

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Guatemala: tropical storm Agatha

Emergency appeal n° MDRGT002
GLIDE n° TC-2010-000105-GTM
Operations update n° 2
27 August 2010

Period covered by this Ops Update: 23 June to July 2010.

Appeal target: 1,286,382 Swiss francs (1,192,190 US dollars or 997,908 euro) to support 1,500 families for six-month period.

Appeal coverage: 103%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- On 31 May 2010, 172,274 Swiss francs were allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) to initiate the response and deliver immediate humanitarian relief. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.
- On 1 June 2010, a Preliminary Appeal was issued for CHF 1,223,815 Swiss francs (1,046,045 US dollars or 862,265 euro) in cash, kind, or services to support the Guatemalan Red Cross to attend to the humanitarian needs of 1,500 families (7,500 people).
- On 9 June 2010, a Revised Appeal was issued to reflect the revised budget of **1,286,382 Swiss francs (1,192,190 US dollars or 997,908 euro)** and to modify the Emergency Appeal outcomes to coincide with National Society assessments conducted to identify needs.



In Retalhuleu, beneficiary families and the Guatemalan Red Cross local branch worked together in emergency relief distributions.
Source: Guatemalan Red Cross.

Summary: Tropical storm Agatha caused 174 deaths, injured 154 people and damaged homes and infrastructure in Guatemala. In response to this emergency, the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC), with assistance from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), is leading a relief operation so affected families can resume their daily activities. The Guatemalan Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Partner National Societies (PNS) and the International Federation are coordinating their response activities. As of 15 July 2010, at least 1,200 families had been reached the combined Movement efforts to restore family links and implement water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

The International Federation expresses its thanks to the following Partner National Societies and governments for their kind support to the Appeal: the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross (British government), the Canadian Red Cross (Canadian government), the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Monaco Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross (Netherlands government), the New Zealand Red Cross (New Zealand government), the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross. The International Federation also gratefully acknowledges the Voluntary Emergency Relief Fund of the World Health Organization (WHO) which has contributed to this operation.

The situation

On 29 May 2010, the first tropical storm of the 2010 Pacific storm season, Tropical Storm Agatha, hit Guatemala. The Executive Secretariat of the National Coordinating Body for Disaster Reduction (*Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres* - CONRED) declared the storm as a national catastrophe on 3 June.

Official figures report 174 deaths, 13 missing people and 154 injured people. CONRED registers 397,808 affected people and an additional 133,102 people still at risk. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has identified 96,500 people living in 453 collective shelters. Current figures state 39,160 homes were damaged: 18,753 with light damage, 10,605 with moderate damage, and 9,802 severe damage. The storm additionally damaged water, sanitation and transport infrastructure. The level of destroyed crops threatens the population's food security. Ongoing precipitation has caused flooding and landslides that hamper transportation of people and relief items.

The Guatemalan National Meteorological Institute (*Instituto Nacional de Sismología Vulcanología, Sismología y Meteorología* - INSIVUMEH) forecasts the continuation of heavy rains, which will affect the country's southern, central plain and north-west regions. Assessments have identified five highly affected regions: 1.) the Guatemala City metropolitan region, particularly the informal human settlements; 2.) the Motagua River basin (El Progreso, Zacapa and Izabal departments); 3.) the southern coastal basins; 4.) the Polochic River basin (Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments); and 5.) the Atitlan Lake basin (Sololá department).

The Guatemalan government has requested international assistance to attend to this humanitarian emergency. This request has focused on humanitarian aid, economic reactivation including agricultural recovery and institutional strengthening which will support for food and water supply, housing, school and community centre reconstruction and repair, and health care (medical supplies and support to health centres).

