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Information Bulletin

Central America: Migrant Caravan

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: Ongoing since 13 October 2018	Point of contact (name and title): Felipe Del Cid: continental operations coordinator for the Americas region; felipe.delcid@ifrc.org
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Red Cross Movement actors currently involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Guatemalan Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Mexican Red Cross, Salvadoran Red Cross Society, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): United Nations system (United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA], the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR, International Organization for Migration [IOM]); human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as World Vision; local and national governments in affected countries	

This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

On 13 October 2018, the migrant caravan started its journey in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, with approximately 1,500 people (increasing to an average of 3,000 people within a few days of its initial departure), including men, women and children. The caravan entered via a customs office on the Agua Caliente border in the department of Chiquimula, Guatemala and the other access points of El Amatillo and El Florido. The leaders of the caravan have indicated that their migratory route would take them from the municipality of Esquipulas in the department of Chiquimula, then to Guatemala City before heading to the municipality of Tecun Umán in the department of San Marco, Guatemala, which they will use a meeting point and a way of crossing into Mexico. Faced with this situation, the governments of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States are urging the migrants to follow each country's immigration procedures.



Guatemalan Red Cross personnel transport a migrant to the hospital.
Source: GRC

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

National Societies actions



El Salvador

Context	Salvadorian Red Cross Society (SRCS) actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to information shared by UNOCHA in El Salvador, the Directorate General of Migration and Foreign Relations has recorded a constant flow of Honduran persons at the El Amatillo border point, in accordance with the law and the free mobility agreements of the CA-4 region at the. A total of 661 persons have been registered, of whom 415 are Honduran Currently, there are no established routes to reach the border with Guatemala, and it has not been determined if the migrants are establishing meeting points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRCS's central headquarters has maintained continuous contact with the National Society's branches in the border areas Conducting an analysis of the situation to develop a contingency plan for the creation of support centres for the migrants



Guatemala

Context	Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the last few days, the mobilization of the migrants from the municipality of Esquipulas was facilitated by dividing them into familial groups and transporting them by bus, trucks and heavy transport vehicles, and Guatemalan citizens' private vehicles as a show of solidarity with the migrants It has been necessary to provide temporary shelter, basic first aid, constant hydration, and transfers to hospitals to the migrants. Civil society and religious organizations, the Guatemalan Red Cross, and volunteer firefighters have provided these services to the migrants. The need for humanitarian assistance in the temporary collective centres, which are managed by the congregation of Scalabrinianos, is evident. The needs are: space to house people, clothing and treatment of dehydration, stomach diseases, respiratory, dermatological, foot ulcers and muscle ailments More than 200 Hondurans have returned to their country voluntarily; however, an average of 500 to 1,000 Hondurans arrive in the municipality of Tecun Umán daily, and some 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In its 18 October 2018 report, the GRC indicated that it attended 708 people through various services such as pre-hospital care, basic first aid and psychosocial support (PSS) and transfers to collective centres and hospitals, restoring family links (RFL) and hydration actions. At the end of the afternoon of the day, according to media reports, The volunteers and personnel from the GRC's branches in the department of San Marcos are prepared to conduct actions if needed The GRC has established medical posts on the Guatemalan side of the border with Mexico Developed assistance plans for the migrants Coordinating with in-country Movement partners in the country such as the Spanish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and the ICRC

of them have begun to cross the Suchiate River with makeshift rafts.



Honduras

Context

- The departure of more migrant caravans from Honduras is expected despite the Honduran government's implementation of its migratory programmes, particularly its returning migrant one

Honduran Red Cross (HRC) actions

- The HRC is closely monitoring the situation
- The HRC is conducting response actions, and it has established two relief posts at border points (Aguas Calientes, El Amatillo and El Florido), with a focus on first aid, water distribution, RFL and the provision of PSS to people who require it.
- The HRC activated its National Population Movement Plan, and it put branches along the migratory route on alert
- The ICRC in Honduras has approved a plan of action to support the National Society's provision of a timely response to the situation in the country.



Mexico

Context

- Religious and civil society organizations in the state of Chiapas have prepared themselves to receive and provide humanitarian care to migrants, and they have conveyed the migrants' basic needs and the need to protect the migrants' human rights. In
- The Mexican Government, which respects the human rights of migrants and international humanitarian law, has declared that any person wishing to enter that country must have travel documents and a visa granted by the government of Mexico through the consular network of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allowing them to move freely within Mexico for the duration of the visa. Within the framework of the recognition of the right to international protection, the Mexican government has indicated that any person who enters its territory and wishes to apply for recognition of refugee status or to benefit from complementary protection measures must do so individually in accordance with current legislation.
- Individuals who do not comply with Mexico's immigration laws will be subject to administrative procedures and returned to their country of origin in a safe and orderly manner

Mexican Red Cross (MRC) actions

- MRC volunteers and staff from the branch in the municipality of Tapachula in the state of Chiapas are prepared to conduct actions if needed
- The MRC established medical posts on the Mexican side of the border with Guatemala
- The MRC is prepared to deliver aid through a mobile clinic, a hydration post and the deployment of more than 40 volunteers trained in pre-hospital care, RFL and first aid, among other specialties
- Developed assistance plans for the migrants

IFRC actions



Actions

- The IFRC's Regional Office for the Americas (ARO) in Panama is closely monitoring the situation
- Coordination between the IFRC's Disaster and Crisis Department and country clusters
- Continuous monitoring by the regional disaster management (DM) coordinator for Central America, Migration officer in Guatemala and the IFRC's Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Honduras
- Sending of informational messages by the DM focal points
- Development of an information bulletin
- ARO is maintaining continuous communication with the Guatemalan, Honduran, Mexican and Salvadorian National Societies through the IFRC's CCST
- Discussed the situation with external partners and explored potential joint partnerships
- Circulating key messages through the affected National Societies' communications networks.
- Disseminating information from the affected National Societies through the IFRC's social networks
- ARO is maintaining close communication and coordinating actions jointly with the ICRC's office in Panama

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.

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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.