

EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND HAITI: FLOODS FROM HURRICANE STAN

Appeal no. 05EA021
7 October 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,568,000 (USD 1,230,694 OR EUR 1,012,648) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 10,250 FAMILIES (SOME 51,250 BENEFICIARIES) FOR 6 MONTHS

(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget)

CHF 250,000 (USD 196,188 or EUR 161,463) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to begin relief operations in response to the floods. Unearmarked funds to reimburse the DREF are encouraged.

A separate appeal seeking CHF 487,000 for 21,000 people (4,200 families) for floods and volcanic activity in El Salvador was launched on 5 October 2005

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org> For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Central America, Mexico, and Haiti: Floods; Appeal no. 05EA021

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The situation

Hurricane Stan, the 18th named storm of an extremely busy Atlantic hurricane season, first formed as a tropical depression off the east coast of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. It quickly strengthened to a tropical storm as it moved across the peninsula, bringing heavy rains to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and southern Mexico. The storm continued to build strength once it was again over the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and became a category one hurricane just before coming ashore in the Mexican state of Veracruz. Rains brought by Stan were particularly heavy on the Pacific coast of Central America.

Given the scope of the affected area and the initial nature of the information generated during needs assessments, the International Federation is responding to the situation and requests from the national societies by launching this Emergency Appeal on a preliminary basis as damage assessments continue and the needs are better identified. Further detailed information, including any revised budgets, will be reflected in follow-up Operations Updates. In addition to the information captured below, the situation in Haiti (specifically the very poor Artbonite) and the north of Belize are also a cause of concern, and while the Federation does not yet have detailed information on needs, it does anticipate that there will be humanitarian requirements and a need for donor support.

Costa Rica

Since Monday, 19 September, heavy rains in Costa Rica have caused flooding of major rivers and landslides. Some 198 communities have now been affected in the following cantons of the **Provinces of San José**: Vázquez de Coronado, Dota, Tarrazú, León Cortés, Acosta, Tibás and Pérez Zeledón; **Puntarenas**: Osa, Aguirre, Parrita, Garabito, Buenos Aires, Golfito, Esparza and Puntarenas; **Alajuela**: San Carlos, Upala, Alajuela and Valverde Vega; **Guanacaste**: Nandayure, Hojancha, Nicoya, Santa Cruz, Abangares, Bagaces and Carrillo; **Cartago**: Turrialba and **Heredia**: Heredia and Sarapiquí. As a result, over 1,500 people have been obliged to evacuate their homes and are currently accommodated in 35 shelters or in the houses of family and neighbours. To date, 398 houses have been reported as damaged by the rains, water and electricity supply has been affected in some areas, 48 bridges, 4 dikes and 28 sewerage systems have been damaged, over 100 roads have been waterlogged and there has been damage to crops. The area of Quepos in the Province of Puntarenas has been particularly badly hit by the flooding. On Tuesday, 27 September, the Costa Rican president, Abel Pacheco, declared a state of emergency and the National Emergency Commission issued a red alert on 5 October in several cantons of the Province of Guanacaste in the north.

Guatemala

The rains brought on by Tropical Storm Stan have caused flooding and landslides in Guatemala, seriously affecting 175 communities and placing another 182 communities at risk. The storm has caused serious damages to infrastructure and agriculture and disrupted basic services in the departments of Jutiapa, Jalapa, Santa Rosa, Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Suchitepéquez, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Totonicapán, Quiché and Sololá. According to the National Disaster Response Agency (CONRED), at least 19 people have died and 49 have been injured. A total of 26,169 people have been affected and 3,323 houses have been damaged. Some 12,079 people are staying in the 63 temporary shelters that have been set up in the affected areas. The government of Guatemala has declared a state of emergency.

