

# 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° 5  
6 July 2009

**Period covered by this Operations Update:**  
From 18 December 2008 to June 2009.

**Appeal budget:** CHF 1,898,880 (USD 1,778,062 or EUR 1,231,672)

**Appeal coverage:** 100%

### Appeal history:

- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 200,000 (USD 173,563 or EUR 119,546) was allocated from the Federation's DREF to jumpstart the National Society's response.
- An 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 4 months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- The appeal budget was revised on 20 November 2007 to include additional income and allowed for an objective to be included in early recovery.
- The appeal was revised on 4 July 2008, to CHF 1,904,884 (USD 1,814,175 or EUR 1,170,795) in cash, kind or services to support the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) to assist 44,380 beneficiaries for 8 months (January to August). The Revised Emergency Appeal responded to a request from the MRC and the affected communities. This includes support for longer-term recovery needs such as disaster preparedness programmes, rehabilitation of livelihoods and strengthening of the National Society.
- The operation update n° 4 featured a Revised Emergency Appeal budget of CHF 1,898,880 (USD 1,778,062 or EUR 1,231,672) reflecting the decrease of contributions due to the change in exchange rates, when outstanding donor contributions were paid in October.
- This operations update n° 5 features an extension of the appeal timeframe until 30 July 2009, due to delays experienced in the implementation of planned activities when the Mexican Red Cross had to focus its efforts on responding to the Influenza A(H1N1) outbreak.



Volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross distribute items to be used in agricultural purposes in the community of Bitzales –Tabasco. Source: Mexican Red Cross

### Summary:

Phase I of the emergency operation finished at the end of January 2008, after a three-month humanitarian relief effort to assist the affected families. Assistance provided in this appeal by the Federation and its partners has supported the wider Mexican Red Cross (MRC) relief operation and has met all planned targets. To date, 61,491 people have received assistance: 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 in their recovery from the emergency.

The MRC with support from the Federation, Partner National Societies (PNS), governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 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 people.

As the emergency phase of the operation met the basic needs of the affected population, this Operations Update focuses on meeting the long term needs of the affected population. The activities will be concentrated in the Macuspana municipality in the state of Tabasco, which was identified by the Mexican Red Cross as one of the most affected. After evaluations, the MRC identified deficiencies and socio-economic vulnerabilities in this region and decided to revise the existing Plan of Action (PoA) for Macuspana. The PoA aims to benefit an additional 876 families with disaster preparedness programmes and restoration of livelihoods in 13 communities in the municipality.

The appeal coverage stands at 100%, thanks to the generous support of PNS and external assistance from a broad range of governmental, non-governmental, private sector and individual actors. Therefore, no additional donations are being sought.

The operation was planned to end during April 2009, however, the rise of the influenza AH1N1 in Mexico, forced the suspension of the MRC activities and concentrated its priorities to respond to this influenza. Little by little the situation turned out to be manageable and the authorities from the Mexican Red Cross have shown their interest on resuming the few pending activities of the project, now that the health authorities deem convenient to travel to the project zones.

As of 29 June 2009 according to official data from the World Health Organization (WHO) 70,893 people have been reported as infected with the influenza AH1N1 globally. In Mexico, there are 8,279 confirmed cases and 116 deaths. Authorities of the Mexican Red Cross, technical personnel, and volunteers in the Tabasco project are ready to complete the last pending activities during the following weeks as the daily activities of the National Society return to normal. As of May 2009, the project has been 98 per cent completed. The only two pending activities are the workshop on the module Protected School from the "Better Be Prepared" series; and the lessons learnt workshop; diagnosis process and results.

The operation was expected to be implemented until April 2009. However, given the situation experienced in the country as a result of the Influenza A(H1N1), an extension was requested to complete planned activities, and the operation will thus end in 30 July 2009. A final report will be made available by 30 October 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

[\*<Click here to view the attached interim financial report and here to view contact details>\*](#)

## The situation

At the end of October 2007, heavy rain caused by two cold fronts and the effects of Tropical Storm Noel proved the vulnerability of the region during the 2007 hurricane season, especially in the states of Tabasco and Chiapas in Mexico. In Tabasco, severe flooding caused 80 per cent of the state to be completely under water. Thousands of people from rural areas were isolated and 126,581 people were displaced according to the National System of Civil Protection (Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil – SNPC). Over one million people were affected by the emergency and the floods caused immeasurable losses and damages to personal and private property, agricultural crops and infrastructure. According to the government of Tabasco the damages added up to an estimate of USD five billion. Some 164,089 houses lost basic services during the flooding; of these 150,911 suffered structural damages.

