

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Colombia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCO002
GLIDE FL-2007-000068-COL
28 February 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 172,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 17 August, 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation.

This operation was implemented in 3 months, and was completed by 17 November 2007; a DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) is now available, three months after the end of the operation (by 17 February, 2008).

Background: Since March 2007, Colombia experienced a heavy rainy season, creating floods and landslides in several departments throughout the country. Some 1,504,144 people were affected and 117 deaths, 29 missing and infrastructural damages were registered. This DREF operation assisted 1,000 families in the municipalities of Cotorra, Lorica, Momil, Purisima and San Bernardo del Viento in Córdoba with food and non-food relief items.

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Health activities in the municipality of San Bernardo. Source: Colombian Red Cross Society

The situation

Vast areas of Colombia were flooded after unusually heavy rains started in March 2007. The phenomena affected 28 of the country's 32 departments left 117 dead, 173 injured and 29 missing, and affected some 1,504,144 people (333,337 families), in addition to 4,225 destroyed and 31,419 damaged houses.

The most affected zones by the effects of the 2007 winter season were the Atlantic region (Sucre, Córdoba, Guajira, Magdalena, Atlántico, Bolivar and Antioquia) and the Pacific region of Chocó. The water levels of several rivers caused floods in 525 municipalities of 29 departments in the country. Bolivar, Magdalena, Córdoba, Sucre and Chocó were most severely damaged.



The CRCS volunteers providing health services to the affected people. Source: CRCS

The government through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice declared a departmental disaster in the departments of Sucre, Córdoba and Antioquia. In addition, a red alert was issued by the government of Córdoba for the evacuation of people living in the watersheds, due to the overflowing of the Sinú and San Jorge rivers. 149,513 people in 16 departments were affected.

The National System for Prevention and Disaster (Sistema Nacional de Prevención y Atención de Desastres) of the Social Protection Ministry coordinated actions for water and sanitation, humanitarian assistance such as provision of food and non food items, logistics and transportation of relief assistance. The Ministries of Agriculture, Transportation and Mines and Energy provided mitigation, rehabilitation, relocation and recuperation activities. Initially, food parcels, drinking water, basic sanitation activities, basic

hygiene kits, plastic sheets, mattresses and hammocks were distributed to meet early needs. Shelters were opened as well.

3,830 people were attended by the five mobile health units. These units provided first aid care and distributed medicines, promoted health awareness, prevention of water-borne diseases and supplied vaccinations. Dental and psychosocial activities were also carried out, focusing on children and the most vulnerable. Some of these affected people were in temporary shelters such as schools, colleges and warehouses in not flooded areas and others are with friends and family. Sanitation activities were held in shelters in order to control epidemiology and conduct sanitary education workshops. Health services were hard to reach to some rural zones due to the roads' harsh conditions.

Red Cross action

The operation enabled by this DREF allocation included activities of the following nature: logistics, administration, operational support, health, food and non-food assistance, in total benefiting 1,274 families (5,150 people).

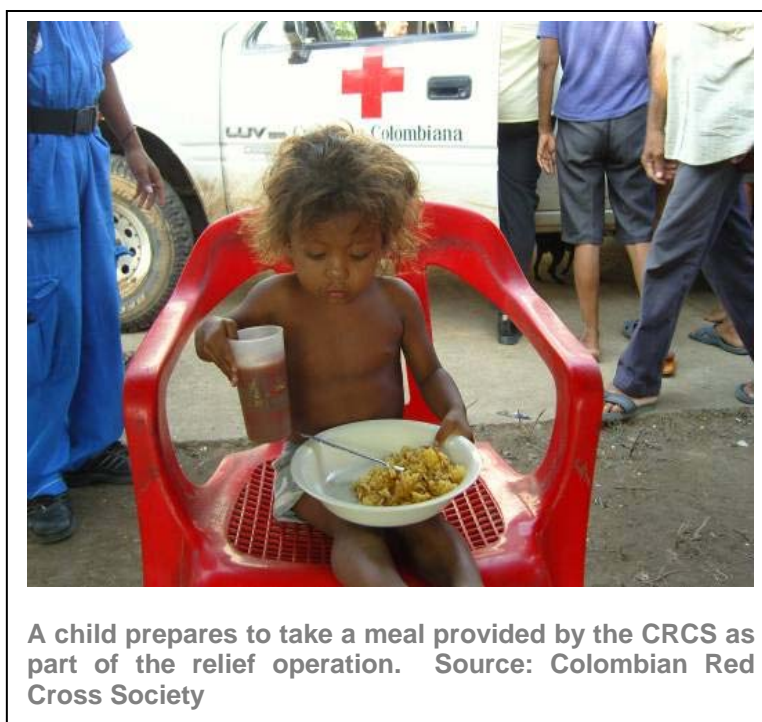
Since the beginning of the emergency, the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) carried out the following activities to assist families affected by the floods:

- Activation of the contingency plans and setting up of the crisis rooms in the national disaster office.
- Evaluation of the affected areas.
- Provision and administration of temporary shelters to local committees in the affected areas.
- Provision of drinking water to 59,818 people in shelters, with funds from Oxfam.
- Arranging warehouses in several municipalities in which relief items could be stored
- Provision of psychosocial support and promotion of preventive health and sanitation measures in the department of Sucre through the use of Mobile Medical Units (with the support of American Red Cross) that assisted 1,463 people.
- Three immediate response teams performed water and sanitation activities and distributed a total of 607,100 litres of water (with the support of the Ministry of Social Protection, French Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross) which reached communities in the department of Sucre.
- Installation of HF and VHF communication in most affected zones to facilitate communication and coordination.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 1,000 families (approximately 5,000 persons) affected by floods will benefit from the provision of food and non-food relief items during the emergency phase as part of the CRCS overall activities targeting 4,000 families

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 families receive immediate relief assistance to meet their basic needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of beneficiaries Distribution of basic needs relief items to



In the municipality of San Bernardo 500 families received the following items:

Communities	Items	No. families	No. people
Caño Grande	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	174	763
Rio ciego # 1	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	52	243
Las Cañas	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	56	267
Las Vegas	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	130	560
Isla Del Queso	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	35	134
Caño loco	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	14	58
Bonanza	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	39	165
TOTAL		500	2,190

In the municipality of Lorica, 774 families received the following items:

Communities	Items	No. families	No. People
Palo de Agua	1 Mattress, 1 plastic	215	1,067

	sheeting, 1 food parcel		
Remolino (Palo de Agua)	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	9	38
Garavito (Palo de Agua)	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	26	122
Recula (Los Monos)	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	125	531
Rodeito (Los Monos)	1 Mattress, 1 plastic sheeting, 1 food parcel	125	562
Centro	274 food parcels, 196 mattresses, 204 plastic sheetings	274	1,000
TOTAL		774	3,320

Impact: More than 1,000 families saw their basic needs for shelter and food met after the floods through the provision of immediate relief assistance as part of this DREF operation.

Challenges: A challenge encountered was that in some areas the flood waters had not receded making it difficult to distribute the relief items.

Health

Objective: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will benefit from medical care provided by the mobile health unit, in order to improve health conditions within the affected communities.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 families receive immediate medical attention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide medical assistance Distribution of medicines Psychosocial attention Workshops to educate prevention of diseases

Five mobile health units in the municipalities of San Bernardo del Viento, Lorica and Ciénaga de Oro provided immediate basic medical assistance to families needing such services after the floods. Other health services, perhaps not as urgent but equally important, were also offered by these medical brigades. The services were rendered as follows:

Service	# of Beneficiaries
Health Orientation	657
Medicines	1,008
Psychological attention	77
Vaccination	46
Cytology	115
Recreation	569
Dental attention	350
Other medical supplies	1,008
TOTAL	3,830

Several health activities were conducted by the medical brigades, coordinated by the CRCS and the Health Secretariat, with support from the Center for the Regulation of Urgent and Emergency Care (Centro Regulador de Urgencias y Emergencias – CRUE), Family Welfare, the San Bernardo Municipality focusing on San Bernardo del Viento.

