

# 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

*Revised Appeal no.  
05EA021  
17 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 6,175,760 (USD 4,780,996 OR EUR 3,974,564) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 10,050 FAMILIES (50,250 BENEFICIARIES) FOR 6 MONTHS. OUT OF THE TOTAL TARGET, CHF 781,710 HAS ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED. THEREFORE THE NET REQUEST IS FOR CHF 5,394,050.**

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

**Unearmarked cash contributions are encouraged.**

### Appeal history:

- Launched initially on 7 October 2005 for CHF 1,568,000 (USD 1,230,694 OR EUR 1,012,648) for 6 months to assist 10,250 families (51,250 beneficiaries).
- CHF 280,000 (USD 217,738 or EUR 180,314) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to begin relief operations in response to the floods.

*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; an increase of this appeal will be launched shortly.*

*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:*

## Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

- *In Costa Rica: Costa Rican National Society, San José; email [prevedesastres@cruzroja.or.cr](mailto:prevedesastres@cruzroja.or.cr); phone (506)233-7033; fax (506) 233-7628*
- *In Guatemala: Annabella Folgar de Roca, President, Guatemalan Red Cross; e-mail [presidencia@guatemala.cruzroja.org](mailto:presidencia@guatemala.cruzroja.org) phone (502) 2253 7332; fax (502) 2232 4649*
- *In Haiti: Dr. Michaèle Amédée Gédéon, President, Haitian National Red Cross Society; email [croroha@haitiworld.com](mailto:croroha@haitiworld.com), phone (509) 510-9813, fax (509) 223-1054*
- *In Honduras: Honduran Red Cross, Tegucigalpa; email [honducruz@datum.hn](mailto:honducruz@datum.hn), phone (504) 237-8876, fax (504) 238-0185*
- *In Mexico: Antonio Fernandez Arena; Director General, Mexican Red Cross e-mail [dirgral@cruzrojamexicana.org](mailto:dirgral@cruzrojamexicana.org) phone (5255) 1084 4510/4511 Fax (5255) 1084 4514*
- *In Nicaragua: Nicaraguan Red Cross, Alejandro Morales, Relief Director; email [crnsocorros@humanidad.org.ni](mailto:crnsocorros@humanidad.org.ni), phone(505) 265-2087, fax (505) 885-3880*
- *In Panama: Nelson Castaño, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email [nelson.castano@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.castano@ifrc.org); phone (507) 316-1001; fax (507) 316-1082*
- *In Panama: Gilberto Guevara, Head of Regional Delegation; e-mail [gilberto.guevara@ifrc.org](mailto:gilberto.guevara@ifrc.org); phone (507) 317 13 00; fax; (507) 317 13 04*
- *In Geneva: Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email [luis.luna@ifrc.org](mailto:luis.luna@ifrc.org); phone 41.22.730.24.74; fax 41.22.733.03.95*

### The situation

As of mid September, Hurricane Stan, the 18th named storm of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season, first formed as a tropical depression off the east coast of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. This quickly strengthened to a tropical storm, bringing heavy rains to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and south eastern Mexico. As the storm moved back over the Gulf of Mexico, it strengthened to a category one hurricane just before coming ashore in the Mexican state of Veracruz. The storm system also brought heavy rains to Haiti, specifically in the communities of Artbonite. The death toll in the region currently stands at 747, but that number is expected to rise.

#### Costa Rica

Since Monday, 19 September, heavy rains in Costa Rica caused flooding of major rivers and landslides. Some 2,000 people have been affected in the following cantons of the **Provinces of San José**: Vásquez 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. At least one death has been attributed to the floods. As a result, over 1,500 people have been obliged to evacuate their homes and are currently accommodated in 24 shelters or in the houses of family and neighbours. To date, 607 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

