

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: HURRICANE FELIX

Appeal no. MDR43002;
Glide No. TC- 2007-000150;
6 September 2007

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its 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 185 countries.

In Brief

THIS PRELIMINARY EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 992,673 (USD 825,165 OR EUR 601,620) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 23,250 BENEFICIARIES (4,650 FAMILIES) FOR 9 MONTHS.

[Click here to link directly to the attached Preliminary Appeal budget, or here to view the updated map](#)

CHF 200,000 (USD 165,994 or EUR 121,606) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 3 September 2007. Unearmarked funds to reimburse the DREF are encouraged.

The projects and activities described below are aligned with the Federation's 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". These are:

- 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.

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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.

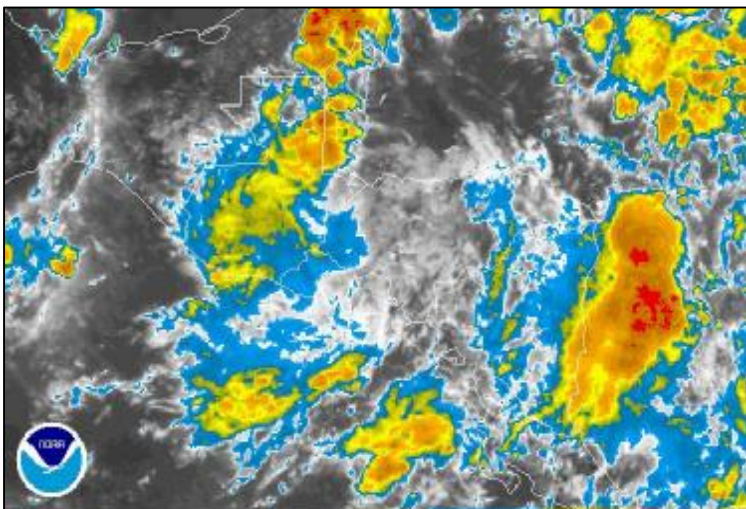
For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

Felix, the second hurricane of the 2007 Atlantic season after last month's Dean, gained strength during the night of 3 September making landfall in northeastern Nicaragua on the morning of 4 September as a dangerous category five hurricane. At the time of writing this Preliminary Appeal, Felix had been downgraded to a tropical depression.

During 4 September, the center of hurricane Felix moved inland over northeastern **Nicaragua** and **Honduras**. On 5 September, Felix had severely affected Honduras and Nicaragua, while the outer fingers of the hurricane also affected **Guatemala** and **Belize** with heavy rainfall.

In **Honduras**, the departments of Santa Bárbara, Cortés, Choluteca, Valle and El Paraíso are on yellow alert due to the constant rains on 5 September. At the time of writing, a red alert was still in effect for the central region of the country, since they were expecting to receive up to 50 millimetres of rain in the following hours. A total of 23,778 people have been evacuated and at least 3,900 families (19,500 people) have been affected. There have been ten landslides which have obstructed major roads in Copán, Comayagua and Olancho destroying 13 houses. Preventive measures have been taken in the capital city of Tegucigalpa where 782 families (3,200 people) were evacuated, especially in the high risk areas.



Tropical Depression Felix is pictured moving west in this infrared satellite photograph. Source: National Hurricane Center.

As of 5 September, rains were still affecting **Nicaragua**, specifically the western and central regions of the country. Initial damage and needs assessments indicate that strong winds tore the roofs off many homes and left a church badly damaged. Uprooted trees flew through the air as thousands of people took shelter in two schools in the port. Patients of several hospitals in the affected area were evacuated to safer locations and a total of 120 people were evacuated from Cayos Miskitos (of which 80 were sent to Puerto Cabezas and 40 to Northern Sandy Bay). To date, seven deaths have been reported and there are 11 injured. Humanitarian assistance has not reached some towns in Nicaragua since areas remain isolated. Rains were still expected for the following hours at the time of writing.

Continuous rain is worsening the situation in Guatemala, although the country was not directly affected by hurricane Felix. Preliminary reports mention the evacuation of 150 families (300 people) from the Atlantic coast to two emergency shelters. Some zones were reported to have flooding up to one meter.

Red Cross action

The Belize Red Cross (BRC) Disaster Management Committee met on two occasions on Monday 3 September in order to prepare for hurricane Felix. The BRC planned to relocate to the capital city of Belmopan, which is inland and has a more secure location available to establish an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Following damage and needs assessments by the BRC, no further action will be required, although USD 5,000 from the initial DREF allocation will go to cover expenses made in the preparation of small health awareness programs.

The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) has summoned all its volunteers from the local branches of Puerto Barrios, El Estor, Santo Tomás de Castilla, Petén and Cobán in order to establish an initial course of action. The GRC has carried out need assessments and formulated an initial Plan of Action.