The Tabasco Institute of Housing (Instituto de Vivienda de Tabasco – INVITAB) estimates that the rehabilitation of damaged houses will cost an approximate of USD 752.8 million. In addition, Tabasco is the country's leading cocoa producer and accounts for 40 per cent of the country's banana production. The harvests of these crops were completely destroyed with the floods; damages to these crops alone reached some USD 480 million. Other main crops like corn and plantains were also damaged.

The federal government allocated some USD 650 million from its National Fund for Natural Disasters (Fondo Nacional para los Desastres Naturales – FONDEN) in order to reconstruct and rehabilitate the destroyed areas; it also provided a tax extension for affected businesses and residences until June 2008. The government supported the repairs of damaged main roads and completed all the cleaning activities. Also a health campaign reaching 1

million inhabitants from 14 municipalities was supported, along with several international organizations. No outbreaks were reported as a result of the implementation of this contingency health campaign. Additional activities were conducted in the month following the disaster; these included approximately 1,000 environmental sanitation visits, the fumigation of over 100,000 hectares of land, vector control in schools and 500,000 vaccinations.

The educational sector also sustained damages; early reports indicated 2,500 schools were affected, but subsequent damage assessments indicated that 20 per cent of schools suffered major damages while the remainder had major loss of basic materials. The Secretariat of Public Education allocated USD 11 million to rebuild 600 of the most damaged schools and provide these with new materials. The government completed their three-month emergency operation on 30 January 2008.

As soon as summer began, the federal and state government started significant mitigation works in the first quarter of 2009, reinforcing dikes in rivers bordering Villa Hermosa, the capital city of Tabasco State.

## Coordination and partnerships

During the emergency, the MRC received support from the International Federation 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 the coordination and implementation of relief activities and remained in-country until the end of November. At present, the MRC and the local branch in Tabasco are involved in the coordination of the additional activities that are included in the new PoA.

In coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the MRC created a webpage on the ICRC website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org) in order to restore family links amongst those affected.

External coordination meetings were held between the MRC, the International Federation, representatives from the European Commission, Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières – MSF), the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team and other UN agencies to establish frameworks for activities in the emergency and avoid the duplication of efforts.

Several Partner National Societies generously contributed to this appeal: American Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Hong Kong Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Liechtenstein Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, New Zealand Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross.

Governments who contributed to the Federation appeal include the governments of Belgium, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy (Bilateral Emergency Fund), and New Zealand. The governments of Brazil, Korea, and the People's Republic of China made bilateral donations directly to the MRC; and MSF from Switzerland donated impregnated mosquito nets. 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.

Due to the generous contributions received through this appeal, the MRC and the International Federation drew up in May 2008 a new plan of action that focuses on key components such as disaster preparedness and rehabilitation of livelihoods that will benefit the affected people in the municipality of Macuspana in Tabasco. This new PoA was revised in July and adjusted in first week of October 2008. However, the floods of November 2008, forced to readjust the timetable and extend the operation until April 2009.

Additionally, the American Red Cross and the Mexican Red Cross have undersigned a contract to carry out a community educational project on disasters in the states of Tabasco and Quintana Roo and institutional strengthening in disasters. This new project will continue to the current project in Tabasco, the intention is to take advantage of the training provided to volunteers and the experience they have gathered in community focus and strengthen these capacities generating activities in other communities from both states.

In this process of incorporation of the new project, there has been close communication and coordination among

representatives of the Mexican Red Cross, the American Red Cross and the International Federation, which has enabled to optimize resources and efforts.

### **National Society Capacity Building:**

The MRC has vast experience in responding to emergency disasters. During 2007, the MRC responded to 11 emergencies, the highest number per National Society in the region. The MRC dealt with 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. While responding to the emergency in Tabasco, the MRC was supporting the American Red Cross with the wildfires in California during October 2007.

All response operations have been efficiently managed by the MRC with pre-positioned stocks and activation of all volunteers.

