

## GUATEMALA

*The appeal launched by the League on 5 February to all National Societies to provide assistance to victims of the earthquake resulted in a great demonstration of solidarity throughout the Red Cross world. Responding to its own responsibilities, the Guatemalan Red Cross played a major role. As the League reported, the assistance extended, and the resources already available to it, made it possible to intervene immediately when the earthquake occurred:*

Since its foundation in 1923 the Guatemalan Red Cross has concentrated on organising its relief services for effective action. At present, the emphasis is being placed on disaster relief preparedness.

In this context the Guatemalan Red Cross has established close relations with the Government and is cooperating with the National Emergency Committee. With technical help from the League, the Society has drawn up a disaster relief preparedness plan, under which small emergency committees of three to five people have been set up in each municipality, programmes of action established and specialised personnel trained in rescue and evacuation, shelter, mass feeding, first aid and medical services.

Within the terms of an agreement with the Government, the Guatemalan Red Cross is responsible for stocking, administering and distributing relief supplies and setting up disaster relief posts. In carrying out relief actions, it receives the support of the Government and the help of the army.