



Hurricane Stan Relief

On October 4, 2005, Hurricane Stan made landfall south of Veracruz, Mexico. It brought severe flooding and landslides to several Central American countries and southern Mexico. One of the most heavily affected countries was Guatemala, where 669 people died as a result of the storm and over 470,000 others were directly affected. Throughout the country over 35,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, and many village water and sanitation systems were severely damaged. Agricultural production, including coffee, was ravaged. The loss to agriculture, according to Guatemala's Ministry of Agriculture, was valued at approximately \$46 million, with those who depended upon terracing, like many coffee growers, most heavily affected.

As soon as we received word from our producing partners about the force and impact of this storm, we focused our efforts on three initiatives:

- **We provided \$50,000 to Heifer International to support the relief efforts in the Lake Atitlan area (home of a coffee used in Heifer Hope Blend). As a result:**
 - 355 members of six different organizations received assistance to restore the fertility of the land affected by Hurricane Stan
 - Six technical teams were formed to assist in the restoration of the growing area using soil conservation techniques to reduce the vulnerability of the area's watershed.
 - 221 new families received original placements of 2,352 kilos of compost along with 58,500 coffee plants.
- 42 hours (6 days) of training in agro-ecology were delivered, benefiting 35 men and 6 women in attendance.
- **We provided \$20,000 to support Elan Organic Coffee in their construction of desperately need housing in San Juan la Laguna. Six homes have been completed that now house families from the La Voz cooperative.**
- **We worked with Root Capital (formerly Ecologic Finance) to provide:**
 - A \$15,000 interest rate write-down to assist the La Voz Que Clama en el Desierto coffee cooperative in recovering from the loss of a significant amount of their coffee harvest.
 - A \$45,000 grant to the Manos Campesinas cooperative to repair significant damage to the cooperative's processing facilities and coffee farms. Manos Campesinas is a farmer-owned and managed cooperative union that has more than 1,000 members who use organic farming techniques. The cooperative lost twenty to thirty percent of its coffee crop, and washouts forced farmers to carry their remaining harvest on foot.
 - A \$35,000 grant to CESMACH, a cooperative in southern Mexico, to repair the cooperative's production facilities and damage to its members' farms. CESMACH is a farmer-owned cooperative that was established in 1994 and supports 750 families who cultivate organic coffee. The cooperative grows coffee within the buffer zone of the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, one of the world's 25 biodiversity conservation "hotspots."