Between 80 and 140 mm of rain are being reported each day; the normal amount of rainfall is between 10 and 30 mm. More than 200 landslides have been reported, affecting the country's road network and blocking access to many communities. Most of the affected communities are located in the southern Pacific coast region of the country. Volunteer firefighters have evacuated more than 6 thousand residents in the departments of Sacatepéquez, San Marcos, Jalapa, Sololá, Santa Rosa, Huehuetenango, Jutiapa, Escuintla and Retalhuleu. Preliminary reports indicate serious damages to bean and corn crops in the departments of Jutiapa and Jalapa.

Central America, Mexico, and Haiti: Floods; Appeal no. 05EA021

Honduras

In Honduras the passage of the depression related to the formation of tropical storm/Hurricane Stan has been causing constant, heavy rainfall since Thursday, 28 September, affecting 7 of the 16 provinces in Honduras. The Ulúa River in the Sula valley in the north of the country has swollen, flooding several communities in Potrerillos and San Manuel, affecting hundreds of hectares of crops of beans, maize and sorghum. In the south of the country, several communities have been seriously affected by the flooding which has damaged both homes and crops. In the department of Lempira, a mud slide has obliged 40 families to evacuate their homes and in the centre of the country, the capital city has been affected with 15 landslides occurring on major roads, whilst in the East of the country over 100 families have been evacuated as a preventive measure. To date, 4 people have died, 2 have disappeared and a number of major roads are blocked by landslides. It is estimated that damage to crops is now affecting over 4,000 families. The government has declared a red alert which is currently in force for the south of the country.

Nicaragua

Nicaraguan authorities have confirmed that nine people have died in the country as a result of the heavy rains, six of which were killed when their boat capsized in the Gulf of Fonseca, on the Pacific side of the country. It is suspected that they were migrants travelling to the United States. In addition, hundreds of people have been evacuated and dozens of homes have been flooded.

The National Disaster Operations Centre (CODE), which is part of the National Disaster Response System (SINAPRED), has reported that the western region of the country has been the most seriously affected by the floods. The Municipal Committee for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (COMUPRED) in El Viejo, Chinandega, has evacuated 75 people from the community of Los Cheros which was at risk of flooding from the Acome River. The early warning system in Chinandega has registered 219 mm of rainfall in the area. In the area of Tipitapa, 204 people have been affected by floods, 33 houses have been flooded and one house has been destroyed. The local COMUPRED is providing assistance to affected persons. The COMUPRED in Granada has reported rising water levels in the Malacatoya River and the Special Operations Commission is carrying out a damage and needs assessment in the area to determine the number of people and communities affected.

Mexico

Hurricane Stan made landfall in Mexico as a category one storm and was quickly downgraded to a tropical storm as it moved over land. However, the storm system brought with it strong winds of up to 130 km/h and heavy rains. The most affected states in Mexico are Veracruz, Tabasco, Oaxaca and Chiapas. Throughout Mexico, at least 6,000 houses have been affected, of which some 2,200 have been completely destroyed. In addition 945 kilometres of roads have been damaged, as well as 34 bridges. Given the levels of flooding, there are also health concerns in the affected area and medical brigades are being sent to the area.

Red alerts have been issued in Veracruz and Tabasco. In Veracruz, 15 thousand residents have been evacuated. Houses in at least 20 municipalities have been flooded and another 20 towns have been cut off. In Tabasco, some 500 thousand people have been affected by the rains, although the Mexican Civil Protection Agency reports that the situation in that state has stabilized. In Oaxaca, authorities have reported that heavy rains forced thousands of residents out of their homes near the town of Ostuta as the nearby river flooded its banks. Civil Protection officials in Chiapas report that at least 18 municipalities and 110 communities have been severely damaged by the rains, affecting more than 40 thousand people. Some 251 schools have been damaged and at least 200 houses have been destroyed. Authorities in Chiapas have set up 97 temporary shelters which are housing 13,000 people. Authorities are providing shelter residents with water, food, mattresses and blankets.

The American Red Cross is working closely with the Mexican Red Cross to ensure that all needs are covered.