Coordination and partnerships

Since the first moment, Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers, staff and leadership at the national and branch levels have responded effectively to this emergency and closely coordinated with other institutions in the country. The GRC is an active CONRED member and partner in the Humanitarian Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDHUM). The National Society participates in inter-institutional coordination mechanisms alongside UN agencies (UNFPA and WHO/PAHO), state institutions (Ministry of Public Health) and non governmental and civil society organizations (Plan International, Share, MSF- Switzerland, World Vision and the department of psychology from the national San Carlos University- USAC). The GRC additionally is an active member of the Humanitarian Aid Coordination Centre (CAAH) and the SECONRED.

The National Society is also working with the French Embassy and UNFPA in relief distributions. The following table details the current organization of relief item distribution activities based on GRC branch responsibilities and their partners:

Branch	Netherlands Red Cross (ECHO)	International Federation (Appeal)	Spanish Red Cross	French Embassy	GRC National Headquarters	UNFPA	Branch Totals
Chiquimula				250			250
Coatepeque		500					500
Coban						535	535
Jalapa		200		250		413	863
Mazatenango	950					412	1,362
National headquarters		100	100		280	601	1,081
Quetzaltenango			100				100
Retalhuleu	950	100					1,050
Sacapulas			100				100
San Marcos			200				200
Santo Tomas de Castilla		400		250		539	1,189

Sololá			500				500
Tecún Umán		200					200
Total number of families	1,900	1,500	1,000	750	280	2,500	7,930

Table 1: Relief distributions

The Spanish Red Cross, with AECID support, will provide relief kits to 1,500 families. As of the end of the reporting period, GRC with the Spanish Red Cross have provided 500 families (2,930 people) with a complete family kit. These families belong to the communities of San Pedro de la Laguna, Santa Catalina Palopó, and San Antonio Palopó in the Lake Atitlan region and in María Tecún and Pixabaj, all within the Sololá department. The AECID-supported distributions are scheduled in the communities of Manctzolojya, Manclalaguna, and Mankaticlán in this department. Moreover, the GRC with Spanish Red Cross assistance, supported by the Valencia regional government (Generalitat de Valencia), are planning to provide a tarpaulin, five blankets, a mosquito net, a kitchen kit and a jerrycan to 1,500 families in Izabal and Jalapa departments.

National Society branch volunteers, staff and leadership thus are carrying out the distribution of relief items to a total of 7,930 families. This number of families surpasses the original projection of 5,000-targeted households in the GRC plan of action.

Furthermore, internal coordination with Movement members present in country has contributed to the GRC's successful response actions. The GRC is working closely with the ICRC, Participating National Societies from Netherlands, Norway and Spain in country and the International Federation in this operation. The International Federation, via the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico, has provided the support of an operations coordinator and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in logistics for this operation. The operations coordinator, as of 29 June 2010, has received legal recognition by the Guatemalan state authorities as the International Federation country delegate. This status and the established agreement with the government contribute to easier importation and clearance processes for Movement donations to this operation. The GRC has appointed an activities coordinator to work side-by-side with the operations coordinator.

Movement coordination meetings are now being held monthly to exchange information, synchronize actions and share monitoring and evaluation results. Operations meetings are held weekly.

National Society Capacity Building:

Strengthening the skills and resources of the National Society are essential for this operation and to contribute to the GRC's long-term ability to respond to future emergencies. The International Federation is providing technical support to the GRC in diverse areas. GRC staff and volunteers are learning and implementing Federation global procedures and standards, learning and using the internal website FedNet and the *IFRC Guide for Communicators*. Movement coordination meetings also facilitate the National Society's skills in information-sharing and reporting.

The International Federation provides technical support in logistics and purchasing to the National Society's administrative staff and volunteers. Select GRC volunteers and personnel participated in a logistics workshop on 23 June and a specialized workshop focused on warehouse management and handling on 12 July. This training will continue with a workshop on purchasing procedures and standards in the coming weeks.

