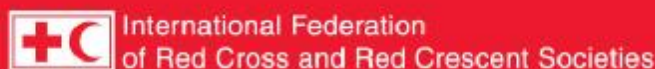


DREF operation



Guatemala: Food Crisis

DREF operation n° MDRGT001
GLIDE No.OT-2009-000169-GTM
15 September 2009

The International Federation's 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 response to emergencies. 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.

CHF 30,000 (USD 28,907 or EUR 19,832) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) in performing assessments in the high risk areas where the population's livelihoods have been lost.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 11 December 2009. A Final Report will be made available by 11 March 2010 (three months after the end of the operation). The possibility exists that the operation may be extended through an appeal, depending on the conclusions gathered from the assessments. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since March 2009, the Guatemalan government has been implementing an emergency food assistance contingency plan. On 8 September 2009, the Guatemalan President declared a state of public calamity. There has been a high incidence of malnutrition resulting from the loss of crops caused by persistent drought and high food and fuel prices. According to the authorities, approximately 54,000 families reside in areas prone to extreme weather conditions. This DREF allocation will support the Guatemalan Red Cross in drawing up a plan of action based on findings from the assessments carried out.



Preliminary identification of affected families carried out by Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers in the department of Izabal. Source: Guatemalan Red Cross

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The situation

In Guatemala, the number of malnourished children has increased to 91 since 1 August 2009; three times higher than figures for 2007 and 2008.

According to a report submitted by the World Food Programme (WFP), many children in the city of Jalapa suffer from severe cases of malnutrition. Twenty-two children have been diagnosed with nutrient-deficient diseases (marasmus and kwashiorkor) at a local hospital. Associated complications include skin lesions, hair

loss, bronchial pneumonia, diarrhoea and gastrointestinal problems. For some remote areas such as the indigenous community of Chorti, access to medical facilities is often difficult. In the department of Izabal cases of dengue hemorrhagic and classic dengue fever have been also recorded, which led the government to declare a state of calamity.

According to local authorities 60 to 80 per cent of crops have been lost placing approximately 93,000 families at risk. The WFP in coordination with local authorities has been distributing food parcels to 428,427 people in 21 departments Sustained high food prices resulting from crop losses due to Tropical Depression N° 16 in November 2008 compound the risk for vulnerable communities. According to the WFP the situation is likely to deteriorate as the persistent dry weather has continued for 27 days beyond the usual dry period due to the El Nino phenomenon that has been affecting the Central American region. The global economic crisis affecting the country also places an additional burden on the communities at risk.

The most affected departments are Baja Verapaz, El Progreso, Zacapa, Jalapa, Chiquimula, Santa Rosa and Jutiapa. The government has prioritized the strengthening of the health service sector in the most affected areas of the country in an effort to provide assistance.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the beginning of crisis the Guatemalan Red Cross has been coordinating with the National Health Office, the Disaster and Development Office and with the Partner National Societies (PNS) on the development of a plan of action. The Guatemalan Red Cross is participating in municipal meetings in order to coordinate actions and avoid duplicity of efforts.

The Partner National Societies, such as the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, have been coordinating with the Guatemalan Red Cross on an intervention mechanism in addition to participating in the Humanitarian Network meetings to coordinate immediate actions.

The International Federation Zone Office, the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico, based in Panama, have been in constant communication with the GRC to coordinate any activities that might be required to assist with the food crisis. Delegates for public health in emergencies and disaster management have been deployed to Guatemala to provide support and assistance in the development of a plan of action.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The GRC has been coordinating with all the local branches in the affected areas as well as participating in meetings with the civil protection and other humanitarian organizations specialized in food security.

Methodologies and tools have been designed to carry out initial assessments on the food crisis and dengue outbreak. A National Intervention Team (NIT) will use these tools in the field to perform quick assessments on the food crisis and dengue outbreak. The NIT will identify: the type of assistance needed including potential food centres for the most vulnerable groups, and distribution to most vulnerable groups. The Ministry of Public Health has carried out an assessment of the situation which will be used by the GRC as a secondary source of information. Additionally, the Guatemalan Red Cross will make use of the personnel trained in food security during previous emergency operations, such as the Hurricane Felix operation.

NIT teams consisting of 50 people will be mobilized to perform the assessments in the areas where GRC branches are



Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers in the department of Izabal identifying affected families. Source: Guatemalan Red Cross

located; Jalapa, Chiquimula, Cobán, Santo Tomás de Castilla, El Estor, Izabal and Purulha. Also, GRC volunteers will assist the NITs in performing needs assessments.

This assessment will serve to identify nutrition patterns, food intake, source of food items and income generating activities carried out by each family in an effort to determine the appropriate intervention to improve nutritional well-being. Once assessments are completed, a plan of action will be designed to respond to the immediate identified needs of the affected population.

The needs

This DREF allocation will provide the GRC with funds to initiate assessments after which a list of needs and activities will be published in an update. Priority has been placed on completing rapid assessments in the affected areas to identify the immediate needs. The DREF allocation will also cover a workshop on rapid assessments and mobilization costs for the NIT members carrying out the assessments.

The proposed operation

A team of 50 NIT members will conduct assessments between 14 and 18 September in the areas affected by the food crisis, dengue and other related diseases. The GRC foresees immediate response to involve the setting up of food centres for vulnerable families, distribution of food items for the most vulnerable, general distributions and response activities related to the dengue outbreak. These activities are dependent on the findings obtained from the assessments.

Damage and need assessments	
Objective: 50 Guatemalan Red Cross NIT members will perform damage and need assessments in the affected departments due to the food crisis and will elaborate a plan of action.	
Expected results	Activities planned
A plan of action will be elaborated to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by the food crisis and the dengue outbreak.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct assessment workshop for NITs • Conduct emergency damage and needs assessments. • Elaborate a plan of action

How we work	
<i>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.</i>	
The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Contact information
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Guatemala: Teresa Marroquin, Guatemalan Red Cross, phone: (502) 2381 6565; fax: (00502) 2381 6575 email: teresa.marroquin@cruzroja.org • In Panama: Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email:

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- **In Panama:** Mauricio Bustamante, Operations Coordinator, email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
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DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex MDRGT001

Guatemala Food Crisis

BUDGET CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	-
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	-
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	-
Total Relief Needs	-

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	-
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	-
Distribution & Monitoring	-
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,000
Service fee & Recovery	-

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	-
National Staff	
National Society Staff	13,000
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	3,500
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	1,766
Information & Public Relations	-
Office running costs	4,500
Communication Costs	334
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	950
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	1,950
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Total Operational Needs 30,000

DREF ALLOCATION 30,000