Five straight days of rains brought on by Hurricane Stan have caused flooding and landslides in Guatemala, affecting some 1,500,000 people in the departments of Santa Rosa, Jutiapa, Sacatepéquez, Escuintla, Chimaltenango, Quetzaltenango, Sololá, San Marcos, Totonicapán, Retalhuleu, Suchitepéquez, Huehuetenango. Of these, 225,915 people have been severely affected. In addition, it is estimated that another 2 million people in the country have been indirectly affected by the floods. To date, there are 654 confirmed deaths, with another 828 people listed as missing. It is feared that the death toll could rise as high as 2,000 as entire communities were engulfed by landslides. Efforts to determine the number of dead and missing have been hindered by rain as floods and landslides have wiped out roads, making it difficult for rescue teams to reach the affected areas. Government officials have said that continuing to search for bodies in these areas is too risky and have called for a number of communities to be declared mass graves. According to the Guatemalan Red Cross, 7,202 houses have been

### Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

damaged, of which 3,755 have been completely destroyed. Some 140,226 people are being housed in 762 emergency shelters. Crops of sugar cane in the coastal areas and maize and beans in the Altiplano have been wiped out or damaged, putting livelihoods at risk.

Between 80 and 140 mm of rain are being reported each day; the normal amount of rainfall is between 10 and 30 mm. Most of the affected communities are located in the southern Pacific coast region of the country. The Mayan villages of Panabaj and Tzanchaj, on the shores of Lake Atitlan, an area popular with Western tourists, have been particularly hard hit. The area was buried in massive mudslides, as tonnes of mud poured down the sides of the mountains surrounding the lake. More than 200 landslides have been reported through the country's road network, blocking access to many communities. Fourteen major roads and 68 bridges have been seriously damaged, and 32 bridges have been completely destroyed, making it difficult to access many of the affected areas. According to Guatemalan authorities, at least 180 villages remain cut off.



*Flooded communities in Guatemala*

#### ***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 2,869 people and causing 6 deaths. There are currently some 700 people staying in 9 shelters that have been set up in the affected areas. 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. In addition, 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***

Heavy rains in Nicaragua caused flooding in the northern, central and Pacific regions of the country, with the most serious damage in the departments of Chinandega, León, Granada, Jinotega, Carazo and Rivas. Nicaraguan authorities have confirmed that three people have died and 1,576 families have been affected following the heavy rains brought on by Hurricane Stan. The most affected areas are the municipalities of Villanueva and Somotillo, in the north of the department of Chinandega, where more than 900 people in 20 communities have been severely affected. Some 973 people are staying in 13 shelters that have been set up in the affected areas. At least 13 homes have been destroyed, another 50 have been seriously damaged, and 167 houses have been flooded.

#### ***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

## Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

most affected states in Mexico are Chiapas, Oaxaca, Veracruz, Hidalgo and Puebla. At least 15 people have died as a result of the floods and mudslides: 8 in Chiapas, 3 in Pueblo and 4 in Oaxaca. According to the Mexican Red Cross, some 1,296,000 people have been affected in 2,956 communities. Some 331,000 people have been evacuated and 296,000 are staying in the 1,233 temporary shelters that have been set up. Throughout Mexico, at least 173,000 houses have been affected, of which some 2,254 have been completely destroyed. In addition, 364 roads have been damaged, as well as 121 bridges. Given the levels of flooding, there are also health concerns in the affected area and medical brigades are being sent to the area. Some 69 hospitals have reported significant damages, 20 of which have been completely destroyed.

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 the state of Tabasco, which was also seriously affected, some 500,000 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 some 251 schools have been damaged and that a total of some 20,000 families have been affected. Authorities are providing shelter residents with water, food, mattresses and blankets.

### *Haiti*

In Haiti, at least one person has died and around 2,000 families have been seriously affected by flooding. The Department of Bas-Artibonite in the north of the country has been affected by floods caused by the overflowing of the Artibonite River after heavy rains throughout early October. The district of Dessalines and the 5<sup>th</sup> section of Saint Marc, where approximately 40,000 people live, have been especially hard hit. In the district of Dessaline, 70 percent of the commune of Grande Saline has been flooded and village of Rossignol is completely flooded. Other affected communities in Dessaline are Chevreau Lombard, Théart, La Porte, La Tapie, Le Droin, Dauphine and Lanneu. Several roads in the affected areas have been completely wiped out and in some cases towns are only accessible by boat. A number of houses and heads of cattle were swept away by the waters. In addition, people are threatened by water-borne diseases as diarrhoea, malaria, parasitic or bacterial diseases.