Within the response activities in the field, GRC volunteers involved in rapid assessments, relief distributions and health, water and sanitation activities receive ongoing training to improve the quality of their emergency and early recovery actions. Further details on these trainings are included in the relevant sections below.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

During the reporting period, 60 per cent of the families targeted by this Appeal have received humanitarian assistance. All of the relief items for 1,500 households have been successfully purchased and transferred to the warehouses and distribution centres in the affected areas, located in the GRC branches of Santo Tomas de Castilla, Jalapa, Retalhuleu, Coatepeque and Tecún Umán and in the GRC national headquarters.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Affected families have access to food and non-food items to support their efforts to resume essential household activities.

Outputs	Activities planned
Up to 1,500 households (7,500 people) resume household activities through the distribution of 1 food parcel, 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen set and 5 blankets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and a registration system to deliver intended assistance. Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user, prioritizing local tendering. Train National Intervention Team (NIT) members from the most affected municipalities in disaster management. Maintain inter-institutional coordination. Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. Develop an exit strategy.

Progress:

Substantial progress has been made towards the goal of providing essential food and non-food items (NFIs) to 1,500 families (approximately 7,500 people). As the first assessment conducted early in the operation indicated that 44 per cent of the surveyed population had not received any kind of assistance, Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers, staff and leadership steadfastly have dedicated themselves to reverting this situation and alleviating needs through relief distributions. To date, more than 100 GRC volunteers have taken part in the transport and distribution of food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and blankets.

By 17 July, 60 per cent of the total distribution of relief items was completed by GRC branches in Coatepeque, Tecún Umán and Relalhuleu. The Santo Tomás de Castilla and Jalapa GRC branches programmed the start of their relief distributions on 18 July.

Relief distributions of food and NFIs are supplemented by the distribution of mosquito nets, jerrycans and water filters. More detail on these distributions is included in the water and sanitation objective below.

The following table details the projected locations of the 1,500 relief distributions:

Branch	Department	Municipality	Community	Number of Targeted Families	Sub-Total by Branch
National Headquarters	Guatemala	Guatemala	-	100	100
Santo Tomas de Castilla	Izabal	Morales	Creeke Zarko	175	400
			Chiriquí	76	
			Playa de Chicasaw	87	
		Amates	Puebla	62	
Jalapa	Jalapa	Mataquescuintla	San Pedro el Alto	1	200
			El Aguacate	23	
			El Gavilán y las Tunas	8	
			El Chupadero	34	
			Samororo	3	
			San Miguel	10	

		San Carlos Alzatate	El Matazano hamlet	100	
		Santa María	Gracias a Dios and Buena Vista	21	
Coatepeque	Quetzaltenango	Coatepeque	El Pomal	7	497
			El Reparó	144	
			Santa Fe	64	
	San Marcos	Ocos	Almendrales	20	
			Carrizales	212	
			El Izotal	50	
Retalhuleu	Retalhuleu	Champerico	Rancho Alegre	8	103
		Retalhuleu	Jesús La Bomba	18	
			Santa Inés	30	
			San José la Gloria I	33	
			San José la Gloria II	14	
			Ocos	El Crucero hamlet	
Ayutla	El Jobo hamlet	60			
	Colonia San Antonio	41			
Total				1500	1500

Since the identification of target families is a continuous process, some communities included in the table published in Operations Update number 1 are no longer included. However, government institutions and other humanitarian organizations currently provide support to these communities.

In Tecún Umán, 200 families (898 people), including 19 pregnant women and 7 families with special needs, have received food and NFIs. In Coatepeque, the GRC distributed relief items to 497 of 716 surveyed families in the area, which includes 265 families living in shelters. In Retalhuleu, the GRC provided support to 103 families (547 people) who lost their crop harvest (primarily tomato and ginger), cattle and poultry. Amongst this group, five people living with disabilities were prioritized and included in the distributions.

The combined efforts of the Guatemalan Red Cross supported by the Netherlands Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and International Federation (Appeal) are distributing complete family kits (a food parcel, a hygiene kit, 5 blankets and a water filter) to 4,400 households. Some of these households additionally will receive mosquito nets, 2 jerrycans and a kitchen kits whilst others will receive a portion of these items depending on needs.

