

# The ASAPROSAR Newsletter



December 2009

Dear Friend,

The holiday season is upon us and on behalf of Vicky, Lucy, Jorge and the entire ASAPROSAR family, happy holidays and warm wishes for the coming year. This holiday season we celebrate all that connects all of us and give thanks. We are thankful for your support this year and look forward to 2010 with the hope of deepening our connection to those in the United States and in El Salvador.

Sincerely,

Palmer Corson  
Director of Philanthropy  
ASAPROSAR

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## ASAPROSAR Responds to Disaster

### REPORT ON HURRICANE IDA DISASTER

By Angelita Madrid

Translated and Edited by Palmer Corson

On Saturday, November 7, 2009 several municipalities in El Salvador were severely impacted by the storm IDA. The area with the most material and human damage is located in the central region of the country, specifically in the departments of San Vicente and La Paz. ASAPROSAR is taking action in these two departments with the Rural Communities Solidarity Program in the municipality of Verapaz in San Vicente which was the most affected municipality, and in the department of La Paz in four municipalities, Paraiso de Osorio, San Emigdio, San Miguel Tepezontes and Santa Maria Ostuma. At approximately 11pm on Saturday villagers heard a roar but never sensed this noise was the landslide that was beginning to break away from the volcano Chinchontepec in the department of San Vicente. This landslide ultimately caused the damage in the affected municipalities, destroying homes, crops and claiming the lives of many families.

On the morning of Sunday, November 12th people began to realize what had happened and the media began to report of the tragedy that occurred in the country, particularly in the town of Verapaz. Below is a table reflecting the impact on the towns served by ASAPROSAR and the actions developed.

*"It sounded like a thousand tractors going by, and when I jumped from my bed the water reached my knees. Out of the window I saw the landslide and we ran to the roof to save ourselves, but the current took all the rest who could not make it to safety."*

*(Wilson, survivor from the community of San Vicente, El Salvador)*

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#### Impact of Disaster

##### Verapaz

- 75% of the urban area was totally destroyed.
- 100% of the San Antonio was buried.
- 22 people died
- 2 people missing

##### Paraiso de Osorio

[Read more...](#)

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#### Actions of ASAPROSAR

- Tour of disaster area to assess need
- Immediate communication with ASAPROSAR technical teams
- Posting of ASAPROSAR promoters for supporting and monitoring shelters
- Development of emergency action plan with Medical Teams International

[Read more...](#)

## ASAPROSAR Loses Friend

*Long time friend and supporter  
Leonel Gomez dies at age 68*



*Article from Mi Gente Informe  
November 26, 2009*

Long time friend of ASAPROSAR, analyst and researcher with the United States Congress, Salvadoran Leonel Gomez, died yesterday afternoon. The medical report reveals that the investigator died of heart failure and complications at a hospital in the capital. During the civil war Leonel encouraged groups from the U.S. to visit El Salvador and see what was happening. He recognized Dr. Guzman's vision and helped to develop her young organization in 1985. [Read More.](#)

### ***Images of My Life*** *by the Barefoot Angels*

Don't forget to check out the inspiring photo project by the youth of Santa Ana. [Click here](#) to view photos. Eighty children were taught basic photography for five months and given disposable cameras. The project celebrates the expressive and perceptive spirit of children in El Salvador.

## **Microcredit Program Awarded**

On November 13, 2009, ASAPROSAR was recognized by FUNDAMICRO, a microenterprise institution that is part of the E.U. and BMI. The organization recognized ASAPROSAR for its outstanding work in strengthening its microcredit program and creating an efficient lending body.

## **Minor Species Update**

by Palmer Corson

During my recent trip to El Salvador in late November 2009 I was able to see the progress of the Minor Species Program and view the direct impact of the recently received donations that have supported and expanded the program. I had a chance to meet with Maritza Rodriguez, the Program Manager for the Environment Program and Elena Grande, Technical Coordinator for the Minor Species Program. Both Maritza and Elena were very appreciative of the recent support and were excited to share the details of the work they are doing... [Read more](#)



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**"Only through our  
connectedness to others can  
we really know and enhance  
the self. And only through  
working on the self can we  
begin to enhance our  
connectedness to others."**

**- Harriet Goldhor Lerner**

## ***Share the Vision***

We have a request of all ASAPROSAR supporters... Share the Vision! We are asking you to forward this newsletter to just one person who is not aware of the work of ASAPROSAR and have them sign up for the ASAPROSAR Newsletter.

### **Forward email**

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