

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Guatemala: tropical storm Agatha

Emergency appeal n° MDRGT002  
GLIDE n° TC-2010-000105-GTM  
Operations update n° 1  
25 June 2010

Period covered by this Ops Update: 9 to 22 June 2010.

**Appeal target:** 1,286,382 Swiss francs (1,112,170 US dollars/ 930,933 euro) to support 1,500 families for six-month period.

**Appeal coverage:** The donor response list on the Federation web site is constantly updated; the Appeal coverage as reflected on the list currently stands at 79 per cent.

[< Click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- On 31 May 2010, 172,274 Swiss francs were allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) to initiate the response and deliver immediate humanitarian relief. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.
- On 1 June 2010, a Preliminary Appeal for 1,223,815 Swiss francs (1,046,045 US dollars/ 862,265 euro) in cash, kind, or services to support the Guatemalan Red Cross to attend to the humanitarian needs of 1,500 families (7,500 people) was issued.
- On 9 June, a Revised Appeal was issued reflecting a revised budgeted of **1,286,382 Swiss francs (1,112,170 US dollars/ 930,933 euro)** and slight modifications to the outcomes of this Emergency Appeal in line with the assessments results and needs identified by the National Society.



The tropical storm Agatha operation is delivering food and non-food relief items to 1,500 vulnerable families. GRC-Retalhuleu branch

**Summary:** In response to the tropical storm Agatha that caused deaths and injuries, damaged homes and infrastructure and displaced populations in Guatemala, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has set in motion an operation to assist affected families to resume their household activities. The coordination between The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC), ICRC, IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNS) has delivered relief support to at least 1,200 families. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has carried out rapid assessments that will improve planning and monitoring of future activities. It has recovered family links and carried out water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities. The International Federation is thankful to the following Partner National Societies and governments for their kind support to the Appeal: the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross (UK government), the Canadian Red Cross (Canadian government), the Netherlands Red Cross (Netherlands government), the New Zealand Red Cross (New Zealand government), the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross (Swedish government).

## The situation

On 29 May, two days after the eruption of Pacaya Volcano, Guatemala was hit by the first tropical storm in 2010 in the Pacific Ocean Region. On 3 June 2010, the Executive Secretariat of the National Coordinating Body for Disaster Reduction (*Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres* - CONRED) declared the event as a National Catastrophe. Official figures report 174 people dead, 113 missing and 154 injured. According to CONRED statistics, there are still 133,102 people at risk and 397,808 people were affected. OCHA Situation report on 9 June identifies 453 collective shelters and 96,500 people living in them. 39,160 homes were damaged with different degrees:

- 18,753 sustained light damage
- 10,605 were moderately damaged and
- 9,802 sustained severe damage

The storm caused severe damage to crops and thus threatens food security. Health and sanitation infrastructure was also damaged, as roads and bridges. Flooding and landslides are hampering the normal flow of traffic. The Guatemalan National Meteorological Institute (*Instituto Nacional de Sismología Vulcanología, Sismología y Meteorología* - INSIVUMEH) forecast more heavy rains, particularly affecting the Southern, the central plain, and the north-west regions. The CONRED maintains an orange alert and two. The US National Hurricane Centre reports that a broad area of low pressure located a few hundred miles south of Guatemala and El Salvador. Environmental conditions appear favorable for development of this system over the next days. There is medium chance for this system to become a tropical cyclone.

Evaluations identified five highly affected regions: the Guatemala City metropolitan region, particularly the informal human settlements, the Motagua River basin (El Progreso, Zacapa and Izabal departments), the southern coastal basins, the Polochic River basin (Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments) and the Atitlan Lake basin (Sololá department). The National Administration has requested international assistance for this humanitarian emergency with a focus on humanitarian aid, economic reactivation including agricultural recovery and institutional strengthening. This includes food and water, collective centres, housing reconstruction, health care (medication, medical supplies and support to health centres) and rebuilding schools.