The MRC has 486 delegations throughout the country, 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 current Phase II of PoA is being developed through 20 volunteers and 3 staff members of Villahermosa branch in coordination with the Relief National Department of the MRC.

Based on the experiences in Tabasco 2007 - 2009, the Mexican Red Cross has considered increasing its actions on the topic of community-based education disaster risk reduction and climate change.

As a result of the experiences, disaster response, rehabilitation, and prevention have prompted the National Society to enter in a process of reviewing its national disaster plan. The first action the MRC took was to carry out the self diagnosis of *Well Prepared National Society*, and by mid 2009 entered in an updating process of its new national plan of risk reduction.

### **Capacity of the International Federation**

As mentioned above, since the beginning of the emergency, the International Federation through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit has provided support to the MRC in coordinating initial response and personnel to support early relief activities.

PADRU deployed a delegate specializing in agricultural recovery and supported the MRC in completing a new Plan of Action for the revised appeal. The Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico has also been providing support throughout the entire operation and since July 2008, has been in charge of the operation. The Mexican Red Cross has been in constant contact and coordination with the regional coordinator for disaster risk reduction from the Regional Representation in Panama and the Regional Centers of Reference in Community-Based Disaster Preparedness (Centro de Referencia en Educacion Comunitaria para la Prevencion de Desastres – CREEC) in Costa Rica and Institutional Disaster Preparedness in El Salvador (CREPD).

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

Since the beginning of the emergency, the MRC worked arduously to meet the needs of those affected by the floods. Phase I of this operation focused on evacuation and rescue, provision of medical assistance, transportation of patients to hospitals, mobilization of external support, collection of donated goods and distribution of food parcels, bottled water, clothing and other basic relief items. Once water levels receded, the MRC focused on damage and needs assessments and distribution of basic relief items. Additionally, the MRC coordinated the operation through their National Relief Unit with support from the International Federation.

A total of 10,000 volunteers participated in the MRC operation performing a range of duties that included the provision of first aid, reception, storage and distribution of relief items, 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. In addition to the deployments mentioned in the section of Coordination and Partnerships, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in logistics was deployed to support the local procurement of relief items for a period of one month. In February 2008, a reporting officer was deployed to Mexico in order to obtain

detailed information on the progress of the operation. Moreover, a PADRU delegate specializing in agriculture was sent in March and July to Tabasco to coordinate the recovery activities included in the revised appeal.

Objectives included in the appeal 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. Red Cross efforts have mostly focused on the department of Tabasco, given the extent of damages and needs in this department.

At present the MRC is coordinating the new activities in the PoA with the local branch in Tabasco. The MRC, at a national level has established contacts with agencies and national institutions assist in implementing these activities.

During Phase I of this emergency appeal the following objectives were accomplished:

**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.**

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. A further 7,998 families received 2 mosquito nets each from the municipality of Nacajuca in Tabasco. Generous contributions were made to the appeal from the Government of the United States via the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and through the American Red Cross. These institutions provided 4,000 hygiene kits, 2,000 kitchen sets, 4,000 jerry cans, 4,000 buckets and 10,000 mosquito nets, which was made available from prepositioned American Red Cross stock in the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Panama and sent immediately for distribution in Mexico.

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.

**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.**

5,000 cleaning kits were distributed to families and 6,491 school kits were distributed to children.

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 unclean. As mountains of flood-damaged furniture and personal belongings accumulated in the period following the emergency, these kits have been essential to assist people in the effort required to clean up after the floods. Bilateral assistance was provided by the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) with the donation of 2,000 cleaning kits, and by the American Red Cross with the donation of an additional 7,000 cleaning kits.

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



Construction of water wells. Communities Bitzales - Tabasco. Source: MRC

## 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.**

3,000 families have received tool kits. 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.

The MRC, during the relief distributions in the communities in the municipality of Macuspana, identified the region as being extremely vulnerable and with socio-economic deficiencies. Consequently, the MRC chose this municipality to implement the social rehabilitation project.

In March 2008, the MRC coordinated the implementation of a Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (VCA) with their local branch in Tabasco with support from the Regional Centre of Reference in Community Based Disaster Preparedness in Costa Rica. After completing the VCA, the MRC concluded that the majority of the communities in Macuspana are surrounded by rivers, creeks and lakes posing a great threat for future flooding. Therefore Phase II of this operation will be focused in this area.