In addition to the flooding in the north of the country, several areas in the West Department, near Port-au-Prince have been affected, particularly the areas around Barbako and Kokye. In the communes of Balam and Ganthier, 754 people have been affected, 91 homes have been destroyed and another 59 seriously damaged. It is estimated that 45 percent of livestock and 65 percent of crops were also destroyed. Also seriously affected was the area of Pétion Ville where the overflowing Sous Madam River caused flooding in the town of Lakou Mouton Pernier.

The table below presents initial statistics relating to the disaster in each affected country.

	Number of Beneficiaries	Estimated Number of People in Shelters	Number of Shelters	Death toll	Estimated Number of Houses Damaged or Destroyed
<b>Costa Rica</b>	1,000	1,500	24	1	607
<b>Guatemala</b>	32,000	140,226	762	654	7,202
<b>Honduras</b>	1,400	700	9	6	-
<b>Nicaragua</b>	2,300	973	13	3	63
<b>Mexico</b>	10,000	296,000	1,233	15	173,000
<b>Haiti</b>	3,550	-	-	-	150

### **Operational Developments**

Assessments in *Belize* indicate that, although some parts of the country are flooded, this is not sufficiently serious to warrant international assistance. Belize will therefore not be included in this emergency appeal.

## Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

### *Guatemala*

Some 20 branches of the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) are participating in the relief operation, each of which has between 30 and 40 volunteers. Two Federation Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) team members arrived in Guatemala on 11 October 2005: one specialized in water and sanitation and the other specialized in logistics. Two Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members from the Costa Rican Red Cross are in Guatemala, along with three Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) delegates working in water and sanitation, logistics and disaster management. An operations coordinator has been identified and arrived in the country on 11 October to work with the Federation and the Guatemalan Red Cross. Assessments are also underway regarding possible need to request Emergency Response Units (ERUs) specialized in water and sanitation and basic health care.

The GRC and the Federation held a meeting with the Spanish, Netherlands and German Red Cross Societies to coordinate activities in the country. The Spanish Red Cross has ongoing projects in the Altiplano region and will work in coordination with the GRC in this area. The Netherlands Red Cross is planning to work in the southeast, and in the southwest where the Federation is carrying out health projects. In addition, it is expected that ECHO will issue an emergency decision for Guatemala for which the Spanish and Netherlands Red Cross Societies have expressed an interest in applying. The German Red Cross has indicated interest in working in the area of rehabilitation/reconstruction. The Norwegian Red Cross has contracted a water and sanitation delegate to work in Guatemala in response to the floods emergency and the Italian Red Cross has seconded a delegate to work as a RITs member for the operation.

Relief assistance on the part of the Guatemalan government, public institutions, social and relief organizations, and non-governmental organizations has been focused on search and rescue, shelter and relief distribution for the affected population. Various groups are also working to clear mud from the roads and repair roads and bridges to allow access to communities that remain cut off. Work is also ongoing repair telephone and electrical services, which is helping to more accurately determine the level of damages throughout the affected area. Given the level of damages and the number of people affected, Guatemala has issued an official appeal to the international community to assist more than a million people.

### *Mexico*

The federal and state governments, through the Mexican army and air force, have implemented their disaster response plan to provide assistance to the affected population. The Mexican government has provided airplanes to distribute relief items collected by the Red Cross to beneficiaries in hard to reach areas. The Secretary of Health is also planning to carry out community health days to raise awareness of important health issues, with the participation of the Mexican Red Cross. Despite the ongoing relief efforts, some communities in Chiapas still remain cut off.

## **The needs**

### **Immediate needs:**

Given the scale of the floods disaster, particularly in Guatemala, where thousands of homes have been washed away or damaged by the floods and major damage has been sustained to crops of beans, maize and sugar cane, there are immediate needs for food and shelter, as well as for kitchen sets, hygiene kits, blankets, roofing and construction kits and mosquito nets in order to alleviate the suffering of those whose homes have been damaged and who have lost their livelihoods.