Impact: 3,830 people received medical attention when it was urgently needed. This allowed for a quick recovery from the affects of the floods and prevented the outbreak of diseases. People were able to resume their daily activities quickly, thanks to the medical attention.

Challenges: Some logistical difficulties were encountered during the emergency operation: roads and bridges were damaged, making access difficult. However, these difficulties were overcome by logistical support to the operation in the form of the purchase of vehicles and repair of boats.

Strengthening of Capacities	
Objective: The capacity of the Colombian Red Cross Society and their local branches will be strengthened.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The CRCS and local branches are better prepared for future disaster response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers will receive visibility equipment according to established standards • Workshops to support the development of a disaster preparedness program in the local branches of the affected provinces

Three workshops regarding Disaster Management were carried out in the local branches of Momil, Loricá, Purisima and San Bernardo del Viento. In addition, 5000 pamphlets on floods and landslides (what to do in case of floods and/or landslides) were distributed among these branches.

Impact: Capacity building of the CRCS’s staff took place through the aforementioned workshops – these workshops increased the staff’s knowledge on Disaster Management, therefore enhancing a better preparedness for a next disaster.

Challenges: Community and inter-institutional workshops were also scheduled, but as water levels in the various communities had not receded, the access to these communities was impossible, impeding the workshops from taking place.

Conclusion

Lessons learned:

- The CRCS learned more on disaster management and is now well prepared for future disasters especially when it comes to floods, as the need for pre-positioned stocks for the next rainy season has become clear.
- This operation emphasized the need for cooperation with other organizations, such as the IFRC, the ICRC and the Colombian government and also emphasized the need for inter-institutional coordination. The CRCS also felt this was a vital part of the operation. The fact that the International Federation sent a Regional Intervention Team member to support with the activities was seen as a crucial part of the operation.

How we work	
<i>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.</i>	
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCO002 - Colombia - Floods 2007

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/8-2008/11
Budget Timeframe	2007/8-2008/11
Appeal	MDRCO002
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	172,000					172,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	161,826					161,826
C5. Other Income	161,826					161,826
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	161,826					161,826
D. Total Funding = B + C	161,826					161,826
Appeal Coverage	94%					94%

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	161,826					161,826
E. Expenditure	-161,826					-161,826
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCC002 - Colombia - Floods 2007

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/8-2008/11
Budget Timeframe	2007/8-2008/11
Appeal	MDRCC002
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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)	172,000						172,000	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	5,430	5,537				5,537	-107	
Clothing & textiles	19,310	20,614				20,614	-1,304	
Food	24,755	30,197				30,197	-5,442	
Medical & First Aid	62,155	16,046				16,046	46,109	
Other Supplies & Services		388				388	-388	
Total Supplies	111,650	72,781				72,781	38,869	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	3,017	2,911				2,911	106	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	3,017	2,911				2,911	106	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	3,620	335				335	3,285	
Distribution & Monitoring	12,556	1,220				1,220	11,336	
Transport & Vehicle Costs		18,469				18,469	-18,469	
Total Transport & Storage	16,176	20,023				20,023	-3,847	
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,773	3,970				3,970	3,803	
National Staff		5,933				5,933	-5,933	
National Society Staff	19,549	20,811				20,811	-1,262	
Total Personnel	27,322	30,714				30,714	-3,392	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training		18				18	-18	
Total Workshops & Training		18				18	-18	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,448	9,864				9,864	-8,416	
Information & Public Relation		1,621				1,621	-1,621	
Office Costs	1,207	3,592				3,592	-2,385	
Communications		2,632				2,632	-2,632	
Professional Fees		166				166	-166	
Financial Charges		6,986				6,986	-6,986	
Total General Expenditure	2,655	24,861				24,861	-22,206	
Programme Support								
Program Support	11,180	10,519				10,519	661	
Total Programme Support	11,180	10,519				10,519	661	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	172,000	161,826				161,826	10,174	
VARIANCE (C - D)		10,174				10,174		