

Final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central America: Hurricane Felix

Final report
Emergency appeal n° MDR43002
GLIDE n° TC-2007-000157
13 July 2009

Period covered by this narrative Final Report: 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2009.

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

Appeal coverage: 96%;

[<Click here to go directly to the final financial report, or here to view the contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- CHF 200,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to respond to the immediate needs.
- 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.
- On 25 September 2007 the budget was revised to CHF 1,105,000 (USD 918,537 or EUR 672,141).
- On 30 October 2007 the budget was revised to CHF 1,147,000 (USD 979,505 or EUR 690,964) for 9 months to assist 30,208 beneficiaries (5,370 families).
- On 18 March 2008 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).
- On 22 July 2008, the Appeal was revised and extended for an additional six months to support the institutional capacity of three National Societies to respond to future emergencies and to the structural food crisis in the region. These three National Societies are also building capacities in three specific communities.
- This Appeal formally closed at the end of December 2008 and the balance of funding (CHF 59,600.79) was transferred to the Regional Programme for Central America and Mexico. However, since activities carried out with this balance relate to the follow-up of the community projects initiated under the Hurricane Felix Appeal they are included in this Final Report. The Annual Report 2008 for the Central America and Mexico region also includes brief information on these activities.



Women from the community of El Tule, that participated during the food conservation training.
Source: International Federation

Summary: Thanks to generous contributions to this Emergency Appeal, the Regional Representation took the opportunity to develop three projects in three communities of the affected countries. The innovative programme promotes an integrated approach involving better trained and prepared volunteers to adequately respond to the needs of the targeted communities, which were initially affected by the hurricane. The programme encompasses three main areas: a) micro-projects on food security; 2) psychosocial support (PSP) interventions; and 3) volunteer network strengthening within the local Red Cross branches by integrating new volunteers from the three communities to sustain Red Cross actions. These projects have reached 1,182 direct beneficiaries (247 in Guatemala, 252 in Honduras and 674 in Nicaragua) and 196 Red

Cross volunteers and permanent staff trained in psychosocial support, Humanitarian and Principles Values and volunteer network management.

The situation

Hurricane Felix was categorized on 4 September as the second hurricane of the 2007 Atlantic season, making landfall in north-eastern Nicaragua as a category five hurricane. It moved inland over north-eastern Honduras and Nicaragua and changed categories to a tropical depression. However, it severely affected thousands of families in **Guatemala, Honduras** and **Nicaragua** with heavy rainfall and flooding.

The governments and National Societies of the affected countries worked laboriously to assess the needs and damages while providing support and relief assistance to approximately 40,887 families whose livelihoods were gravely affected by the hurricane.

Following the emergency phase the recovery phase began with an agricultural rehabilitation programme in Honduras in March 2008.

During implementation of this programme, global food prices saw an increase of 68 per cent in the first three months of 2008, the price of rice had doubled, corn was up 128 per cent and wheat jumped 163 per cent according to International Development Bank Studies. This is quite significant taking into consideration that in poor regions of Central America nearly all family income is spent on food. For example, in Honduras, 84 per cent of the family budget is spent on food. Higher food prices lead to less food consumption and higher vulnerability.

In the post recovery strategy of the Hurricane Felix emergency operation, the National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and the International Federation's Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico implemented and integrated a food security pilot initiative, in order to respond to the food security crisis in the region. The post recovery strategy aimed to develop resilience at community level and build Red Cross capacity in order to tackle food insecurity as a consequence of natural disasters, but also as a consequence of a deeper structural crisis taking into account the chronic food insecurity situation.

During October 2008 Guatemala and Honduras experienced heavy rains that caused flooding. In the Izabal region, several families from the community of El Quetzalito (a target community of the food security pilot project) were evacuated with the support of Red Cross volunteers. After the severe rains, the PSP team previously trained was able to provide psychological support to 56 children in shelters. Once the families returned to their homes, they stated that they were now more capable of identifying coping strategies and their own recovery capacity. In Honduras, the PSP team from the Honduran Red Cross branch of Potrerillos also carried out interventions for people affected by floods.

