

## SPAIN - Floods

Date: October 19-22, 1982 (FY 83)

Location: Southeastern provinces of Spain; Valencia, Alicante, Albacete and Murcia

No. Dead: 43; 30 missing

No. Affected: 225,000, of whom 160,000 were evacuated

Damage: Valencia-\$370 million; 740,700 hectares of farmland affected; Albacete-approximately \$260 million; total affected area over 3,600 sq. km

### The Disaster

Several days of torrential rain produced serious flooding in the Spanish provinces of Valencia, Murcia, Alicante, and Albacete. By October 23, local authorities reported at least 43 persons dead, 28 missing, and 1,600 injured. In addition, approximately 160,000 people were forced to evacuate and over 7,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed. In Valencia, the most seriously affected province, about 543,200 hectares of citrus groves and 217,280 hectares of vegetable growing land were flooded. The flood waters washed out roadways and telephone lines and caused a dam south of Valencia to collapse. By October 26, the rain began to diminish; flood waters in the southeastern provinces gradually started to recede and vital services were restored.

### Action Taken by the Government of Spain (GOS) and the Spanish Red Cross

Spanish authorities responded promptly to the disaster. The Prime Minister and the Spanish monarchs surveyed the most affected areas during the first day of the floods. On October 22 the Prime Minister convened an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss rescue and relief measures. At the same time, military and civilian authorities conducted swift evacuations and rushed in relief supplies by boat and helicopter. The Spanish Red

Cross (SRC) assumed the lead role in providing direct relief assistance during the remainder of the emergency. In conjunction with other civic and voluntary organizations, the SRC established collection centers for the flood victims. They gathered government and private donations; provided 950,000 kg of food, 12,000 pieces of clothing, 15,500 blankets, 100 ambulances, 30 rescue boats, four mobile hospitals, and three cardio-mobiles. A team of frogmen helped in the search for missing persons. Once rescue, evacuation, and emergency operations were completed, the SRC focused its efforts on children, the elderly, and the disabled.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On October 22, 1982, U.S. Ambassador Todman determined that the flooding constituted a disaster. He used his disaster assistance authority to donate one million pesetas (US \$8,659) to the SRC in support of their disaster relief efforts.

TOTAL	\$8,659
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Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

Saudi Arabia - provided a cash contribution of \$10 million.

Sweden - provided 15 tons of clothing, value not reported.

TOTAL	\$10,000,000
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