of Venezuela declared a state of emergency for the federal district of Caracas and eight other states. It is estimated that 200,000 people were directly affected, 30,000 missing and more than 1,500 dead. Serious damages were reported to housing, transportation, electricity and communications infrastructures. National and international airports serving the Caracas metropolitan were closed. Landslides blocked the highway connecting Caracas to the airport and port areas of la Guaira in Vargas State.

### **Current situation**

A National Emergency Committee has been established under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, composed of infrastructure, social and communication sub-committees.

Government reports indicate that the first phase of the emergency (search and rescue) had been concluded, however, some areas in the state of Miranda are still isolated. 429 collective centers have been organized throughout the country, hosting a total of 35,170 persons. Many of these collective centers, particularly in the State of Caracas, are located in schools. The government has indicated the need to relocate the homeless as soon as possible as the School year is due to begin in mid January. Through a social program developed by the government some months ago, a reported 6,000 houses are available throughout the country and the possibility of hosting the affected population in these houses is being evaluated. The government has the responsibility to relocate the affected people but they have not yet defined the areas which could be rebuilt and the areas where people will be relocated.

According to the Vice Minister of Agriculture, approximately 35,000 hectares of farmland remain flooded affecting an estimated 3,600 rural families.

Electricity is slowly being restored throughout the affected area while water systems, in most cases, have not yet been repaired. A national health alert was launched by the government in order to limit the risk of epidemic outbreaks.

With the opening of the access routes in the State of Vargas, thousands of affected people have returned to their homes with the hope of finding family, friends or neighbours.

Heavy rains have restarted and the National Meteorological Center predicts that there is a potential threat to the Federal District and the States of Miranda, Vargas, Falcon, Anzoategui, Monagas, Nueva Esparta, Sucre, Yaracuy, Zulia, Aragua and Carabobo.

### Statistics

The following are provisional figures for the disaster compiled by the state governors

State	People affected	People dead	Homes affected	Houses Destroyed
Caracas	18.300	92	4.800	1.800
Vargas	215.000	198	40.200	21.000
Yaracuy	1.500	1	1.600	539
Falcon	80.160	3	15.000	539
Miranda	44.262	52	8.690	2.220
Zulia	7.200	1	1.200	500
Nueva Esparta	2.000	0	47	8
Anzoategui	50.800	2	9.600	Unknown
<b>Total</b>	<b>419.222</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>81.137</b>	<b>26.606</b>

### III. GOAL & OBJECTIVES

#### Goal

Provision of short-term emergency assistance to 1,000 vulnerable families affected by the floods in Venezuela.

#### Project Objectives

- ◆ Provision of food and potable water to people affected by the floods
- ◆ Mental health and psychological support to people affected by the floods
- ◆ Crisis management and disaster preparedness for the affected communities
- ◆ Reconstruction of infrastructure
- ◆ Support to the ACT/Venezuela Emergency Committee.

### IV. BENEFICIARY INFORMATION AND TARGETED AREAS

1,000 of the most vulnerable families affected by the floods in the Federal District of Caracas and the States of Vargas and Miranda.

### V. ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Co-ordinated emergency relief assistance for 1,000 families in the flood disaster areas working through local partners of the ACT/ Venezuela Emergency Committee.

- ◆ Provision of food supplies and potable water to people affected by the floods.
- ◆ Mental health and psychological support (using specialised professionals) to people affected by the floods.
- ◆ Crisis management and disaster preparedness through the training of social promoters in the affected communities.

- ◆ Reconstruction of infrastructure - due to the imminence of the beginning of the scholar year the first phase of the reconstruction will be to rehabilitate the schools which were affected by the floods. Housing reconstruction will be a second phase, after the government defines the plans for the relocation of the affected people and the areas where they will be allow to rebuild their homes.
- ◆ Support to the ACT/Venezuela Emergency Committee. An external consultancy is foreseen to support the activities of the ACT/Venezuela Emergency Committee in the post-crisis activities and to prepare the reconstruction plan.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, MONITORING, REPORTING**

ACT assistance will be executed by each implementing member of the appeal. The funds will be administered and managed through a special Executive Committee created by the ACT/Venezuela Emergency Committee. Monitoring of ACT appeal assistance and activities will be carried out by the ACT/Venezuela Emergency Committee while financial control of ACT appeal funds will be through a co-ordinator office created by the ACT Venezuela Emergency Committee.

ACT/Venezuela Emergency Committee will provide monthly updates concerning the emergency situation and the implementation of the assistance. A final narrative, statistical and financial report will be submitted to the ACT Coordinating office following completion of the project, in compliance with ACT Reporting guidelines.