One of the main constraints during implementation of the programme were the floods that affected Honduras and Guatemala in 2008. Unfortunately some of the programmatic activities were delayed, but on the other hand, the heavy rains gave an opportunity for the families not involved in the project to realize the benefits of participating in the strengthening of community organization and developing recovery capacity. In El Quetzalito, only 25 of 47 families were initially involved but after the floods, 100 per cent of the families participated in the different programme activities and were involved in gardening activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The revised work plan focused on three communities (one per country) affected by Hurricane Felix, that faced food insecurity. The three communities benefited from community-based programmes supported by the three local Red Cross branches: Potrerillos in Honduras, Puerto Cabeza in Nicaragua and Santo Tomas de Castillo in Guatemala.

The three identified communities are: Quetzalito (247 persons, 47 Families) in the Izabal province (Guatemala), El Tule (252 persons, 36 families) in the Potrerillos province (Honduras) and Truhlaya (674 persons, 143 families) in the region of Puerto Cabezas (Nicaragua).

One of the challenges in this initiative was to keep the project design simple and sustainable given the short period for implementation (six months extended to nine months) and to ensure that sufficient means were available for beneficiaries' needs and for capacity-building activities within the National Societies' branches.

The results of the participatory and multi-disciplinary assessments carried out by trained staff from the National Societies confirmed the main objectives of the projects:

- ÿ **Promotion of resilience** at personal level through psychosocial support and at community level through strengthening of the community organization
- ÿ Strengthening their ability **to assist others**, empowering communities to be responsible for their own caring and healing
- ÿ Leading to **positive social implications** with promotion of Red Cross volunteering vocation promoting Humanitarian Principles and Values
- ÿ Increasing households' access to food, education and health services as **integral support**
- ÿ **Enhancing support capacity of the Red Cross branch** to alleviate suffering of people
- ÿ Sustaining support through local alliances with permanent actors involved in the intervention sectors (ministries, local authorities, community committees) and to guarantee **access to local expertise and assistance** in technical issues.

After the assessments were carried out in each community, **outcomes and activities were adapted to the local context and capacity of each community and Red Cross branch.**

In March 2009, the three National Societies and representatives from the three communities met in Puerto Cabeza (Nicaragua) in order to analyze the lessons learned and to systematize good practices. A tool that was developed is currently being edited and will soon give the opportunity to the National Societies involved to replicate the project within the region.

This final report summarizes all objectives reached during the relief phase of the operation and post recovery and livelihoods rehabilitation phase.

Relief Phase

The objectives within the relief phase were successfully completed between September 2007 and May 2008. For detailed information on the completion of the relief phase objectives please see the previous operations updates.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 4,420 affected families will benefit from the provision of relief items to immediately recover from the effects of Hurricane Felix (200 families in Guatemala, 1,408 families in Honduras, 2,812 families in Nicaragua).

Impact: A total of 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).

Emergency health

Objective 1: The affected communities will benefit from psychosocial support (PSP) to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

Impact: The affected communities and NRC volunteers benefitted from psychosocial support which assisted them to cope and recover from stress related signs and symptoms caused by the effects of the hurricane.

Emergency health

Objective 2: Vulnerable populations affected by the hurricane in Guatemala and Nicaragua have increased awareness on HIV and AIDS.

Impact: Vulnerable populations in Guatemala and Nicaragua have increased awareness on HIV and AIDS. In **Guatemala**, the GRC carried out HIV and AIDS awareness workshops in branches for 40 volunteers and for the 166 heads of families affected. These actions were planned to be accomplished multilaterally under the framework of the appeal. In **Nicaragua**, the NRC distributed information pamphlets on HIV and AIDS to affected people in shelters.

Water and Sanitation

Objective: Vulnerable families will be sensitized on key health messages through a health awareness campaign related to vector control and water borne diseases.

