

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Costa Rica and Panama: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDR43005
Glide Nos. FL-2008-000158-PAN
FL-2008-000232-CRI
Operations update n° 3
18 November 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update: 22
March 2009 to 30 September 2009;

Appeal target (revised): CHF 651,961 (USD
646,306 or EUR 431,954) to support the Costa
Rican Red Cross (CCRC) and the Red Cross
Society of Panama (RCSP) to assist a total of
12,500 beneficiaries (2,500 families).

Appeal coverage: 100 %;

[<Click here to view the attached Revised
Emergency Appeal Budget; the interim financial
report; or click here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- The Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 1 December 2008 for **CHF 693,779 (USD 571,953 or EUR 450,336)** for nine months to assist 15,000 beneficiaries (3,000 families).
- CHF 270,000 (USD 222,580 or EUR 175,260) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the initial relief activities of the Red Cross Society of Panama, and CHF 110,500 (USD 96,507 OR EUR 75,685) to support the Costa Rican Red Cross in starting relief actions. These DREF operations were annexed to the emergency operation as the floods were taking place in the same affected provinces.
- On 8 April 2009, the budget was revised to reflect better the current situation (no change in the overall figure), for an operation of nine months' duration to reach 2,500 families (approximately, 12,500 beneficiaries)
- This operations update n° 3 includes a revised budget of CHF 651,961 (USD 646,306 or EUR 431,954) which reflects more clearly the plans of action of the recovery phase together with an extension of the operational timeframe up to 30 April 2010.



RCSP conducts the VCA in an indigenous community
in the Bocas del Toro province. Source: RCSP

This strategy seeks to target the same group of beneficiaries affected by the floods for the next 6 months. With this update, the operation will be expanded to include new activities and related budgetary changes to implement a new work plan for the remainder of the floods Operation as a result of unexpected generous donations from civilians, governments and private companies in both countries which assisted with covering emergency needs of affected populations in the relief phase.

Summary: The Red Cross Societies of the affected countries, with support from the International Federation, successfully completed the relief phase of the operation. As a result of generous contributions, additional post emergency and rehabilitation activities and the implementation of a preparedness strategy and capacity-building for the affected population and National Societies are

included in the revised Plan of Action.

Relief activities have been completed and those affected by the floods in Costa Rica and Panama were provided with relief items such as food parcels, hygiene kits, jerry cans and therefore saw their immediate needs met after the heavy rains had taken place and caused loss and damages.

The funding from external contributions received has allowed for the inclusion of additional risk reduction activities and necessary capacity-building in the affected countries and recovery activities in Costa Rica and Panama.

In June 2009, the International Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) handed the pending activities over to the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico, while livelihood rehabilitation activities and water and sanitation activities were being planned by the two National Societies.

Once the relief phase was fully implemented, it was possible to plan community-based programming and to emphasize capacity-building and the strengthening of National Societies' response capacities. These activities are conducted in an effort to enhance National Societies' preparedness for the next natural disaster and also for the food security crisis that is currently affecting the region.

At the end of September, a consultant was hired to carry out a review of the remaining activities and to assess and monitor the plan of action in close collaboration with the National Societies of the affected countries, the Regional Representation Office, PADRU and the international agencies operating in the region.

The new plan of action is expected to be implemented over 6 months and will focus its action on food security activities in Panama and water and sanitation in Costa Rica supporting better prepared communities and National Societies, and will be completed by 30 April 2010; a Final Report will be made available by 30 July 2010 (three months after the end of the operation).

The situation

After continuous heavy rain and floods in November 2008, the government of **Panama** declared the provinces of Bocas del Toro and Colón, as well as the Ngobe Bugle indigenous reservation, under yellow alert, and a green alert was issued in the province of Chiriquí. A total of 10 fatalities were reported, 36,158 people were affected and 3,300 houses were damaged or destroyed. Major roads were blocked rendering most of the communities inaccessible.

