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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Nicaragua: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRNI004**  
**GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000166-NIC](#)**  
**26 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.

**235,352 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) in delivering immediate assistance to 1,000 families (approximately 5,000 people). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** A low pressure system and the remnants of Tropical Depression 12-E on 12 October have caused extensive rain and flooding, especially in the north-western region of Nicaragua. Significant flooding and landslides have damaged homes and infrastructure, flooded wells and latrines, and forced thousands of people into collective centres. With the support of the DREF, the Nicaraguan Red Cross will support 1,000 families (5,000 persons) with the distribution of relief items such as hygiene kits, jerry cans, kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins and mosquito nets.



**Since the rains started, volunteers of the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) have been assisting with search, rescue and evacuation activities. Source: NRC.**

This operation will be implemented over three months, and will be completed by January 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by April 2011).

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

## The situation

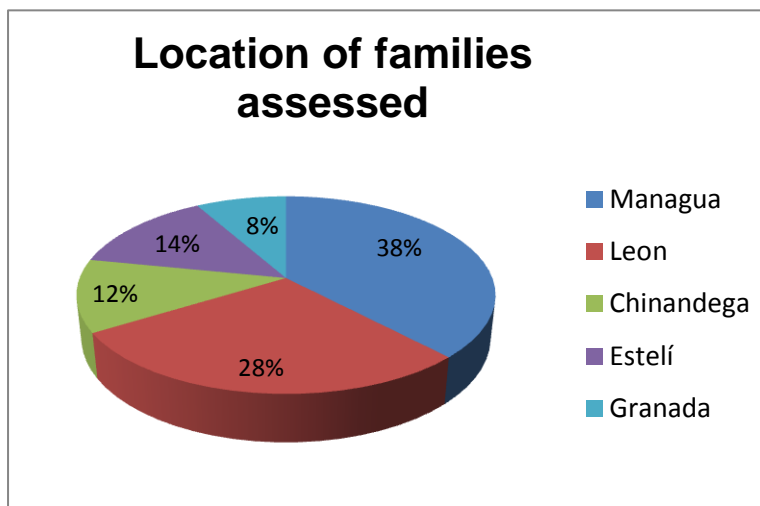
Nicaragua has experienced a situation similar to the rest of the countries in Central America, and has been affected by two low pressure systems which began on 12 October. Consequently, severe rainfall fell over the northern and western regions, causing serious damage to homes, infrastructure and crops. The most affected departments are Chinandega, León, Managua, Estelí, Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Carazo, Masaya, Granada and Rivas.

The National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación y Atención de Desastres, SINAPRED) reported on 19 October that overall 13 departments, 80 municipalities and 546 communities have been affected. Current figures of affectation are:

- 5,616 families (28,091 persons) affected.
- 2,042 families (10,278 persons) sheltered in 104 collective centres.
- 9 deaths, 18 injured and 3 missing.
- 5,616 houses affected: 335 destroyed, 3,707 flooded, 1,236 moderately damaged, and 338 at risk of landslides.

However, detailed damage and needs assessments of the situation are needed and a United Nations Disaster Assessments and Coordination team (UNDAC) has arrived in Nicaragua to support the efforts. The situation prompted the President of Nicaragua to declare a state of disaster and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested international support.

Governmental authorities are monitoring vulnerable and high-risk areas such as the plateau near the Pacific coast (Meseta de Los Pueblos del Pacífico) and the western side of the plateau in the north region of the country (Meseta en la Region Norte), particularly the coastal areas. Furthermore, the water level of the Managua Lake has reached 42.5 metres above sea level which is four metres above its usual level. The rising of the Xolotlán Lake is also a concern, particularly as precipitations are forecast to continue.



## Coordination and partnerships

The NRC has been participating in meetings with SINAPRED and monitoring the situation through the Emergency Communications System from the Disaster Operations Centre (CODE). Ongoing coordination is taking place with the Regional Office of the Civil Defence, the Departmental Commission for Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Response (CODEPRO) and the Municipal Commission for Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Response (COMUPRED).

The Nicaraguan government is responding at different levels, providing food and relief items such as mattresses, blankets, clothing and construction materials to support collective centres. The Ministry of Health (MoH) is providing vaccination campaigns, and monitoring H1N1 transmission in the collective centres as the area of Managua, Matagalpa, Estelí and Jinotega have a history of outbreaks of acute respiratory infections, dengue, leptospirosis and acute diarrheal diseases.

