

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ecuador: Floods

DREF operation n° MDREC003
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000018-ECU
27 November 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 115,000 (USD 95,820 or EUR 74,280) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to approximately 15,220 beneficiaries (3,044 families). Unearmarked funds to repay the DREF are encouraged.

In January 2008, continuous rainfall during Ecuador's rainy season caused rivers to overflow, producing devastating floods and landslides across the country. There were 315,000 people affected by these floods, which destroyed and damaged crops, homes and essential infrastructure.

From the onset of the emergency, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) carried out initial response activities such as search and rescue, evacuations and first aid as well as relief distributions. The initial plan of action was revised to cover the needs of 6,000 families instead of 3,044 families in relief distributions (food and non-food items).

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)



Distribution activities taking place in the affected region of La Troncal. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross

The situation

Continuous rainfall due to the climatic phenomena known as La Niña, severely affected many provinces in Ecuador since January 2008. The annual Ecuadorian rainy season which starts in December and continues throughout May has caused flooding before, but the effects of El Niño and la Niña phenomenon on the climate in the southern hemisphere has exacerbated the effects of the rainy season. The most affected coastal provinces were Los Ríos, Cañar, Manabí, Bolívar, el Oro and Guayas, and the most affected Andean provinces were Chimborazo, Azuay and la Loja.

Approximately 48,000 families were affected by the floods, 39 people died and three are still missing. Additionally, 148 roads were damaged and 18 bridges were destroyed. Housing and health, electrical and communication systems were also severely damaged by the flooding. The government opened 170 common

shelters and reports indicate that 42,023 hectares of crops were damaged while 62,400 hectares were lost. Bananas, cacao, sugar, rice and corn crops were the most affected.

The President of Ecuador declared a National State of Emergency in Ecuador following the floods that affected large parts of the country. In February 2008, the floods forced 250,000 people living in rural areas from their homes. Since then, most of them have returned to their homes only to face new challenges including contaminated water wells, destroyed or damaged water sewage systems as well as lack of clean water for drinking, washing and cooking.¹



A beneficiary receiving a relief kit during the distributions. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross

The Ecuadorian government drafted a strategic guideline proposal that will rehabilitate the affected rural and urban areas. In addition, the Housing and Urban Development Ministry (Ministerio de Desarrollo Urbano y Vivienda – MIDUVI) will rebuild approximately 5,000 houses that were affected by the emergency.

On 2 June 2008 the Ecuadorian government provided 69,616 heads of family with emergency bonds equal to USD 90 in order to assist them with basic expenses.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) activated their contingency plans and determined the lines of primary support. There were 28 local branches in the coastal region that received the logistical support necessary for the accomplishment of disaster management activities such as: hospital attention, evacuations, damage and need assessments, census, beneficiary identification and humanitarian aid distribution. The ERC made 11 warehouses available for the handling of resources. The ERC mobilized 3,025 volunteers to the affected areas to perform census, distribution of humanitarian aid and preparation of the kits for distribution.



Distribution centre at a local branch. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross

After all assessments were completed the ERC designed a plan of action to assist some 9,720 families in the most vulnerable areas and requested international aid in order to finance the first response activities. Their overall objective was to provide hospital and humanitarian aid to the affected people in the coastal and sierra regions of Ecuador by mobilizing their 21 National Intervention Team (NIT) members.

With the support of the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) the ERC provided medical services, search and rescue, evacuation and covered some operational costs such as the transportation of supplies, mobilization of volunteers and communication materials. Several Partner National Societies

¹ Source: OXFAM

assisted the ERC in their relief activities and other external partners such as the local Emergency Operation Centres (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia – COE), embassies, NGOs and international organizations.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross maintained regular contact with the Regional Representation for South America based in Lima and the Federation’s Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama. The ERC worked in close coordination with the Civil Defence, local and provincial authorities and other humanitarian organization present in the affected areas.

Progress towards objectives

Initial Response Activities

Objective 1: To provide humanitarian assistance by carrying out initial response activities, search and rescue, evacuation and first aid to the affected population.

Activities planned:

- Assessments and census of the affected population
- Search and rescue and evacuation activities
- Damage analysis and need assessments
- First aid care
- Monitoring and evaluation

Progress:

At the beginning of the emergency, the ERC obtained visibility material and security equipment for their volunteers to prepare them for the initial response activities. The ERC’s 28 local branches located in the coast and in the sierra received logistical support needed to carry out the activities during the emergency, including evacuation activities and first aid.

