

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Colombia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCO007  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000076-COL  
16 August 2010

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.

**68,288 Swiss Francs (64,807 US dollars or 50,428 euro) have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 500 families (approximately 2,500 beneficiaries). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** The worsening of rainy season in March – aggravated by the phenomenon of “La Niña” – caused floods that affected 521,889 people in the La Mojana zone of Colombia. Floods destroyed and damaged roads, houses and crops. As the events continue to affect vulnerable families living in rural areas, the operation seeks to supply emergency relief items to 2,500 people during the early emergency phase. The DREF funding will assist the CRCS to cover a gap in an extensive on-going emergency response operation, enabling the CRCS to continue its emergency response efforts. Thus, funds will support the purchase and distribution of food and non-food relief items and logistic support for the water and sanitation activities. In addition to this, the DREF operation aims to increase the community response capacity providing awareness-raising brochures to families living in high-risk areas and equipment to the participating branches of the Colombian Red Cross Society enabling them to conduct the distribution of relief items.



**Colombian Red Cross Society volunteers carried out assessments and beneficiary selection in the affected zone “La Mojana”.**  
Source: Colombian Red Cross Society

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 13 November 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 13 February 2011).

A map of the affected areas will be made available in the upcoming days.

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

## The situation

The rainy season has caused floods, mudslides and the collapse of dikes in Colombia. The rivers Cauca and San Jorge burst their banks, flooding 27 departments and 321 municipalities. There has been extensive damage to houses, roads and crops; the cultivation of rice, manioc, corn and plantain are the main source of income for the population. By 2 August official sources report 61 deaths, 141 wounded, 10 missing people and 112,504 affected families since the start of the rainy season in March.

The phenomenon of La Niña started in June and the pertinent organizations – the Colombian Ocean Committee, the National Committee for the Study of El Niño Phenomenon and the International Research Centre for the El Niño Phenomenon – forecast an increased impact of this phenomena between the months of September and December.

Affectation Detail	Quantity
Departments	27
Municipalities	321
Death toll	61
Injured	141
Missing people	10
People affected	521,889
Families affected	112,504
Homes destroyed	530
Homes damaged	81,646

The Colombian government has thus declared a state of emergency for the zone of La Mojana, including the departments of Sucre, Bolívar, Atlántico, Antioquia, Nariño, Valle, Magdalena, Caquetá, Córdoba and Cesar. The Ministries of Energy and Mines, Justice, National Security and Transport are coordinating activities in the area with the Governors' Offices of Sucre and Bolivar and the National Directorate for Risk Management. However, as there is a transition between National Administrations and the President has not ratified or appointed a new Risk Management Director, some response actions can be delayed.

The most impacted area is the zone called "Mojana Sucreña", which includes the departments of Sucre, Córdoba, Bolívar and Antioquia. The most affected municipalities are those of Guaranda, Majagual, Caimito, San Benito Abad, Sucre and San Marcos (in Sucre) and Pinillos, Tiquicio, San Jacinto, Ayapel, Nechí, Achí (in Córdoba).

## Coordination and partnerships

The Colombian Red Cross Society is part of the National System for Disaster Prevention and Response (Sistema Nacional de Prevención y Atención de Desastres – SNPAD) that has activated the National Contingency Plan, as well as local plans. To date, the SNPAD has attended to the needs of 222,000 people, supplying food and non-food relief items, sandbags and construction materials.

Some of the organizations supporting affected population are: the Local and Regional Committees for Disaster Prevention and Response, the Colombian Red Cross Society, OXFAM GB, UNICEF (UNETE), the World Food Programme (WFP), Action against Hunger, Diócesis de Sincelejo, mayors' offices and municipal agricultural extension units (known as UMATAS), Fedearroz, Valle del Zinu Corporation, Rio Magdalena Corporation, public service enterprises in the area and the community promoters of water, sanitation and hygiene issues.

The water and sanitation activities proposed under this DREF operation will be carried out in coordination with OXFAM.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Colombian Red Cross Society has a unified Plan of Action for the rainy season and the La Niña phenomenon. The American Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, and the Netherlands Red Cross are coordinating future support to this plan. The 32 CRCS branches and municipal branches have carried out search and rescue activities, transport of the wounded, provided emergency health services, conducted damage and needs assessment as well as vulnerability and capacity assessment in the target areas.



