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

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRHN005
GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000127-HND](#)
21 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.

220,062 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 800 families (4,000 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 Honduras has caused saturation of the soil and subsequent flooding. Thirteen of the 18 departments of the country are in a

State of Emergency, but damages are concentrated in the Choluteca and Valle departments.



HRC volunteers and technical personnel have conducted search, rescue and evacuation activities of the population affected by flooding. Source: HRC.

The Honduran Red Cross 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 HRC'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 and here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Similarly to other countries in Central America, Honduras has been affected by the 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 southern region of Honduras, particularly in the departments of Choluteca and Valle where a State of Emergency was declared by the government on 10 October 2011. The most affected municipalities are Marcovia, Choluteca, Apacilagua and Pespire (in the Choluteca department), San Lorenzo, Nacaome, and Alianza in the Valle department. On 18 October the President of the country extended the State of Emergency to eight additional departments: Cortés, Comayagua, Francisco Morazán, Copán, El Paraíso, Colon, Intibucá, Olancho, La Paz and Yoro. Overall 13 of the 18 departments of the country are in a State of Emergency¹.

Although damage and needs assessments are rather preliminary as many of the communities are isolated, at least 70,000 persons are affected, more than 12,000 were evacuated to safer areas and 8,000 persons have taken refuge in collective centres. Thus far 13 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.

Many of the rivers and streams in the region are flooded, as are many of the wells and latrines, which increase the health risks of the population. The situation is particularly worrisome in the Choluteca municipality where some 150,000 inhabitants were left without drinking water as the main supply network was damaged. Accessibility is also an issue with 32 roads affected and 34 destroyed, 8 bridges affected and another 8 destroyed, isolating 27 communities. It is also expected that crops will be damaged; however a detailed assessment has not yet been possible. At the moment, delivery of humanitarian relief is difficult due to interrupted road networks.

The southern region is still on red alert as rains continue and classes at schools have been suspended. Authorities report 42 damaged schools.

Coordination and partnerships

At the national level, the Honduran Red Cross is part of the National Risk Management System of the country. The Permanent Contingency Commission (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias – COPECO) coordinates with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Honduran Red Cross to carry out response activities.

In country, the Red Cross and Red Crescent partners are also supporting the HRC's headquarters and branches in line with the Honduran Red Cross's Plan of Action to respond to this emergency. Partners in country include the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross.

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. An IFRC country coordinator is present in Honduras to ensure support. The IFRC maintains constant communication with the Honduran Red Cross through the regional representation for Central America and Mexico in Costa Rica, and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) which forms part of the Americas zone office in Panama.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Prior to the emergency, Honduran Red Cross volunteers were already integrated in the Municipal Emergency Committees and were 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 is taking place with the different branches at the national level and institutional authorities.

HRC volunteers and technical personnel have conducted search, rescue and evacuation activities of the population affected by flooding and landslides. Furthermore, assessments are taking place in a coordinated

¹ <http://copeco.gob.hn/n/node/966>

manner through the damage and needs assessment teams in the municipal and departmental branches and the local Municipal Emergency Committees. Results are also being shared with the relevant authorities.

The National Society has 52 departmental and municipal branches throughout the country which carry out disaster preparedness and response activities within their municipalities and coordinate with local authorities. 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 HRC also has a National Response Plan which serves as reference framework for all their disaster risk management efforts.

The overall HRC Plan of Action aims to assist approximately 2,000 affected families in the south, central and north areas of the country. Relief distributions to affected families have started in coordination with COPECO and the mayors' offices. Thus far, 721 families were reached: 507 families received hygiene kits, tarpaulins and buckets through prepositioned items in the HRC's warehouses located in the south and north regions; and 214 families received donations provided by the general population through the National Society.