### **Longer-term needs:**

**A second revision of this appeal will be necessary by the end of November to meet rehabilitation needs that may result from a complete damage and needs assessment, particularly in Guatemala and, if requested by the Mexican Red Cross, in Mexico.**

Over the next six months, there is a need, in particular in Guatemala, for the national society to work with affected communities in the area of psychosocial support to assist those severely affected by the flooding. As people leave the shelters, it will be necessary to provide assistance for those whose homes have been lost or badly damaged. There will also be a focus on the areas of water and sanitation and community health in order to assist communities recover from the floods. In the same way, it is planned that Red Cross branches will work in hazard-prone

## Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

communities to strengthen disaster preparedness measures in anticipation of future emergencies. Work will also be carried out with to rehabilitate Red Cross branches damaged by the floods and to strengthen Red Cross branch disaster response and preparedness capacity.

As assessments continue, activities proposed in relation to longer-term needs may be adjusted in line with findings and depending on the results of consultations with beneficiaries. In Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico and Haiti, the main emphasis of the operation is on emergency relief. Depending upon the results of ongoing assessments, water and sanitation initiatives may also be undertaken in Haiti and Nicaragua, as appropriate.

### Coordination

In *Costa Rica*, the Costa Rican Red Cross is working closely with the national emergency commission, CNE, and local authorities to carry out relief activities in the affected areas.

In *Haiti*, the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) is working in coordination with the Departmental Risk and Disaster Management Committee of Artibonite (DCRDM). The HNRCS is also working closely with the PNSs present in the country: the American, Canadian, French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

In *Honduras*, the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) is a member of the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) and is working closely with national authorities on the relief effort. At the local level, the HRC is coordinating with local leaders and non-governmental organizations present in the field.

In *Guatemala*, the National Disaster Secretariat of the National Coordination Committee for the Reduction of Disasters (CONRED) is coordinating relief activities at the national level. The Guatemalan Red Cross is maintaining constant contact with CONRED, and the local branches of the GRC are working with municipal and departmental coordination committees to channel their work in an efficient manner. At the national level, the GRC, the Federation and the PNS are in contact with the United Way, Ericsson Response, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) and the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO). The Federation has been awarded an ECHO contract under a primary emergency decision in order to assist 2,000 families with emergency relief in Guatemala. Within the Red Cross Movement, the Guatemalan Red Cross is coordinating with the Federation, the ICRC and the British, Italian, French, German, Netherlands, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

In *Mexico*, the Mexican Red Cross is working closely with national system for disaster prevention, SINAPRED, state and local authorities, including the Mexican Civil Protection Agency, to distribute relief items. The Mexican Secretary of Health is also planning to carry out community health days to raise awareness of important health issues, with the participation of the Mexican Red Cross.

In *Nicaragua*, the Nicaraguan Red Cross is coordinating its actions with the national emergency body, SINAPRED, and the PNSs working in the country: the Canadian, Italian, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

The PNS are currently identifying funding sources and are particularly interested in supporting rehabilitation projects. It is likely that one of the PNS may apply for ECHO funding in the framework of an emergency decision in relation to the disaster situation in Guatemala. The Federation team is attending coordination meetings both in Guatemala and in Panama.

## The proposed operation

### Objectives and activities planned

#### Emergency relief (food and non-food)

**Objective: 10,050 families (50,250 beneficiaries) affected by the floods (200 families in Costa Rica, 6,400 families in Guatemala, 280 families in Honduras, 460 families in Nicaragua, 2,000 families in Mexico and 710 families in Haiti) 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.**

#### 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
- Replenishment of PADRU's basic emergency stocks.

*Given the fact that PADRU stocks have been much reduced as a result of response to this emergency and in order to restore capacity and be prepared for stock mobilization as disasters strike in future, it is proposed to replenish PADRU's basic stocks under the framework of this appeal.*

On-going assessments in the field have resulted in increases to the numbers of beneficiary families targeted by the response phase of the floods operation, in particular in Guatemala where, according to current estimates, the floods have seriously affected at least 225,915 people. To date, the following relief goods have been sent from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit in response to this emergency:

Country	Date	Relief goods
Guatemala	9 Oct	3,500 blankets, 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 kitchen sets, 4,000 toothbrushes.
	13 Oct	3,500 blankets, 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 kitchen sets
Haiti	11 Oct	3,000 blankets, 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 kitchen sets, 2,000 mosquito nets

#### *Costa Rica*

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. On 30 September CHF 30,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the emergency. The Costa Rican Red Cross is assisting 200 families (1,000 people) with the provision of food, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.