### General Objective of Phase II:

Phase II of this operation is to restore and improve the lives, livelihoods and basic living conditions of 884 families in the communities of Macuspana that were affected by the floods by providing better opportunities through disaster preparedness programs and rehabilitation of livelihoods.

The following chart indicates the number of benefited families per community:

Community	Number of Families
Bitzal 1	59
Bitzal 2	57
Bitzal 3	24
Bitzal 4	38
Bitzal 5	102
Bitzal 6	107
Bitzal 7	110
Lazaro Cardenas 1	96
Lazaro Cardenas 2	90
Los Guiros	40
Venaditos	50
Naranjos 1	48
Naranjos 2	63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>884</b>

## Progress towards objectives

The four objectives are accomplished in sequence; therefore, the implementation of objective 2 did not start until objective 1 was completed. The activities planned for the four objectives are based on the results of the VCA carried out during the first phase of this operation by the Tabasco branch and the CREEC.

Community disaster preparedness	
<b>Objective 1: The most vulnerable disaster-affected families in Macuspana will be better prepared to respond to future emergencies, through the development of an efficient disaster management and response structure.</b>	
Expected results	Activities planned
13 communities are provided (through the Red Cross) with tools for disaster preparedness in order to increase their disaster response capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct 3 courses on first aid for communities and a course on floods for 24 volunteers.</li> <li>The 24 volunteers hold 13 community talks to the people.</li> <li>Distribution of 900 family manuals.</li> <li>Purchase and delivery of one boat and rescue equipment to the</li> </ul>

	<p>MRC's local branch in Tabasco for the use of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a system for the use of the community emergency boat.</li> <li>• First aid training and equipment for 26 members from 13 communities.</li> <li>• Workshops on lessons learnt in community work: diagnosis, processes, results.</li> </ul>
--	--

**Progress:**

In August, MRC with the support of the Regional Centre of Reference for Institutional Disaster Preparedness (Centro de Referencia en Preparacion para Desastres – CREPD) trained 24 volunteers in the use of the Better Be Prepared series; specifically in the modules: Prepared Family, Floods, and Community First Aid.

Up to date, all 13 projected communities have been trained. The training sessions were conducted by the volunteers and focused on the topics: Prepared Family, Floods and Community First Aid. Due to the remote location of the communities, an advance first aid course has been carried out in February. For this session, two members per community, already trained in Community First Aid, were selected to participate.

876 out of 900 manuals were distributed to families of 13 communities; Bitzal 1 (59 families), Bitzal 2 (57 families), Bitzal 3 (24 families), Bitzal 4 (38 families), Bitzal 5 (102 families), Bitzal 6 (107 families), Lazaro Cardenas 1 (96 families), Lazaro Cardenas 2 (90 families), Los Guiros (40 families), Venaditos (50 families), Naranjos 1 (40 families).

The following modules of the Better Be Prepared series were distributed: Floods, Community First Aid and Prepared Family.



Volunteers from the MRC, providing training to community members in disaster preparedness and first aid in the communities of Bitzales – Tabasco. Source: MRC

As mentioned in the prior operation update, the boat and rescue equipment were purchased and delivered to the Mexican Red Cross State Delegation in Tabasco.

The only pending activity under this objective is to carry out the community simulation, where they will test the disaster preparedness and response community plans and the proper use of the boats. This activity will be carried out during the next weeks.

Level of advancement of the Community Disaster Preparedness objective: 98 per cent

**Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion**

<b>Objective 2: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases will be reduced through the provision of safe water by constructing water wells.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The affected communities are provided with safe water for human consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 30-31 May identification of areas to perforate water wells and invite the communities to assist in the construction of the wells.</li> <li>• Registration of land where 12 community wells will be built</li> <li>• Construction of water wells.</li> </ul>

**Progress:**

The registration of the land proved to be a more complicated legal procedure than expected. Nevertheless, the water wells territory is duly registered for the collective use and benefit of the communities.

Another issue that delayed the construction of wells was the heavy rains during the months August through December 2008.

After the construction of the water wells was completed, the construction company with the supervision of MRC personnel trained all the communities in the proper use of water and sump pump. Between 5 and 7 persons of the community received training.

