

## The Evaluation Team and Methods

The Evaluation Team comprised Dr. Nestor A. Nicolás (Executive Director, *Cascos Blancos/White Helmets*) from Argentina and Dr. Richard S. Olson (Professor, Florida International University) from the United States. Together the evaluators have more than 40 years of disaster response and disaster research experience.

The evaluators reviewed SUMA documents and field reports from El Salvador and then conducted 30 interviews in El Salvador between May 20 and May 26, 2001 using a structured set of questions derived from the TOR.<sup>1</sup> The interviews comprised individuals involved with SUMA in the response to the El Salvador earthquakes at various levels (operational as well as management), donor government officials, university researchers, and journalists. The interview group was also specifically extended to include individuals involved in the auditing (*auditoria*) of international assistance.

Interviews in the Salvadoran organizations or sectors included the national emergency organization (the *Comisión de Emergencia Nacional*, COEN), Ministry of Health, Armed Forces, Foreign Ministry (*Cancillería*), Financial Accounting (*Corte de Cuentas*), Airport Fire Fighting Services (*Bomberos Aeroportuarios*), Association of Private Enterprises, and the Salvadoran Red Cross. Other interviews took place with representatives of World Vision, PAHO, and UNDP.

All interview subjects were guaranteed absolute anonymity and encouraged to be completely candid and critical. Therefore, they are not listed in this report.

The evaluators were also fortunate in being able to secure the results of three post-disaster public opinion surveys that dealt wholly or in part with event impacts and perceptions of response, including that of the international community. Two of the surveys were carried out by the *Centro de Investigación de la Opinión Pública Salvadoreña* of El Salvador's *Universidad Tecnológica* (UTEC). The first UTEC survey focused on the January 13, 2001 event and was in the field between February 9 and February 11, 2001—that is, just prior to the second earthquake. The follow-up UTEC survey was in the field between May 11 and May 13, 2001. Both had a series of disaster-related questions, along with the usual demographics and questions probing various current social and political issues.

The other survey focused exclusively on the disaster and was put in the field April 5-11, 2001 by the *Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública* of the *Universidad Centroamericana* (UCA). This very extensive survey contained more than 100 questions, including the usual demographics, and probed multiple dimensions of disaster impact and response perceptions.

All of the surveys (UTEC's as well as UCA's) used random samples drawn proportionally from all of the nation's major political subdivisions (*departamentos*). The sample selections were also designed to correspond to El Salvador's gender, age, and socioeconomic profiles.

---

<sup>1</sup> Not all interview subjects could respond to all the questions, so the numbers of answers in the sections below will vary by question.