



ACCION MEDICA CRISTIANA (A.M.C.)

"...I will tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brother and sisters of mine, you did for me".

Matthew 25:40

"UNITED WITH LOVE, WE REBUILD HOPE"

Hurricane Felix United in Bringing Relief to Those in Need

Two weeks after Felix's fury reach Nicaraguan soil, leaving a sense of disorientation in the humble population that was just about to harvest their crops that would provide food in the coming year, AMC is doing everything possible to bring immediate relief to the needs that this affected Caribbean population demands. AMC as an organization is working in the affected area, committed to helping indigenous and mestizo families who live under threat of new challenges each time a hurricane or storm blows through.

Both central and field staff have carried out evaluations of the damages, in coordination with other social agencies. Even at this date it is difficult to count on exact numbers, but the local emergency committees, the Nicaraguan Army and Police Force, the Ministry of Health (MINSA) have been working with AMC to gather information. The most urgent need is food aid, more permanent medical care, plastic for temporary roofing, and portable chainsaws to access more rural communities and planted fields.

RAAN – Waspam

ACCION MEDICA CRISTIANA and Alistar-Nicaragua, with support from CARE, distributed food packets to the population already registered in a census taken earlier this year. By September 16, 2,988 packets were provided to 1,489 families in 15 communities on the Lower Coco River and to 1,499 families in 15 communities on the Upper Coco River, respectively. Each 16.5lb-packet containing: 5lbs of rice, 5lbs of flour, 5lbs of sugar, and 1.5lbs of salt. In another distribution by AMC with support from CARE and ECHO, provisions containing 20 hundred-pound sacks of rice, 15 hundred-pound sacks of sugar, 5 hundred-pound sacks of salt 251 bars of soap, 282 pounds of lard and 502 rolls of toilet paper were delivered to the communities of Andres, Lower Coco River, benefiting 254 families (1,237 people).

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RAAN – Sahsa- Tasba Pri

In the direct path of Hurricane Felix, Tasba Pri suffered damage to 80% of the existing infrastructure in the territory, losses in agriculture, and loss of large and small livestock such as cows, pigs, poultry, as well as significant damage to the flora and fauna of the area.

A visit by AMC Central staff returned Sunday, Sept. 16 from accompanying the AMC Sahsa Field Team with more evaluation information. The current situation for clean water in Sahsa is stable, thanks to the efforts of ACH (Action Against Hunger- Spain) who installed a portable water system. Women are traditionally responsible for retrieving water, and were having to walk over 2 km to bring 5 gallons of water back home, or wait in long lines to fill a bucket from the natural spring that provided Sahsa with



water in the years before a gravity-fed system was in place. With this system, there are multiple filling points working throughout the community, while the long-term plan for repair of collapsed water systems is determined. El Porvenir, a sustainable water organization, has made a generous donation toward this effort.

Telecoms Without Borders' (France) humanitarian aid program has installed internet and cell phone service in Tasba Pri for three months, providing high-technology communications media to this part of the country for the first time in history. Alas de Socorro (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) in coordination with CEPAD, has enabled flights for AMC and Action by Churches Together (ACT) staff to the region.

It is reported in the communities that people have resorted to eating parrots, opossums,

monkeys and even fish that are thought to be dangerously unhealthy due to the water contaminated with poisonous vegetation or cyanide from the Rosita Mine during the post-hurricane flooding. Illnesses are being reported due to inadequate conditions, and there is a level of desperation in not knowing what has become of some families who are still cut off in the dense jungle. Edith Morales, AMC Sahsa Project Coordinator says that leaders from all of the communities have reported in Sahsa with information of damage, but AMC has not had direct contact with the more isolated communities themselves and even the leaders identified certain families of whom they had no contact as of last week, due to the lost footpaths and felled trees.

In addition, the situation is worsening by way of not enough relief reaching the population, either in time or in amount. ACT, of which AMC is a member, saw in their evaluation visit a sign next to one shelter that read, "IF YOU DON'T OFFER HELP, DON'T STOP." There are too many people traveling to the area to take photos and information, but the population is now tiring of telling the same story and then feels that their basic needs are not being met.

Ayuda en Acción, through AMC, is channeling humanitarian aid, covering the food needs for a total of 1,616 people for a period of 30 days. The packet, based on AMC's nutritional assessment, contains 160 hundred-pound sacks of rice, 122 hundred-pound sacks of sugar, 82 hundred-pound sacks of beans, 485 containers of water, 4 gallons of cooking oil and 16, 483 pounds of cereal.



RAAN – Bilwi/Puerto Cabezas

The AMC Puerto Cabezas Regional staff, coordinated by Cecilia

Hernández has been responding by participating in different coordination committees, specifically water and sanitation and health and food aid, with the objective of making organized decisions and to coordinate with the different agencies responding to the emergency, thereby avoiding duplicated efforts or repeated distributions to some communities while others have not received any aid. AMC has been the liaison for the Regional Autonomous government and for National System for the Disaster Prevention (SINAPRED) in order to achieve more effective

Bilwi, a census of the affected population was carried out before any relief distribution was made. Food aid and provisions were purchased in Bilwi and in Managua, the latter being transported overland in trucks, using funds from FHI and CRWRC. The following aid were distributed in a packet each for 350 families in **Betania, Wawa Bum, and Bum Sirpi**: 19.5lbs rice, 6lbs beans, 13lbs sugar, 15lbs flour, 2oz oil, bucket, plate, cup, 4 bags of chlorine bleach, 2 bags of salt, 10 bags coffee, oatmeal, pinolillo (toasted corn), powdered milk, 2 bars soap. In a second phase of support, these same young volunteers helped the same families with clean-up days and restoration of their churches.



It is important to mention that these young people are trained in HIV AIDS prevention in a project carried out by AMC with support from Horizont3000, but during the emergency they easily grasped the magnitude of the problem in their own

communities and with great willingness are lending a hand to AMC in providing an immediate response. Among other communities around Bilwi affected by the hurricane, a hammer, 2.5lbs of roofing and 2lbs of wood nails as well as 6 yds of black plastic were provided for each family. The young volunteers also contributed to the emotional recovery aspect of relief through soccer and volleyball games with children and adolescents.

On Tuesday, September 18, UNICEF will be delivering a hygiene kit to AMC's Regional Coordinator, Cecilia Hernández making hygiene and sanitation supplies available to the communities of Betania y Wawa Bum.

WE ARE THANKFUL TO CHURCHES; INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES WHO ARE SUPPORTING AMC'S RELIEF EFFORT! YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH NICARAGUA'S POOR MAKES A DIFFERENCE. DIOS LES BENDIGA!!

Donations to support AMC on www.nicanet.org, choose the "Acción Médica Cristiana" button

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