

**Alert note**

*El Salvador, Floods  
June 21, 2024*

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**Date completed:** June 21, 2024

**Forum:** El Salvador

**Type of emergency:** Floods

**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** June 16, 2024

**1. The nature of the emergency**

Regional authorities are on high alert due to a tropical storm in the Gulf of Mexico, predicted to increase rainfall in an already vulnerable area<sup>1</sup>. In El Salvador, heavy rains since June 14 have resulted in at least 13 deaths and widespread flooding, prompting a 15-day State of Emergency<sup>2</sup>.



Progressive alerts were issued by the General Directorate of Civil Protection: green and yellow on June 13, orange<sup>3</sup> on June 14, and red<sup>4</sup> on June 16. Reports from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN in Spanish) indicate two low-pressure systems bringing heavy rainfall from the Pacific Ocean. As of June 20, orange alerts were in place for 18 municipalities and red alerts for 26 municipalities due to saturated soil and rising river levels<sup>5</sup>.

MARN forecasts ongoing urban flooding, flash floods, river overflows, landslides, and rockfalls, particularly affecting roads and highways in several areas, including the AMSS and volcanic regions. The State of Emergency includes measures to protect food security, provide adequate shelter, and safeguard national production, particularly in agriculture and livestock sectors.

**2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information with links if possible)**



The Hydrological Forecast Center warns of severe urban flooding, river overflows, and widespread inundation. Between June 14 and 20, rainfall has been significant, with a maximum of 680 mm in Ahuachapán (West) and 604.8 mm in San Miguel (East). The probability of overflows remains high in several rivers and hydrographic regions.

The situation report No. 7 from the General Directorate of Civil Protection reports 4,045 affected individuals, 13 fatalities, 12 injured people, 2 missing people, 3,893 people in shelters, and 125 evacuated but unsheltered

<sup>1</sup> [National Hurricane Center in X: "Monday 6/17: The NHC is looking at 2 systems for possible development. The SW Gulf of Mexico system is likely to become a tropical depression or tropical storm by midweek as it slowly moves west or west-northwest toward the western Gulf Coast. \(70% probability\). The SW Atlantic... https://t.co/DR7p0pHVmC" / X](https://t.co/DR7p0pHVmC)

<sup>2</sup> [YELLOW ALERT FOR HEAVY RAINS AND STORMS, FROM THE WEEKEND 13/JUNE/2024 - Directorate General of Civil Protection \(proteccioncivil.gob.sv\)](https://proteccioncivil.gob.sv)

<sup>3</sup> [ORANGE ALERT THROUGHOUT THE NATIONAL TERRITORY FOR HEAVY RAINS AND STORMS, STARTING ON THE WEEKEND 14/JUNE/2024 - Directorate General of Civil Protection \(proteccioncivil.gob.sv\)](https://proteccioncivil.gob.sv)

<sup>4</sup> [RED ALERT NATIONWIDE FOR RAINS FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS 16/JUNE/2024 - Directorate General of Civil Protection \(proteccioncivil.gob.sv\)](https://proteccioncivil.gob.sv)

<sup>5</sup> [DECLARATION OF STRATIFIED ALERT Orange Alert in 18 municipalities Red Alert in the rest of the national territory 19/JUN/2024 - General Directorate of Civil Protection \(proteccioncivil.gob.sv\)](https://proteccioncivil.gob.sv)

people. A total of 121 shelters have been established, with 112 currently active, serving 1,508 families, including people with disabilities and pregnant women.

