

EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

COLOMBIA: FLOODS

Appeal no. 24/2004
5 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 953,000 (USD 796,312 OR EUR 621,646) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 20,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS.

CHF 100,000 WAS ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF)

(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget)

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response - SPHERE](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

The situation

Historically, in Colombia the second rainy season of the year begins in late October and ends in December. This year the rainy season has been particularly severe, with continuous, heavy rain storms since the beginning of October. These rains have affected many vulnerable communities from 21 of the 32 departments in the country, especially those in the north. To date, the heavy rains have caused flooding and mudslides, affecting more than

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95,000 people (20,000 families). The water level in some communities has reached 1.40 meters. The death toll in Colombia currently stands at 11, while another 5 people are missing and 35 have been injured.

In addition, the data currently available indicates that 119 houses have been completely destroyed, while 3,656 have been severely damaged. Three bridges have been destroyed in Antioquia and 1,300 hectares of crops have been lost throughout the country. Farmers have also lost a large number of cattle. The floods have affected primarily people living near rivers and in communities that do not have an adequate water and sanitation infrastructure. The effects of this rainy season have been compounded by the fact that the first rainy season of the year, which runs from February to June, was also unusually severe, causing land erosion and leaving the affected areas more vulnerable than ever. In addition, the affected areas are heavily populated by people displaced by the country's ongoing armed conflict, making these communities even more vulnerable to natural disasters of this kind. Since 1985 an estimated cumulative number of over 3,000,000 people have been displaced. In 2004 until the end of September the ICRC (lead agency for the Movement in Colombia) alone reportedly assisted approximately 58,000 person's displaced (13,400 families).



Hundreds of families from Cordoba have lost their homes during this rainy season.

Pictures courtesy of the government of Cordoba

Affected people country-wide as of 2 November, 2004:

	Region	Departments	Families affected	Persons affected
	Caribe	Cordoba, Cesar, Sucre, Guajira, Atlantico, Bolivar and Magdalena	17,961	86,157
	Santanderes	Norte de Santander and Santander	1,054	5,270
	Eje Cafetero	Antioquia, Caldas, Huila, Quindio and Risaralda	719	3,617
	Pacific	Valle, Nadiño and Cauca	200	850
	Centre	Cundinamarca, Tolima and Meta	170	823
	South	Putumayo	100	500
		TOTAL	20,204	97,271

Source: CRCS report from 3 November, 2004

Thus far, the Colombian government has allocated COP 950,000,000 (CHF 442,000 or USD 370,370) in response to the emergency. These funds are being used to dredge rivers, provide logistical support to the emergency prevention and care committees, and provide humanitarian aid. The government is mobilizing humanitarian aid through its National Disaster Preparedness and Response System (SNPAD), the Social Solidarity Network and the

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Ministry of Social Protection. Relief supplies being distributed by the government include food and non-food items such as hygiene parcels, kitchen sets, clothes and medicines to support public health campaigns and prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

The government's Institute of Water, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) has forecasted that rains will continue with the same intensity throughout November and December, and it is likely that the number of affected people will increase to 100,000. The water level of the Magdalena and Cauca rivers, which are the main rivers in the affected area, is continuing to rise. The government has declared yellow and orange alerts for the areas near these rivers in the departments of Antioquia, Santander, Magdalena and Bolivar.

Map showing affected departments:



Map developed by IFRC

As the situation continues to deteriorate and has overwhelmed the capacities of the local response system, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is launching an international appeal with the principal objective to support the CRCS to provide assistance to reduce the impact of the floods that are affecting vulnerable communities in Colombia. The proposed operation seeks not only to provide immediate assistance to 4,000 families, but also to strengthen local capacities.