## Coordination and partnerships

With the support of the IFRC, ICRC and PNS in the country, the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) has taken the lead role of the operation. The GRC is part of the CONRED and shares information with the Humanitarian Information Network for Latin America and Caribbean (Red de Información Humanitaria para Latinoamérica y el Caribe - REDHUM), including organizations as: Plan International, MSF-CH, WHO/PAHO –which has been facilitating the import of relief items during the emergency–, UNFPA, World Vision, Mayra Solares, Psicología USAC, Viceministro Técnico MSPAS (Public Health Ministry). It is also part of the Humanitarian Aid Coordination Centre (Centro de Coordinación de Asistencia Humanitaria - CCAH) and the SECONRED.

All planning and implementation of the operation's activities involve the GRC headquarters and branches. In order to contribute to operations activities, the IFRC initially deployed a RIT and operations coordinator, a logistics delegate (with support of the Spanish Red Cross) and a reporting specialist at request of the GRC. This support has been coordinated through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico. On 17 June, the IFRC deployed an operations coordinator and on 23 June a logistics RIT from the Dominican Red Cross will arrive as part of the rotation process for the logistics delegate.

The operations coordinator was also appointed country delegate in order to put in place the IFRC status agreement. The official government recognition is expected the following week and will facilitate the clearance of in-kind donations. A GRC coordinator for the tropical storm Agatha activities has also been appointed by the host National Society to follow up mid-term activities.



The supply of relief items aims to assist families to restart their household activities. The identification of target families has been done in cooperation with the communities and taking into account gender criteria. GRC-Retalhuleu branch.

The Guatemalan Red Cross hosts a monthly meeting to coordinate the Movement components activities and share lessons learnt. Since the onset of the emergency, a weekly meeting has been taking place. The Movement components and other institutions (such as the French Embassy and UNFPA) have agreed support complementary relief item distribution activities for vulnerable families through the GRC Branches as shown in the table below. The Movement components have also agreed to use IFRC standards.

| Branch/Partner           | Netherlands Red Cross (ECHO) | IFRC (Appeal)  | Spanish Red Cross | French Embassy | National Headquarters | UNFPA          | Targeted families by Branch |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Chiquimula               |                              |                |                   | 250            |                       |                | 250                         |
| Sacapulas                |                              |                | 100               |                |                       |                | 100                         |
| National Headquarters    |                              | 100            | 100               |                | 280                   | 2,000          | 2480                        |
| Santo Tomas de Castilla  |                              | 400            |                   | 250            |                       |                | 650                         |
| Jalapa                   |                              | 200            |                   | 250            |                       |                | 450                         |
| Coatepeque               |                              | 500            |                   |                |                       |                | 500                         |
| Quetzaltenango           |                              |                | 100               |                |                       |                | 100                         |
| Retahuleu                | 950                          | 100            |                   |                |                       |                | 1050                        |
| San Marcos               |                              |                | 200               |                |                       |                | 200                         |
| Tecun Uman               |                              | 200            |                   |                |                       |                | 200                         |
| Solola                   |                              |                | 500               |                |                       |                | 500                         |
| Mazatenango              | 950                          |                |                   |                |                       |                | 950                         |
| <b>Totals by Partner</b> | 1,900 families               | 1,500 families | 1,000 families    | 750 families   | 280 families          | 2,000 families | 7,430 families              |

A family kit will be received by 4,400 vulnerable families containing: 1 food parcel, 1 hygiene kit, 5 blankets and a water filter. In addition, some of these families will receive mosquito nets, two jerrycans and a kitchen kit. Other 3,030 will receive partial kits. The branches are in the process of finishing the identification of target families in the geographical area of each branch, which do not exactly match with the political division of the country.

With the support of AECID, the Spanish Red Cross has delivered food parcels and non-food relief items for 500 families in the Solola branch influence area, covering the communities of San Pedro de la Laguna (32), Santa Catalina Palopó (20), San Antonio Palopo (80), María Tecún (79) and Pixabaj (289). The Spanish Red Cross is also supporting operational expenses of the National Society emergency activities for 10,000 euro. The Netherlands Red Cross will start the distribution of relief items funded by ECHO for 1,900 families on 26 June. The French Embassy is supporting the distribution of 750 food parcels and UNFPA is funding 2,500 hygiene kits.

