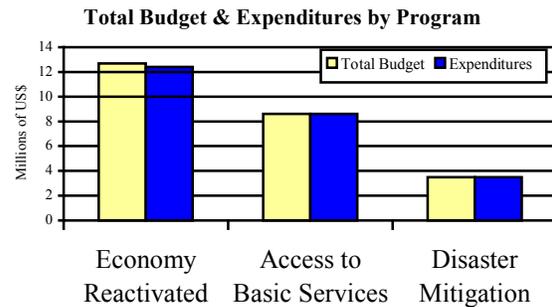
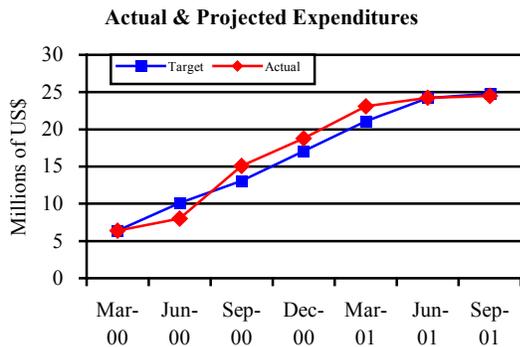


## USAID El Salvador Supplemental Reconstruction Programs Response to Hurricane Mitch, October 1998 Status as of September 30, 2001

MAY 1999 SUPPLEMENTAL RECONSTRUCTION FUNDS  (CACEDRF)	TOTAL BUDGET  \$24,800,000	OBLIGATIONS  \$24,800,000	COMMITMENTS  \$24,780,805	EXPENDITURES  \$24,497,845
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### Impact of Hurricane Mitch

On November 1, 1998, nearly 10 inches fell on El Salvador, swelling rivers to record levels and forcing the emergency release of a wall of water from a major hydroelectric dam. This produced major mudslides on denuded hillsides, severely flooding the coastal regions of the Rio Lempa and the Rio Grande de San Miguel. 374 people died and 55,800 people were displaced.

Economic damage exceeded \$600 million. Most of the road network in affected areas suffered severe damage; 18% of the grain harvest was lost; 6% of schools were damaged; and 65,200 hectares were badly flooded.

### Initial USAID Response

Immediately after Hurricane Mitch struck, USAID provided \$1 million in emergency humanitarian assistance. In addition, Development Assistance (DA) and Child Survival Funds were reprogrammed to jump-start reconstruction prior to the

passage of the Supplemental Reconstruction appropriation. USDA donated 40,000 tons of wheat and corn, which generated \$5 million in local currency. These funds were used to reconstruct housing, rural roads and bridges within Mitch affected areas.

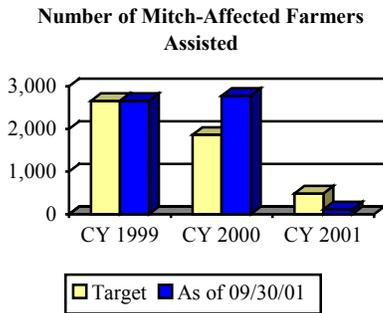
### Reconstruction Programs

Based on disaster assessments, pledges from donors and an analysis of USAID's capabilities, USAID decided to use Supplemental Funds to support reconstruction in the following areas:

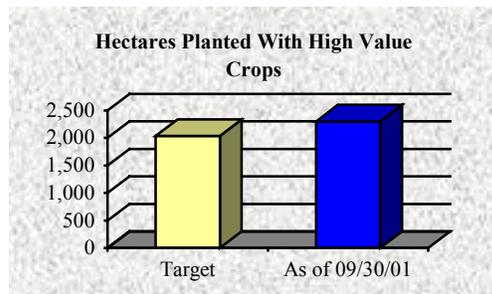
#### 1. Economic Reactivation

USAID concentrated most of its efforts in the Lempa-Grande floodplain along the south coastal area, one of the poorest regions of the country. 80% of the farmers in this area lost their entire grain crop. USAID's targets were to assist 5,000 farmers to shift

