

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central America: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDR43004
Glide No. FL-2008-000198-HND, NIC,
CRI, SLV, BLZ, GTM
24 October, 2008

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks 1,110,911 CHF (USD 1,015,550 or EUR 707,586) in cash, kind, or services to support the National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to assist 30,000 beneficiaries. This operation is expected to be implemented over 9 months, and will therefore be completed by 30 July, 2009; a Final Report will be made available by 30 October, 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

CHF 271,000 (USD 247,715 or EUR 172,611) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 October 2008 to support the National Societies. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since 16 October, 2008, a series of severe meteorological events have been affecting the countries of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, with heavy rains and floods affecting approximately 215,000 people in these countries. Houses and public infrastructure were damaged and crops were lost. Based on this situation, this preliminary appeal responds to a request from the National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and focuses on supporting a timely and appropriate response, through the delivery of essential emergency relief items, and on completing damage and needs assessments for early recovery activities (shelter, water and sanitation and other sectors). Further rain is foreseen for the coming days in this region, which may make the situation worse

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget;](#)
[here to link to a map of the affected area; or](#)
[here to view contact details>](#)



A woman crossing the river after a bridge collapsed in Honduras. Source: Reuters

The situation

The countries of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador have been affected by heavy rain due to tropical depression number 16. A stationary low pressure system has been producing showers and thunderstorms, and heavy rains will continue over parts of Guatemala, Honduras and the Yucatan peninsula over the next few days.

In **Honduras**, torrential rains across the entire territory caused flash floods and mudslides, damaging or destroying bridges and roads, and forcing people out of their homes. Latest reports indicate 18 people are dead, five are missing and approximately 200,000 people are affected, of which 22,143 people have lost their homes. To date, 37,397 people have been evacuated. In regards to infrastructure, reports indicate 5,379 houses, 157 roads, two water systems and four bridges have been damaged. Emergency shelters for 19,836 people have been opened and are being managed by the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in Honduras (Comite para la defensa de Derechos Humanos de Honduras – CODEL) and the Municipal Emergency Coordination Commission (Comite de Desarrollo Municipal – CODEM).

The Ministry of Education cancelled school activities in the northern department of Cortes until the red alert is rescinded. In the western departments, including Ocotepeque and Copan, houses and schools have been destroyed and the potable water system was shut down. The Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) has issued a warning to the people living in the most vulnerable areas to evacuate immediately. The entire country has been affected, especially the central and western areas. Crops in the northern departments of Colon and Atlantida have sustained damage, due to the overflow of the Tocoa River. The southern department of Valle was affected, due to the rise in the Choluteca River. Moreover, several communities in the northern department of Cortes and Yoro are flooded, due to the high levels of the Ulua River.



Flooded streets in Puerto Barrios.
Source: CONRED

In **Guatemala**, 10 days of intense rains have affected 570 families, approximately 2,862 people, among 20 municipalities. Rivers have overflowed, flooding and affecting more than 19 municipalities. Preliminary reports indicate severe damage in the agricultural and housing sectors. To date, 24,332 people were affected in this emergency. The livelihoods of more than 5,000 families have been compromised and 7,540 people have been evacuated and found refuge in 15 temporary shelters. The government of Guatemala requested the supply of food items for the families in the temporary shelters, through the Emergency Operations Committee (COE) for the World Food Programme (WFP). The National

Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) has been carrying out damage and needs assessments

In **Nicaragua**, the intense rain has left four people dead and 10,633 people affected in eight departments, including Chinandega, Madriz, Esteli, Leon, Managua, Granada and Rivas. 22 emergency shelters have been opened, housing approximately 1,500 people, while the rest are staying with friends and family. The department of Chinandega, which is 95 percent agricultural, has lost all its crops due to the floods. The members of the emergency centre (SINAPRED) are coordinating all emergency activities in their region.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation is regularly coordinating response activities with the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico in Panama and with its teams present in all the three countries. The National Societies are also coordinating the relief activities in their respective countries with governmental and non-governmental organizations and Partner National Societies (PNS).

In **Honduras**, COPECO and CODEM have been coordinating relief actions with the Honduran Red Cross (HRC). PNS including the Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, as well as other humanitarian agencies present in the field, are cooperating with the HRC. The Norwegian Red Cross has provided financial support for the mobilization of the National Intervention Team (NIT) members. Additionally, the governments of Italy, Spain and the United States of America have committed to cooperate. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has

announced that a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team has arrived in the country. An International Federation shelter delegate will be participating in the shelter sector cluster.

Since the beginning of the emergency CONRED in **Guatemala** has been coordinating actions and evaluating the needs with governors and municipal emergency operations centers (COE). The Norwegian Red Cross has provided financial support for the mobilization of the NIT members.