Impact: The Guatemalan Red Cross and the Nicaraguan Red Cross carried out health awareness-raising campaigns related to vector control and waterborne diseases. The **GRC** jointly with the Norwegian Red Cross supported water related activities such as sanitation, rebuilding of latrines and water wells and the delivery of drinking water. The GRC also conducted health workshops for volunteers in order to perform health awareness activities and assist the families affected by the floods. The GRC activated 14 National Intervention Team (NIT) members specialized in water and sanitation to assist in cleaning activities, where 100 wells were cleaned and disinfected in several communities. On the other hand, **NRC** volunteers received assistance from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to sanitize water wells for safe water consumption.

Recovery and Livelihoods Rehabilitation Phase

On 23 July 2008, after the completion of the relief phase, the Emergency Appeal was revised to include new objectives in order to reflect the generous contributions received. The revised work plan focused on providing long term support to the affected communities in the three countries and capacity-building in the participating Red Cross branches.

The community-based activities carried out under the Community Risk Reduction and Health and Care objectives are a result of the specific analyses undertaken in each targeted community. It is important to mention that these activities were carried out using an integrated approach in the communities.

Community Risk Reduction

Objective: Prepare communities to face long term food insecurity and help communities to become more resilient by developing community based food security programmes

Expected results	Activities Planned
Food security interventions are based on outcomes from participatory and multi-disciplinary assessments among communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments on the food security situation within the communities are carried out by well trained National Society staff. The assessment team will consist of a representative of each programme in order to ensure an overall assessment and multidisciplinary approach.

<p>Community-based projects related to long term food security are implemented (projects to be defined within the communities).</p> <p>Sense of ownership of the projects amongst the communities is promoted through the adaptation of specific needs at the personal, family and community level and implying active participation of beneficiaries.</p> <p>PSP interventions have alleviated suffering within the communities.</p> <p>A better prepared and strengthened volunteering network is promoted within the communities, encouraging a better sense of unity.</p> <p>Local branches of National Societies are strengthened to ensure better community support of National Societies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on assessments, cross-cutting community-based micro-projects are implemented in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk reduction: Evaluation of food security followed by community-based projects. These can include sustainable farming, building warehouses for storage and cash for work. - Psychosocial support: Communities will benefit from psychosocial support (PSP) to assist the community members with recovering from the effects of the hurricane and overall difficulties they are facing. - Capacity-building: Strengthening of the volunteer network through the dissemination of the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Principles and Values (HPV). Some volunteers, members of the community, will be trained in HPV methodology to ensure a constant support within the community. • Final evaluation of the projects carried out within the communities. The evaluation team consists of a representative of each programme.
<p>Coordination is enhanced with present PNS to increase resilience and reach more beneficiaries.</p>	

Impact:

In August 2008, **three multidisciplinary assessments** took place in each of the three branches and three communities with the objectives to produce **three diagnoses**: an **institutional diagnosis** at branch level, an **emotional diagnosis** at volunteers' and communities' level, and a **nutritional diagnosis** at community level in order to develop complementary food and non-food security interventions. The food security interventions were adapted to the needs and capacities of each community and operating Red Cross branch.

In Honduras: 36 families – 252 direct beneficiaries

The food security intervention helped to expand on the specific needs of the community, resulting in the following **outcomes** in the area of risk reduction:

- Dependence on a single crop is decreased with the introduction of **additional sources of income: enhancement of livestock management capacity** (distribution of 100 chickens and 25 pigs as well as all the materials needed for construction of poultry housing to 14 families, which were trained in livestock management). Constant technical assistance in livestock management was provided by an agronomist and a vaccination campaign for all livestock in the community was also conducted.
- 20 women were trained in food preservation techniques that allowed families to **store food conserves for their own consumption or for sale** – 3 trainings were organized. These training sessions will help them to store food also in case of food shortages due to droughts or floods.
- A **better storage capacity** for harvests was created, which facilitates the selling of the crops for a better market price or/and long term storage in order to cope with food shortages (22 silos were distributed to all families in need and trainings were organized for 22 families)

The nutritional value of family diets was diversified, enhanced and secured with ownership of better practices. **Empowered women are generating incomes** from selling conserves, eggs and pork to the neighbouring communities at lower price than in the market. At the end of March, families were saving money from their sales and had already renewed their livestock.

