

## **Social Pastoral of the Diocese of San Marcos**

### **Report on the use of the resources received for emergency work following the tropical storm Stan**

After the tropical storm Stan had passed through San Marcos, on 4-7 October 2005, the Social Pastoral of the Diocese of San Marcos carried out a survey of the damage in order to be able to draw up an Emergency Plan to respond to the needs of those affected. There were four phases to this initial work:

- i. Creation of commissions and working groups in the field and in the office
- ii. Information gathering
- iii. Analysis of the information
- iv. Drawing up the plan

In view of the emergency, Monseñor Alvaro Ramazzini, Bishop of San Marcos, asked the different programmes, pastorals and services that make up the Social Pastoral to dedicate all their efforts and resources to responding to the situation in accordance with the following principles:

- a) To attend to families in the poorest communities
- b) To give priority to organized communities
- c) To give priority to communities that had not yet received help of any kind
- d) To take into account local organizations (the parish, municipality etc.)
- e) Not to do what the state and its institutions were doing or should be doing. (Owing to the slowness of the state to act and its focus on infrastructural work, ignoring the needs of the people affected in the department, the Social Pastoral did have to assume some work that was the responsibility of the state.)

This is a report of the work of the commissions for water, shelters, food, health, land, traditional dress and social audit.

#### **1. Water and Sanitation Commission**

In the water and sanitation systems most of the damage was done to water tanks and pipes. Some water systems had to be entirely rebuilt.

The community of Boxoncán in the municipality of Tajmulco provides an example. Here 70 per cent of the water system was destroyed. Because of the high cost of rebuilding it, three institutions (CARE, Action against Hunger and the Social Pastoral) had to work together. This community suffered damage to the water tank (totally lost) and the water pipes (95 per cent lost). Aerial pipelines had to be built where the pipes had previously been under ground. In this community the Social Pastoral built three aerial pipelines as well as de-pressurization tanks and pipes to bring water to the houses.

#### **Training**

In each community which had received this support, training was given in preventative health, correct uses of water and the use of latrines. This training was for all the beneficiaries in the communities, whilst training in the operation and maintenance of the water system and the rules for its use was given to the community water commissions and plumbers.

The water commissions are in charge of organizing, and speeding up procedures and taking care that all the beneficiaries get water, use it appropriately and contribute to keeping the system in good working order. They are also in charge of negotiating community projects for water and sanitation with different institutions. The plumber is trained to maintain the water system and is primarily responsible for the system working well. Since the plumber does not normally receive any payment for this service, the job has to be carried out in rotation. This means that at least three plumbers have to be trained in each community.

### Communities in which water systems were built or re-built (68 communities)

MUNICIPALITY	COMMUNITIES
TAJUMULCO 24 communities	Aldea el Carrizal, Nuevo Paraíso el Carrizal, La unidad 1, La unidad 2, Sector la Vega Chantzaj, Aldea Chantzaj, Vista Quetzal, Nueva Colonia, Loma del Carmen, Pueblo Nuevo, Tuiquimamel, Cheanges, Tuiquinque, Xolhuitz, Malacatillo, Nueva Alianza, Nuevo Rosario, Boxoncán, San Juan Bullaj, La Vega del Suchiate, Nuevas Maravillas Unión la Loma, Monte Perla, San José la Paz .
SIBINAL 11 communities	San Antonio Barrancas, Sector Villa Nueva, San Andrés Cheoj, Tocopote, Zona 3, Tohaman, Yalú, Unión Reforma, Platanillo, Cabishmay, San José Santa Rita.
TACANÁ 14 communities	Chichum Majadas, San Pablo Toaca, Esperancita, Las Nubes, Tuicoche, Plan Grande Chanjule, Cienaga, Nueva Independencia, Las Tablas, Tojchoj Grande, Tojchoj Chiquito, El Rosario, Nueva Jerusalén, Miramar Tojcheche.
IXCHIGUÁN 4 communities	Vista Hermosa, Bexoncán, Colcohuitz, y Tuinamble.
OCÓS	245 wells in 15 communities were cleaned up.