The local branches of the **Honduran Red Cross (HRC)** in the affected areas are in a state of alert and are coordinating with the respective Municipal Committees and Emergency Centers. The HRC attended a national press conference where red, yellow and green alerts throughout the country were declared. The HRC and the pre-positioned Federation delegates (both from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and from the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation Office) participated actively in meetings with the coordinating governmental agency for disasters (COPECO). The HRC issued a Plan of Action as a result of these meetings and the needs assessment carried out in the affected areas. Regional warehouses have been created to simplify an emergency first response.

The **Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)** is coordinating with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health (Ministerio de Salud: MINSA), and is providing direct support to the evacuation activities in the affected areas such as Puerto Cabezas and La Bocana. The 35 trained relief workers and nine volunteers of the NRC local branch in Puerto Cabezas are initially responding to the emergency situation by supporting activities such as rescue, information, evacuation, and need assessments. According to official reports from the NRC 35,000 people have been affected. There were 13,500 people were evacuated and a total of 5,005 houses were destroyed. The Nicaraguan Red Cross has directly requested assistance to the Costa Rica Red Cross Society to deploy their search and rescue team and a telecommunications team to the affected areas in Nicaragua. The mobilization of these teams will be covered within this Emergency Appeal. Furthermore, the NRC will receive USD 30,000 from the Spanish Red Cross in order to support activities during the aftermath of hurricane Felix.



The Salvadorean Red Cross (SRC) activated their National Intervention Team (NIT). The National Society has held meetings with several governmental agencies in order to establish the proper procedures. Following damage and needs assessments by the Red Cross, it was determined that no further action was required.

*Hurricane Felix caused major damage in Nicaragua.
Source: Reuters*

The needs

Immediate needs: Based on initial damage and need assessments hurricane Felix - now a tropical depression - has caused serious flooding and landslides affecting homes, infrastructure and communities. It has been determined that immediate needs are for food and non-food relief items such as food parcels, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, blankets, water buckets, tarpaulins and roofing material.

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Longer-term needs: The early recovery and rehabilitation needs of the affected populations will be reviewed by assessment teams and the response of the Red Cross will be adapted accordingly.

The proposed operation

This preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks to support immediate response activities in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Objectives and planned activities will be adjusted in line with more detailed information resulting from further damage and needs assessments carried out by the National Societies once the phenomenon has passed and they have gained access to all areas. These adjustments could include clean-up efforts, health, shelter, and water and sanitation actions.

Objectives and activities planned**Emergency relief**

Objective 1: 4,650 affected families (23,250 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of relief items to immediately recover from the effects of hurricane Felix (200 families in Guatemala, 1,450 families in Honduras, 3,000 families in Nicaragua).

The **Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)** is planning to provide 200 families (1,000 people) with relief items like food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets and jerry cans and provide assistance in the area of health, specifically in water sanitation.

The Plan of Action of the **Honduran Red Cross (HRC)** will provide relief assistance to a total of 1,450 families (7,250 beneficiaries). The 1,300 worst affected families will be provided with food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen kits and blankets (1,000 families in the department of Cortes, 100 families in the department of Olancho, 100 families in the department of Santa Bárbara and 100 families in the department of Atlántida).

Another 150 families, located in the department of Gracias a Dios will be provided with roofing material in order to repair their houses and accelerate the return to proper housing. The items will be distributed as follows:

Items	Quantities
Food parcels	1,300
Blankets	7,800 (6 per family)
Kitchen kits	1,300
Hygiene kits	1,300
Roofing material	200 sets

The Plan of Action of the **Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)** involves providing assistance to 3,000 families (15,000 people) with the following relief items:

Items	Quantities
Blankets	9,000 (3 per family)
Kitchen kits	3,000
Hygiene kits	3,000
Water buckets	6,000 (2 per family)
Tarpaulins	6,000 (2 per family)

More detailed information from the affected countries is expected in the following days, as teams gain access to isolated areas and the needs become more clear. Based on this information, the National Societies will develop their Plans of Action and indicate further actions.

Based on the information from the affected locations, activities to reach this objective will likely include:

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- Identification and registration of the most vulnerable families with special emphasis on gender inequities and disability conditions.
- Conducting health and water and sanitation assessments to identify further needs for water provision, sanitation, health promotion (including hygiene promotion), psycho-social programming (PSP), and basic curative health activities (these will form the basis of a revised appeal, to be issued shortly).
- Coordination with national, regional, provincial and local authorities.
- Warehousing, dispatch and transportation of relief items from local headquarters to the final destinations.
- Regular detailed reporting on distribution.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Early recovery

Objective 1: Early recovery activities are assessed, planned and implemented together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders.

