

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Costa Rica: floods

DREF operation n° MDRCR007
GLIDE n° EQ-2010-000251-CRI
Update n° 1
27 January 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 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.



The Costa Rica Red Cross finished their needs assessments and started a well cleaning campaign to guarantee access to clean water.
Source: CRRC

Period covered by this update: 10 December 2010 to 15 January 2011.

Summary:

92,709 Swiss francs were allocated on 10 December from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) to deliver assistance to some 1,000 families through relief distribution.

The current operations update reflects a change in objectives and target families. The changes resulted from more comprehensive and detailed assessments and coordination meetings that clarified the outstanding needs of the

population. Currently, the DREF will support the CRRC to deliver assistance to some 1,300 families through the cleaning of wells and the distribution of relief items. This operation is expected to be implemented in three months, and completed by 6 March 2011. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by June 2011).

The Canadian and the Netherlands governments contributed to the replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the 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>

[<Click here to view the revised budget; or here to view the contact details>](#)

The situation

The National Meteorological Institute of Costa Rica reported that since early hours of 1 December the northern region and the Caribbean coast of the country were affected by intense rainfall. By 4 November, the weather system dissipated, leaving behind overflowed rivers and infrastructural damages. Assessments

were carried out by personnel from the CRRC and the National Emergency Commission (Comision Nacional de Emergencia- CNE) and showed that 247 communities and some 13,500 people were affected, with 2,642 staying in collective centres. The water system was also severely affected by the rains and floods that washed away aqueducts and contaminated wells.

This was the last emergency situation after a long and intense rainy season, Tropical Storm Matthew struck in September and the influence of Hurricane Tomas was felt in early November. The Costa Rican government issued a State of Emergency, reported 20 confirmed deaths and 2,639 people living in collective centres during November, severe damages to homes and infrastructures were sustained. The country was also affected by a large number of landslides, which caused infrastructural damage, blocking off roads and isolating many communities. The latest emergency affected the only two regions that had mostly escaped the previous emergency. Thus far, the CRRC was able to respond to the emergencies mostly through their own national resources; however, as the situation continued in December, the country's capacities were saturated and new resources were needed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During the emergency situation, all affected branches of the CRRC mobilized their volunteers to assist with the flood operations. For the volunteers, this was their third major operation, following the heavy rains that came during the hurricane season. Thus far, the CRRC worked with approximately 230 volunteers and 108 vehicles have been mobilized to the affected areas. More than 60 aquatic rescue operations were carried out following the Incident Command System (Sistema de Comando de Incidentes) model. The CRRC has assisted 4,080 people through search and rescue, evacuation and first aid as per the following table:

Activities carried out by the CRRC	N° of people assisted
Aquatic Rescue	60
First aid	20
Evacuation	4,000
Total	4,080

Once the emergency passed, the resources of the CRRC moved from immediate search and rescue assistance to more detailed needs assessments and relief distributions.

Progress towards outcomes

The update reflects a change in the outcomes and activities after further assessments clarified the needs of the affected population. In the initial phase of the operation, the CRRC distributed 250 food parcels to the affected population and the DREF will be used to replenish them. The operation will now also focus on distribution of non-food items to the 250 most vulnerable families, and cleaning approximately 1,300 wells in the regions of Limon (in Siquirres, Batan and El Valle de la Estrella), Alajuela (the area of Pital) and Heredia (the area of Cariari and Puerto Viejo).

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

<p>Outcome: 250 most affected families will benefit from the provision of non-food items to meet their immediate needs resulting from the floods.</p> <p>Outputs and activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with rapid needs assessments to select target families. • Distribute kitchen sets and hygiene kits to 250 families. • Replenishment of 250 food parcels that have been handed out to the most affected families during the onset of the emergency. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress: Assessments identified that the main needs for the target population were kitchen sets, hygiene kits, food parcels, clean water and fuel for electric generators. The CRRC is working in close coordination with the government in order to assist the affected population without any duplication. The government responded to some of the same needs in the initial target areas of the CRRC. Therefore, instead of providing food and non-food items to 1,000 families as previously planned, the CRRC will distribute food parcels, kitchen sets and hygiene kits to 250 vulnerable families in the areas of Pital, Puerto Viejo, Cariari, Siquirres, Batan and El Valle de la Estrella.