Red Cross Action

The Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) had been active throughout the emergency, distributing relief supplies to the most affected communities. Red Cross volunteers participated in search and rescue activities, provided first aid, and evacuated affected families to temporary shelters. The CRCS is managing two shelters in the department of Cordoba, where it is providing psychosocial support to evacuees in addition to other relief services. A telecommunications technician from the CRCS headquarters has also travelled to the affected area to deliver radio equipment and provide logistical support to volunteers.

To date, the aid mobilized by the CRCS has come from the CRCS's own resources and from donations coordinated by the Colombian government. The CRCS's capacity to continue responding to the emergency is decreasing as

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many of their relief supplies have been depleted. The private sector and the civil society have also made large contributions to the CRCS relief operations. To date, the aid mobilized by the CRCS is equivalent to approximately COP 195,000,000 (CHF 90,658 or USD 75,523).

On 27 October, non-food relief items were dispatched to Monteria, located in the department of Cordoba; this humanitarian aid was a donation from a private Colombian company, Kimberly Colpapel. On 27 October, the CRCS also mobilized 120 mattresses, 130 bed sheets and 40 food packages to those affected by a mudslide which occurred on Tuesday, 26 October in the municipality of Riosucio in the department of Caldas. Eight people died during this mudslide, including five children. This latter mobilization of humanitarian aid was carried out with funds from the local government. The CRCS is also initiating the purchase of non-food relief items for 180 families from the municipalities of Cienaga de Oro, Cerete and San Pelayo, in the department of Cordoba, with funding from Microsoft Colombia.



CHF 100,000 has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to cover the immediate non-food relief needs of those affected by the floods in the departments of Cordoba and Sucre. More complete information about the Red Cross action to date can be found in the information bulletins published on the Federation's webpage (www.ifrc.org).

The needs

Immediate needs:

The immediate needs are to assist the affected population during the initial phase of the emergency (a period of three months) with food and non-food assistance. It is estimated that humanitarian aid has only reached 60% of the affected people thus far. The five temporary shelters in the country will be able to provide food for three more weeks, but after this period the need for food items will increase. Issues related to overpopulation in shelters, such as health and hygiene, will also be a priority.

Although the floods themselves have not caused a significant rise in the incidence of diseases, recent data indicates that diseases such as malaria and respiratory infections are increasing in heavily affected areas. This is primarily due to a struggling health care system, the capacities of which have been further weakened by the floods. This operation seeks to provide primary health care to the affected population.

Longer-term needs:

The three-month emergency phase of the operation will be followed by a rehabilitation phase. In order for many of those affected to return to their homes, reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing will be carried out through this operation. The rehabilitation phase of the emergency operation will also focus on building water and sanitation systems in communities without a good water and sanitation infrastructure. In addition, disaster preparedness tools will be introduced in vulnerable communities.

Coordination

The Colombian Red Cross Society works in close coordination with the National Disaster Preparedness and Response System (SNPAD) and other national relief organizations to deliver and distribute humanitarian aid. The CRCS is also coordinating with the Ministry of Social Protection to develop joint health campaigns to address the outbreaks of diseases that have started to affect the population. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the American, French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, which are present in the country,

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have been consulted for the development of this appeal. The office of ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Office of the European Commission) in Bogota has been contacted by the Federation regarding this emergency to assess possible collaboration for the CRCS operation.

The proposed operation

This emergency appeal seeks to provide immediate assistance to 20,000 persons (4,000 families), and also includes longer-term objectives that seek to strengthen local community capacities. It is important to note that the communities in the municipalities of Ayapel, Montelibano and Puerto Libertador, in the department of Cordoba, which have participated in Red Cross disaster preparedness programmes in the past, were able to respond quickly and effectively to this emergency. As a result, these areas have been the least affected by the heavy rains. The CRCS will work mainly in the most affected departments and in areas where there are strong Red Cross branches and municipal units: the departments of Bolivar, Cordoba, Magdalena, Norte de Santander, Santander and Sucre.

