

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MEXICO: FLOODS

Appeal N° MDRMX002
GLIDE no. FL-2007-000200-MEX
Operations Update n°3
27 February 2008

Period covered by this Operations Update: 20 November to 14 February 2008. **Initial appeal budget:** CHF 1,208,000 (USD 1,042,278 or EUR 722,056). **Revised appeal budget:** CHF 1,540,000 (USD 1,328,732 or EUR 920,502). **Appeal coverage:** 116%

[click here to go directly to the attached updated donor response report \(also available at http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/active/MDRMX002.pdf\),](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/active/MDRMX002.pdf)

[or here to link to the financial report, or here to link to contact details](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 6 November 2007 for CHF 1,208,000 (USD 1,042,278 or EUR 722,056) for four months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 200,000 (USD 173,563 or EUR 119,546) was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society's response.
- The appeal budget was revised on 20 November to include additional income and allowing for an objective to be included in early recovery.
- As the operation finished at the end of January, the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) with support from the Federation is reviewing the budget and will be preparing a new plan of action to include activities to support recovery in the affected areas.



Distributions of non-food relief items in Tabasco. Source: International Federation

Summary:

Significant progress has been made during the reporting period in the recovery of the areas affected by the severe floods that hit the departments of Tabasco and Chiapas at the end of October and beginning of November 2007. Flood waters eventually receded and the Mexican government has begun its work in the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, and most schools and health centres are operating to near pre-flood levels. Most families from Tabasco have returned home from temporary shelters to recover what they can from the flood damage, at the same time as families evacuated from high-risk zones in Chiapas remain in government-run shelters whilst longer-term solutions are being found.

Operations activities came to a close at the end of January after an intense three-month humanitarian relief effort to assist families. The Mexican Red Cross, with substantial support from the Federation, other Partner National Societies, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and the private sector and the general public, has conducted a highly successful operation delivering approximately 16,000 tonnes of humanitarian relief items benefiting an estimated 1.5 million inhabitants. This has not only surpassed earlier relief efforts, in

particular Hurricane Wilma in 2005, but has proved fundamental in the region's recovery from this emergency, with initial government estimates indicating that relief provided by the MRC accounts for approximately one-third of the entire relief effort.

Assistance provided in this appeal by the Federation and its partners has supported the wider MRC relief operation and has easily met all planned targets. 61,491 people have received assistance, of which 8,000 families have received standard relief kits, 5,000 families received cleaning kits, 6,491 children received school kits and 3,000 families received agricultural tool kits to assist their recovery from the emergency.

Appeal coverage stands at 116 percent thanks to the generous support of PNS and external assistance from a broad range of governmental, non-governmental, private sector and individual actors.

The MRC/Federation would like to thank PNS who have supported the MRC operation reflected in the Federation appeal: The American Red Cross, the Belgian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Hong Kong Red Cross, the Irish Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Liechtenstein Red Cross, the Red Cross of Monaco and the New Zealand Red Cross. The American Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross societies also made valuable contributions both in cash and in kind directly to the MRC.

In addition, the MRC/Federation would like to thank the governments of Belgium, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy (Bilateral Emergency Fund), Canada and New Zealand who contributed to the appeal, as well as the governments of the People's Republic of China, Korea and Brazil made bilateral donations directly to the MRC.

International financial institutions have also provided valuable support directly to the MRC, with contributions from the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Andean Development Corporation.

In the private sector, generous support has been provided to the appeal by Alcatel Lucent, and directly to the MRC by Administración de Servicios Energéticos, Autobuses Estrella Blanca, BBVA Bancomer, Bonafor, Canacar, Comercial Mexicana, Costco de México, Degasa, Interjet, Ixe Banco, Leche Lala, Mary Street Jenkins Foundation, Playas de Ameca, Volaris and the Walmart Foundation.

Given the size and scope of the emergency and the MRC operation, all items procured under the appeal have been distributed directly to affected families – none were stored in the National Society's warehouses. Pending a final budgetary revision, discussions will commence to restock MRC warehouses to ensure that it is adequately prepared for future emergencies, and to review a new plan of action to include activities to assist in the recovery of affected populations.

In light of the extensive support received through this Appeal, the MRC with support from the Federation is currently revising its Plan of Action. As the response phase comes to a close, the MRC hopes to expand its actions in early recovery. More details will be provided in coming updates.

A final financial and narrative report will be made available within three months of the operation's close.

The situation

Torrential rains caused by two cold fronts and the effects of Tropical Storm Noel led to severe flooding and landslides in the states of Tabasco and Chiapas from 28 October 2007, with an estimated 17 percent of the average annual rainfall hitting the region in just three days, according to the National Meteorological Service (SNM in Spanish). Notably, the area collects the overspill from highland rivers and the situation was further exacerbated when the region's dams reached capacity, and millions of cubic metres of water had to be released into the already saturated and low-lying areas.

Tabasco

Severe flooding led to 80 percent of the state being completely underwater, with thousands of people from rural communities isolated, and 126,581 people displaced according to the National System of Civil Protection

(Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil - CNPC). Continued heavy rainfall impeded the natural recession of the water, although pumps deployed by the National Water Commission (Comisión Nacional del Agua –CONAGUA) facilitated this process. The situation has slowly stabilized and the water has now receded. However, whilst no longer flooded, many communities are surrounded by some water - as water tables are still high and may take up to six months to naturally recede.