### Communities in which basic sanitary systems were built (latrines, sinks for washing and drains.) (39 communities)

MUNICIPALITY	COMMUNITIES	No. of LATRINES	No. of sinks and drains
TAJUMULCO (9 communities)	Paraje Chantzaj, Sheshubel, Boxoncán, San Luís Chetzá, Nuevo Rosario, Carrizal, Tuiquimamel, La Unidad, Tuisquinque,	292	377
SIBINAL (11 communities)	San Andrés Cheoj, Platanillo, Cabixmay, Suchiate, Los Olivos, Las Barrancas, Tocopote, Yalú, Malacate, San Antonio Barrancas, Unión Reforma,	151	229
TACANÁ (9 communities)	El Rosario, Cruz de Barranca, Monteflor, Toacá, Valle Verde, Santa María, Chichum, Majadas, Tojchoj Chiquito	84	20
IXCHIGUÁN (4 communities)	Nuevo Porvenir, San Juan Los Altos, Tuiquinamble, La Trinidad	10	140
OCÓS (6 communities)	Madronales, la Blanca, Limones, Limoncitos, Mareas, Carrizal,	150	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>687</b>	<b>766</b>

Projects in Santa Rita (Sibinal); Monte Perla (Tajumulco); San José la Paz (Tajumulco); Ventanas (Tacaná) are still being carried out.

## 2. Shelters Commission

Stan left ruined communities in its wake. The houses of some families were washed away by the mud slides, some were left uninhabitable and others were placed in high risk situations because of the topography of the place in which they were situated. In many cases the families affected sought shelter in public buildings or with relatives or neighbours. Thus one of the most urgent needs was to build single-family shelters.

The government was very slow to act and its programmes left out many of the damaged communities. Furthermore, the shelters built by the government were not suitable for the climatic conditions of San Marcos, neither for the cold in the altiplano nor for the rains that arrived in the month of May, nor were they large enough to shelter families with numerous members.

In the community of La Trinidad in the municipality of Ixchiguán, for example, a mud slide washed away many of the houses and left the rest of the community in a high risk situation. Every one who had lost their house sought shelter in neighbouring communities. The Social Pastoral supported these families with 33 shelters and now they are all living in different communities. One of these families is that of Marcial Hernández who acquired land in a community called Arena

Blanca. He built his temporary house there and, with the aid of the Social Pastoral, installed drinking water from the community pipe. This family is now in a safe place.

The Social Pastoral is keeping watch that all those who benefited from a temporary shelter have access to formal housing. It has taken charge of presenting all the lists of the beneficiaries to the governmental institution responsible for housing (FOGUAVI), and it is doing follow up work to ensure that they are taken into account and will receive a house.

### Municipalities attended to and number of shelters built in each community

Municipality	Communities and number of shelters
Tajumulco (519)	Shexubel (11), Malacatillo (16), La Montañita (21), La Estancia(21), Tuiquimamel (25), Monte Perla (21), San Luis Chetzá (13), Tola Sector 1 (33), Boxoncán (67), La Unidad (28), Chantzaj (5), San José La Paz (8), Nuevo Horizonte (20), Nuevo Rosario (20), Xolhuitz (12), Nueva Alianza (22), Tuiquia (28), Unión La Loma (39), Vista Quetzal (18), Vega del Suchiate (30), Nueva Maravilla (24), Chantzaj Sector II (17), Carrizal (20).
Sibinal (192)	Platanillo (9), Cabishmay (12), Unión Reforma (8), Yalu (3), Centro (11), Tocapote (11), Malacate (26), San Antonio Barrancas (19), Barrio Los Olivos (9), Caserío Barrancas (15), San Andres Cheoj (61), Suchiate (8)
Ixchiguán (199)	San Isidro (6), El Plan (30), Las Manzanas (3), Tuiquinamble (4), San Juan Los Altos (6), Nuevo Porvenir (4), Once de Mayo (36), San Antonio (6), El Mirador (6), Buena Vista (21), San Cristóbal (2), Agua Zarca (6), Pavitzalam (4), Pajatz (5), San Rafael Buena Vista (13), Cas. Julischim (2), Cantón Villa Nueva (2), Tuiladrillo (5), Ctón. Nueva Alianza (1), Cas. Los Positos (1), Ctón. Loma Linda (2), Ctón. La Cumbre Choapéquez (3), Calapté (4), Ctón. San Juan (1), Cieneguillos (1), Bella Vista/Tuiquimamel (3), Las Flores (7), Bexoncán (11), Colcohuitz (4)
Tacaná (123)	Cruz de Barranca (12), Chichum Majadas (6), Santa María Zanajaba (23), El Rosario (5), Monteflor (19), Chactelá (11), Colonia Barrios (10), Cua (6), Valle Verde (3), Toacá (8), Tochoj Chiquito (13), Shacoc (7)
Tecún Umán (58)	La Independencia (58)
Ocós (524)	Caserío Palmar II (38), Izotal (14), Caserío Madronales (61), Caserío Carrizal (36), Colonia Barillas (89), Chiquirines (75), Salinas I (40), La Blanca (110), Palmar I (9), Limoncitos (15), Faros (5), Platanares (6), Mareas del Suchiate (5), Limones (11), Crucero (10).
San José Ojetenam (25)	Tuimay (8), Boxoncán (4), Nueva Esperanza (2), Esquipulas (3), Barrancas (8)
San Cristóbal Cucho (43)	Guativil (2), Majadas (7), Barrancas (31), Río Santo (1), Cantón Esperanza (1), El Rancho (1)

