

Disaster Response Update



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

24 September 2007

The Disaster Response Update (DRU)¹ is compiled by the International Federation's Operation's Support Department (OSD) with the support of the Federation's Regional Reporting Units (RRU's).

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THE SITUATION

General: This update focuses particularly on Federation support to national society operations in Africa. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), severe flooding caused by torrential rains stretching across Africa (see attached map) is linked to the "La Nina" weather pattern thousands of miles away in the Pacific. The WMO warned in July that the combination of tropical wind patterns over the Pacific Ocean and cooler than normal sea temperatures off western Latin America could have a "planetary" impact. The WMO has linked the "La Nina" and flooding in western Africa since the 1990s, and it was considered very probable that a rather rainy season would occur in the region extending from Sudan in the east to Senegal in the west.

With respect to Federation operations, and similar to the August DRU, floods continue to be the main focus in September. Year to date comparisons continue to show a significant increase (over 25%) in 2007 disasters worldwide compared to 2006, with floods, epidemics and earthquakes all exceeding (or likely to exceed) 2006 figures. As in August, the increase is mostly related to a heavy monsoon season in Asia and continued flooding in East, Central and West Africa. The immediate focus of attention has moved from the monsoon floods in Asia, to torrential rains and flooding across the Sahel belt from west to east Africa.

There were further DREF allocations in September to support slow-onset or small-scale emergencies, and, similar to the August DRU, while DREF allocations for Emergency Appeals are almost entirely recovered, the increase in small-scale emergency support has left the DREF extremely low. The current income of CHF 2.2m during 2007 is insufficient to maintain the growth in DREF allocations, and serious effort must be made to increase the support to DREF.

Main highlights: for further information or recent Federation updates see page <http://www.ifrc.org/where/appeals/allappeals.asp?iYear=0&xFlag=2>

Africa: the overall situation in Africa remains very serious, primarily due to flooding across a broad area (some 18 countries) of the Sahel belt from west to east Africa. There was also an outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DREF was allocated to respond), and an

¹ The DRU is a compilation of disaster response-related information intended to provide a quick-reference on the International Federation's current relief operations, the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), and general emergency response statistics. The DRU reflects information primarily of an internal nature, designed for donors, Federation staff, delegates, partners, and volunteers. The DRU is also intended to be used as a promotional tool to focus on under-funded operations to increase vital support and assistance to the intended beneficiaries. The DRU complements information on the Federation's public website at page <http://www.ifrc.org/index.asp> or its Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) at page <https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis>

increased epidemic of acute water diarrhoea (or cholera) in Ethiopia. The overall humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to be cause serious humanitarian concern. The Federation has recently launched Emergency Appeals (or Preliminary Appeals) for West Africa (Ghana and Togo), and Uganda. Further countries may be added to these appeals as the floods situation continues.

The flood situation continues to expand causing increased displacement, loss of habitat and livelihoods, and creating additional and greater needs. For instance, in some of the operational areas an increase of vector-borne diseases by over 200% has been observed in addition to more and more people losing their houses.

More specifically:

- For **Uganda**, the Federation launched a preliminary Emergency Appeal on 20 September 2007 seeking CHF 8.4 million to assist 100,000 beneficiaries for 6 months. To date (as of 28 September 2007, coverage is 46%. This is almost exclusively indications of soft pledges, and donors are encouraged to confirm these resources since the needs could easily increase, and will be shown in a Revised Appeal to be issued shortly.
- For **Ethiopia**, a preliminary Emergency Appeal was launched on 14 September 2007 seeking CHF 1 million to assist 42,200 people for 6 months. To date (28 September 2007), coverage (soft and hard pledges) is 11%.
- For **West Africa**, where the Federation has taken - out of necessity - a more regional approach, the Federation launched a regional Preliminary Emergency Appeal on 18 September 2007 seeking CHF 2.5 million to assist 82,000 beneficiaries for 6 months in **Ghana and Togo**. The latest information shows that **Burkina Faso** is also being affected by the heavy rainfall, and the Federation is in the process of adding Burkina Faso to this regional appeal to provide support to the national society.
- Floods in the **Central African Republic (CAR)** have also necessitated a response, and the Federation released CHF 98,717 (USD 82,059 or EUR 60,047) xx from its DREF on 25 September 2007 to assist the national society in responding to the needs.

