

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ***MEXICO: HURRICANE ISIDORE***

*30 September 2002*

*Information Bulletin N° 3/02*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 88,000*

*This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 88,000 has been released. As a result of further updates and details from assessment reports, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal. Donor support for the reimbursement of DREF funds is urgently sought.*

### ***The Situation***

On 23 September, the category 3 hurricane Isidore hit Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula; winds of 200 km/hour uprooted trees and tore roofs from houses. A total of 70,000 people were evacuated from high risk, coastal areas. Whilst the impact of the hurricane was most severe in Yucatán, it also affected the states of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Chiapas. It is estimated that in Yucatán alone, 500,000 people were affected by the passage of hurricane Isidore and in Campeche and Chiapas, an additional 24,000 and 10,000 people respectively.

A total of 74 municipalities in Yucatán sustained damage, and according to preliminary assessments, the worst hit in addition to the city of Mérida, are Motul, Concal, Sinanche, Cemul, Zinzamtum, Muchupic, Canasin, Tecach and Puerto Progreso. One person died in Mérida, a total of 240 people were wounded and there are current estimates of 140 people missing at sea. Schools have been closed and health facilities are functioning at 70% of their full capacity. The entire maize crop and 40,000 hectares of fruit trees have been lost in Yucatán, and poultry and pig farming activities, which account for a third of national production, have been totally wiped out.

In addition, tropical Storm Julio affected 5,000 people in the state of Guerrero as a result of heavy rains and flooding.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Mexican Red Cross (MRC), in coordination with national and state authorities, participated in the evacuation of people from ports and communities in high-risk areas, and provided an ambulance service which to date has assisted 38 wounded.

A total of 38 shelters have been set up, of which 18 are in Mérida and the remainder in Izamal, Tizimin, Valladolid, Hunucma, Tikul and Motul throughout the state of Yucatán. At present, some 24,314 people

continue to be housed in shelters, 43% of whom are suffering from respiratory diseases, 21% from diarrhoea and 8% from dermatitis. The Mexican Red Cross has 80 relief volunteers, 22 youth volunteers, 10 administrators, 5 doctors, 12 nurses and 7 representatives of the MRC state board who are active in Yucatán.

On 23 September, 25 tonnes of relief goods were transported from the MRC headquarters to Mérida where they were distributed between 23 and 25 September in the shelters. This assistance included tinned food and other food supplies, water, blankets, clothes, shoes and medicines. An additional 13 tonnes of relief goods were transported on 26 September to Mérida and a further 12 tonnes on Friday, 27 September. An additional 40 tonnes of relief goods will be sent to Chiapas on Sunday, 29 September. The DREF funding allocation will be used for provision of essential relief supplies.

The Mexican Red Cross is leading a damage and needs assessment in the 74 affected communities in Yucatán which began on 25 September, and which is scheduled for completion on 5 October next. It is expected that humanitarian relief assistance in the shelters will be provided for a further three to four weeks.

The Mexican Red Cross is coordinating assistance with the ministries of development and health, civil protection and public security officials, the navy, the army and the fire service.

The National Society is also liaising closely with the Federation's regional communications delegate in Mexico, the regional delegation in Guatemala, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit and the PNSs that have representation in Mexico. A meeting of the Mexican Red Cross and PNS representatives is planned for 2 October 2002.

## *Needs*

Once the damage and needs assessment has been completed, full details of needs will be available. However, in the worst hit communities where it is estimated that approximately 150 bamboo, mud and thatch houses per community previously existed, all housing has been destroyed. The Mexican Red Cross is therefore considering the implementation of an operation focusing on the recovery of the worst-affected communities and, in the event of a positive decision in this respect, may request international support through an appeal. However, a final decision will be taken once the assessment has been completed.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

*For further details please contact :*

- *Martín Gonzalez, Mexican Red Cross National Headquarters; Phone (52-55) 3951111 Fax (52) 5 3951598, Mobile (52-55) 91090779 , email [cruzroja@mexporta.com](mailto:cruzroja@mexporta.com)*
- *Fabricio López, Federation Regional Communications Delegate in Mexico, Phone: (52-55) 5255 4355; Mobile (52-55) 31473262; e-mail: [fabricio1@cuzroja.org](mailto:fabricio1@cuzroja.org)*
- *Josephine Shields, Guatemala Regional Delegation, Mobile (502) 301-0070, Fax (502) 363-1449, email: [ifrcgu04@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcgu04@ifrc.org)*
- *Leon Prop, Federation Desk Officer, Phone (41 22) 730 42 22; Fax (41 22) 733 0395; email: [prop@ifrc.org](mailto:prop@ifrc.org)*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

John Horekens  
Director  
External Relations

Santiago Gil  
Head  
Americas Department