

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## El Salvador: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRSV002  
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000238-SLV  
9 November 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.

CHF 182,501 (USD 180,614 or EUR 120,783) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Salvadorian Red Cross Society (SRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,500 families. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

**Summary:** On 7 November 2009, the passing of Tropical Storm Ida caused heavy rain, floods and



Salvadorian Red Cross Society volunteers performing rescue activities.  
Source: Salvadorean Red Cross Society

landslides throughout the country affecting approximately 10,400 people. On 8 November 2009, the government declared a state of national emergency. This DREF operation will focus in providing immediate relief assistance to 1,500 families (approximately 7,500 people) with basic non-food items including blankets, hygiene and kitchen kits.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 9 February 2010; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 9 May 2010).

[<Click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

On 7 November 2009, Tropical Storm Ida provoked severe rains, flooding and landslides throughout El Salvador. A low pressure system due to Ida produced heavy rain fall and overflowed rivers which affected



**A flooded community in Verapaz, San Vicente department.**  
**Source: Salvadorian Red Cross Society.**

five departments in the central area of the country. Landslides destroyed 1,570 houses, as well as bridges, roads and other basic infrastructures. The Salvadorian government reports that a total of 137 people are dead, 3,000 people are in collective centres, 100 people are missing and approximately 10,400 people have been affected. The most affected departments are San Vicente and San Salvador. In the town of Verapaz in the department of San Vicente, a landslide measuring eight kilometres alongside the skirts of the San Vicente Volcano brought in rocks and trees which have made access difficult. Mud and debris have covered entire neighbourhoods. Many communities are also isolated due to destroyed bridges and roads. Moreover, the water levels of the main rivers have increased and several have

overflowed causing flooding in the nearby communities.

The Civil Protection has declared an orange alert for the departments of San Salvador, La Libertad, San Vicente, La Paz and Cuscatlán; the rest of the country remains on green alert. On 8 November 2009, the Salvadorian president declared a state of national emergency and the Minister of Education has suspended school activities in the schools that are being used as collective centres. Additionally, the president has destined a budget to respond to the emergency and has requested assistance to the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Latin America (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe - CEPAL) to complete further assessments. Municipal authorities from the affected areas have deployed assessment teams in five of the affected departments. In addition, the government is performing assessments by helicopter and boats.

The Civil Protection has requested funds from the Treasury department to procure mattresses, blankets and plastic sheeting to be provided to the most affected people. To date, 56 collection centres have been opened in the departments of San Salvador, La Libertad, San Vicente, Cuscatlán and La Paz.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

The Salvadorian Red Cross Society is working jointly with the Civil Protection. This government agency is coordinating the disaster response through the Emergency Operation Centre where there is an institutional link with the National Society since the declaration of the orange alert. In the affected departments, there has been constant communication between municipal authorities and the SRCS in order to coordinate emergency response activities.

The Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross will provide funds to cover some operational cost of the Salvadorian Red Cross Society.

The SRCS has been in constant communication with the International Federation country project coordinator in El Salvador, the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico and the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama in order to coordinate the emergency response activities. PADRU has launched a general Regional Intervention Team



**The Salvadorian Red Cross coordinating the relief activities.**  
**Source: Salvadorian Red Cross Society.**

(RIT) alert in case the SRCS needs additional assistance. In addition, the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Panama is preparing to dispatch the relief items included in the preliminary plan of action.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency the Salvadorian Red Cross Society has been monitoring 15 areas affected by floods and 10 areas affected by landslides. A total of 500 volunteers from 24 SRCS branches have been mobilized to start distributing relief items. The National Society has activated search and rescue teams, flood rescue teams, transport units, first aid care units and damage and need assessment teams. The SRCS will be distributing relief items once further damage and needs assessments have been completed.

A preliminary plan of action has been elaborated by the SRCS to respond to the needs of 1,500 affected families. The tri-partite agreement between the International Federation and the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States will cover the replenishment of the relief items included in this DREF operation.

### The needs

#### Selection of people to be reached:

The SRCS has identified 1,500 of the most affected families located in collective centres which will be benefited with basic relief items. The most immediate needs identified are blankets, hygiene and kitchen kits.

