

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Costa Rica: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCR006
6 November 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

27,482 Swiss francs (28,402 US dollars or 20,031 euro) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Costa Rica Red Cross (CRRC) to perform assessments in six of the seven provinces of the country: Guanacaste, Puntarenas, Cartago, San Jose, Alajuela and Heredia. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



More than 1,200 people have been forced to abandon their houses after landslides and floods occurred all over the country. Photo source: Costa Rican Red Cross.

Summary: Since 2 November 2010, constant rains have fallen around the country provoking several landslides and flooding. The government issued a State of Emergency, reporting 20 confirmed deaths and 2,639

people living in collective centres, as well as severe damages in homes and infrastructures. The Costa Rican Red Cross is supporting the government in search and rescue activities and providing pre-hospital care to affected persons. With the support of this DREF the National Society will carry out rapid damage and needs assessments to develop a Plan of Action.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 5 February 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 5 May 2011).

[<Click here for the DREF budget; and here for contact details >](#)

The situation

The Costa Rican National Meteorological Institute reported that since 2 November a system of low pressure situated on the Caribbean, in combination with Tropical Storm Tomas, has provoked sustained rains of variable intensity on the Pacific side and in the Central Valley of the country. Heavier rains concentrated in the Nicoya Peninsula, with accumulations of 200mm of rain, and in the Pacific and the Central Valley. By 07:00, 4 November, a national level red alert was announced by the governmental authorities, suspending classes in schools in the affected areas. Later on the day, the Government issued

a State of Emergency, mobilizing all the institutions that compose the National Emergency Commission, including the Costa Rican Red Cross.

Several of the areas affected are difficult to access and to communicate with, thus making the situation still unclear. However, according to reports from the National Emergency Commission of Costa Rica, most of the affectation occurred in the early hours of 4 November, leaving 23 confirmed deaths, 114 communities affected and 2,639 people in 27 collective centres. Additionally, several landslides have obstructed roads in 58 different points and destroyed 9 bridges, blocking transportations of goods and people. Overall, damages caused by the continuous rains have been reported on six of the seven provinces of Costa Rica – Guanacaste, Puntarenas, Cartago, San Jose, Alajuela and Heredia.

Furthermore, meteorological forecasts indicate that rains will be continuing and there are flash floods warnings for: Nicoya Peninsula, Esparza, Orotina, Jacó, Herradura, Parrita, Esterillos, Tárcoles, Quepos, Dominical, Buenos Aires, Puerto Cortés, Palmar Norte, Golfito and Puerto Jiménez.

The Costa Rican Red Cross reported the following preliminary affectations as of 4 November:

Summary of Damages		
Province	County	Damage
Guanacaste	Santa Cruz	Flooding. More than 100 persons are in 3 collective centres in Río Seco, Paraíso and Los Pargos.
	Bagaces	Flooding. A collective centre was installed in 5 de junio with approximately 45 people.
Cartago	Cartago	Flooding and landslides in Lourdes, La Chinchilla and Santa María de Dota.
	San Marcos de Tarrazú	Landslide. One death and two missing people.
Puntarenas	Puntarenas	Flooding in Parrita and Jacó. Two missing persons in Finca Pipasa, Herradura, and possibility of 2 more in Parrita.
San José	Escazú	The landslide in Cerro Pico Blanco provoked 20 deaths, 14 missing people and severe home damages.
	Aserrí and Acosta	Landslides, home and road infrastructure damages.

Damages have also been reported in the provinces of Alajuela and Heredia, located in the Central Valley.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the onset of the emergency the **Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC)** coordinated actions mainly with the government, as a member of the National Emergency Commission, and with the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through the Regional Representative based in Costa Rica and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama.

The American Red Cross (ARC) has seconded a delegate to PADRU for the operation. The ARC' Regional Delegation maintains contact with the National Society and with the information analysis and reporting staff. Once the assessments and Plan of Action are completed, the ARC delegate will provide support at the request of the National Society. The operations are supported by the ARC National Coordinator of Latin American Risk Reduction Activity, a project that is temporarily on hold.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Costa Rican Red Cross has been monitoring the emergency and carrying out search and rescue activities. The local branches of the CRRC are activated in the affected areas, as is the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). During this first phase of the response, the CRRC has also been providing pre-hospital medical care, and volunteers have been providing support in collective centres. Until now, the CRRC has mobilized 1,200 volunteers and deployed 300 vehicles to the affected areas, carrying out 60 rescue operations.

In addition, the IFRC Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico is in permanent contact with the National Presidency and the EOC, monitoring the situation, producing reports and coordinating with PADRU. In addition, a consultant hired by the Regional Representation, who is a volunteer from the CRRC, has been authorized to support the National Society with the current response activities.



The Costa Rican Red Cross is supporting the government in search and rescue activities. Photo source: Costa Rican Red Cross.

The needs

The CRRC will develop a plan of action to organize its relief items distribution to the most affected families, and to support their inter-institutional actions. However, the extension of affectation to six of the seven provinces in the country hinders the normal assessment capacity of the National Society. Therefore, this DREF operation aims to support the National Society to complete damage and needs assessments and to draft a Plan of Action.

The proposed operation

Damage and needs assessments
Outcome: The Costa Rican Red Cross will perform damage and needs assessments in six provinces of the country.
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Identification of affected areas. • Develop a Plan of Action • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Costa Rica:** Guillermo Arroyo, Costa Rican Red Cross, National Emergency Director; email guillermo.arroyo@crzroja.or.cr; phone: (506) 2233-7033; and fax (506) 255-3098.
- **In Panama:** Ghotai Ghazialam, PARU Disaster Management focal point for Central America; email: ghotai.ghazialam@ifrc.org; phone (507) 6747 3148.
- **In Panama:** Jorge Zequeria, PADRU Coordinator; email: jorge.zequeria@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 6675 0290.
- **In Costa Rica:** Fabricio Lopez, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org ; phone (506) 2226 4092 / 8955 1084 / 2273 7242.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; e-mail: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 22 730 4300.

[<DREF budget; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCR002 - Costa Rica - Assessment of Floods

04.11.2010

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles		0
Food		0
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation		0
Medical & First Aid		0
Teaching Materials		0
Ustensils & Tools		0
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		0
Total Supplies	0	0
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring		0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	9,789	9,789
Total Transport & Storage	9,789	9,789
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff		0
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	6,118	6,118
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants	0	0
Total Personnel	6,118	6,118
Workshops & Training	3,916	3,916
Total Workshops & Training	3,916	3,916
Travel	1,468	1,468
Information & Public Relation	979	979
Office Costs	1,468	1,468
Communications	1,468	1,468
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges	598	598
Other General Expenses		0
Total General Expenditure	5,982	5,982
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	1,677	1,677
Total Programme Support	1,677	1,677
Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	27,482	27,482