Furthermore the Norwegian Red Cross has supported the health in emergency activities and the reproductive health in 30 Communities of Coatepeque, El Palmar, Retalhuleu, El Estor and Santo Tomás de Castilla.

The ICRC has deployed staff for restoring family links (RFL) in 17 shelter camps and led a workshop on RFL for 25 volunteers between 16 and 19 June.

The Movement components in the country are working out a pipeline to improve the flow of information and monitoring for this and future operations.

The GRC has also an agreement with the Inter American Development Bank (Banco Interamericano del Desarrollo - BID) for 400,000.00 US dollars. BID support will be channelled through GRC to provide medicine and health supplies to National Health Facilities in order to respond to the current health emergency.

### National Society Capacity Building:

The presence of an IFRC team at request of the National Society directly contributes to its capacity building. The GRC personnel and volunteers are incorporated in every operations activity providing them acquaintance with IFRC procedures.

The GRC administration and finances personnel are carrying out purchasing and logistics procedures following IFRC standards with the technical support of the logistics delegate. A workshop in logistics is planned for the 23 June for volunteers and GRC personnel.

There is a promotion of operation information sharing between branches, National Headquarters and other Movement components in the country. An Emergency Information pipeline is being revised by the National Society executive director. The use of the IFRC FedNet extra web is also being promoted among the GRC personnel.

As part of the operations planned activities, 22 volunteers took refreshment courses on water and sanitation and Health in Emergencies in order to carry out rapid assessments in 65 communities. Further, 39 volunteers and members of the GRC have taken part in a workshop including the following subjects: cleaning of wells following PAHO guidance, disease vector control (street cleaning, fumigation and hygiene promotion activities) and Epidemics Control tools for volunteers. These GRC volunteers and staff have then supported water and sanitation and health activities carried out on 17–18 June with support of the Norwegian Red Cross and IFRC.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

In coordination with the National Health Secretary, and supported by the Norwegian Red Cross and the IFRC, the GRC carried out water and sanitation rapid assessments in 65 communities in the influence areas of 11 prioritized GRC branches: Mazatenango, Retalhuleu, Coatepeque, Tecún Umán, San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Sacapulas, Jalapa, Chiquimula, Santo Tomás de Castilla and Cobán. The survey covered 11,974 people.

A workshop in micro-projects with support from Spanish Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross for 22 volunteers was carried out between 15–17 June.

Twenty two NIT volunteers performed a survey under the supervision of the Health Secretary personnel. The results show that the surveyed families were not prepared to respond to a flood emergency, and that they did not have an early warning system. They did not count with an adequate access to health services and safe water. Floods produced severe damage in the scarce sanitation systems, housing and crops of the families. The assessment, detailed under the headings below, will be used as a baseline for improving the follow up of activities and for planning supplementary ones.

By 20 June, more than 50 per cent of the families aimed by the appeal have received relief items. Seven hundred family kits have been placed at the National Headquarters and at the Santo Tomas de Castilla and Jalapa branches to be distributed next week. Water, sanitation and health, such as the cleaning of wells, have begun.

In the weeks to follow further assessments, carried out by the GRC and a consultant, will allow planning of mid-term shelter and early recovery activities.

### Progress towards outcomes

#### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome: Affected families have access to food and non-food items to support their efforts to resume essential household activities.**

| Outputs   | Activities planned  |
|---|---|
| Up to 1,500 households (7,500 people) resume household activities through the distribution of 1 food parcel, 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen set and 5 blankets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and a registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user, prioritizing local tendering.</li> <li>• Train NIT members from the most affected municipalities in disaster management.</li> <li>• Maintain inter-institutional coordination.</li> </ul> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

### Progress:

The floods have caused an irruption in daily activities and hampered people's access to food. Only 56 per cent of the assessment sample received some sort of help, but an important 44 per cent do not have access to any kind of assistance. Most of received assistance was for food, clothes and water.