Asia: the Federation is providing support to emergency operations in Nepal (floods), Pakistan (Cyclone Yemyin/floods), China (floods), India (floods), Bangladesh (floods, landslides, tornados), the Democratic Republic of Korea (floods), and the Solomon Islands (Earthquake and Tsunami).

Americas: the Federation is providing support to ongoing hurricane operations in Mexico and the Caribbean (Hurricane Dean) and Central America (Hurricane Felix), as well as an earthquake operation in Peru. The Federation has also responded to floods in Mexico with DREF support.

Focusing on Hurricane Felix which first hit Central America (coast of Nicaragua) on 4 September, the Federation has revised the appeal budget to CHF 1,105,000 (USD 918,537 or EUR 672,141). In addition to explaining the reason for the revised budget, Operations Update no. 2 outlined the basic activities planned and accomplished to-date. Currently, the main focus remains on the continuous provision of relief items and early recovery and rehabilitation activities.

STATISTICS

1. Disasters (Cumulative analysis -- 2006 versus 2007)

Year	No. of Disasters	National Response	RDRT	FACT	ERU	DREF	Appeals	DMIS reports*
2006	445	481	91	5	10	91	27	683
2007	354	362	70	6	14	81	19	770

**Disaster Management Information System (DMIS)*

2. Disasters (Comparative, year to date -- 2006 versus 2007).

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Disasters</u>	<u>National Response</u>	<u>RDRT</u>	<u>FACT</u>	<u>ERU</u>	<u>DREF</u>	<u>Appeals</u>	<u>DMIS reports</u>
2006	240	na	na	4	3	70	14	437
2007	354	362	70	6	14	80*	19**	770

** The value of the DREF allocations is CHF 9.4 million).*

***The value of the Emergency Appeals launched to date in 2007 is CHF 118,157,412, versus some 86.5 million at this point in 2006.*

3. Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) (YEAR TO DATE)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Slow-Onset/ Emerg. App.</u>	<u>Total Allocations</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>24 September Balance</u>
2006	7.04m	CHF 3.25m CHF 2.72	CHF 6.86m	CHF 5.93m	CHF 6.11m
2007	7.91m	CHF 5.7m CHF 3.8m	85 (CHF9.4 m)	CHF 2.2m	CHF 3.6m

4. Emergency Response Units (ERU's): There have been 14 ERU deployments this year compared to 3 deployments year to date in 2006. Currently in the field are:

Pakistan

- Spanish Red Cross Wat/San.
- Austrian/Swedish Red Cross Wat/San.
- British Red Cross Mass sanitation.
- Finish Red Cross Basic Health.
- Swiss/Danish Red Cross Logistics.