Official figures indicate that well over 1 million people were affected by the emergency, and that losses and damages to personal and private property, as well as to agriculture and infrastructure were vast. Whilst a detailed breakdown of damages is not yet available, the state government has estimated that damages will total some USD 5 billion. Figures from the state census indicate that 164,089 houses were cut off and left without basic services during the flooding; of these, 150,911 suffered structural damages. The Institute of Housing in Tabasco (Instituto de Vivienda de Tabasco – INVITAB) estimates that rehabilitation of damaged houses will cost an approximate of USD 752.8 million, whilst the relocation of 30,000 families living in high-risk zones will cost over USD 530 million. Tabasco accounts for 80 percent of the country's cocoa production and 40 percent of the country's banana production. The National Confederation of Farmers (Confederación Nacional Campesina – CNC) estimate that harvests have been completely destroyed, and damages to crops alone reach some USD 480 million.

The government closed its three-month emergency operation on 30 January, with the delivery of its existing stock of supplies. 58 of the 59 official shelters set up to provide relief to affected populations have now been closed, and people have returned to their homes or to stay with family and friends. The government has announced that any future donations will be distributed to the one remaining official shelter, Parque de Atasta, currently housing 1,000 people. Estimates indicate that within one month the centre of Villahermosa will be functioning to pre-flood levels. Large businesses have now reopened, and people are arduously cleaning, painting and trying to dry out their homes in an effort to return to normality.

The federal government has allocated USD 650 million from its Fund for Natural Disasters (Fondo Nacional para los Desastres Naturales - FONDEN) towards the reconstruction of affected areas, as well as a tax extension for affected businesses and residences until June 2008. The state government of Tabasco has requested assistance from the civil society and the private sector and has received considerable pledges to date to support the repairs of basic infrastructure, to rebuild homes, to relocate people living in high-risk areas, to equip schools and health centres, and to otherwise reactivate the economy. Significant progress has been made in the recovery of public utilities, with electricity and water systems rehabilitated. The government has supported the repairs of key damaged roads, with pledges from the Secretariat for Communications and Transport (Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transporte SCT) in the region of USD 462.7 million towards the rehabilitation and construction of new roads in Tabasco. However, it is clear that it will take several months before all roads and bridges have been fully repaired.

In health, the outbreak of disease due to stagnant water has been prevented, largely as a result of the contingency health campaign conducted during and after the floods. Dengue has not spread as feared and earlier health complaints, including gastrointestinal problems and fungal infections due to poor sanitary conditions are now under control. The government's health campaign organized by national, regional and local authorities, and supported by international organizations including the Red Cross, reached 1 million inhabitants from 14 different municipalities through its numerous volunteer brigades. Activities conducted in the month following the disaster included approximately 1,000 environmental sanitation visits, the fumigation of over 100,000 hectares of land, vector control in schools, and 500,000 vaccinations primarily against tetanus, influenza and hepatitis A.

Earlier estimates regarding damages in the education sector indicated that approximately 2,500 schools had been affected by the storms. Subsequent evaluations of damages indicate that whilst 20 percent of schools suffered major damage, the remainder suffered losses of basic materials and slight infrastructural damage. The Secretariat of Public Education (Secretaría de Educación Pública – SEP) with private sector support, has mobilized USD 11 million to re-equip 600 of the most damaged schools by March 2008, benefiting an estimated 300,000 children and adolescents in Tabasco. As of mid-January, the equipment of 16 schools had been replaced. Despite a lack of basic materials and in some cases, poor sanitary conditions, SEP reports that 99 percent of schools reopened at the beginning of January in an effort not to fall behind at the start of the new school year.

Chiapas

The state of Chiapas was also affected by flooding and landslides although damages were less acute than in Tabasco, with over 330,000 people affected from 42 municipalities according to figures released by the SNPC. It

is reported by the federal government that 4,345 houses were affected in particular from the North, Selva and Central regions, and over 5,000 people were displaced at the height of the emergency. The floods also led to 220 landslides and damages to roads, bridges, public utilities and agriculture.

1,700 people from San Juan de Grijalva and surrounding communities in the municipality of Ostuacán were evacuated following a colossal landslide which deposited over 1.1 million cubic metres of mud and rocks and blocked the river, leaving 11 casualties and destroying 50 houses. An additional 3,500 people at risk from overflow of the Malpaso and Peñitas dams were evacuated in December to safer grounds before work commenced on building an 800 metre long canal to unblock the river Grijalva. The canal was completed on 18 December at a cost of USD 92 million according to the National Water Commission. At over a month since the unblocking of the river, authorities have not yet announced whether – or when - the water released from the dams which has flooded thousands of hectares of land will naturally recede. It is clear that those evacuated cannot return to this area in the foreseeable future, and measures are now being put in place to permanently relocate the affected communities.

Efforts are being made to provide dignified and longer-term solutions for people directly affected by the flooding, and for those that have been evacuated to temporary shelters. At the end of January, state authorities announced that over 8,000 people from 55 communities from high risk zones near the Malpas and Peñitas dams, and the San Juan de Grijalva region will be relocated to what will be the new *Ciudades Rurales* (rural cities) of Tecpatán, Jaltenango, Nuevo Juan del Grijalva, Ixhuatán, Santa Ana, Berriozábal and Mezcalapa in an attempt to keep communities from being dispersed. From the USD 650 million allocated to the reconstruction of flooded areas, USD 32.4 million will be used to found eight new settlements during 2008 of a total of 25 cities to be build over the next five years.