An UNDAC team has supported damage and needs assessments in the country, and the process for a Flash Appeal has started, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Nicaraguan Red Cross is supporting efforts with damage and needs assessments, distribution of food and non-food relief items, and conducting health and hygiene awareness campaigns.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency, 13 staff and 250 volunteers of the NRC have actively conducted search, and rescue activities, provided first aid care and evacuated families alongside local authorities. In addition, the National Society in collaboration with the Partner National Societies in country (Canadian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross), have been collecting, analyzing and

sharing information, and developing status reports, press releases and DMIS reports. The NRC has prepared 10 situation reports, 3 press releases and 5 DMIS reports to date.

A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) alert has been issued to provide support to the National Society if required.

## The needs

After analyzing the information gathered by assessments carried out in coordination with COMUPRED, and SINAPRED, the National Society will reach families amongst those most affected by the floods in the Granada, Chinandega, León, Estelí and Managua municipalities. Families living in collective centres opened in the affected municipalities will also be targeted with health promotion activities. The criteria for beneficiary selection will be further defined in the following days as more information is gathered, to ensure that the work carried out by the NRC complements the efforts of the government and of other organizations.

The National Society has identified the following needs to be covered by their Plan of Action:

- Means for the safe storage of water
- Blankets, kitchen sets, tarpaulins and food parcels to support families who lost their personal belongings and are living with host families or in collective centres.
- Mosquito nets, hygiene kits and health promotion activities to reduce the risk of illnesses. There is concern as the Ministry of Health reported 61 cases of dengue, 99 cases of H1N1, and 25 cases of leptospirosis. The Ministry of Health alongside the National Society will develop awareness-raising materials with a focus on these diseases.

## The proposed operation

The operation will assist 1,000 families (approximately 5,000 people<sup>1</sup>) and will consist of three phases: identification of beneficiaries, preparation and distribution of food and relief items, and implementation of a preventive health and hygiene promotion campaign.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome: The immediate needs of the population affected by the 12-E tropical depression in the municipalities of Chinandega, León, Estelí, Granada and Managua are met through the provision of food and non-food items.**

**Outputs: 1,000 families (5,000 people) affected by flooding will receive non-food items (kitchen kits, blankets, tarpaulins and jerry cans) as well as food parcels to complement nutritional needs for a period of one month.**

#### Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure food items locally and prepare parcels.
- Distribute food parcels and non-food relief items (kitchen kits, blankets, tarpaulins and jerry cans) through 1 time distribution to targeted families
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The following will be distributed to 1,000 families:

- 1,000 kitchen kits (1 per family)
- 5,000 blankets (5 per family)
- 2,000 tarpaulins (2 per family)
- 2,000 jerry cans (2 per family)
- 1,000 food parcels (1 per family)

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<sup>1</sup> The target number of people is based on an average of five persons per family.

The food parcel will be purchased locally and assembled by the NRC staff and volunteers. The parcels will contain the following items:

Item	Quantity
Rice	30 pounds
Beans	20 pounds
Corn	20 pounds
Sugar	20 pounds
Salt	3 pounds
Cereal or oats	20 pounds
Pasta	2 pounds
Oil	1 gallon
Fortified cereal drink (Policereal)	10 pounds
Coffee	5 pounds
Sardines	10 cans

### Emergency health

**Outcome: The immediate risks to the health of populations affected by TD 12-E are reduced.**

**Output 1: Up to 1,000 families (5,000 persons) will benefit with community-based disease prevention and health promotion activities.**

**Activities planned:**

- Provide training on recognition of symptoms and warning signs for immediate referral to health care centres.
- Develop informational materials in collaboration with the Ministry of Health
- Provide awareness materials on disease prevention (including dengue, H1N1 and leptospirosis) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health
- Distribute 3 mosquito nets and 1 hygiene kit per family.
- Monitor and report on the health activities on a timely manner.

Since the north-western region of the country has a history of health issues, the epidemic control and health promotion activities are important to reduce illness and health risks due to the flooding, and within collective centres. In order to provide an integrated approach, the 1,000 families targeted under this sector are the same families that will receive relief items.

## Contact information

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

- **Nicaraguan Red Cross:** Clemente Balmaceda, National Council President; phone: +505 265.0380; email: [presidencia@humanidad.org.ni](mailto:presidencia@humanidad.org.ni)
- **IFRC regional representation for Central America and Mexico in Costa Rica:** Fabricio Lopez, regional representative for Central America and Mexico; email: [fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org](mailto:fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org)
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**Click here**

1. DREF budget and map **[below](#)**
2. 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 \(Sphere\)](#) 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.
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# DREF OPERATION