Objectives and activities planned

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective 1: 4,000 families will have benefited from the provision of food items for a three month period.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Identification and selection of beneficiaries in close coordination with the local relief systems.
- Distribution of food packages to 4,000 families. The food packages, which are in line with the SPHERE standards, include: salt, rice, vegetable oil, beans, lentils, coffee, chocolate, powdered milk, sugar, flour and tuna.
- Provision of logistical support to volunteers and members of the local relief systems.
- Reporting on deliveries of humanitarian aid.
- Evaluation of aid distributions and reporting on lessons learned.

Objective 2: 4,000 families will have benefited from the provision of non-food items for a period of three months.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Identification and selection of beneficiaries in close coordination with the local relief systems.
- Distribution of non-food relief items to 3,000 families. The non-food kits, to be distributed one per family, include: 3 mattresses, 4 mosquito nets, 1 kitchen set, 4 tableware kits and 4 hygiene kits.
 - Kitchen sets include: 3 different pots and 2 cooking spoons.
 - Tableware kits include: 3 different dishes and 1 spoon.
 - Hygiene kits include: 1 soap, 1 toothpaste, 1 toothbrush, 1 bottle of shampoo, 1 towel, 1 deodorant. The feminine kit also includes 5 pads and the masculine kit includes 2 razors.
- Provision of logistical support to volunteers and members of the local relief systems.
- Reporting on deliveries of humanitarian aid.
- Evaluation of aid distributions and reporting on lessons learned.

Health

The CRCS's activities in the area of health will be carried out with the assistance of the Federation and in coordination with the Ministry of Social Protection, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Médecins Sans Frontieres and OXFAM.

Objective 1: 500 families will have benefited from access to basic health services.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Identification and selection of beneficiaries in close coordination with the local health systems.

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- Provision of primary health care to affected communities by the medical service units of CRCS, including curative care.
- Implementation of vaccination campaigns in coordination with the local health systems.

Objective 2: 1,100 families will have benefited from an increased awareness of health, hygiene and sanitation issues.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Identification and selection of beneficiaries in close coordination with the local health systems.
- Visits to beneficiary families for training in preparedness for illnesses and primary health care.
- Prevention of illnesses through training of volunteers and community health education programmes.
- Advocacy for strengthening local health networks.

Disaster preparedness – Strengthening of response capacity

Objective 1: The capacities of the communities in the affected areas will have been strengthened.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) in selected affected communities and development of community disaster response plans, in coordination with local disaster preparedness and response committees.
- Distribution of Red Cross support material for the development of disaster response capacities.
- Promotion of early alert systems in affected communities.

Objective 2: The CRCS branches and municipal units will be better prepared for future disasters.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Implementation of National Intervention Team (NIT) workshops in branches.
- Training in relief and logistical issues for volunteers.
- Provision of support to the telecommunications network.
- Distribution of basic equipment for volunteers.

Rehabilitation

Objective: Evacuees will have returned to their homes and 500 families will have improved their housing and water and sanitation conditions in the departments of Sucre, Cordoba and Norte de Santander.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Advocacy for relocation of families living near rivers and in other high risk areas.
- Identification and selection of the 500 beneficiary families, with a particular emphasis on those who were evacuated during the emergency.
- Delivery of building materials to beneficiaries and provision of technical support for reconstruction of damaged houses.
- Provision of support for small water and sanitation projects in specific communities, which can serve as a model for future interventions.
- Evaluation of aid distributions and reporting on lessons learned.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and priorities

The Federation is working to support the Colombian Red Cross Society to assist the most vulnerable. The planned operation is based upon the principle of humanity; beneficiary selection criteria focuses on the level of vulnerability of those affected, taking into account the particular vulnerability of those displaced by the armed conflict, respect for the culture of the beneficiaries, and ensuring gender sensitivity.