Commerce, tourism and **livelihoods were severely affected as floods caused damage to banana plantations and other crops**. The regions affected are amongst the poorest in Panama with a high indigenous population facing food insecurity: the Ministry of Health estimates that 56.7 per cent of children under 5 from rural indigenous areas suffer from chronic malnutrition. The situation of extreme poverty that mainly affects the indigenous population located in the affected areas is characterized by lack of resources, limited access to food and vulnerability to natural disasters which was worsened by the floods.

Based on this information, the Regional Representation is supporting a recovery phase through a community based food security intervention in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and promoting capacity-building of the Red Cross Society of Panama at branch level to prevent the food crisis from escalating further in the affected communities.

In **Costa Rica**, according to the National Emergency Commission (Comisión Nacional de Emergencias - CNE) low pressure systems generated strong winds and heavy rainfall in the Caribbean region, Northern and Central Valley. The most affected areas were Siquirres, Matina, Bataan, Valle de la Estrella, Talamanca and Sixaola in the province of Limón. Other provinces including Alajuela, Cartago, San José and Heredia were also affected.

According to local authorities, water levels from three major rivers: Sixaola in the south, Reventazón and Parismina in the north, broke containment walls and flooded up to two kilometres inland with three-metre high tides. This lasted for fifteen days, submerging many of the farms and communities within the area. In addition, the basin of the rivers Chirripó, Sixaola, Matina, Barbilla, Palacios, Hone Creek, Rojo and Sarapiquí in coastal areas overflowed. An official report issued by the CNE reported that 118 communities were affected, 4,000 people were evacuated and sheltered in 65 shelters, 28 roads and communication routes were affected and

three dykes and three bridges were totally destroyed. In the agricultural sector, crops of banana, cocoa and plantain were affected as well rice, corn, bean and yucca, although on a lesser scale. Also, more than 2,205 water wells were contaminated with flood waters.

Based on the needs assessment carried out by International Federation's expert and in accordance with Ministry of Health's request, the CRRC in close coordination with the Regional Representation is currently implementing a recovery phase through rehabilitation of wells in the affected communities and promoting capacity-building of the community in hygiene and safe water as well as strengthening capacity of the CRRC.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico based in Panama have been actively coordinating with and supporting the Red Cross Society of Panama and the Costa Rican Red Cross and continue to coordinate with local authorities for the recovery phase.

In Panama, as a continuation of the emergency coordination that took place during the emergency phase, strategic alliances between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, local authorities and the RCSP have ensured integral and sustainable support to communities in accordance with public development policy. The community-based food security interventions foreseen have been designed in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and benefit is ensured as a result of its technical support.

In Costa Rica, as a result of the considerable amount of relief items received from civilians, private companies and other organizations and following a request from the Ministry of Health, the CRRC has designed a plan of action for the use of the funds channelled through the Federation appeal focused on activities in water and sanitation.

Both of the plans of action were designed in accordance with local authorities' suggestions and results of preliminary needs assessment carried out in the affected areas and are developed based on outcomes from specific needs assessments.

National Society Capacity-Building:

During the pre-hurricane meeting held in Panama from 3 to 6 June 2008, National Societies from hurricane-prone countries in the Americas participated actively in the revision of the regional contingency plan (previously developed during the 2007 pre-hurricane meeting). The development of the regional contingency plan helped to explore disaster preparedness tools, available capacities within the region, possible response strategies and operating procedures, which provided participants with hands-on practice in readiness for response.

The new plans of action seek also to further build and strengthen National Societies' capacities using and disseminating available International Federation methodologies with the support of the Regional Centre of Reference in Community-Based Education for Disaster Preparedness based in Costa Rica and the Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness in El Salvador and benefitting from the support of International Federation delegates.

In Panama, close monitoring of the interventions led by the branches of Veraguas and Bocas Del Toro should facilitate strengthening of local branch capacity in community-based interventions (assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation). Moreover two trainings of RCSP volunteers are planned in order to strengthen disaster response capacity of the National Society.

In Costa Rica, the recovery phase includes a strong capacity-building component at branch level in community preparedness through the organization of internships and trainings in coordination with Regional Centre of Reference.