#### *Guatemala*

To date, damage and needs assessments in Guatemala have been carried out by nine GRC branches and one relief post. In total, the Red Cross confirms that 45,722 people in 138 communities have been affected and evacuated to shelters. The most affected municipality is Coatepeque in the department of Quetzaltenango, where 14,226 people are staying in shelters.

## Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

GRC Branches	Persons in shelters	No. of shelters
San Marcos	90	4
Tejutla (relief post)	4,200	22
Tecún Uman	6,880	28
Retalhuleu	4,015	11
Mazatenango	4,140	6
Quetzaltenango	1,740	5
Concepción Chiquirichapa	6,600	20
Coatepeque	14,226	42
El Palmar	3,834	staying with family & friends
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,722*</b>	<b>138</b>

\* This is the figure confirmed by the GRC; CONRED statistics refer to 140,226 people in shelters.

In Guatemala, 6,400 beneficiary families are being provided with three food parcels, three hygiene kits, (for a one month period in three distributions), a kitchen set, five blankets and three mosquito nets. Families are staying in temporary shelters, with family or neighbours or have been able to remain at home. The GRC branches in Coatepeque, Tecún Umán, Mazatenango, Retalhuleu, El Palmar, Quetzaltenango, Concepción Chiquirichapa, Tejutla, San Marcos and Guatemala have carried out search and rescue activities and evacuations, provided basic health care, distributed drinking water in the affected areas, and helped beneficiaries to locate separated family members. Thus far, 1,000 families in Guatemala have received relief items. Each family received one food parcel, one hygiene kit and five blankets via the GRC/Federation.

#### Distributions carried out to date

Branch	Families
Tecún Umán	200
Coatepeque	300
Retalhuleu	100
Mazatenango	100
El Palmar	100
Guatemala	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,000 families</b>

The branches are providing psychosocial support and are disseminating messages on basic health and the prevention of common childhood illnesses. The Guatemala City branch of the GRC is also supporting 15 doctors to provide first aid support in the department of Sololá.

Outside the framework of this emergency appeal, 2,600 families in Coatepeque received food parcels and hygiene kits via the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI). These goods were flown from Madrid, as facilitated by the Spanish Red Cross. In addition, collection centres have been set up in the branch headquarters. A central warehouse has been set up in the Aurora International Airport where donations from the collection centres are taken since the majority of relief distribution are being transported by plane, given the level of damage to the road system; however, even aerial transportation has been limited due to the ongoing rains in the country. Hundreds of volunteers, primarily women and youth, are working with the GRC to sort the donated items in the branches, the GRC headquarters and the central warehouse.

#### Haiti

The Haitian National Red Cross Society undertook a three day assessment mission from Wednesday 5 October to Friday 7 October 2005, assisted by the Federation. The team was led by the Disaster Management Director of the HNRCS; five volunteers from the Saint Marc branch of the national society also participated in assessment work. It is difficult to assess the damage given problems of access to the disaster-affected area; however, according to preliminary information, there are needs for hygiene kits, kitchen sets, water purification tablets and mosquito nets.

## Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

Grande Saline is built on swampland; the HNRCS has set up a plan of action to assist 710 beneficiary families (3,550 people) in response to the disaster taking into account the problem of access to the affected area. This plan consists of relief assistance, and possibly water and sanitation actions. Apart from distributions of relief items to vulnerable families, there is a need for of a vigorous health promotion campaign enhanced by distributions of educational material. The immediate needs are for kitchen sets, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, blankets, water purification tablets and, at a later stage, there may be a need for rehabilitation of latrines.

### ***Honduras***

The Honduran Red Cross, through its branches in Choluteca, Nacaome and San Lorenzo is carrying out evaluations of the families in high risk areas of the country. The Honduran Red Cross has established an operations centre for the department of Valle in the Nacaome branch.

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 are taking 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 280 families in the southern, eastern and northern regions of the country.