### The proposed operation

The SRCS drew up a preliminary plan of action that will assist 1,500 of the most affected families with 7,500 blankets (five per family) and 1,500 hygiene and kitchen kits (one per family) as well as mobilization costs of volunteers supporting the response activities. Once further damage and need assessments are completed an additional response activities might be included in a revision of this DREF operation. The operation will be carried out under the coordination of the SRCS's national relief direction and the support of the National Intervention Teams.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Objective: To assist 1,500 of the most affected families with essential relief items such as blankets, hygiene and kitchen kits.</b>	
<b>Activities planned:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of further emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Identification of the needs of 500 SRCS volunteers</li> <li>• Creation of task force teams</li> <li>• Distribution and resource allocation</li> <li>• Distribution of relief items</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> </ul>	

The Regional Logistics Unit in Panama is dispatching the above mentioned quantities of blankets, hygiene and kitchen kits by charter flight on 10 November 2009 to El Salvador.

The hygiene and kitchen kits contain the following items:

No.	Hygiene kit (for 1 family of 5 persons for 1 month)	Quantities
1	Washing powder (1 kg)	3
2	Roll of toilet paper	12
3	Bar of body soap (100g)	5
4	Toothpaste (75 ml tube)	5
5	Tooth brush	5
6	Shampoo (250 ml)	2
7	Disposable razor	5
8	Hygienic pads	8

No.	Kitchen kit (for 1 family of 5 persons)	Quantities
1	Bowl for food	5
2	Table fork (stainless steel)	5
3	Frying pan (2.5L)	1
4	Kitchen knife (stainless steel blade)	1
5	Table knife (stainless steel)	5
6	Wooden spoons (30cm)	1
7	Spoon	5
8	Cooking pot (5L, alum. diam 20 cm)	1
9	Cooking pot, (7L, alum. diam 24 cm with handles)	1
10	Cup	5
11	Plate (aluminium, diam. 22 cm)	5

### Visibility and volunteer equipment

**Objective:** The operational capacity of the Salvadorian Red Cross Society will be strengthened by receiving visibility and first aid equipment for volunteers to respond to the emergency.

**Activities planned:**

- Procurement of visibility materials (t-shirts, vests)
- Procurement of additional volunteer equipment (gloves, boots, protection glasses, etc.)
- Procurement of first aid equipment

### 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:**

- **In El Salvador:** Amilcar Tejada, Salvadorian Red Cross Society Relief Director; phone: (503) 7861 3630, email: [amilcar.tejada@cruzrojasal.org.sv](mailto:amilcar.tejada@cruzrojasal.org.sv).
- **In El Salvador:** Roy Venegas, International Federation Country Project Coordinator, El Salvador; phone: (503) 2265 0177; fax: (503) 2265 0177; email: [roy.venegas@ifrc.org](mailto:roy.venegas@ifrc.org).
- **In Costa Rica:** Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email:

[fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org](mailto:fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org).

- **In Panama:** Mauricio Bustamante, Acting Head of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: [mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org](mailto:mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org).
- **Panama:** Ghotai Ghazialam, disaster management delegate of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: [ghotai.ghazialam@ifrc.org](mailto:ghotai.ghazialam@ifrc.org).
- **Panama:** Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (507) 380 0254; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org).
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41) 22 730 4300; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org).

**[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

## DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

### El Salvador Floods

MDRSV002

BUDGET CHF

#### RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	38,152
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	41,204
Other Supplies & Services	32,048
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>111,404</b>

#### CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	-
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

#### TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	-
Distribution & Monitoring	-
Transport & Vehicles Costs	9,157
Service fee & Recovery	-

#### PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	-
National Staff	
National Society Staff	3,052
Consultants	

#### WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	-
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#### GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	33,065
Information & Public Relations	8,139
Office running costs	-
Communication Costs	1,017
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	4,803
Other General Expenses	

#### PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	11,863
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**Total Operational Needs** **71,096**