Campamentos Solidarios (solidarity camps) have been built in the municipalities of Ostuacán and Tecpatán for families who will eventually be re-housed in the new *Ciudades Rurales* once they are complete. Assessments are on-going to determine which areas are safe for families to return to. Whilst 64 families from the communities of Rómulo Calzada and Santos Degollado have been relocated to these new camps, some 3,178 people from the 764 families evacuated during the Grijalva contingency are still being housed in temporary shelters according to the Chiapas branch of the Institute of Human Development (Instituto de Desarrollo Humano - DIF).

Coordination and partnerships

Movement coordination

The Federation has supported the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) through the provision of valuable technical resources and emergency relief deployed by the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), and through the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico located in Panama. In the initial phase of the emergency, the Head of PADRU and an Information officer were deployed to assist the MRC in the development of their Plan of Action, and in the collection and dissemination of information regarding the emergency. PADRU provided key support in coordination with national and local authorities, as well as with the international humanitarian aid organizations working in the affected areas. A Disaster Management officer was deployed to support the MRC in coordination and in the implementation of relief activities and remained in-country until the end of November. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialised in Logistics was deployed to support the local procurement of relief items for a period of one month.

The MRC has worked non-stop to provide a swift response and to assist those most in need since the outset of the emergency. The MRC focused its actions in supporting the evacuation and rescue of affected people, in the provision of emergency pre-hospital medical care, the relocation of those affected to temporary shelters and/or hospitals, the evaluation of damages and needs and the delivery of food and non-food emergency relief items. Additional funding received through the appeal has also allowed the MRC to include a specific objective in assisting the early recovery and recovery of small farmers with the provision of much-needed tools.

The MRC has succeeded in mobilizing and distributing a vast amount of humanitarian aid to assist populations affected by the flooding. In total, over 16,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid has been distributed since the start of the operation, of which an estimated 80 percent consisted of food parcels, 10 percent was bottled water, 5 percent was clothing and 5 percent medicine and medical supplies.

In coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the MRC created a web-page on the ICRC website www.familylinks.icrc.org in order to restore family links amongst those affected those affected. Three teams of around ten volunteers have worked on this specific activity and have gathered data from people housed in 150 shelters up until the beginning of December. The website registered 12,000 people searching for relatives, and the team worked with databases listing approximately 75,000 people housed in shelters, whose details were subsequently made available to those searching for relatives. 70 percent of specific searches have been resolved and 616 families have been reunited through this service.

Valuable support has been provided by Partner National Societies (PNS) both through this appeal and on a bilateral basis.

Through the Federation appeal, the Swiss Red Cross has contributed 14,400 school kits and 2,000 cleaning kits to the MRC operation, as well as a delegate deployed from their mission in Honduras specialized in emergencies to support the MRC in the procurement and distribution of these items.

The American Red Cross, with public funds and funds donated by the United States Government via its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), has donated 4,000 hygiene kits, 4,000 jerry cans, 4,000 buckets, 2,000 kitchen sets and 10,000 mosquito nets. This National Society also provided the support of an Information Officer who was present in the field to support the MRC communications department in the collection of data regarding the humanitarian situation and response efforts.

The Spanish Red Cross donated two water treatment plants which were sent to Mexico on a Spanish Agency for International Aid (Agencia Española para la Cooperación Internacional - AECI) plane, as part of the MRC stock replenishment programme. The Spanish Red Cross is also organizing a training course in water and sanitation for MRC personnel.

Other PNS such as the Belgian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Hong Kong Red Cross, the Irish Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Liechtenstein Red Cross, the Red Cross of Monaco and the New Zealand Red Cross have also provided crucial support to the MRC.

As for **bilateral support** directly to the MRC, the American Red Cross has donated an additional 21,000 school kits and 7,000 cleaning kits, as shown in the below table.

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM RED CROSS MOVEMENT		
COMPONENT - DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL CURRENCY	APPROX. VALUE CHF
AMERICAN RED CROSS		
Financial support for Mexican Red Cross earmarked for 7,000 cleaning kits, 21,000 school kits, and operational costs	350,000.00 USD	378,000.00

More details on bilateral contributions by the Spanish Red Cross to the MRC in coming updates.

In light of the extensive support received through this appeal, the MRC with support from the Federation is currently revising its Plan of Action. As the response phase comes to a close, the MRC hopes to continue to support the affected families by expanding its actions in early recovery in accordance with current needs. More details will be provided in coming updates.

External coordination

The National Relief Unit of the MRC, with support from the International Federation, has coordinated emergency response activities directly with representatives from the European Commission, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team and other UN agencies working in the emergency response, through meetings held to share information, to establish frameworks for activities in the emergency and avoid the duplication of efforts.

Inter-institutional coordination of the humanitarian response was supported by the UNDAC team in the agency's first-ever mission to the country. The UNDAC team established its On Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) in Tabasco, supporting coordination between international non-governmental organizations and government representatives, via meetings held every three days in the Secretariat of Finance. The UNDAC team remained in the field for two weeks and subsequent coordination meetings were led by the Deputy Planning Secretary. UN agencies present in the field included the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). Non-governmental organizations working the affected areas included, Caritas, the Foundation for the Development of the SUMA Supply Management System (FUNDESUMA), MSF, Oxfam and World Vision.

