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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Costa Rica: floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRCR009**  
**GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000126-CRI](#)**  
**09 August 2012**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

**90,095 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,750 beneficiaries (750 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** A low-pressure system in the Caribbean brought severe precipitations to the Limón and Cartago provinces of Costa Rica during the last week of July. Some 9,500 persons have been affected by the overflowing of rivers, particularly in the Talamanca municipality, and landslides in Turrialba.

In support to the government's assistance efforts, the Costa Rican Red Cross completed evacuations, provided first aid care and carried out assessments. Now with the support of the DREF, the National Society will reach 750 families with non-food relief items, access to safe water through the cleaning of wells and hygiene promotion.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by November 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by February 2012).

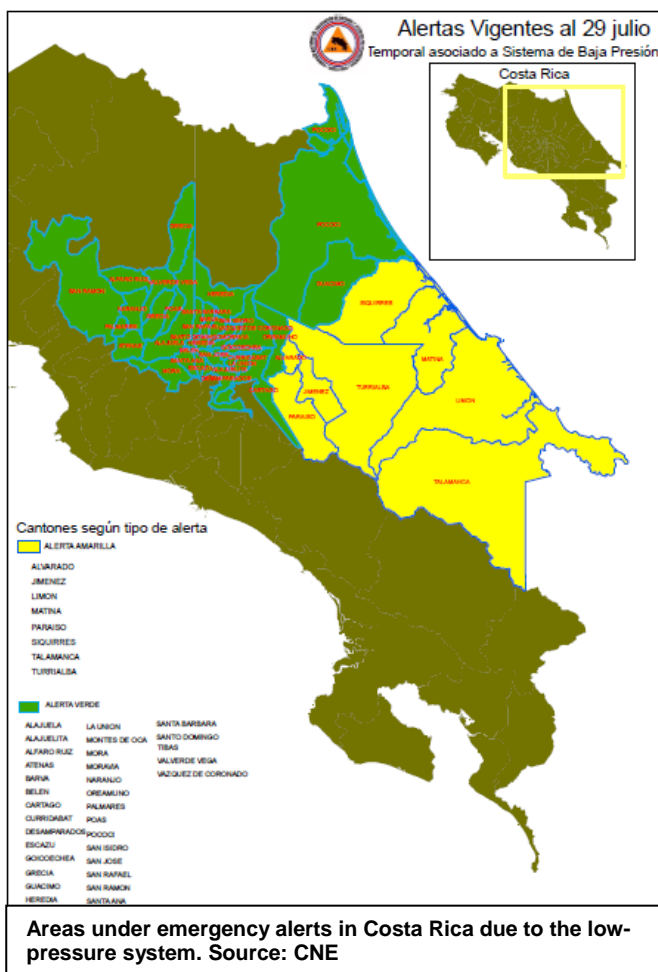
[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details>](#)



*Several homes in Jimenez, municipality of Turrialba were destroyed or severely affected by a landslide after an embankment failed.  
Source: Costa Rican Red Cross*

## The situation

Between 28 and 30 July 2012, a low system pressure in the Caribbean brought severe precipitations to Limón and Cartago provinces of Costa Rica. The overflowing of rivers and landslides prompted the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgo y Atención de Emergencias, CNE) to declare a yellow alert for eight cantons, and a green alert for 32 cantons. Many communities in these regions were flooded, became isolated by the landslides and road damages, and lost access to public services such as electricity and water.



Based on first assessments gathered by the CNE and the Emergency Operation Centre of the CRRC the following affectation has been confirmed:

- Flooded communities: 91
- Isolated communities: 38
- Isolated persons: over 300
- Communities affected by landslides: 33
- Total affected communities: 249
- Total affected persons: over 9,523
- Collective centres open: 46
- Persons in collective centres: 2,266
- Missing persons: 1
- Confirmed deaths: 5

With several communities still out of contact, the total number of affected persons is an informed estimation. The area affected is characterized by small communities and a low-density population. Based on the latest national census (2011), the total population of the affected area is 175,958 inhabitants.

**Food security:** many of the affected families rely on their agricultural production for their livelihood.

The loss of crops and small animals due to the floods and landslides will affect the access to food.

**Water and Sanitation:** water services were temporarily disrupted in the Paraíso and Turrialba municipalities, but the government is already working on infrastructure repairs. In the case of the population of Matina, Siquirres, Valle de la Estrella and Talamanca, the community members depend on wells many of which have been contaminated. Assistance for their cleaning will be required.

**Health:** the emergency has also raised the concerns for a possible increase of vectors and waterborne diseases associated with floods.