NIT member conducting interview with a beneficiary family in situ. Source: CRRC

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

During the onset of the emergency the local branches of the **Red Cross Society of Panama** deployed a search and rescue unit and over 525 persons were safely evacuated or rescued; in addition, 225 volunteers were mobilized to the affected areas. A total of 350 volunteers worked around the clock for this operation and qualified Red Cross volunteers provided emergency first aid care to the most affected people.

International Federation staff supported the operation in Disaster Management, Water and Sanitation, IT/telecom and Communications, and other Federation personnel have been volunteering at the Red Cross Society of Panama headquarters to provide general support in logistics and the receipt of in-kind donations. The National Society deployed National Intervention Team (NIT) members to the field, as well as volunteers specialized in water and sanitation, logistics and information.

The National Society also maintained close coordination with the regional Centre of Operations for Emergencies (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencias – COE) in charge of performing damage and needs assessments and coordinating actions in the field.

In addition, the National Society distributed family kits for 400 families and 10,000 water purification tablets, forwarding them by ship to the province of Bocas del Toro.

The Red Cross Society of Panama received from the general public and dispatched:

- Y 75 tons of food and hygiene items
- 25-lb food parcels containing rice, pasta, cooking oil, sardines, ham, salt, sugar, coffee, milk,

The Red Cross Society of Panama, thanks to generous contributions from government, private companies, several non-profit organizations and civilians, has assisted the following number of families:

Province	N° of Communities	N° of Families	N° of People	Relief Items distributed
Bocas del Toro	91	3,519	19,649	3,519 food parcels. 70,100 gallons of water. 1,418 blankets. 886 milk packages. 1376 Cleaning kits. 1,376 Kitchen kits. 1385 Hygiene kits. 5 School kits. 240 bundles of clothes. 312 mattresses.
Chiriquí	6	86	531	86 food parcels. 1,720 gallons of water. 86 Hygiene kits. 258 blankets.
Veraguas	15	587	3,541	588 Food parcels. 11,740 Gallons of water. 587 Cleaning kits. 587 Hygiene kits.
Colón	7	27	122	27 food parcels. 540 gallons of water. 27 Hygiene kits. 27 Kitchen kits. 81 blankets.
Panamá	2	94	461	12 food parcels. 240 gallons of water. 82 Kitchen kits.

Total 5 provinces	121	4,313	24,304	
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In **Costa Rica**, the emergency operation committee headed by the President of the Costa Rican Red Cross and the National Relief Director has been active since the onset of the emergency. The CRRC focused its initial actions on performing search and rescue operations, providing pre-hospital care and completing damage and needs assessments. The National Society also managed temporary shelters for people who had to leave their homes.

Two National Intervention Team (NIT) members in the province of Limón and approximately 100 volunteers provided support in the response to the emergency and were mobilized in more than 40 vehicles (4 x 4 vehicles, rescue vehicles, ambulances), 2 all terrain vehicles (Unimog) and 3 boats.

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), based in the capital city of San José, was active since the beginning of the emergency collecting, processing and communicating all information received from the field and other agencies.

In addition, 200 people in the communities of Yorkin, Talamanca and Limón (in the district of Talamanca) as well as 250 people in the communities of Chinaquicha, Turrialba and Cartago (in the district of Turrialba) received first aid care and relief items. Costa Rican Red Cross Youth volunteers carried out recreational activities and provided psychosocial support (PSP) for children in the shelters of Bataan and Matina using the “Retorno a la Alegría” (Return to Happiness) methodology.

In addition to involvement in the flood response, the CRRC was involved in two other emergency response operations: tropical storms in the Pacific and Chorotega region and the earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale affecting over 3,000 people. The three concurrent emergencies stretched the CRRC capacity to its limits and hundreds of volunteers were mobilized throughout the country to attend to the needs of those affected.



Boat to carry out distributions in communities with no land access, Bocas del Toro province, Panama. Source: RCSP

Progress towards objectives

The Costa Rican Red Cross, Red Cross Society of Panama and the International Federation agreed to modify the plan of action for the distribution of relief items to beneficiaries as a result of the considerable amount of relief items received from civilians, private companies and other organizations.

