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## Information bulletin

### Guatemala: Landslides



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of issue: 3 October 2015	Glide No: <a href="#">LS-2015-000138-GTM</a>
Date of disaster: 1 October 2015	Point of contact in National Society: Teresa Marroquin, Disaster Risk Management Director
Host National Society: Guatemalan Red Cross	
Number of people affected: Approximately 1,000 people, number may change after assessments.	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Guatemalan Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), will request a DREF once initial assessments and immediate needs information is available. <[Click here for detailed contact information](#)>*



Search and rescue workers in the affected area of El Cambray II. Source: Guatemalan Red Cross

## The Situation

Thursday, 1 October 2015 at 21:30 hours in the neighbourhood of El Cambray II, Santa Catarina Pinula municipality in Guatemala a massive landslide devastated an area of approximately 160 lineal meters caused by heavy rains. Preliminary information indicates 600 people are missing, 12 people have been found dead and more than 100 homes buried. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Coordination Office (CONRED) reports this area has been declared high risk since 2008.

At least 1,300 people have been undertaking search and rescue activities. Twenty-six people are injured and 133 people are in evacuation centres opened by the CONRED authorities from the municipality. One evacuation centre in Santa Catarina Pinula shelters 88 people while a second evacuation shelter houses 45 people.



**Guatemalan RC volunteers conducting activities with children in evacuation centres. Source: Guatemalan Red Cross**

Other government organizations have activated sectorial coordination boards and 200 rescue workers have been working in the disaster areas. A red alert was emitted for the area as well as an orange institutional alert was declared.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) mobilized a team of 20 people with ambulances and trucks to the emergency area. A pre-hospital care post has been established and the National Society

is supporting actions in evacuation centres including registering names of the people missing with family member, providing calls to survivors and conducting psychosocial support activities. In addition, the GRC is conducting search and rescue activities, emergency health evaluations, and damage and needs assessments (DANA) and in the disaster area. A collection centre has been in opened in the GRC headquarters in Guatemala City.

A DMIS has been published with initial information and the National Society is actively participating in the government's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to coordinate the response activities. The National Society has opened its EOC, and has requested DREF support from IFRC. The National Society's communication department has launched campaigns through their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cruz.roja.guatemalteca>

The IFRC country coordinator in Guatemala has been in constant communication with the IFRC disaster management coordinator for Central America including the DRC's Director General to disseminate information. Additionally, the IFRC country coordinator has been sharing information with ICRC and Partner National Societies in the country such as Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. ICRC has deployed a team to the affected area and is supporting the GRC with 200 body bags. National Societies from Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico have made their search and rescue teams available to support the Guatemalan Red Cross if needed.

On 2 October, an informative RIT alert was launched and a press release has been published: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/americas/guatemala/guatemalan-red-cross-responds-to-landslide/>. A message was sent to all Central American and Mexico relief directors to coordinate actions in case GRC requests additional support. Additionally, a space was made in the [Ammado Platform](#) to facilitate donations to the Guatemalan Red Cross response efforts.



**Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers assisting in an evacuation centre. Source: Guatemalan Red Cross**

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## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- **In the Guatemalan Red Cross:** Daniel Javiel, director general; email: [daniel.javiel@cruzroja.gt](mailto:daniel.javiel@cruzroja.gt)
- **IFRC country office:** Marissa Soberanis, IFRC country coordinator for Guatemala and El Salvador; email: [marissa.soberanis@ifrc.org](mailto:marissa.soberanis@ifrc.org)
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### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC regional office:** Ursula Araya, relationship management coordinator; email: [Ursula.araya@ifrc.org](mailto:Ursula.araya@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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## How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.