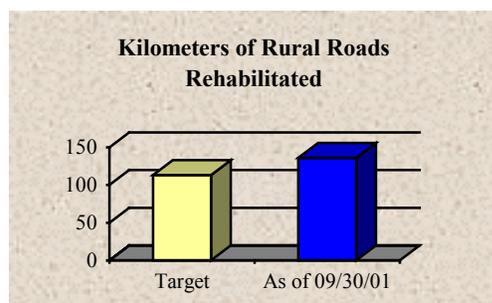
to higher value crops on about 2034 hectares; repair 113 kilometers of rural roads; build 154 kilometers of electric distribution lines; and fund 44 to 54 small infrastructure projects critical to the life of the community such as small bridges, tertiary rural roads, health clinics, levees, and retaining walls.



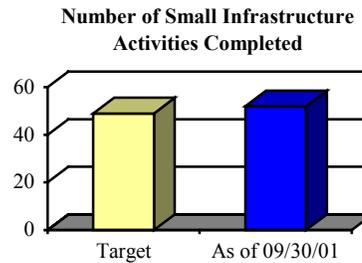
- 5,541 Mitch affected farmers were assisted in soil preparation and with agricultural inputs and training in the planting, management, harvesting and marketing of crops using organic methods.



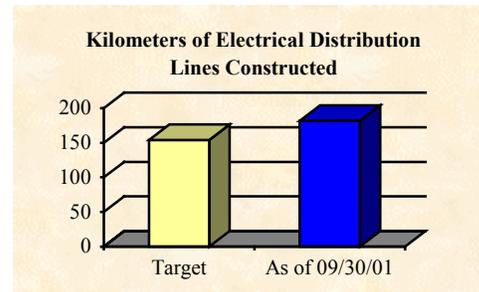
- To reactivate the economy, a total of 2,298 hectares were planted with sesame, beans, cashew, squash, plantain, loroco, cucumber, watermelon, pumpkin and passion fruit.



- A total of 135.8 kilometers of rural roads were rehabilitated, including 90 kilometers of secondary roads repaired by the Ministry of Public Works and 45.8 kilometers of tertiary roads rehabilitated by CHF under the Small Infrastructure Component.



- A total of 52 small infrastructure activities were completed including health facilities, bridges, roads, levees, drainage and flood control works and school-shelters. This component worked in 190 communities benefiting approximately 87,802 people.

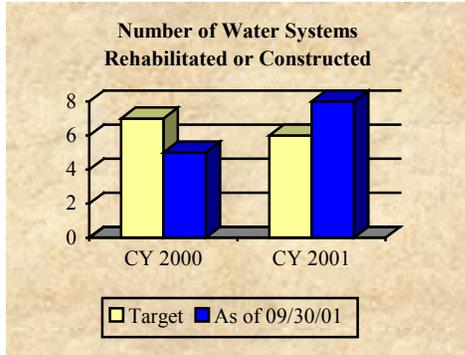


- A total of 181.5 kilometers of electrical distribution lines were constructed benefiting 5,442 families.

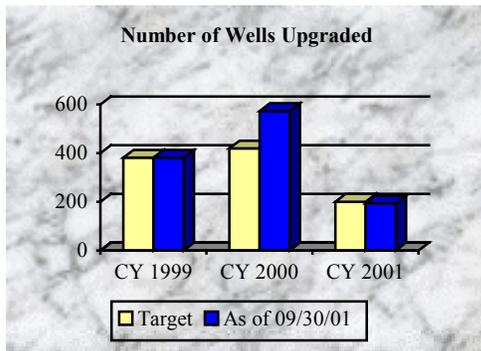
## 2. Access to Basic Community Services

Fifty-five percent of the people in the Lempa-Grande floodplain had their shallow wells and underground water contaminated. USAID supported the construction and rehabilitation of 13 water systems serving 19,700 residents where contamination persisted; upgraded 1,000 wells serving 5,500 persons; and constructed 2,500 latrines serving 13,900 persons. USAID also financed the building of 500 houses. USAID built back better; the design of these

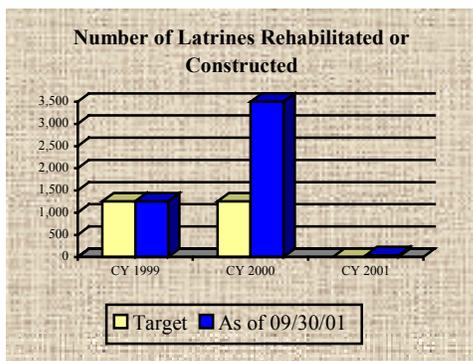
houses was improved in order to better respond to natural disasters. Similarly, USAID provided funds for the reconstruction of 80 schools that are more resistant to flooding and landslides.



