



Rapid Response Fund

ACT Secretariat Approval

Project Code 13/2023

Project Name Humanitarian response to the population affected by Tropical Storm Pilar in El Salvador

The ACT Secretariat has approved the use of **USD 300,000** from its Global Rapid Response Fund (GRRF2023) and would be grateful to receive contributions to wholly or partially replenish this payment.

For further information please contact:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cyra'.

Cyra Michelle Bullecer
Global Humanitarian Operations Manager
ACT Alliance Secretariat

Project Proposal

Emergency Prepared and Response Plan	
Do you have an EPRP	Yes
When was the last update?	September 2023
Do you have a Contingency Plan for this response?	No
EPRP link on the online platform	No

Please submit this form to the Regional Humanitarian Programme Officer of your region with a copy to the Regional Representative	Date submitted to ACT Secretariat 10-Nov-23
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Section 1 Project Data

Project Information		
Project Name	Humanitarian response to the population affected by Tropical Storm Pilar in El Salvador	
Project Code	13/2023	
Country Forum	El Salvador	
ACT Requesting Member <i>(if there are more than one member, please use ALT+<Enter> to add another member)</i>	Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (SLS) Asociación Cristiana de Educación y Desarrollo (ALFALIT)	
Name of person leading the project	Mercedes Palacios	
Job Title	ACT Forum El Salvador Coordinator	
Email	mercedes.palacios@lutheranworld.org	
Whatsapp/Signal/Telegram/Skype	(503) 7859 9316	
Location(s) of project (city / province)	Requesting member	Locations (Department and municipalities)
	SLS	San Miguel: San Miguel and San Rafael Oriente. Usulután: Jiquilisco, Santa María, los Calix and Puerto Ávalos San Salvador: Soyapango, El Paisnal and Guazapa. Chalatenango: Nueva Concepción Sonsonate: Sonsonate and Cuisnahuat Cuscatlán: Suchitoto La Paz: El Rosario La Unión: Santa Rosa de Lima and Yayantique Morazán: Perquin, Chilanga, Jocoatique, Meanguera, Delicias de Concepción, Joateca, Tórtola, Arambala and Cacaopera Santa Ana: Chalchuapa, El Coco and Galeano.
	ALFALIT	La Paz: Santiago Nonualco, San Pedro Nonualco, San Pedro Masahuat, San Juan Nonualco and Sacatecoluca Usulután: Jiquilisco La Unión: La Unión San Salvador: Rosario de Mora
Project start date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/11/2023	
Project end date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/04/2024	

Which sectors your response activities most relate to
(please indicate number of planned beneficiaries per organisation in each sector where you plan to give assistance)

Sectors	SLS		ALFALIT	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cash/ Vouchers	692	1040	704	1056
Camp Management				
Education				
Food/Nutrition				
Health				
Household items				
Livelihood				
Psychosocial		200		175
Shelter				
Wash		200		200

Section 2 Project Description

2.1 Context

1. CHS Commitment 1. Summarize the crisis event and how it is likely to develop over the duration of the project (maximum 5 bullet points)

- Tropical Storm Pilar brought heavy rainfall and flash flooding, pouring between 144.5 and 210.0 mm of rain. In the first 11 hours of the weather phenomenon, it rained the equivalent of the entire month of November.
- The government activated emergency systems, issuing a nationwide red alert on October 29 and decreeing a national state of emergency for 15 days from that date, and classes were suspended nationwide until November 1.
- The Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Development reported the pre-equipping of 100 pre-equipped shelters to shelter more than 8,000 nationwide.
- The Humanitarian Country Team maintained permanent monitoring of the evolution of the situation through the different media of government institutions and the U.S. National Hurricane Centre, the organizations are still carrying out a survey of available supplies for the humanitarian response.