In order to revert this situation, with the participation of around 100 GRC volunteers, the operation has distributed 1 food parcels, 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen set and 5 blankets to 800 families (4,000 people) covered by the GRC-branches of Coatepeque, Tecun Human and Retahuleu. Relief items were also located in storerooms and warehouses of the GRC branches of Santo Tomas de Castilla, Jalapa and the National Headquarters to be distributed between 21 and 29 June. The following table shows the distribution plan as agreed with the GRC.

| Branch                  | Department     | Municipality     | Community             | N° Targeted Families | Sub-Total by Branch |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| National Headquarters   | Guatemala      | Guatemala        | To be identified      |                      | 100                 |
| Santo Tomas de Castilla | Izabal         | Morales          | El Cedro              | 100                  | 400                 |
|                         |                |                  | Chiriqui              | 75                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  | Playa de Chicasaw     | 90                   |                     |
|                         |                | Puerto Barrios   | Jimeritos             | 70                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  | Edén Nueva Vida       | 40                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  | Mojanales             | 25                   |                     |
| Jalapa                  | Jalapa         | To be identified | To be identified      |                      | 200                 |
| Coatepeque              | Quetzaltenango | Coatepeque       | El Pomal              | 5                    | 497                 |
|                         |                |                  | El Reparó             | 144                  |                     |
|                         |                |                  | Santa Fe              | 64                   |                     |
|                         | San Marcos     | Ocos             | Almendrales           | 20                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  | Carrizales            | 214                  |                     |
|                         |                |                  | El Izotal             | 50                   |                     |
| Retahuleu               | Retahuleu      | Champerico       | Rancho Alegre         | 8                    | 103                 |
|                         |                | Retahuleu        | Jesus La Bomba        | 18                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  | Santa Inés            | 30                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  | San José la Gloria I  | 33                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  | San José la Gloria II | 14                   |                     |
| Tecun Uman              | San Marcos     | Ocos             | Caserio El Crucero    | 90                   | 200                 |
|                         | Tecun Uman     | Ayutla           | Caserio El Jobo       | 60                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  | Colegio San Antonio   | 50                   |                     |
|                         |                |                  |                       | <b>Totals</b>        | <b>1,500</b>        |

These distributions —supplemented by other activities— will assist affected families to resume their household activities. As all cooperation agencies are performing distributions, the operations plans for Guatemala City, Santo Tomas de Castilla and Jalapa are subject to revision. This will allow the IFRC to reach those unassisted vulnerable families. Hence, figures will be updated in the next Operations Update. Statistics on beneficiary families will also be provided once relief activities are concluded.

### Challenges:

- During the week of 14–20 June, the transport of relief items experienced some delays due to bad weather and poor road condition. As roads will deteriorate further with the upcoming of raining season, the operation is

dispatching relief items to local warehouses and storerooms at the branches in order to ensure their timely deliver.

- Coordination with local branches, local authorities, and the ICRC is taking place in order to reduce the incidence of any security issues during distribution.

### Emergency health and care

**Outcome:** The health risks of the emergency on the affected population are reduced through provision of preventive and community-based health care, including sexual and reproductive health, hygiene promotion, disease prevention and psychosocial support to the affected communities.

| Outputs  | Activities planned   |
|--|--|
| Comprehensive emergency health services are provided to at least 500 families in affected communities and individuals with special attention to the priorities of the vulnerable population and employing a community-based healthcare approach. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid evaluation of health needs.</li> <li>• Organize and facilitate educational activities on sexual and reproductive health.</li> <li>• Provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and information within the framework of existing community health and public services.</li> <li>• Support the establishment of dengue control activities and training for GRC volunteers and members from affected communities.</li> <li>• Provide training opportunities in emergency health for GRC volunteers, members and communities.</li> </ul> |
| Selected affected groups and communities receiving psychosocial support have increased their resilience and coping mechanisms.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of GRC volunteers in skills in community based psychosocial support and psychological first aid.</li> <li>• Provide psychosocial support to targeted affected groups, communities and GRC volunteers.</li> </ul>   |



GRC Volunteers give talks to the members of the community Carrizales in Coatepeque. GRC / F. Cojón

#### Progress:

The floods have produced a surge in skin diseases, respiratory acute infections (49 per cent), diarrhoea (36 per cent), dengue (4 per cent) etc. The absence of access to proper health services or risk reduction programmes increases people vulnerability, only 46 per cent of the population has access to any assistance.