Peru

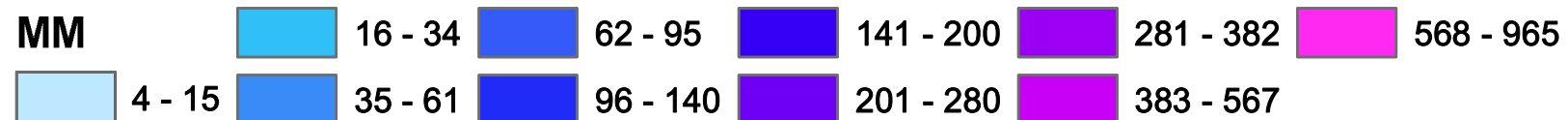
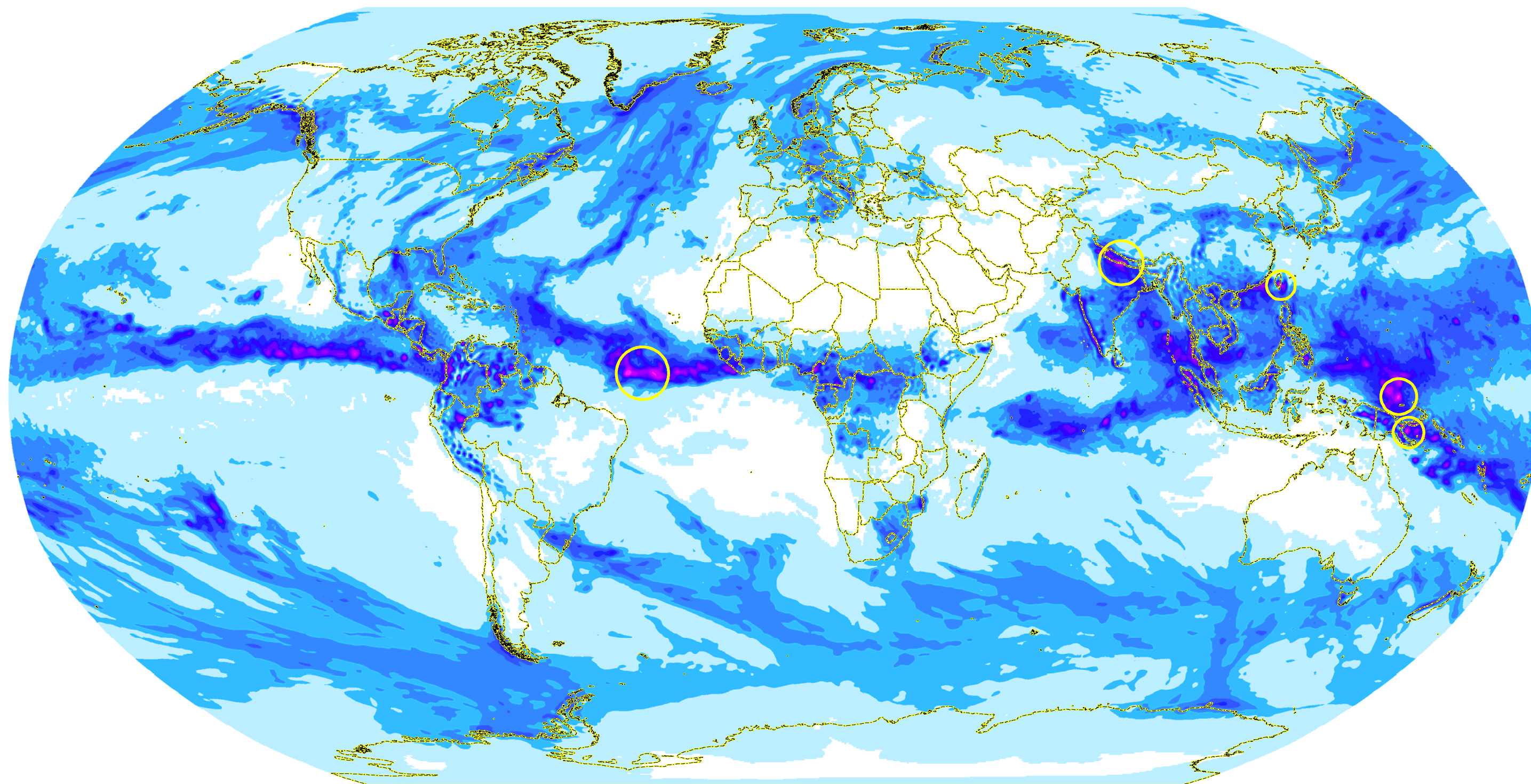
- Spanish Red Cross Logistics.
- Spanish/US/Danish/Benelux Red Cross Relief.

Note: Based on the evolving floods situation in Africa, ERU's may be deployed widely in the coming days.

5. Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT): There have been 6 FACT deployments in 2007. FACT teams are currently in Ghana, Togo, and Uganda.



Forecast: Rain accumulated between 24 and 29 September 2007





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Rainfall: 6 days forecast - September 24 to 29