## **VII. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

17 December 1999 – 31 March 2000

## **VIII. COORDINATION**

The ACT/Venezuela Emergency Committee will work in coordination with the CONACEM (The National Emergency Committee) and with community leaders, government authorities and other humanitarian organisations working in Venezuela for the attention of the disaster.

**IX. APPEAL BUDGET****ESTIMATED INCOME**

	<u>Total USD</u>
<b>Income Received - Cash through ACT Network</b>	
Anglican church of Canada	3,383
Lutheran World Relief	20,000
Danchurchaid	27,205
Presbyterian Church USA	200,000
Finnchurchaid	8,489
United Methodist Committee on Relief	20,000
<b>Income Received - Cash - Direct from Donors:</b>	
Church World Service (blanket funds)	20,000
Lutheran World Relief	5,000
Presbyterian Church USA	21,000
United Methodist Church	<u>10,000</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>335,077</b>

**ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE:**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>Number of Unit</u>	<u>Cost/Unit USD</u>	<u>Total USD</u>
<b>DIRECT ASSISTANCE</b>				
<b>Crisis Phase</b>				
<b>Food &amp; Non Food Relief</b>				
Food supplies and potable water	lump sum			220,000
Blankets	lump sum			20,000
Reconstruction of schools	lump sum			150,000
Mental & Psychological support	lump sum			<u>12,000</u>
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>402,000</b>
Crisis management & Disaster Preparedness	lump sum			<b>10,000</b>
<b>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</b>				
Vehicle	unit	1	15,000	15,000
Photocopier	unit	1	1,000	1,000
Computer	unit	1	2,000	<u>2,000</u>
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>18,000</b>
<b>PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION &amp; SUPPORT</b>				
<b>Salaries &amp; benefits</b>				
Coordinator	months	3	1,250	3,750
Administrative assistant	months	3	750	2,250
Secretary	months	3	450	1,350
Operations	lump sum			20,000
Consultancy and communications	lump sum			<u>40,000</u>
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>67,350</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>497,350</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>				<b>-162,273</b>



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Coordinating Office

## APPEAL FACT SHEET

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**Appeal Number:** LAVE01

**Appeal Name:** Assistance to Flood Victims

**Date Issued:** 5 January 2000

**Project Completion Date:** 31 March 2000

**Project Description:** The Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church and the Pentecostal Evangelical Union of Venezuela along with Accion Ecumenica and Centro de Educacion Popular "Exeario Sosa Lujan" – CEPEXSOL propose providing food assistance and potable water to the most vulnerable of the flood affected along with mental health and psychological. Rehabilitation of schools is also a priority due to the imminence of the start of the academic year. Reconstruction of homes is also planned once plans are decided where the affected should be relocated.

<b><u>Implementing Partner</u></b>	<b><u>Activity Description</u></b>	<b><u>Appeal Target (USD)</u></b>
Lutheran Church Presbyterian Church Pentecostal Evangelical Union Accion Ecumenica CEPEXSOL	Food, water, reconstruction/rehab., disaster preparedness, crisis management, psychological support	497,350

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**TOTAL APPEAL TARGET: \$ 497,350**

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**\*\*\* Pledges can be communicated to ACT by using the Appeal Pledge Form \*\*\***

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**Please send donations to:**

ACT - Action by Churches Together  
 Account Number: 102539/0.01.61  
 Banque Edouard Constant  
 Cours de Rive 11  
 Case postale 3754  
 1211 Genève 3  
 SWITZERLAND



**ACT**  
**International**

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# APPEAL PLEDGE FORM

(Please fax to the ACT Co-ordinating Office - Fax:++41 22 791 6506)

**Appeal Name:** Assistance to Flood Victims

**Appeal Number:** LAVE01

**Appeal Target:** US\$ 497,350

**Project Completion Date:**31 March 2000

**Contributing organization:** ..... **Telephone number:** .....

**Contact person:** .....

Signature

Date

## 1. Contributions to the ACT bank account: 102539/0.01.61

<b>Amount</b> <i>(indicate currency)</i>	<b>Expected Transfer Date</b>	<b>Other Details and Source of Funding</b> <i>(eg Own Funds, Government, Other)</i>
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

## 2. Contributions direct to an implementing partner:

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Appeal Component</b>	<b>Amount</b> <i>(indicate currency)</i>	<b>Expected Transfer Date</b>
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

## 3. Applications to back donors - Governments, ECHO, etc:

<b>Application Made to</b>	<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Appeal Component</b>	<b>Amount</b> <i>(indicate currency)</i>
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....