2. CHS Commitment 1,2,3,4. Explain the impact of the crisis specific to the people you want to help (maximum 5 bullet points)

- Both the Federation of Agrarian Reform Cooperatives of the Central Region (FECORACEN in Spanish) and the Salvadoran Chamber of Small and Medium Agricultural Producers (CAMPO in Spanish) report that the losses of livelihoods and agricultural production crops amount to up to 75% of beans and 50% of corn, which will imply an increase in the price of products in the basic basket. They estimate the losses amount to \$22.2 million, of which \$15.2 million correspond to bean crops and \$7 million to corn.
- The assessment carried out by the ACT Forum reaffirms that losses in certain areas can reach up to 100% of beans. This is because the grain that was in full maturity spent 4 continuous days underwater because of the storm and that was a total blow to the crops. In addition, food insecurity, which 8 months of this year reached 52% of the population due to the high prices of basic basket products and agricultural inputs, has been exacerbated by the losses derived from the storm.
- The National Directorate of Shelters (DNA in Spanish) reported 24 functioning shelters based on 703 evacuees and 2,441 health care and interventions. According to reports from the Ministry of Labor, there are more than 6 thousand people from 26 villages and five islands located in one of the five most vulnerable municipalities of Usulután. Other of the most affected departments are San Salvador, La Libertad, Sonsonate, San Miguel, Usulután, La Paz and La Unión, 7 of the 14 departments that make up the country.
- The National Directorate of Civil Protection registered 334 emergencies attended, among the main ones: 25 landslides, 9 rescues, 15 injured, 3 deaths, 2 missing, 9 damaged vehicles, 135 fallen trees, 15 gullies, 3 houses destroyed, 35 homes flooded, 66 homes affected and 15 buildings destroyed, 19 landslides, 2 rivers overflowed, 1 bridge destroyed and 1 affected, 12 communities without electricity, 2 communities without telephone communication and 90 streets affected.
- People living in poverty who were affected by Storm Pilar are at increased risk of violence, exploitation or abuse and require responses that directly address their needs, especially children and women. These vulnerable groups may be at risk of unsafe means of transport and threats of exploitation by smugglers, migrant smugglers or unscrupulous officials, or individuals who want to take advantage of the complex situation in which families live.

3. CHS Commitment 9. Explain the availability of funding each of your organisation can access for this crisis. (maximum 3 bullet points)

SLS and ALFALIT, as members of the ACT El Salvador Forum, do not have funds available to respond to the population identified in the intervention areas that have been affected by Tropical Storm Pilar. Faced with this situation and recognizing the urgency of providing emergency assistance based on the needs assessment carried out, the requesting members present the proposal of the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) in order to address the needs of the vulnerable population that requires humanitarian assistance. However, the members of the Forum - Christian Aid, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Asociación de Concientización para la Recuperación Espiritual y Económica del Ser Humano (CREDHO), ALFALIT and SLS - have made available to the humanitarian response the necessary personnel and equipment for monitoring, damage and needs assessment and coordination with local and national actors.

2.2 Activity Summary

1. CHS Commitment 1, 2, 4. Explain your proposed project and why you have selected this particular response to the crisis. If multiple members are responding, please explain the role of each member in the coordinated response as indicated in your EPRP Contingency

This project seeks to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the population affected by Tropical Storm Pilar, through cash assistance addressing food access. Psychosocial support will also be given and the distribution of hygiene kits for women and girls. It also seeks to strengthen capacities on disaster risk reduction.

The SLS and ALFALIT will be the direct implementers of the project, with the support of professional staff from LWF El Salvador, Christian Aid and CREDHO in terms of coordination, quality programming and monitoring.

The project will last 4.5 months and will reach 873 families (3,492 people) affected by Tropical Storm Pilar, through the provision of humanitarian services and subsequent actions that were previously consulted at the community level:

Cash: According to the rapid needs assessment carried out with the affected communities, where the agricultural vocation is predominant, many people have suffered the loss of their harvests and livelihoods: 90% of the participating population reported losses in their agricultural production, and about 40% reported losses ranging from 50% to 95%; while 11% declare that they have suffered a total loss in their crops. In addition to the situation identified, it is noted that the prices of the basic basket in 2023 have increased by 10% compared to 2022, according to the Central Reserve Bank's report on Consumer Price Indexes, which exacerbates the food insecurity of these families. It is important to mention that the disaster occurred at the end of the year, and according to the Salvadoran Chamber of Small and Medium Agricultural Producers (CAMPO), another rise of commodity prices is expected for 2024, and, consequently, the situation of food insecurity of the affected families will last beyond the response to the emergency, especially during the first months of next year.

SLS and ALFALIT plan to deliver cash transfer of USD200 in two tranches in November and January, for 873 families with an average of four members per family. The calculation of the amount is based on the monetary estimate necessary to cover the maintenance basket for one month, in accordance with what is established as Emergency Food Basket within the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team. Delivering cash in two tranches was suggested by the communities based on the spending habits during December and January where it ensures families will have cash after the holidays when spending is high. It is also expected that commodity prices will increase in January.

