

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Panama: Fire

Information bulletin n° 1  
28 December 2007

This bulletin is being issued for information only. A fire destroyed three old apartment buildings in Panama, causing residents to lose all their belongings. Some 70 families have been affected, and have taken shelter in the Rio Abajo Community Council facilities.

The Red Cross Society of Panama, with the support of the International Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)



Members of the Panama Fire Brigade watch the rubble of the three buildings consumed by the fire. Source: EPASA.

## The Situation

A fire destroyed three old apartment buildings located on fourth street, Rio Abajo, a popular sector of Panama City. The fire started at approximately 3 a.m. local time and was finally controlled by fire fighters some 3 hours later. According to official reports, the fire caused residents to lose all their belongings. Some 70 families (400 people) were affected according to a preliminary assessment done by the National System of Civil Protection (Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil – SINAPROC); they have taken shelter in the Rio Abajo Community Council facilities. Authorities are currently conducting a survey with an aim to determine the exact number of affected. So far, one person has been reported injured and taken to a local hospital. Two of the destroyed buildings are privately owned, and the families paid monthly rent to live there.

## Red Cross action

The Red Cross Society of Panama, with the support of the International Federation through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), is currently distributing non-food items for the 70 affected families. Each family will receive one kitchen kit, one hygiene kit and two blankets. From the onset of the emergency 15 volunteers from the National Society have been mobilized to the area in order to provide pre-hospital care and conduct damage assessments amongst the affected population. All supplies are ready to be transported to the National Society headquarters, where relief actions are being coordinated with SINAPROC.

## 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:**

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