### ***Mexico***

The Mexican Red Cross (MRC) has been assisting the victims of floods and mudslides since the beginning of this emergency situation, carrying out activities in search and rescue, first aid, evacuation, damage and needs assessments and the organization of shelters in coordination with state and government authorities. The MRC is distributing food to beneficiaries in the affected areas and has set up collection and distribution centres for clothing and other relief items. To date, the Mexican Red Cross has sent 1,200 tonnes of relief goods to the affected areas, including 1,000 tonnes of food and water and 200 tonnes of clothing and has mobilized 200 volunteers. With the support of the Federation, the Mexican Red Cross is working to assist 2,000 families in the worst-hit areas of Chiapas, out of a total of 2,500 who lost their houses and belongings. Further joint Mexican Red Cross/Federation action will depend on indications from the Mexican government which is developing a plan of action to assist all severely affected people.

### ***Nicaragua***

Through the Federation, the Nicaraguan Red Cross is working to assist 460 families (2,300 people) in the department of Chinandega with food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets, mattresses and water containers. At present, 138 volunteers are working in the most affected areas: in the municipalities of Somotillo, Chichigalpa, Puerto Morazán, El Viejo, El Realejo, Villa Nueva in Chindoga and in the department of León in the municipalities of Malpaisillo, and Quizaguaque, and in the department of Jinotega in the municipalities of Yalo. Overall, the Nicaraguan Red Cross is thus providing assistance to a total of 1,570 affected families.

***The subsequent objectives in relation to rehabilitation of housing and schools, community health, HIV/AIDS awareness, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, disaster preparedness and capacity building relate specifically to the operation in Guatemala. Given that assessments are on-going and the significant scale of the disaster in Guatemala, it may be necessary for the Federation to extend the time-frame of the operation in order to achieve the objectives below.***

**Shelter****Objective 1: Vulnerable beneficiary families' houses and schools damaged in the floods will have been rehabilitated through the provision of 5,000 construction kits.**

Through this objective it is planned to rehabilitate schools so that children are able to continue their classes once those accommodated in shelters are in a position to return home. Vulnerable beneficiaries' houses will also benefit from the rehabilitation materials. The numbers of schools and homes which will be rehabilitated is yet to be determined. The German Red Cross has expressed interest in supporting this component of the emergency appeal according to which families and communities will work to install the materials to repair homes and schools, with technical guidance from the German Red Cross.

**Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Carrying out of beneficiary selection based on pre-determined criteria
- Undertaking of a survey of schools in the flood-affected area to determine level of damage incurred, together with a survey of damaged homes.
- Support for the distribution of 5,000 kits composed of galvanized zinc sheeting, plastic sheets, wood and tools.
- Support for the provision of technical advice to families and communities as regards the use of the construction materials for the repair of schools and homes.

**Health****Objective 1: 6,400 families in Guatemala affected by Hurricane Stan will have improved basic health practices through the IMCI methodology.****Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Identification, selection and registration of beneficiaries through a community survey, with an emphasis on mother and child health.
- Holding of educational sessions regarding key health practices.
- Distribution of oral rehydration salts and micro-nutrients (vitamin A, folic acid and ferrous sulphate).
- Development of community health training workshops for Red Cross volunteers.
- Implementation of health days.
- Creation and distribution of educational materials on health practices.
- Purchase and distribution of health packets for safe childbirth, control and monitoring of weight and promotion of clinical diagnoses.
- Monitoring of the growth and development of children.

**Objective 2: 500 families affected by Hurricane Stan in Guatemala will have increased awareness of prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs****Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Identification, selection and registration of beneficiaries through a community survey, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups.
- Presentation of plays addressing key messages regarding HIV/AIDS/STI prevention and sexual and gender-based violence.
- Establishment of informational stands addressing HIV/AIDS/STI prevention.
- Reproduction and distribution of educational and visibility materials.

*The Guatemalan Red Cross is already working in a number of municipalities and communities which have been affected by the floods in the area of IMCI, HIV/AIDS prevention and water and sanitation. The activities which form part of this emergency appeal therefore build on the community-based work which has been taking place to date.*

**Objective 3: 250 families affected by Hurricane Stan in Guatemala will have benefited from the provision of psychosocial support.**

**Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Identification, selection and registration of beneficiaries through a community survey, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups.
- Implementation of psychosocial support activities, with an emphasis on listening to and addressing the needs expressed by beneficiaries.

