

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Costa Rica: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCR007
GLIDE n°: EQ-2010-000251-CRI
10 December 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.

92,709 Swiss francs (95,209 US dollars or 70,984 Euro) have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) to deliver assistance to some 1,000 families affected by floods. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Since the early morning of Wednesday, 1 December 2010, intense rains have fallen across the Caribbean and northern regions of Costa Rica, resulting in overflowing of rivers and affecting more than 200 communities. Early assessments by the Costa Rican Red Cross estimate that some 13,500 people are affected and 3,474 are staying in 48 collective centres.



The Costa Rican Red Cross has carried out some 60 aquatic rescues since the onset of the current emergency. Source: Miguel Esquivel/CRRC

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 6 March 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 6 June 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

The National Meteorological Institute of Costa Rica reports that since early on 1 December, a low pressure system located in the Caribbean Sea has resulted in intense rainfall in the northern region and the Caribbean coast of the country. By 4 November, the weather system dissipated, leaving behind overflowing rivers and damage to infrastructure. 24 hours later, assessments could be carried out by personnel from the CRRC and the National Emergency Commission (Comisión Nacional de Emergencia-CNE) indicating the following:

Summary *Figures correspond to the first week of December 2010	
Affected people	13,500
Displaced people	2,642
Injured	20
Missing	0
Deaths	1
Affected communities	247
People in collective centres	3,474
N° of collective centres open	48

Infrastructural Damage	Number
Homes	233
Roads and highways	72
Bridges	23
Dikes	11
Aqueducts	3
Wells	1,300

This is the latest situation after of a month-long period of rainfall and flooding that has affected hundreds of communities across the country since the first week of November 2010, when the influence of Tropical Storm Tomas was felt. In November, the Costa Rican government issued a State of Emergency, reported 20 confirmed deaths and 2,639 people living in collective centres during that month only, as well as severe damages to homes and infrastructure. The current rains in December have affected the only two regions that had not been previously hit by heavy rains and floods.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the onset of the emergency the **Costa Rican Red Cross** has coordinated actions with the Government, as a member of the National Emergency Commission (Comision Nacional de Emergencia - CNE). In addition, in collaboration 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 CRRC drew up a plan of action and requested support through the DREF.

Furthermore, the American Red Cross is monitoring the situation and maintains fluid communications with the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and political authorities in the country.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The CRRC has been monitoring the emergency and carrying out search and rescue activities. They activated their EOC and the local branches of the CRRC have been activated in the affected areas in Alajuela, Cartago, Heredia, Limón (the Talamanca canton in particular) and Puntarenas provinces. During this first phase of the response, the CRRC has also been providing pre-hospital care to the affected population.

Thus far, the CRC is working with approximately 230 volunteers and 108 vehicles have been mobilized to the affected areas, and, to date, the National Society has carried out sixty aquatic rescue operations. The response operation of the National Society is following the Incident Command System (Sistema de Comando de Incidentes) model. The CRRC has assisted 4,080 people through search and rescue, evacuation and first aid as per the following table:

Activities carried out by the CRRC	N° of people assisted
Aquatic Rescue	60
First aid	20
Evacuation	4,000
Total	4,080

The needs

More detailed damage and needs assessments are ongoing. Nonetheless, some of the identified needs for the target population are: kitchen kits, hygiene kits, food parcels, clean water and fuel for electric generators. The government has responded to some of these needs and is supplying food to the affected population. Therefore, the National Society will provide assistance through distribution of basic relief items and water and sanitation activities.

In order to guarantee that the most vulnerable families are assisted, further information on the affected population is still needed; the Costa Rican Red Cross is therefore continuing to carry out field assessments.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 1,000 families will benefit from the provision of non food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Continue with rapid needs assessments to select target families.
- Distribute kitchen kits and hygiene kits to 1,000 families.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The delivery of humanitarian relief will be carried out in coordination with the local committees in the affected areas.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the cleaning of wells.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Conduct rapid water and sanitation emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with local authorities.
- Clean wells in the most flood-affected communities.

To complete the cleaning of wells, two teams will be formed, each carrying the necessary equipment and supplies to work for a period of three months.

Logistics

Outcome 1: The local logistics and transport capacity of the Costa Rican Red Cross is strengthened.

Outputs	Activities planned
Distribution of relief items and water and sanitation activities are facilitated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4x4 vehicles will be rented for the duration of the operation.

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@cuzroja.or.cr , phone (506) 2233-7033, fax (506) 255-3098
- In Panama: Miia Pollanen, PADRU Disaster Management delegate; email: miia.pollanen@ifrc.org; phone (507) 67 47 31 48.
- In Panama: Jorge Zequeira, PADRU Coordinator, (507) 316 1001; email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org
- In Costa Rica: Fabricio Lopez, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org ; phone (506) 22264092 -89551084- 2273-7242
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; e-mail: pablo.medina@ifrc.org ; phone (41) 22 730 4300.

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

MDRCR007
Costa Rica Floods

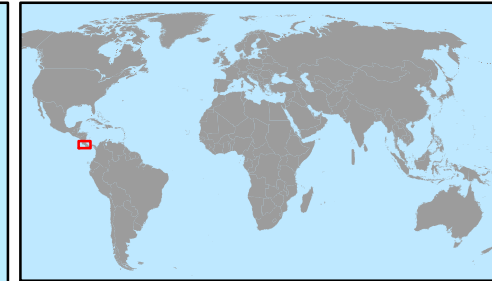
12/08/2010

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		
Shelter - Transitional		
Construction - Housing		
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		
Construction - Materials		
Clothing & Textiles		
Food		
Seeds & Plants		
Water & Sanitation	10,000	10,000
Medical & First Aid		
Teaching Materials		
Ustensils & Tools	26,000	26,000
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	22,000	22,000
Total Supplies	58,000	58,000
Land & Buildings		
Vehicles		
Computer & Telecom		
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		
Medical Equipment		
Other Machinery & Equipment		
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		
Distribution & Monitoring	1,750	1,750
Transport & Vehicle Costs	9,000	9,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,868	1,868
Services & Recoveries	4,183	4,183
Total Transport & Storage	16,801	16,801
International Staff		
Regionally Deployed Staff		
National Staff		
National Society Staff	3,750	3,750
Other Staff benefits	2,000	2,000
Consultants		
Total Personnel	5,750	5,750
Workshops & Training		
Total Workshops & Training	0	0
Travel	2,000	2,000
Information & Public Relation	1,000	1,000
Office Costs	1,000	1,000
Communications	1,500	1,500
Professional Fees		
Financial Charges	1,000	1,000
Other General Expenses		
Total General Expenditure	6,500	6,500
Cash Transfers to National Societies		
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	5,658	5,658
Total Programme Support	5,658	5,658
Services & Recoveries		
Shared Services		
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	92,709	92,709



Costa Rica: Floods



 Affected provinces