The Emergency Operations Committee (Comité Operativo de Emergencias - COE) was set up by the Secretariat of the Interior (Secretaría de Gobierno - SEGOB) and state authorities to assess damages, to coordinate response activities, to administer aid in the affected areas and to support the collection and dissemination of information to all parties concerned. The MRC actively participated in the COE, with staff present on a permanent basis to support operations and to share information. National, departmental and municipal authorities participated in the COE which met twice a day during the initial stage of the emergency, followed by state departmental meetings every three days with the participation of representatives from affected municipalities. The COE covered six main areas, focusing on temporary shelters, health, public security, the evaluation of damages to homes and the procurement of relief items.

The MRC worked in close coordination with the Mexican military in the evacuation and rescue activities in the earlier phase of the emergency in which an estimated 800,000 people were rescued by helicopter alone; in the evaluation of damages and needs conducted once water levels had receded, as well as in the distribution of relief items throughout the emergency itself. Initial evaluations of damages and needs were made by air considering the extent of the flooding and the levels of water which impeded access and the ability to adequately perform assessments. From 10 November, six organizations including 150 volunteers from the MRC started damage and needs assessments and an official needs analysis. Once water levels had receded, the MRC conducted evaluations in identified communities to verify needs and draw up detailed lists of beneficiaries before distributions took place. Given the size of the operation, six distribution centres were set up by the military to receive relief items to improve efficiency in the distribution process. Daily contact between the MRC and the military ensured that the necessary items were dispatched to the distribution centres from the MRC warehouses, before being transported to affected communities. The military also set up eight kitchens in shelters in Tabasco, each producing three meals for 3,000 people per day. The majority of the food processed in these community kitchens was supplied by the MRC.

In general, coordination worked well and divided tasks on a sectoral and geographical basis to ensure that the needs of affected populations were met, with Oxfam responsible for the provision of water, the MRC and UNICEF jointly responsible for school kits, the MRC with support from the WFP for food, and the PAHO/WHO for health. Notable here is the MS-Switzerland donation of 6,000 mosquito nets to the MRC for distribution in areas where mosquitoes are prevalent. With the close of the humanitarian response at the end of January, all organizations have now withdrawn from the field. Notably, the MRC was the last non-governmental organization working in the affected areas given the scope of its operation.

Support to the Federation-MRC appeal and wider MRC operation has been substantial. Governments supporting the Federation appeal include the governments of Belgium, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy (Bilateral Emergency Fund), Canada and New Zealand who contributed to the appeal. The governments of the People's Republic of China, Korea and Brazil made bilateral donations directly to the MRC. At national level, the National Supreme Court of Justice, the Mexico City Legislative Assembly and the Secretariat of National Defence also contributed directly to the MRC operation.

Substantial assistance was also provided by international financial institutions in the donation of school kits containing materials to facilitate students' return to classes: the Central American Bank of Economic Integration supplied 2,515 kits, the Inter-American Development Bank supplied 10,000 kits and the Andean Development Corporation supplied 2,286 kits.

Contributions from the private sector have also been generous. Alcatel Lucent contributed directly to the appeal, whilst the MRC further consolidated its strong strategic partnerships in the private sector whose cash and in-kind donations also greatly facilitated the overall implementation of the operation. The Walmart Foundation donated food parcels and established collection points in its stores throughout the country. The Foundation also provided complete logistics support in the delivery of these items from its warehouse to the identified distribution points. Principal cash contributions were made bilaterally to the MRC by the following organizations: Administración de Servicios Energéticos, Autobuses Estrella Blanca, Comercial Mexicana, Costco de México, Degasa, Ixe Banco, Mary Street Jenkins Foundation and Playas de Ameca allowing the MRC to distribute a total of 134,000 school kits and 10,000 gas stoves in the emergency response. Substantial in-kind donations were also made by BBVA Bancomer, Bonafor, Canacar, Interjet, Leche Lala and Volaris.

National Society Capacity Building

The MRC has solid experience in responding to disasters and has developed a strong and flexible capacity to respond to the numerous situations of emergency that it faces. During 2007, the MRC responded to a total of eleven emergencies representing the highest number per National Society (NS) in the region, including: a tornado in Piedras Negras, four hurricanes/tropical storms - Dean, Felix, Henriette and Lorenzo - as well as flooding in Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Poza Rica, Tabasco and Chiapas. At the time of the Tabasco and Chiapas floods, the MRC was actively supporting the Red Cross response to the wildfires that ravaged California during October 2007, with the deployment of its Relief Director and personnel to San Diego; the MRC was also conducting distributions of relief items in Veracruz' second largest municipality, Panuco, which had been affected by earlier flooding. All response operations have been efficiently managed by the NS despite the sheer number and burden of these efforts.

At the onset of this emergency, the MRC was well prepared with pre-positioned stocks in local branches in Tabasco and Chiapas ready to be distributed to the affected population. Although the MRC plan of action focused on the provision of immediate emergency relief, it was planned that the appeal would cover the procurement of items to replenish relief stocks in order to re-establish and strengthen response capacity for future relief operations. Given the demands of the operation, all items have been distributed and the replenishment of stock is therefore forthcoming.

