

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

9 December 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

Appeal No. 24/2004; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 16 November – 6 December 2004; Appeal coverage: 14.8%; ([click here to go directly to the attached revised budget and contributions list below](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 5 November 2004 for CHF 953,000 (USD 796,312 or EUR 621,646) for 6 months to assist 20,000 beneficiaries.
- Plan of action and budget revised and increased to CHF 1,698,000 and the number of beneficiaries increased to 40,000 (8,000 families).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000.

Outstanding needs : CHF 1,446,834

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: South America Annual Appeal (01.54/2004), Pan American Disaster Response Unit Annual Appeal (01.51/2004)

Operational Summary: The Federation's appeal to support the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) in its ongoing flood relief effort has been revised upwards to address the rising number of people affected and the increasing level of need. The appeal now targets 8,000 beneficiary families (40,000 beneficiaries). The operational plan of action and budget were revised following an evaluation of the needs of the affected population carried out by the National Society and a disaster management delegate from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU). A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Venezuelan Red Cross has been deployed to support the activities of the CRCS in response to the floods. Given that the Colombian Red Cross Society is recognized and respected by the country's armed groups, the CRCS has taken the lead role in the emergency operations being carried out in areas affected by the internal armed conflict. To date, the CRCS has provided food and non-food items to over 6,000 beneficiary families in the departments of Antioquia, Bolivar, Cesar, Cundinamarca, Guajira, Magdalena, Sucre, Santander and Tolima. In addition, an evaluation team from the CRCS health department has conducted a field visit. Health brigades will begin working in two to three weeks according to the needs identified.

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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>

Background

Colombia is currently experiencing the heaviest rainy season in the last eight years. Heavy rains have been affecting the country since the beginning of October and have already caused 31 deaths and 72 injuries; 5 people have been reported missing. A total of 469 houses have been completely destroyed and another 20,287 houses have been partially damaged. To date 345,314 persons (68,021 families) from 24 of the 32 departments (197 municipalities) in Colombia have been affected by the flooding. Thousands of families from the Caribbean coast in the north of the country have been forced to flee their homes. The main Colombian rivers have swollen, causing floods in both agricultural and urban areas. The road system has also been severely affected due to mudslides that have blocked the path of vehicles.



The flooded community of Cesar

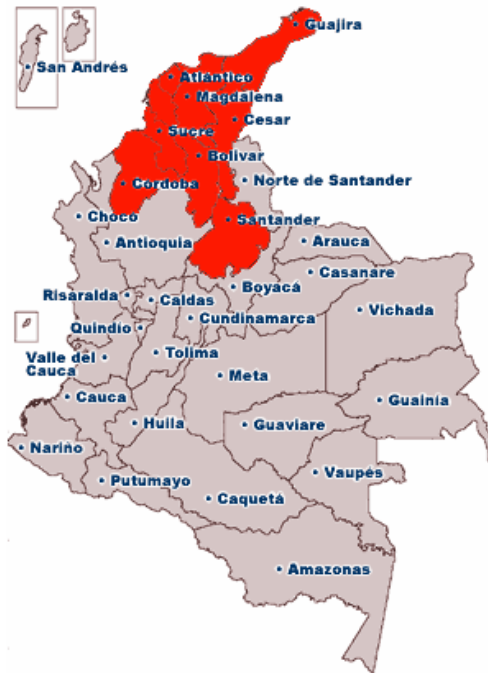


Displaced families often build their houses in high risk areas

The profile of the persons affected by these heavy rains is diverse: many are persons who have been displaced by the country's long internal conflict who were living in high risk areas near the rivers; another group that has been seriously affected is small farmers, whose main income is their crops. In addition, people living in poor urban areas that lack basic infrastructure and public services have been affected.

On 11 November the government declared a state of public emergency in eight departments: Atlantico, Bolivar, Cordoba, Cesar, Guajira, Magdalena, Santander and Sucre.

Map showing the eight departments where a state of public emergency has been declared:



Map developed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Nº	Department	Affected municipalities	Affected families	Affected persons	Damaged houses	Destroyed houses
1	Antioquia	Envigado, La Estrella, Copacabana, Bello, Caucasia, Nechí, Medellín, Caldas, Yondó, Guatapé, San Vicente, Valdivia, Cáceres, Caldas	3,099	15,878	137	70
2	Atlántico	Barranquilla, Sabanagrande.	231	1,464	130	0
3	Bolívar	Cartagena, Clemencia, San Fernando, Simití, San Juan de Nepomuceno, San Pablo, Tiquisio, Turbana, Mompo, Hatillo de Loba, Margarita, Santa Catalina, Santa Rosa, San Cristóbal, Barranco Loba, Talgua Nuevo, Calamr, Cicuco, Regidor, Magangue, Morales, Arenal, San Jacinto del Cauca, Achí, Zambrano, Turbaco, El Peñón, El Guamo, Arjona, Cantagallo, Río Viejo, Altos del Rosario, Pinillos, Villanueva, Montecristo	26,237	133,289	10,223	19
4	Boyacá	San Pablo de Borbur, El Espino, Socha, Puerto Boyacá, Otanche, Quipama	2,112	10,725	30	46
5	Caldas	Riosucio	21	107	19	2
6	Cauca	Popayán, López de Micay, Timbiquí	237	1,205	5	2
7	Cesar	Valledupar, Tamalameque, La Gloria, San Martín, San Diego, Becerril, La Jagua de Ibirico, Chimichagua, Pelaya, El Copey, Aguachica, Gamarra	6,206	3,531	2,758	42
8	Chocó	Quibdó, Ístmina, Andagoya	30	152	11	6
9	Córdoba	Montería, La Apartada, Ayapel, Ciénaga de Oro, Cereté, San Pelayo, Momil, Planeta Rica, Purísima, Moñitos, Lorica, San Andrés de Sotavento, Tierralta, Los Córdoba, San Carlos, Montelibano, Puerto Libertador, San Bernardo, Buenavista	12,177	61,298	494	0

10	Cundinamarca	Bogotá, Caparrapi, Pandi, Yacopi, Gauduas	960	4,875	172	33
11	Guajira	Riohacha, Dibulla, Maicao, Manaure	2,423	12,307	1,545	56
12	Huila	Garzón, Neiva, San Alfonso de Villa Vieja, Baraya	61	320	49	3
13	Magdalena	El Banco, Plato, Santa Marta, Aracataca, Zona Bananera, Ciénaga, Fundación, El Reten, Remolino, Sitio Nuevo	6,946	35,262	3,262	8
14	Meta	Villavicencio, El Calvario, Guamal	15	78	14	1
15	Nariño	Samaniego, EL Tambo, EL Peñol, San Jose de Alban, Contadero, Sotomayor, Leiva, Santa Cruz de Guachabes, Pasto, Barbacoas	235	1,200	26	13
16	Norte Santander	Ocaña, Cucutilla, Santiago, Tibú / La Gabarra, Villa Caro, Teorama, Machique	1,088	5,492	161	69
17	Putumayo	Sibundoy, Puerto Asis	130	652	30	0
18	Quindio	Circasia, Montenegro, Armenia	17	101	10	2
19	Risaralda	Puerto Caldas, La Celia, Santa Rosa de Cabal, Pereira, Dos Quebradas	140	726	124	0
20	Santander	Barrancabermeja, Puerto Parra, Girón, Bajo Rionegro, Cimitarra, El Playón, Capitanejo, Lebrija, Floridablanca, Piedecuesta, Málaga, Concepción, Curití, Guadalupe, Cerrito, San Vicente, Charta, Carcasi, Ocamonte, Carmen de Chucuri, Puerto Wilches, Bucaramanga, Santa Bárbara, San Andres, Sabana de Torres	3,198	16,236	610	13
21	Sucre	Guaranda, Majagual, Caimito, Santiago de Tolú, Sincelejo, Sucre, San Pedro	1,992	10,119	378	77
22	Tolima	Purificación, Carmen de Apicala, Armero Guayabal, Cajamarca, Ibague, Dolores, San Sebastian, Margarita, Prado, Natagaima, Chaparral, Ambalema, Incononzo, Alpujarra	432	2,125	99	7
23	Valle	Bugalagrande	34	172	0	0
TOTAL		197 municipalities	68,021	345,314	20,287	469

Source: CRCS report from 26 November 2004



A woman in Cordoba shows the level that flood waters reached in her home.

Health authorities have warned of potential epidemics due to stagnant waters. Leptospirosis, an illness caused by exposure to water that has been contaminated by animal urine has caused 6 deaths in Cartagena de Indias to date.

According to the government's Institute of Water, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), the heavy rains are expected to continue until mid December.

Operational developments

The Colombian government is mobilizing humanitarian aid through its National Disaster Preparedness and Response System (SNPAD), the Social Solidarity Network and the Ministry of Social Protection. In total, the Colombian government has allocated COP 1,227,000,000 (approximately USD 500,000) from its National Disaster Fund in response to the emergency and has mobilized more than 60 tons of aid. The private sector has donated approximately COP 500 million (approximately USD 200,000) to fund the government's response. These funds are being used for regional disaster response committees providing humanitarian aid and assistance. The private sector has also joined a solidarity campaign initiative called "Colombiaton," which has collected money to build 1,500 houses and repair some 50 damaged houses in poor urban areas of Cartagena. In addition, health authorities and agencies such as OXFAM, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) are in the field, working to avoid the spread of epidemics.