As a consequence of this external funding, the recovery phase has also been modified. The CRRC has developed a plan of action for the use of the funds channelled through the Federation appeal focused on activities in water and sanitation in accordance with local authorities’ suggestions, while the RCPS has designed a plan focused on community food security.

This update includes details of the revised plan of action, and the following objectives already reflect this change.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: 2,500 families (1,500 families in Panama and 1,000 in Costa Rica) will benefit from the provision of essential food items and non-food items to recover from the effects of the floods. Replenishment of both National Societies’ relief stocks is also planned, therefore strengthening and re-establishing their response capacity for future relief operations.	
Expected results	Activities planned

2,500 families will receive essential relief items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to track intended assistance • Coordination with public institutions • Verification and survey of the most affected population • Local procurement of food items • Purchase of non-food items by Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) • Transport, customs and logistics arranged by RLU. • Distribution of food and non-food items. • Monitoring and evaluation.
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Panama

With the contribution from the national government and the improvement of the situation in the affected areas, the last damage and needs assessment performed led to a reduction in the estimated overall quantities of tarpaulins, jerry cans and blankets to be purchased with the appeal budget. Some items have not been distributed in order to replenish relief stocks and re-establish response capacity of the RCSP.

The following chart shows the amount of items which the International Federation through PADRU delivered to the Red Cross Society of Panama, the amount distributed to date and the amount in stock managed by the International Federation's Regional Logistic Unit on behalf of the RCSP:

Items	Amount Requested	Amount Distributed	Balance – Available for other emergency response
Hygiene kits	1,500	1,500	0
Kitchen kits	1,500	1,485	15
Blankets	2,500	2,355	145
Tarpaulins	1,000	450	550
Jerry cans	1,050	400	650
Food parcels	1,500	1,500	0
Mosquito nets	3,000	0	3,000
TOTAL	12,050	7,690	4,360

These items were distributed among different provinces: Panama Este, Chiriquí and Bocas del Toro depending on the needs of the affected people. The RCSP distributed relief items to 1,500 families and relief items donated by the national government, civil society and private sector reached 4,313 families in order to assist as many people affected as possible.

A total of 1, 500 children received school kits in order to initiate their schooling in the province of Bocas del Toro. The items were procured locally following the Federation's procurement standards. The school kits contained the following items:

- 2 notepads (letter size)
- 2 notebooks
- 2 packs of colour pencils
- 2 pens
- 1 glue jar
- 1 glue stick
- 1 geometry school kit

Costa Rica

The following items were distributed to 1,500 of the most affected families:

- 1,500 hygiene kits (1 per family)
- 3,000 jerry cans (2 per family)

In Costa Rica during the month of December, the implementation of activities was set back as many businesses were closed due to the national holidays. This factor delayed the local quotation of relief items. Quotations of all the relief items: hygiene kits, mosquito nets and jerry cans proved to be more expensive in Costa Rica and the Federation's PADRU decided to deliver relief items from Panama together with a water treatment pump and equipment.

In addition, the Costa Rican Red Cross procured 5,000 labelled plastic bags to pack donated clothing received from several organizations and from the general public.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water-related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion and education to 5,000 households for nine months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>2,500 households have safe drinking water and receive educational hygiene promotion.</p> <p>2,500 households will receive mosquito nets to diminish the risk from vector related diseases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments of water quality in the affected areas. • Deployment of a RIT specializing in water and sanitation. • Provision of potable water to 2,500 Panamanian families in the affected area by providing operation costs for a water purification plant. • Provision of water purification tablets for household water treatment for 1,500 households in Panama • Purchase and shipping of 6,000 mosquito nets. • Transport, customs and logistics arranged by RLU. • Distribution. • Monitoring and evaluation.

Panama

A water purification plant with the capacity to generate 5,000 litres of water per hour was dispatched to Changuinola in the province of Bocas del Toro. The water purification plant is the property of the Red Cross Society of Panama and all operational costs have been covered through this appeal.

The Red Cross Society of Panama in coordination with the Ministry of Health reactivated six water systems in rural communities of Changuinola.

In addition, 10,000 water purification tablets have been distributed in Changuinola to 1,000 families. The water purification tablets were donated by private companies including Procter and Gamble. Each family received ten water purification tablets (2 per person).

