


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Colombia: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCO009
GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000170-COL](#)
7 December 2011

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.

105,591 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Colombian Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to 2,290 families. Unearmarked funds to repay the DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Flooding and landslides have affected some 99,764 families, with the most affected areas in the Sucreña Mojón region. The most pressing needs are for food, safe water, relief items, basic health care, hygiene promotion and temporary shelter. The Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) has already initiated search and rescue, evacuation, early warning activities, and damage and needs assessments with some immediate distribution of relief items. Shelters have been setup, safe water is being provided and a mobile health unit is in operation. This DREF-supported operation, which is part of a national plan of action to assist 30,000 families, aims to reach 2,290 families with food and non-food items, emergency health care, water provision, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities, and temporary shelter.



In December 2011, the response committee of the Colombian Red Cross Society evacuated affected people from the department of La Guajira.
Source: CRCS

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 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 second rainy season of the year officially began in September and heavy rains have continued throughout the past three months. In addition to this, the area has been experiencing increased precipitation due to the La Niña weather phenomenon. This has resulted in flooding, flash flooding and landslides in 27 departments. Current damage reports indicate 99,764 families have been affected, with 104 wounded, 114 dead, 21 missing, 695 homes destroyed and 79,616 homes damaged. The National Society has also reported 26 landslides and 87 floods. The most critical area is the Sucreña Mojón region, which includes the

departments of Sucre, Córdoba, Bolívar and Antioquía. Communities in the departments of Cesar, Chocó, Guajira, Magdalena, Atlántico and Santander have also been severely affected.

The levels of major rivers running through much of the country have increased, such as the Magdalena, Cauca, Atrato, San Jorge and Bogota zone rivers. The situation has been compounded by landslides that have affected heavily populated areas, the main roads of the country and three aqueducts. The Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales – IDEAM), the Colombian Ocean Commission – National Technical Committee for the study of El Niño Phenomenon (Comisión Colombiana del Océano-Comité Técnico Nacional para el estudio Regional del Fenómeno del Niño - CTN ERFEN) and the International Centre for the study of El Niño (Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno del Niño – CIIFEN) have forecasted that the effects will continue throughout December and into early 2012.

Coordination and partnerships

In Colombia, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the government to ensure appropriate and effective coordination in a disaster response. The CRCS has been coordinating closely with the National System for Disaster Preparedness and Response (Sistema Nacional de Prevención y Atención de Desastres – SNPAD) and the Local and Regional Disaster Prevention Committee (Comité Locales y Regionales de Prevención – CLOPAD) on initial damage and needs assessments and on the coordination of the response.

The CRCS is in constant communication with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Participating National Societies (PNS) and the IFRC's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Andean Region, which are monitoring the situation and determining actions. The 32 branches of the CRCS are actively supporting the operation and have begun relief activities, which are detailed below.

External coordination is on-going with UN agencies, Carrefour, Coca Cola and other organizations. The National Society has drafted an overall Plan of Action to reach 30,000 families, of which 2,290 will be reached through this DREF-supported operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Damage and needs assessments are being conducted by the CRCS in collaboration with SNPAD and CLOPAD. The National Society has 500 staff and 1,000 volunteers who are insured and are conducting the response activities. These include first aid activities, psychological support and health care services through the Mobile Health Units (MHU). The MHUs have already been mobilized and have assisted 220 people to date. Early warning systems have been activated and the CRCS relief committee has initiated evacuation, search and rescue activities. National Intervention Team (NIT) members and local response teams have been mobilized, including search and rescue units as well as a canine search and rescue unit.

Humanitarian assistance has already been provided to 1,500 families with 100.67 tons of food and non-food items distributed from seven pre-positioned warehouses. Shelter has been provided for 1,820 people in four cities. Safe water has been supplied through the use of two water treatment plants supplying 1,305,200 litres of water over eight days. Tracing and family reunification activities are also underway.

Two bank accounts have been created by the National Society to encourage local cash donations. The National Society is coordinating with the media and communicating through DMIS, press releases and newsletters. The CRCS headquarters continues to coordinate with, and provide logistical support and capacity to the 35 branches to implement the response activities.