There are reports of 589 instances of damage to vital infrastructure, 312 affected homes, and 893 additional incidents. Humanitarian needs include food, hygiene kits, clothing, sanitation products, and items for babies and pregnant women. The ACT Forum El Salvador has maintained constant coordination with local community leaders, providing crucial information on the following situations:

- The Jalponga River overflow has impacted the communities of Hoja de Sal, El Pito, El Recuerdo, and Río Viejo in Santiago Nonualco district, leading to the establishment of two shelters: the Communal House and the Hoja de Sal Educational Complex, evacuating 20 families. In Villas de San Pedro, the Community Center is now a shelter, and in San José Luna, the Communal House has been enabled due to the Jiboa River overflow, affecting roads and homes in multiple communities and leading to the evacuation of 32 families.
- Agricultural losses of plantations of loroco, banana trees, corn, and pipianes have been severely damaged by the storm. The Jiboa River overflow has affected seven communities in the southwestern area of San Pedro Masahuat district. Rivers in Sonsonate and El Paisnal have also overflowed, destroying over 230 blocks of crops and affecting numerous communities.
- Damage to Infrastructure and Homes Several communities, such as El Chorizo, La Cañada, El Icacó, and others, have experienced flooding. Reports include damaged homes and fallen trees. In Puerto Parada, multiple communities are affected, with specific hamlets reporting significant impact.
- Fatal Incidents in Ahuachapán Centro's El Centro neighborhood: three people lost their lives due to a landslide. The victims were relatives of a technician working for our partner organization in the area.
- Damage In San Francisco Menéndez district, the Paz River overflow has impacted 25 communities, resulting in over 400 families being evacuated and substantial agricultural losses. Continued isolation due to floods hampers data collection in some areas. In El Paisnal, the Lempa River overflow has led to the loss of 250 manzanas of crops.
- Flooding in Las Delicias and El Embarcadero has resulted in flooded homes and agroecological orchards, a shortage of drinking water, and restricted vehicle access.

Here are some links to news related to the phenomenon:

<https://www.proteccioncivil.gob.sv/2024/06/16/alerta-roja-a-nivel-nacional-por-lluvias-de-temporal-para-los-proximos-dias-16-junio-2024/>

#### **Response from government institutions**

<https://x.com/conaipam/status/1803219503008063972?s=48>

<https://x.com/CONAIPD/status/1803248540027682820?t=MN9IZfNScp5ldLTAu8c0uA&s=08>

[https://x.com/CONAIPD/status/1803248531643212104?t=xEB6CEdBbSSSTITjsE8X\\_w&s=08](https://x.com/CONAIPD/status/1803248531643212104?t=xEB6CEdBbSSSTITjsE8X_w&s=08)

<https://x.com/SecPrensaSV/status/1803501667091972115?s=08>

[https://x.com/GobernacionSV/status/1803670436938453443?t=U\\_6HN6DS6wNzLYTGnN4oRg&s=08](https://x.com/GobernacionSV/status/1803670436938453443?t=U_6HN6DS6wNzLYTGnN4oRg&s=08)

#### **June 17**

<https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/video/lluvias-severas-el-salvador-guatemala-centroamerica-alerta-roja-perspectivas-mexico-tv/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/aRTyr1T8eJBDofRw/?mibextid=w8EBqM>

<https://fb.watch/sMAKXhqQ1o/?mibextid=VhDh1V>

<https://www.elsalvador.com/noticias/nacional/semana-de-tormentas-y-alerta-roja-por-intensas-lluvias-en-el-salvador/1149621/2024/>

[Deputies declare a state of emergency for 15 days in El Salvador due to rains \(cnn.com\)](https://www.cnn.com/news/latam/salvador-emergency-declared-15-days)

#### **June 19, 2024**

<https://www.laprensagrafica.com/elsalvador/Muere-hombre-arrastrado-por-corriente-en-Sonsonate-y-se-eleva-a-12-cifra-de-victimas-por-lluvias-en-El-Salvador-20240619-0014.html>

<https://www.laprensagrafica.com/elsalvador/Proteccion-Civil-emite-alerta-estratificada-por-remanentes-de-lluvia-en-El-Salvador-20240619-0099.html>