In Nicaragua: 143 families – 674 direct beneficiaries.

The food security intervention helped to expand on the specific needs of the community, resulting in the following **outcomes** in the areas of risk reduction and other programmatic areas (including Humanitarian Principles and Values):

- Agricultural skills were enhanced and harvest capacity was restored with technical assistance applying good environmental practices (auto production of botanic pesticides and organic fertilizers). 110 heads of families were organized within local committees and trained in better ecological practices of bean crop cultivation. The community also benefited from a package for seed distribution together with tools for planting.
- 57 women from the communities were cultivating 18 communal gardens created to diversify the daily diet, generating new income and promoting better social organization with a strong positive impact on gender issues. All the women participating in the communal gardens were trained in the production and use of pesticides and organic fertilizers, as well as in gardening skills and how to sustain crops by reproduction of natural local seeds. Seven different types of crops have been provided ensuring food diversity.
- Technical assistance in **ecological ovens** construction was provided for 60 women, reducing the use of coal, risk of burning, gas emissions and respiratory problems in children. As of March, 36 ovens had been constructed and 6 were under construction.
- A total of 1,000 zinc sheets have been distributed to the families, allowing them to rebuild or to repair their damaged houses
- 65 new trained community Red Cross volunteers (26 women and 39 men) are in charge of consolidating social cohesion, disseminating humanitarian principles amongst the population and carrying on the relationship with the Nicaraguan Red Cross branch.
- Sessions to raise awareness on Humanitarian Principles and Values were conducted and reached 72 persons from the community (39 women and 33 men).
- A session to exchange knowledge between different ethnic groups was organized with participation of 15 mestizos y 5 miskitos) in collaboration with the Municipality's Office. A tool will be published and distributed by the local authorities
- Alliances have been set up and allow for better access to community technical assistance and sustainable support.

In October, in cooperation with the National System for Prevention Mitigation and Response to Disasters (Secretaria Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación y Atención de Desastres – SINAPRED), immediate food security needs were met through the distributions of food carried out as a food-for-work activity during which community members cleaned land for cultivation purposes as a first phase of the project.

In order to ensure the maintenance and monitoring of the communal gardens and the land for communal production, both women's and producers' committees have been established. **An official document was created that explained the land use management and role; this document was recognized by a community General Assembly with the participation of women, men and elders.**

An important achievement of the project has been the empowerment of women in the community of Truhlaya. The women are now sharing their knowledge on the construction of ecological ovens, as neighbouring communities have requested them to replicate the skills learnt. Nowadays, women appear to be much more involved in the community, taking part in the General Assembly, and being consulted and recognized by the men. The men in Truhlaya recognized themselves that they had never thought women had the capacity to produce or to generate income. The discrimination and violence against women has decreased, as women have improved knowledge on food production, good diets, as well as valuable skills for the community.

The project in Nicaragua has attracted the attention of different local actors. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is looking at the possibility of setting up a field school in Truhlaya in order to replicate the knowledge, promote the empowerment of this better organized community and to construct a communal house. The Ministry of Agriculture with whom the branch signed an agreement of collaboration, recently decided to include Truhlaya in a natural local seeds reproduction project and storage in a regional cooperative bank benefitting the various communities in the region of Puerto Cabeza. The Ministry has founded its decision based on the successful level of community organization and the empowerment of producers (men and women) through the implementation of the project.

In **Guatemala**: 47 families – 247 direct beneficiaries

The intervention helped to expand on the specific needs of the community, resulting in the following risk reduction outcomes:

- **47 families have cultivated backyard gardens producing fruits and vegetables** used for home-consumption. These gardens now provide a surplus for sale helping the community supplement their diet and sources of income.
- **15 new women volunteers** were integrated and trained in the supporting branch volunteers network
- **Food for work activities:** Food items were distributed within the community to the families involved in the construction of latrines following the floods that occurred during Tropical Storm 16.