The forum will proceed as follows to respond to the situation of food insecurity affecting families:

1. Selection of beneficiaries based on a set criterion.
2. Signing of an agreement with the Agricultural Development Bank (BFA in Spanish), which establishes dates and amount of the disbursement, template to the bank or supplier with the name of the beneficiaries (with complete data), identity document, bank branch according to the established geographical area.
3. Monitoring during the delivery of cash, ensuring the effective delivery.
4. During the monitoring, attendance lists, photographs, life stories and short videos will be collected with consent.

Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS): The project contemplates the strengthening of communities through community-based psychosocial support processes where work will be done as follows:

1. Cases will be identified prioritizing children, women and the elderly, and the degree of impact of the event on their mental health will be evaluated.
2. Based on the needs identified, we will work with focus groups and/or individual attention, addressing topics such as suicide, emotions and emotional management, stress and stress management, grief accompaniment, psychological first aid, normal reactions to humanitarian crisis situations, self-care and care of people and community resilience.

Resources developed by the ACT Alliance's Psychosocial Support Community of Practice will be taken from the context and adapted to the context if necessary.

Protection: GbV survivors identified through CBPS sessions will be supported through a case-management mechanism and when needed, critical cases will be referred to the State Protection institutions.

WASH: An awareness-raising activity will be held on menstrual hygiene and GBV prevention and care, in which 250 dignity kits for women will be delivered, thus ensuring that women and girls have access to menstrual hygiene products and other personal hygiene items for a month, based on the recommendations by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the WASH cluster. The focus on women for the basic dignity kits is based on the recognized vulnerability of this group to emergency situations.

Capacity building: A fund of USD 2331 (equivalent to 0.77% of the total budget) has been set aside for the development of the Forum's capacities, where CHS and Sphere update days will be held with the ACT Forum organization members' staff. This will strengthen capacities and quality in future responses. Finally, a campaign for Disaster Risk Reduction will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior and the Mayor's Office of Santa Ana, the main action will be focused on the protection and cleaning of the Shutia River located in that municipality, with this

2. CHS Commitment 2. Explain how you will start your activities promptly. *Project implementation should start within two weeks. The project should be a maximum of 6 months.*

The project will begin with the following actions in a period of 2 weeks:

- Elaboration of the terms of reference for the hiring of a person who will have the role of general coordinator of the project, an inter-institutional committee will be formed for the interviews, evaluation and selection of the person who will occupy the position, ALFALIT will be the organization that will manage this process.
- Meetings between the ACT El Salvador Forum and the communities that will participate in the project, where general information will be shared about the policies of the ACT Alliance, the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS), the Code of Conduct, and the mechanism for the prevention of gender-based violence, which will also plan and coordinate the logistics for the different activities.
- In the different community meetings, the groups that will be attended in the CBSP process will be formed, also defining the methodology to be implemented.
- Selection of the families participating in the project, according to the established criteria
- An agreement will be established with the Agricultural Development Bank (BFA in Spanish) for the delivery of cash. This delivery mechanism has been used in the past and has been effective, as the BFA has branches throughout the country, making it easy to deliver cash.

3. CHS Commitment 6. How are you co-ordinating and with whom? *Coordination ensures complementarity of interventions within forum members and other humanitarian actors to maximise the use of our resources and will address all unmet needs*

Coordination has been established at the community level with municipal and religious leaders, local governments, and community organizations, in order to establish constant communication and follow-up to ensure adequate identification and selection of beneficiary families. Coordination at the central government level is carried out through the members of the Forum who are part of the Ministry of the Interior's sectoral technical commission on shelters, with the aim of supporting campaigns on awareness and care for natural assets to contribute to disaster risk reduction.

In addition, the ACT El Salvador Forum has decided that, after the analysis of needs, capacity and scope, this response would be led by ALFALIT and the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod, and with the support of a technical team composed of staff from ALFALIT, SLS, Christian Aid, CREDHO and the LWF. International organizations will provide technical support and accompaniment to strengthen the capacities of national members in programmatic quality, monitoring, and accountability.

4. CHS Commitment 3, 9. Where are you planning to procure your goods or services? Please tick boxes that apply. *Goods and services procured locally supports and revitalises economic activity either as livelihood for people or income for small businesses.*

Locally or within the affected areas	X	Nationally	X	Regionally or neighbouring countries		International	
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Do you have a procurement policy? What factors did you consider when you made this decision?

