

CAPE VERDE - Storm

Date: September 16-17, 1984

Location: Entire archipelago, with the islands of Santa Antao and Sao Tiago the most seriously affected

No. Dead: 29

No. Affected: Approximately 5,500 persons homeless

Damage: Extensive damage to dwellings (438 destroyed; 656 damaged) and other buildings, as well as to crops and infrastructure (water distribution systems, bridges, roads, and dams.)

The Disaster

Torrential rains and strong winds accompanying Tropical Storm Fran inflicted major damage on several islands of the Cape Verde archipelago on September 16-17. Some areas of this normally drought-prone country received more than 500 mm of rain during the brief period of precipitation. Most affected were the islands of Santo Antao and Sao Tiago.

Approximately 1,100 families were left homeless by the storm as flooding, mudslides, and high winds caused extensive damage to housing. The victims were among the poorest of the population and those who had built in the most vulnerable locations. Other structures such as schools and clinics also sustained considerable damage.

Damage to crops was widespread and roads and bridges were washed out in some areas. Breaks in the water distribution systems on several islands created a potential health hazard.

Action Taken by the Government of Cape Verde (GOCV) and Other Local Groups

The State Secretariat of Cooperation and Planning invited the donor community to attend a briefing on October 8 to receive the official report on the extent of the storm's damage. The GOCV launched an appeal for

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international assistance on October 10 and created a special commission chaired by the Minister of Health to supervise relief operations and coordinate donor response. The commission also administered a special disaster account established by the GOCV. Assuring adequate shelter for the displaced people before winter began and re-establishing water supplies were the top priorities identified by the GOCV.

The Cape Verde Red Cross, already involved in carrying out a feeding program for malnourished children on Santo Antao as a result of the country's prolonged drought, also responded to the flood disaster by donating \$34,654 in cash.

Another local organization, the Central Committee of National Solidarity Movement, provided \$27,174 in cash to the relief effort.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

Based on the GOCV damage report and consultation with local officials, U.S. Ambassador John Yates made a disaster determination on October 20 and authorized the use of \$25,000 for immediate relief assistance. In response to the Ambassador's request for additional funds for the local purchase of materials to repair houses, clinics, and schools, OFDA provided a grant to the GOCV in the amount of \$250,000.

TOTAL \$275,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

EEC - pledged \$300,000 in cash.

FAO - provided unspecified assistance for flood rehabilitation as well as for ongoing food projects for drought relief.

UNDP/UNDRO - formed a local United Nations country emergency team with representatives from UNICEF, WFP, FAO, and WHO to help assess the disaster situation and identify areas for action.

UNDP - provided \$50,000 in cash and in kind, including eating and cooking utensils, water buckets, and blankets through UNICEF.

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UNDRO - provided \$20,000 in cash for the purchase of relief supplies.

WFP - provided food (maize, beans, milk, and oil), valued at \$12,876, from in-country stocks.

Governments

Brazil - provided unspecified assistance.

Finland - donated \$79,000 in cash to the Finnish Red Cross.

France - gave \$25,000 in cash and 2,000 MT of cereals, value not reported.

Sweden - provided \$250,000 in cash.

Voluntary Agencies and Other Private Groups

China, People's Rep., Red Cross - gave \$4,891 in cash.

Medico International - donated \$33,389 in cash for the purchase of medical supplies.

NOVIB - provided \$112,676 in cash.

Oxfam/UK - provided \$20,000 in cash.

Soviet Union Red Cross - donated 32 packages of medicines and 17 cartons of blankets, value not reported.

TOTAL \$907,832