Costa Rica

The areas and specific families to receive assistance were identified from the information provided by the damage and needs assessment. A total of 2,301 family wells have been rehabilitated (approx 11,500 beneficiaries) by the CRRC with the active participation of beneficiaries and technicians from the Ministry of Health.

Families were trained on the use and maintenance of the wells. A total of 3,000 mosquito nets were also distributed to 1,500 families in May 2009.



Ministry of Health personnel working together with Costa Rican Red Cross volunteers in the cleaning of water wells.
Source: CRRC

Vehicles with water and sanitation equipment and CRRC staff trained during previous emergency flood response operations have been mobilized to the affected zones. Thanks to an agreement with the Ministry of Health, two vehicles were at the disposal of the National Society and the equipment sent by PADRU now includes two fully equipped vehicles with capacity for more personnel.

Two water pumps were sent by PADRU to the National Society and the CRRC provided chemicals for water treatment and purification to ensure safe drinking water to the affected communities. These synergies have facilitated revision of the plan of action of the CRRC which includes the cleaning of contaminated water wells in the Caribbean region of the country and the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion and education.

- 1. Limón, Limón
- 2. Pococi, Guápiles
- 3. Siquirres, Siquirres
- 4. Talamanca, Bratsi
- 5. Matina, Matina
- 6. Guácimo, Guácimo



Ubicación de pozos rehabilitados.

- 3. Siquirres, Siquirres **370** pozos
- 4. Talamanca, Bratsi **997** pozos
- 5. Matina, Matina **848** pozos
- 6. Guácimo, Guácimo **86** pozos

Early Recovery and Risk Reduction

Objective: Food security and livelihood early recovery activities are assessed, planned and implemented, to benefit affected households in Panama and Costa Rica. Based on the identified vulnerabilities, awareness is raised and capacity of the community exposed to risks is strengthened to build community safety and resilience.

Expected results	Activities planned
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<p>Ø Sense of ownership of the projects amongst the communities is promoted through the food security and water and sanitation initiatives, adapted to specific needs at personal, family and community level and implying active participation of beneficiaries.</p>	<p>A food security expert, water and sanitation expert and experienced volunteers will evaluate the communities during the relief phase to further define needs and plan programming in these areas.</p> <p>Second specific needs assessments will be carried out in order to base interventions on the outcomes of participatory and multi disciplinary assessments</p> <p>Technical advice and support will be provided to the National Societies' teams in coordination with Regional Centre of Reference</p>
<p>Ø Rehabilitated wells in Costa Rica assist 500 direct beneficiaries.</p>	<p><u>Costa Rica:</u></p> <p>Y Selection of communities and carrying out of assessments in the selected communities</p>
<p>Ø Five communities in Panama benefit from food security interventions in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture</p>	<p>Y Construction of 125 family wells and distribution of maintenance tools to 500 direct beneficiaries</p> <p>Y Organization of internships for members of the CRRC in coordination with the Regional Centre of Reference in Community-Based Education in Disaster Preparedness in Costa Rica</p>
<p>Ø Local branches of the National Societies are strengthened in order to ensure better community support.</p>	<p>Y Training of 50 volunteers in the International Federation's community disaster preparedness methodologies</p> <p>Y Facilitation of ten community sessions by the trained volunteers in order establish maintenance and repair systems and to disseminate best practices.</p>
<p>Ø Coordination is enhanced with local authorities that work with the two National Societies to increase resilience and reach more people.</p>	<p>Y Distribution of didactic materials (International Federation methodologies) and tools amongst beneficiaries</p> <p>Y Monitoring and evaluation</p> <p><u>Panama:</u></p> <p>Y VCA and participatory assessments among communities</p> <p>Y Strategic alliance with Ministry of Agriculture for technical support and facilitation of technical trainings</p>
	<p>Y Community-based projects related to long term food security (projects still to be defined with the communities) to be designed and implemented in coordination with local authorities</p> <p>Y Training of beneficiaries on enhancement of livestock management capacity and/or food preservation techniques and/or better ecological practices of cultivation of crops and/or gardening skills (to be defined with outcomes from assessment)</p> <p>Y Monitoring and evaluation</p>

During the emergency phase, pre-assessments were carried out by food security and water sanitation experts from PADRU in order to help National Societies to draw up a recovery plan of action. It has been agreed to design a food security programme in Panama and water and sanitation in Costa Rica due to specific needs of the communities and specific capacities of the National Societies. The two recovery plans of action emphasize a community-level approach in providing longer-term support to the communities affected by the floods, and in building the capacities of the two National Societies, mainly at the local level, to promote communities' resilience.