Challenges:

- Pre-positioned stock in GRC headquarters palliated the transportation delay of relief items to Guatemala.
- Difficult weather conditions and poor roads have been overcome by transporting items to local branches and warehouses before distributions are scheduled.
- In coordination with local authorities, some branches have opted to deliver relief items along with water filters, jerrycans and mosquito nets. Whilst the combined distributions generate some delay, they prevent security challenges and reduce transportation costs.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population are reduced through provision of preventive and community-based health care, including sexual and reproductive health, hygiene promotion, disease prevention and psychosocial support to the affected communities.

Outputs	Activities planned
Comprehensive emergency health services are provided to at least 500 families in affected communities and individuals with special attention to the priorities of the vulnerable population and employing a community-based healthcare approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid evaluation of health needs. • Organize and facilitate educational activities on sexual and reproductive health. • Provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and information within the framework of existing community health and public services. • Support the establishment of dengue control activities and training for GRC volunteers and members from affected communities. • Provide training opportunities in emergency health for GRC volunteers, members and communities.
Selected affected groups and communities receiving psychosocial support have increased their resilience and coping mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of GRC volunteers in skills in community based psychosocial support and psychological first aid. • Provide psychosocial support to targeted affected groups, communities and GRC volunteers.

Progress:

The limited access to proper health services or risk reduction combined with the emergency conditions generated varied health problems. According to initial health assessments, floods were associated with skin diseases and acute respiratory infections (49 per cent), diarrhoea (36 per cent), dengue (4 per cent) and death, amongst others. These same assessments indicated that only 4 per cent of the surveyed population used contraceptive methods and that 65 per cent had no information on HIV and AIDS. Only 2 per cent of this same population stated receiving psychosocial assistance from other institutions.

During this reporting period, the Tecún Umán and Mazatenango GRC branches organized and facilitated health related education and other activities. In coordination with the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance, the volunteers of the Tecún Umán branch implemented activities in the communities of Mareas del Suchiate and Los Faros using Federation tools to reduce epidemics like malaria, dengue, diarrhoea, respiratory infections and to promote hand washing and water purification. In the community of Venecia (Matzatenango), 55 people were trained in the epidemics control module and supplementary activities in home remedies, childcare, and vaccinations were implemented. In addition, a team was mobilized from the GRC headquarters to fumigate houses in line with national regulations. The volunteers have cleaned 64 houses in Mareas del Suchiate and 78 families in Los Faros.

Additional attention has been paid to the psychosocial impacts of the emergency. The GRC has provided psychosocial support to 426 families in Valle Lirio, Rancho Alegre, Santa Isabel, Sector la Presa Santa Fe, Vuelta del Niño, Santa Inés, San Juan el Húmedo and Chicalito (Retalhuleu) and in Carrizales and El Izotal (Coatepeque). These families also participated in educational events on prevention and treatment of malaria, dengue, diarrhoea and respiratory infections and were trained in proper hand washing and home water purification.

As part of the ongoing internal strengthening of the National Society, 22 volunteers participated in a micro-projects workshop supported by the Spanish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross in mid-June. Other GRC volunteers performed a survey with guidance of the Health Secretariat staff. The results showed that the surveyed families were not prepared to respond to floods and lacked an early warning system. In addition, these families did not have adequate access to health services and safe water.

Challenges:

There have been no significant challenges during this reporting period.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The health of affected communities is improved with the provision of clean water, minimum sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Outputs	Activities planned
Appropriate water and sanitation materials will be provided to 1,500 families (7,500 people) which include two jerry cans, one water bucket, two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid health and water and sanitation emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with the relevant local authorities. • Provide learning-by-doing and other training opportunities for

