

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Mexico: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRMX001  
GLIDE n° FL-2007-000154-MEX  
1 April, 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 100,000 (USD 83,126 or EUR 60,827) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 12 September, 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 30,000 beneficiaries.

This DREF Operation was focused on providing emergency relief assistance to the affected people in the states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas in Mexico due to the severe floods that were caused by heavy rains in the month of September, 2007. The DREF funds allowed more than 6,000 families to benefit from non-food relief items.



Distribution of kits in the affected states.  
Source: Mexican Red Cross

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

## The situation

The northern part of Mexico was severely affected by constant rain, during three weeks in the month of September 2007. These rains caused the overflow of the rivers in the States of Veracruz and Tamaulipas and the floods were considered to be the second most serious floods in 20 years.

Many communities were affected; among the most damaged areas were: the cities of Tampico and Altamira in the State of Tamaulipas, and Panuco, el Higo, Tempoal, Tampico Alto, Pueblo Viejo and Platón Sánchez in the State of Veracruz. In addition, the state of Veracruz hosts the second largest municipality (Panuco) with approximately 650 dispersed communities, which slowed down the evaluation activities considerably. Due to the distance between these communities and the lack of roads, assistance and communication activities were hampered, and only 40 percent of the people were evacuated.

A disaster emergency plan was implemented by the Mexican army and 56 shelters were opened in coordination with the Mexican government. The National Civil Protection system solicited funds from the federal disaster fund (Fondo Federal para Desastres – FONDEN) and the government of the states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas provided helicopters to evacuate the people. At the time of this emergency, the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) was managing two other disasters: hurricane Dean in the Yucatan Peninsula and hurricane Henriette, in Baja California. Therefore, the relief activities for this emergency in Veracruz and Tamaulipas placed an additional burden on the human and financial resources of the national society.

Some 39 communities were affected in the southern region of Veracruz (2,000 families) and 30 communities in the northern region of Veracruz (9,000 families); in addition, the floods caused four deaths.

The states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas subsist mostly on agriculture (corn and sugar cane), fishery and livestock. The damages caused on the population's livelihoods were so severe that the population had difficulty to resume their daily activities. Therefore, humanitarian support was required, consisting of items such as hygiene and children kits.

**Distribution of kits in Panuco.**  
Source: Mexican Red Cross



## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency, three MRC teams (16 people each) specialized in need and damage assessments, were deployed to the affected areas. Due to the size of the emergency, the teams requested additional support from the headquarters of the MRC. Forty persons from the National Intervention Unit (Unidad Nacional de Intervencion Rapida – UNIR) were also deployed to support the MRC teams along with boats, ambulances, vehicles and 2,000 food parcels to commence relief aid activities.



**Identification and registration of affected families.** Source: Mexican Red Cross

The MRC distributed 9,160 food parcels and 16,000 litres of drinking water to 31 of the most affected communities in Panuco, northern Veracruz; three communities in Altamira in Tamaulipas and two communities in the municipality of Tampico. During the emergency, a centre for the collection of relief items was opened in the local branch of Tamaulipas which collected six tonnes of humanitarian aid and was distributed by the MRC.

Some 80 MRC volunteers were assisting with the distributions. The shelters opened by the Mexican government during the emergency were managed by the MRC. The MRC plan of action's main objective was to provide 6,000 families with relief items such as hygiene and children kits. This objective was fulfilled and even surpassed since 9,160 families received relief items.

## Progress towards objectives

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

**Objective 1: 6,000 families (30,000 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of relief items to recover from the effects of the floods.**

Activities undertaken to reach this objective included:

- 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

**Impact:** The original objective of providing 6,000 families with hygiene and children kits was accomplished as 4,000 hygiene kits and 3,000 children kits were distributed in the states of Tamaulipas and Veracruz. Since the beneficiaries saw their basic needs met in a timely manner, they could focus on the longer term needs and determine activities necessary to start rebuilding their livelihoods that were destroyed after these floods.

**Challenges:** No challenges were identified within this objective since the Mexican Red Cross had the equipment (boats, ambulances, cars) necessary to implement and complete the emergency relief operation.

## Conclusion

- The MRC had two other emergencies to focus on which caused a financial burden; the Red Cross and Red Crescent's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund is therefore essential for this type of emergency. The Federation's DREF is a very effective, flexible and rapid tool for natural disasters.
- The operation was implemented well by the National Society since they optimized their resources in order to fulfill their objective.
- The MRC proves again the advantage of having pre-positioned stock, especially during the hurricane season since they were hit by three hurricanes at the same time.

## 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

MDRMX001 - Mexico - Floods 2007

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/02
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/02
Appeal	MDRMX001
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
A. Budget		100,000				100,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		79,600				79,600
<b>C5. Other Income</b>		79,600				79,600
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		79,600				79,600
D. Total Funding = B + C		79,600				79,600
Appeal Coverage		80%				80%

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		79,600				79,600
E. Expenditure		-79,600				-79,600
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		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>100,000</b>		
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles			717			717	-717	
Food	51,100						51,100	
Utensils & Tools			43			43	-43	
Other Supplies & Services			67,431			67,431	-67,431	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>51,100</b>		<b>68,191</b>			<b>68,191</b>	<b>-17,091</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage			7			7	-7	
Distribution & Monitoring	13,000						13,000	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	6,000		3,662			3,662	2,338	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>19,000</b>		<b>3,669</b>			<b>3,669</b>	<b>15,331</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff	5,000						5,000	
National Society Staff	5,000		1,490			1,490	3,510	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>10,000</b>		<b>1,490</b>			<b>1,490</b>	<b>8,510</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	6,500		501			501	5,999	
Information & Public Relation	3,400						3,400	
Office Costs	2,000		15			15	1,985	
Communications	1,500		564			564	936	
Financial Charges			-4			-4	4	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>13,400</b>		<b>1,076</b>			<b>1,076</b>	<b>12,324</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	6,500		5,174			5,174	1,326	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>6,500</b>		<b>5,174</b>			<b>5,174</b>	<b>1,326</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>100,000</b>		<b>79,600</b>			<b>79,600</b>	<b>20,400</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>20,400</b>			<b>20,400</b>		