

Alert note*El Salvador, Tropical Storm Pilar, November 1, 2023***Completed by:** Mercedes Palacios / Forum Coordinator**End Date:** November 8, 2023**Forum:** El Salvador**Emergency Type:** Tropical Storm, Flooding**Emergency date (if started quickly):** October 31, 2023 / November 2, 2023**1. The nature of the emergency**

Since the 30th of October, Tropical Storm Pilar (TS Pilar) has caused heavy rains and flash flooding, pouring between 144.5 and 210.0 mm of rain in the first 11 hours of the meteorological phenomenon. It rained the equivalent of the entire month of November. Given these conditions, the likelihood of flash floods in rivers and streams, urban flooding, landslides, and falling rocks and trees is high^{1,2}. As of November, at least three people died while more than 500 others were evacuated³.

**2. The impact and scale of the emergency**

The government has activated the emergency systems by issuing a nationwide red alert on October 29 and declaring a 15-day national state of emergency. The country has suspended classes nationwide until

¹ [2023.11.01 SITUATION REPORT TROPICAL STORM PILAR N° 003 - 31 Oct to 01 Nov 2023.pdf](#)

² [2023.11.06 SITUATION REPORT TROPICAL STORM PILAR N° 005 - 02 to 03 Nov 2023 ok.pdf](#)

³ <https://ercportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ECHO-Products/Echo-Flash#/daily-flash-archive/4923>

November 1 for public, private and higher education institutions. The Government of El Salvador has pre-equipped 100 shelters in different areas with the capacity to shelter more than 8,000 people. In a rapid assessment conducted by FECORACEN⁴, local producers have reported serious impacts on their livelihoods and agricultural production crops. In certain areas of the country, up to 75% of bean crops and up to 50% of corn crops have experienced remarkable damage.

According to members of the Agricultural, Rural and Indigenous Roundtable, the effects of the damage caused to corn and bean crops by the passage of Storm Pilar will be felt at the beginning of next year, stating that there will be an increase in the price of products in the basic basket⁵. The harvest season for beans will be deeply affected as the crops have been underwater in the last few days, which will result in significant losses for rural producers and their families. Artisanal fishermen and small tourism ventures on the coasts in lakes, lagoons, and rivers were also affected by the suspension of work due to the risk involved.

Information at local level is almost non-existent and few humanitarian organizations are conducting rapid needs assessments. The members of ACT Alliance are carrying out a detailed damage and needs assessment in the communities most affected by the TS Pilar.

3. Local and national capacity

Since the alert declaration from the government, 14 Civil Protection Departmental Commissions were instructed to convene their members and activate their departmental plan to support the Civil Protection Municipal Commissions in their jurisdiction. Coordinators of sectoral technical commissions were instructed to activate their commissions and crisis rooms, and the respective links to the national crisis room were sent. To maintain control of operations, the Civil Protection Directorate-General's Crisis Room has been activated, in which the alternate liaisons of the Sectorial Technical Commission (STC) were present. Activities of the National Monitoring Centre were reinforced to efficiently manage the information from the different territorial and sectorial commissions, and the civil protection delegations in the territory.

As of November 5, the National Directorate of Shelters (DNA in Spanish) reported 24 active shelters for 703 people (261 families), wherein 2,441 healthcare services and interventions have been provided. In addition, packages of water have been delivered to affected population as well.

Members of the ACT Forum El Salvador such as Christian Aid, the Christian Association for Education and Development, the Lutheran World Federation, the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod and the CREDHO Association are currently in the field and plan to provide support.



LWF delivers water to affected families in a shelter.

Municipalities of San Miguel, Usulután, and Ahuachapán have approached the ACT Forum El Salvador to request humanitarian aid, as well as some government institutions such as the Crecer Juntos Institute. OCHA's office in El Salvador is coordinating the response in conjunction with NGOs and the National Civil Protection System.

4. Key needs and gaps

⁴ Federation of Agrarian Reform Cooperatives Central Region

⁵ [Damage to bean crops due to storm Pilar will be felt in April and May 2024 - YSUCA, 91.7 FM](#)

The National Civil Protection System has delivered 200 kitchen kits, 200 food kits, 200 family hygiene kits, 200 clothes kits, 200 sanitation and water kits, 100 baby hygiene kits, cleaning supplies, and 200 biosecurity kits for families sheltered until November 1, 2023

Despite the lack of information from the communities, the government and ACT Forum members have estimated that the more pressing humanitarian needs are related to the sectors of food security and nutrition, WASH, Psychosocial support, especially for children and women, and livelihoods. Cash transfer has also been identified as feasible for this response.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

| | Indicate your intent with an X below |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Rapid Response Fund (<i>for small and medium-scale emergencies</i>) | X |
| Appeal (<i>for large-scale emergencies</i>) | |

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

| ACT Member | Geographic Focus | Areas of expertise | Support Required | Estimated Budget Range |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Salvadoran Lutheran Synod | San Salvador, San Miguel, Usulután, Cuscatlán, La Paz, Morazán, Sonsonate | CASH, CBPS, protection, WASH | Financial | USD 150,000 |
| ALFALIT | La Paz, Ahuachapán, San Miguel, Usulután, San Salvador, La Unión | CASH, CBPS, protection, WASH | Financial | USD 150,000 |
| Total | | | | USD 300,000 |

Although members' activities overlap in some departments, the communities are different, the families will be reviewed together to avoid duplication.

5. 5. Potential responses

The Salvadoran Lutheran Synod and ALFALIT have been serving communities since 1980 and have offices throughout the country, with 40 well-trained employees providing support across the country. The Forum EPRP has been updated and organization members have internal regulations in place and have a strategic plan until 2026. All ACT policies and protocols are followed and enforced by forum members. The Forum has experience in the implementation of emergency projects aligned with quality and accountability standards such as Sphere Standards and, CHS, with internal and external monitoring and evaluation processes.

The Salvadoran Lutheran Synod and ALFALIT are seeking to submit an RRF proposal to alleviate the most humanitarian needs based on the Damage and Needs Assessment being currently conducted in the targeted communities. The project foresees providing humanitarian services in the sectors of CASH, CBPS, protection, and WASH to reach 100 families in the 20 most affected municipalities (4,000 people; 2,040 women and 1,960 men).

This intervention will be focused on the recovery of the livelihoods of the most affected population to mitigate food insecurity and malnutrition in the most vulnerable groups; psychosocial support will also be provided to individuals and families who need it the most. It is estimated that a budget of approximately USD 300,000 is required to develop and provide optimal humanitarian support.