<p>mosquito nets and water filters.</p> <p>The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.</p> <p>Thirty GRC volunteers strengthen their knowledge and skills of basic water and sanitation during the first phase of the emergency response.</p>	<p>GRC volunteers in basic water and sanitation, including water purification plans, well cleaning, participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, in coordination with local authorities, a community and beneficiary targeting strategy. • Provide clean water via water tanks to people located in communal shelters and affected communities. • Clean wells in flood-affected communities. • Support the building and use of community latrines. • Conduct hygiene promotion activities (personal and community hygiene, epidemic and vector control, solid and human waste disposal, disinfection of wells) at the community level. • Support community-organized fumigation efforts in high prevalence dengue areas. • Provide repellent-sealed mosquito nets, jerry cans, a water bucket and water filters.
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Progress:

Along with food and NFI distribution explained above, the operation distributes mosquito nets. During the month of July, the operation supplied 900 targeted families with 1,800 mosquito nets, 900 water filters and 1,800 jerry cans. The coordination between the supplier of the filters, community leaders and GRC local branches has allowed for targeted families to learn the proper use of these items.

In coordination with the National Health Secretariat, and supported by the Norwegian Red Cross and the International Federation, the GRC carried out water and sanitation rapid assessments in 65 communities. Volunteers, staff and leaders from eleven GRC branches (Mazatenango, Retalhuleu, Coatepeque, Tecún Umán, San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Sacapulas, Jalapa, Chiquimula, Santo Tomás de Castilla and Cobán) surveyed 11,974 people.

Rainfall caused severe damage to latrines and wells. Wells are the main source of water for 53 per cent of the targeted households. Assessments showed that families do not know how to keep water safe or purify it. Whilst 68 per cent of the water infrastructure is disabled, an additional 16 per cent provides insufficient quantities. New well construction is hindered by the heavy rains which produced substantial quantities of mud. As for human waste, most households report to using the fields (68 per cent) versus latrines which are present in 93 per cent of the surveyed households.

The Guatemalan Red Cross created a plan of action which includes supplying clean water and improving sanitation standards to the targeted families, as well as promoting community-based hygiene. The operation will implement 2 water camps to support 616 families (3,371 people) living in the communities of Mazatenango and Tecún Umán. The following table details the projected communities and beneficiary households:

Community	GRC Branch	Households	People
Venecia	Mazatenango	65	390
El Jardín		58	320
El Martillo		45	270
Los Tiestos		220	1,276
Mareas del Suchiate	Tecún Umán	77	380
Los Faros		151	735
TOTAL		616	3,371

As part of the inter-agency project to strengthen alliances in the working group on water and sanitation humanitarian response in Latin America and Caribbean, a water purification plant with pre-water treatment tanks, filters, storage tanks and a bacteriological analysis lab will be installed. The plant has a capacity to purify 4,000 litres per hour, and can supply of water up to 4,000 people (approximately 800 households).

Volunteers from local branches have received training in the use of water pumps and have cleaned and disinfected wells in the communities of Mareas del Suchiate and Los Faros (Tecún Umán) and Venecia in

Mazatenango. In order to improve the intervention, the communities were organized to make an inventory of existing wells so they could be evaluated for cleaning or disinfection needs. By late June, the GRC had cleaned and/or disinfected 54 wells.

Moreover, the GRC is supporting families whose wells and safe water sources had been contaminated tropical storm Alex and are again affected by Tropical Storm Agatha. In coordinated actions between the GRC, the Norwegian Red Cross country delegation, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the International Federation, these families are receiving safe water and being assisted in cleaning out their water sources. These activities in Retalhuleu and Coatepeque departments have reached 1,038 families in 12 affected communities. Affected people were trained in epidemic control, dengue and malaria prevention, safe water management, and cleaning and fumigation campaigns. To date, the wells of 291 families have been disinfected and cleaned. Water tank trucks have supplied 14,300 litres of safe water to target communities. Thirteen 1,100 litres water tanks have been placed in 6 communities in Retalhuleu.

