

# Rapid Response Fund Payment Request No.2/2016

**Funds Sent To: Hora de Obrar**

**Amount Sent: USD 35,100**

**Date: 21 April 2016**

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## Details of Response

**Emergency: TORNADO IN DOLORES / URUGUAY**

**Date of Emergency: 15 Abril 2016**

**ACT Requesting Member(s): Hora de Obrar**

### I. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

#### DETAILS OF THE EMERGENCY

On Friday, 15 April at 16:30 h. a tornado struck the city of Dolores, in Soriano Department. Dolores is 15 km. from the Uruguay River in the southwest of the country. No meteorological warnings were received. Dolores has about 20,000 inhabitants. The tornado, considered as Force 3, divided the city in two, from West to Northeast, destroying everything in its path in a swath 800 m. wide. Three schools, one daycare center, two public secondary schools, one technical institute and a hospital were seriously damaged by the storm, as were approximately 1,200 houses and other buildings. Some structures continue to be at risk of collapse. Electricity had not been restored at the time of this report (April 20), and no estimate is yet available as to when service will be restored. It is estimated that one third of the population has been affected. To date, 4 deaths, twelve persons missing and more than 500 injured have been reported. Most of the casualties were children who were in classes when the storm hit. Furthermore, the San Salvador River, on whose banks Dolores is built, has flooded because of heavy rains that have been falling for the last 20 days. This means that those who have suffered flood damage must be added to the number of people that have suffered death, injury or property damage because of the tornado. Houses located along the banks of the river, as well as those located in the river's flood plain are under water. If the rains continue, both the tornado victims and the flood victims will have little chance of saving any of their household belongings. In addition, the flooding may lead to the spread of the water-borne diseases typical of these situations. Communication has not yet been restored; the tornado destroyed the communication tower of ANTEL, the state telecommunications provider. Cell phone batteries cannot be recharged because electricity is not available.

**ACTIONS TO DATE, AND EMERGENCY NEEDS**

The local Emergency Committee began to work immediately, both the regional and national governments immediately sent aid. The local police force has been reinforced and army troops have been called in to prevent looting and to guarantee public order. An army base is nearby. Clothing, food, mattresses and blankets have been distributed to affected persons. Two warehouses belonging to local businesses have been taken over by the regional government to receive donations of building materials and other aid. The national government has set up special bank accounts to receive cash donations specifically for this emergency. Crews of public employees and volunteers are clearing rubble from streets and sidewalks, as well as removing fallen trees, cables, etc. to allow traffic to circulate again. As of today (April 20) traffic is able to circulate again with relative freedom. The hospital and two private clinics were affected by the tornado, but are offering health services as they are able, helped by personnel, medicines and medical supplies sent by neighboring communities.

**PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE****OVERALL GOAL:**

Attend to the basic needs of 500 families affected by the tornado mainly with water and sanitation due the floods, water contamination and loss of water sources.

**OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE:**

1. Collaborate in restoring sewage and water systems for the affected population.
2. Provide psychosocial support to the inhabitants of Dolores.

**PROPOSED ASSISTANCE:**

In WASH, the affected population in the disaster-hit area will be the primary beneficiaries. Those from adjacent areas will also be considered to control any outbreak or epidemic. Priority is given to households where the health department is unable to provide adequate resources based on their need for assistance. Families with poor access to water supply and sanitation will be prioritized as well as families suffering from water borne and vector borne diseases as a result of floods.

A committee of the local Waldensian Church will collaborate in psychosocial support and emotional health in coordination with the Emergency Committee of the city to determine the priority families. One of the members of the psychosocial community of practice will train and advise the local committees.

**TARGET POPULATIONS:**

500 families affected with health, sanitation issues and lack of access to clean water.

1,200 people with stress symptoms due the strong tornado and the subsequent floods will be involved in psychosocial support. Many local citizens are still in a state of shock and are not yet prepared to work for the healing of the community until they have experienced a certain level of healing

A first evaluation indicates that between 7 and 8,000 people of all ages and genders have been affected. Many children under 10 years of age were affected because they were in the schools or the daycare center that were heavily damaged.

**IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS:**

This RFF is requested by and will be implemented and monitored by the Fundación Protestante Hora de Obrar (FPHdO), member of ACT. FPHdO is working in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, but they are in process to have a bank account in Uruguay. For this reason, actions in the field will be carried out by the Evangelical Waldensian Church of Río de la Plata (Iglesia Evangélica Valdense del Río de la Plata -IEVRP-), who are present in Dolores and are members of the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI), a member of ACT. FPHdO and IEVRP have agreed on the distribution of tasks: IEVRP will implement the actions while FPHdO will provide administrative, technical assistance and monitoring.

**COORDINATION:**

The ACT Argentina Forum is present through the IEVRP. (The IEVRP has congregations in both Argentina and Uruguay). The IEVRP congregation in Dolores will be the implementing party on the ground.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

FPHdO will work with the Secretary of Communication in IEVRP to ensure that information about the project is shared amongst ACT members and other stakeholders within and outside Uruguay and Argentina. Information will be posted on the IEVRP website: [www.iglesiavaldense.com](http://www.iglesiavaldense.com), and [www.horadeobrar.org.ar](http://www.horadeobrar.org.ar)

**PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS:**

Being members of ACT Alliance, FPHdO will ensure ACT Alliance Code of Conduct will be adopted and respected for all staff participant in this project. Both organizations will adopt the International Code of Conduct for the Red Cross and Red Crescent that provides minimum standards in humanitarian response.

The following principles will guide the implementation of the project:

Sharing information: participants and other stakeholders have access to timely, relevant and clear information about the organization, the project and its activities, project details (goals, objectives, expected results, inputs or resources, timeframe); staff roles and responsibilities; criteria for selecting target groups.

Participation: The community will be engaged in a participatory process to come up illegible beneficiaries (targeting). Using the rights based approach, the community, local leaders, will engage with community in an open and transparent manner regarding the targeting mechanisms that will be locally used. The project will make deliberate efforts to ensure that women and other vulnerable groups are not left out from benefiting from the relief items.

Handling complaints: targeted beneficiaries and other stakeholders would have the right and mechanism to complaint and receive a response through an effective, accessible and safe process. Information (including telephone numbers) about the suggested complaints handlers will therefore be made available to the communities.

**PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:**

3 months

**HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS:**

FPHdO is responsible for the administration of funds. For Argentinian restrictions FPHdO sign an agreement with IEVRP to receive the funds directly in Uruguay. The agreement between FPHdO and IEVRP has signed in order to facilitate the funds transfer from Geneva, the operational to IEVRP and the administrative-monitoring to FPHdO. A joint committee is assuming responsibility for the operation of the requested funds and will only be disbursed as needed to assure that they are used for their intended purpose.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION :**

The FPHdO has a Secretary of Projects that will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the use of funds received for this emergency, as the funds are disbursed. The FPHdO will supervise these actions and will be responsible for an external audit of same.

## REPORTING SCHEDULE

Type of Report	Due date
Situation report	At the end of the first month following the emergency
Final narrative and financial report	30 September 2016
Audit report	30 October 2016

## I. FINANCIAL SUMMARY/BUDGET

	Type of	No. of	Unit Cost	RRF Budget
	Unit	Units	<i>local currency</i>	USD
<b>DIRECT COST (LIST EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR)</b>				
Water and sanitation				25,000
Psychosocial support				5,000
<b><u>Other Sector Related Direct Costs (List expenditure by sector)</u></b>				
Bank charges				600
<b>TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE</b>				<b>30,600</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COST</b>				<b>30,600</b>
<b>AUDIT, MONITORING &amp; EVALUATION</b>				
Audit of ACT RRF	Estimate			1,500
Monitoring & Evaluation	Estimate			3,000
<b>TOTAL AUDIT, MONITORING &amp; EVALUATION</b>				<b>4,500</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>35,100</b>

## ACTION

The ACT Secretariat has approved the use of US\$ 35,100 towards the budget from its Rapid Response Fund and would be grateful to receive contributions to wholly or partially replenish this payment. Should there be an appeal for this emergency, the RRF payment will be considered as an advance.

### For further information please contact:

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