**TOTAL** : 1,683 shelters

980 families were given two beds, two blankets, a cooking kit, a safe water kit, a hand washing kit, a hygiene kit and a dustbin. 460 families received a water tank. In addition to the building of shelters, training was given on themes such as the prevention of gastrointestinal illnesses; disinfection of water etc. and psycho-social help was made available.

### 3. Food commission

#### Summary of programmed food distribution

MUNICIPALITY	COMMUNITIES AND BENEFICIARIES: FIRST DELIVERY	COMMUNITIES AND BENEFICIARIES: SECOND DELIVERY	COMMUNITIES AND BENEFICIARIES: THIRD DELIVERY
SAN JOSÉ OJETENAM	Matazano 24, Tuitzaj 20, Rodeo San Fernando 14, La Reforma 60, Boquerón 28, Tuimay 81, Barranca San Fernando 37, Nuevo Progreso 28, Violetas 18, Ojetenam 31, La Laguna 85, San Fernando 16, Barranca San Rafael 18, Barranca	Matazano 24, Tuitzaj 20, Rodeo San Fernando 14, la Reforma 60, Boquerón 28, Tuimay 81, Barranca San Fernando 37, Nuevo Progreso 28, Violetas 18, Ojetenam 31, La Laguna 85, San Fernando 16, Barranca San	Matazano 24, Tuitzaj 20, Rodeo San Fernando 14, La Reforma 60, Boquerón 28, Tuimay 81, Barranca San Fernando 37, Nuevo Progreso 28, Violetas 18, Ojetenam 31, La Laguna 85, San Fernando 16, Barranca San

	60, S. Rafael Iguil 20, Tosaquín 19, Nueva Esperanza 15, El Prado 8, Naranjo 20, Caballito 36, San Antonio Esquipulas 31, Canadá San Fernando 10, Islas San Fernando 12, Guadalupe 56, Boxoncán 81, Pavolaj 50, Esquipulas 29, Laguna Chica 21, Unión Esquipulas 28, Centro 34, La Joya 10	Rafael 18, Barranca 60, San Rafael Iguil 20, Tosaquín 19, Nueva Esperanza 15, El Prado 8, Naranjo 20, Caballito 36, San Antonio Esquipulas 31, Canadá San Fernando 10, Islas San Fernando 12, Guadalupe 56, Boxoncán 81, Pavolaj 50, Esquipulas 29, Laguna Chica 21, Unión Esquipulas 28, Centro 34, La Joya 10	Rafael 18, Barranca 60, San Rafael Iguil 20, Tosaquín 19, Nueva Esperanza 15, El Prado 8, Naranjo 20, Caballito 36, San Antonio Esquipulas 31, Canadá San Fernando 10, Islas San Fernando 12, Guadalupe 56, Boxoncán 81, Pavolaj 50, Esquipulas 29, Laguna Chica 21, Unión Esquipulas 28, Centro 34, La Joya 10.
Esquipulas Palo Gordo		Esquipulas Palo Gordo 100	Esquipulas Palo Gordo 100
San Antonio Sacatepéquez	Labor San Felipe 47, Santo Rosa de Lima 47, San Rafael Sacatepéquez 88	Labor San Felipe 47, Santo Rosa de Lima 47, San Rafael Sacatepéquez 88	Labor San Felipe 47, Santo Rosa de Lima 47, San Rafael Sacatepéquez 88
Sipacapa	San Isidro 112, Chilil 26	San Isidro 112, Chilil 26	San Isidro 112, Chilil 26
Tejutla	La Democracia 150, Armenia 112	La Democracia 150, Armenia 112	La Democracia 150, Armenia 112
El Quetzal	Nuevo Amanecer 60	Nuevo Amanecer 60	Nuevo Amanecer 60
Catarina	El Tecomatillo 150	El Tecomatillo 150	El Tecomatillo 150
Tecún Umán	San Antonio 74, 4 de Marzo 175, Aníbal de León 175, Las Delicias 301	Olguita de León 86, San Antonio 74, 21 de Abril 50, 4 de Marzo 175, Aníbal de León 175	Olguita de León 86, San Antonio 74, 21 de Abril 50, 4 de Marzo 175, Aníbal de León 175
San Pedro Sacatepéquez.	Los Coyotes 49	Los Coyotes 49	Los Coyotes 49
San Pablo	San Pablo 200, Tocache 150.	Quetzalí 19, Clermont 50, San Pablo 200, Tocache 150.	Quetzalí 19, Clermont 50, San Pablo 200, Tocache 150.
Tacaná	Nuevo Edén 80	Nuevo Edén 80	Nuevo Edén 80