All water wells were completed by March and the training was provided in early April. Therefore, this objective has been 100 per cent completed.

### Rehabilitation of livelihoods

**Objective 3: The most vulnerable disaster-affected families in Macuspana will have their livelihoods restored improving their standard of living.**

Expected results	Activities planned
The affected communities are provided with quality supplies for the production of food for their own consumption and/or sale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of vaccinated chickens (broilers and layers) and poultry food for two months.</li> <li>• Distribution of two different types of vegetable seeds most commonly used in the area.</li> <li>• Trainings on how to maintain a chicken pen and a vegetable garden and distribution of their respective manuals.</li> <li>• Purchase and deliveries of 9 community boats.</li> <li>• Delivery of an ice machine to support fishing activities.</li> </ul>

The distributed motor boat and fishing nets will allow the families to increase their catch and the boat will also serve as a transportation method for children to attend school on a daily basis and for emergencies.

Fishermen will no longer need to buy ice since they will have their own ice machine, which will dramatically reduce their expenses and improve their economic level.

#### Progress:

The Mexican Red Cross explained that because of the floods during September and December 2008, the process was delayed. Nevertheless, identification of most affected families by the disaster was completed. So far, chickens, feed, and seed to families of the 13 communities have been delivered. The MRC has also provided training on how to take care of the chicken and orchards.

The Mexican Red Cross bought and delivered nine boats to the communities with their corresponding legal documents in February 2009.

Thanks to the currency exchange difference from USD to Mexican pesos it was possible to buy two ice machines. One cooperative was formed from members from different communities; and they will be in charge of the administration and operation of the ice machines. In the process of constitution of the cooperative special attention was taken to have balance of gender and representation from the 13 communities. Among the recommendations from the Mexican Red Cross to the communities was the inclusion of new members from the communities in the work commissions as well as opening opportunities for women participation in decision-making processes of community interest.

Particularly in these communities, even several male leaders admitted their women are better administrators than they are. Therefore, there was an open will and support for the participation of women in the board of directors of the cooperative that will manage the ice machines and to have representatives from all the communities.



Volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross distributed chicken farms in the communities of Bitzales – Tabasco. Source: Mexican Red Cross

This objective has been 100 per cent completed.

Strengthening of the National Society	
Objective 4: The MRC is better prepared to respond to this and future emergencies, through the training of volunteers.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>MRC volunteers are able to efficiently promote hygiene practices and safe water management during an emergency.</p> <p>MRC volunteers improve their response capacity in an emergency during a food crisis situation.</p> <p>25 MRC volunteers will improve the quality of the humanitarian assistance they provide in an emergency operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A water and sanitation course for 25 MRC volunteers.</li> <li>• SPHERE Workshop (date to be defined).</li> </ul> <p>Activities planned (June-November 2008)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Period of planning and budget process of the activities representing the region.</li> <li>• Capacity building workshop on food security – 4 days.</li> <li>• Consultancy on the region's food situation, for which a consultant will be hired.</li> <li>• Plan 2009/2010 – Food Security from the activity planning.</li> <li>• Workshop – National response plan on food security.</li> <li>• Workshop – Protected School / Villahermosa Tabasco</li> <li>• Workshop – Lessons learnt in community work; Diagnosis, Processes, Results.</li> </ul>

#### Progress:

The Water and Sanitation course was delivered to 25 MRC volunteers with the support of PADRU personnel. After the completion of this workshop, the 25 MRC volunteers are able to: a) make sure the water and sanitation equipment installed during the emergency is used correctly; b) make sure all measures are taken in order to reduce health risks because of contaminated water; and c) make sure field workers are informed about actual information on hygiene promotion during the emergency.

2 SPHERE workshops were completed by December 2009 and February 2009, they had 30 attendees in each workshop with volunteers from all Mexican States. In these workshops the attendees gained knowledge concerning the Humanitarian Charter and the minimum standards in humanitarian help in case of disasters.

Regarding the topic of food security, two high level representatives from the Mexican Red Cross attended the regional meeting on food security. This meeting took place in Panama during July.

The activity planned on mitigation micro-projects stated in the previous revised appeal was omitted from this objective because these micro-projects (constructions of wells, distribution of seeds, chickens and ice machine) are included in the water, sanitation and hygiene protection, and rehabilitation of livelihoods objectives..