Local branches have also responded efficiently to the emergency. The MRC has 17 regional branches in Tabasco and 5 regional branches in Chiapas, of which the Villahermosa branch in Tabasco and the Tuxtla Gutierrez branch in Chiapas worked primarily on the operation. The Villahermosa branch received the first deliveries of humanitarian aid in the initial phase of the emergency and later focused on providing first aid, as well as serving as a base for the operation's many volunteers. The Tuxtla Gutierrez regional branch in Chiapas also responded efficiently receiving assistance to support the overall operation. Whilst regional branches did not suffer permanent infrastructural damage, volunteers directly affected by the flooding received assistance in the form of food parcels, bottled water, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.

Further development of existing capacities in management and response will clearly assist the MRC to respond to future emergencies. American Red Cross continues to support broader capacity building goals, whilst training in water and sanitation is currently being planned with the Spanish Red Cross.

Red Cross action

Overview

At the outset of the emergency, the MRC worked arduously to meet the basic needs of the affected populations. Actions can be divided into two main phases. Initial actions focused on evacuation and rescue, the provision of medical assistance, the transportation of patients to hospitals, the mobilisation of external support, the collection of donated goods and the distribution of food parcels, bottled water, clothing and other basic relief items. Once water levels had receded and people had started to return home from the temporary shelters, the MRC supported the official evaluation of damages and needs as well as conducted its own assessments to review the needs of the affected populations before commencing distributions of relief and recovery items included in the appeal and in its wider PoA.

Coordination of the MRC operation was led by the National Relief Unit with support from the Federation. In total, 10,000 volunteers participated in the MRC operation performing a range of duties, including the provision of first aid, the reception, storage and distribution of relief items, the evaluation of damages and needs, and the gathering of data regarding the whereabouts of those affected to support the Family Links service. Approximately 6,000 volunteers were mobilized to work in the collection of donations at national level. At regional level, approximately 600 volunteers were mobilized from 18 regional branches to work in the affected areas, with 130 volunteers working on rotation in ten-day shifts. Operative personnel in the field were divided into three main teams: one team of 25-30 volunteers working on needs assessments; one team of 10-20 volunteers (including contracted staff from affected communities) receiving and dispatching relief items from the three MRC warehouses; and one team of 40-50 volunteers distributing relief items.

Objectives included in the appeal have focused on the provision of emergency non-relief items and support in the early recovery and recovery of small farmers to complement the broader MRC response operation. Given the extent of damages and subsequent needs Red Cross efforts have mostly focused on the department of Tabasco.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 8,000 families (40,000 beneficiaries) affected by the current flooding who have not yet been assisted will receive the needed relief items. Procurement will also replenish MRC relief stocks, therefore strengthening and re-establishing their response capacity for future relief operations.

Progress:

PADRU, in coordination with the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) based in Panama, deployed the first plane to Villahermosa containing non-food items consisting of 1,300 hygiene kits, 2,640 jerry cans (10 litres), 1,300 kitchen kits, 2,600 impregnated mosquito nets and 1,300 plastic buckets. These items were distributed immediately.

A further 12 containers of relief items were sent by sea given the limited capacity of the Villahermosa airport to receive high-capacity airplanes. Subsequent distributions took place from 23 November and were completed by 29 January.

Coordination meetings had previously established that the MRC would focus distributions on the most vulnerable people from rural communities throughout the state, but excluding the central region. Daily coordination meetings established the communities to be targeted, with needs assessments conducted in communities with support from community leaders the day before distributions took place. As mosquitoes are not prevalent in all areas, locations where the problem is acute were identified in coordination with the Secretariat of Health and the nets were distributed accordingly.

Under the appeal, 8,000 families (40,000 people) benefited from a standard relief kit consisting of 2 hygiene kits, 1 kitchen set, 2 jerry-cans and 2 buckets as follows:

Municipality	Community	Number of families
Centro	Corregidora	800
Centro	Gaviotas	1,400
Centro	Nacachapan	800
Centro	Torno Largo	1,000
Centro	Río Tinto (1 st to 3 rd sections)	1,400
Comalcalco	Comalcalco	600
Cunduacan	Cunduacan	300
Macuzpana	Bitzchal (1 st to 7 th sections)	850
Nacajuca	El Tigre	850
Total		8,000

A further 7,998 families received 2 mosquito nets from the municipality of Nacajuca in Tabasco:

Community	Total families	Community	Total families
Aconcagua	115	Jolochero	263
Álvaro Obregón	101	La Lima	152
Arroyo	216	La Palma	154
Bejucal	124	Limón	102
Bitzal 4	198	Lombardo Toledano	128
Bitzal 5	260	Miguel Hidalgo	65
Bitzal 6	215	Nuevo Progreso	52
Buena Vista	128	Otatal	30
Caudillo	53	Pan Duro	56
Cenote	269	Paraíso	238
Chamizal	263	Ramonal	180
Corregidora Ortiz	94	Redención	336
Ejido 8.5	281	Repasto	104
Ejido San Francisco	74	San Miguel	113
El Capulín	230	San Miguel	124
El Martillo	80	Santa Rosa	101
El Palmar	178	Sueño de Oro	134
El Pedregal	100	Torno Largo	995
El Tigre	450	Triunfo	200
Fco I Madero	222	Villa Quetzalcoatl	820
Sub-total	3,651	Sub-total	4,347
Total			7,998

Generous contributions were made to the appeal from the Government of the United States via OFDA and through American Red Cross, providing 4,000 hygiene kits, 2,000 kitchen sets, 4,000 jerry cans, 4,000 buckets and 10,000 mosquito nets, part of which was made available from pre-positioned American Red Cross stock in the RLU in Panama and sent immediately for distribution in Mexico. The Swiss branch of MSF also provided 6,000 mosquito nets on a bilateral basis to the MRC.

