

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Central America: Hurricane Felix

Emergency appeal n° MDR43002  
Glide No. TC- 2007-000157  
Operations update n° 5  
30 May, 2008

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 18 March, 2008 to 29 May, 2008;

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 1,371,000 (USD 1,240,725 or EUR 856,875);

**Appeal coverage:** 100%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, here to go to financial report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 6 September, 2007 for CHF 992,673 (USD 825,165 OR EUR 601,620) for 9 months to assist 23,250 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 200,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond to the immediate needs
- On 25 September the budget was revised to CHF 1,105,000 (USD 918,537 or EUR 672,141).
- On 30 October, the budget was revised to CHF1,147,000 (USD 979,505 or EUR 690,964) for 9 months to assist 30,208 beneficiaries (5,370 families)
- On 18 March, the budget was revised to CHF 1,371,000 (USD 1,240,725 or EUR 856,875) for 9 months to assist 31,658 beneficiaries (5,660 families)

### Summary:

Relief activities have been completed and approximately 5,660 families in the affected countries of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua were provided with relief items such as hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets and food parcels and were assisted through psychosocial support activities and therefore saw their immediate needs met after the hurricane hit the countries and caused loss and damages.

The budget increased due to generous contributions received up until 31 January, 2008. This increase in budget allowed for the inclusion of additional preventive post emergency activities, necessary capacity building in the affected countries and recovery activities. In Nicaragua, 290 extra families were provided with food items and in Honduras, an agricultural rehabilitation programme was implemented during the harvesting season that started in March, 2008 in order to restore their livelihoods of agricultural crops with technical support at the community level.

In March 2008, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) handed the pending activities over to the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico while livelihood rehabilitation activities were still being implemented in Honduras.

Due to the increase in the budget and the still available funds, a revised appeal is being developed, to extend the current operation by six months and to include a development phase which will focus on capacity building to



Felix left a trail of destruction and damages, gravely affecting people's livelihoods.  
Source: International Federation

prepare the National Society for the 2008 hurricane season and the food crisis the region is currently experiencing. To this end, a consultation process with the three National Societies is in process and the plan of action is being revised. The Revised Appeal will be published within the next two weeks.

## The situation

Hurricane Felix was categorized on 4 September, 2007 as the second hurricane of the 2007 Atlantic season making landfall in north-eastern Nicaragua as a category 5 hurricane. It moved inland over north-eastern Honduras and Nicaragua and downgraded to a tropical depression, but still managed to severely affect thousands of families in **Guatemala, Honduras** and **Nicaragua** with heavy rainfall and flooding.



A mother is looking at the devastation brought on by Hurricane Felix. Source: International federation

As Hurricane Felix gravely affected people's lives and livelihoods, the governments and National Societies (NS) of the affected countries worked arduously to assess the needs and damages and provide support and relief assistance to approximately 40,887 families.

A programme of agricultural rehabilitation got started in March 2008 within a recovery phase.

However, despite the fact that the relief and early recovery phase has already been implemented, communities remain highly vulnerable taking into account the chronic vulnerability (roughly 17 million Central Americans live below the poverty line) they face and the new challenges they deal with, such as the structural food crisis that will worsen the consequence of any natural hazard that could affect the region.

Following International Development Bank studies, the global food prices increased some 68 percent in the first three months of 2008; the price of rice had doubled; corn was up 128 percent and wheat jumped 163 percent. Not all of these higher prices have been passed through to the consumer, but in Central America and other poor regions nearly all family income is spent on food. In Honduras, 84 percent of the family budget is spent on food. Higher prices literally mean the consumption of less food and a higher vulnerability.

This is the reason why the National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico are currently revising the Plan of Action, so that the remainder of the funds can be invested in capacity building of the NS to ensure a better preparedness for the 2008 hurricane season and for the structural food crisis currently affecting the region beyond a recovery strategy. By building the capacity of the NS it is expected that the food insecurity as a consequence of natural disaster but also as a consequence of a deeper structural crisis, can be tackled.

## Coordination and partnerships

The hurricane Felix operation was handed over from PADRU to the Regional Representation on March 2008 and a consultant was hired to carry out an assessment of the remaining needs and to elaborate a plan of action in close coordination with the NS of the affected countries, the Regional Representation Office for Central America and Mexico, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation's Health team.

The Red Cross National Societies continue to rely on the partnerships with external organizations, specifically for this recovery phase working in close cooperation with their local relevant government offices such as the Ministries of health, planning and agriculture.

