



MEXICO: FLOODS

DREF Bulletin
no. MDRMX002
GLIDE: FL-2007-000200-MEX
2 November 2007

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 200,000 (US 170,794 or EUR 120,482) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 2 February 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 2 May 2008). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[Click here to go directly to the map of the affected areas](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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 Panama, Stephen McAndrew, Head of PADRU, e-mail Stephen.Mcandrew@ifrc.org; phone (507) 316 1001; Fax (507) 316 1082
- In Mexico, Isaac Oxenhaut Guzco, Relief Director, Mexican Red Cross, e-mail desastres@cruzrojamexicana.org.mx phone (52)55 36 27 08 94
- In Mexico, Max Romero, Relief Worker, Mexican Red Cross, e-mail desastres@cruzrojamexicana.org.mx phone (52) 99 331 50 000
- In Panama: José García -Lozano, Head of Zone, Americas, Panama, email: jose.garcialozano@ifrc.org; phone (507) 317 1300; fax (507)317 1304
- In Panama: Fabricio Lopez, Acting Head of Central America and Mexico Regional Representation, Americas, Panama, email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org; phone (507) 317 1300; fax (507)317 1304
- In Geneva, Christine South, Operations Coordinator, e-mail Christine.South@ifrc.org; phone (41 22) 730 42 74; Fax (41 22) 733 03 95

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 early September, Mexico has been affected by heavy rains and floods caused by Hurricane Dean, Hurricane Henriette and overall intense precipitations throughout the country. In the states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas, many people were severely affected.

Since 28 October, the Northern regions in the Southern state of Tabasco, Northern Chiapas and Southern Veracruz suffered from torrential rains due to a cold front stationed in the Gulf of Mexico and the effects of Tropical Storm Noel in the Caribbean. More than 700 mm rainfall and levees water levels exceeding their capacities, have led to the overflowing of the Carrizal and Mazcalapa rivers, which in its turn led to the flooding of the Pichucalco and Reforma municipalities in the State of Tabasco. According to the latest reports, the affected zones are Chontalpa, Centro, Tlacotalpa, Jalapa and Teapa in the Sierra region and Cental and Macuspana in the Usumacinta region in the state of Tabasco. Flood waters have reached up to 12 meters high.



General overview of Villahermosa in the State of Tabasco.
Source: Mexican Red Cross

Latest reports also indicate that 17 municipalities in the state of Tabasco are currently completely under water.

Approximately 1,600,000 people are affected; most of them can be found in the municipality of Villahermosa where more than 90 percent is completely flooded. Predictions estimate the levels of flood water will not yet recede; in fact, the situation could get worse if the rains continue to fall, as is predicted. The Mexican government has opened 279 shelters in the affected areas. In addition, the agricultural and livestock sectors have been heavily affected as well.

The Emergency Operative Committee (Comite Operativo de Emergencia – COE) in Tabasco State was activated on 27 October. Also on 27 October, the National Defence Secretary evacuated people from the high risk zones and opened up six community kitchens.

Red Cross action

The Mexican Red Cross (MRC) and the National Relief Unit are coordinating the relief operations from the field and have mobilized 20 people from the National Intervention Unit (Unidad Nacional de Intervencion Rapida – UNIR). The local branches of Puebla, Veracruz and Yucatan are sending 70 volunteers and have distributed 8,000 food parcels. They will also be performing the initial damage and need assessments of the affected population. The MRC has sent three trucks with 1,000 food parcels containing 22 tons of milk and 22 tons of water.

At present, some 2,500 volunteers are working in the field. Centres have been opened in 485 local branches throughout Mexico in order to collect basic items for the victims of the floods. To make people aware of the shelters and where they were opened, shelter awareness campaigns have been launched by radio and television in several dialects. The shelters opened by the government are being managed by the MRC providing the people with blankets, food and general information on how to run a shelter.

Floods, DREF Bulletin No. MDRMX002

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is supporting the MRC; the Head of PADRU and an information officer are currently underway to Mexico. The International Federation through PADRU is sending a plane with relief items from Panama, based on the most urgent needs of the population. This plane will be loaded with kitchen kits and hygiene kits.



Left: Flooded streets in Villahermosa, Tabasco, Right: Mexican Red Cross Relief workers and volunteers assessing the situation.
Source: Mexican Red Cross

The needs

Immediate needs:

The Mexican Red Cross requests as their immediate needs:

- Hygiene kits
- Kitchen kits
- Children kits
- Food parcels

Longer-term needs:

The early recovery and rehabilitation needs of the affected populations will be reviewed by assessment teams and the response of the Mexican Red Cross will be adapted accordingly.

The proposed operation

This DREF seeks to support immediate response activities for the affected communities in the state of Tabasco in Mexico.

Objectives and planned activities will be adjusted in line with more detailed information resulting from damage and needs assessments, including possible clean up operations, health, shelter and water and sanitation needs.

Objectives and activities planned

Emergency relief

Objective 1: 2,000 families (10,000 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of non-food relief items to recover from the effects of the floods.

Relief Item	Quantity per family
Hygiene kits	1
Kitchen kits	1

An initial delivery of relief items from the Federation’s Regional Logistic Unit in Panama will be sent on Monday 5 November, and will be received and distributed by the National Society. This plane will contain 2000 hygiene kits and 2000 kitchen kits and the items will adhere to the SPHERE project humanitarian charter.

Activities planned to reach this objective include:

- Identification and registration of the most vulnerable families with special emphasis on gender inequities and disability conditions;
- Coordination with national, regional, provincial and local authorities;
- Warehousing, dispatch and transportation of relief items from local headquarters to the final destinations;
- Regular detailed reporting on the distribution;
- Monitoring and evaluation

Communications and coordination

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. There has been close coordination and support to the Mexican Red Cross to increase the visibility of their actions in regards to the communication through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation Office and the Communications department of the International Federation’s Secretariat in Geneva. Furthermore, the communication activities targets five main target audiences: the media, the Red Cross Movement, beneficiaries, local authorities and donors.

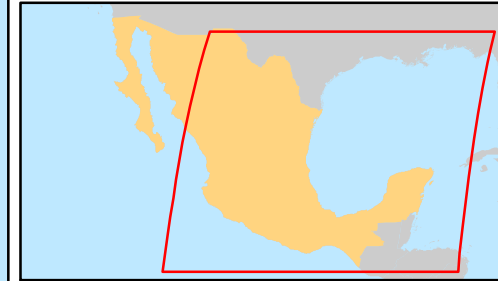
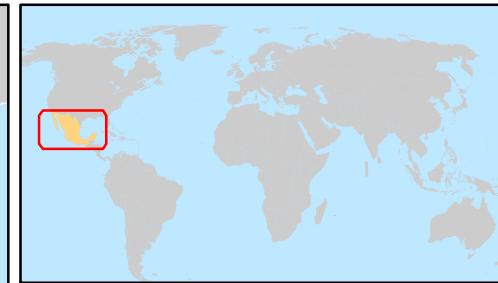
There have been three reports issued through the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on the global Federation website. The Head and Information Officer of PADRU have been deployed to Mexico. Additional deployment of PADRU personnel or a Regional Intervention Teams (RIT’s) member will be coordinated if needed.

Map of affected areas below;



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



Mexico: Floods



Latest reports indicate there are currently 17 municipalities in the state of Tabasco completely under water. There are approximately 1,600,000 people affected mostly in the municipality of Villahermosa where the center of town is completely flooded. Predictions estimate the levels of flood water will not recede. The Mexican government has opened 279 shelters in the affected areas. The agricultural and livestock sectors have been deeply affected as well.

-  Affected states
-  Capitals