Additional cash donations by the private sector and the general public enabled the MRC to provide 10,000 families with gas stoves in addition to the assistance provided above.

Given the needs of affected populations, all stock has been distributed in agreement between the MRC and the Federation. Discussions on the replenishment of the MRC warehouses, to ensure that the NS is well prepared to face future emergencies will follow a final revision of the appeal budget.

Impact:

Substantial efforts were made to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable people were met during the MRC operation. The MRC focused on delivering aid to the rural and often isolated communities which had not yet received assistance. Furthermore, needs assessments allowed for the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women and children to be prioritised.

The delivery of emergency relief items clearly has had a major impact on the lives of those affected by the floods. Damages to personal property have been vast, and the items have assisted families in their recovery and in the fulfilment of basic daily routines vital to a dignified existence.

Challenges:

Water receded slowly in the region which caused substantial delays in the official needs and damage assessments conducted by the government and the MRC, as well as delays in people's return to their homes. Initial assessments were made by air and actions focused on the delivery of emergency supplies, including food, bottled water, clothing and other necessary items. Once waters had begun to recede, people started to return home to commence with cleaning activities and the MRC was able to initiate distributions of the above items to the remaining families.

Objective 2: 7,000 families will receive cleaning kits and 10,000 children will receive school kits in order to initiate their schooling in the state of Tabasco.

Progress:

The initial target number of beneficiaries under this objective increased following the assessment of community needs and the additional bilateral support from the Swiss Red Cross.

Both the cleaning kits and the school kits were purchased locally following the Federation's standard procurement procedures. Given the number of donors collaborating bilaterally with the donation of school kits in the MRC PoA, the school kits were purchased on a global basis thus reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

Distributions of the cleaning kits took place in line with the distributions of the items listed in Objective 1, focusing on the most vulnerable people from rural and often isolated communities. Brief talks on the contents and safe-use of the kits were given by volunteers during distributions to maximise the utility of the kits.

5,000 cleaning kits were distributed to families in the following communities under this appeal:

Municipality	Community	Number of families
Centro	Nacachapan	800
Centro	Corregidora	800
Centro	Torno Largo	1,000
Centro	Gaviotas Sur	150
Centro	Río Tinto (1 st -3 rd sections)	1,400
Nacajuca	El Tigre	850
Total		5,000

Bilateral assistance was provided by the SRC with the donation of 2,000 cleaning kits, and by American Red Cross with the donation of an additional 7,000 cleaning kits.



Primary school children receive their school kits. Source: Mexican Red Cross

In coordination with the other institutions working in the field, it was agreed that the MRC would supply 50 percent of school population with school kits, and that UNICEF with the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) would provide the other 50 percent to ensure that all needs were met. The MRC coordinated its activities with the SEP and UNICEF to identify beneficiary schools. Whilst some schools were located in beneficiary communities listed in Objective 1, for the most part distributions of school kits were made independently of the distribution of other emergency items, and notably, included a significant number of indigenous communities.

The school kits were distributed in January from the start of the school year when schools were slowly reopened. Notably, three kits were designed to be distributed to pre-school, primary school and secondary school children, ensuring that the student's needs were adequately met.

6,491 school kits were distributed to children in the following communities:

Location	School	Number of students	Location	School	Number of students
27 de febrero	Lázaro Cárdenas	21	Lázaro Cárdenas	Manuel Capos Payro	91
A. López Mateos	Bolivia Maldonado	52	Miguel Hidalgo 1	Lic. Benito Juárez	59
Canabal 1	Luis Pérez Alcudia	99	Miguel Hidalgo 2	Josefa O. Domínguez	54
Canabal 2	24 de febrero	168	Miraflores	Gral. Lazado Cárdenas	53
Canabal 3	5 de mayo	115	Miraflores	Anacleto Canabal	385
Canabal 4	Primavera	42	Miraflores	José. Ma. Morelos	135
Carlos A. Madrazo	Juan Escutia	44	Miraflores	Fernando E. González	257
Corl. Méndez Magana	Gabriela Mistral	72	Miraflores	Estado de México	116
E. Zapata	Justo Sierra	32	Miraflores	Benito Juárez	80
Ej. Constancia	Ing. José N. Roviroso	83	Miraflores	José Manue Ramos	316
Ejido Fc. Villa	Blancas Mariposas	23	Miraflores	Rosario Ma. Gutiérrez	107
Ejido Fronterita	Sor Juana Inés	48	Miraflores	Vicente Guerrero	20
El Bellote	Julio de la Fuente	40	Niños Héroes	José Ma. Pino Suárez	30
El Coco	Nery May	21	Plátano y Cacao	Soledad G. Cruz	429
El Huajuco	Vicente Guerrero	27	Plátano y Cacao	Isabel Pelaes	146
El Limón	Cuahutemoc	30	Plátano y Cacao	Gral. Lázaro Cárdenas	360
Fc. Javier Mina	Gregorio Méndez	129	Plátano y Cacao	Lic. Benito Juárez	186
Fco. Villa	Fco. J. Santa Maria	41	Plátano y Cacao	Ema Darwin Vidal	130
Juan Escutia	Simón Nova	174	Plátano y	Rufo Domingo Pérez	48