The requesting members adapted the LWF's Procurement Manual (member of the ACT Alliance) within the framework of the project "Emergency Response for Hurricane Julia", this instrument is consistent with the institutional policies of each member organization and the ACT Alliance, which will be the basis for the implementation of joint projects that guarantee transparent purchases with local and national suppliers. The Forum's Purchasing Committee will be responsible for analysing the quotations and determining from which supplier the products will be purchased, taking into account the following criteria: price, quality, quantity, packaging, delivery time, and transportation.

2.3 Description of Target Population

1. CHS Commitment 1, 9. How do you calculate the beneficiary numbers for this project? *For example, food and hygiene kits given to 2500 families, and 1 family = x beneficiaries. - Nuvia*

873 households will benefit, representing a total of 3,492 people:

The selection of these beneficiaries is prioritized under the following criteria:

1. Farmers who have lost more than 45% of their crops.
2. People with chronic illnesses
3. Women heads of household who are primarily responsible for family income and household care.
4. Families with people with disabilities and children
5. People in migratory processes as returnees or displaced persons with high vulnerability.
6. Day labourers who, due to crop losses, lost their jobs
7. Families economically dependent on subsistence agriculture and other livelihoods

2. CHS Commitment 1, 2, 3, 4. Which vulnerable groups are you specifically targeting? What makes them vulnerable?

Priority will be given to families who have not yet received humanitarian assistance, including:

1. Subsistence farmers who lost all or part of their crops because their crops were flooded, affecting their families' food security.
2. Women heads of household with families made up of children and adolescents, who depend on their crops and/or agricultural work as a means of livelihood since they lost their source of income when they lost their crops.
3. Older adults and people with disabilities whose livelihoods were affected.
4. Affected families who totally or partially lost their main livelihoods, either through informal trade and/or small household enterprises.

3. CHS Commitment 4. Explain how the target population has been/is involved in your proposed intervention *(maximum 5 bullet points)*

The ACT Forum El Salvador prepares and constantly updates the processes to operationalize the policies of ACT Alliances with community leaders where the member organization has a presence through its diakonia and the implementation of development projects. Community leaders also receive training on the mechanisms of the code of conduct, accountability, and needs assessment for the collection of data from the affected population during emergencies due to weather events, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or socio-political conflicts. A needs assessment was carried out with families and communities, prioritizing those most affected for humanitarian response, establishing coordination mechanisms with local actors for the delivery of humanitarian aid and not duplicating efforts. For the implementation phase, they will coordinate with beneficiary families to ensure compliance with the intervention as stipulated by the CHS. It should be noted that, at the beginning of the project, information sessions will be held with the communities to inform about the components, policies and humanitarian and gender standards under which the implementation of the project will be based, at the end of the project a workshop will be held to evaluate good practices and lessons learned, this process will be led by ALFALIT and LWF and includes a budget for food and mobilization of the target population of the entire project.

2.4 Expected Results

1. What will this project's success look like based on your time frame? *Please write your activities milestones including dates.*

The success of this humanitarian response will be to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups, helping to guarantee their rights and most urgent needs. Specifically, the project will improve women's food and nutrition security, rehabilitate livelihoods, improve women's mental health and hygiene, and contribute to the prevention of gender-based violence.

Activities	Star and end dates	Month			
		Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
1. Planning for the project	Nov. 15 to 22, 2023				

2. Identification and selection of the target population according to the established criteria.	Nov. 15 to 22, 2023				
3. Signing of contracts and Code of Conduct and Good Practices, quotations and purchases.	Nov. 22 to 29, 2023				
4. Preparation and distribution of the first cash transfer	Nov. 27 to Dec. 8, 2023				
5. Preparation and implementation of Community-Based Psychosocial Support processes	Dec. 1, 2023 to Feb. 28, 2024				
4. Preparation and distribution of the fsecond cash transfer	Jan 10 to 20, 2024				

2. Describe the risks to a successful project and how you are managing them.

Social insecurity: The risk will be managed through coordination with municipal authorities and at the local level with boards of directors, community leadership and local churches in each community to intervene, in addition, actions will be planned during daylight hours to avoid the risks of criminal groups, as well as provide transportation, identification of personnel by means of card.