**Objective 4: 250 Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers who are participating in the relief effort in the wake of Hurricane Stan will have benefited from access to psychosocial support.**

**Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Identification, selection and registration of Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers.
- Implementation of psychosocial support activities, with an emphasis on listening to and addressing the needs expressed by volunteers.

### **Water and Sanitation**

**Objective 1: 5,000 vulnerable families affected by Hurricane Stan in Guatemala have access to clean drinking water, thereby preventing gastrointestinal illnesses, and are disposing appropriately of solid waste.**

**Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Carrying out of detailed surveys to ascertain levels of affectation to community water systems and household needs.
- Support for the selection and registration of beneficiaries.
- Provision of support for the holding of educational talks on water management and water purification.
- Provision of 5,000 personal and 5,000 household hygiene kits
- Provision of 5,000 water purification kits
- Support for the distribution of the 5,000 water purification kits
- Rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems through the implementation of micro projects.

### **Community-Based Disaster Preparedness**

**Objective 1: 50 hazard-prone communities in the south west and the highlands “Altiplano” region of Guatemala affected by Hurricane Stan have strengthened capacities in disaster preparedness.**

**Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Support for the implementation of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) in disaster prone communities in order to identify risks.
- Utilizing the results of the VCAs, establishment of early warning systems in 50 target communities.
- Raising of awareness amongst leaders and inhabitants of vulnerable, target communities with a view to strengthening capacities and building resilience.

### **Strengthening of Capacities**

**Objective 1: The headquarters and ten Red Cross branches of the Guatemalan Red Cross are benefiting from strengthened disaster management capacities.**

**Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Staging of two workshops to evaluate the response to Hurricane Stan with the participation of Red Cross branches and representatives of external agencies.
- Establishment of a national society disaster response plan and respective protocols.

## Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

- Reinforcement of the National Intervention Team personnel to include 30 operational members who are available to work throughout the country.
- Provision of disaster response equipment.
- Provision of two standard Federation kits to set up radio communications in the Red Cross branch of San Marcos and in the future Red Cross operations centre to be set up in the department of Sololá.
- Review of equipment in place and standardization of procedures to ensure a functional radio communications system in ten Guatemalan Red Cross branches.
- Training and strengthening of the water rescue team to include a total of 30 active members.
- Training of 300 Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers in disaster management; 30 volunteers from 10 branches will be selected to be trained in basic disaster management focusing, for example, on damage and needs assessment, SPHERE, disaster response protocols.
- Provision of support for the setting up of an efficient disaster management system in the Red Cross branches to strengthen the organizational structure.
- Distribution of identification and visibility material for 400 volunteers in 10 branches.
- Training in management of financial and administrative systems in 10 branches.
- Holding of a workshop focusing on damage and needs assessment.

**Objective 2: Affected branches are benefiting from the necessary support in order to promote well-functioning branches, as well as to alleviate the suffering of Red Cross volunteers directly affected by the disaster.**

### **Activities planned to reach this objective:**

- Provision of materials to repair damage to branches affected by the floods.
- In line with the Federation's volunteering policy, provision of assistance to those Red Cross volunteers that were already vulnerable before the disaster and whose livelihoods have been jeopardized by the floods.
- Support for the provision of technical assistance to Guatemalan Red Cross branches in order to promote adherence to the criteria of a "well-functioning branch".

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

The Federation is ensuring the implementation of a communications strategy to profile the emergency operations taking place. Media interviews are being held and press releases and news articles are being placed on the Federation web site. The national societies involved in the emergency operations are working to provide information relayed from branches in the affected areas and as regards the progress of the relief activities. Given that ECHO funding has been allocated for specific relief activities in Guatemala, visibility of the donor will be highlighted. The operation provides an opportunity to promote the Red Cross and to reach large numbers of people, thus presenting the possibility of mobilizing and recruiting new volunteers, and to familiarize vulnerable groups with Red Cross services. As a member of the International Federation, the national societies seek to promote the Fundamental Principles in all activities and subsequently facilitate additional visibility of the Red Cross Movement.

### **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. Given the disaster-prone nature of Central America, Mexico and Haiti, all national societies are involved each year in disaster response activities on varying scales. National Intervention Teams have been trained in each national society and there is a strong cadre of Regional Intervention Team members who have expertise in different areas of disaster response.