			Cacao		
L. Rovirosa 1	Pedro Méndez	17	Plátano y Cacao	Técnica 36	371
L. Rovirosa 2	Las Blancas Mariposas	38	Potreriillo	Andrés Vidal	34
La Estancia	Héroes de Chapultepec	136	Quinta Maria	Las Campanitas	100
La Montana	Luis Donaldo Colosio	13	Rivera Alta	Carlos Pellicer	50
La Pimienta	Rosario Ma. Gutiérrez	45	San Juan	José. Ma. Pino Suárez	43
La Sabana	Tierra y Libertad	82	Tamulte	Pagues Llergo	468
Lázaro Cárdenas	Ramón Mendoza	77	Tamulte	Federal 7	556
Lázaro Cárdenas	Maria Velásquez F.	107	Lázaro Cárdenas	Manuel Capos Payro	91
	Sub-total	1,776		Sub-total	4,715
				Total	6,491

Additional bilateral donations were made by PNS directly to the MRC, with the SRC providing 14,400 school kits and American Red Cross providing over 21,000 school kits. Additional cash donations by the private sector and the general public enabled the MRC to provide school kits to a total of 134,000 students.

Impact:

The distribution of cleaning kits to affected communities has proved vital in their recovery from the floods. Stagnant water and mud damaged people's homes and personal property, leaving everything wet and dirty. Whilst mountains of flood-damaged furniture and personal effects accumulated in the period following the emergency, these kits have been vital to assist people in the effort required to clean up after the floods.

The distribution of school kits coincided with the start of the school year when parents usually have many demands placed on them. As distributions targeted schools located in vulnerable, rural communities where parents' economic means are limited, the provision of the school kits helped vulnerable families in their recovery from the emergency. The children also clearly benefited from the materials provided; whilst many schools have been left with limited materials (text books etc.) the students benefit from basic items necessary for their education.

Challenges:

Some initial challenges were experienced due to the fact that not all children had returned to school at the start of the school year and were still housed in shelters. As distributions were made in close coordination with school authorities, kits for absent children were left in the care of the directors, ensuring that no students went without.

Early Recovery

Objective 1: 3,000 affected families (15,000 persons) from rural areas benefit from the distribution of tools, contributing to the initiation of agricultural activities.

Progress:

Evaluations of damages and needs undertaken by the MRC indicated that damages to agriculture were vast, with many small farmers dependent on the production of bananas, cocoa and maize losing entire crops as well as much-needed tools. In order to assist with the recovery from the devastating effects of the floods, the MRC revised its PoA to include the distribution of tools in order to help affected families to replant and later harvest their crops.



Agricultural tool kits for distribution in the central district. Source: Mexican Red Cross

All tools were procured locally following standard Federation procedures. Each tool kit contained one rake, one shovel, one traditional shovel, one machete and one machete file.

The most vulnerable beneficiary communities were identified in close coordination with the Secretariat for Agriculture. As per the distribution of the relief items mentioned above, the MRC visited each community before distributions to conduct individual evaluations and to ensure that the tools were delivered to those most in-need.

3,000 families from the following communities received tool kits:

Municipality	Community	Number of families
Centro	Corregidora	800
Centro	Nacachapan	800
Centro	Río Tinto (1 st -3 rd sections)	1,400
Total		3,000

Impact:

The provision of necessary tools has had a relatively quick impact in supporting farmer's food security and livelihoods, enabling them to sow, tend and in the not-too-distant future harvest their crops.

Challenges:

No challenges were identified with this objective as all items were procured locally and distributed once waters had receded and families had returned home.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency.

Support was provided to the MRC to increase the visibility of their actions in this operation, by PADRU, the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation Office and the Federation's Communications Department in Geneva. The Red Cross and the International Federation dispatched two information officers to the state of Tabasco and one reporting RIT to Mexico City, which facilitated the flow of information in coordination with the Media Services in Geneva, the Regional Representation office in Panama, and counterparts from communication departments of the MRC and PADRU.

Communication activities targeted five main target audiences: the media, the Red Cross Movement, beneficiaries, local authorities and donors. Seven reports have been published on this emergency on the Federation's internal Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) website. Information on the emergency was published on the following web sites: <http://www.cruzrojamexicana.org.mx/>, www.cruzroja.org, www.ifrc.cruzroja.org and www.ifrc.org, including press releases, articles and photographs from the field published on the NS website. Press releases, containing information on the Red Cross response to the emergency as well as requests assistance from the private sector and the general public, were drafted and sent to the media on a daily basis during the first month of the operation. Over 114 interviews were conducted in English and Spanish in local, national and international media. Finally, a short film was made and broadcast by TV Azteca on the MRC's and ICRC's work in re-establishing family links. The MRC also established an emergency phone line for national and international queries on the emergency.

The Federation has worked with the MRC to assist the most vulnerable people affected by the floods. Activities carried out in this operation are based upon the principle of humanity. Beneficiary selection is based on the level

of vulnerability of those affected, respecting culture diversity and ensuring gender sensitivity. Activities under this appeal are based on SPHERE project, humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response.

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:

- In Mexico: Isaac Oxenhaut Gruuzco, Relief Director, Mexican Red Cross, phone (52) 55 36 27 08 94; e-mail desastres@crozrojamexicana.org.mx.
- In Panama: Dario Alvarez, Acting Head of PADRU, e-mail dario.alvarez@ifrc.org; phone (507) 316 1001; fax (507) 316 1082.
- In Panama: Fabricio Lopez, Acting Head of Central America and Mexico Regional Representation, Americas, Panama, phone (507) 317 1300; fax (507)317 1304; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org.
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Zone Relationship Management Coordinator, phone (507) 317 1300; fax (507)317 1304; e-mail: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator, e-mail pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone (41) 22 730 4300.