The ration consisted of 75 lbs of maize, 15 lbs of rice, 10 lbs of beans, 5 lbs of sugar, 5 lbs of pasta, 5 lbs of Bienestarina (to make a nutritious drink), half a gallon of oil.

### Summary of sporadic food distribution

MUNICIPALITY	COMMUNITIES AND BENEFICIARIES: FOURTH DELIVERY
San Antonio Sacatepéquez	San Rafael Sacatepéquez 166, Santa Rosa de Lima 100, Labor San Felipe 100
Catarina	El Tecomatillo 300
San Pedro Sacatepéquez	Chin 66,
Comitancillo	Molino Viejo 182,
Tejutla	Armenia 224, La Democracia 150
San Marcos	Cerro Serchil 62
San Miguel	San Miguel 84
Tecún Umán	La Independencia 154
Sipacapa	Sipacapa 150, Chilil 52, San Isidro 224
Ocos	Limonos 150
Tacaná	Chactelá 30, Tacaná 100,
San Pablo	Tocache 300
El Quetzal	Nuevo Amanecer 120
San Rafael Pie de la Cuesta	Mariscal I 100

The ration consisted of: 75 lbs of maize, 15 lbs of rice, 10 lbs of beans, 5 lbs of sugar, 5 lbs of pasta, 5 lbs of Bienestarina, half a gallon of oil.

#### Other food deliveries

MUNICIPALITY	COMMUNITY AND BENEFICIARIES
Ixchiguán	11 de Mayo
La Reforma	Santa Teresa, San Rafael Bocol 175, Barrio Progreso 100.

The ration consisted of: 100 lbs of maize, 15 lbs of rice, 10 lbs of beans, 5 lbs of sugar, 5 lbs of Bienestarina, 1 litre of oil.

## 4. Health Commission

### a) Mental Health

*“People were living in a critical situation. They were facing an abyss and at their back they felt something....like a sword. They could not even express what they were feeling at that moment because they believed that talking would push them towards the abyss. Silence said more... really many emotional things had happened and I saw that people preferred to keep quiet, but it was a silence that demonstrated powerlessness. (Coordinator of water systems)*

The disaster affected areas of the altiplano, the valley and the coast with *phenomena of sudden appearance*: landslides and mudslides in the mountains and destruction of houses and land. The result was that many people were hurt, some died and others disappeared. At the time we were facing emotional pictures of intense fear, alarm, confusion, powerlessness, desperation, sorrow, frustration, mourning and helplessness.

In the hamlet of Las Manzanas, Calapté in Ixchiguán, for example the mudslides destroyed various houses of the Ramírez family, causing loss of life. Doña Zoila is the sister-in-law and aunt of those who died. That day she had gone with her sister-in-law to the mill to grind maize for tortillas. According to the neighbours, the road was full of cracks but they did not notice it. It had not stopped raining. When they came back from the mill they were carrying out their daily tasks and from one moment to the next they began to see that their house was being dragged away, with them inside it. Doña Zoila’s nephew and niece (a boy of 11 and a girl of four) had gone to feed the horse. They never saw them alive again. Once they had managed to get out of the house, they rescued their sister-in-law who was buried in the mud but when she realised that her son and her niece had disappeared, she died of a sudden heart attack. They buried her on the Wednesday and on the Friday doña Zoila’s nephew and niece were found dead. They had to leave the place and went to lodge in their father’s house while shelters were being built for them.

### i) Report of phycho-social support post-Stan, October and November 2005

Note: “psycho-social support” is a broad concept that refers to a supportive relationship, assistance given with an attitude of solidarity and respect for the culture and context. “Emotional support” is a limited concept that refers to a supportive relationship in a time of crisis. The “networks” referred to are an institutional coordination of the local authorities, the Ministry of Public Health and the Diocese of San Marcos. The Pastoral of Mental Health led this coalition in the months of October and November. In every case the support was given by local network of psycho-social support.