The **Nicaraguan Red Cross** is working with PNS present in the country including Canadian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. NRC is also working in coordination with the National Emergency Centre (Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, mitigación y atención de Desastres – SINAPRED) and other humanitarian agencies present in the field, including the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The **Honduran Red Cross (HRC)** has activated its NIT since the beginning of the emergency. Volunteers in the local branch in San Lorenzo provided food items, clothes and blankets to the people housed in temporary shelters. HRC activated regional warehouses and mobilized food items to distribution points. The HRC has elaborated a preliminary plan of action that includes the distribution of food and non-food items and early recovery and capacity building activities for 3,000 families. The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) deployed two disaster management delegates, and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) to Honduras to provide assistance to the assessments, the elaboration of a plan of action and the distributions of relief items.

To date, the HRC has dispatched and distributed the following:

Department	Families	Items
CHOLUTECA	1,000	Kitchen kits Hygiene kits
EI PARAISO	400	Kitchen kits Hygiene kits
SAN LORENZO VALLE	20	Kitchen kits Hygiene kits
TOTAL	1,420	Families

Distributions commenced on 18 October and will be completed on 23 October

The **Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)** with the support of the Norwegian Red Cross has activated its NIT since the beginning of the emergency and has performed evacuation activities and damage and need assessments in the affected areas. NIT members specialized in water and sanitation, along with equipment has been deployed to the areas in most need (department of Peten and Izabal). GRC volunteers from several local branches in the affected areas have distributed 1,500 family kits supplied by the National Disaster Secretary. A preliminary plan of action will aim to deliver food and non-food assistance to 2,000 families. One Disaster Management delegate, deployed by PADRU, is providing assistance to the operation.

The **Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)** is conducting assessments in the affected areas and is coordinating with members of the national emergency centre (SINAPRED). NRC has provided an initial plan of action (PoA) that includes provisions of food items and non-food items for 1,000 families. A water and sanitation officer is currently in the country to assist the National Society.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: The Guatemalan Red Cross, the Honduran Red Cross and the Nicaraguan Red Cross identified as priorities the distribution of food and non-food items, including kitchen kits and hygiene kits. Local branches' volunteers, personnel from the Federation and PNS have been visiting the affected areas performing damage assessments to determine the immediate needs. Once all evaluations are completed and additional needs are identified (particularly in the areas of water, sanitation, early recovery and

food security), a revised emergency appeal will be launched. This may include additional beneficiaries, objectives and activities. The beneficiary selection criteria will be done impartially based on the vulnerability of the affected people.

Immediate needs: The floods have damaged homes and destroyed crops and household belongings of hundreds of people in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. There is an urgent need for drinking water, food, basic relief items, and shelter materials.

Longer-term needs: The longer-term needs identified are the rehabilitation of livelihoods. It is also important to promote disaster risk reduction activities in affected communities, which will contribute to building community safety and resilience for the future. Further evaluations are being carried out and the longer-term needs will be adapted accordingly.

The proposed operation

This emergency relief operation will provide 6,000 families (3,000 families in Honduras, 2,000 families in Guatemala and 1,000 families in Nicaragua) with essential items to help them surpass the initial effects of the emergency. After the emergency relief phase is complete the operation will be focused on early recovery and rehabilitation activities, as well as capacity building.

Assessments are still ongoing, and more detailed information will become available shortly. Based on this, objectives may be included or expanded, as relevant to the operation. More specific objectives concerning early recovery, emergency health, water and sanitation and shelter will be added.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 6,000 families (3,000 families in Honduras, 2,000 families in Guatemala and 1,000 families in Nicaragua) will benefit from the provision of essential food items and non-food items to recover from the effects of the emergency. Procurement will also replenish HRC relief stocks (see table below), therefore strengthening and re-establishing their response capacity for future relief operations.	
Expected results	Activities planned
6,000 families will receive essential relief items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with public institutions. • Verification and census of the most affected population. • Purchase of food items. • Purchase of non-food items by Regional Logistics Unit (RLU). • Transport, customs and logistics arranged by RLU. • Distribution of food and non-food items. • Monitoring and evaluation.

Honduras

Each of the 3,000 families in Honduras will receive a food parcel. The contents will include rice, beans, cooking oil, corn flour and sugar and these items will be procured locally.

The Federation's Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in Panama will also be sending 3,000 hygiene kits and kitchen sets, and 6,000 mosquito nets and jerry cans to Honduras. HRC is currently utilizing their pre-positioned stocks to distribute to the affected families. PADRU in coordination with the RLU will replenish their stocks.