**[<Updated donor response report attached below;
Financial report attached below;
click here to return to the title page>](#)**

Donor response to MDRMX002 - Mexico - Floods

TIMEFRAME: 02 Nov 07 to 06 Mar 08

LOCATION: Mexico

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	1,540,000
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	1,787,448
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	116%

Updated on: 27 Feb 2008

	Currency	Amount	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
BUDGET				1,540,000				1,540,000
FUNDING								
Opening Balance				200,000				200,000
Income								
Cash contributions (received and pledged)								
American Red Cross	USD	167,077		193,642				193,642
Belgium Red Cross (Flanders) (from Belgian Government)	EUR	189,385		304,910				304,910
British Red Cross	GBP	50,000		115,500				115,500
British Red Cross (from DFID - British Government)	GBP	45,000		103,950				103,950
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	100,000		121,500				121,500
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	CAD	100,000		121,500				121,500
Hong Kong Red Cross	HKD	1,255		184				184
Irish Government	EUR	250,000		412,500				412,500
Irish Red Cross	EUR	1,500		2,510				2,510
Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund	EUR	50,000		83,650				83,650
Japanese Red Cross	USD	34,400		38,459				38,459
Liechtenstein Red Cross	CHF	20,000		20,000				20,000
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	5,000		8,315				8,315
New York Office (from Alcatel Lucent)	USD	10,000		10,800				10,800
New York Office (from United States - Private Donors)	USD	50		54				54
New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)	NZD	50,000		44,200				44,200
On Line donations	CHF	5,718		5,718				5,718
United States - Private Donors	USD	50		56				56
Total Cash contributions				1,587,448				1,587,448
Other Income								
DREF Allocations	CHF							
Total Other Income								
Total Income				1,587,448				1,587,448
TOTAL FUNDING			0	1,787,448	0	0	0	1,787,448
COVERAGE				116%				116%

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMX002 - Mexico - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/01
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRMX002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		1,540,000				1,540,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Cash contributions						
<i>American Red Cross</i>		193,642				193,642
<i>British Red Cross</i>		115,500				115,500
<i>British Red Cross (from DFID - British Government)</i>		103,950				103,950
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>		121,500				121,500
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)</i>		121,500				121,500
<i>Hong Kong Red Cross</i>		184				184
<i>Irish Government</i>		412,500				412,500
<i>Irish Red Cross</i>		2,510				2,510
<i>Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund</i>		83,650				83,650
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		38,459				38,459
<i>Liechtenstein Red Cross</i>		20,000				20,000
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>		8,315				8,315
<i>New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)</i>		40,942				40,942
<i>On Line donations</i>		5,718				5,718
<i>United States - Private Donors</i>		56				56
C1. Cash contributions		1,268,426				1,268,426
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders) (from Belgian Government)</i>		304,910				304,910
<i>New York Office (from Alcatel Lucent)</i>		10,800				10,800
<i>New York Office (from United States - Private Donors)</i>		54				54
<i>New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)</i>		3,258				3,258
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		319,022				319,022
Inkind Goods & Transport						
<i>American Red Cross</i>		231,324				231,324
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport		231,324				231,324
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		1,818,772				1,818,772
D. Total Funding = B + C		1,818,772				1,818,772
Appeal Coverage		118%				118%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		1,818,772				1,818,772
E. Expenditure		-1,388,286				-1,388,286
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		430,486				430,486

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMX002 - Mexico - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/01
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRMX002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			1,540,000			1,540,000		
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	53,894		52,483			52,483	1,411	
Teaching Materials	111,264						111,264	
Utensils & Tools	536,896		295,930			295,930	240,965	
Other Supplies & Services	488,664		471,617			471,617	17,047	
Total Supplies	1,190,717		820,030			820,030	370,687	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	15,065						15,065	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	15,065						15,065	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	5,795						5,795	
Distribution & Monitoring	104,310		77,679			77,679	26,631	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,795		522			522	5,273	
Total Transport & Storage	115,900		78,201			78,201	37,699	
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits			766			766	-766	
Regionally Deployed Staff	11,590		3,905			3,905	7,685	
National Staff	11,590		13,818			13,818	-2,228	
National Society Staff	57,950						57,950	
Total Personnel	81,130		18,489			18,489	62,641	
General Expenditure								
Travel	10,431		18,961			18,961	-8,530	
Information & Public Relation	2,318		108			108	2,210	
Office Costs	15,299		453			453	14,846	
Communications	6,954		6,950			6,950	4	
Financial Charges			11,433			11,433	-11,433	
Other General Expenses	2,086						2,086	
Total General Expenditure	37,088		37,905			37,905	-817	
Programme Support								
Program Support	100,100		72,906			72,906	27,194	
Total Programme Support	100,100		72,906			72,906	27,194	
Services								
Services & Recoveries			35,329			35,329	-35,329	
Total Services			35,329			35,329	-35,329	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			325,426			325,426	-325,426	
Total Operational Provisions			325,426			325,426	-325,426	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,540,000		1,388,286			1,388,286	151,714	
VARIANCE (C - D)			151,714			151,714		