MUNICIPALITY	COMMUNITY	TYPE OF SUPPORT	HOURS	MEN	WOMEN
San Marcos	Las Lagunas	Emotional support	2.5	26	21
San Pedro Sacatepéquez	San Andres Chapil	Emotional support	2.5	23	13
San Pedro Sacatepéquez	Piedra Grande	Emotional support	2.5	30	45
San Pedro Sacatepéquez	Los Coyotes	Emotional support	2.5	04	10
San Cristóbal Cucho	Guativil	Emotional support	2.5	05	11
San Marcos		Emotional support	2.5	29	22
San Marcos		Emotional support	2.5	13	25
San Pedro Sacatepéquez	Shelter, social welfare centre	Emotional support	2.5	23	65

Tacaná	Shelters of the parish and evangelical churches	Psycho-social support	08	31	44
Tacaná	Cantón CUA: men´s group	Self-help support	06	03	20
Tacaná	Cantón CUA: children´s group	Play therapy	05	10	08
Tacaná	Parish	Psycho-social support workshop	06	20	52
Tacaná	Cantón Barrios	Psycho-social support	02	02	08
Tacaná	Aldea Nuevo Palmar	Psycho-social accompaniment	01	03	04
Tajumulco	Malacatillo: promoters, leaders, catechists	Psycho-social support workshop	03	34	24
Tajumulco	Toquian Grande Malacatillo: promoters, leaders, catechists	Psycho-social support workshop	03	12	25
Tajumulco	Centro Malacatillo: promoters, leaders, catechists	Psycho-social support workshop	03	23	20
Tajumulco	Tocuto Malacatillo: promoters, leaders, catechists	Psycho-social support workshop	03	15	14
Tajumulco	Centro: children´s group, project 'I learn'	Play therapy	2.5	13	09
Tajumulco	Centro: parents' group of the project 'I learn'	Psycho-social support	2.5	04	12
Tajumulco	Centro: group of elderly.	Psycho-social support	2.5	108	94
Tajumulco	Centro: youth group, health centre round tables	Projection technique	2.5	28	24
Tajumulco	Health centre staff	Projection technique	2.5	01	08
San José Ojetenam.	Esquípuilas	Psycho-social support workshop	2.5	06	60
San José Ojetenam.	Centro	Psycho-social support workshop	2.5	00	35
San José Ojetenam.	Choanla	Psycho-social support workshop	2.5	30	50
San José Ojetenam.	Tuimay	Psycho-social support workshop	2.5	05	25
San José Ojetenam.	San Isidro	Psycho-social support workshop	2.5	10	50
San Rafael Pie de la cuesta	Aldea patí.	Projection technique	03	50	27
San Marcos.	Psycho-social support network	Workshop on methodology	04	11	05
San Marcos	Psycho-social support network	Workshop on help for helpers	07	11	05
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>835</b>

ii) **Report of psycho-social support post-Stan, February – April 2006**

In every case the local network of psycho-social support was responsible for the support given.

MUNICIPALITY	COMMUNITY	ACTION	HOURS	MEN	WOMEN	CHILDREN
Tecún Umán	La independencia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organizacional support</li> <li>▪ Reflection group</li> <li>▪ Individual attention</li> <li>▪ Support for the Shelters Commission</li> </ul>	3.5	10	35	
Ocós	Limonos Limoncitos y Platanares		3.5	12	40	
Ocós	Mareas del Suchiate		3.5	04	09	
Ocós	Los Faros.		3.5	03	04	
Malacatan	Alejos		3.5	10	22	30

San Marcos	Social Pastoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training day in psycho-social support</li> <li>▪ Workshop on risk management</li> </ul>	3	22	25	00
------------	-----------------	--	---	----	----	----

## b) Physical Health

One result of Hurricane Stan was the exacerbation of latent health problems in our country (diarrhoea, parasites, gastric and respiratory problems and skin problems etc.) The Social Pastoral is part of the Departmental Health Council through which efforts were made to avoid duplication by agreeing on geographical areas of action to ensure that the whole population was reached. Through this method of work epidemics that had been expected were avoided.

### i) Medical attention given to those affected by the storm

The Social Pastoral provided assessment and medicines to the health centres through an existing network of communication with the health promoters. (The promoters are local people who have been trained, mostly by the Health Pastoral and in some cases in their parishes.) Medical attention was also given in the clinics of Catarina, Ixchiguán and San José Ojetenam. Medicines from the Health Pastoral were provided for the store rooms and the promoters' pharmacies were given the twenty medicines recommended by the World Health Organization.