In March 2008, the Ministries of Agriculture of the country members of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) from Central America agreed on a common strategy to face the food crisis and to implement

programmes of cooperation. By training the National Societies on food security, the Federation seeks to promote the auxiliary role of the three NS and a close cooperation with their government.

Externally, one key component of the new Plan of Action will be to improve the capacity of the NS to cooperate and to coordinate activities implemented by others agencies and assure self-reliance of the NS through new operational partnerships.

#### **National Society Capacity Building:**

A pre-hurricane meeting took place in Panama in May of 2007, where countries prone to hurricanes – including Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua – participated actively in the development of a Contingency Plan for the Region. This helped in exploring and further developing available disaster preparedness tools and response strategies to strengthen the region in order to rapidly respond when disaster strikes.

The **Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)**, the **Honduran Red Cross (HRC)** and the **Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)** have ample experience in disaster response, as hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural hazards often affect these countries. National Intervention Team (NIT) trainings in Guatemala and Honduras have increased in number and have come to strengthen the capacities of the NS, especially those of their volunteers. The GRC has offered several risk reduction workshops for its volunteers as well as for those affected. The experience has had a positive impact on the participating branches in all three countries and their volunteers.

All National Societies affected by hurricane Felix were well prepared with pre-positioned stocks, radio networks both within country and between National Societies in the region, trained personnel and pre and post emergency coordination meetings. All National Societies are part of the National Emergency Operations Centres in their countries and are assigned specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

The new Plan of Action will seek to strengthen this response capacity of the three NS. As a consequence, activities such as the participation of the three NS in the 2008 pre-hurricane meeting organized by PADRU, and in Regional Logistic Intervention Team trainings will be funded with funds that are available through the appeal. In addition, a programme to restore the storage capacity of the NRC will be implemented.

Furthermore, on the longer term the Plan of Action will improve the capacity of the NS to respond to the needs of affected communities concerning their livelihoods, and beyond that to face the current structural food crisis at community level. A training curriculum focusing on food security will be implemented to ensure an overall capacity of community based food security programmes. In addition, all workshops for NS on for instance SPHERE and Psychosocial Support methodologies and the diffusion of principles and values, will also focus on food security issues.

The Plan of Action seeks to enhance self-reliance of the NS in the potential programme that will be developed within the operational framework by the network of agencies working in the three countries.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

### **Overview**

When the **Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS)** realized that Hurricane Felix was heading for Belize, the NS started to prepare and requested part of the DREF allocation (USD 5,000) to cover expenses for small health awareness-raising activities that were carried out. Luckily, no further action was required.

**Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)** carried out following activities:

- Evacuation activities in high risk areas, carried out by local branches and their volunteers;
- Search and rescue activities;
- Provision of first aid care;
- Distribution of relief items and assessments of damages and needs;
- Mobilization of one National Intervention Team (NIT), specialized in health and water sanitation;
- Preparation of a plan of action to assist 200 families (1000 people);
- PADRU deployed a Coordination delegate and a RIT member to support GRC.

**Honduran Red Cross (HRC)** carried out following activities:

- Activation of the local branches in several departments such as Colon, Santa Barbara, Cortes, Francisco Morazán and the central and southern region, at the onset of the disaster;
- Preparation of a preliminary plan of action to assist 1,950 families, which was later increased to 2,408 families due to thorough assessments (roofing and building materials);
- Distribution of relief items sent by PADRU, to 1,408 families in the departments of Yoro and Cortes;
- A PADRU delegate was sent to aid in relief activities;
- Distribution of the relief items of the HRC such as kitchen kits, hygiene kits and blankets (not Federation standards) to 461 families in the department of Cortes;
- In la Mosquitia, 300 families have received roofing materials and other relief items;
- Procurement of agricultural material has been completed aiding 1,000 families;
- Deployment of a RIT member who assisted in the distribution activities.

**The Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)** carried out the following activities:

- The NRC, together with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health provided support in the evacuation of 12,000 people in Puerto Cabezas;
- Provision of assistance by 35 NRC volunteers in Puerto Cabezas;
- The Costa Rican Red Cross sent a team of 25 specialized volunteers with ambulances and trucks;
- PADRU and two delegates specialized in communications, water and sanitation and one RIT member were deployed to assist in distribution activities;
- Preparation of a plan of action along with PADRU to assist 2,812 families;
- RLU sent a container with relief goods for 1,000 families in the area of Sandy Bay.

## Progress towards objectives

The objectives from the emergency and early recovery phase were reached:

**Relief Distributions:** 4,780 affected families benefited from the provision of relief items to immediately recover from the effects of hurricane Felix (200 families in Guatemala, 1,408 families in Honduras, 3,172 families in Nicaragua including the Chinandega operation).