Regarding the Workshop – Protected School, it was scheduled to be held by the end of April 2009 in Villahermosa City. However, the sanitary conditions in Mexico have forced the MRC to postpone this event and it will be held as soon as sanitary conditions allow it. The workshop will be held at the Technical High School N° 28 (Escuela Secundaria Tecnica N° 28), located in Colonia Gaviotas Norte. This school was one of the education centres that had the most damage during the floods. This workshop will be addressed to teachers and students from the school and volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross delegations in Comalcalco, Cardenas, Villahermosa, Emiliano Zapata, Tenosique and the Tabasco State Delegation. The MRC has been working hard on the prevention of the AH1N1 influenza throughout the country. In each state MRC has distributed and provided information to the public.



Mexican Red Cross volunteers were trained in Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response. Sphere Project training centre, Mexico. Source: Mexican Red Cross

The federal and state governments have taken severe preventive measures, even banning concerts and events that may concentrate public. In addition, classes in schools were suspended for a week. Gradually, students have returned to school, but under very strict sanitary and safety measures.

A workshop on lessons learnt was programmed as the last activity of the project. Now that sanitary conditions allow it, the MRC has schedule to resume pending activities in the following weeks.

Level of progress of this objective: 95,per cent

<b>Communications</b>	
<b>Objective 5: The elaboration and distribution of a documentary based on the Tabasco Floods of 2007: a preview of how Climate Change will re-shape humanitarian action.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<p>The elaboration of a 30-35 minute documentary that portrays the importance of climate change and how it is shaping Humanitarian Action.</p> <p>This documentary will also present the factors that created such unprecedented disaster and relate these to the new challenges that humanitarians are facing in order to identify lessons learned from this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaboration of a script that complies elements provided by the scientific as well as academic communities (European and Latin American), the humanitarian operators, government officials, community members directly affected by the Tabasco floods and key Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers.</li> <li>• Pre-production, production and post-production of a film that follows the script developed with the collaboration of the Climate Centre in the Netherlands.</li> </ul>

#### **Progress:**

In a previous consultation with the MRC, the company Signal Studio was identified and hired for the production of three videos. The three videos (a one-minute video, five-minute video and another one of 24 minutes) have received feedback and were subsequently adjusted. The MRC presented these during their National Convention held in November.

These videos show the relevance of the work carried out by the local branch of Tabasco on recovery, rehabilitation and adaptation to climate change. The operation has been one of the first experiences in these areas, since previous actions were focused on emergency response only. The video also shows the joint work carried out with the communities. During the National Convention, experiences on the operation were shared with other branches, thus helping to strengthen National Society's capacities.

The Climate Centre and the Regional Representation Office for Central America and Mexico have revised the three videos and provided observations and interviews.

After the presentation of the videos during the National Convention, final feedback from the National Society was incorporated. The final product was completed by 15 December 2008.

The video has been distributed within the MRC, and it has been shown at fund-raising events. It has also been used to raise awareness among the general public concerning the effects of climate change and its relation to disasters on TV. The MRC is negotiating the possibility to have it shown at theatres in the near future. This objective has also been successfully completed.

Level of progress of this objective: 100 per cent

#### **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 Regional Intervention Team (RIT) specialized in reporting 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.cuzroja.org](http://www.cuzroja.org), [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) and [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org), including press releases, articles and photographs from the field published on the National Society 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; email: [desastres@cruzrojamexicana.org.mx](mailto:desastres@cruzrojamexicana.org.mx); phone: (52) 55 36 27 08 94.
- **In Panama:** Ariel Kestens, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: [ariel.kestens@ifrc.org](mailto:ariel.kestens@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email: [fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org](mailto:fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- **In Panama:** Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507)317 1304.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org); phone: (41) 22 730 4300.