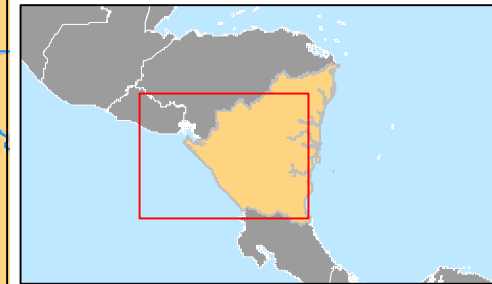
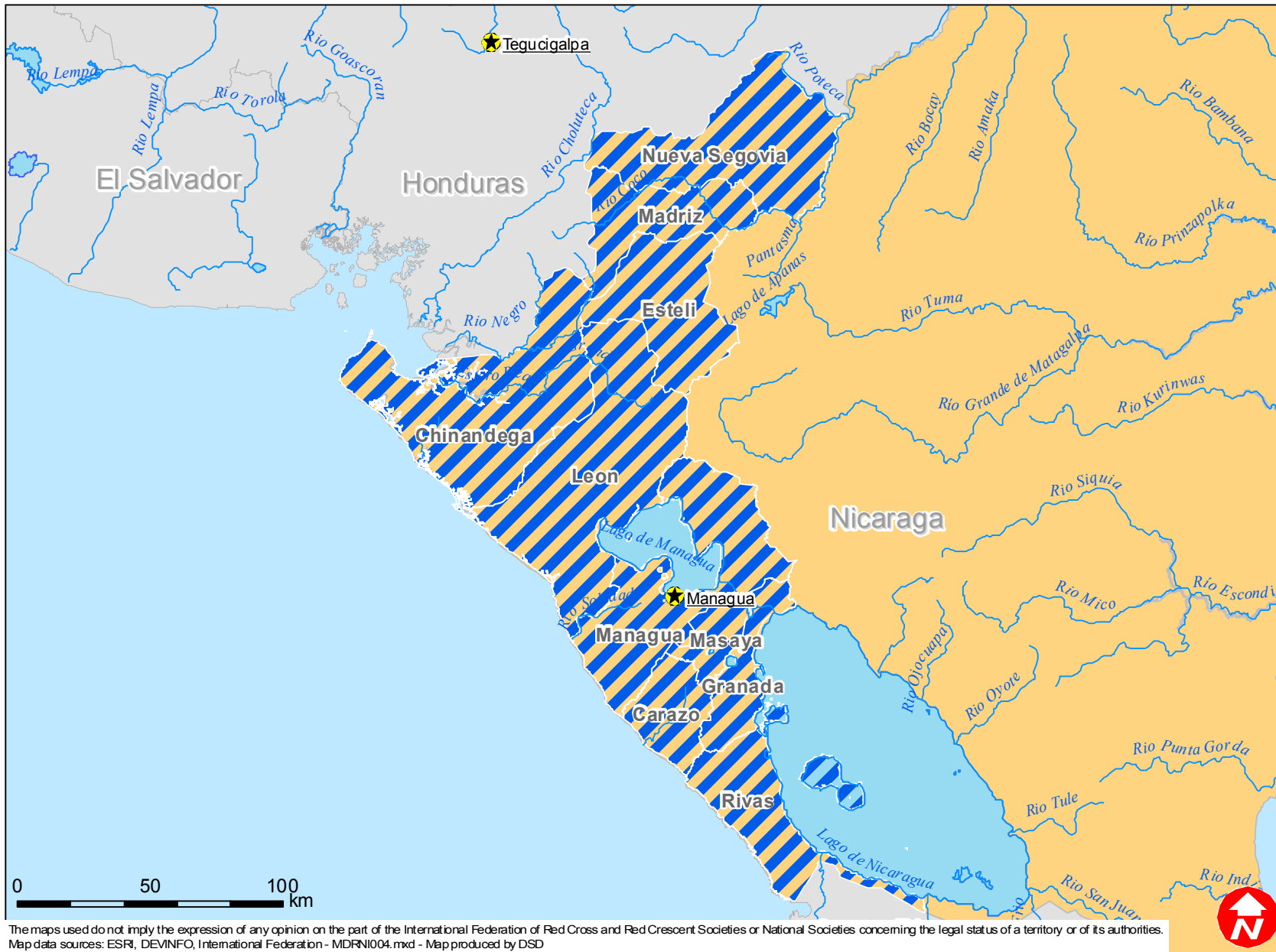
26/10/2011

MDRNI004 Nicaragua Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	21,202
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	39,754
Food	61,839
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	22,086
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	4,417
Ustensils & Tools	29,153
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>178,451</b>
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machiney & Equipment	
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	
Dsitribution & Monitoring	5,742
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,417
Logistics Services	5,248
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>15,407</b>
International Staff	10,601
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,590
Volunteers	5,301
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>17,492</b>
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	2,650
Information & Public Relations	883
Office Costs	442
Communications	663
Financial Charges	5,000
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>9,638</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	14,364
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>14,364</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>235,352</b>



# Nicaragua: Floods



 Most affected departments