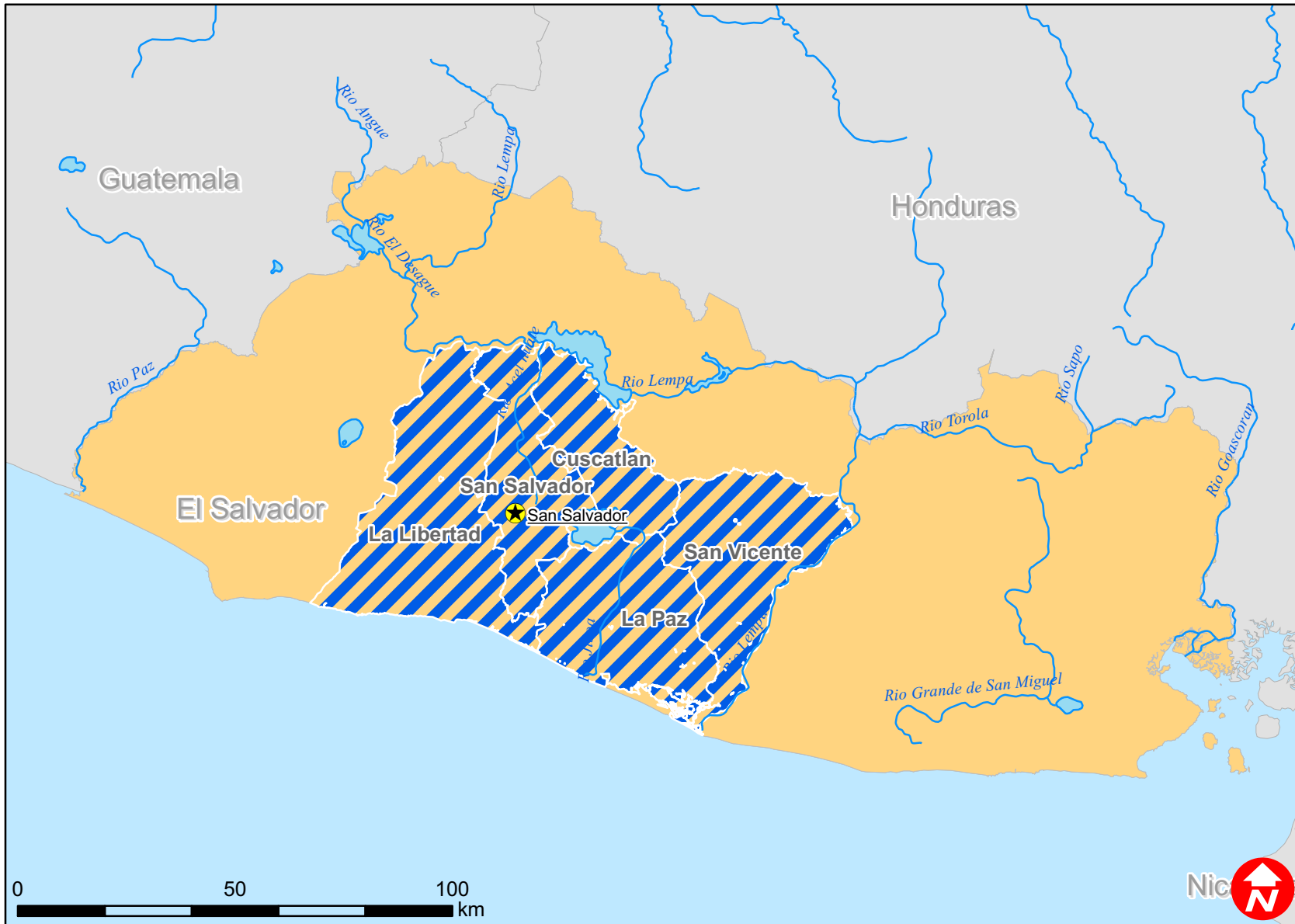
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**DREF ALLOCATION** **182,501**

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# El Salvador: Floods



-  Capitals
-  Main rivers
-  Most affected areas

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, Federation, UNISYS, DREFMDRSV002.mxd