#### **June 20, 2024**

[https://www.laprensagrafica.com/elsalvador/Nina-muere-soterrada-en-Santo-Tomas-y-madre-resultado-lesionada-20240620-0021.html?utm\\_source=pushnotifications&utm\\_medium=push&utm\\_campaign=https://ysuca.org.sv/2024/06/18-municipios-continuan-en-alerta-roja-y-el-resto-en-naranja-por-orden-de-proteccion-civil/](https://www.laprensagrafica.com/elsalvador/Nina-muere-soterrada-en-Santo-Tomas-y-madre-resultado-lesionada-20240620-0021.html?utm_source=pushnotifications&utm_medium=push&utm_campaign=https://ysuca.org.sv/2024/06/18-municipios-continuan-en-alerta-roja-y-el-resto-en-naranja-por-orden-de-proteccion-civil/)  
<https://www.nodal.am/2024/06/inundaciones-muertos-y-heridos-en-el-salvador-honduras-y-ecuador-por-las-intensas-lluvias/>

### 3. Local and national capacity

#### Coordination Actions

Within the framework of the ACT El Salvador Forum, member organizations have maintained constant communication and held extraordinary emergency meetings. These meetings aimed to analyse the situation, share updated information, and make decisions to address the climate phenomenon impacting the communities we serve. A survey will be prepared and distributed to identify and assess the effects and needs of the population we support.

At the community level, coordination has been established with community leaders, religious leaders, and organizations. The main objective is to ensure effective communication and adequate follow-up to assess the damage and priority needs of the most affected families.



Coordination at the local government level is ongoing in several districts, including Usulután, Santiago Nonualco, and San Pedro Masahuat. These districts are crucial in coordinating efforts and distributing resources to respond to primary health care needs.

#### Monitoring actions

To ensure continuous monitoring, a follow-up system has been implemented through members of the El Salvador Forum. These members conduct permanent monitoring in the affected areas and gather information from local leaders and relevant authorities. The collected information is shared through the Forum's WhatsApp group, SharePoint folder, emails, meetings, and phone calls, ensuring the availability of up-to-date data.

The Forum prioritizes constant monitoring using various communication channels, including the National Civil Protection System, the U.S. National Hurricane Center, and the Country Humanitarian Team. This approach facilitates an agile response adapted to the changing needs of the affected population.

#### Humanitarian Country Team

Formulation of the Humanitarian Response Plan for El Salvador 2024: The response by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is multisectoral, focusing on providing comprehensive and inclusive assistance to those affected. Priority areas include food security, water, hygiene and sanitation, protection, gender-based violence prevention, child protection, education in emergencies, emergency shelter, health, and nutrition. All interventions are guided by humanitarian principles and human rights, ensuring the dignity and well-being of those affected.

#### Ministerial actions in response to the emergency

The Salvadoran government is actively addressing the current emergency. The Ministry of Environment monitors weather conditions, while the Ministry of Health has deployed personnel to shelters for medical care. The Ministry of Agriculture is assisting affected agricultural areas, including evacuating coffee-producing families. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs has managed the receipt of hygiene kits donated by UNICEF. The Director General of Civil Protection coordinates security, humanitarian assistance, and damage assessment, focusing on the agricultural community.

#### National Civil Protection System Response

The sectoral technical commissions have various roles in emergency management:

- Scientific Technical Commission: Identifies high-risk areas for landslides.
- Emergency Services Commission: Conducts evacuations and checks risk areas.
- Infrastructure and Basic Services Commission: Rehabilitates critical infrastructure.
- Health Commission: Manages medical care in shelters.
- Security Commission: Provides security in shelters with armed forces and police reinforcements.
- Humanitarian Assistance Commission: Coordinates urgent needs shipments.
- Shelter Commission: Manages shelters, providing safe and comprehensive support to affected individuals.

### Information gathering

The ACT El Salvador Forum has implemented an assessment of the population's needs using the Kobo tool, adapted to the current context. The results will be systematized in a situation report to support fund management. Each member organization committed to obtaining at least 50 registrations, constituting a representative sample to precisely target aid towards identified needs.