The Guatemalan Red Cross has developed an alliance with Ministry of Agriculture, and received technical support on gardening from an agronomy expert from the Ministry and an agronomy expert from Netherlands Red Cross.

In the beginning only 25 families were involved with the project; however, after Tropical Storm 16 in October, the 47 families (100 percent of families) were actively participating in production of backyard gardens and received seeds, fruit trees and tools and were trained in gardening techniques and maintenance. After Tropical Storm 16, the increased capacities and organization of the first beneficiaries helped the other 22 families previously not involved in the project to see the strong benefit from participating in community activities. Nowadays, the community benefits from better social cohesion and solidarity.

Capacity Building and Organizational Development

Objective: Strengthen National Societies capacity in disaster and crisis preparedness and response	
Expected results	Activities Planned
Food security programme activities strengthen and scale up the capacities of the National Society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Trainers carrying out assessments at community level, including in-field training in an affected zone using the Federation's Food Security Evaluation Guidelines. The training will be facilitated by a specialist on food security from the Federation's Secretariat and an expert on livelihoods from the Spanish Red Cross
The three National Societies scaled up their capacity to implement integrated community-based food security projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting and reconstruction of the affected Red Cross branches. • Purchase of IT equipment and office tools, enabling local branches to support their communities. • Institutional strengthening of the capacities of the organizational development branch team in each country. • Awareness-raising session on Food Security during the meeting of the Presidents of the National Societies. • Signing of a common statement that outlines the involvement of the National Societies in order to tackle the food security problem.
The three National Societies are promoting multilateral support and are working with other agencies in their countries.	
The two Regional Centres of Reference are better equipped to sustain knowledge and practices on food security and to support National Societies with the integration of food security in their National Contingency Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two Regional Centres of Reference participate in the Training of Trainers to strengthen their skills and knowledge to help the communities.

Impact

On 20 and 21 June 2008 all the Red Cross members of the region gathered in order to raise awareness within the Movement on food security issues and to build a strong internal political basis. A joint statement was signed by all the National Societies of the region, the Regional Representation Office and the Zone Office.

In July 2008, a Food Security Assessment regional training was held in San Pedro Sula, training 31 staff members and volunteers from National Societies, Partner National Societies active in the region, staff from the Regional Representation and the 2 Centres of Reference. The training was facilitated by an expert on food security from the Secretariat in Geneva and another expert from the Spanish Red Cross. The participants were trained in the use of the Food Security Assessment guidelines translated and printed in Spanish with DIPECHO funding.

Training sessions on Volunteering Management in accordance with the International Federation guidelines took place in the GRC, HRC and NRC during September and October 2008. A total of 60 volunteers and key staff (in charge of youth, womens' groups) from branches and headquarters are now capable of strengthening the existing volunteer network and to provide further support to develop and include new volunteers from the communities. These volunteers played a key role in promoting volunteering.

Assistance was also provided to the National Societies to ensure effective financial monitoring through the local project coordinators that were hired in each of the three branches as well as the technical advisor.

Moreover, the institutional diagnosis of capacities at the branch level facilitated the design of tailored support and capacity building strategies for each branch. **This allowed the branches and volunteer networks to endorse the project and provide better support to the community.**

Constant involvement of the volunteers trained in the implementation of the project was promoted in the three branches. 33 new volunteers received information about Humanitarian Principles and Values. In Nicaragua, 1,992 hours of community work were carried out by 23 volunteers who were constantly involved and trained.

The new community Red Cross volunteers identified were in charge of consolidating social cohesion, disseminating humanitarian principles and values amongst the population and ensuring the relationship with the Red Cross branch (62 volunteers in Truhlaya (Nicaragua) and 15 in El Quetzalito (Guatemala). Moreover, 2 trainings were carried out by the volunteers on Humanitarian Principles and Values with the participation of 62 women and 33 men from the Truhlaya community and 15 women in El Quetzalito.

