

# DREF Bulletin Update



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

## ECUADOR: FLOODS

**MDREC001**  
**Update no. 2**  
**1 April 2006**

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

### In Brief

**Period covered by this update: 11 – 31 March 2006**

**History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:**

- CHF 80,000 DREF funding allocated on 11 March 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation
- A DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the operation

The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- In Country: Jorge Arteaga López, National Relief Director, Ecuadorian Red Cross  
email: [jarteaga@cruzroja.org.ec](mailto:jarteaga@cruzroja.org.ec) Phone (593) 2 29-57256 fax (593) 257-0424
- In Peru: Giorgio Ferrario, Head of Lima Regional Delegation; email [giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org](mailto:giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org), phone (511) 221-8151, fax (511) 441- 3607
- In Panama: Stephen McAndrew, Coordinator, Federation Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama;  
email [stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org](mailto:stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org), phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1082
- In Geneva: Olaug Bergseth, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email [olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org](mailto:olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org), phone (41 22) 730-4535, fax (41 22) 730-0395

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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background, and current situation

As of 9 February, heavy rains causing floods began to affect the Ecuadorian provinces of Esmeraldas, El Oro, Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí and Pichincha in the coastal region of the country. According to assessments carried out by the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC), the flooding has already affected 22,480 people (5,014 families). The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI) envisages an increase in rain in the following days until the first week of May. Although floods occur every year in some areas as a result of the absence of functional aqueducts, at the time of writing this report, rain levels are already well above average for the time of year. Huge swathes of cropland have been flooded and a number of roads and bridges have been seriously damaged; as flooding intensifies further damage is constantly being incurred.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Ecuadorian Red Cross branches in the affected region responded to the disaster with evacuation and search and rescue operations, needs assessments, water and sanitation activities, food relief and the provision of primary health care. Furthermore, the National Relief Coordination department activated 17 National Intervention Team (NIT) members, who supported the branches in the six provinces affected.

A plan of action was put together by the ERC with support from the Federation. The Federation released CHF 80,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to provide of food relief to 1,600 families in the areas affected. A Regional Intervention Team (RITs) member was deployed to the field as well as Federation technical staff to support ECR actions and to help facilitate cooperation with other humanitarian organizations.

### *Coordination*

The ERC has been invited to participate in the United Nations Technical Emergency Mechanism (UNETE) coordination meetings. The ERC supported by the Federation, has held coordination meetings with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNETE and OXFAM to coordinate actions and avoid duplication of roles. The ERC is also in contact with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Welfare for future joint actions. Meanwhile The ERC Relief Department has maintained constant contact with the branches in the Provinces to ensure the receipt of updated information; which is shared with non governmental organizations. At the time of writing this report, most urgent needs had been met:

- The WFP will provide 36,000 food packages. To date 16,000 food packages have been distributed and 20,000 more are expected to arrive in April. 900 food packages are now available for immediate distribution; the ERC will support the WFP in some of these distributions.
- The Canadian Red Cross has provided hygiene kits containing shampoo, sanitary towels, toothpaste, laundry soap, a child and an adult toothbrush and a hand towel at a value of USD 6,400.
- The American Red Cross has presented a proposal for USD 22,000 for the provision of hygiene kits containing rubbish bags, buckets, a broom, a shovel, a pick, a barrel for water and a flashlight for 1,600 families.
- The ERC has presented a proposal to ECHO through the Spanish Red Cross.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has provided food relief and medicines at a value of USD 78,000
- OXFAM is planning to work in water and sanitation to assist some 1,000 families in 5 communities.

Even though the National Operations Committee (COE) had not been activated and a state of emergency had not yet been declared at the time of producing this report, coordination among humanitarian actors is now considered a major priority. An agreement to share information has also been reached among humanitarian organizations.



**San Pablo: people in  
received food relief  
provided thanks to the  
DREF allocation**

The ERC is continuing to monitor the situation, with the support of the Federation’s Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and will consider launching an international appeal should the need arise.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)