As for sexual and reproductive health data, the assessment has identified that only a 4 per cent of population uses contraceptive methods and that 65 per cent has no information on VIH/AIDS. With regards other support, only two per cent of the surveyed population has received psychosocial assistance.

On 17 and 18 June 2010, emergency health activities took place in the communities of Valle Lirio (Retalhuleu) and Carrizales (Coatepeque). 49 members of the affected families of Valle Lirio and 43 of Carrizales received talks on vector and epidemics control. The participants received information on malaria, dengue, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, home remedies against dehydration, hand-washing and water purification.

With support of the GRC volunteers, school students and family members of Valle Lirio cleared the community from garbage and debris, benefiting 71 families. In Carrizales the community supported the cleaning and fumigation of nine houses to reduce dengue incidence, besides the cleaning of streets.

All this activities are complementary to those detailed under the water, sanitation and hygiene promotion heading.

#### Challenges:

- Training to volunteers at branch level will enable branches to carry out more activities at community level, thus reducing disease incidence during the rainy season.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome:** The health of affected communities is improved with the provision of clean water, minimum sanitation and hygiene promotion.

| Outputs   | Activities planned  |
|---|---|
| <p>Appropriate water and sanitation materials will be provided to 1,500 families (7,500 people) which include two jerry cans, one water bucket, two mosquito nets and water filters.</p> <p>The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.</p> <p>Thirty GRC volunteers strengthen their knowledge and skills of basic water and sanitation during the first phase of the emergency response.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid health and water and sanitation emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with the relevant local authorities.</li> <li>• Provide learning-by-doing and other training opportunities for GRC volunteers in basic water and sanitation, including water purification plans, well cleaning, participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) methodology.</li> <li>• Develop, in coordination with local authorities, a community and beneficiary targeting strategy.</li> <li>• Provide clean water via water tanks to people located in communal shelters and affected communities.</li> <li>• Clean wells in flood-affected communities.</li> <li>• Support the building and use of community latrines.</li> <li>• Conduct hygiene promotion activities (personal and community hygiene, epidemic and vector control, solid and human waste disposal, disinfection of wells) at the community level.</li> <li>• Support community-organized fumigation efforts in high prevalence dengue areas.</li> <li>• Provide repellent-sealed mosquito nets, jerry cans, a water bucket and water filters.</li> </ul> |

### Progress:

The floods have severely damage latrines and wells. The assessment reports that the main source of water of 53 per cent for surveyed families are wells, followed by 36 per cent people receiving water by pipes. None of the surveyed persons have knowledge on how to keep water safe, nor on how to purify it. Most water infrastructure has been completely disabled (68 per cent) or provides insufficient water (16 per cent). The current mud like soil condition prevents families to build new wells. Most families report to defecate in the fields (68 per cent). Ninety three per cent of them had latrines, but few of them used them properly.

To the date, 1,600 out of 3,000 mosquito nets were distributed along other relief items. In the weeks to come 1,500 water filters and 3,000 jerrycans will be distributed to target communities accompanied by talks on safe water use and preservation. These and the activities detailed below will contribute to improve target families general welfare.



The GRC is performing the cleaning of wells in order to improve the families' quality of life. GRC / F.Cojón

Between 17 and 18 June, 11 NITs specialized in water and sanitation and a number of GRC volunteers cleaned 5 wells in the Valle Lirio Community (Retalhuleu). The NITS and volunteers also identified 211 damaged wells in Carrizales (Coatepeque) and proceed to clean and sanitize 8 wells using pumps donated by the Norwegian Red Cross. The IFRC has supported these activities as well as the transport of irrigation channel cleaning tools: water hoses, spades, sickles, wheelbarrows, etc. The IFRC provided two well cleaning kits in order to improve the GRC capacity to perform these activities. The kits include a water pump and an electric generator. On 23 June more wells will be cleaned in the communities of Coatepeque.

Given the magnitude of the disaster, the recent donation of more cleaning pumps will increase the GRC capacity to perform these activities.