In short, the distributions were as follows:

Country	Number of Families	Relief Items
Guatemala	200	Kitchen Kits Cleaning Kits Food Parcels
Honduras	1408	Kitchen Kits Hygiene Kits Blankets Roofing Material
Nicaragua	3172	Kitchen kits Hygiene Kits Food Parcels Blankets Jerry Cans

**Emergency Health:** The affected communities benefited from psychosocial support (PSP) assisting them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

**Emergency Health:** Vulnerable populations affected by the hurricane in Guatemala and Nicaragua have increased awareness on HIV and AIDS.

**Water and Sanitation:** Vulnerable families were sensitized on key health messages through a health awareness campaign related to vector control and water borne diseases.

The Revised Appeal to be published within the next two weeks will issue the new objectives of the revised Plan of Action. The revised appeal places a strong emphasis on building the capacities of the three NS and on providing support to the communities affected by Hurricane Felix in order to ensure that NS and communities are better prepared for the 2008 hurricane season as well as for the likelihood of a highly negative impact on livelihoods in years to come due to the increase of food and basic needs prices.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Regional Representation Offices and the Communications Department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva have been in close coordination and supporting the operation. It is very important to maintain accurate information between the fields, either by delegates sent to the field and with the NS affected by the disaster. During an operation, communication between the affected populations and the Red Cross, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency

Several Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) reports were posted on the global Federation's website informing about the disaster in the involved countries. Several articles and press releases on Felix were issued by the GRC and NRC on the website of the International Federation: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/07/07091802/>. The Operations Updates can also be found on the website of the International Federation: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/americas.asp>

## How we work

***All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.***

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- In Guatemala: Teresa Marroquín, Disaster Management Director, Guatemalan Red Cross; email: [teresamarroquin@guatemala.cruzroja.org](mailto:teresamarroquin@guatemala.cruzroja.org); phone: (502) 2253-2027; fax: (502) 2232-4649
- In Honduras: Oscar Fernández, General Coordinator, Disaster Management Office, Honduran Red Cross; email: [opade@honduras.cruzroja.org](mailto:opade@honduras.cruzroja.org); phone: (504)237-1800; fax: (504)238-0185
- In Nicaragua: Alejandro Morales, National Relief Director Nicaraguan Red Cross; email:

- [crn\\_socorros@humanidad.org.ni](mailto:crn_socorros@humanidad.org.ni); phone: (505) 265-2087; fax: (505) 885-3880
- In Panama: Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; e-mail [fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org](mailto:fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org); phone: (507)380 0250; fax: (507) 317 13 04
- In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas, email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507)317 1304
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org); phone: (41 22)730 4274; fax: (41 22) 733 0395

**[<Updated donor response report and financial report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR43002 - Central America - Hurricane Felix

Appeal Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/09-2008/04
Budget Timeframe	2007/09-2008/06
Appeal	MDR43002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		1,371,000				1,371,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross		142,270				142,270
Australian Government		31,101				31,101
Canadian Red Cross		152,269				152,269
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)		117,000				117,000
Hong Kong Red Cross		30,963				30,963
Icelandic Red Cross		74,724				74,724
Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund		329,600				329,600
Japanese Red Cross		31,851				31,851
Luxembourg Red Cross (from Luxembourg Government)		50,368				50,368
Monaco Red Cross		8,365				8,365
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)		325,543				325,543
On Line donations		1,826				1,826
Swiss Government		15,000				15,000
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>		<b>1,310,881</b>				<b>1,310,881</b>
<u>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</u>						
Canadian Red Cross		59,215				59,215
<b>C3. Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>		<b>59,215</b>				<b>59,215</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>		<b>1,370,096</b>				<b>1,370,096</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		<b>1,370,096</b>				<b>1,370,096</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		<b>100%</b>				<b>100%</b>

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		1,370,096				1,370,096
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-991,616				-991,616
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		378,480				378,480

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MDR43002 - Central America - Hurricane Felix

Appeal Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/09-2008/04
Budget Timeframe	2007/09-2008/06
Appeal	MDR43002
Budget	APPEAL