76 volunteers from 29 branches from the 3 countries were trained and are now able provide psychosocial support. The volunteers from the branch involved in the project brought PSP into the communities. After Tropical Storm 16, the volunteers were mobilized immediately after the arrival of families in the shelter bringing PSP to the displaced families. In Nicaragua, 19 volunteers also received training on the use of another methodology "Basic First Aid".

In Honduras, training in Relief Food distribution methodology has been carried out with 31 volunteers from the branch due to the disaster prone context of the region.

In the Puerto Cabeza branch, 26 volunteers received 250 hours of training in relief.

Physical rehabilitation took place in the three branches: office furniture and computers were bought, enabling the branches to perform financial and narrative reporting and administrative follow up of the projects. In Honduras, a sleeping area for volunteers was set up, in Guatemala the ceiling was fixed and the walls were re-painted. In Nicaragua, the rehabilitation project has not been implemented due to an administrative problem within the Nicaraguan Red Cross. In January the decision was taken to invest this budget at the community level due to recurrent administrative delays.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Objective: Promote the role of the National Societies as auxiliary to their government by developing a contingency plan at national and local level, integrating the support from inter-agencies, national authorities and Partner National Societies.

Expected results	Planned Activities
Food security programmes are included in the national and local disaster and contingency plans based on the context analysis on food security per country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a contingency plan focused on food security. • Participation of the central and local branches of the National Societies and partners in the development of the contingency plan to ensure a well integrated Red Cross response in the national response system.
National Societies are prepared for and can respond to the next hurricane season and the food security crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of National Societies at the regional pre-hurricane meeting, aiming to strengthen National Societies' capacities in prevention and response activities.

In June 2008, the three National Societies participated in the Regional Pre Hurricane meeting organized by PADRU and depending on the needs and characteristics of the local and national levels, the 3 countries wrote different types of plans:

In Honduras, a national contingency plan was written with participation of local actors such as World Vision, WFP and PNS: the Spanish Red Cross and the German Red Cross.

In Guatemala, a regional contingency plan was written with participation of 12 persons from the community and 12 volunteers from 6 branches and 7 programme directors from the headquarters office.

In Nicaragua, a local contingency plan was written with participation of local humanitarian actors such as WFP, FAO and local authorities: the municipality, regional authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Health and Care

Objective: Build the capacity of National Societies in the response to the Food Security Crisis through a PSP programme

Expected Results	
National Societies are able to address the psychosocial needs of vulnerable populations (affected by HIV, and other public health issues such as food insecurity).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of trainers with professional background in health or psychology and the volunteers with experience with the subject and favourable personal abilities. • Training of trainers and volunteers on PSP using the 'Helping to Heal' methodology. • Ensure community involvement in needs assessments through participation of the PSP focal point in the community assessments. • Carry out ten community based interventions per country in target groups that are to be identified through the assessments in the regions affected by Hurricane Felix

Impact:

In total, 71 volunteers from the three National Societies were trained in psychosocial support at community level. Trained volunteers are now able to help people cope with different situations and ensure that their own psychological needs are recognized and met. In addition, the aim of these trainings was to enhance capacity building within the branches and ensure the sustainability of PSP support for the communities. The volunteers trained participated during the PSP interventions in the communities of El Tule, Quetzalito and Truhlaya.

More detailed information on the completion of activities under this objective can be found in the last operations update.

In **Honduras** the following outcomes were obtained in the community of El Tule:

- Increased household access to education and health services through a sanitation campaign with the construction of 35 latrines.
- Two training sessions were organized for 40 people aiming to train and raise awareness in order to provide knowledge in relation to the specific nutritional needs of children under two years old and monitoring of the physical development of children.
- Creation of a **community health committee** established by the Ministry of Health. This committee was equipped with first aid materials. The five people from the community in charge of the committee were trained by the person responsible from the Ministry in health matters. The five people were also included in the Volunteers' network and trained accordingly.
- **75 children in need of psychosocial support** were assisted. A playground was constructed by Red Cross volunteers for the children in the community (all the materials were provided by the project). The two teachers in school were trained in order to provide PSP.