The kits contain the following items:

Hygiene kit (for 5 persons for 1 month)	Quantities
Washing powder, 1 kg, for washing machine, for cloth	3
Toilet paper, hygienic, roll	12
Soap, body soap, 100g, piece	5

Toothpaste, tube 75 ml	5
Tooth brush, medium	5
Shampoo, 250 ml	2
Razor, disposable	5
Hygienic pads, normal	8

Kitchen kit (for 1 family of 5 persons)	Quantities
Bowl for food	5
Fork, table, stainless steel	5
Frying pan, 2.5L	1
Knife, kitchen, stainless steel blade	1
Knife, table knife, stainless steel	5
Spoon, wooden, stirring, 30cm	1
Spoon, soup, stainless steel, 15 ml	5
Cooking pot, 5L, alum. diam 20 cm	1
Cooking pot, 7L, alum. diam 24 cm, with handles	1
Cup, stainless steel, with handle, 300ml	5
Plate, deep, aluminium, diam. 22 cm	5

Guatemala

Each of the 2,000 families in Guatemala will receive a food parcel, hygiene kit, kitchen set and two mosquito nets and jerry cans.

Nicaragua

Each of the 1,000 families in Nicaragua will receive a food parcel (contents including rice, beans, cooking oil, corn, salt etc), two mosquito nets, three blankets and two plastic buckets.

Water and Sanitation

Objective: The water and sanitation needs of the target population identified in the assessments are met with an appropriate planned programme. This plan may include an initial provision of clean drinking water to address emergency needs (e.g. ensure safe water supply by cleaning wells in Nicaragua) and support for hygiene promotion and improved sanitation. This will be finalised following the findings of the current assessment.

Shelter

Objective: The shelter needs of the target population identified in the assessments are met with an appropriate planned programme. This plan may include an initial distribution of shelter kits to address emergency needs and a more tailored response to address medium and longer-term needs. Pre positioning of shelter kits for HRC relief stocks may be considered to increase their response capacity for future shelter operations.

Early Recovery

Objective: Early recovery needs will be assessed, planned and implemented together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders.

A group of experts including a RIT member, a food security expert, a psychosocial support expert, a Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) expert (with experience in shelter), a water and sanitation expert and experienced volunteers will evaluate the communities during the relief phase to further define needs and planned programming in these areas.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for advocacy, maintaining the profile of the emergency operation and for fundraising. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promoting greater quality, accountability, and transparency. The communications activities covered by this appeal are aimed at supporting the National Societies to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities will include training, capacity building, as well as material support and are closely coordinated with the Communications Department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. To date, there have already been 15 publications in several different kinds of media, including television, radio and newspaper and the National Societies will work to maintain a media focus on this emergency response.

Capacity of the National Society

During the pre-hurricane meeting that took place in Panama from 3 to 6 June 2008, National Societies from countries prone to hurricanes in the Americas participated actively in the revision of a contingency plan for the region (which had been elaborated during the 2007 pre-hurricane meeting). The development of the regional contingency plan helped explore disaster preparedness tools, available capacities within the region, possible response strategies and operating procedures, which provided participants with hands-on practice in readiness for such a response.

In general, the National Societies affected by this emergency are well prepared with pre-positioned stocks, radio networks, trained personnel and pre and post emergency coordination meetings. All the involved National Societies sit in the National Emergency Operations Centre and have specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

In addition, the Honduran, Guatemalan and Nicaraguan Red Cross have wide experience in disaster response, particularly as a result of the lessons learnt from operations with hurricane Mitch in 1998 and hurricane Stan in 2005.

Capacity of the Federation

The International Federation through PADRU in coordination with the Zone office in the Americas and the Regional Representation is providing support to the affected National Societies for the response needs, by organizing the provision of relief items, the development of plans of action and the coordination of logistics and human resources as needed.

The International Federation has currently deployed an early recovery advisor, a water and sanitation officer, and a disaster management delegate from PADRU to the affected countries to support the initial assessments

and assist the National Societies to kickstart the response. The international Federation also has a strong pool of RIT members that can be deployed quickly to provide additional support as required.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Panama: Jean Pierre Taschereau, Disaster Management delegate, Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: jp.taschereau@ifrc.org; phone: (506) 316-1001; fax: (506) 316-1082
- In Panama: Ariel Kestens, Head of PADRU; email: ariel.kestens@ifrc.org; phone: (506) 316-1001; fax: (506) 316-1082
- In Panama: Fabricio Lopez, Regional Representative of the Regional Representation Office for Central America and Mexico; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304
- In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; e-mail: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 22 730 4300.

