

The ASAPROSAR Newsletter



November 2009

Dear Friend

As you have seen in the news, Hurricane Ida has inflicted serious damage in El Salvador. The president has declared a state of emergency and nations have begun to step up and send relief supplies to the affected areas.

Landslides and flooding have swept away villages and buried homes and people in central El Salvador. ASAPROSAR operates a social and community development program in several municipalities in the affected areas. In the Department of San Vicente near the border with Honduras ASAPROSAR is working to provide support, organize relief efforts and is seeking assistance from international organizations. Fortunately, Santa Ana and San Miguel were not affected. ASAPROSAR staff and offices all escaped unharmed but the crisis is severe and ASAPROSAR is doing what it can to assist.

I will be traveling to El Salvador tomorrow and will come back with a first hand update on the situation. We ask that you keep El Salvador in your thoughts and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Palmer Corson
Director of Philanthropy
ASAPROSAR

10,000 Need Food According to UN

The United Nations World Food Program said Tuesday that at least 10,000 Salvadorans are in urgent need of food as floods and mudslides destroyed crops just before the harvest season.

The government of El Salvador has declared a state of emergency in five of the most affected departments - San Salvador, San Vicente, La Libertad, La Paz and Cuscatlan. President Mauricio Funes said the death toll is currently 160 and the number of homeless is over 12,000.

"The intensity of the rainfall over the last 24 hours surpassed that of Hurricane Mitch 11 years ago," said Dorte Ellehammer of the WFP in El Salvador on Tuesday.

The relief effort is beginning to reach some areas in need but the UN and other agencies are having a difficult time as many municipalities are only accessible by helicopter. There is a need for food, water, soap and personal hygiene kits right now but there will be a longer term need as many Salvadorans in the affected departments are subsistence farmers and their corn, beans and other crops have been washed away.

Images of My Life

Photography Project by the Barefoot Angels



Several years ago ASAPROSAR with support from Friends of ASAPROSAR created a project with the Barefoot Angels that tried captured everyday life for the youth of Santa Ana through photography. 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. [Click here](#) to view some of the exhibit.

Ida Wreaks Havoc



The news agency ITN World releases a video report from some of the hardest hit area in El Salvador. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

Share the Vision

We have a request of all ASAPROSAR supporters this month... 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.

Another great way to Share the Vision this holiday season is by hosting a holiday party for family, friends or co-workers. If you are interested and would like some ideas or help in planning a party please email Palmer at palmercorson@asaprosar.org.

Maria Elena Returns to Her Family

By Jorge Luna

Maria Elena Sanchez, 21, is originally from the rural area of Ahuachapán, in western El Salvador. She came to the Vicky Guzman Multi-clinic of ASAPROSAR accompanied by her sisters and dad. Maria lost her sight at age 8 and has not seen in 13 years. She never went to school and comes from a large family in which her father, a farmer, is the only the person with a small income.

Maria sought help at the ASAPROSAR eye clinic and it changed her life... [Read more.](#)

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"There is nothing new about poverty. What is new is that we now have the techniques and the resources to get rid of poverty. The real question is whether we have the will."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our Mission

The mission of ASAPROSAR is to work with the neediest families in El Salvador to improve their quality of life. ASAPROSAR empowers the poor through health care, youth leadership training, environmental and nutritional education, microcredit, and community development. Priority is given to children, youth and women in rural and marginalized urban settings.