With the Regional Representation for Central America taking the lead, close cooperation is taking place between the two National Societies in order to design practical and coherent plans of action based on outcomes from participatory and multi disciplinary assessments among communities in collaboration with the Regional Centre of Reference for Community-Based Education in Disaster Preparedness and the Regional Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness, and local authorities. The extension of the appeal will allow for implementation of this recovery phase.

Panama

Red Cross Society of Panama volunteers along with an early recovery specialist from the International Federation performed damage and need assessments in the communities within the Changuinola district. The floods in these communities completely destroyed family and community orchards and farm animals were lost, causing extensive damage to families' livelihoods and placing additional distress on those affected.

Consequently, the Red Cross Society of Panama, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario – MIDA), has designed sustainable micro-projects for the affected communities that will include distribution of seeds, chickens and family agricultural tools to rehabilitate community and family orchards. A second assessment will take place during the coming weeks in order to identify specifically the interventions and coordinate with local authorities and communities.

Costa Rica

The CRRC has revised its plan of action focused on water sanitation activities in accordance with the request from the Ministry of Health with which an alliance has been agreed. It is planned to reach 500 direct beneficiaries through the construction of 125 family wells and the carrying out of 10 community trainings. Training on water and sanitation interventions will also be provided to 50 volunteers in coordination with the Regional Centre of Reference in Costa Rica.

National Society Capacity-Building

Objective: The capacity of the Red Cross Societies in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The Red Cross volunteers will be better prepared in disaster response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct several NIT capacity-building trainings and workshops. • Provide security gear and equipment for volunteers to operate safely. • Institutional strengthening of the capacities by strengthening the disaster response capacities within the branch team in each country. • Provision of technical and capacity-building support including training and mentoring to National Societies' staff in the planning, management and implementation of the water and sanitation and/or food security programmes.

Panama

The Red Cross Society of Panama's crisis room has been equipped and renovated with items such as a computer, screen and radio equipment; and a damaged vehicle were repaired.

During the recovery phase, the National Society has scheduled trainings for volunteers in order to strengthen its disaster response and community preparedness capacity.

The constant monitoring of the two branches of Bocas Del Toro and Veraguas should facilitate strengthening of project management capacity at branch level and build up new skills for volunteers in community work. The project will promote involvement and the lead of the branch on the community interventions in order to build up capacity and strengthen a better skilled volunteer network.

Costa Rica

The Costa Rican Red Cross water and sanitation department has been equipped with items such as a mobile laboratory and a water treatment pump.

In addition, the National Society has scheduled a water and sanitation training course to be done during the next weeks as part of the recovery plan of action and up to 6 internships with the Regional Centre of Reference from Costa Rica.

Once the operation is completed, a project evaluation will be carried out in order to identify lessons learnt and good practices in both countries.

Communications

Objective: The Red Cross Societies will facilitate adequate visibility of the response activities through the development of a comprehensive communications strategy.	
Expected results	Activities planned

Red Cross volunteers will have appropriate visibility equipment. National and international media, as well as the International Federation's internal information system, will be fed interviews, videos, photographs, press releases and stories to ensure visibility for the National Societies' activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, production and distribution of visibility material (stickers, t-shirts, caps, etc.). • Local and international interviews. • Drafting and distribution of press releases.
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Panama

Visibility materials (tee shirts, caps, flags, vests) for relief staff have been purchased and distributed.

The Red Cross Society of Panama published two pages in the local newspaper, giving thanks for the generous support received and informing of the various activities performed in the affected areas. The RCSP President, the Relief Director and an International Federation representative gave two interviews to the media. In addition, the RCSP issued weekly press releases.

