



## MEXICO: FLOODS

DREF Bulletin no. MDRMX001  
Glide no. FL-2007-000154-MEX  
12 September, 2007

*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 100,000 (USD 83,126 or EUR 60,827) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs of those affected by the severe floods. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 10 December 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 February, 2008). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged. [<click here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

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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.

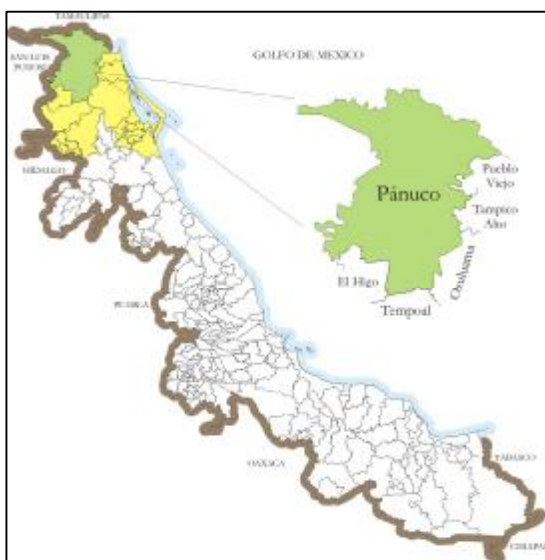
*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## Background and current situation

The northern part of Mexico has been severely affected by constant rain during the past three weeks, specifically in the states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas. The state of Veracruz hosts the second largest municipality (Panuco) with approximately 650 communities. The rains have caused the rivers to overflow, threatening a dam which protects the city of Panuco. There are concerns that this may cause an already serious situation to worsen considerably. This is considered to be the worst disaster in the area since the last 20 years. Due to the distance between these communities and the lack of roads, assistance and communication activities are hampered, and only 40% of the people could be evacuated.

*Areas affected by the floods.  
Source: Mexican Red Cross*

The Mexican Red Cross (MRC) is currently managing two other disasters, hurricane Dean in the Yucatan Peninsula and hurricane Henriette, in Baja California. Therefore, the relief activities for this flood emergency in Veracruz and Tamaulipas have placed an additional burden on the national society.



## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Three MRC teams (16 people each) specialized in need and damage assessments were deployed to the affected areas. Due to the size of the emergency the teams have requested additional support from the MRC. Forty persons from the National Intervention Unit (Unidad Nacional de Intervencion Rapida, UNIR) were also deployed to support the MRC teams along with boats, vehicles and 2,000 food parcels to commence relief aid activities. The MRC has started to distribute food items to the most affected communities. The

Mexican government has opened shelters and the MRC will provide support and

services within the shelters. They have also requested the mobilization of a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) through the Federation's Pan American Disaster Relief Unit (PADRU).

## The needs

**Immediate needs:** the floods in Veracruz and Tamaulipas have caused serious damage to homes, infrastructure and communities. Based on the above information and initial assessment, immediate needs include hygiene kits, kitchen kits, food parcels and infant kits. Further assessments will be defined in the coming days.

**Longer-term needs:** the early recovery and rehabilitation needs of the affected populations will be reviewed by assessment teams and the response of the Red Cross will be adapted accordingly



*Floods have caused major damages in Veracruz and Tamaulipas. Source: Mexican Red Cross*

## The proposed operation

This DREF seeks to support immediate MRC response activities in the affected areas of Veracruz and Tamaulipas in Mexico. Objectives and planned activities will be adjusted in line with more detailed information resulting from damage and needs assessments, including possible clean-up operations, health, shelter and water and sanitation needs.

**Objectives and activities planned**

**Emergency relief**

**Objective 1: 6,000 families (30,000 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of relief items to recover from the effects of the floods.**

The MRC plan of action will distribute the items as follows:

State	Food Parcels	Hygiene Kits	Kitchen Kits	Infant Kits
Tamaulipas	2,000	1,000		2,000
Veracruz	4,000	2,000		2,000

The distributions will be held in coordination with the area’s local branches and with the MRC.