### ii) Education in preventative health

Through radio programmes and talks in the communities and municipalities, education was provided on the prevention and mitigation of disasters and health promoters were trained in communities that had none.

## Statistics of the number of consultancies given by the health promoters in the municipalities of San José Ojetenam., Ixchiguán, Tacaná y Catarina

### Six primary causes of sickness of the children treated by the promoters

No.	CAUSE	No. of CONSULTANCIES	FREQUENCY
1.	Common cold	1,947	31.05%
2.	Headaches caused by stress	1,388	22.08%
3.	Skin diseases	1,241	19.06%
4.	Diarrhoea	830	13.08%
5.-	Intestinal parasites	478	7.65%
6.-	Malnutrition: deficiency in calories and proteins	358	7.73%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	6,242	100%

### Location of the communities attended to during the Stan emergency

MUNICIPALITY	COMMUNITY
Tacaná	Belisquizon, Vista Hermosa, Nueva Edén, Pin-Pin, Shacoc, San Pablo
Ixchiguán	San Andrés, San Juan de los Altos, Las Manzanas, Tuiquinablé, Los Positos
San José Ojetenam	Guadalupe, Cantón Reforma, Tuimay, Cantón San Pedrito, San Fernando, Boxoncán
Catarina	Guadalupe, La Muralla, Pueblo Nuevo, La Independencia
Tecún Umán	Los Ángeles, San Antonio la Pilas, Santa María, Melendres
La Blanca	Palmar I, Palmar II, Salinas, Chiquirines, Pueblo Nuevo, Nuevos Horizontes, Madronales, San Julián, Colonia Barrios
Ocós	Laureles, La Zarca, Las Cruces, La Independencia

### Consultancies and number of beneficiaries after the emergency

Municipality	Name of the community and number of people attended to
Ixchiguán	Centro 230; 11 de Mayo 115; San Juan Los Altos 125
San José Ojetenam	Centro 289; San Fernando 75; Cantón Reforma 135; Cantón San Pedrito 88; Tuimay 90; Esquipulas 140
Tacaná	Vista Hermosa 180; Beliz Quizón 75; Nueva Edén 85; Las Ventanas 72; San Pablo 96;
Concepción Tutuapa	Tierra Blanca 70
<b>Total</b>	1,865

## 5. Social Audit Commission

After Hurricane Stan the government proved to be incapable of responding to the emergency. There were cases where priority was given to people of the political parties while the needs of the families affected, such as medicine and food, were ignored. The Audit Commission was set up to ensure that the resources arriving in San Marcos reached their true destination.

Social auditing means supporting social organisations to negotiate with the state and other social and political actors through drawing up proposals and through processes of verification, monitoring and qualitative and quantitative evaluation of state activities and the fulfilment of commitments made nationally and internationally.

In Tacaná, for instance, where the mayor wanted to renovate the central square with reconstruction money, the Municipal Development Committee managed to ensure that priority was given instead to the repair of hydroelectric installations and two bridges that were really needed.

### 1. Activities

Training workshops were held in the municipalities of: Sibinal, Comitancillo, Tacaná, San José Ojetenam, Ixchiguán, Tajumulco and San Cristóbal Cucho, and for the health workers' union, teachers, the road workers' union and volunteers of the United Nations. Follow up visits were made and support was given to the Guatemalan congressional commissions for Probity, Social Audit., Reconstruction and Human Rights in order to give them the information they needed for their work. The Social Pastoral worked in coordination with the deputies in these congressional commissions. Meetings were held for advocacy work with national and departmental authorities where the Social Pastoral gave the information it had gathered on the reconstruction process. The Social Pastoral also worked closely with a coalition of organizations called "Yes, We are for Peace" in setting up a visit by a congressional commission to monitor the progress of the reconstruction process.

### 2. Results

People were trained in the municipalities; social audit committees were set up in four municipalities; government information was made accessible; and work was coordinated with the following like-minded organizations all of which were, in some way, beginning work to monitor the reconstruction: the state Human Rights Ombudsman, Citizens' Action, "Yes, we are for Peace" and the Episcopal Human Rights Office. In addition, information was provided on the reconstruction process and people's organizations at departmental level; the Social Audit Commission gained recognition as a monitoring body both at the departmental and national level and dialogues were held with the ministers in charge of government social funds.

In all this work the Social Pastoral merely facilitated organizational and training processes, leaving the people of the communities to be the prime actors in their municipalities.