A total of 47 temporary shelters are active throughout Colombia, housing approximately 4,250 persons. In Cartagena alone there are more than 20 shelters, each with an average of 200 people. During the worst week of rains, some 100 temporary shelters were in use.

Temporary shelters currently in operation:

Department	Number of shelters
Antioquia	3
Bolivar	9
Cesar	5
Cordoba	1
Guajira	14
Magdalena	13
Norte de Santander	1
Sucre	1
TOTAL	47

Source: CRCS report from 24 November 2004

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

The Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) is working in the most difficult areas of the affected departments in terms of security. 75 percent of the communities affected by floods are located in regions where there is internal armed conflict, which is why all the National Society's activities will be carried out in accordance with the Security Norms. The CRCS is recognized by armed groups, and the Red Cross has therefore taken the lead role in these areas, while other humanitarian agencies are working in other areas.

The National Society made two national appeals, to which the Colombian population responded, contributing some COP 79,474,200 (approximately USD 32,000). This money is being used to provide assistance to 250 affected families in Cordoba. The Colombian population has also responded directly to the appeal with donations of 75 tons of food and non-food relief items. In Bogotá alone, some 40 tons have been collected.

Two of the Partner National Societies present in Colombia have also contributed to the CRCS action. The Netherlands Red Cross has provided COP 120,000,000 (approximately USD 49,000) to assist 750 families from the department of Bolivar, while the American Red Cross has contributed COP 629,000,000 (approximately USD 255,000).

A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Venezuelan Red Cross has been deployed to Bogotá to support the activities of the CRCS in terms of the emergency appeal. The CRCS, together with a Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) disaster management delegate, carried out an evaluation of the needs of the affected population, following which the plan of action and the appeal budget were revised. The results of this evaluation showed a consistent increase in needs related to continued high levels of water in rural areas destroying crops in the affected departments. Therefore, the new plan of action, targets twice the number of beneficiaries which has risen from 4,000 to 8,000 families, while reducing the scope of activities. As a result, water and sanitation activities will not be carried out and priorities will focus on areas in which the Red Cross has most capacity. The regions which have been worst hit are scattered hamlets and villages in rural areas, many of which are located in conflict affected areas, resulting in significant and complex logistical and security exercises. A call for mobilization of 4,000 additional volunteers was issued in the national press at the end of November to boost capacity. The plan of action hence focuses on the distribution of food and non-food relief items, improving health conditions, and disaster preparedness activities. Beneficiaries are being selected in coordination with the National Disaster Preparedness and Response System (SNPAD) according to the following criteria: level of affectation, level of vulnerability and assistance provided to date.

Humanitarian aid provided by the CRCS between 1 October and 7 December 2004, including both national and international activities has reached over 6,000 affected families as below:

Department	Municipalities	Total tonnes of aid distributed food and non-food	Families
Antioquia	Caucasia, Yondo	9.7	632
Bolivar	Cartagena	30.4	1,500
Cesar	Aguachica	7.5	450
Cundinamarca	Guaduas	0.3	200
Guajira	Riohacha	5	800
Magdalena	Santa Marta, El Banco	15.2	1,000
Sucre	Sucre-sucre, Majagual, Guaranda	8.5	600
Santander	San Pablo, Cantagallo, Puerto Wilches	10	750
Tolima	Ibague	5.4	168
TOTAL	15 municipalities	92 tonnes	6,100

The following are the revised Appeal objectives:

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective 1: 8,000 families will have benefited from the provision of food items for a three month period.

The following are the regions where the CRCS will continue to focus its relief efforts in line with the increased number of beneficiaries:

Department	Municipalities
Bolivar	Montecristo, Rio Viejo, San Jacinto del Cauca, Tiquisio, Magangué, Altos del Rosario, Achi
Cesar	Gamarra, Tamalameque
Cordoba	La Apartada, Puerto Libertador, Montelibano, Buenavista, Ayapel
Magdalena	El Banco
Santander	Puerto Wilches
Sucre	Majagual, Guaranda, Quindio

- The standard food relief package of CRCS complies with the SPHERE minimum norms, providing a total of 49,890 kilocalories:
 - Lentils (1 kg): 3,390 k-cal

2. Flour (0.5 kg): 1,800 k-cal
3. Rice (3 kg): 10,920 k-cal
4. Sugar (1 kg): 3,730 k-cal
5. Brown Colombian sugar (2 kg): 8,000 k-cal
6. Beans (1 kg): 3,280 k-cal
7. Salt (0.5 kg): 0 k-cal
8. Oil (1lt): 9,380 k-cal
9. Chocolate (0.5 kg): 2,000 k-cal
10. Coffee (0.5 kg): 0 k-cal
11. Powdered milk (0.4 kg): 1,924 k-cal
12. Tuna (0.37 kg): 966 k-cal
13. Cold meat for sandwich (0.5 kg): 1,500 k-cal



Colombian Red Cross Society warehouse in Sucre: CRCS volunteers preparing food and non-food kits to be delivered



Volunteers checking list of beneficiaries before starting a delivery in an affected community from Sucre.