The sustainable system of reference established between the community health committee and the Health Centre managed by the Ministry of Health facilitated better follow-up of the health status of the families. The Ministry seeks to replicate some activities from the project in the neighbouring communities.

Thanks to the PSP activities and the strong and constant support from HRC volunteers for the young people, parents in the communities are giving more consideration to children. In addition, children can now play a role of agents in disseminating better social relationships and solidarity as well as good hygiene and nutritional practices.

In **Nicaragua**, a total of 200 people from the community of Truhlaya (62 women, 75 children and 63 men) received psychosocial support. The PSP interventions focused on self-esteem, personal communication techniques, management of stress, loss and suffering.

In **Guatemala**, the Quetzalito community has improved health and hygiene conditions through the construction of school latrines. In addition, 30 family members have received information through 3 trainings on best practices in personal hygiene and water and sanitation (including storage of water).

The project also emphasized the work with children living in the community. 3 trainings were carried out by volunteers from the GRC for 60 children on personal hygiene and water and sanitation following the methodology of "Prevention of tropical diseases". A total of 50 children (between the ages of 5 and 13) participated in one clean up activity within the community. Psychosocial support was provided to 30 children and now these children are dissemination agents of better social practices, solidarity, and hygiene and nutritional practices as they have learned about the importance of these topics in their community.

In addition, 8 community leaders were trained on to provide PSP to people in the community, and 23 community members were trained by the GRC in community first aid.

Logistics	
Objective 1: Improve regional logistic capacity of the three National Societies with a well trained network of Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members, specialized in logistics.	
Objective 2: Restore the capacity of storage and management of goods of the Nicaraguan Red Cross.	
Expected results	Activities Planned
The three National Societies are part of the Regional Intervention Teams, with members specialized in logistics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in Federation Operation Logistic Standards conducted by the RIT specialized in logistics.
The Nicaraguan Red Cross is able to face the potential needs of logistic mobilization in emergency situations with a restored capacity of storage and management of stocks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid capacity and situation assessments of the storage system in the Nicaraguan Red Cross and restoration of capacity with support from the American and Spanish Red Cross.

Impact: The Nicaraguan Red Cross has completed the cleaning of its warehouse at the headquarters level, disposing of garbage and re-arranging items. In addition, the NRC has developed a database to keep better track of their warehouses. Now the NRC is better prepared to manage its warehouses for future emergencies.

Conclusion

Lessons learnt:

In March 2009, a meeting was held in Puerto Cabeza in Nicaragua in order to share and systematize the lessons learnt from this pilot project in the three countries. The meeting promoted exchange of experiences between community leaders (men and women), field coordinators, decision-makers from the three National Societies involved in the project and local partners. The promotion of cultural, technical and ideological interchanges between the three project stakeholders facilitated analysis of the three community-based projects and the production of a tool to systematize all the results. The participation of all the stakeholders from communities to decision-makers from the National Societies' headquarters, added value to this exercise.

The identified main lesson learnt was the importance of developing **starting points**:

- **Better organized and empowered communities.**
- **Better capacity of delivering services to the National Societies at the grass roots level** by identifying capacities that can be mobilized and organized **within the community.**
- Constant involvement of the local Red Cross volunteers, community beneficiaries and local actors throughout the project life in order to **strengthen a civil society actor in its own development.**

This is a means of achieving impact towards reaching Goal 3 in the Global Agenda: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

One of the main results of this workshop, beyond the very opportune possibility of dialogue and exchange of experiences, is a systematized guideline to be used in various circumstances: Recovery, Disaster Preparedness or Response, Risk Reduction, Volunteer Management, Organizational Development or any development programme.

As final step, a CD has been developed, compiling all the tools used during the implementation of the project: narrative proposals, monitoring tools, evaluation tools, photograph gallery, press releases, Food Security Policy of the Federation, technical guides on Food Security, the Volunteer Management Guide and additional guidelines produced in the workshop.

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: Doctora Maria Teresa Estrada, Health programme Director, Guatemalan Red Cross; email: maria_t_estrada@hotmail.com; phone: (502) 22532027; fax: (502) 2232 4649.
- In Honduras: Joel Duran, Health Coordinator, Disaster Management Office, Honduran Red

Cross; email: saludcrh-cra@honduras.cruzroja.org; phone: (504) 237-1800; fax: (504) 238 0185.