- 13 water systems were completed, benefiting 23,015 beneficiaries (4,473 families). 2 of these systems were financed with Development Assistance (DA) funds.



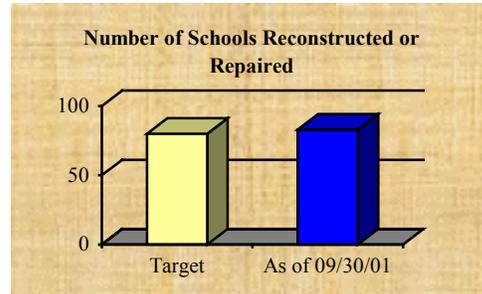
- 1,146 wells were improved, benefiting 9,546 people.



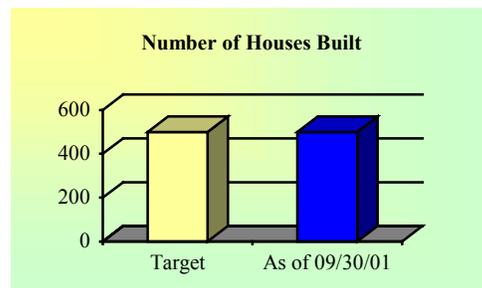
- 5,342 latrines were completed utilizing Mitch Supplemental monies. Within

this total, the American Red Cross provided materials for the construction of 968 latrines in a community where health education activities and water system construction were carried out by USAID through CARE.

- Local water committees were established and trained.



- In total, 83 schools were rebuilt, benefiting 208 communities and 18,841 students.
- Also, 4,500 DA-funded replacement desks were delivered to 59 schools.

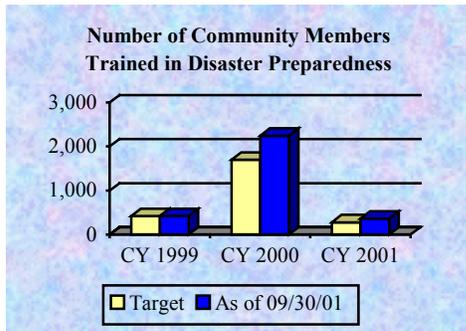


- A total of 500 houses were completed in 33 communities benefiting more than 2,500 Hurricane Mitch victims.
- Furthermore, 420 solar panels were installed in community buildings, health clinics and schools.

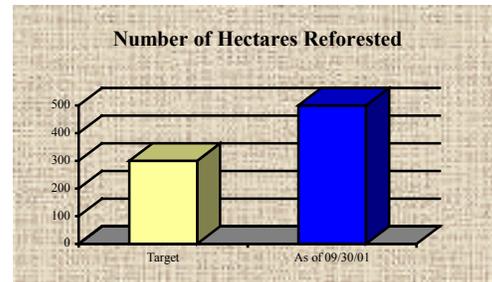
### 3. Disaster Mitigation

USAID's goals for disaster mitigation included working with communities and local governments to identify control measures to respond to critical flood and landslide problems, the training of 2,400 local residents in disaster preparedness, and

reforestation of 100 hectares in selected critical areas. USAID, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) developed a flood control plan for the lower Lempa-Grande watershed. USAID implemented through CHF the immediate actions proposed in the USACE plan. The long-term recommendations proposed in the plan were presented to the GOES and other donors for their consideration for future implementation.