A CRCS volunteer carries out surveys in the affected area.  
Source: Colombian Red Cross Society

Furthermore, the CRCS has distributed 175 tonnes of humanitarian aid to 8,984 families (44,920 people) in 13 departments. The branches have been equipped with telecommunications equipment and funds for local operations. Moreover, the Rapid Response Teams have been activated deploying 14 water treatment plants in all the affected territory.

### The needs

The urgent humanitarian needs include food and non-food relief items (food parcels, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, blankets, mats, mosquito nets, emergency shelters), emergency health and WASH for affected families.

The National Society requires operational and logistic support for improving the efficiency in the implementation of its Plan of Action. In the mid and long term, support will be required to plan and implement relocation of families living in high-risk

areas and recovery programmes, including household and agriculture activities.

### The proposed operation

The DREF allocation seeks to support a portion of the Colombian Red Cross Society's full plan of Action in order to assist the most vulnerable families affected by the flooding. The entire Plan of Action will be supported as well by other NGOs, Partner National Societies and the resources of the CRCS. This DREF contribution focuses on 1) providing food and non-food items for 500 vulnerable families and 2) logistics support for the emergency water and sanitation activities.

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

**Outcome: 500 vulnerable families in the zone "La Mojana" are provided with food and non-food relief items.**

**Activities planned:**

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Distribute relief supplies (food parcels and hygiene kits) to 500 families.
- Distribution of first aid and personal protection equipment among 5 local branches to complement distribution activities
- Distribution of mosquito nets to 500 families of the Mojana zone.
- Design and distribute brochures containing information about floods and mudslides.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

The Colombian Red Cross Society following their Plan of Action requires further assistance to reach all target families. To date, the CRCS has reached 44,920 people with food and NFI in 13 departments. Furthermore, there is a still a risk of water-borne diseases in the target families. Therefore, DREF funds will complement the relief items already distributed with the delivery of mosquito nets and hygiene kits for 500 families, and 500 families will also be provided with food items.

The members of five CRC branches will receive uniforms, first aid kits and personal protection equipment to respond appropriately to the emergency. In addition, the brochures will be used within the risk reduction activities carried out by CRC in the target areas. These activities are part of the comprehensive response provided by CRCS under its Plan of Action.

#### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome: The emergency water needs of 500 vulnerable families in the zone "La Mojana" are covered.**

**Activities planned:**

- Water and sanitation assessment.
- Supply 2,500 people with drinking water following SPHERE standards.

Under the overall Plan of Action of the Colombian Red Cross Society, the water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion efforts will be coordinated with OXFAM in the communities of Sucre and Majagual. Other communities will be identified for supplementary activities. OXFAM Colombia and the Colombian Red Cross Society are currently assessing accessibility and quality of water, the status of sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion needs. After the assessments are completed, additional coordinated activities will be planned and implemented. The DREF support focuses on logistic support to mobilize equipment and personnel to the affected areas where the water and sanitation activities will take place.

## 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 \(NGO's\) 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.

## Contact information

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

- **In Colombia:** Carlos Iván Marquez, Relief Director of the Colombian Red Cross Society; email: [carlos.marquez@cruzrojacolombiana.org](mailto:carlos.marquez@cruzrojacolombiana.org); phone: (573) 102 943747.
- **In Lima:** Fernando Casanova, Regional Representative for the Andean Region, email: [fernando.casanova@ifrc.org](mailto:fernando.casanova@ifrc.org)
- **In Panama:** Francisco Maldonado, Acting Operation Coordinator, Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU); email: [francisco.maldonado@ifrc.org](mailto:francisco.maldonado@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** Zuleyka Maynard, Resource Mobilization Officer; email: [zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org](mailto:zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380 0250.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org); phone (41) 79 217 3376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395.

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# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

APPEAL NUMBER & APPEAL NAME  
COLOMBIA Floods

date  
09/08/2010

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles	17,578	17,578
Food	17,409	17,409
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation		0
Medical & First Aid	2,931	2,931
Teaching Materials		0
Ustensils & Tools		0
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	13,189	13,189
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>51,107</b>	<b>51,107</b>
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring	2,110	2,110
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,165	3,165
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>5,276</b>	<b>5,276</b>
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff		0
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	4,220	4,220
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>4,220</b>	<b>4,220</b>
Workshops & Training		0
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel		0
Information & Public Relation	106	106
Office Costs		0
Communications	633	633
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges	2,779	2,779
Other General Expenses		0
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>3,517</b>
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
<b>Total Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Program Support	4,168	4,168
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>4,168</b>	<b>4,168</b>
Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services	0	0
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>68,288</b>	<b>68,288</b>