[<Interim financial report, click here to return to the title page>](#)

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMX002 - Mexico - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/11-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2007/11-2009/4
Appeal	MDRMX002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>1,898,880</b>					<b>1,898,880</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>200,000</b>					<b>200,000</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	193,642					193,642
Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)	-0					-0
Belgium Red Cross (Flanders) (from Belgian Federal Government)	112,570					112,570
Belgium Red Cross (Flanders) (from Belgian Govt (Flanders))	191,162					191,162
British Red Cross	115,500					115,500
British Red Cross (from DFID - British Government)	103,950					103,950
Canadian Red Cross	121,500					121,500
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	121,500					121,500
Hong Kong Red Cross	184					184
Irish Government	412,500					412,500
Irish Red Cross	2,510					2,510
Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund	83,650					83,650
Japanese Red Cross	38,459					38,459
Liechtenstein Red Cross	20,000					20,000
Luxembourg Red Cross	83,000					83,000
Monaco Red Cross	8,315					8,315
Netherlands - Private Donors	1,244					1,244
New York Office (from Alcatel Lucent)	10,800					10,800
New York Office (from United States - Private Donors)	322					322
New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)	40,942					40,942
On Line donations	5,718					5,718
United States - Private Donors	56					56
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>	<b>1,667,525</b>					<b>1,667,525</b>
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
New York Office (from United States - Private Donors)	429					429
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>	<b>429</b>					<b>429</b>
<u>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</u>						
American Red Cross	231,324					231,324
<b>C3. Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>	<b>231,324</b>					<b>231,324</b>
<u>Other Income</u>						
Services	-540					-540
Voluntary Income	-200,000					-200,000
<b>C5. Other Income</b>	<b>-200,540</b>					<b>-200,540</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	<b>1,698,738</b>					<b>1,698,738</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>1,898,738</b>					<b>1,898,738</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>100%</b>					<b>100%</b>

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMX002 - Mexico - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/11-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2007/11-2009/4
Appeal	MDRMX002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	200,000					200,000
C. Income	1,698,738					1,698,738
E. Expenditure	-1,879,249					-1,879,249
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	19,489					19,489

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMX002 - Mexico - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/11-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2007/11-2009/4
Appeal	MDRMX002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>	<b>1,898,880</b>						<b>1,898,880</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles	52,483	52,483					52,483	0
Seeds,Plants	75,075	45,702					45,702	29,373
Water & Sanitation	8,820	19,457					19,457	-10,637
Medical & First Aid	1,365	1,340					1,340	25
Teaching Materials	47,680	47,672					47,672	8
Utensils & Tools	509,159	509,102					509,102	57
Other Supplies & Services	473,740	471,665					471,665	2,075
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>1,168,322</b>	<b>1,147,421</b>					<b>1,147,421</b>	<b>20,900</b>
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Vehicles	71,400							71,400
Computers & Telecom		10,779					10,779	-10,779
Others Machinery & Equipment		115,743					115,743	-115,743
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>71,400</b>	<b>126,522</b>					<b>126,522</b>	<b>-55,122</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	377	377					377	0
Distribution & Monitoring	84,518	84,518					84,518	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	12,740	7,563					7,563	5,176
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>97,634</b>	<b>92,458</b>					<b>92,458</b>	<b>5,176</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	9,427	15,307					15,307	-5,881
Regionally Deployed Staff	17,816	20,310					20,310	-2,494
National Staff	27,618	19,099					19,099	8,520
National Society Staff	8,045	8,030					8,030	15
Consultants	52,500	49,350					49,350	3,150
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>115,406</b>	<b>112,096</b>					<b>112,096</b>	<b>3,310</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	119,583	112,082					112,082	7,500
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>119,583</b>	<b>112,082</b>					<b>112,082</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	66,334	42,851					42,851	23,483
Information & Public Relation	3,581	2,240					2,240	1,341
Office Costs	13,895	12,762					12,762	1,133
Communications	11,018	11,395					11,395	-376
Professional Fees	44,730	10,097					10,097	34,633
Financial Charges	12,337	27,652					27,652	-15,315
Other General Expenses	16,369	49					49	16,320
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>168,264</b>	<b>107,045</b>					<b>107,045</b>	<b>61,219</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	158,271	104,728					104,728	53,543
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>158,271</b>	<b>104,728</b>					<b>104,728</b>	<b>53,543</b>
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries		36,726					36,726	-36,726
<b>Total Services</b>		<b>36,726</b>					<b>36,726</b>	<b>-36,726</b>
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		40,170					40,170	-40,170
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>40,170</b>					<b>40,170</b>	<b>-40,170</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>1,898,880</b>	<b>1,879,249</b>					<b>1,879,249</b>	<b>19,631</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>19,631</b>					<b>19,631</b>	