

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Belize: Hurricane Richard

DREF operation n° MDRBZ002  
6 November 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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.

**53,996 Swiss francs (56,303 US dollars or 39,804 euro) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries (500 beneficiary families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** The impact of Hurricane Richard in Belize on 24 October created extensive damage to the country's environment, its infrastructure and the agricultural sector. Approximately 831 homes from 55 communities were damaged, and 4,639 individuals were displaced to shelters nationwide. Fortunately, no deaths were recorded. Total direct losses are estimated to be around 49.2 million US dollars based on preliminary reports of damages.

This operation seeks to support the Belize Red Cross Society in providing food and non-food items to 500 beneficiary families affected by the hurricane.



**Belize Red Cross Society volunteer distributes non-food items and cleaning kits to a family affected by the floods.**  
Source: Belize Red Cross Society

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 4 February 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 4 May 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

On 24 October 2010, category 1 Hurricane Richard with sustained winds of 90 mph made landfall 20 miles south of Belize City moving inland on a westerly track. The path of Hurricane Richard took it directly across the country's two major cities: Belmopan and Belize City, and through 53 communities in Belize, Cayo, Orange Walk, and Stann Creek districts, indirectly affecting approximately 192,800 persons. There were no recorded deaths as a result of the hurricane.

4,639 individuals were displaced to shelters nationwide in preparation for the hurricane's landfall. In general, it is estimated that thousands of coastal residents voluntarily evacuated inland to family and friends. Another precautionary measure taken was to close all schools on 25 October.

Total direct losses are estimated as being 49.2 million US dollars based on preliminary reports of damages. Housing infrastructure and the agricultural sector received the highest damage. Approximately 831 homes were impacted and it is estimated that 15-20 percent of the homes in the San Martin / Las Flores area suffered significant damages and require complete reconstruction. For the agricultural sector, losses of subsistence farms could result in a situation of food insecurity in the immediate to short term.

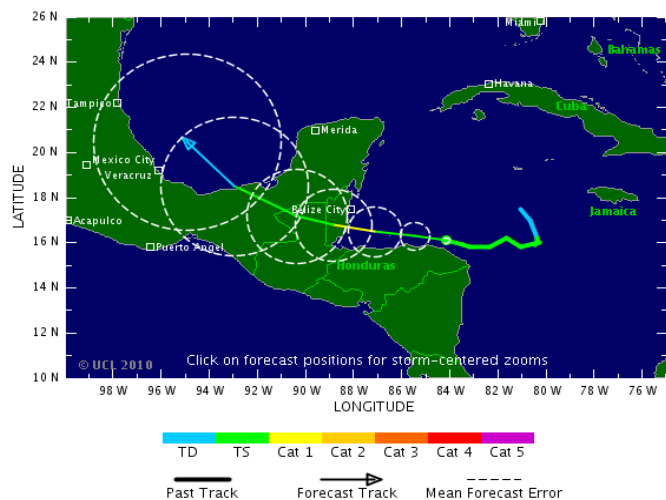
## Coordination and partnerships

Since the preparedness stage, the Belize Red Cross Society has been coordinating with the National Emergency Management Office, continually informing the population with updates on flood risks and storm shelters.

The Government of Belize released 3 million Belize dollars for immediate emergency response and relief efforts. In addition, the Belize Red Cross Society has been

collaborating with the Ministries of Health, Works and Agriculture to conduct needs assessments and provide relief.

The Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit and the Caribbean Regional Representation have been in constant communication with the BRCS and have been providing information to partners and donors about activities undertaken by the National Society.



Path of Hurricane Richard. National Hurricane Center.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 25 October, Belize Red Cross Society relief teams distributed pre-positioned non-food items to 600 families in the Belize district. Throughout the following week, the BRCS carried out a holistic needs assessment and prepared its plan of action with the government and other agencies. The Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies have conducted damage assessments and are tailoring their response to the level of needs. The Belize Red Cross Society's plan of action with DREF funding forms part of a wider plan to assist those affected by the disaster.

## The needs

There is an immediate need for the provision of basic humanitarian aid in terms of food and non-food items to the large number of displaced persons. In addition, health personnel working in the affected areas will need to have medical kits containing oral rehydration salts, antipyretics, tetanus toxoid, anti-inflammatory drugs, anti-malaria drugs, and blood testing supplies. Many families require access to safe potable water and improved sanitary conditions, especially those in homes where the latrines have been damaged and require reconstruction.

The assessments have identified that the homes of many of those in the impacted zone are from lower income communities and many are made up of elderly and single parent households. There is a need for immediate assistance to provide for adequate shelter to these displaced individuals. The government, together with its partners, is working to provide shelter for those in need.

## The proposed operation

With support from the Federation, the Belize Red Cross Society will contribute to the most urgent needs of the population affected by Hurricane Richard. Based on damage and needs assessment reports, 500 families will receive food and non-food items.

Relief and food distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Outcome: The most vulnerable people affected by the hurricane have improved access to basic food and non-food items that enable them to resume essential household activities.</b>	
Output	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two hundred and fifty families in the districts of Belize and Stann Creek will have their basic nutritional needs covered for the period of one month through the provision of food parcels.</li> <li>Two hundred and fifty families in the Belize River Valley, Freetown Sibun and Gracie Rock will receive non-food items and cleaning kits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the needs assessment, develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>Provide 250 families with kitchen sets, tarpaulins, buckets, and food and hygiene kits for one month.</li> <li>Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>Replenish Belize Red Cross emergency stocks with supplies that have been distributed to the affected population.</li> </ul>

## 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.

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.

## Contact information

**For further information related to this operation please contact:**

- **In Belize:** Lily Bowman, Director General of the Belize Red Cross Society-, phone: +501 627 8801; email: lily.bowman@redcross.bz
- **In Trinidad and Tobago:** Tanya Wood, Regional Representative for the Caribbean; phone: +1 868 628 2439; email: tanya.wood@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Chiran Livera, PADRU Disaster Management Delegate, phone: +507 6747 3149; email: chiran.livera@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Jorge Zequeira, PADRU Coordinator, phone: +507 316 1001; email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: +41 22 730 4300; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

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

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBZ002 - Belize - Hurricane Richard

05.11.2010

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	4,250	4,250
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles		0
Food	15,750	15,750
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation		0
Medical & First Aid		0
Teaching Materials		0
Ustensils & Tools	10,250	10,250
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	5,250	5,250
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>35,500</b>
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring	7,000	7,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,500	1,500
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,500</b>
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff		0
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	1,500	1,500
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
Workshops & Training		0
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	2,000	2,000
Information & Public Relation	500	500
Office Costs	500	500
Communications	500	500
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges	500	500
Other General Expenses		0
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
<b>Total Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Program Support	3,296	3,296
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>3,296</b>
Services & Recoveries	1,200	1,200
Shared Services		0
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>53,996</b>	<b>53,996</b>