

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Costa Rica: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCR006  
08 June 2011

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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

### Summary:

27,482 Swiss francs was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 5 November, 2010 to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) to perform assessments in six of the seven provinces of the country: Guanacaste, Puntarenas, Cartago, San Jose, Alajuela and Heredia.

After continuous coordination with the Costa Rican National Emergency Commission (Comision Nacional de Emergencia—CNE), it was determined that the National Society should support the government by completing

damage and needs assessments on the Southern Zone of the country (Puntarenas province). In this area, the CRRC identified 900 affected families (3,020 people) who later received food and non-food relief items.

All activities were successfully carried out, and this report is final in terms of narrative and financials. The operation is now closed, with a final balance of 7,338 Swiss francs unspent and returned to DREF. The Canadian Red Cross contributed 5,000 Canadian dollars to DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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## The situation

On 2 November 2010 a low pressure system interacted with Tropical Storm Tomas, resulting in intermittent rain of variable intensity for several days. Heavier rains concentrated in Nicoya Peninsula, with accumulations of 200mm, and in the Pacific and the Central Valley. Two days later, on 4 November, a portion of Pico Blanco Mountain collapsed on the community of Calle Lajas in Escazú, causing the death of over 30 people. On that same day, the government of Costa Rica declared a national level red alert and



Some 500 volunteers were mobilized in the month of November to complete search and rescue missions and damage and needs assessments across the country. Source: CRRC.

issued a State of Emergency. Overall, damage caused by continuous rain was reported in six of the seven provinces of Costa Rica: Guanacaste, Puntarenas, Cartago, San Jose, Alajuela and Heredia. Floods and several landslides obstructed roads in 58 different locations and destroyed nine bridges, blocking transportation of goods and people and hindering access to and communication with several affected areas. Some 500 volunteers of the CRRC worked on search and rescue missions, assisting 1,107 people across the Pacific Coast and Central Valley.

It must be noted that the intermittent but intense rains continued throughout the month of November and into early December, when the province of Limón was also severely impacted, with 13,500 people affected.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During this DREF operation, the CRRC successfully coordinated with the government of Costa Rica to complete damage and needs assessments. Once the affected families were identified, the National Society, with the support of the Costa Rican National Emergency Commission, was able to deliver food and non-food relief items to 900 families (3,020 people).

### Achievements against outcomes

Damage and needs assessments	
<b>Outcome: The Costa Rican Red Cross will perform damage and needs assessments in six provinces of the country.</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency damage and needs assessments</li> <li>• Identify affected areas</li> <li>• Develop a Plan of Action</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance</li> </ul>	

**Impact:** With the support of DREF, the CRRC was able to reach the outcome of performing damage and needs assessments of the effects caused by the strong rains that fell during the first week of November. When the DREF was requested, there was a need to complete assessments in six provinces (Guanacaste, Punta Arenas, Cartago, San Jose, Alajuela and Heredia). The government was able to carry them out in five of those provinces, and the National Society complemented their efforts by completing assessments in the southern zone (in Puntarenas), the only area that the government could not reach. The assessments were coordinated by an American Red Cross (ARC) delegate seconded to PADRU for this operation, whose travel and board expenses were covered by this DREF allocation.

As the table below summarizes, the National Society assessed the needs of 3,020 people, of whom 1,025 were children.

Community	Families affected	Adults		Children		People affected	Main needs
		M	F	M	F		
Palmar Norte	320	444	347	204	196	1,991	Food, water, 10 homes uninhabitable
Golfito	161	248	237	120	108	713	Food
Osa	340	313	233	151	158	855	Food
Ciudad Neilly	69	78	64	37	38	217	Food
San Vito	10	18	13	9	4	44	Needs covered by IMAS <sup>1</sup>
Agua Buena							No needs identified
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>3,020</b>	

As part of this operation, 35 members of the National Society were trained in the methodology of completing damage and needs assessments prior to their mobilization. The participants were from the local branches of Buenos Aires, Palmar Norte, Golfito, Ciudad Neilly, Pérez Zeledón and Ciudad Cortez.

Once these affected areas were identified, the CRRC distributed food and non food items, including blankets and sleeping mats, to the families in need. This was carried out in coordination with the National

<sup>1</sup> Mixed Instituted for Social Aid (Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social)

Emergency Commission, which provided 85 per cent of the relief items, while the other 15 per cent was donated directly to the National Society by the general population. The funds of this operation supported the fuel costs to mobilize four trucks used in this distribution.

DREF funds were used to cover all the operational costs needed to complete all these activities, including the mobilization of volunteers and spare parts for the necessary vehicles.

## 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 \(NGOs\) 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 specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Costa Rica:** Guillermo Arroyo, Costa Rican Red Cross, National Emergency Director; email [guillermo.arroyo@cruzroja.or.cr](mailto:guillermo.arroyo@cruzroja.or.cr); phone: (506) 2233-7033; and fax (506) 255-3098.
- **In Panama:** Jorge Zequeria, PADRU Coordinator; email: [jorge.zequeria@ifrc.org](mailto:jorge.zequeria@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 6675 0290.
- **In Costa Rica:** Fabricio Lopez, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email: [fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org](mailto:fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org); phone (506) 2226 4092.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; e-mail: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org); phone: (41) 22 730 4300.

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Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/11-2011/4
Budget Timeframe	2010/11-2011/4
Appeal	MDRCR006
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>27,482</b>					<b>27,482</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	20,144					20,144
<b>C4. Other Income</b>	<b>20,144</b>					<b>20,144</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>	<b>20,144</b>					<b>20,144</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>20,144</b>					<b>20,144</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>73%</b>					<b>73%</b>

## II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>20,144</b>					<b>20,144</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-20,144</b>					<b>-20,144</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
MDRCR006 - Costa Rica - Assessment of Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 05 nov 10

Appeal Timeframe: 05 nov 10 to 05 feb 11

Final Report

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Reporting Timeframe	2010/11-2011/4
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### III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>27,482</b>					<b>27,482</b>	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage		87				87	-87	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	9,789	11,308				11,308	-1,519	
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>9,789</b>	<b>11,395</b>				<b>11,395</b>	<b>-1,606</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
Volunteers	6,118	6,634				6,634	-516	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>6,118</b>	<b>6,634</b>				<b>6,634</b>	<b>-516</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	3,916						3,916	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>3,916</b>						<b>3,916</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	1,468	251				251	1,217	
Information & Public Relation	979						979	
Office Costs	1,468	346				346	1,122	
Communications	1,468	11				11	1,457	
Financial Charges	598	277				277	321	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>885</b>				<b>885</b>	<b>5,096</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Service Support	1,677	1,229				1,229	448	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>1,229</b>				<b>1,229</b>	<b>448</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>27,482</b>	<b>20,144</b>				<b>20,144</b>	<b>7,338</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>7,338</b>				<b>7,338</b>		