Objective 2: 8,000 families will have benefited from the provision of non-food items for a period of three months.

- The CRCS standard non-food relief family kits include: 3 mattresses, 4 mosquito nets, 1 kitchen set, 4 tableware kits and 4 hygiene kits.
 - Kitchen sets include: 3 pots and 2 cooking spoons.
 - Tableware kits include: 3 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 sanitary pads and the masculine kit includes 2 razors.

Health and Disaster Preparedness – Strengthening of response capacity

The CRCS will work in the regions below in the area of health and disaster preparedness:

Department	Municipalities
Bolivar	Cartagena, Montecristo, Tiquisio, Achi
Cesar	Gamarra, Tamalameque
Cordoba	Monteria, Cienaga de Oro, Cerote, San Pelayo
Magdalena	El Banco
Santander	Puerto Wilches
Sucre	San Pedro, Majagual, Guaranda

All emergency activities in the area of health and disaster preparedness are coordinated by the local government branches of the disaster preparedness and response committee (CLOPADs). The local municipal health authorities will also support these activities with health equipment and vaccines. Overall plans of action for the health component of the Appeal together with a specific plan of action per region have been developed.

Objective 1: 1,100 families will have benefited from access to basic health services and medical attention for ailments caused by the flooding will have been provided by CRCS health brigades.

An evaluation team from the CRCS health department travelled to the field and, in accordance with the needs identified, health brigades will begin work in two to three weeks' time. A needs assessment was undertaken in Montería (Cordoba) and Cartagena (Bolivar) as well as in El Banco (Magdalena). A focus of health interventions will be on provision of information and assistance to the population in relation to respiratory ailments, dermatological conditions and parasites. The CRCS will work in coordination with local health centres and provide assistance with essential medicines.

Objective 2: 1,050 families will have benefited from a primary health project as well as activities focusing on increased awareness of health, hygiene and sanitation and disaster preparedness issues.

Once the emergency phase of the operation has been completed, activities are planned based on home visits and meetings with community groups. Health activities will include the collection of waste and clean-up campaigns in affected houses, together with education sessions on the importance of clean water and its storage.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

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.

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 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.

National Society Capacity Building

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. Given 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 Red Cross volunteers at all levels. 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 at 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). As a result, the National Society has a great deal of experience in attending to vulnerable people affected by conflict or disasters, particularly in the areas of preparedness, emergency response and rehabilitation.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The provision of accurate information to the public regarding 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.

With the support of the national media the CRCS has launched two national campaigns to collect relief goods and cash contributions, and is also increasing the number of Red Cross volunteers among the Colombian population.

Articles regarding the emergency response can be found on the Federation's web page.

[Revised budget below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 24/2004

Colombia - floods

TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF		
Shelter & constructions	69,000		-69,000
Clothing & textiles	229,000	568,000	339,000
Food	113,000	343,000	230,000
Water & sanitation	38,000	21,000	-17,000
Medical & first aid	30,000	67,000	37,000
Utensils & tools	58,000	76,000	18,000
Other relief supplies	128,000	154,000	26,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	665,000	1,229,000	564,000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Computers & telecom. equipment	4,000	9,000	5,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme support (6.5% of total)	62,000	110,000	48,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>			
Distribution & storage	12,000	24,000	12,000
Transport & vehicle costs	30,000	74,000	44,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
National staff	45,000	91,000	46,000
Workshops & training	78,000	35,000	-43,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	19,000	38,000	19,000
Information expenses	20,000	50,000	30,000
Administrative & general expenses	18,000	38,000	20,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	288,000	469,000	181,000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	953,000	1,698,000	745,000
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		251,166	
NET REQUEST		1,446,834	

Colombia - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 24/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,698,000		14.8%
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		50,000	CAD	46,900	24.11.04	
HONG KONG - RC		21,847	HKD	3,535	11.11.04	EMERGENCY RELIEF
JAPANESE - RC		26,280	USD	33,231	16.11.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	167,500	12.11.04	IMMEDIATE NEEDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				251,166	CHF	14.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	