

# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Belize: Hurricane Ernesto

**DREF operation n° MDRBZ003**  
**GLIDE n° [TC-2012-000133-BLZ](#)**  
**08 August 2012**

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.

**48,745 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS) in completing damage and needs assessments and in delivering immediate assistance to some 750 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Hurricane Ernesto is forecasted to make landfall late on the night of 7 August near the border of Belize and Mexico. In preparation for the oncoming emergency in an area inhabited by more than half of the population of the country, the Belize Red Cross Society has activated its emergency operation centre and alerted its volunteers.

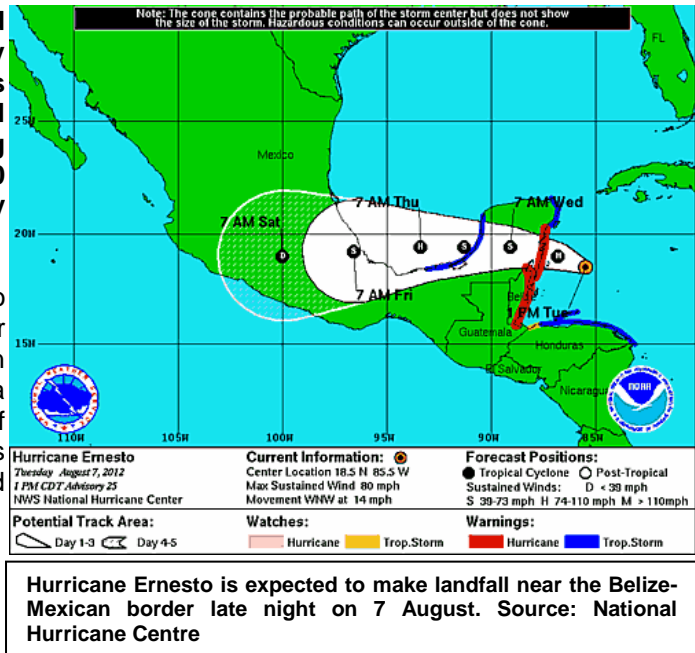
Through this DREF-supported operation the National Society will be able to mobilize their specialized National Intervention Teams (NIT) to complete damage and needs assessments in the affected areas once the government declares the *all clear* statement after the hurricane. In addition, the DREF will support the immediate distribution of food and relief items to at least 150 families (750 persons) in affected areas.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by November 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by February 2012).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

On 6 August 2012, the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) issued public advisory No.5 calling for a Hurricane Warning Red 2 status, as Tropical Storm Ernesto approached the country coast forecasted to hurricane category over the next hours.



On the morning of 7 August, Ernesto was located about 350 kilometres of Chetumal, Mexico and was moving towards the west at 22 kilometres per hour with sustained winds of 100 km/h and higher gusts. Later on the day, Ernesto became a hurricane category one with sustained winds of 130 km/h and higher gust.

Current forecast track shows the storm making landfall near the Belize-Mexico border on late Tuesday night, with hurricane force winds extending outward for 35 kilometres from the centre, and tropical storm winds extending for 220 kilometres. A storm surge of 60-90 centimetres is expected along the northern coast of Belize including Belize City with rain between 70-130 millimetres. There is risk of flash floods in the areas of Rio Hondo and Corozal. The storm is expected to be over Belize through the greater part of Wednesday with some residual rainfall activity into Thursday. Risk of flooding is very high and all parts of the country will experience some wind effect. The government of Belize is cautioning the population of the outer Cayes and outer Atolls to move in land, and people living in flood-prone areas to move to dry and safe buildings.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS) has been present in all National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) meetings at their national and district levels. Similarly, the National Society continues to monitor the situation very closely in liaison with NEMO and the Meteorological Department to obtain updates on the hurricane and on movements by the national authorities.

The National Society is also in close coordination with the IFRC's Americas zone office and Caribbean regional representation office (CRRO), as well as with the Norwegian Red Cross who stand ready to assist.

With the aim of avoiding duplications of efforts, the BRCS will share their assessments with NEMO and will continue to attend planning meetings in order to determine the gaps in information and response actions. Finally, the National Society's plan of action will also be shared with NEMO and other actors such as United State Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The BRCS activated its Emergency Operation Centres on 6 August and held several internal meetings to coordinate response actions to be taken. The general preparedness check list for the National Society was reviewed and responsibilities delegated. Furthermore, all branches countrywide have been alerted and are on stand-by for deployment if and when required, while the roles and responsibilities of staff at headquarters have been reviewed for the occasion and the staff is also placed on alert.