The needs

The current number of families affected by the recent flooding is more than 99,000 with the CRCS supporting approximately 30,000 in their overall plan of action. This DREF operation will support 2,290 families in the most affected areas, specifically the Sucreña Mojón region, which includes the departments of Sucre, Córdoba, Bolívar and Antioquía. Areas in the departments of Cesar, Chocó, Guajira, Magdalena, Atlántico and Santander have also been severely affected. The operation will target the most vulnerable persons within these areas. Beneficiaries will be determined based on the level of affectation, the vulnerability of the family, and the families' place of residency within an area that has not yet received aid from another humanitarian organization or the government. Each sector of the current DREF plan of action will be

providing support for different beneficiaries as the DREF is part of a larger Plan of Action. Therefore, a comprehensive approach is still being used.

The most vulnerable are in makeshift shelters in schools and colleges in non-flooded areas, while others have taken shelter in the homes of relatives and friends. The most urgent humanitarian needs are for food, safe water, relief items, health care, disease prevention activities and temporary shelter.

The proposed operation

This relief operation will deliver immediate assistance in the sectors of emergency relief (food and basic non-food), emergency health, water sanitation and hygiene promotion, and temporary shelter to a total of 2,290 families.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 450 families affected by recent flooding are assisted with food items and essential household items to provide for immediate needs

Output 1: 450 families receive food kits, kitchen kits and hygiene kits

Activities planned:

- Identify beneficiaries
- Distribute food kits
- Distribute kitchen sets
- Distribute hygiene kits
- Monitor and evaluate relief distribution activities

The CRCS plans to support 10,000 families with relief items and will support 450 families with food, hygiene and kitchen kits through this DREF operation. The beneficiaries will be identified by the National Society in coordination with the government's Risk Management Division (Dirección de Gestión del Riesgo - DGR). The materials which will be included in the kits will be procured locally.

Emergency health

Outcome: The immediate risks to health and well-being are reduced through the provision of health care and prevention and promotion actions to 3,700 people (approximately 740 families)

Output 1: Mobile health services are provided for 3,700 people through the use of mobile health units

Activities planned:

- Coordinate with existing public health services to assess and monitor the health risks and access to health services
- Assist 3,700 persons with health care through Mobile Health Units, to prioritized affected areas.
- Provide psychosocial support to 3,700 persons (740 families) affected
- Provide psychological support to medical staff and volunteers
- Develop and implement community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities
- Monitor and evaluate health activities

The CRCS plans to assist 10,000 people with emergency health needs. This DREF-supported operation will assist 3,700 people with basic health care and education. This will be accomplished through the mobilization of MHUs, which will offer services of general practice, dentistry, nursing and psychology to support both the physical and psychological needs of the affected communities. Community-based health promotion activities will also be conducted to educate affected communities and encourage adoption of healthy habits to control communicable diseases.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases related to recent flooding has been reduced through the provision of safe water and hygiene promotion to 1,000 families

Output 1: Priority municipalities have access to sufficient quantities of clean water for consumption and sanitation requirements.

Activities planned:

- Coordinate assessments of emergency water and sanitation needs

- Ensure communities have access to a safe water supply and to basic sanitation
- Promote Sphere standards to staff and volunteers and implement activities according to standards.
- Monitor water provision activities

Output 2: 1,000 families are reached through water hygiene promotion and sanitation activities.

Activities planned:

- Select beneficiaries
- Develop information and dissemination strategy with local officials on safe water and hygiene promotion
- Monitor and evaluate promotion activities

The government is providing appropriate sanitation, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage in collective centres. Therefore, the CRCS will focus on hygiene and sanitation promotion activities, and water provision. The CRCS plans to assist 10,000 families with water, sanitation and hygiene promotion under its overall Plan of Action. This DREF-supported operation will assist 1,000 families in reducing the risks of water-related diseases. Assessments will be coordinated with the SNPAD and a beneficiary selection process will be undertaken. Promotional activities will also be developed in consultation with the government agencies.

