

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central America: Tropical Storm Matthew

DREF operation n° MDR43006
GLIDE n°s

[TC-2010-000188-NIC](#)

[TC-2010-000188-HND](#)

27 September 2010

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 20,000 (USD 20,341 or EUR 15,072) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Central American National Societies prepare for and carry out needs assessments in the wake of Tropical Storm Matthew. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Tropical Storm Matthew formed on 23 September and made landfall on the Atlantic coasts of Central America causing heavy rainfall and localized flooding in several parts of Honduras, Belize and Guatemala. Initial damage reports indicate that the impact was less severe than expected. This DREF operation aims to mobilize Regional Intervention Team members in the countries and also support the affected National Societies carry out needs assessments of the affected populations and develop plans of action to respond.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 27 December 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 27 March 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget, and here for contact details>](#)



Residents waded through a flooded area in central Honduras following the passage of Tropical Storm Matthew. (Orlando Sierra/ AFP/ Getty Images)

The situation

The thirteenth tropical storm of the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season, Tropical Storm Matthew, began as a tropical wave in south-central Caribbean and developed into a storm on 23 September. The forecasted path indicated the storm making landfall on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border and moving through Belize and Guatemala into Mexico before dissipating.

Central America has experienced high rainfall this season commencing with Tropical Storm Agatha which led to thousands being affected. Throughout the last few months, rain has continued to fall and has produced localized flooding in several countries. With the soil already saturated, the risk associated with Tropical Storm Matthew was high.

On 24 September, Matthew made landfall as expected in Nicaragua and moved through Honduras, Belize, Guatemala and Mexico over the next few days. As anticipated, heavy rains followed which led to several local floods and landslides. Damage assessments are still being undertaken by the various civil defence agencies and National Red Cross Societies. Initial assessments indicate that the damage is not as severe as originally anticipated.

In Guatemala, flooding has affected the departments of Petén, Isabel and Suchitepéquez and landslides have occurred in departments of Huehuetenango and El Progreso. The national disaster coordination agency has evacuated people in several of the departments. In Nicaragua, the autonomous region in the North-Atlantic coast was affected. In Honduras, according to the national disaster management agency, the departments of El Paraiso, Atlántida, isla de la Bahía, Colon, Yoro, Gracias a Dios and Comayagua were affected by heavy rains and evacuations were undertaken. In Belize, Toledo and Stan Creek districts received heavy rain and evacuations were undertaken ahead of time to community shelters. In Mexico, the states of Chiapas, Veracruz and Tabasco received heavy rains and shelters were opened.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Societies of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua continue to coordinate with their national disaster management agencies. The National Societies have been participating in coordination meetings and have raised their alert levels in accordance with the national and department levels. The branches in departments where the storm was expected to pass have been sharing information with local representatives of the civil defence and have undertaken preparedness activities in coordination with municipal organizations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Central American Red Cross National Societies have been monitoring the development of the storm since it formed in the Caribbean. The International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit has issued several alerts to National Societies and partners as the storm moved towards Central America. The Red Cross Societies of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua have their volunteers, National Intervention Teams and disaster response support structures activated. The National Societies have assisted the civil defence agencies with evacuations and dissemination of flood risk information to the public.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit has been coordinating the Federation's preparedness through sharing information with partners and donors and finalizing arrangements with the Regional Logistics Unit for the shipment of emergency non-food items to 2,000 families to the sub-regional warehouse in El Salvador. PADRU has also organized a regional conference call with the Spanish speaking Central American National Societies to capture the state of readiness.

The needs

As the effects of the storm become clear, the affected Red Cross National Societies will be carrying out damage and needs assessments in the various departments and districts. The National Societies will also develop a plan of action, coordinating the assistance offered by other agencies and the national disaster management agencies, and which takes into account financial, human resource and relief material capacity to provide support.

The proposed operation

This DREF operation will be used to finance the Regional Intervention Team member who was deployed to Honduras on 25 September. The RIT member will assist with information management and communication needs following the storm and will assist the Honduran Red Cross to coordinate the gathering of information from damage and needs assessments, including those performed by other agencies. The DREF operation will also support the Red Cross Societies of Belize, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua in needs assessments and associated operational costs of volunteers, staff and vehicles.

How we work

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.

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:

- 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:

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BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		
Shelter - Transitional		
Construction - Housing		
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		
Construction - Materials		
Clothing & Textiles		
Food		
Seeds & Plants		
Water & Sanitation		
Medical & First Aid		
Teaching Materials		
Ustensils & Tools		
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		
Total Supplies	-	-
Land & Buildings		
Vehicles		
Computer & Telecom		
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		
Medical Equipment		
Other Machinery & Equipment		
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	-	-
Storage		
Distribution & Monitoring		
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,000	2,000
Total Transport & Storage	2,000	2,000
International Staff		
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300	3,300
National Staff		
National Society Staff	5,000	5,000
Other Staff benefits		
Consultants		
Total Personnel	8,300	8,300
Workshops & Training		
Total Workshops & Training	-	-
Travel	7,479	7,479
Information & Public Relation		
Office Costs		
Communications	0	
Professional Fees		
Financial Charges	1,000	1,000
Other General Expenses		
Total General Expenditure	8,479	8,479
Cash Transfers to National Societies		
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		
Total Contributions & Transfers	-	-
Program Support	1,221	1,221
Total Programme Support	1,221	1,221
Services & Recoveries		
Shared Services		
Total Services	-	-
TOTAL BUDGET	20,000	20,000