Challenges:

The main challenge to the water and sanitation activities has been the continuous rains and floods that further damage wells that previously had been cleaned or repaired. The current plans include the donation of water tanks to the communities in order to manage this issue.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: Ensure that the most vulnerable families have a healthy, safe and dignified shelter solution to preserve their physical and mental well-being and prevent the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

Outputs	Activities planned
Up to 500 households receive shelter materials to assist the building or repairing of emergency shelters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop a community and beneficiary targeting strategy in coordination with local authorities and institutions. • Assess the extent of the emergency shelter needs, employing local suppliers when possible. • Provide technical support for the building or repairing of emergency shelters. • Distribute construction materials for 500 families. • Monitor housing improvement activities.

Progress:

The GRC Committee of Operations and the local branches are evaluating the type of support that will be delivered to the target families. The shelter programme is scheduled to begin after the relief activities have finished.

Challenges: As rains continue, more houses are further damaged. The planned support partially will cover the needs of affected population.

Early Recovery

Outcome: Contribute to the early recovery of 500 families (2,500 people) who have lost their crops as a result of the floods.

Outputs	Activities planned
500 families receive technical and material support to recover their agricultural production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and develop a technical assessment and intervention strategy for seed distribution and agricultural improvement in prioritized affected areas. • Establish mutual collaboration agreements with national institutions (agricultural associations and/or NGOs). • Train beneficiary families on adequate soil use, plague control, and planting techniques. • Distribute seeds, fertilizer and basic agricultural tools to beneficiary families. • Provide technical support. • Conduct monitoring and evaluation activities. • Establish exit strategy.

The early assessment reported that 63 per cent of the population carry out agriculture related activities for family income. Although most of the families buy the food they consume, the disaster produced a sudden stop in the families' income generation activities.

Challenges: This objective needs to be revised as the heavy rains continued during June and July. Floods drastically reduce the possibilities of successful planting and farming. The operation will consider alternative manners to improve the targeted families living conditions.

Logistics

Progress: Whilst logistics did not have its independent objective, it is central to ensuring an efficient emergency operation. The International Federation continues to provide logistics support to the National Society. The logistics RIT member has been rotated. In coordination with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the clearance of 1,000 kitchen kits is being followed up.

Starting 12 July, a bin card (*ficha de pila*) system was implemented in the GRC headquarters warehouse as a product of the warehouse managing workshop given to GRC members.

Items continue to be purchased for the operation. Thirty 1,100 litres water tanks were purchased at the end of July for use in the communities assisted by the Tecún Umán and Mazatenango GRC branches. Moreover, the acquisition process for first aid kits, personal protection kits, blankets and visibility materials is underway.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Since the beginning of the operation, the Guatemalan Red Cross has made efforts to publicly present its actions, so as to inform the general public and particularly the target population. Press attention given to the GRC additionally makes Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian actions more visible.

The GRC has received press coverage on local radios (Infinita 100.1, Emisoras Unidas, Radio Punto, Sonora, Radio Universidad, Guatemalan Federation of Radiphonic Schools and Actualidad 1020am), local newspapers (*Prensa Libre*, *Nuestro Diario*, *Al Dia*, *Siglo XXI*, *La Hora* and *El Periódico*), local television (NTN24, Noti7, Telecentro 13, Telediario, Guatevision and Canal Antigua) and international television (CNN).

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 Guatemala: Teresa J. Marroquin, Responsible for the GRC Disaster Response Office, phone: (502) 23816536; email: desastres@guatemala.cruzroja.org
- In Guatemala: Fernando Guerrero, operations coordinator, phone: (502) 57297332; email: padru.rit08@ifrc.org
- In Costa Rica: Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico, phone: (506) 526-4092; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Francisco Maldonado; Acting Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: francisco.maldonado@ifrc.org

- In Panama: Nelson Castaño, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, phone: (507) 380-0250, email: nelson.castano@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 79 2173376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395.
- In Panama: Ilir Caushaj, Regional Logistics Unit, phone: (507) 67 475 676; fax (507) 316 13 47; e-mail: ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Zuleyka Maynard, Resource Mobilization Officer, email: zuleika.maynard@ifrc.org phone: (507) 66 732 026.

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