

## SPAIN - Floods

Date: November 1-21, 1983

Location: Town of San Juan del Puerto in Huelva Province in southern Spain

No. Dead: None reported

No. Affected: 500 families (about 1,600 people) homeless - almost 30% of the population

Damage: Public and private buildings, including 400 dwellings, a school, and a church, were damaged or destroyed.

### The Disaster

Torrential rains from November 1 through November 21 caused flooding in the town of San Juan del Puerto in southern Spain. About 500 families in the town lost their homes and all personal possessions in the floods.

### Action Taken by the Government of Spain and the Spain Red Cross

By mid-November, Spanish Red Cross workers had erected barriers to reduce the floodwaters' flow into people's homes. They also cleared debris which had been preventing the water from flowing into the wetlands and removed accumulated mud from the streets and many buildings.

The Red Cross established shelters for the more than 1,600 homeless in a psychiatric hospital and several other buildings and distributed mattresses, clothes, and other supplies.

On November 22, the junta of Andalusia asked the central government to declare the towns affected by the floods to be disaster areas. The government endorsed the request and San Juan del Puerto became eligible for central government aid.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

On November 18, Ambassador Thomas O. Enders declared that the torrential rains had created a disaster situation in the town of San Juan del Puerto. Exercising his disaster assistance authority, he contributed one million pesetas (US\$ 6,525) to the Spanish Red Cross to help in its relief activities.

TOTAL                      \$6,525

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

None reported.