Relief assessments will seek to determine early recovery needs. A key element of early response will be to seek feedback from affected communities on the appropriateness of relief items being provided.

Coordination

The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation in Panama are in direct contact with the Red Cross Societies of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico and Belize. PADRU are in coordination with the following Partner National Societies: the Norwegian Red Cross (NRC), the Netherlands Red Cross (NRC) and the Spanish Red Cross (SRC) in Guatemala; the Italian Red Cross (IRC), Canadian Red Cross (CRC), Spanish Red Cross (SRC), Netherlands Red Cross (NRC) and Swiss Red Cross (SRC) in Honduras; the Italian Red Cross (IRC), Canadian Red Cross (CRC), Spanish Red Cross (SRC) and the Netherlands Red Cross (NRC) in Nicaragua and the Norwegian Red Cross in Belize.

PADRU has established High Frequency (HF) radio contact with the involved National Societies in order to ensure frequent and accurate communications, information sharing, and to monitor the situation. PADRU has raised its alert level to 'RED' and has deployed a Disaster Management (DM) delegate to Honduras and a DM delegate to Guatemala. A DM delegate is already positioned in Belize in order to provide immediate support. PADRU's DM information officer has been deployed to Nicaragua. Further deployments of DM delegates, other PADRU personnel, and Regional Intervention Teams (RIT's) will be coordinated if the situation so requires. The Federation's Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) resource is on alert, and ready to provide initial operational and coordination support to PADRU. Furthermore, the Disaster Risk Reduction delegate from the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation Office, who was already present in Honduras, is providing immediate support to the Honduran Red Cross in coordination with PADRU's deployed DM delegate.

PADRU, working with the Federation's Zone structure and supported by the disaster response resources in the Federation's Geneva Secretariat, is facilitating meetings and information sessions (eg. conference calls) with PNS both in the region and in Geneva. Coordination meetings are also taking place between PADRU, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other United Nations organizations to discuss participation in any joint coordinated response operation. A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team has been deployed to Honduras. PADRU is also in close liaison with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The involved National Societies have been in constant contact with PADRU and the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation Office in Panama. The National Societies are monitoring the development of Felix and are taking the necessary precautions. All involved Red Cross Societies have initiated their Plan of Actions and are posting regular bulletins on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) as information becomes available.

Capacity of the National Societies

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During the pre-hurricane meeting that took place in Panama from 14 to 17 May 2007, National Societies from countries prone to hurricanes in the Americas participated actively in the development of a contingency plan for the region. The development of the regional contingency plan helped explore disaster preparedness tools, available capacities within the region, possible response strategies and operating procedures, which provided participants with hands-on practice.

In general, the National Societies affected by hurricane Felix are well prepared with pre-positioned stocks, radio networks, trained personnel and pre and post emergency coordination meetings. All the involved National Societies sit in the National Emergency Operations Centre and have specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

In general, the Guatemalan, Honduran and Nicaraguan Red Cross have wide experience in disaster response, particularly as a result of the lessons learnt from operations with hurricane Mitch in 1998, and hurricane Stan in 2005.

Communications – Advocacy and public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between 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. There has been close coordination and support to the NS to increase the visibility of their actions in regards to the communication through PADRU, the Regional Representation Offices and the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

Regular situation reports have been issued by Red Cross National Societies through the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on the global International Federation website. Several press releases and interviews have been issued in order to develop a better understanding of the mission of International Federation of the Red Cross and the activities the organization undertakes in serving affected communities. In the same line, local and international media were provided with interviews directly from the involved National Societies. Furthermore, a news release is posted on the International Federation website with detailed information on hurricane Felix.

Capacity of the Federation

PADRU, in coordination with the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation Office is providing support to the affected National Societies in the response needs such as organizing the provision of initial relief items, development of Plans of Action, logistics and human resources as needed.

Monitoring and evaluation

PADRU together with the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation Office will ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of the operation. Regular reports on the operation will be published on the Federation's website. An evaluation with direct participation and involvement of the beneficiaries will be carried out once the operation has finished in order to review achievements and constraints and to ensure the identification of lessons learnt for future relief operations.