Relief Distributions (food and non-food items)

Objective 2: To support in providing food and non-food items to the most vulnerable families.

According to the ERC overall plan of action humanitarian aid was delivered to the following provinces and families and included water, food items, hygiene kits, and kitchen kits:

Province	No. of Districts	# Families assisted
Bolívar	3	230
Cañar	2	397
Chimborazo	1	280
Cotopaxi	1	60
El Oro	3	748
Esmeraldas	2	94
Guayas	10	6,955
Loja	2	120
Los Ríos	6	3,320
Manabí	4	2,034
Pichincha	1	50
TOTAL	35	14,288 families

Activities planned:

- Assessments and census of the population
- Operational logistics (reception of items, warehousing, transportation system)
- Packaging of the kits
- Food and non-food items distribution

In total, there were 14,288 families that received 703 tons of humanitarian aid such as hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets, mattresses and food parcels thanks to the donations from the community, the American, Chinese, Luxemburg and Spanish Partner National Societies (PNS), the Swiss, Catalanian and Spanish Cooperation for Development Agencies, private companies and the Chinese and German embassies. The DREF funds covered the basic operational costs that the ERC sustained during the distribution of the items.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 3: People have access to safe water in the provinces of Guayas and Los Rios; therefore, preventing water borne diseases.

Activities planned:

- Assessments and census of the community
- Elaboration of posters with key messages on safe water handling.
- Delivery of water purification units to the municipalities affected in order to distribute to the population.
- Distribution of jerry cans and water buckets.
- Conduct of a workshop in each municipality to demonstrate how to use the water purification units.

Progress:

The ERC delivered the water purification units to the affected municipalities and conducted a four hour workshop in each municipality to teach them how to use the units. The jerry cans and water buckets were donated by several organizations and distributed by the ERC to approximately 8,912 families.

Conclusions

- The operation's objectives were fulfilled and even surpassed the original beneficiary target due to the generous contributions received.
- The ERC received good support from external partners which allowed them to focus on other crucial needs of the affected population.
- The establishment of coordination levels with the government agencies responsible for health care in order to avoid duplication of efforts is important.
- Maintain contact with the community leaders and key actors at a national, provincial, regional and local level to improve coordination activities is also key to an operation.
- In order to have a clear idea what the real needs are in the emergency there should be constant monitoring of indexes, projections and population parameters.

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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- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDREC003 - Ecuador - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDREC003
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	115,000					115,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	99,357					99,357
C5. Other Income	99,357					99,357
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	99,357					99,357
D. Total Funding = B + C	99,357					99,357
Appeal Coverage	86%					86%

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	99,357					99,357
E. Expenditure	-99,357					-99,357
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
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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)		115,000					115,000	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	11,880	6,834				6,834	5,046	
Water & Sanitation	28,080	16,777				16,777	11,303	
Medical & First Aid	540						540	
Teaching Materials	1,080	214				214	866	
Utensils & Tools		7,365				7,365	-7,365	
Other Supplies & Services	5,400						5,400	
Total Supplies	46,980	31,191				31,191	15,789	
Transport & Storage								
Storage		4,053				4,053	-4,053	
Distribution & Monitoring	14,040	13,343				13,343	697	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	6,480	3,787				3,787	2,693	
Total Transport & Storage	20,520	21,182				21,182	-662	
Personnel								
International Staff	3,845						3,845	
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,240						3,240	
National Staff	2,160						2,160	
National Society Staff	13,500	15,131				15,131	-1,631	
Consultants		728				728	-728	
Total Personnel	22,745	15,859				15,859	6,886	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training		944				944	-944	
Total Workshops & Training		944				944	-944	
General Expenditure								
Travel	8,640	1,916				1,916	6,724	
Information & Public Relation	540	21,055				21,055	-20,515	
Office Costs	2,160						2,160	
Communications	3,780	805				805	2,975	
Financial Charges	2,160	-53				-53	2,213	
Total General Expenditure	17,280	23,723				23,723	-6,443	
Programme Support								
Program Support	7,475	6,458				6,458	1,017	
Total Programme Support	7,475	6,458				6,458	1,017	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	115,000	99,357				99,357	15,643	
VARIANCE (C - D)		15,643				15,643		