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Activities planned for this appeal are based on the SPHERE project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for disaster relief. The operation is guided by principles and rules relating to transparency in the drawing up and dissemination of narrative and financial reports. All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

The International Federation is coordinating its work closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the American, French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, already operating in the country.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The provision of accurate information to the public of the impact of Red Cross operations is a key activity. From this point of view, relations with the media are particularly important in order to convey the message of the Red Cross Movement. The National Society has been working to provide visibility to the Red Cross relief efforts by coordinating with the national media, including the RCN and the Colombian Connection networks, which have put a banner in their web pages that links to the CRCS web page where instructions for making donations can be found.

Capacity of the National Society

The Colombian Red Cross Society was founded in 1915 and operates in 31 of the 32 departments of the country, including 195 municipal units and 45 support groups. The CRCS has an operational national network of 35,000 volunteers. Because of this coverage, the National Society enjoys a high level of trust and acceptance within the local communities. All branches and units of the CRCS make up the national relief system that facilitates relief operations using its expertise in logistics, transportation, warehousing and telecommunications. There are branches, municipal units and support groups throughout the flood-affected areas, and the CRCS activities in response to the floods will be carried out with the support of the volunteers from these organizations. In addition, the National Society has gained important experience in community programmes through the Amazonico programme it has been implementing during the past five years (more information can be found in www.cruzroja.org).

The CRCS belongs to the national system that provides care to displaced people, and also belongs to the National Disaster Preparedness and Response System (SNPAD). Because of this, the National Society has a great deal of experience in attending to vulnerable people affected by violence or disasters, particularly in the areas of preparedness, emergency response and rehabilitation.

CRCS branches in areas that have not been affected by the rains have received instructions to increase their activities in disaster preparedness.

Capacity of the CRCS in the regions of the proposed operation:

Department branch	Municipal units	Support groups	Warehouses	Volunteers	Vehicles				
					Ambulance	Truck	Boat	Car	Van
Bolivar	Cartagena, El Carmen de Bolívar, Magangue, Zambrano, San Juan de Nepomuceno.		1	80	1		1		3
Cordoba	Montería, Cerete, Loricá, Sahagún, Planeta Rica, Montelibano, Valencia	Tierralta y Ciénaga de Oro	1	75	1		1		1
Magdalena	Santa Marta, Plato, El Banco y Ciénaga		1	120				1	1
Norte de Santander	Cucuta y Ocaña	Tibu, Abrego, Herran, Pamplona, La Playa y Ragonvalia	3	122	4				2

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Santander	Bucaramanga, Barrancabermeja y Málaga	San Gil	3	295	3		2		4
Sucre	Sincelejo y Corozal	San Marcos, y Sampues	1	65	1	1		1	
TOTAL			10	757	10	1	4	2	11

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation benefits from the following structure in the region:

- A Federation representative based in Bogotá, located in the offices of the Colombian Red Cross Society.
- A Regional Delegation office in Lima with a staff of delegates and local personnel working in disaster management, health, organizational development, information, reporting and finance.
- A Sub-Regional Office for the Southern Cone and Brazil in Buenos Aires, which is located in the offices of the Argentine Red Cross, with staff working in organizational development, gender and humanitarian values, and finance.
- The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), based in Panama, with delegates working in logistics, disaster management and water and sanitation.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring with regard to the implementation of activities outlined in this appeal and the objectives set out in the plan of action will be carried out by the National Society with support from the Federation. Standard Federation narrative and financial reporting will be ensured on a regular basis as a means of monitoring the progress and developments in the area.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

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[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

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TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Shelter & constructions	69,000
Clothing & textiles	229,000
Food	113,000
Water & sanitation	38,000
Medical & first aid	30,000
Utensils & tools	58,000
Other relief supplies	128,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	665,000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Computers & telecom. equipment	4,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	62,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Distribution & storage	12,000
Transport & vehicle costs	30,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
National staff	45,000
Workshops & training	78,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	19,000
Information expenses	20,000
Administrative & general expenses	18,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	288,000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	953,000
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NET REQUEST	953,000