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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Costa Rica: Tropical Depression 12-E

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCR008
GLIDE n° TC-2011-000157-CRI
28 October 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.

94,374 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) in delivering immediate assistance to 2,500 families (approximately 12,500 persons). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Severe precipitation brought by Tropical Depression 12-E combined with previous rainfall from the rainy season in Costa Rica has caused saturation of soil and subsequent flooding. Two provinces of the country are in a state of yellow alert, with damages concentrated in the Guanacaste region and southern part of the country.

The Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) is actively responding to the emergency through its volunteers and technical personnel. Volunteers are conducting search and rescue activities, providing pre-hospital care and evacuating families in flooded or at-risk areas to safer locations.

This DREF operation aims to support part of the CRRC's overall Plan of Action with a focus on relief distributions, emergency health and safe water as well as ensuring safety equipment for its volunteers.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by January 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by April 2012).

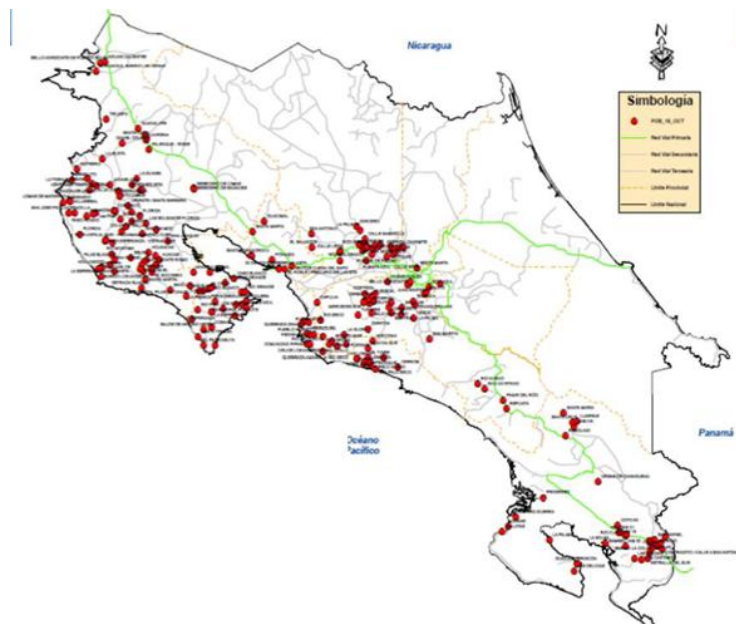
[<Click here for the DREF budget; here for a map of the affected areas and here for contact details;](#)



The Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) is working alongside municipal authorities to reach affected families in Guanacaste and Punta Arena provinces. Source CRRC

The situation

Similarly to other countries in Central America, Costa Rica has been affected by intense rainfall brought by Tropical Depression 12-E (TD 12-E). This weather front, combined with the effects of previous precipitations and the saturation of soils since early October, has caused severe damages in the western and southern regions of Costa Rica (Valle Central, Pacífico Sur, Pacífico Central, Huetar Norte and Huetar Atlántica). The most affected provinces are Guanacaste and Puntarenas, where a state of yellow alert was declared by the government on 8 October. Although the effects of Tropical Depression 12-E decreased on 19 October, two days later a new system of low pressure brought rains in the country; this system later developed into Hurricane Rina. On 24 October, the Emergency National Commission increased the state of yellow alert to the additional department of Golfito in Puntarenas province.



Although damage and needs assessments are rather preliminary as many communities are isolated, at least 233,475 persons are living in the affected areas, and 46,695 of them are considered to be directly affected. More than 9,339 persons were evacuated to safer areas or have taken refuge in the existing 33 collective centres. Thus far, 4 deaths have been reported. Nevertheless, the situation is evolving rapidly and figures might change in the following days as damage and needs assessment teams are able to access currently isolated areas.

In Guanacaste, 1,250 persons were evacuated to 22 collective shelters. Many of the rivers and streams in the region are flooded and 2,456 wells have been

contaminated which increases the health risks of the population. The situation is particularly worrisome in the Guanacaste peninsula where some 12,280 inhabitants were left with contaminated drinking water as the main supply network was damaged, including 21 water pipes. Accessibility is also an issue with 19 roads and 23 bridges affected as well as 11 dikes damaged, isolating 292 communities. A total of 13,200 hectares of damaged crops have also been recorded. At the moment, delivery of humanitarian relief is difficult due to interrupted road networks.

The southern region is still on alert as rains continue. Authorities report 21 communities directly affected in the Golfito district and 2,213 persons are currently taking shelter in 5 collective centres.