Preliminary Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Thomas Gurtner
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Markku Niskala
Secretary General

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

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**HURRICANE FELIX**

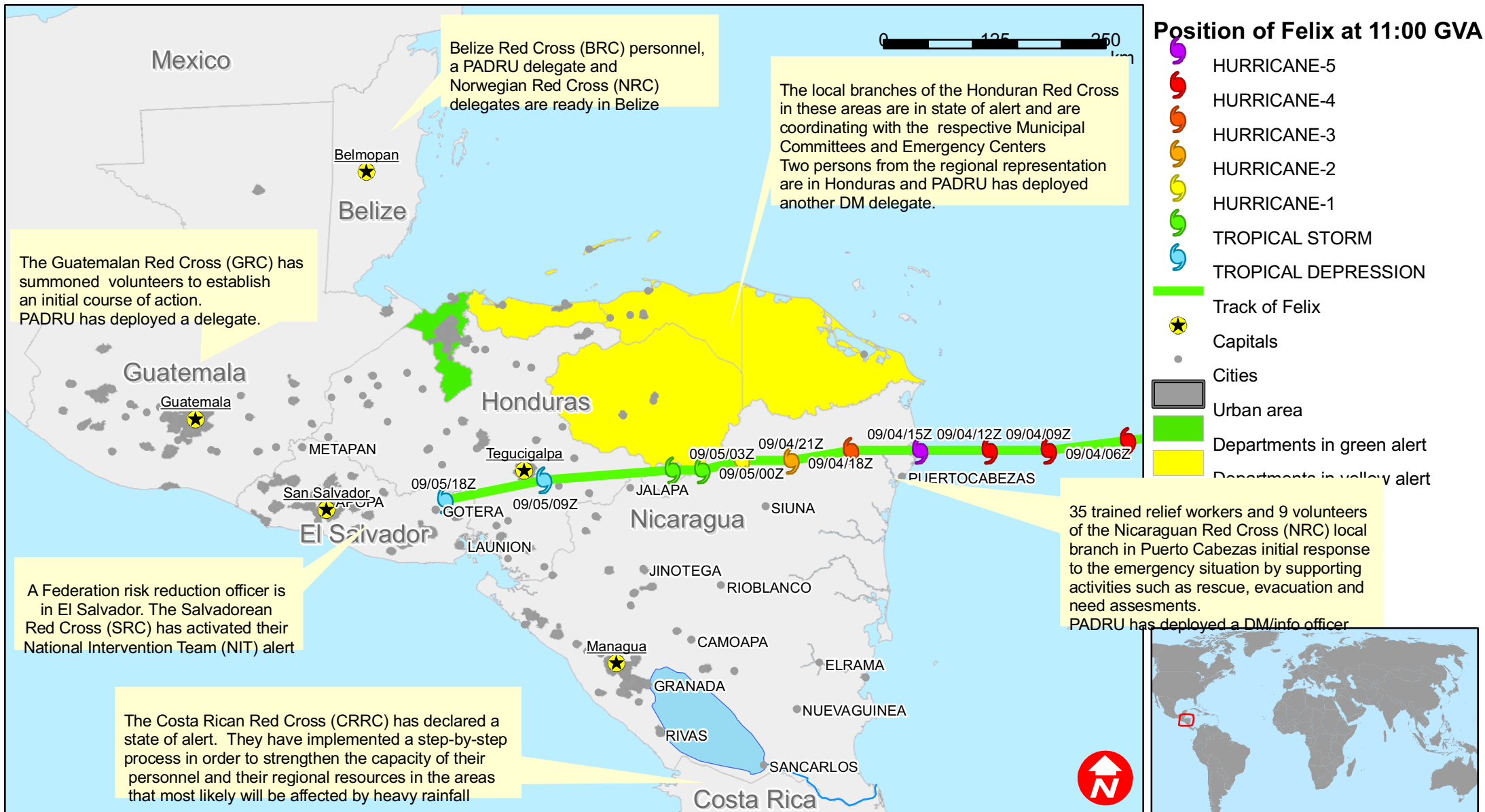
Annex

MDR43002

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter	95,783		
Construction Materials	30,075		
Clothing & Textiles	121,082		
Food	152,781		
Seeds & Plants	0		
Water & Sanitation	70,111		
Medical & First Aid	25,263		
Teaching Materials	0		
Utensils & Tools	142,440		
Other Supplies & Services	148,566		
Total Relief Needs	786,100		0
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Land & Buildings	0		
Vehicles Purchase	0		
Computers & Telecom Equipment	0		
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0		
Medical Equipment	0		
Other Machinery & Equipment	0		
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse	0		
Distribution & Monitoring	12,950		
Transport & Vehicles Costs	87,819		
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff	0		
Regionally Deployed Staff	12,030		
National Staff	0		
National Society Staff	0		
Consultants	3,609		
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	3,609		
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	0		
Information & Public Relations	0		
Office running costs	15,416		
Communication Costs	3,609		
Professional Fees	3,008		
Financial Charges	0		
Other General Expenses	0		
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	64,523		
Total Operational Needs	206,573		0
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	992,673		0



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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, UNISYS, NHC public advisory . Federation