- 3,028 community members and municipal workers were trained in disaster preparedness in coordination with the National Emergency Committee. Emergency committees were set up in 118 communities. These communities were also provided training on first aid, rescue techniques, shelter management and methodologies, and the evaluation of damages and needs. Another 20 communities were assisted under OFDA/Central American Mitigation (CAMI) funding.
- 10 municipal emergency plans were reviewed and improved with Mission Hurricane Mitch funds. Another 2 municipal emergency plans were funded with OFDA/CAMI financing.
- Also with OFDA/CAMI financing, 5 target Departmental Emergency Operation centers were equipped, 12 target municipalities were provided with emergency rescue equipment, 30 communities received emergency medical kits and 6 were provided with emergency communications equipment.



- 533 hectares were reforested with Mitch Supplemental funding.
- 32 micro-watersheds were improved through water and soil conservation measures and reforestation. Conservation works completed included 23,592 lineal meters of hillside ditches, 57,325 lineal meters of rock walls, 325 cubic meters of levees, and 52,656 linear meters of vegetative barriers.
- 10 rural communities were assisted in solid waste management efforts.
- 3,187 people (more than half women) received training in solid waste management, reforestation and/or conservation techniques.
- Environmental risk mitigation work was carried out in 36 hectares in the Berlin municipality, using OFDA/CAMI funding.

### Community Participation

Community participation and transparency were reinforced during all phases of implementation. Six major town meetings with affected communities were held in the field in conjunction with ministries, implementing agencies and other donors with the purpose of obtaining feedback from mayors and community leaders and to make adjustments to enhance program effectiveness.

### Other U.S. Agencies

The assistance of other U.S. Agencies strongly supported USAID/El Salvador's Mitch Reconstruction Program. Significant

interventions, which are near completion, are being implemented by NOAA, USGS and FEMA. NOAA and USGS installed a system to prevent flooding in communities located in the lower Lempa river basin. NOAA also installed equipment to improve climate forecasts and an early warning system for the communities affected by flooding of the Grande de San Miguel River. FEMA is working with two municipalities located in the Lempa-Grande floodplain to organize the communities to mitigate the impact of disasters and carried out an assessment of the National Emergency Committee Operations Center (COEN). USAID/El Salvador took necessary steps to assure the sustainability of these interventions, and conducted meetings with the appropriate central and local government authorities. The response from the Government of El Salvador was positive and written commitments were obtained from the authorities to continue support after the U.S. Government funds are fully expended.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THE EARTHQUAKES TO THE HURRICANE MITCH RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

The earthquakes of January and February, 2001 took the lives of 1,159 people and left 8,122 people injured. One quarter of the country's population was affected. The estimate of damage is in excess of \$2 billion. However, the assistance/training provided under the Mission's Hurricane Mitch program proved to be of great value. For instance, during the emergency stage, the communities and municipal emergency committees trained in disaster preparedness, such as Chirilagua and Concepcion Batres, were able to rapidly assess needs and, hence, were at the front of the line when emergency assistance was delivered by the Government of El Salvador.

The environmental management interventions were instrumental in minimizing landslide and rock fall problems to families living where conservation works such as hillside ditches, rock walls, dikes, and vegetative barriers were implemented.

Assessments of infrastructure built under USAID's Mitch Program revealed only minor damage. But 14% of the houses that we built incurred damage, and, of the 83 schools that we reconstructed, only two were damaged and, what damage took place, related to retaining walls. The only damage to roads were minor cracks to several segments; these damages were successfully repaired with remnant Mitch program funds.

Only 6% of the latrines constructed under the Mission's Hurricane Mitch program suffered damages, and they are being repaired under the Mission's earthquake recovery program. But one water system constructed with Mitch funds suffered damage, and the community was able to repair it immediately using the training provided under the USAID Water and Sanitation Activity. Water systems built with Hurricane Mitch funds were able to support earthquake-affected communities, e.g., the one that we built in one of the poorest communities called La Bendicion in the Department of Usulután supported neighboring communities that had been hard hit by the earthquakes.

A local NGO (CORDES) that assists communities of the lower Lempa River distributed a bulletin indicating that the earthquake proved that infrastructure constructed after Mitch was properly built, specifically citing the high quality of the infrastructure financed by USAID under its Mitch Program.