Water provision will be undertaken through the use of two portable water treatment plants, which are capable of producing five litres of water per second. Sphere standards will be adhered to and 15 litres per person per day will be supplied. The CRCS will also educate and promote the Sphere standards to their staff and volunteers and implement activities according to these standards.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: Appropriate temporary shelter that meets agreed upon international minimum standards is provided for 100 families affected by the rainy season

Output 1: 100 affected families receive appropriate temporary shelter in collective centres

Activities planned:

- Coordinate with SNPAD, local authorities and community leaders to assess shelter needs and to select beneficiary families.
- Provide technical advice on the repair of collective centres
- Provide basic materials and inputs for repair of collective centres
- Provide operational maintenance for collective centres
- Monitor and evaluate emergency shelter activities

The Colombian government currently has the responsibility of assisting persons in temporary shelters. Therefore, the CRCS will support the government by ensuring the collection centres are in an appropriate condition to shelter the affected. Some collection centres, specifically the centres in Santa Lucía and Candelaria on the Atlantic coast, have suffered damage due to strong winds and heavy rains. The CRCS will oversee repair of the internal and external power supply, and repair of damaged walls. Activities will also be conducted to ensure appropriate sanitary conditions through the establishment of a system to store and remove debris and solid waste. These repairs and improvements will ensure a safe and acceptable environment within the collective centres.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- **In Colombia:** Cesar Augusto Uruña Pulido, national relief director (director general de socorro nacional), phone: (57) 310 294 3747; email: cesar.uruena@cruzrojacolombiana.org
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Iñigo Barrera, regional representative for the Andean countries; email: ci.barrera@ifrc.org; phone: +511 221 8333; and fax: +511 441 3607.
- **IFRC Americas Zone:** Jorge Zequeira, PADRU coordinator, phone: +507 316 1001; email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org

- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, operations quality assurance senior officer; phone: +41 22 730 4300; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org
- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Douglas Baquero; regional logistic coordinator; phone: +507 316 1001; email: douglas.baquero@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Americas Zone:** Zuleyka Maynard; resource mobilization senior officer; phone: + 507 317 1304; email: zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Jane Grimshaw; PMER coordinator; phone: +507.317.3050; email: jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org



Click here

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
2. Click [here](#) to view the DREF budget
3. Click [here](#) to view a map of the affected areas

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 (NGOs) 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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
-