The needs

Immediate needs:

Evaluations in the field are continuing. At present, the greatest needs as a result of the floods are for food, hygiene kits, kitchen kits and blankets as many people were forced to flee their homes, bringing with them only a few personal items. In addition, crops have been damaged by the flood waters, impacting on the availability of food, and

Central America, Mexico, and Haiti: Floods; Appeal no. 05EA021

belongings have been either damaged or washed away by the force of the water. Given that the disaster may potentially worsen, continuing assessments will indicate whether a more long-term approach to assistance is required.

Coordination

The national societies in the affected countries play an integral role in their national emergency response systems, which coordinate disaster response activities. At the local level, the national societies are working together with local authorities and community leaders. The national societies are also maintaining close coordination with the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), which is based in Panama, and the Panama Regional Delegation. PADRU and the Regional Delegation are liaising closely with the Partner National Societies working in the region to ensure that activities undertaken in response to the floods fall within the framework of the National Societies' overall plans of action. At the same time, the Federation is ensuring coordination and information exchange with ECHO, UN agencies and NGOs.

The proposed operation

The Costa Rican Red Cross emergency operations centre has been activated. Search and rescue activities have been undertaken by Red Cross personnel, together with evacuation of those in hazard-prone areas, provision of first aid care and support for the setting up and administration of shelters. Volunteer personnel are on alert in the 9 branches in the Province of Puntarenas and at least 40 volunteers are working in the most-affected areas. The Costa Rican Red Cross plans to assist 2,250 families (11,250 people) with the provision of food, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.

In Guatemala, the Red Cross branches in Coatepeque, Tecún Umán, Mazatenango, Retalhuleu, El Palmar, Quetzaltenango and Guatemala are carrying out water rescue and are evacuating people who are stranded, providing basic health care and supplying drinking water. Centres for collection of relief items have been set up in the branches and volunteers are working to establish temporary shelters. Preliminary damage and needs assessments are being carried out. The Guatemalan Red Cross is coordinating with municipal and departmental authorities and institutions which work in the area of disaster response.

In Honduras, over 4 thousand families have lost their subsistence crops of beans, maize, sorghum and vegetables. The Honduran Red Cross plans to assist one thousand of the most vulnerable of these families in communities which are considered as priority areas of interventions by the HRC branches. Surveys and identification of beneficiaries will take place by National Society personnel with the following criteria: those whose houses were flooded, have lost crops and/or animals; most vulnerable families in the community (farmers, single mothers, those with limited income, the disabled; those who are not receiving assistance from other public or private organizations). It is planned to provide 100 pounds of food rations per family for a one month period in order to help to reduce the economic impact of the floods on families who have lost their crops. In addition, family hygiene kits together with kitchen sets will be provided. It is planned to assist 500 families in the southern part of the country, 200 in the eastern part and 300 in the northern region of the country.

In Belize, Mexico, Haiti, and Nicaragua the plan and activities of intervention are currently being discussed and agreed, and will be communicated shortly in follow-up Operations Updates.

Objectives and activities planned

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective: 10,250 families affected by the floods (2,250 families in Costa Rica, 3,000 families in Guatemala, 1,000 families in Honduras, 4,000 in Nicaragua, and a number to be determined in Belize, Haiti, and Mexico) will have benefited from the distribution of food and non-food relief items in order to help them to recover from the effects of the floods.

Central America, Mexico, and Haiti: Floods; Appeal no. 05EA021

The Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Belize, Haitian and Mexican Red Cross Societies will distribute food, hygiene kits and kitchen sets to families who are staying in shelters, with friends or neighbours, or whose homes have been destroyed or damaged and whose personal possessions and/or crops have been lost. Each family will receive food kits, a hygiene kit, and a kitchen set (see details on items and quantities below). In some cases, specialized hygiene kits for infants and clean up kits will also be distributed. In Guatemala, it is also planned to distribute blankets, given the current cool weather.