Challenges: The current conflict in the border region with Nicaragua had delayed the access to some affected families that could only be reached by travelling on the river and created difficulties to complete assessments in these border areas.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the cleaning of wells.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Conduct rapid water and sanitation emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with local authorities.
- Clean 1,300 wells in the most flood-affected communities.
- Rent 4x4 vehicles from the Regional Logistic Unit fleet for the duration of the operation.
- Train 15 volunteers in the procedure of cleaning wells to ensure transfer of skills and knowledge in order to increase the National Society capacity

Progress: It became clear during the assessment that one of the main needs of the population in the affected areas was access to clean water. The assessment concluded that at least 1,296 wells were in need of cleaning. The number of people that will benefit from the cleaning of 1,300 wells will be over 6,500, as the families in the Puerto Viejo area, where the well cleaning operations will be focussed, are often formed by 10 to 12 members. In addition, some of the wells that will be cleaned are used by more than one family.

To complete this activity, two teams will be formed, each carrying the necessary equipment and supplies to work for a period of two months. Each of the teams will require a car and all the equipment and work force needed to complete the cleaning of wells. As the CRRC is the lead agency for ambulance services, pre-hospital care and disaster assistance in Costa Rica, the vehicles used for the first response have now returned to their normal duties as part of the regular emergency response network. Therefore, the cars required to carry out the well cleaning operation will be rented through the Regional Logistic Unit fleet programme.

Moreover, during the completion of the activity, 15 volunteers will be trained in the procedures to ensure transfer of skills and knowledge to increase the capacity of the National Society.

Challenges: Due to the holidays in December, the mobilization of the 4x4 cars from Panama to Costa Rica has been delayed, affecting the initiation date for the cleaning of wells. However, the CRRC expects to be able to finish the operation on time.

National Society Capacity

Outcome: The capacity of CRRC to respond to the current and future emergencies is strengthened.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Conduct one damage assessments course for 20 volunteers.

Twenty volunteers from the affected rural areas will participate in a damage assessment course in late February (21–25 February 2011) to increase the disaster response capacity of the branches.

The CRRC is coordinating with officials from the CNE to have their training personnel for the course. As the CRRC is part of the government's CNE, their assessments during emergencies need to correspond to those carried out by the other members of the commission. By working alongside the CNE trainers, the CRRC will guarantee that the volunteers will understand the national system as well as the Movement parameters. The National Society is currently working to delineate the profile of the possible participants.

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 specifically related to this operation please contact

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

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		-
Shelter - Transitional		-
Construction - Housing		-
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		-
Construction - Materials		-
Clothing & Textiles		-
Food	13,700	13,700
Seeds & Plants		-
Water & Sanitation	24,648	24,648
Medical & First Aid		-
Teaching Materials		-
Utensils & Tools	6,500	6,500
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	5,500	5,500
Total Supplies	50,348	50,348
Land & Buildings		-
Vehicles		-
Computer & Telecom		-
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		-
Medical Equipment		-
Other Machinery & Equipment		-
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		-
Distribution & Monitoring	1,250	1,250
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,000	7,000
Total Transport & Storage	8,250	8,250
International Staff		-
Regionally Deployed Staff		-
National Society Staff	9,525	9,525
Consultants		-
Total Personnel	9,525	9,525
Workshops & Training	10,000	10,000
Total Workshops & Training	10,000	10,000
Travel	3,000	3,000
Information & Public Relation	1,500	1,500
Office Costs	1,331	1,331
Communications	1,500	1,500
Professional Fees		-
Financial Charges	1,000	1,000
Other General Expenses		-
Total General Expenditure	8,331	8,331
Cash Transfers to National Societies		-
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		-
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	5,658	5,658
Total Programme Support	5,658	5,658
Services & Recoveries	596	596
Shared Services		-
Total Services	596	596
TOTAL BUDGET	92,709	92,709