Furthermore, the HRC is planning to install a water treatment plant and mobilize a water truck to provide access to safe water to affected families.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The combined results of the damage and needs assessments carried out by the Honduran Red Cross and governmental authorities indicate the following needs:

- Evacuations, search, rescue and first aid care: 10 HRC branches are in need of safety equipment and supplies to continue supporting government authorities with their evacuations, rescue and first aid care activities.
- Relief items: the affected families are in need of blankets, hygiene items, kitchen utensils, containers for safe storage of water, and food. The National Society proposes to reach 800 families through this DREF-supported operation.
- Emergency health: there is a need to provide psychosocial support for the affected families and for the volunteers working in the emergency response. Furthermore, preventive actions are needed to forestall the increment in water-borne diseases and other common illnesses.
- Drinking water: as water supply networks have suffered damages, there is a need to provide safe drinking water to the population in the affected region. The HRC proposes to mobilize a water treatment plant to assist at least two communities.

The proposed operation

This DREF-supported operation seeks to support part of the overall HRC Plan of Action. The DREF-funded operation will focus on 800 of the most affected families in the Choluteca and Valle departments to complement ongoing humanitarian action by the government and other organizations. The Honduran Red Cross will receive support to cover the remainder of its Plan of Action on a bilateral basis from the Swiss Red Cross and the Japanese Embassy. The Spanish Red Cross and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) are also assessing the best way to support the National Society.

The HRC will encourage the participation of volunteers as interns that will be dedicated to coordinating and monitoring all emergency response activities.

Evacuations in most at-risk areas
Outcome: The HRC supports search, rescue and first aid care, as well as evacuations in flooded and at-risk areas in the Choluteca and Valle departments.
Output: 10 branches of the HRC have the appropriate equipment to support evacuations and rescue and to provide first aid care in affected areas.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify branches which are most in need of equipment.• Procure locally safety equipment for volunteers• Conduct search and rescue activities and first aid care in coordination with the Civil Protection System authorities.• Monitor the population at risk at the national level focusing on possible landslides and rising river levels.• Monitoring and reporting of activities

As precipitations are forecasted to continue, the National Society will need to strengthen the capacity of certain local and departmental branches in order to continue supporting search, rescue and first aid care activities, as well as evacuations in flooded and at-risk areas. The HRC will procure the following items which will be provided to 10 branches:

- 100 protective helmets
- 100 rubber boots
- 100 raincoats

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate needs of 800 families affected by Tropical Depression 12-E are met through the distribution of food items and essential household items.

Outputs: 800 families (4,000 people) receive food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets and jerry cans.

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary selection and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Coordinate distribution activities with local and national authorities.
- Distribution of relief items
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The Honduran Red Cross with the support of the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit will procure and distribute one kitchen set, one hygiene kit, one food parcel, five blankets and two jerry cans per family. The food parcels are designed to cover the needs of a family of five members for one month. These food packages contain: 25lb of rice, 25lb of beans, 25lb of sugar, 20lb of corn flour and 10lb of lard.

Emergency health and safe water

Outcome: The immediate risks to health of populations affected by TD 12-E are reduced in the Choluteca and Valle departments.

Output 1: 800 flood-affected families have access to safe water.

Output 2: 100 flood-affected families are reached with psychosocial support, disease prevention and health promotion activities.

Activities planned:

- Assess the existing coverage of water supply and select two of the most vulnerable communities.
- Provide safe water to 800 families while damaged water systems are restored.
- Train volunteers and community leaders with the ECV Toolkit on prevention of communicable diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis, acute respiratory diseases and skin diseases.
- Monitor the activities conducted with community leaders at the community level.
- Conduct basic sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.
- Print and distribute information, education and communications (IEC) materials.
- Monitor and provide reporting on the activities

Contact information

- **In the Honduran Red Cross:** Oscar Fernandez, National Director of Operations and Relief, Honduran Red Cross; phone: + 504.3399.4703; email: ofernandez@honduras.cruzroja.org
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1. DREF budget [below](#)
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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 (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.

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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

21/10/2011

MDRHN005 FLOODS TD 12

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	21,477
Food	42,955
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	31,679
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	10,739
Ustensils & Tools	4,295
Other Supplies & Services	20,046
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	131,191
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	8,949
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,054
Logistics Services	4,474
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	21,477
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,611
Volunteers	14,766
Total PERSONNEL	16,376
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	16,555
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	16,555
Travel	5,369
Information & Public Relations	5,369
Office Costs	5,369
Communications	1,611
Financial Charges	3,500
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	21,219
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	13,443
Total INDIRECT COSTS	13,443
TOTAL BUDGET	220,262