**Activities planned to reach this objective include:**

- Identification and registration of the most vulnerable families with special emphasis on gender inequities and disability conditions.
- Coordination with national, regional, provincial and local authorities.
- Warehousing, dispatch and transportation of relief items from local headquarters to the final destinations.
- Regular detailed reporting on the distribution.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

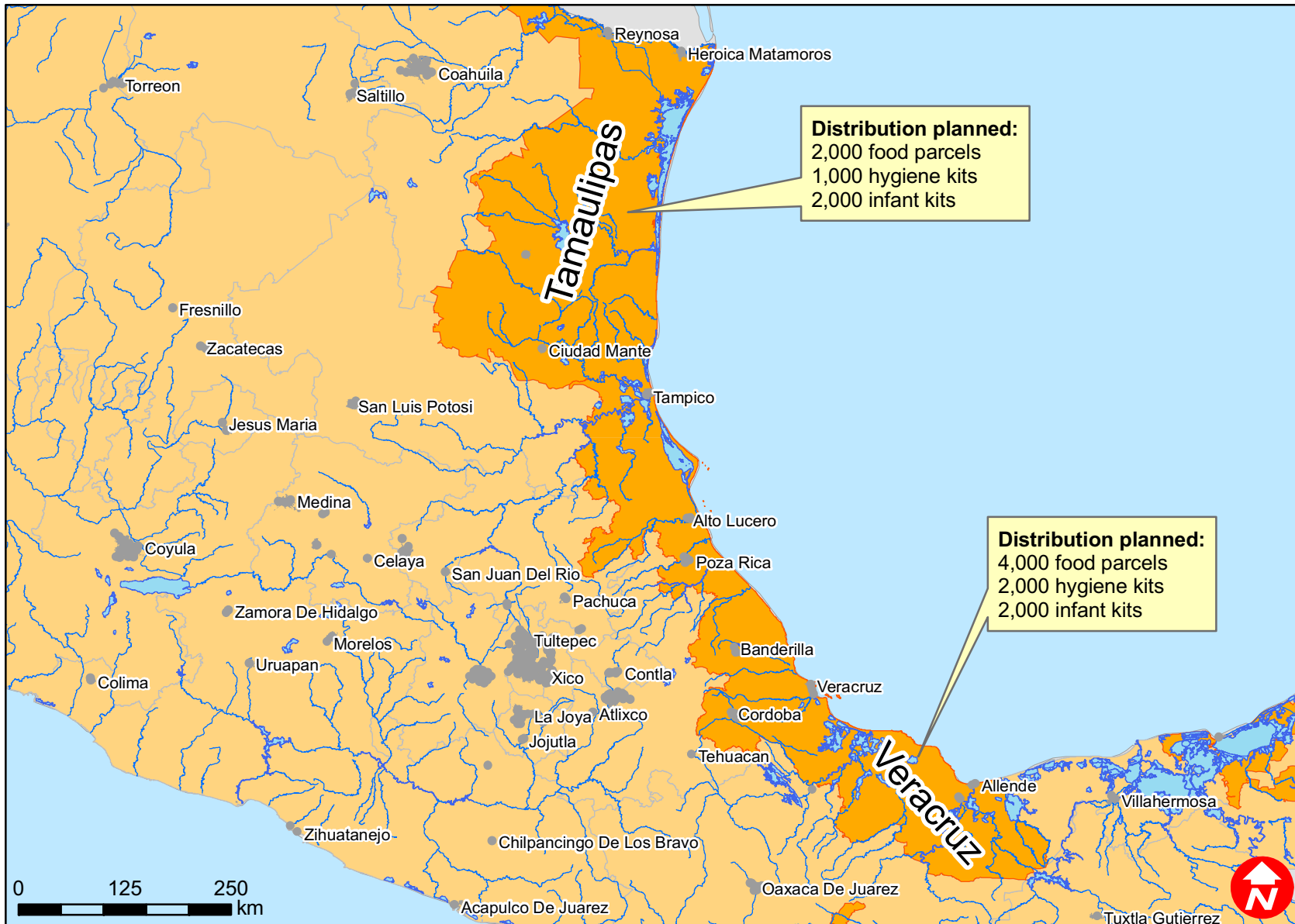
**Coordination**

The Federation’s PADRU and the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation in Panama are in direct contact with the Mexican Red Cross. PADRU personnel and Regional Intervention Teams (RIT’s) will coordinate the deployment.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



# Mexico: Floods



The northern part of Mexico has been severely affected by constant rain during the past three weeks. These rains have caused the rivers to overflow. This is considered to be the worst disaster from the last 20 years.

- Affected states
- Urban area
- Rivers
- Lakes

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, GRUMP, Federation