Coordination and partnerships

At the national level, the Costa Rican Red Cross is part of the National Risk Management System of the country. The National Emergency Commission (Comisión Nacional de Emergencia--CNE) coordinates with the Costa Rican Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to carry out response activities. Some of the other actors involved in the operation under the CNE umbrella, in coordination with CRRC, are the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (Ministerio de Obras Públicas y Transporte), the Ministry of Health (Ministerio de Salud), the Costa Rican Social Security Office (Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social), the Ministry of Defense (Ministerio de Seguridad, Fuerza Pública), the Emergency Municipal Committees (Comités Municipales de Emergencia) and the Ministry of Education (Ministerio de Educación).

In country, Red Cross and Red Crescent partners, such as Mexican Red Cross are also supporting the CRRC in their headquarters. Furthermore, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is following up the situation and coordinating with the National Society in order to better support the response needs identified in its Plan of Action. The IFRC maintains constant communication with the Costa Rican Red Cross through the regional representation for Central America and Mexico in Costa Rica, and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) of the Americas zone office in Panama.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Prior to the emergency, Costa Rican Red Cross volunteers were already integrated in the Municipal Emergency Committees and coordinating actions with other relief and response institutions. Through the National Monitoring Centre of the National Society, constant follow up is being carried out and information-exchange ensured with the different branches at the national level and with the institutional authorities.

The CRRC has 517 volunteers and 65 technical personnel active and supporting search, rescue and evacuation activities of the population affected by flooding and landslides. Furthermore, damage and needs assessments are taking place in a coordinated manner by the municipal and departmental branches, working alongside the local Emergency Municipal Committees. Results are being shared with all relevant authorities.

The National Society has 26 active branches in the country which coordinate with local authorities and carry out disaster preparedness and response activities in their municipalities. Volunteers are trained in several technical areas including: search and rescue, pre-hospital care, National Intervention Teams, damage and needs assessments, logistics and psychosocial support. The CRRC also has a National Response Plan which serves as reference framework for all their disaster risk management efforts. Relief distributions to affected families have already started in coordination with CNE and the mayors' offices.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The National Society proposes to reach 2,500 families in Guanacaste and Punta Arena provinces through this DREF-supported operation.

The combined results of the damage and needs assessments carried out by the Costa Rican Red Cross and governmental authorities indicate the following needs:

- Relief items: the affected families are in need of kitchen sets to replace the items lost during the floods.
- Health, water, sanitation and hygiene: Preventive actions are needed to forestall an increase in water-borne diseases and other common illnesses. Families are in need of mosquito nets and basic hygiene items. As water supply networks have suffered damages, particularly community wells, there is a need to ensure safe drinking water for the population in the affected region. The CRRC proposes to clean 500 of the most affected wells and to train 50 communities in well cleaning.

The proposed operation

The overall CRRC Plan of Action aims to assist 500 families with relief items; of which 250 families will be covered through this DREF-supported operation. The DREF-funded operation will provide non-food relief items to the 250 most affected families in the Guanacaste and Puntarenas provinces. The remaining families will be reached by the ongoing humanitarian action carried out by the government and other organizations mentioned above. In addition, some 2,500 families will benefit with the cleaning and rehabilitation of wells.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)
Outcome: The immediate needs of 250 families affected by Tropical Depression 12-E are met through the distribution of essential household items.
Outputs: 250 families (1,250 people) receive kitchen sets.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop beneficiary selection and registration system to deliver intended assistance.• Coordinate distribution activities with local and national authorities.• Distribute kitchen sets.• Monitor and report on the relief activities in a timely manner.

The Costa Rican Red Cross with the support of the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit will procure and distribute one kitchen set per family.

Emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Immediate reduction of the risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.

Output 1: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items are provided to 250 families.

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary selection and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribution of hygiene kits and mosquito nets.
- Coordinate and complete health and hygiene promotion activities in coordination with local and national authorities.
- Monitor activities and report in a timely manner.

Output 2: Up to 2,500 families are reached with the cleaning of 500 wells from the most affected communities.

Output 3: Members from 50 communities are trained on methods to clean and maintain wells.

Activities planned:

- Provide safe water through well cleaning while damaged water systems are restored.
- Conduct appropriate community trainings in well cleaning.
- Print and distribute educational materials for well cleaning.
- Support the cleaning of living spaces.
- Monitor and provide reporting in a timely manner.

In order to ensure an integrated approach, the families reached with relief items will be also targeted with health, water and sanitation activities. Therefore, all 250 families will also receive mosquito nets and hygiene kits. This distribution will be accompanied by hygiene promotion activities and information on disease prevention, such as use of mosquito nets. Finally, the CRRC will also clean 500 wells in the most affected communities and, to ensure a certain level of sustainability, will also complete trainings on well cleaning and maintenance for community members.

