

PANAMA - Floods

Date: October 30, 1984

Location: Panama City

No. Dead: one

No. Affected: 1,000

Damage: Approximately 500 homes flooded.

The Disaster

During the last week of October, torrential rains fell in the Panama City area, causing extensive flooding in several low-income neighborhoods. On October 30, the Tapia, Abajo, Juan Diaz, and Curundu rivers overflowed their banks, inundating sections of the surrounding communities of Villa Catalina, La Rosita, Panama Viejo, Parque Lefevre, Nueva Barriada, Progreso, El Triangulo, Vista Alegre, Pueblo Nuevo, and Curundu. Most people stayed in their flooded homes, however, in order to guard their belongings.

Action Taken by the Government of Panama (GOP) and Local Voluntary Agencies

The GOP Ministry of Housing, the Municipal Office, and the Panama Red Cross surveyed the stricken area and worked with community groups to assess damage and distribute food, medicine, clothing and mattresses. After assessing the damage, the GOP requested disaster assistance, specifically mattresses, as GOP stockpiles were low.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

Based on an assessment conducted by USAID officials and the GOP request for assistance, U.S. Ambassador Everett Briggs determined on November 2, 1984 that a disaster

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situation existed. A check in the amount of \$9,190 was presented by the Ambassador to the GOP to purchase 430 mattresses. These were subsequently distributed by the Ministry of Housing to residents of the affected neighborhoods.

TOTAL \$9,190

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

None reported