**Shelter:** homes in the Caribbean coast were affected by floods from moderate to severely and homes will be in need of cleaning as the waters recede. In the area of Turrialba, however, several homes were significantly affected by landslides. The government is assisting with rental of homes as families leave collective centres.

## Coordination and partnerships

The National Response system was activated at all its levels, with community, municipal, and national committees. At each level, there is participation of the civil society, non-governmental organizations, and public and private institutions. From the start of the emergency, the CRRC coordinated with other actors in their search, rescue, evacuation and pre-hospital treatment of affected people, as well as supporting in a collaborative manner all damage and needs assessments.

At the municipal level, the government has formed a technical team integrated by members of the Social Assistance Joint Institute (Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social, IMAS), Agricultural Development Institute (Instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario, IDA), Ministry of Agriculture and Husbandry (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería), and the CNE. Additionally, the CNE is in coordination with the IMAS and the Ministry of

Housing. These technical teams are completing detailed assessments to ensure affected families receive the required support to return to their pre-disaster situation. At the moment, the government is providing families with food parcels and assisting with rental of homes for those whose homes were severely affected. The CRRC is working in close collaboration with the CNE to support their overall efforts. As a result, this DREF-supported operation will focus on the distribution of non-food items and cleaning of contaminated wells, the later a direct request from municipalities.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The joint assessments carried out by the CNE and the National Society determined that a total 9,523 persons needed to be assisted as stated in the table below:

Communities	Municipalities	Persons affected
Barrio El Oso, La Flora y San Joaquín de Pejibaye	Paraiso	133
El Botecito, Barrio El Cementerio, Noche Buena, El Mora, Los Olivos de Azul, Sitio Mata, Las Colonias de La Suiza, San Juan Norte, San Juan Sur, Las Golondrinas, Las Américas, Campabadal, El Recreo	Turrialba	1,185
Matina, Bataan	Matina	2,500
El Carmen de Siquirres	Siquirres	5,000
Pandora Oeste	Valle de la Estrella	105
Sixaola, Bratsi, Telire, Cahuita.	Talamanca	600
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,523</b>

To avoid duplication of efforts, the CRRC will select 750 families from these areas in partnership with the CNE, municipal and local authorities, and other humanitarian and technical actors. The following criteria will be used:

1. Families with proven difficulties to recover with their own resources.
2. Families that lost their livelihood of agricultural production due to the emergency.
3. Families that are not being similarly assisted by other organizations or actors.
4. Families with single parents, elderly members, children under five years old, or with members with physical or mental disabilities.

### The proposed operation

With the support of the DREF, the CRRC will assist 750 families (3,750 persons) with non-food relief items, well cleaning and hygiene promotion. All activities will be completed in coordination with community members and municipal authorities. In addition, the DREF will support with insurance, per diem and protective gear to some 300 volunteers involved in the operation. A final evaluation will be completed at the end of the operation to gather lessons on good practices.

#### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome: The immediate needs of 750 families affected are met through the distribution of essential household items**

**Outputs: 750 families (3,750 persons) will receive one kitchen kit, one hygiene kit and two jerry cans.**

#### Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure and distribute relief supplies to affected families.
- Monitor and report on relief distributions.

For the current DREF operation the National Society will procure all relief items locally, following the same standards established for the IFRC's Global Logistics Service.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome: Reduction of the risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities through the provision of safe water as well as hygiene promotion.**

**Outputs: 750 families are reached with the cleaning of their wells and with hygiene promotion**

**Activities planned:**

- Procure water analysis and cleaning equipment.
- Clean wells in affected communities.
- Train volunteers on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.
- Coordinate and complete well cleaning and hygiene promotion activities in coordination with local and national authorities.
- Monitor activities and report in a timely manner.

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### Contact information

- **In the Costa Rican Red Cross:** Jim Batres Rodriguez, national deputy director of operations and relief, Costa Rican Red Cross; phone: + 506. 254.25.011; email: [jim.batres@cruzroja.or.cr](mailto:jim.batres@cruzroja.or.cr)
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### How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by *Strategy 2020* which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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## MDRCR009 COSTA RICA FLOODS

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	31,771
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	22,275
Other Supplies & Services	0
Regional Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>54,046</b>
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	6,795
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,890
Logistics Services	1,938
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>10,623</b>
National Society Staff	3,510
Volunteers	3,276
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>6,786</b>
Consultants	2,250
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>2,250</b>
Workshops & Training	6,750
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>6,750</b>
Travel	720
Information & Public Relations	900
Office Costs	810
Communications	810
Financial Charges	900
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>4,140</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	5,499
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>5,499</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>90,095</b>