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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) El Salvador: tropical depression 12-E

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRSV004
GLIDE n° TC-2011-000157-SLV
18 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.

191,129 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 800 families (approximately 4,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



SRCS supported the evacuation of families in the Ahuachapán department. Search and rescue activities are taking place in the departments of Usulután, La Paz, La Libertad, Sonsonate, and Ahuachapán. Source: SRCS

Summary: Severe precipitation related to Tropical Depression 12-E

has affected several departments in El Salvador for more than six days. As of 17 October, authorities reported the deaths of 32 persons, most of them due to landslides in areas of high risk, and 20,000 persons have evacuated to 261 collective centres. The United Nations reported that 150,000 persons are estimated to be affected. Preliminary assessments indicate that some 14,100 homes have been flooded, of which 2,000 have been severely damaged. As rains are forecasted to continue, the current DREF-funded operation will focus on conducting search, rescue and evacuation activities, completing damage and needs assessments, and assisting 800 flood-affected families sheltered in collective centres. Target areas include the departments of Usulután, La Paz, La Libertad, Sonsonate and Ahuachapán.

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 contact details>](#)

The situation

Although El Salvador has experienced some severe precipitations since September 2011, on 10 October the country started to feel the effects of Tropical Depression 12-E interacting with another weather front of low

pressure. As a consequence, there has been more than a week of intense rains in El Salvador causing severe flooding and landslides. The National Service of Territorial Studies (Servicio Nacional de Estudios Territoriales, SNET) has reported that current precipitations have already surpassed 861 cubic metres, the maximum level reached during Hurricane Mitch.

On 12 October, the National Civil Protection System (Dirección Nacional de Protección Civil) established a red alert for the municipality of San Francisco Menéndez in the Ahuachapán department and an orange alert for the coastal and mountainous zones, from San Miguel department to Ahuachapán. Two days later, on 14 October, the government of El Salvador declared a state of emergency when the extent of the damage in the departments of La Paz, Ahuachapán and Usulután increased in severity, with flooded rivers and dam gates opened. The President of El Salvador, Mauricio Funes, stated that the main priorities were the evacuation of the population living in areas of risk and the distribution of relief items in the affected zones.

As of 17 October, authorities reported the deaths of 32 persons, most of them due to landslides in areas of high risk and 20,000 persons are now living in 261 collective centres. Thus far, some 14,100 homes have been flooded, and 2,000 of these have incurred severe damage. In addition, 1,200 wells have been affected. The road infrastructure is also disrupted, with 14 roads obstructed by 577 landslides. Three main highways are blocked: the Sonsonate-San Salvador; the Santa Tecla-Puerto de la Libertad, and the one connecting San Salvador to the eastern side of the country. The Ministry of Agriculture, based on information from 14 October, reported almost 1,500 hectares of affected food crops, particularly of corn and beans. A report from the United Nations indicates that as many as 150,000 persons could be affected.

Coordination and partnerships

The Civil Protection System coordinates the inter-institutional efforts focused on response and recovery through its Emergency Operations Centre (COE). The EOC facilitates the participation of all the institutions involved in the response, including different government ministries working in disaster management. Several working groups have been set up for the different technical sectors, such as logistics, shelter, water and sanitation and health, and are coordinating efforts from the local to the national level through community, municipal and departmental commissions.

The United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) will request funds through the Cash Emergency Grant (CEG), the Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) and a Flash Appeal, and will support damage and needs assessments, while different agencies of the system are also supporting with relief items. The Pan-American Health Organization has deployed two representatives to support the emergency response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS), as part of the Civil Protection System, activated their 56 branches and over 1,000 volunteers. As part of their response, the National Society is currently supporting evacuation efforts, as well as search and rescue activities, damage assessments, and started the distribution of relief items to the affected population.

- Monitoring of the emergency: since the declaration of a green alert on 7 October, the headquarters of the SRCS has been in constant communication with all branches, gathering information on community affectation and local capacities.
- Evacuation, search and rescue: the National Society is supporting preventive evacuations in the coastal areas of Usulután, La Paz, La Libertad, Sonsonate, and Ahuachapán. In coordination with the Civil Protection System, collective centres were selected and established.
- Distribution of relief items: the SRCS utilized prepositioned stock to reach some 600 families taking refuge in collective centres. They have distributed blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits and safe drinking water.
- Preliminary damage and needs assessments: four teams have been deployed to carry out assessments in Ahuachapán, La Paz and Usulután first and foremost, followed by the departments of La Libertad and Sonsonate. As the water has yet to recede in many areas, the assessments are preliminary, however they indicate that the most affected priority areas are Ahuachapán and Usulután.

The needs

At present, the immediate needs identified include:

1. Evacuation of the population in flooded areas or high-risk locations to safer areas.
2. Food, safe water, mats, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and blankets for families in collective centres.