Costa Rica

The Costa Rican Red Cross has published three articles on its national website (<http://www.cruzroja.or.cr>) and three articles on the regional Red Cross website (www.cruzroja.org) to provide information on the status of the operation. Furthermore, a considerable quantity of photographs and micro-videos of the activities completed thus far have been recorded.

Logistics

Objective: Operational support is provided to the National Societies to effectively dispatch relief items upon arrival, including clearance, storage and forwarding to distribution.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The Red Cross Societies of Panama and Costa Rica receive operational support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leasing of 4 x 4 vehicles • Leasing of trucks for distribution • Mobilization of volunteers and Red Cross personnel

Panama

A considerable amount of funds were allocated to cover the initial operational and transportation costs of relief items included in this appeal, donated items, as well as mobilization of volunteers. Transportation costs include four 4 x 4 vehicles and the leasing of two trucks. With funding provided by the United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) to cover the leasing costs of the trucks, the RCSP will be able to lease additional 4 x 4 vehicles and ensure coverage of additional operational costs. The RCSP leased four 4 x 4 vehicles from the International Federation's RLU fleet department until July 2009 and covered additional operational costs.

Costa Rica

The CRRC has designated an operations coordinator. The International Federation, through PADRU, has delivered mosquito nets, jerry cans, hygiene kits and two water treatment pumps. The CRRC leased two 4 x 4 vehicles until April 2009 and was able to cover additional operational costs.

This objective has been successfully completed.

IT & Telecom

Objective: A well functioning and reliable communications system to ensure effective communication and security for all Movement partners for the immediate response to the disaster has been established.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Data communication and office facilities are available for the operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct assessments • Procure and install communication equipment • Re-establish family links in Changuinola and Almirante

Panama

An International Federation IT & Telecom specialist was deployed to the field in order to evaluate the communications needs and to install a VHF repeater antenna to support the operation. Additionally, the

International Federation has provided internet connection for five laptops belonging to the National Society to use during the emergency, along with two radios and an IT/telecommunications kit.

The RCSP handled 48 requests to re-establish family links in Changuinola and Almirante.

This objective has been completed.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for advocacy, maintaining the profile of the emergency operation and for fundraising. 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 promoting greater quality, accountability, and transparency. The communications activities covered by this appeal are aimed at supporting the National Societies to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities will include training, capacity-building, as well as material support and are closely coordinated with the communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. The **Red Cross Society of Panama** has issued six press releases and hosted one press conference. The **Costa Rican Red Cross** has published three articles on its national website (<http://www.cruzroja.or.cr>) and three articles in the regional Red Cross website (www.cruzroja.org) to inform on the status of the operation. As a result of a partnership with Albatros Media, the International Federation has deployed a photography and video team to the field in Panama made up of a RIT specialized in information and Albatros Media staff with the aim of producing video material for the press.

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 Panama: Jose Beliz, General Director, Red Cross Society of Panama: email: cruzroja@pa.gbnet.cc; phone (507) 315-1388; fax: (507) 315-1401
- In Costa Rica: Guillermo Arroyo, Relief Director, Costa Rican Red Cross; phone (506) 2528-0030; fax: (506) 255-3098
- In Panama: Marjorie Soto-Franco, Disaster Risk Reduction delegate, Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico; email: marjorie.sotofranco@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- In Panama: Fabricio Lopez, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email: 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; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; e-mail: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 22 730 4300.