[<Preliminary Emergency Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

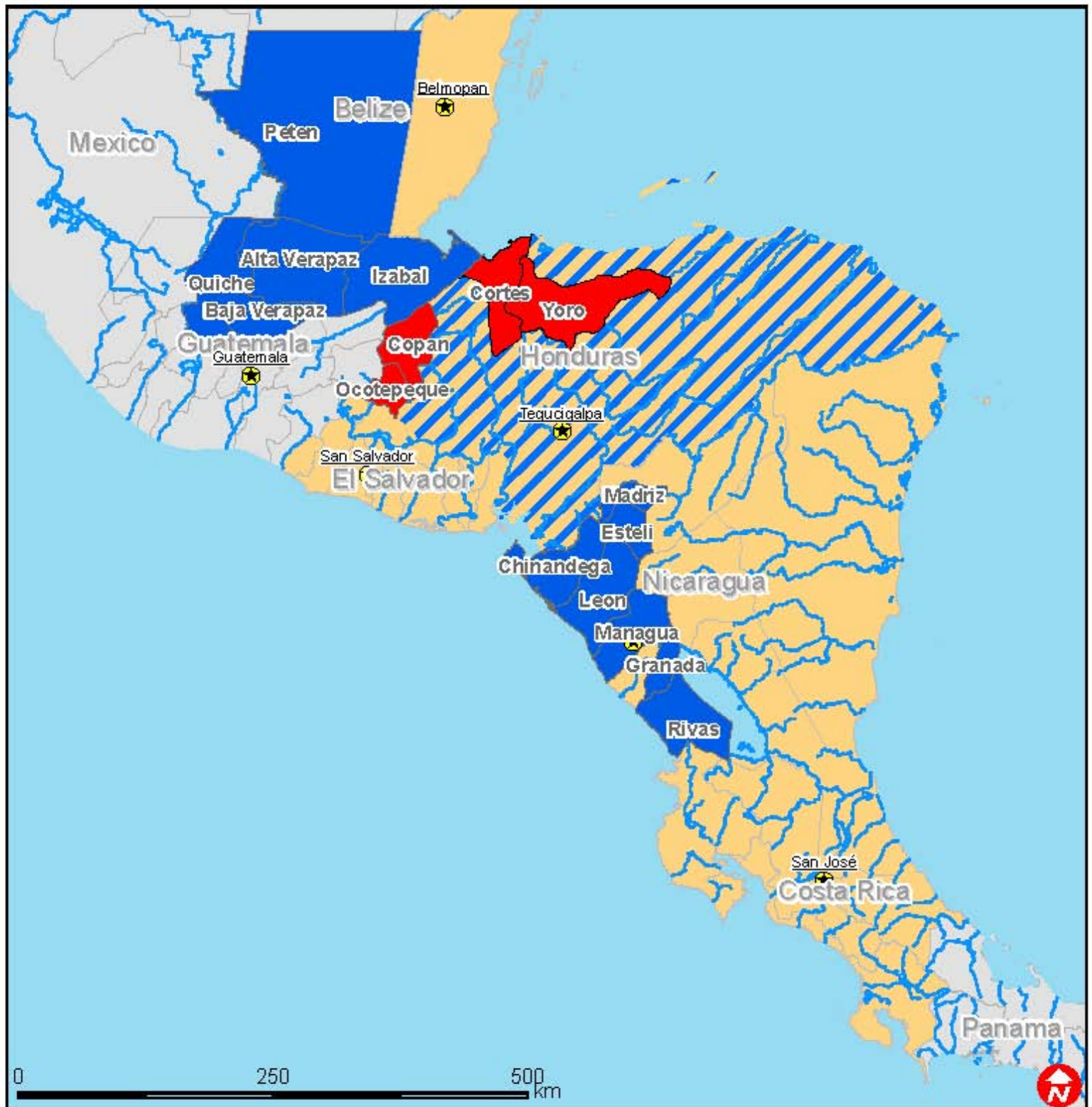
CENTRAL AMERICA FLOODS 2008

MDR43004

	Total
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>	
Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	76,500
Food	399,682
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	16,500
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	185,800
Other Supplies & Services	110,000
Total Relief Needs	788,482
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	2,200
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>	
Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	18,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	43,000
Service fee & Recovery	24,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	16,500
National Staff	
National Society Staff	47,400
Consultants	12,000
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>	
Workshops & Training	0
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>	
Travel	27,000
Information & Public Relations	6,000
Office running costs	13,500
Communication Costs	25,200
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	15,420
Other General Expenses	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme Support - PSR	72,209
Total Operational Needs	322,429
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Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	1,110,911
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Available Ressources	
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Net Request	1,110,911



Central America: Floods



- Red alert
- Most affected regions