DREF OPERATION

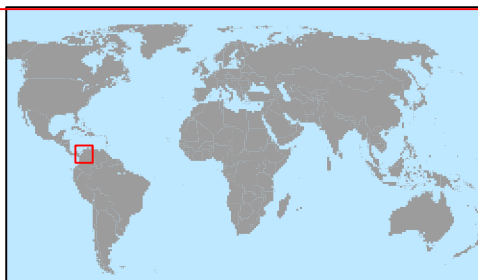
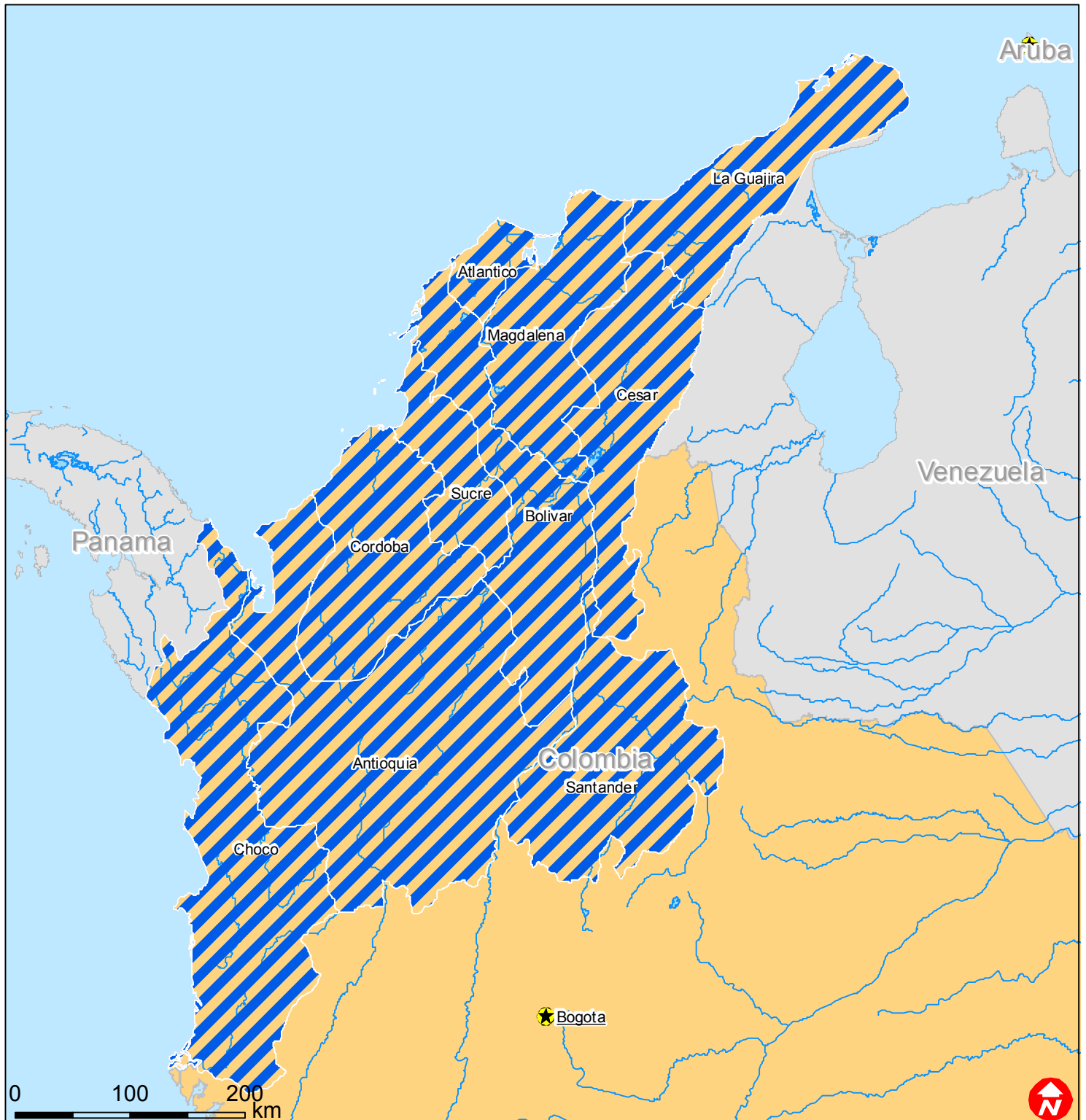
07/12/2011

Appeal Colombia Floods

| Budget Group | DREF Grant Budget CHF |
|--|------------------------------|
| Shelter - Relief | 13,812 |
| Shelter - Transitional | |
| Construction - Housing | |
| Construction - Facilities | |
| Construction - Materials | |
| Clothing & Textiles | |
| Food | 15,194 |
| Seeds & Plants | |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 24,862 |
| Medical & First Aid | 16,574 |
| Teaching Materials | |
| Ustensils & Tools | 6,008 |
| Other Supplies & Services | |
| Emergency Response Units | |
| Cash Disbursements | |
| Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES | 76,450 |
| Land & Buildings | |
| Vehicles Purchase | |
| Computer & Telecom Equipment | |
| Office/Household Furniture & Equipment | |
| Medical Equipment | |
| Other Machiney & Equipment | |
| Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT | 0 |
| Storage, Warehousing | |
| Dsitribution & Monitoring | |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 10,128 |
| Logistics Services | |
| Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE | 10,128 |
| International Staff | |
| National Staff | |
| National Society Staff | 4,005 |
| Volunteers | 1,381 |
| Total PERSONNEL | 5,387 |
| Consultants | |
| Professional Fees | |
| Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES | 0 |
| Workshops & Training | |
| Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING | 0 |
| Travel | 1,381 |
| Information & Public Relations | |
| Office Costs | 2,578 |
| Communications | 460 |
| Financial Charges | 2,762 |
| Other General Expenses | |
| Shared Support Services | |
| Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES | 7,182 |
| Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery | 6,445 |
| Total INDIRECT COSTS | 6,445 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 105,591 |



Colombia: Floods



 Affected areas