FOOD PARCELS	
Item	Quantity
Corn flour	30 pounds
Rice	20 pounds
Beans	30 pounds
Salt	2 pounds
Sugar	10 pounds
Vegetable Oil	1 gallon (17.5 pounds)
Incaparina	2 pounds
TOTAL	111.5 pounds
<i>Food parcels are calculated to provide 2,100 calories for a family of five for 30 days.</i>	
KITCHEN KITS	
Item	Quantity
7-L aluminium pot with handles	1 unit
5-L aluminium pot with handles and lid	1 unit
2.5-L aluminium saucepan with lid	1 unit
aluminium bowls	5 units
aluminium plates	5 units
plastic mugs	5 units
plastic glasses	5 units
aluminium cutlery (spoon, knife, fork)	5 units
15-cm kitchen knife	1 unit
30-cm kitchen spoon	1 unit
FAMILY HYGIENE KITS	
Item	Quantity
Bath soap (125g)	5 units
Shampoo (125mL)	2 units
Toothbrush	5 units
Toothpaste (130g)	5 units
Toilet paper (roll)	12 units
Sanitary towels (box of 10)	3 units
Cotton towels (70 x 30cm)	5 units
Disposable razor	5 units
Deodorant	2 units
Comb (men)	1 unit
Comb (women)	2 units
<i>Hygiene kits are designed for a family of five for 30 days</i>	

Where considered necessary (based on assessment details), specialized hygiene kits for infants and clean up kits will also be distributed:

INFANT HYGIENE KIT	
Item	Quantity
Bath soap (100g)	2 units
Baby shampoo (250mL)	1 unit
Lotion (250mL)	1 unit

Central America, Mexico, and Haiti: Floods; Appeal no. 05EA021

Talcum powder (250g)	1 unit
Cloth diapers	12 units
Diaper pins	5 units
Cotton towel (70 x 30cm)	1 unit
Plastic bottle (8oz)	1 unit
Plastic bottle (4oz)	1 unit
<i>These hygiene kits are designed for infants up to two years of age</i>	

CLEAN UP KITS	
Item	Quantity
Plastic bags (20 gallons)	30 units
Powdered detergent (2 kg)	1 unit
Laundry soap (package of 3)	3 units
Broom	1 unit
Bucket	1 unit
Bleach or chlorine (1L)	2 units
Cleaning soap (package of 3)	1 unit
Sponge	1 unit
<i>Clean up kits are designed for a family of five for 30 days</i>	

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Support to the national societies to continue carrying out damage and needs assessments in the affected areas.
- Support for the undertaking of beneficiary surveys and beneficiary selection based on pre-determined criteria and the distribution of ration cards.
- Support for the distribution of food and non-food items to beneficiary families.

Health

Objective: Targeted communities affected by the floods will have an increased awareness of health, hygiene and sanitation issues.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Provision of educational materials focusing on key public health messages and support for the distribution of these materials.
- Support to volunteer promoters in educating vulnerable flood-prone communities about hygiene and disease prevention, including STDs and HIV/AIDS.
- Promotion of the use of the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology.
- Facilitation of the promotion of hygienic practices.
- Support for training initiatives addressing the maintenance of wells.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective: The capacities of the communities in the affected areas will have been strengthened.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Implementation of early warning systems in the communities using low-cost monitoring equipment.
- Holding of workshops and educational talks to raise awareness of the need for disaster preparedness.

Strengthening Capacities

Objective: Targeted branches in high-risk areas will have been strengthened in the area of disaster response.

Central America, Mexico, and Haiti: Floods; Appeal no. 05EA021

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Provision of basic disaster response equipment such as clothing for volunteers.
- Provision of first aid kits.
- Support for the design of contingency and response plans at branch level.
- Facilitation of training for branch staff, volunteers and NITs members in the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Through continued public and media relations it is hoped that the public will develop a better understanding of the mission of the National Societies in the affected countries and the activities Red Cross undertakes in serving humanity. As members of the International Federation, the Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies seek to promote the Fundamental Principles in all activities and subsequently facilitate additional visibility of the Movement on whole.

