

DREF operation update



Mexico: Hurricane Jimena

Operation DREF n° MDRMX004
GLIDE TC-2009-000167-MEX
Update N ° 2
27 October 2009

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 and 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.

Period covered: 18 September to 18 October 2009.

Summary: CHF 331,705 (USD 319,632 or EUR 219,302) was allocated on 15 September 2009 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 families.

On 22 September 2009, as stated in the previous DREF Update n° 1 the budget was revised to CHF 193,476, due to the bilateral contribution from the American Red Cross to the Mexican Red Cross consisting of 3,000 kitchen kits and 1,840 hygiene kits.

This DREF Update n° 2 reports on the receipt by the Mexican Red Cross of essential relief items sent by the International Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU). Among the relief items sent were 3,000 kitchen sets, 3,000 hygiene kits and 6,000 mosquito nets. In addition, this update will focus on the activities accomplished by the Mexican Red Cross.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 14 December 2009; a Final Report will be made available by 14 March 2010 (three months after the end of the operation). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

The Canadian Red Cross generously contributed 48,314 Swiss francs (CAD 50,000) to replenish the DREF for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). Details of all donors can be found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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MRC volunteers continue to provide relief assistance to families in Heroica Mulege. Source: Mexican Red Cross

The situation

Hurricane Jimena made landfall on 3 September 2009 on the coast of Baja California in Mexico as a category two hurricane. The storm lasted for 80 hours over the area, causing major damages to homes and basic infrastructures located in the small cities along the coastline.

The heavy rain and strong winds damaged rooftops, while water levels of the Mulege River rose by 10 metres sweeping up everything in its way. Forty five per cent of the homes in CD Constitución, Puerto Lopez Mateos, Magdalena and Puerto Alcatraz, sustained roof top damages.

Hurricane Jimena generated 711 ml of rain in Guaymas and 360 ml in Empalme, both cities located in the state of Sonora. The main road located between San José del Cabo and Tijuana was affected due to several creeks that overflowed. The airports in los Cabos, La Paz and Loreto were temporarily closed, but are now functioning normally and did not sustain damages. Several ports were also temporarily closed and are currently operating.

The major sectors affected by Jimena were the electric and water systems, especially in Santa Rosalia. Seventy per cent of the electricity network between the cities of Constitución and Santa Rosalia was affected due to damaged power lines and conduction towers. There are still electricity shortages at night. The MRC local branches in CD Constitución and Santa Rosalia sustained infrastructural damages.

The most affected municipality is Mulege, located in the northern region of the state of Baja California. The second most affected municipality is Santa Rosalia City, the capital of the state of Baja California. A total of 72,000 people were affected, and 4 were reported dead due to the effects of Hurricane Jimena.

The Federal government through the local State authorities of the affected regions coordinated activities with the Mexican army, the National Electricity Commission and the National Water Commission.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the onset of the emergency, the Federal government activated the Mexican army's contingency plan to assist the civil population. The Health Ministry, the National Water Commission, the Federal Electricity Commission and the Social Development Secretariat coordinated response actions with the MRC. The MRC assessment personnel coordinated with state authorities to facilitate the distributions in the affected areas. Emergency meetings were held between the MRC and the State's Civil Protection Council.

Along with the local authorities, the Mexican Red Cross maintained communication with the International Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico in order to coordinate the implementation of the plan of action within this DREF operation. The Mexican Red Cross has also maintained constant communication with Partner National Societies (PNS) and other international organizations. The American Red Cross has contributed bilaterally to the MRC by providing 3,000 kitchen kits and 1,840 hygiene kits.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Mexican Red Cross installed an operations centre in the branch located in La Paz along with the State delegate and personnel from the State. The MRC established a support unit to carry out the emergency operations. Branches in the state of Baja California Sur deployed 35 vehicles, and 16 rescue units were also mobilized. A total of 170 volunteers were initially involved in the emergency response.

A National Intervention Team was deployed from the MRC headquarters to coordinate with the branches and to provide support. The Mexican Red Cross's National Relief Coordinator also prioritized the evacuation of people in high-risk zones.

The local MRC branches in Sonora, Baja California South and Baja California North together with the MRC National Rapid Response Unit (Unidad Nacional de Intervención Rápida - UNIR) worked in the affected areas performing several relief activities. A total of 30 damage and needs assessment specialists from the three affected states were mobilized to carry out a detailed assessment. After the damage and needs assessments were completed, distributions were carried out in the following communities: Puerto San Carlos, Zaragoza, Puerto Adolfo Lopez Mateos, CD Constitución, Heroica Mulege and Santa Rosalia,

benefiting 4,500 families. These families received kitchen, hygiene, children and cleaning kits amongst other items from the Mexican Red Cross's own stocks.

Progress towards objectives

The MRC plan of action aims to assist 3,000 families with essential relief items to assist with the cleaning of homes and the replenishment of basic household items. In addition, the plan anticipated that the affected families would receive relief items including: hygiene kits, cleaning kits and mosquito nets. The DREF allocation also covers distribution and monitoring costs, mobilization and per diem of Mexican Red Cross volunteers assisting in the distributions. Moreover, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member was budgeted to provide support if the MRC requires it. The operation also covers one operations coordinator and MRC volunteers working for the operation.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: 3,000 families in the areas most affected by Hurricane Jimena will receive essential relief items.	
Expected Result	Activities planned
3,000 families' living conditions will be improved by receiving relief items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end-user. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. • Develop an exit strategy.

Progress towards objective:

On 19 September three containers with 3,000 kitchen sets, 3,000 hygiene kits (1,840 of these are part of the bilateral contribution made by the American Red Cross) and 6,000 mosquito nets were shipped from the International Federation's Regional Logistic Unit in Panama to Veracruz Port, Mexico. Some of these kits will be used as replenishment stocks in the Toluca Warehouse of the Mexican Red Cross and they will be pre-positioned for the next emergency. The remainder of the kits will be used to complete the distribution to 3,000 families, in the impacted area of Baja California.

To date, 4,460 food kits, 1,848 hygiene kits, 250 cleaning kits, 225 baby kits and 181 kitchen sets have been distributed to areas identified by damage and needs assessments. The second phase of distribution is planned for the coming week.

Challenge: Progress is slow as only small vehicles with the capacity to carry a maximum of 80 kits are available. Nonetheless big efforts have been made by the Mexican Red Cross to support the families affected by Hurricane Jimena.

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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