

Below is an excerpt from an email sent to Doug Lapp, Ten Thousand Villages buyer for the Central America region reporting on the damage sustained by artisans in El Salvador as a result of tropical storm Stan.

Dear Doug,

We are very thankful for your email and your concern in wanting to know how we find ourselves after the great storm and hurricane that didn't stop for many days and without the sun in sight...

Here at the Taller (Workshop), we were inundated with water and the wall that retains the workshop cracked and the floor where we work opened a bit but, thanks to God, the rain stopped and the sun came out, and neither the workshop or the wall fell (in the back we are going to see if we should put any reinforcements or columns for the wall). A few of Taller artisans' houses fell apart, but we're already fixing them. We've helped and everything is okay. Nothing terrible has happened to any of us, we're fine. We can't say the same thing about other places, where many people have died, buried by the earthquake, the mudslides and the flooding by the rivers.

Due to the never-ending rains, the children are not studying, and several of the women from Taller didn't show up for work because of the humidity...

Many Thanks,
Baltazar García
Taller Jesus Artesano
La Palma, El Salvador