

PORTUGAL - Floods

Date: November 18-21, 1983

Location: Lisbon and environs

No. Dead: 10; 10 missing

No. Affected: Estimated 2,000 persons homeless

Damage: Total damage to Louros and Cascais regions estimated at \$95 million.

- Infrastructure (public buildings, sewerage systems, telecommunications, roads, bridges and railway lines): \$43.5 million
- Agriculture (crop losses and agricultural rehabilitation): \$15.5 million
- Industry (equipment, manufactured goods, raw materials): \$12 million
- Commerce (loss of stocks and infrastructure): \$9.5 million
- Housing (buildings and private property partially or totally destroyed): \$14.5 million

The Disaster

Heavy rains fell on the area surrounding the Tadjus estuary and the capital city of Lisbon continuously for four days, causing flooding in the northern and western sections of Lisbon, in the towns of Cascais, Cacem, Sintra, Odivelas, Sacavem, and Loures, and along the Tejo river from Alverca to Santarem. Ten persons were reported dead, another ten were reported missing, and approximately 2,000 persons (most of them poor, living in low-lying areas) were left homeless. The floodwaters caused widespread damage to houses, public buildings, telephone and electric cables, roads, bridges, and railway lines.

Action Taken by the Government of Portugal (GOP)

The National Civil Protection Service immediately began relocating 450 low-income displaced families in vacant buildings, summer schools, and tents. Meals, medical care, and other necessities were provided to the residents of these temporary shelters. An intergovernmental committee, comprised of officials from the ministries of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, Defense, Social Welfare, and Public Works, was established to coordinate emergency relief and reconstruction.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

On November 21, U.S. Ambassador Henry Allen Holmes determined that the number of persons left homeless by the flood warranted USG assistance and made a donation of \$25,000 to the Portugese Red Cross.

TOTAL \$25,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

EEC - contributed a cash grant of \$82,200 through the LORCS.

LORCS - launched an appeal for air mattresses, sleeping bags, tents, field cots, condensed milk, and canned meat for the homeless.

UNDRO - sent a relief officer to consult with GOP officials and visit affected areas and emergency shelters. Gave \$25,000 in cash for emergency supplies.

Governments

Germany, Fed. Rep. - provided blankets, air mattresses, and milk powder, valued at \$31,150.

United Kingdom - gave cash grants totaling \$16,500 to LORCS and the Louros and Cascais local authorities.

Voluntary Agencies

Belgium Red Cross - donated \$3,650 in cash to Portugese Red Cross, via LORCS.

TOTAL \$158,500