## 6. Renting land

Both on the coast and in the altiplano there were many peasant families who lost all or part of their small plots of land. On the coast this happened mainly when the rivers overflowed, often changing their course and leaving hugely wide river beds, full of rocks and sand. In the altiplano the mud and landslides which dragged rocks and trees along with them caused immense

damage, leaving many places with no arable land. This programme was to enable 485 families of the diocesan Movement of Peasant Workers in seven municipalities of San Marcos to rent land to produce their own food.

No.	Beneficiary association:	Number of beneficiaries	No. of cuerdas <sup>1</sup>	Cost of rental (quetzales)	Cost of seeds	Cost of fertilizers	Cost of herbicides and fungicides	Total Sum (quetzales)
1	San Rafael	60	600	30,000.00	9,600.00	52,500.00	27,900.00	120,000.00
2	El Tumbador	105	1,050	52,500.00	16,800.00	91,875.00	48,825.00	210,000.00
3	El Rodeo	90	900	45,000.00	14,400.00	78,750.00	41,850.00	180,000.00
4	San Pablo	50	500	25,000.00	8,000.00	43,750.00	23,250.00	100,000.00
5	Comitancillo	60	600	30,000.00	9,600.00	52,500.00	27,900.00	120,000.00
6	Sipacapa	60	600	30,000.00	9,600.00	52,500.00	27,900.00	120,000.00
7	San Miguel	60	600	30,000.00	9,600.00	52,500.00	27,900.00	120,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>4850</b>	<b>Q 242,500.00</b>	<b>Q 77,600.00</b>	<b>Q 24,375.00</b>	<b>Q225,525.00</b>	<b>Q970,000.00</b>

## 7. Traditional dress

The damage caused by Hurricane Stan severely affected the municipalities of the altiplano on the Mexican border, where the large majority of the population is Maya-Mam. Here the women and girls wear their traditional dress (woven blouse and skirt) but the clothes sent to the Social Pastoral and other institutions to help with the emergency consisted of trousers, blouses and dresses: clothes that were unacceptable to the Mayan women and to their communities. Because of this the Social Pastoral asked for help from donor organizations to buy traditional clothes which were given to the women and girls of four municipalities of the altiplano. Hurricane Stan could not be allowed to put an end to our people's culture.

Approximate sum: Q173,000.00 (US\$ 22,674.00) (It was paid directly from Denmark)

Nº	Delivery date	Parish	Description	Beneficiaries
1	28/12/2005	La Asunción, Tacaná	Traditional clothes: woven blouses, skirts and belts.	20
2	28/12/05	Santa Isabel, Tajumulco		280
3	23/01/2006	San Cristóbal, Ixchiguán.		100
4	28/12/05	San Miguel Arcángel, Sibinal.		50
<b>Total outfits</b>				<b>450</b>

We learnt an important lesson from this project to give clothes to 450 indigenous women and girls who lost their houses, animals, crops and land: in every situation, whether or not an emergency, the multicultural reality of the country must be taken into consideration. This project helped to strengthen the Mayan culture.

## 8. Advocacy work carried out by the Social Pastoral

The work of the Social Pastoral is divided into two main areas: the first is the internal area: here, through the services, programmes and pastoral offices, rural development activities are carried out. These include providing technical assistance for agricultural production and organizational, psycho-social and cultural support to families living in poverty and extreme poverty who, because of the absence of the state, are at high risk. The second area is to carry out advocacy work so that the state will assume the constitutional responsibility which is its task.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A cuerda is equivalent to 441 square metres

<sup>2</sup> Constitution of the Republic, Article 119 Obligations of the State, paragraph a) "To promote the economic development of the Nation, stimulating initiatives of an agricultural, industrial, tourist or other nature".

## **1- The governmental Post-Stan Reconstruction Plan**

The Social Pastoral identified the following omissions in the plan:

1. The proposed plan did not include contributions from either the departments or the municipalities. It was drawn up in Guatemala. This approach has had many repercussions during the implementation of the plan.
2. The approach to reconstruction is “cement”. There is no plan to reactivate the peasant economies. More than 90% of the investment is for infrastructure.
3. The strategy for house building is urbanization. For cultural and economic reasons this is not viable on the altiplano.
4. There is no policy to provide fixed assets to peasant families who lost not only their home but also their plots of land for production.
5. At present more than 50 per cent of the families living in temporary shelters have been omitted from the census of the Guatemalan Housing Fund (FOGUAVI). This means that they will not be taken into account in the government housing budget.
6. On the theme of housing: the measurements are 40 square metres for each house, without any land for vegetable gardens or the rearing of animals. Furthermore, only Q5,000 have been designated to land purchase – a sum that is clearly insufficient.
7. The building of the houses is not generating employment in the communities but rather benefiting the companies that have been contracted for the job.
8. The plan is being carried out in the same way as it was drawn up – from Guatemala City. Tenders are invited for the work and the companies that are successful sign contracts whose contents is not made known to the mayors of the towns concerned. This means that they cannot make demands on the companies, since they do not know what their obligations are.
9. Information has been very partial. There was a preliminary report on the loss of agricultural production and forests in which the costs were undervalued. For example when the cost of the loss of maize was calculated, it was put at Q50.00 a quintal (100 lbs) and today maize is costing more than Q120.00 per quintal.