Climate-bond situations: As part of the actions, it includes training the staff of the ACT Forum organization members on the protection of natural resources and resilience, which allows for reducing the risks of disasters derived from climate change and other socio-environmental threats.

Exception regime: Since El Salvador is under this regime, actions such as the communication of alerts, event schedules, management of daytime schedules and generation of certificates of participation in the different processes are considered.

2.5 Monitoring, Accountability & Learning

1. CHS Commitment 7. Describe how you will monitor the project. What monitoring tools and process will you use? How will you gather lessons from the project?

A monitoring plan will be developed that includes monitoring tools in accordance with the principles and standards of ACT PME. Monitoring will include field visits to measure progress, achievements, and finally reporting.

The Project Coordinator will be responsible for the management and implementation, coordination and facilitation of activities, monitoring, and reporting as well as for the promotion of the project at local and regional levels and networking with different actors.

During the implementation period, the field team staff will monitor the project activities with the support of specialists from the different organizations that make up the ACT Forum El Salvador, analyses will be carried out and the results will be shared during the scheduled monthly meetings. Field officers will lead the monthly report review meeting with relevant stakeholders and communities where they will meet to discuss progress, identify gaps, and check if goals are being met.

Audits will be conducted to assess spending and budget compliance. All project reports will be shared with stakeholders to ensure they know what's going on and share learning with all members.

At the beginning, informative sessions will be held with the communities to inform the components, policies and humanitarian and gender norms under which the implementation of the project will be sustained, at the end there will be a workshop to evaluate good practices and lessons learned, this process will be led by ALFALIT and LWF and includes a budget for food and mobilization of the target population of the entire project. In order to monitor this project, ALFALIT will need to purchase three computers.

2. CHS Commitment 8. Does your organisation have a Code of Conduct? Have all staff and volunteers signed the Code of Conduct? We may ask you to submit copies of the signed Code of Conduct. You can use ACT Alliance's Code of Conduct if your organisation does not have one.

Yes, there is an institutional code of conduct and the code of conduct of the ACT Alliance is also signed.

3. How do you ensure accountability in this project? -

The members of the ACT Forum El Salvador comply with Commitment 9 of the CHS, reiterating that resources are used responsibly for the purpose and fulfilment of activities described technically and budgetarily in a legal and ethical manner, developing the following actions: 1. Expenses will be made according to the costs and expenses incurred in the budget; 2. The technical and financial components of the project shall be presented and explained to the focus groups (beneficiaries) in order to be able to assess the transparency in the use of funds at the end of the project; 3. Commitment 5, "Communities and people affected by humanitarian crises have access to safe and agile mechanisms to manage complaints" will be made known and fed back to the focus groups in each activity in order to manage complaints in a timely and appropriate manner.

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Rapid Response Fund

Consolidated Financial Report

Project Code 13/2023

Project Name Humanitarian response to the population affected by Tropical Storm Pilar in El Salvador

Budget Exchange rate (local currency to 1 USD)

1.000000000

Please use exchange rate from this site:

<https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

		Total Budget	Total Expenses	Burn Rate	PRESUPUESTO	
					Salvadoran Lutheran Synod	ALFALIT
1	Total Project Staff Costs	\$ 47,223.89	-	-	\$ 28,333.23	\$ 18,890.66
2	Project Activities	211,652.64	-	-	104,600.00	107,052.64
2.1	Cash/Vouchers	174,600.00	-	-	86,600.00	88,000.00
2.8	Psychosocial	25,052.64	-	-	12,000.00	13,052.64
2.10	WASH	12,000.00	-	-	6,000.00	6,000.00
3	Project Implementation	3,580.59	-	-	1,630.59	1,950.00
3.1.	Forum Coordination	1,250.00	-	-	750.00	500.00
3.2.	Capacity Development	2,330.59	-	-	880.59	1,450.00
4	Quality and Accountability	18,423.23	-	-	7,091.18	11,332.05
5	Logistics	7,370.00	-	-	3,845.00	3,525.00
6	Assets and Equipment	2,750.00	-	-	-	2,750.00
Direct Costs		291,000.35	-	-	145,500.00	145,500.35
Staff Salaries		8,216.65	-	-	4,400.00	3,816.65
Office Operations		783.00	-	-	100.00	683.00
Indirect Costs		8,999.65	-	-	4,500.00	4,499.65
Total Budget		\$ 300,000.00	-	-	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00