

DREF Bulletin



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

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PANAMA: FIRES

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 7,500 (USD 6,189 or EUR 4,634) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over 1 month, and will be completed by 21 April, 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 21 July, 2007).

Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Panama:* Jose Béliz General Director Red Cross Society of Panama, email cruzroja@pa.gbnet.cc, phone (507)315 1389 or 680 3455, fax(507) 315 1401.
- *In Panama:* Stephen McAndrew, Head Pan American Disaster Response Unit, email: Stephen.McAndrew@ifrc.org, phone (507) 316 1001, fax (507) 316 1082
- *In Geneva:* Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva, email Luis.Luna@ifrc.org, phone 41-22-730-4274, fax 41-2-733-0395

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

At approximately 4:30 a.m. on Wednesday 21 March 2007, a fire occurred in the C sector of the Curundu neighbourhood, located in Panama City, Panama. Authorities cordoned off the area to facilitate the assessments, after which it was determined that the fire devastated 137 houses, left about 700 people affected and killed three minors.

The President of the Republic and the First Lady went to the area to show their support to the families and get a first hand view of the situation. As a temporary shelter solution, families were later transferred to the nearby Juan Demostenes Arosemena Stadium.

At the time of the arrival of the Panama Fire Brigade the water pressure was quite low, which made it difficult to control the fire. It took two hours for the fire to be subdued.

In response to the fire, the Office of the First Lady activated its stock centre located in the city's Omar Park. In addition, the Ministries of Housing and Social Development, the Mayor's Office and the Community Council among others, have organized the implementation of surveys in the area. The Ministry of Health assigned a mobile clinic with medical staff to provide care to the affected.

During the emergency, the RCSP dispatched rescue, health and first aid staff – as well as ambulances - to provide assistance to the beneficiaries of the operation. The National Society also helped with transferring patients to medical centres

The President and Director General of the RCSP in coordination with the Relief Brigade and other personnel have started the coordination with governmental institutions in order to determine needs and maximize the support from the National Society. The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has mobilized a Disaster Management delegate to assist with these activities and to provide logistic support.



Houses levelled by the fire in Curundu

The Ministry of Housing, the Curundu Community Council and the National System of Civil Defense (Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil- SINAPROC) have begun initial damage assessments.

Immediate needs are:

- Food and Water (for adults and children)
- Clothes and shoes
- Medicines and First Aid kits
- Other non-food relief items such as blankets, hygiene kits and kitchen kits.

Red Cross action

The National Society is supporting the activities being carried out by the government. There is coordination with the Mayor's office, community leaders, with other non-governmental institutions that are in the field and with SINAPROC's Emergency Operations Centre in the city's capital.

The Red Cross Society of Panama is also receiving support from PADRU in developing activities included in its Plan of Action.

Beneficiaries

The operation seeks to assist 150 families that were affected by the fire as selected by the Local Committee of the RCSP and in line with the needs that were identified during the surveys. Beneficiary selection prioritized families with high vulnerability, with female head of household and with disabled persons. Based on these criteria, 150 families of Alley 6 of the Curundu neighbourhood were selected for the distributions.

Relief

Objective: 150 families affected by the fire (approximately 750 beneficiaries) see their immediate needs met through the distribution of 150 kitchen kits and 300 blankets (2 per family) to help them recover from the emergency.

Each **kitchen kit** contains the following items:

Description	Quantity
7 litre pot with lid	1
5 litre pot with lid	1
1 litre bowl	5
Cups	5
Spoons	5
Forks	5
Table Knives	5
Kitchen Knife	1
Stirring Spoon	1

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Survey and selection of the beneficiaries in coordination with the local authorities
- Reception and storage and transportation of relief supplies
- Distribution of food and non-food items with the help of volunteers of the committees and members of the communities.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the distributions by personnel of the Headquarters and staff of the involved branches with the support of the Federation.

The distribution of the kitchen kits and the blankets will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 22 March in coordination with SINACPROC, who will be distributing relief items (stoves, hygiene kits, blankets, etc, complementing the distributions of the Red Cross) in the area as well.

Coordination

The Red Cross Society of Panama is working closely with the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health and SINACPROC in carrying out the damage and needs assessments and the distribution of the relief items, in which each institution complemented the other. In addition, the Ministry of Health and the RCSP carried out the beneficiary survey and worked together to coordinate health and care activities.



Paramedic personnel of the National Society provides Health and Care to the affected.

PADRU provided constant support to the National Society during the implementation of these joint activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The National Society will provide support staff for the implementation of the described activities. Once the planned distributions are completed, the RCSP will produce a final report on the operation with which it aims to keep donors informed. The National Society will carry out monitoring and evaluation of the distributions through the office of the Director General in coordination with the National Relief Brigade Directorate. These monitoring and evaluation activities will have at all times the support of the Federation.

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