## **2. What has the Social Pastoral done in this situation?**

The decision was taken to participate in the departmental Reconstruction Commission where the Social Pastoral has made the following proposals and observations:

- 1) The Social Pastoral has pointed out the limitations of the approach to reconstruction and has asked for the theme of economic alternatives to be added.
- 2) The Social Pastoral has managed to achieve greater awareness about the need for access to land for production. This theme is now being included in the requests that the departmental commission is making to the national commission.
- 3) The Social Pastoral made an alliance with the national coordinating body Agrarian Platform, in order to carry out protest actions against the government’s refusal to consider proposals from the communities and against the slow pace of the reconstruction work. The fruit of this alliance has been a dialogue with the government at departmental and national level where two proposals have been presented:
  - a. One highlights the need for access to land for housing and production, solidarity land tenancies, animal and poultry projects for women, the dredging of rivers, local democracy and political advocacy and the resolution of agrarian and labour conflicts.
  - b. The other is about access to land and housing suitable for rural areas and worthy of human habitation.
- 4) Both proposals were drawn up with the people affected.
- 5) Through this dialogue with the government, the Social Pastoral discovered that the census carried out by FOGUAVI in the disaster areas included the coastal area but not the altiplano. A comparison of the lists of the Social Pastoral’s temporary shelters with FOGUAVI’s list has now been started and the government has made a verbal commitment to include those who are found to have been left out.
- 6) Together with the Manager of the Reconstruction in San Marcos, the Social Pastoral is analysing the data that has been gathered to establish what damage was done, what projects are under way and what projects still have to be budgeted for.

### 3. Results achieved

- 1) The government has been self critical about its investment for the reconstruction, recognizing that the funds have only been designated to bridges, roads and public buildings. The social funds and the Departmental Development Council have done this through the municipalities and ministries.
- 2) A request has been made to raise the budgets in view of the omissions of the themes of production and housing for which the Social Pastoral has made two proposals together with the families concerned.
- 3) On the theme of house building a model house has been presented with a budget and way of working that could generate work in the community.
- 4) On the theme of land purchase for production initially no attention was paid to the Social Pastoral but now there is a high level of awareness of the omission.
- 5) The Social Pastoral works with peasant organizations so that the government will include their proposals in the reconstruction plans.

### 4. Future Perspectives

- 1) That the approach to the reconstruction will change
- 2) That the two proposals made by peasant organizations will be taken into account
- 3) That another kind of housing will be accepted and that the building of houses will generate sources of work in the communities.
- 4) That the Social Pastoral will be a point of reference for the analysis of information on the post-Stan situation.
- 5) That there will be a peasant movement strong enough to negotiate its demands with the government and make its voice heard.

## 9. Administrative Report

### BUDGET HEADINGS

1	PERSONAL	527,981
2	OFFICE COSTS	181,116
3	TRANSPORT COSTS	57,618
4	COSTS OF VEHICLES	60,804
5	TRANSPORT OF MATERIALS	97,854
6	SHELTERS	6,265,638
7	REBUILDING OF WATER SYSTEMS	2,242,117
8	FOOD PURCHASES	3,324,960
9	PURCHASE OF MEDICINES	215,408
10	TRAINING	69,395
11	SOCIAL AUDIT	0
12	RENTING OF LAND FOR PRODUCTION	970,000
13	COSTS OF WARE HOUSES	40,388
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,044,279</b>

### FUNDS STILL BEING USED IN PROJECTS UNDER WAY

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Sum</b>
1	General account of the Social Pastoral	298,190.80
2	Project Intermón Oxfam (water and sanitation)	327,816.00
3	Project Caritas Switzerland	6.00
4	Sum transferred to the MTC (house reconstruction)	28,979.00
5	Sum transferred to the Land Pastoral (home bakery)	88,699.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Q743,690.80</b>