### Government response organization

- Activation of Departmental, Municipal, and Communal Civil Protection Commissions.
- Activation of Sectoral Technical Commissions at the national level.
- Activation of Sectoral Response Teams at the Departmental and Municipal levels.
- General functions:
  - Consolidate damage reports, losses, and affected families' data and transfer them to the COE-Nacional.
  - Establish care prioritization.
  - Follow up on inter-institutional work.
  - Coordinate with Tactical Emergency Teams and the Fire Department.
  - Manage the request, delivery, and accountability of humanitarian assistance.
  - Coordinate early evacuation and support temporary shelter management.
- Sectors prioritized by the HCT
  - Assistance in temporary shelters
  - Food security assistance
  - Water, sanitation, and hygiene
  - Health
  - Emergency logistics and telecommunications
  - Protection: Psychosocial support and gender-based violence prevention

## 4. Key needs and gaps

According to official reports and initial community monitoring, **food security** is a primary concern for the affected population due to significant crop losses and disruptions to livelihoods such as informal trade and artisanal fishing. In response, it is imperative to enhance protection and response measures within the food security sector, prioritizing physical safety and promoting community resilience against future climate events.

Addressing the **psychosocial needs** of the affected population is equally crucial. The loss of crops and food insecurity can lead to substantial emotional stress within the community. Interventions providing emotional support, counselling, and resources are necessary to bolster coping mechanisms during the recovery process. Integrating physical protection and emotional support measures is essential for a comprehensive and sustainable recovery of the affected communities.

**Gender-based violence (GBV)** remains a significant issue in El Salvador, exacerbated by entrenched gender inequalities. Women, girls, adolescents, people with disabilities, indigenous people, LGBTIQ+ individuals, and older adults are disproportionately affected. These disparities are intensified during emergencies. Therefore, there is an urgent need to strengthen capacities on gender issues through inclusive and gender-sensitive training. Such training should promote a culture of equality, mutual respect, and the development of fairer, more inclusive societies free from gender violence.

Comprehensive attention to food security, psychosocial support, and GBV will significantly contribute to the material and emotional reconstruction of the affected population. Strengthening these sectors is essential for fostering resilience and ensuring sustainable recovery efforts.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an <b>X</b> below
Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> )	<b>X</b>
Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )	

*If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.*

#### 5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
Sinodo Luterano Salvadoreño	San Salvador Morazán Sonsonate Ahuachapán Saint Anne San Miguel	Community-Based Psychosocial Support (APBC) Prevention of gender-based violence (GBV)
ALFALIT	La Unión Usulután La Paz	Multipurpose Cash Transfer (with an emphasis on Food Security and Livelihood Rehabilitation)

#### 6. Potential responses

Members have been serving communities since 1980 and have offices throughout the world. the country. We have close to 40 well-trained employees who provide support across the country. We have a PPRE, internal regulations, Procurement Manual, PSEA Policy and strategic planning until 2026, in addition they all comply with all the policies and protocols of the ACT Alliance. At the moment, plans are being made to implement a Rapid Response Fund, focusing on prioritized needs according to damage and needs assessment, serving 875 families in 10 most affected districts (3,250 people, of which 1,950 are women and 1,300 men)

- Community-Based Psychosocial Support (APBC)
- Prevention of gender-based violence (GBV)
- Multipurpose Cash Transfer (with an emphasis on Food and Livelihood Rehabilitation)

The Forum has experience in the application of quality and accountability standards: Sphere Standards, CHS, and internal and external monitoring and evaluation processes.

The response plan of the ACT Forum El Salvador covers multiple areas to address the identified needs. It includes the implementation of cash transfers for affected families, in order to mitigate risks and meet immediate needs. In addition, it focuses on community psychosocial support, with specific strategies aimed at vulnerable groups such as children, women and the elderly, taking advantage of specialized resources available in the ACT Alliance. The prevention of gender-based violence is also prioritized through community training processes.