After coordinating with the IFRC's Americas zone office, the National Society requested the support from two delegates. A disaster management and a water and sanitation delegate were deployed early on 7 August to assist with the analysis of assessments and development of a new plan of action if needed.

## The needs

**Assessments:** the National Society has some 200 trained volunteers with over 120 certified as National Intervention Team (NIT) members. Approximately 22 NIT members are specialized or have advance training in water and sanitation while the others are trained in assessments, logistics, management of emergency operations centres, reliefs, pre-hospital care and basic water and sanitation. Once the government issues an all clear statement, the National Society will need resources to mobilize volunteers and equipment. The BRCS has the use of five vehicles; however, two are in need of parts and servicing. The DREF will support with the mobilization costs of 40 volunteers and their insurance for a period of two weeks. However, this support could be extended based on assessments' results and the need of further actions.

**Immediate relief:** given that the area projected to be affected has a population of 188,530 persons (the total country population is approximately 333,000 inhabitants), the National Society wants to be prepared to immediately assist families with blankets, food parcels, hygiene kits and jerry cans. Although, there are some non-food relief items pre-positioned across the country, the BRCS does not have agreements for food parcels and funds need to be made available for immediate local purchase.

### **Selection of people to be reached:**

In preparation for immediate response, the BRCS will conduct rapid assessments in the areas affected by Hurricane Ernesto. At the present time possible affected areas include:

- Belize District with the largest population being Belize City (pop. 89,247),
- Orange Walk District (pop. 45,419)
- Corozal District (pop. 40,354),
- San Pedro, Ambergris Caye (pop. 11,510),
- Caye Caulker (pop. 2,000).

Depending on changes in Hurricane Ernesto's path, other areas may be included while some may be excluded.

## The proposed operation

The current operation has two main objectives. First, the National Society will determine, in coordination with national authorities, the kind, extent and level of response that will be needed after the passage of Ernesto. Second, the BRCS will be able to use its pre-positioned stock to bring relief items to at least 150 families and alleviate their immediate needs.

Damage and need assessments
<b>Outcome: Belize Red Cross Society NIT members will perform damage and need assessments in the affected departments.</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments over a period of 48 hours</li> <li>• Print and distribute assessments forms.</li> <li>• Deployment of two IFRC delegates</li> <li>• Report analysis of assessments</li> <li>• Develop a plan of action, if required.</li> </ul>
Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<b>Outcome: The immediate needs of 150 families affected are met through the distribution of essential food and non-food items.</b>
<b>Outputs 1: 150 families are reached with four blankets, one food parcel, two jerry cans and one hygiene kits</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies to affected families.</li> <li>• Replenish pre-positioned stock</li> </ul>

## Contact information

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

- **Belize Red Cross Society:** Lily Bowman, director general of the Belize Red Cross Society, phone: +501.627.8801; email: [lily.bowman@redcross.bz](mailto:lily.bowman@redcross.bz)
- **IFRC regional representation:** Howard Arfin, regional representative for the Caribbean; phone: +1.868.628.2439; email: [howard.arfin@ifrc.org](mailto:howard.arfin@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Americas zone office in Panama:** Benoit Porte, acting PADRU coordinator; phone: +507.317.3050; email: [benoit.porte@ifrc.org](mailto:benoit.porte@ifrc.org)
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, operations quality assurance senior officer; phone: + 41.22.730.4381; fax: + 41.22.733.0395; and email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)
- **Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU) – Americas - Global Logistics Service:** Douglas Baquero, zone logistics coordinator; phone: +507.316.1001; email: [douglas.baquero@ifrc.org](mailto:douglas.baquero@ifrc.org)

**For Performance and Accountability  
(planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)**

- **In IFRC Zone:** Jane Grimshaw, PMER manager; phone: +507.317.3050; and email: [jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org](mailto:jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org)



**Click here**

1. DREF budget **below**
2. Click **here** to view the map of the country
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## 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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Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	3,515
Food	11,569
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	3,368
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	1,172
Other Supplies & Services	0
Regional Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>19,623</b>
Storage, Warehousing	0
Dsitribution & Monitoring	805
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,661
Logistics Services	399
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>4,865</b>
National Society Staff	1,464
Volunteers	5,905
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>7,369</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	0
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	5,858
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	3,417
Communications	3,173
Financial Charges	976
Other General Expenses	488
Shared Support Services	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>13,912</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	2,975
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>2,975</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>48,745</b>



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