Capacity of the National Societies

The Guatemalan Red Cross, the Honduran Red Cross and the Nicaraguan Red Cross have wide experience in disaster response, particularly as a result of the “Mitch” operations. National Intervention Team (NIT) training carried out in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras has increased the capacity of the national societies.

The *Costa Rican Red Cross* (CRRC) is a humanitarian organization, governed by the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The national society assists disaster-stricken people, promotes respect for human dignity, has activities for youth, community health and disaster preparedness, cooperates in environmental protection and provides regular pre-hospital care. The Costa Rican Red Cross has extensive experience in responding to floods as the regions near the border with Panama experience flooding on an almost annual basis.

The *Guatemalan Red Cross* was founded in 1923 and joined the Movement in the same year. Its constitution was approved and enacted by a ministerial resolution in 1997. The status of the society in Guatemala was reaffirmed and it was granted legal status to implement its mandate as a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. There are 24 branches, 12 of which are in the south-west, the rest being spread throughout the country. Each branch is responsible for its own administration and accounting. The national society experienced a serious institutional crisis in 2003 and subsequently underwent a significant restructuring process. Since then, the national society has made significant process in the area of disaster preparedness and health and has responded to emergencies brought on by floods, mudslides and social unrest during the country’s national elections.

The *Honduran Red Cross* was founded in September 1937 in Tegucigalpa and was recognized by the ICRC in 1938 and admitted as a member of the International Federation in 1945. The HRC has 48 branches that cover 15 of the country’s 18 departments. The HRC has approximately 2,500 volunteers. Another 500 are reservist volunteers, who can be called upon in the case of emergencies. The Honduran Red Cross maintains close relations with several ministries, including health, planning and social infrastructure, interior and defence, and the coordinating governmental agency for disasters (COPECO).

The *Mexican Red Cross* (MRC) was recognized by presidential decree in February 1910 and was published in the official newspaper of the Federation of Mexico in March of the same year. The Mexican Red Cross’s statutes have been revised and updated. They were sent to the ICRC for revision and ratification. The Mexican Red Cross has 449 branches. Pre-hospital care is the principal service offered by the Mexican Red Cross. It has 127 schools for technicians in medical emergencies to train people for this countrywide service.

The *Nicaraguan Red Cross* was founded in 1934 and became a member of the International Federation in 1992. The NRC approved the national development plan in June 1997, after the departmental and local branches gradually became more involved. Technical assistance is provided by the International Federation’s regional delegation and financial support for the development of community projects and the NRC’s national programmes is provided by a number of Red Cross Societies and NGOs such as the Spanish Red Cross, ICRC, ECHO and UNICEF. The NRC

Central America, Mexico, and Haiti: Floods; Appeal no. 05EA021

was able to significantly strengthen its national structure through the relief operation following Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation's PADRU has a number of experienced disaster management delegates who are monitoring the development of the rains in the region. PADRU's disaster management staff will provide any necessary support to the Red Cross Societies in the affected countries in order to ensure the success of the relief operation. A disaster management delegate from PADRU is in Guatemala to support the relief activities carried out by the National Society.

Monitoring and evaluation

The National Societies will ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of the operation, with the support of the Federation. Regular reports on the operation will be published on the Federation's web site and news articles issued.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
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Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 05EA021

Central America, Mexico, Haiti - Hurricane Stan

TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Clothing & textiles	129,000
Food & seeds	394,000
Utensils & tools	91,000
Other relief supplies	190,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	804,000
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<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Vehicles	90,000
Computers & telecom. equipment	30,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	102,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Distribution and storage	76,000
Transport and vehicle costs	82,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Expatriate staff	216,000
National staff	120,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	15,000
Information expenses	8,000
Administrative & general expenses	25,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	764,000
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	1,568,000
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LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NET REQUEST	1,568,000
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