Contact information

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[Click here](#)

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

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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

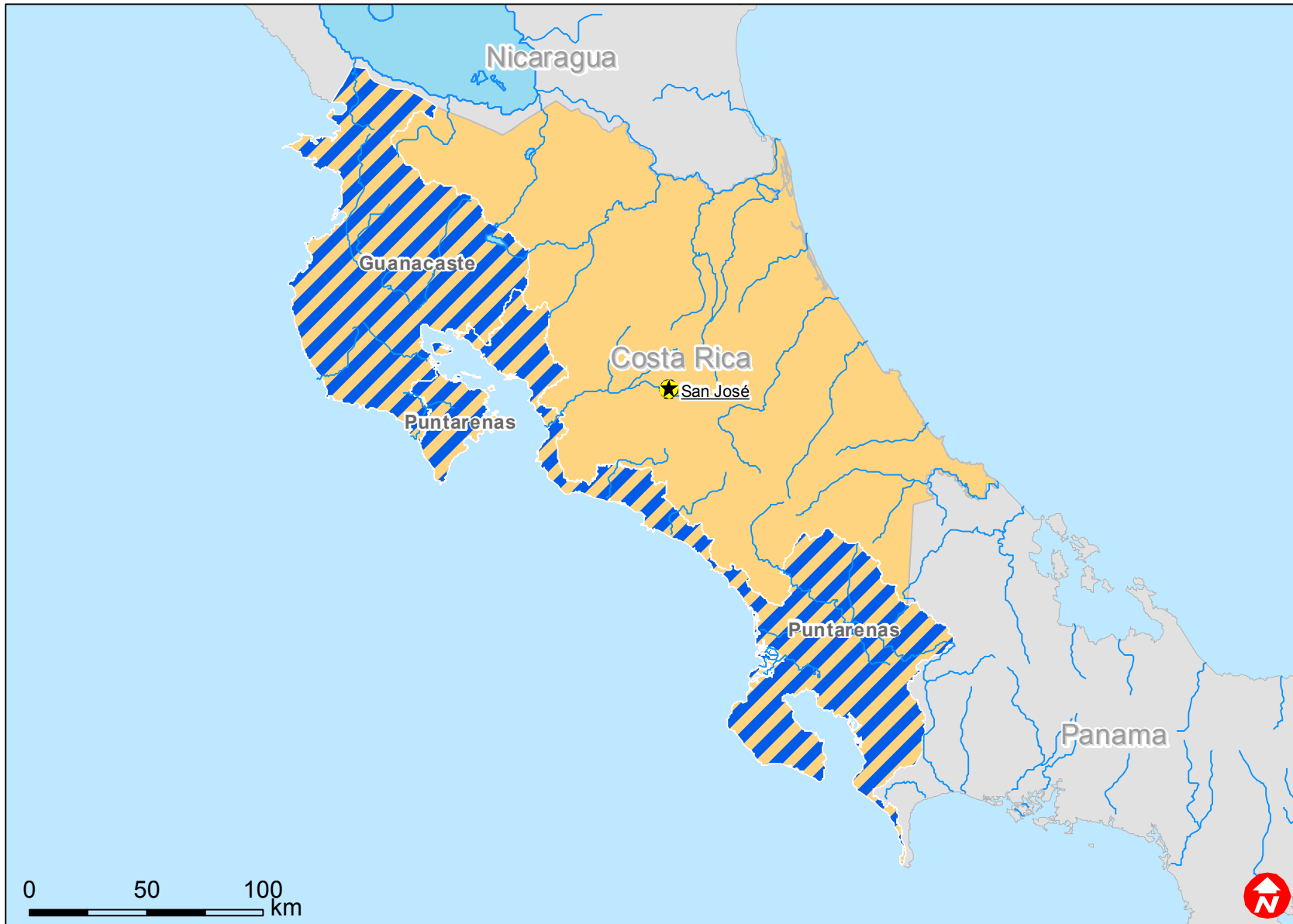
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MDRCR008 Costa Rica Floods TD 12

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	2,200
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	51,920
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	6,160
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	60,280
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	3,960
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,760
Logistics Services	614
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	6,334
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	5,720
Volunteers	7,920
Total PERSONNEL	13,640
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	2,640
Information & Public Relations	1,320
Office Costs	1,540
Communications	1,100
Financial Charges	1,760
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,360
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	5,760
Total INDIRECT COSTS	5,760
TOTAL BUDGET	94,374



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 Most affected provinces