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## III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>1,371,000</b>					<b>1,371,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Construction Materials	30,000		3,993			3,993	26,007	
Clothing & textiles	96,000		96,012			96,012	-12	
Food	270,000		265,010			265,010	4,990	
Seeds,Plants	80,000		31,373			31,373	48,627	
Water & Sanitation			127			127	-127	
Medical & First Aid			2,051			2,051	-2,051	
Utensils & Tools	150,000		60,377			60,377	89,623	
Other Supplies & Services	80,000		89,738			89,738	-9,738	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>706,000</b>		<b>548,682</b>			<b>548,682</b>	<b>157,318</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom	20,000		12,593			12,593	7,407	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	6,000						6,000	
Others Machinery & Equipment	35,000		7,398			7,398	27,602	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>61,000</b>		<b>19,991</b>			<b>19,991</b>	<b>41,009</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	15,000		9,996			9,996	5,004	
Distribution & Monitoring	56,609		55,468			55,468	1,141	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	65,000		63,004			63,004	1,996	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>136,609</b>		<b>128,467</b>			<b>128,467</b>	<b>8,142</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	28,000		1,216			1,216	26,784	
Regionally Deployed Staff	35,140		7,848			7,848	27,292	
National Staff	20,000		3,033			3,033	16,967	
National Society Staff	50,000		32,210			32,210	17,790	
Consultants	25,000		7,994			7,994	17,006	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>158,140</b>		<b>52,300</b>			<b>52,300</b>	<b>105,839</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	34,000		6,364			6,364	27,636	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>34,000</b>		<b>6,364</b>			<b>6,364</b>	<b>27,636</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	60,000		32,341			32,341	27,659	
Information & Public Relation	14,000		2,719			2,719	11,281	
Office Costs	24,000		8,005			8,005	15,995	
Communications	20,000		5,403			5,403	14,597	
Professional Fees	14,436		602			602	13,835	
Financial Charges	30,000		51,944			51,944	-21,944	
Other General Expenses	5,000		987			987	4,013	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>167,436</b>		<b>102,000</b>			<b>102,000</b>	<b>65,436</b>	
<b>Depreciation</b>								
Depreciation			11,147			11,147	-11,147	
<b>Total Depreciation</b>			<b>11,147</b>			<b>11,147</b>	<b>-11,147</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	107,815		63,639			63,639	44,176	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>107,815</b>		<b>63,639</b>			<b>63,639</b>	<b>44,176</b>	
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries			8,711			8,711	-8,711	
<b>Total Services</b>			<b>8,711</b>			<b>8,711</b>	<b>-8,711</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions			50,313			50,313	-50,313	

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDR43002 - Central America - Hurricane Felix

Appeal Report

Selected Parameters	
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Budget Timeframe	2007/09-2008/06
Appeal	MDR43002
Budget	APPEAL

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**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		1,371,000					1,371,000	
Total Operational Provisions			50,313				50,313	-50,313
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	1,371,000	991,616					991,616	379,384
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		379,384					379,384	

**Donor response to MDR43002 - Central America - Hurricane Felix**

TIMEFRAME: 03 Sep 07 to 03 Jun 08

LOCATION: Central America

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	1,371,000
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	1,370,096
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	100%

Updated on: 30 May 2008

Currency	Amount	Health & Care CHF	Disaster Management CHF	Humanitarian Values CHF	Organisational Development CHF	Coordination & Implementation CHF	Total CHF
<b>BUDGET</b>			<b>1,371,000</b>				<b>1,371,000</b>
<b>FUNDING</b>							
<b>Opening Balance</b>							
<b>Income</b>							
<b>Cash contributions (received and pledged)</b>							
American Red Cross	USD	120,000		142,270			<b>142,270</b>
Australian Government	CHF	31,101		31,101			<b>31,101</b>
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	133,385		152,269			<b>152,269</b>
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	CAD	100,000		117,000			<b>117,000</b>
Hong Kong Red Cross	HKD	200,666		30,963			<b>30,963</b>
Icelandic Red Cross	ISK	3,932,866		74,724			<b>74,724</b>
Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund	EUR	200,000		329,600			<b>329,600</b>
Japanese Red Cross	USD	27,200		31,851			<b>31,851</b>
Luxembourg Red Cross (from Luxembourg Government)	EUR	32,000		50,368			<b>50,368</b>
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	5,000		8,365			<b>8,365</b>
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	EUR	198,019		325,543			<b>325,543</b>
On Line donations	CHF	1,826		1,826			<b>1,826</b>
Swiss Government	CHF	15,000		15,000			<b>15,000</b>
<b>Total Cash contributions</b>			<b>1,310,881</b>				<b>1,310,881</b>
<b>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport (pledged)</b>							
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	52,080		59,215			<b>59,215</b>
<b>Total Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>			<b>59,215</b>				<b>59,215</b>
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>1,370,096</b>				<b>1,370,096</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1,370,096</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,370,096</b>
<b>COVERAGE</b>			<b>100%</b>				<b>100%</b>