

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Costa Rica: Floods

**DREF Bulletin  
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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 78,658 (USD 67,172 or EUR 47,384)** was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 24 October, 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 750 families with non-food items.

Prolonged heavy rains in October 2007 have caused severe floods in several regions of Costa Rica. This called for action to assist the affected population. This final report shows the objectives for this action were successfully fulfilled since distribution of all non-food items to the 750 families (3750 beneficiaries) were accomplished.



Distributions in Santa Cruz. Source: Costa Rican Red Cross

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## The situation

Costa Rica was hit by a tropical wave and by a direct low pressure system in October 2007, causing non-stop rains and consequent floods in the Pacific and Central valley. The rains affected the entire country, including the regions of Brunca, Huetar Norte, Los Santos, Central Pacific and Chorotega. The most affected provinces were San Jose, Alajuela, Puntarenas, Guanacaste and Cartago.

According to the National Commission for Emergency and Risk Prevention (Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgos y Atención de Emergencias – CNE), 96 communities were seriously affected by the landslides and floods. The floods affected 12,000 people and left 18 dead. Approximately 1,487 houses were damaged and 33 temporary shelters were opened. The main road between Guanacaste, Puntarenas and San José was seriously damaged, thereby making access to those regions difficult, negatively affecting the emergency assistance. In total, 44 bridges and 27 sewer systems were damaged in various communities in the provinces of Guanacaste, Puntarenas and San José.



**Distribution activities in Cartagena. Source: Costa Rican Red Cross**

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the operation the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRC) rescued and performed relief activities in the affected areas by distributing 450 hygiene kits, 450 kitchen kits and 450 food parcels donated by World Vision International, in the most affected region of Guanacaste. All CRC local branches in the affected regions as well as the Emergency Centers (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencias – COE) were activated. Three National Intervention Teams (NIT) supported all CRC emergency activities and approximately 600 volunteers provided assistance to the affected areas.

The DREF funds allowed the CRC to purchase the additional food and non-food items needed for the affected areas of Carrillo de Filadelfia, Santa Cruz, Nicoya, Cartagena, La Cruz, Canas, Parrita, Acosta and Cartago. As all terrain vehicles were used for the distribution activities in the affected areas, it became clear that the CRC is well prepared for possible emergencies. This was also demonstrated by the possession and use of radio equipment between the local branches, which facilitated insight in the situation and a quick response to the emergency. The operation encountered some setbacks due to the constant rains: distribution in some of the communities were delayed and/or suspended.

## Progress towards objectives

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective 1: 750 families (3,750 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of relief items to recover from the effects of the floods.**

#### Activities planned to reach this objective included:

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

All activities were brought to a close satisfactorily. Hence, all distributions were completed; the table below summarizes the distribution activities in each affected region:

Region	Hygiene kits	Food parcels	Kitchen kits
Carrillo de Filadelfia	100	100	100
Santa Cruz	100	100	100
Nicoya	100	100	100
Cartagena	50	50	50
La Cruz	100	100	100
Canas	100	100	100
Parrita	80	80	80
Acosta	60	60	60
Cartago	60	60	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>

**Impact:** 750 families in several regions in Costa Rica benefited from the food and non-food items. These met their basic needs and helped them get on with their daily lives.

**Challenges:** As mentioned earlier, the challenge the CRC encountered was the constant rain which delayed the distribution process in some of the areas located in remote regions. However, this difficulty was overcome with time and the distribution activities did take place.



**Distribution activities in Las Canas. Source: Costa Rican Red Cross**

## Conclusions

- With the International Federation DREF funds, 750 families in Costa Rica received food and non-food items meeting their basic needs.
- The National Society was well prepared for the operation since they had the proper equipment such as all terrain vehicles and telecommunication equipment that helped them carry out rescue and distribution activities.
- The importance of having pre-positioned stock in the warehouses was acknowledged by the CRC since it allows for a quick response when disaster strikes.
- The CRC disaster preparedness and capacity is strengthened since in each operation new challenges arise and new lessons are learned.

## 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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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRCR002 - Costa Rica Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/4
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRCR002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		78,568				78,568
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		68,205				68,205
<b>C5. Other Income</b>		68,205				68,205
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1,,C5)</b>		68,205				68,205
<b>D. Total Funding = B +C</b>		68,205				68,205
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		87%				87%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		68,205				68,205
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-68,205				-68,205
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

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**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>78,568</b>					<b>78,568</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Food	21,628		31,451				31,451	-9,824
Water & Sanitation	7,509							7,509
Utensils & Tools	15,497		5,357				5,357	10,140
Other Supplies & Services	14,560		22,580				22,580	-8,020
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>59,193</b>		<b>59,388</b>				<b>59,388</b>	<b>-195</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring	1,874		972				972	902
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,409		331				331	1,077
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>3,283</b>		<b>1,303</b>				<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,979</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff	4,099							4,099
National Society Staff	2,818		630				630	2,188
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>6,916</b>		<b>630</b>				<b>630</b>	<b>6,286</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	2,108							2,108
Information & Public Relation	88		477				477	-389
Office Costs	1,171		555				555	616
Communications	703		1,027				1,027	-325
Financial Charges			392				392	-392
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>4,069</b>		<b>2,451</b>				<b>2,451</b>	<b>1,618</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	5,107		4,433				4,433	674
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>5,107</b>		<b>4,433</b>				<b>4,433</b>	<b>674</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>78,568</b>		<b>68,205</b>				<b>68,205</b>	<b>10,363</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>10,363</b>				<b>10,363</b>	