- In Nicaragua: Guillermo Morales, Community Education project Coordinator, Nicaraguan Red Cross; email: educom@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; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 13 04.
- In Panama: María Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas, email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507)317 1304.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41 22) 730 4274; fax: (41 22) 733 0395.

[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR43002 - Central America - Hurricane Felix

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/09-2009/06
Budget Timeframe	2007/08-2008/12
Appeal	MDR43002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,371,000					1,371,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	142,270					142,270
Australian Government	26,432					26,432
Canadian Red Cross	111,740					111,740
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	117,000					117,000
Danish Red Cross	-1,035					-1,035
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	22,911					22,911
Luxembourg Red Cross	-403					-403
Luxembourg Red Cross (from Luxembourg Government)	50,771					50,771
Monaco Red Cross	6,420					6,420
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	325,543					325,543
On Line donations	-658					-658
Swiss Government	15,000					15,000
C1. Cash contributions	1,251,280					1,251,280
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
Canadian Red Cross	59,215					59,215
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport	59,215					59,215
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	1,310,495					1,310,495
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,310,495					1,310,495
Appeal Coverage	96%					96%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	1,310,495					1,310,495
E. Expenditure	-1,310,495					-1,310,495
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR43002 - Central America - Hurricane Felix

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/09-2009/06
Budget Timeframe	2007/08-2008/12
Appeal	MDR43002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,371,000					1,371,000	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	102,533	13,138				13,138	89,395	
Clothing & textiles	96,015	96,532				96,532	-517	
Food	265,004	265,010				265,010	-6	
Seeds,Plants	80,000	100,417				100,417	-20,417	
Water & Sanitation	127	2,029				2,029	-1,901	
Medical & First Aid	2,051	2,809				2,809	-758	
Teaching Materials		66				66	-66	
Utensils & Tools	79,284	72,646				72,646	6,638	
Other Supplies & Services	90,671	100,833				100,833	-10,162	
Total Supplies	715,685	653,479				653,479	62,206	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	7,398						7,398	
Computers & Telecom	20,943	14,377				14,377	6,566	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		1,005				1,005	-1,005	
Others Machinery & Equipment		11,900				11,900	-11,900	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	28,341	27,281				27,281	1,059	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	19,796	12,206				12,206	7,589	
Distribution & Monitoring	66,508	60,618				60,618	5,889	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	65,155	76,085				76,085	-10,930	
Total Transport & Storage	151,458	148,909				148,909	2,549	
Personnel								
International Staff	1,125	1,216				1,216	-91	
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,848	11,209				11,209	-3,361	
National Staff	9,894	35,717				35,717	-25,823	
National Society Staff	47,204	63,637				63,637	-16,433	
Consultants	33,952	20,133				20,133	13,819	
Total Personnel	100,023	131,912				131,912	-31,889	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	132,423	123,471				123,471	8,953	
Total Workshops & Training	132,423	123,471				123,471	8,953	
General Expenditure								
Travel	32,289	49,217				49,217	-16,927	
Information & Public Relation	13,643	7,267				7,267	6,375	
Office Costs	16,142	27,045				27,045	-10,904	
Communications	9,112	12,126				12,126	-3,014	
Professional Fees	12,105	10,837				10,837	1,268	
Financial Charges	59,257	16,168				16,168	43,088	
Other General Expenses	3,890	893				893	2,997	
Total General Expenditure	146,437	123,554				123,554	22,883	
Programme Support								
Program Support	96,633	84,431				84,431	12,203	
Total Programme Support	96,633	84,431				84,431	12,203	
Services								
Services & Recoveries		8,833				8,833	-8,833	
Shared Services		8,624				8,624	-8,624	
Total Services		17,457				17,457	-17,457	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,371,000	1,310,495				1,310,495	60,505	
VARIANCE (C - D)		60,505				60,505		