

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Costa Rica: Floods

**DREF Bulletin
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The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 50,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 25 September 2008 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries affected by the floods.

Heavy rains during the month of September 2007 in Costa Rica caused the overflow of several rivers severely affecting many communities in the Northern Pacific Region. This final report shows the objectives for this operation were successfully accomplished since distribution of all non-food items were completed, which provided assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)



Distribution activities held in the affected areas.
Source: Costa Rican Red Cross.

The situation

Costa Rica had an unusual rainy season which commenced in the month of September 2007. The National Emergency Commission (Comision Nacional de Prevención de Riesgos y Atención de Emergencias – CNE) issued a green alert for Northern San José in the central valley, and the province of Guanacaste in the Northern Pacific coast. The non-stop rainfall caused several rivers to overflow and severely damaged the towns of Santa Cecilia, Guayabal, El Guabo, Barrio Limón, Bernabela, Las Camisitas - amongst others in the Northern Pacific region. More than 2,500 families were affected. Four shelters were opened providing housing for over 600 people.

The communities of Maiquetía, Barrio La Granja, Santa Eduvigis, Calle el Robel in the Northern region of San Jose were affected by the floods damaging 268 houses and destroying 45 houses. Relief activities were hard to accomplish since bridges and roads were destroyed. Livelihoods were affected by the floods as well. The CNE monitored the situation closely and activated the corresponding committees in order to prepare for the initial needs and damage assessments. The CNE distributed drinking water to the affected areas and deployed machinery to clear out the roads so relief aid could reach all affected areas.

The affected areas mentioned above were again struck by continuous rain during the month of October causing even more damage. Another DREF allocation was requested and approved to cover these needs. That emergency affected the on-going distributions undertaken by the government and the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRC) for this DREF operation, but were successfully completed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency on 21 September, the **Costa Rican Red Cross (CRC)** monitored the emergency and carried out rescue and evacuation activities. The local branches of the CRC in the affected areas were activated, as was the Emergency Operations Centre (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia – COE). Various shelters were opened for the people that were evacuated from their houses and relief items, such as food parcels, blankets and mattresses were distributed. The CRC coordinated the planning of relief activities with the municipalities in the affected areas along with the Ministry of Health.



The CRC volunteers preparing to distribute emergency kits. Source: The Costa Rican Red Cross

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 500 families (2,500 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of relief items to recover from the effects of the floods.

The CRC plan of action included the distribution of the following items:

- 500 Cleaning kits
- 500 Hygiene kits
- 500 Kitchen kits

After evaluations were completed, the CRC distributed kitchen kits and hygiene kits to 500 families in the Northern region (items sent by the Pan American Disaster Response Unit – PADRU). During the phase of distributions, the CRC procured and distributed the cleaning kits and labels locally following Federation procurement standards. The contents of the kits are based on the SPHERE project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for disaster relief.

The table below shows the distributions held in each affected region:

Region	Cleaning kits	Hygiene kits	Kitchen kits
Santa Cruz de Guanacaste	250	250	250
San Juan de Dios Desamparados	250	250	250
TOTAL	500	500	500

Impact: 500 families in the Northern region of Costa Rica benefited from non-food items. These met their basic needs and helped them get on with their daily lives.

Challenges: As mentioned before, the challenge the CRC encountered was the constant rain which delayed the distribution process. However, this difficulty was overcome with time and the distribution activities were completed.

Conclusions

- The National Society was well prepared for the operation since they had the proper equipment such as all terrain vehicles and telecommunication equipment that helped them carry out rescue and distribution activities.
- The importance of having pre-positioned stock in the warehouses was acknowledged by the CRC since it allows for a quick response when disaster strikes.
- The CRC disaster preparedness and capacity is strengthened since in each operation new challenges arise and new lessons are learned.

How we work	
<i>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.</i>	
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Costa Rica: Miguel Carmona Jiménez, President, Costa Rican Red Cross; presidencia@cruzroja.or.cr; phone (506) 233 7033 Ext. 2102• In Panama: Dario Alvarez, Acting Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; email: dario.alvarez@ifrc.org; phone (507) 316 1001; fax (507) 316 1082• In Panama: Fabricio Lopez, Acting Head of the Regional Representation Office for Central America; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org; phone (507) 380 0250; fax (507) 317 1304• In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Zone Relationship Management Coordinator, 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.	

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCR001 - Costa Rica - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/9-2008/5
Budget Timeframe	2007/9-2008/5
Appeal	MDRCR001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		49,831				49,831
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		46,002				46,002
C5. Other Income		46,002				46,002
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		46,002				46,002
D. Total Funding = B + C		46,002				46,002
Appeal Coverage		92%				92%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		46,002				46,002
E. Expenditure		-46,002				-46,002
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		49,831					49,831	
Supplies								
Utensils & Tools	15,483		11,100			11,100	4,383	
Other Supplies & Services	25,696		23,611			23,611	2,085	
Total Supplies	41,179		34,711			34,711	6,467	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,805		110			110	1,695	
Distribution & Monitoring			1,426			1,426	-1,426	
Transport & Vehicle Costs			482			482	-482	
Total Transport & Storage	1,805		2,017			2,017	-213	
Personnel								
National Staff	2,406		696			696	1,710	
National Society Staff			268			268	-268	
Total Personnel	2,406		964			964	1,442	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation			296			296	-296	
Office Costs	1,203						1,203	
Financial Charges			3,442			3,442	-3,442	
Total General Expenditure	1,203		3,739			3,739	-2,536	
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,239		2,880			2,880	359	
Total Programme Support	3,239		2,880			2,880	359	
Services								
Services & Recoveries			1,690			1,690	-1,690	
Total Services			1,690			1,690	-1,690	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	49,831		46,002			46,002	3,829	
VARIANCE (C - D)			3,829			3,829		