



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

PARAGUAY - Floods

Date: June - July 1982 (FY 82)

Location: Most areas along the Paraguay River

No. Dead: None reported

No. Affected: 85,000

Damage: Extensive property damage in all areas bordering the Paraguay River

The Disaster

Beginning in early June of 1982, heavy rains in the watershed regions of Paraguay raised the waters of the Paraguay River to flood levels. By early July, the water level of the river was well over 9 meters, compared to its average level of 2.6 meters. Extensive flooding affected the area from Bahia Negra on the northern border with Bolivia southwards to Fuerte Olimpo, Concepcion, and the capital city of Asuncion. By the time the waters of the river had begun to recede in August, 85,000 persons had been displaced from their homes and villages.

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

The Government of Paraguay responded to the disaster situation through its Council on Economic Coordination, chaired by the President of Paraguay. On June 29, the GOP issued a formal appeal for assistance to the United States Government. Throughout the disaster, assistance in the form of food, medicine, and clothing was provided by private and local voluntary organizations, principally CONEB (National Council of Welfare Entities) and the Paraguayan Red Cross. The Paraguayan Armed Forces transported and distributed donations of food, medicines, blankets, clothing, temporary shelter, and other supplies throughout the affected areas by naval boats and army trucks. The Ministry of Health provided inoculations to reduce the risk of disease and epidemic.

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In July, CONARAS, a group of women headed by the wives of the Paraguayan President and Ministers, organized a fundraising campaign for victims of the flood. Approximately \$50,000 in cash was raised and \$200,000 in kind was donated. In addition, several contributions were made directly to the President. These included \$30,000 from a local community of Japanese farmers and at least \$10,000 from several business firms.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On June 29, 1982, the U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Paraguay determined that the flood warranted USG assistance and exercised his disaster relief authority. The USG contributed \$25,000 to CONEB, a local private voluntary organization active in the relief effort.

TOTAL \$25,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies*

Catholic Relief Services - gave a total of \$20,000 which was distributed as follows: to the Vicariate of the Chaco, \$5,072 for food rations, \$1,100 for roofing material and tents, and \$45 for miscellaneous supplies; to the Diocese of Concepcion, \$1,865 for roofing material and tents, \$565 for basic medical supplies, and \$425 for temporary personnel; to the Diocese of Benjamin Aceval, \$2,826 for food rations, \$160 for basic medical supplies, and \$30 for miscellaneous supplies; and to the Archdiocese of Asuncion, \$3,837 for roofing material and tents, \$2,323 for basic medical supplies, and \$1,752 for temporary personnel.

TOTAL \$20,000

Assistance Provided by the International Community*

International Organizations

League of Red Cross Societies (LORCS) - launched an appeal for aid on behalf of the Paraguayan Red Cross.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - provided 15 tons of food diverted from another UNDP program; value not reported.

Governments

Spain - donated one outboard motorboat and blankets.

Uruguay - shipped at least two planeloads of food to victims.

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Voluntary Agencies

Canadian Red Cross - gave \$4,082 in cash through LORCS.

Danish Red Cross - donated \$3,796 in cash through LORCS.

Netherlands Red Cross - donated \$7,806 in cash through LORCS.

New Zealand Red Cross - donated \$765 in cash through LORCS.

Norwegian Red Cross - donated \$16,888 in cash through LORCS.

Swedish Red Cross - gave \$26,480 in cash through LORCS.

Swiss Red Cross - gave \$10,204 in cash through LORCS.

TOTAL \$70,021

* Please note: the listings of assistance provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies and the International Community are compiled from reports submitted voluntarily to OFDA. It is not always possible to verify the accuracy of these reports, nor the dollar value of in-kind contributions. As a result, the total dollar values indicated in these sections should be taken as representative figures.