**[<Revised budget, Interim financial report attached below;
or click here to return to the title page>](#)**

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Costa Rica & Panama Floods

MDR43005

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter	51,000	13,150	-37,850
Construction Materials	0	243	243
Clothing & Textiles	71,250	43,032	-28,218
Food	45,000	68,533	23,533
Seeds & Plants	0	36,015	36,015
Water & Sanitation	30,000	60,707	30,707
Medical & First Aid	0	0	0
Teaching Materials	0	21,385	21,385
Utensils & Tools	139,325	38,100	-101,225
Other Supplies & Services	72,000	79,972	7,972
Total Relief Needs	408,575	361,137	-47,438
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Land & Buildings	0	0	0
Vehicles Purchase	0	0	0
Computers & Telecom Equipment	16,450	16,693	243
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0	0	0
Medical Equipment	0	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0	0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse	0	8,192	8,192
Distribution & Monitoring	40,200	8,732	-31,468
Transport & Vehicles Costs	56,000	61,497	5,497
Service fee & Recovery	15,758	0	-15,758
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff	0	0	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	13,700	2,189	-11,511
National Staff	6,000	9,792	3,792
National Society Staff	30,000	54,036	24,036
Consultants	5,000	6,210	1,210
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	13,500	20,128	6,628
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	9,000	11,105	2,105
Information & Public Relations	7,500	11,754	4,254
Office running costs	9,000	15,353	6,353
Communication Costs	13,500	2,605	-10,895
Professional Fees	0	754	754
Financial Charges	4,500	15,732	11,232
Other General Expenses		3,676	3,676
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	45,096	42,377	-2,719
Total Operational Needs	285,204	290,824	5,620
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	693,779	651,961	-41,818
Available Resources			
Net Request	693,779	651,961	

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR43005 - Costa Rica and Panama - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/9-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/9-2010/4
Appeal	MDR43005
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
A. Budget	651,961					651,961
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	110,436					110,436
<i>Australian Government</i>	7,538					7,538
<i>British Red Cross (from Great Britain - Private Donors)</i>	15,464					15,464
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>	2,004					2,004
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)</i>	45,033					45,033
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	22,900					22,900
<i>Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	68,101					68,101
C1. Cash contributions	271,476					271,476
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	380,500					380,500
C5. Other Income	380,500					380,500
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	651,976					651,976
D. Total Funding = B + C	651,976					651,976
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

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	0					0
C. Income	651,976					651,976
E. Expenditure	-622,287					-622,287
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	29,689					29,689

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR43005 - Costa Rica and Panama - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/9-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/9-2010/4
Appeal	MDR43005
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
BUDGET (C)		651,961					651,961	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	13,150	13,150					13,150	0
Construction Materials	243	243					243	0
Clothing & textiles	59,066	44,013					44,013	15,053
Food	52,500	52,500					52,500	0
Seeds,Plants	36,015							36,015
Water & Sanitation	60,707	32,993					32,993	27,714
Teaching Materials	21,385	17,065					17,065	4,320
Utensils & Tools	38,100	38,100					38,100	-0
Other Supplies & Services	79,972	79,972					79,972	-0
Total Supplies	361,137	278,035					278,035	83,102
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	16,693	16,693					16,693	0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	16,693	16,693					16,693	0
Transport & Storage								
Storage	8,192	7,922					7,922	270
Distribution & Monitoring	8,732	8,732					8,732	-0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	61,497	49,024					49,024	12,473
Total Transport & Storage	78,420	65,678					65,678	12,742
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	2,189	8,399					8,399	-6,210
National Staff	9,792	9,792					9,792	0
National Society Staff	54,036	44,315					44,315	9,722
Consultants	6,210							6,210
Total Personnel	72,228	62,507					62,507	9,722
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	20,128	2,677					2,677	17,451
Total Workshops & Training	20,128	2,677					2,677	17,451
General Expenditure								
Travel	11,105	8,047					8,047	3,058
Information & Public Relation	11,754	11,754					11,754	0
Office Costs	6,474	6,306					6,306	168
Communications	2,605	1,636					1,636	970
Professional Fees	753	753					753	0
Financial Charges	15,732	15,878					15,878	-146
Other General Expenses	3,676	69					69	3,607
Total General Expenditure	52,099	44,442					44,442	7,657
Programme Support								
Program Support	42,377	40,902					40,902	1,475
Total Programme Support	42,377	40,902					40,902	1,475
Services								
Services & Recoveries	6,404	9,404					9,404	-3,000
Total Services	6,404	9,404					9,404	-3,000
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	2,475	101,951					101,951	-99,475
Total Operational Provisions	2,475	101,951					101,951	-99,475
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	651,961	622,287					622,287	29,673
VARIANCE (C - D)		29,673					29,673	