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 national society has expertise in disaster management and the Costa Rican Red Cross is the centre of reference in Central American for community-based disaster management; in addition, the coordinator of the relief operation in Guatemala has been seconded from the Costa Rican Red Cross.

## Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021

The *Guatemalan Red Cross* experienced a serious institutional crisis in 2003 and subsequently underwent a significant restructuring process. Since then, the national society has made significant progress 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* 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* 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 Mexican Red Cross has much experience in responding to disaster situations.

Technical assistance is provided to the *Nicaraguan Red Cross* by the 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 organizations such as the Spanish Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross, the ICRC, ECHO and UNICEF. In recent years, the national society has responded to a volcanic eruption and floods and mudslides disasters.

The *Haitian National Red Cross Society* has experience in responding to disasters, given the vulnerability of the country; in 2004 alone, the country experienced three major disasters: social unrest, severe floods affecting the region of Mapou and the effects of Hurricane Jeanne. It is recognized that further human resources, recruitment of volunteers and training of staff and volunteers are essential. Under the plan of action 2005 – 2008 of the national society, a major focus has been placed on strengthening technical, material and financial resources in order to ensure reinforced disaster response capacity.

### Capacity of the Federation

The Americas benefits from an integrated disaster response system whereby international response mechanisms such as FACT teams and ERUs are deployed together with regional mechanisms such as regional intervention teams, to work in support of a given national society and its staff and volunteers in the event of a disaster. Disaster response in the Americas is guided by the Pan American Disaster Response Unit which is composed of disaster management experts and a regional logistics unit.

Three delegates from PADRU specialized in water and sanitation, logistics and disaster management are in Guatemala to support the relief activities being carried out by the national society. An operations coordinator arrived in Guatemala on 11 October to work with the Federation and the Guatemalan Red Cross, as did two Federation FACT team members: one specialized in water and sanitation and the other specialized in logistics. In addition, two Regional Intervention Team members from the Costa Rican Red Cross are in Guatemala. The Federation is currently in the process of recruiting staff in communications, reporting and finance in Guatemala to ensure adequate support for the smooth-running of the emergency operation. Federation personnel from the Panama Regional Delegation, the Regional Reporting Unit and the Regional Finance Unit are also providing support to the relief operation from Panama.

### Monitoring and evaluation

The National Societies, supported by the Federation, will ensure monitoring of the progress of the operation in line with the plans of action for emergency response and rehabilitation. Following the implementation of the operation, it is planned to carry out an evaluation of the response to Hurricane Stan in the region in order to review lessons learned and evaluate the extent to which the operation provided efficient and effective assistance to those in need.

The Federation seeks to ensure accountability to the beneficiaries targeted in the operation as regards the relief assistance provided and the rehabilitation activities put forward in this appeal. Beneficiaries will be consulted regularly as to on-going needs following the flooding through informal interviews with Red Cross volunteers, and it

**Central America, Mexico and Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan; Revised Appeal no. 05EA021**

is intended to carry out a beneficiary satisfaction survey to learn at first hand the opinions of the beneficiaries on the assistance provided. Monitoring and evaluation will review considerations of gender and how these have been taken into account in relation to both the relief and rehabilitation components of the appeal.

The Federation will ensure regular narrative reporting on the Hurricane Stan Appeal and a final financial report will be issued at the close of the operation, in accordance with Federation standards.

**Budget summary**

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson  
Director  
National Society and Field Support Division

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
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	IN CHF
Shelter & construction	544,574
Clothing & textiles	175,078
Food	806,938
Water & sanitation	758,802
Medical & first aid	73,260
Teaching material	44,335
Utensils & tools	207,542
Other relief supplies	1,266,684
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>3,877,213</b>
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Computers & telecom. equipment	219,980
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	401,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Distribution and storage	610,509
Transport and vehicle costs	32,350
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Expatriate staff	127,459
National & regional staff	228,676
Consultants	31,056
Workshops & training	351,709
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	25,880
Information expenses	59,151
Administrative & general expenses	210,777
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>	<b>2,298,547</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	<b>6,175,760</b>
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>	<b>781,710</b>
<b>NET REQUEST</b>	<b>5,394,050</b>