At the institutional level, the National Society is in need of equipment to conduct search and rescue activities, provide first aid and ensure the safety of their volunteers, as well as telecommunication equipment.

Further damage and needs assessments are needed in the post-disaster phase of the emergency, which will include the identification of areas where flood waters have contaminated water wells.

The proposed operation

This DREF-supported operation seeks to cover part of the overall Salvadoran Red Cross Society's plan of action. The DREF-funded operation will focus on conducting search and rescue activities, completing damage and needs assessments and assisting 1,500 flood-affected families sheltered in collective centres. Target areas include the departments of Usulután, La Paz, La Libertad, Sonsonate and Ahuachapán. The DREF allocation will also cover the costs of food, security kits and transportation for volunteers supporting the relief efforts.

Evacuations in most at-risk areas

Outcome: The SRCS support search, rescue and first aid care, as well as evacuations in flooded and at-risk areas at the national level.

Output: People living in high-risk areas are evacuated to safer locations by the SRCS in coordination with different humanitarian actors.

Activities planned:

- Provide equipment (20 first aid kits and 35 personal protection kits) to volunteers
- Mobilize SRCS volunteers, rescue workers and lifeguards to the affected areas
- Conduct search and rescue activities 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.
- Provide first aid to the affected population
- Mobilize evacuees to collective centres
- Provide psychosocial support to SRCS volunteers
- Provide logistic support to field activities (vehicles, motor boats, radio equipment and rescue material)
- Monitoring and reporting of activities

Relief distributions and support to collective centres

Outcome: The immediate needs of 800 families living in collective centres are met through the distribution of relief items and safe water.

Output: 800 families living in collective centres will receive blankets, mats/mattresses, safe water, food parcels, and hygiene kits.

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance in the collective centres
- Develop a distribution plan
- Distribute relief items (blankets and mats) in collective centres
- Distribute safe water to families in collective centres (through water trucking and/or water filters)
- Replenish relief items distributed
- Monitor the relief activities and provide reporting on distributions.

After the flooding families have been evacuated to collective centres. In many cases these families do not have appropriate bedding, thus 1,500 mats/mattresses and bed linen will be distributed to the families which are most in need. In addition, up to 800 families will receive a food package, a hygiene kit and safe drinking water (through water trucking and/or water filters).

The contents of the food parcels and hygiene kits are as follows:

Food Parcels	
Item	Quantity (In pounds)
Rice	30
Sugar	10
Corn flour	30
Incaparina	22
Salt	2
Beans	30
Oil	1 gallon

Hygiene kit	
Item	Quantity
Towel	5
Bar of soap (250g)	5
Shampoo bottle (250ml)	5
Toothbrush	5
Toothpaste tube (100g)	5
Rolls of toilet paper	12
Package of sanitary pads (10 units/package)	3
Deodorant	2
Disposable razors	5
Comb for men	1
Comb for women	2

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society is supporting collective centres and it has commenced relief distributions. Thus far, the National Society has reached 600 families in collective centres with mats, blankets, hygiene kits and safe water with the support of prepositioned stock. The DREF-supported operation will replenish the items already distributed, and ensure the coverage of the needs for an extra 200 families.

Damage and Needs Assessments (Post-disaster phase)

Outcome: Assess the level of damage and needs of the flood-affected population in the Ahuachapán, La Paz, Usulután, La Libertad and Sonsonate departments.

Output: SRCS assessment teams will assess the damages and priority needs of the affected population in five affected departments.

Activities planned:

- Deploy at least four equipped assessment teams to affected areas
- Conduct a rapid emergency damage and needs assessment in the identified communities
- Develop a report on assessment results outlining immediate and priority needs
- Define (if needed) the recovery phase of the operation to be included in the SRCS' plan of action

Contact information

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

- **In the Salvadoran Red Cross Society:** Roy Venegas, disaster management and risk reduction national director; phone: +503 778.72238; email: roy.venegas@cruzrojasal.org.sv
- **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
- **IFRC Americas zone office in Panama, phone: +507 317.3050**
 - Jorge Zequeira, PADRU coordinator; email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org

- Douglas Baquero, regional logistics coordinator; email: douglas.baquero@ifrc.org
- Jane Grimshaw; PMER manager; email: jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, operations quality assurance senior officer; phone: + 41.22.730.4381; fax: + 41.22.733.0395; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org



[Click here](#)

1. DREF budget [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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

17/10/2011

MDRSV004 EI Salvador: Tropical Depression 12-E

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	36,960
Food	49,280
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	49,808
Medical & First Aid	1,760
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	137,808
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	5,280
Transport & Vehicle Costs	6,160
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	11,440
International Staff	
National Staff	4,520
National Society Staff	11,880
Volunteers	
Total PERSONNEL	16,400
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	1,320
Information & Public Relations	2,640
Office Costs	4,840
Communications	616
Financial Charges	4,400
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	13,816
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,665
Total INDIRECT COSTS	11,665
TOTAL BUDGET	191,129