### Emergency shelter

**Outcome: Ensure that the most vulnerable families have a healthy, safe and dignified shelter solution to preserve their physical and mental well-being and prevent the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.**

| Outputs | Activities planned |
|---------|--------------------|
|---------|--------------------|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Up to 500 households receive shelter materials to assist the building or repairing of emergency shelters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop a community and beneficiary targeting strategy in coordination with local authorities and institutions.</li> <li>• Assess the extent of the emergency shelter needs, employing local suppliers when possible.</li> <li>• Provide technical support for the building or repairing of emergency shelters.</li> <li>• Distribute construction materials for 500 families.</li> <li>• Monitor housing improvement activities.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**Progress:**

Along with rapid surveys carried out by the GRC branches. The operation is starting a research process in order to provide some degree of assistance to affected families. In July, the beneficiary group will be identified through verification of families and the shelter programme will begin.

**Challenges:** As the floods caused severe damage to hundreds of houses, the identification of families will require support and the comprehensive assistance that needs to be provided will demand detailed planning.

### Early Recovery

**Outcome: Contribute to the early recovery of 500 families (2,500 people) who have lost their crops as a result of the floods.**

| Outputs   | Activities planned   |
|---|--|
| 500 families receive technical and material support to recover their agricultural production. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and develop a technical assessment and intervention strategy for seed distribution and agricultural improvement in prioritized affected areas.</li> <li>• Establish mutual collaboration agreements with national institutions (agricultural associations and/or NGOs).</li> <li>• Train beneficiary families on adequate soil use, plague control, and planting techniques.</li> <li>• Distribute seeds, fertilizer and basic agricultural tools to beneficiary families.</li> <li>• Provide technical support.</li> <li>• Conduct monitoring and evaluation activities.</li> <li>• Establish exit strategy.</li> </ul> |

The disaster produced a sudden halt in family income generation activities, as crops were severely damaged. The main economic activity is temporary labour in agriculture (63 per cent). Although 89 per cent of the population buy food, most surveyed communities harvest corn, sesame and peanuts for self sustenance.

In order to provide assistance to these families, the operation will hire a local expert in order to plan and follow up a mid-term recovery programme.

### Logistics

**Progress:** The Spanish Red Cross cooperation has allowed IFRC to deploy a logistics delegate to support the operations activities. In order to facilitate the customs clearance of in-kind relief items to the country during the emergency, the operation has kept communication with PAHO. With the arrival of the operations coordinator, the IFRC status agreement can be set in place and the operation will be able to clear any future in-kind donation.

To the date the operation has received a land shipment of 80.41 CBM (17,046kg) containing 7,500 blankets, 3,000 mosquito nets, 3,000 jerrycans, 1,000 hygiene kits and 1,000 kitchen kits. An air freight of 18 CBM (6,300kg), containing 1,000 kitchen sets from the Netherlands Red Cross has also arrived.

Using relief items previously allocated in the National Society's headquarters (348 kitchen kits and 500 hygiene kits); the operation has shipped out the following cargo:

- 64.84 CBM (14,511.2 Kg) to the Retalhuleu, Tecun Uman and Coatepeque GRC branches.
- 11.93 CBM (2,353.4 Kg) to the GRC Jalapa branch.
- 21.14 CBM (4,705 Kg) to the GRC Santo Tomas de Castilla branch.

These GRC branches are distributing 7,000 blankets, 2,800 mosquito nets, 1,400 hygiene kits and 2,800 jerrycans to the target families. In addition, the operation has hired a local supplier to deliver 1,500 food parcels to the mentioned branches and the National Society's headquarters. The whole process has been delayed by the current situation of the roads and heavy load vehicles transit restrictions in the Guatemala City.



The operation positioned relief items in to the branches warehouse to be distributed to communities. Brief information on relief item handling and storage was provided to GRC volunteers. IFRC / J.Ormeño

The IFRC supports the Spanish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross logistics. Outstanding items to be received are 500 hygiene kits and 5,700 mosquito nets as part of the support given by the Netherlands Red Cross to the GRC. A sea shipment of 170.23 CBM (36,957.23 Kg) is also expected to arrive in early July for the Spanish Red Cross delegation.

The buying process for well cleaning pumps, fumigation tools and 1,500 water filters has started and been channelled through the GRC, which is now harmonizing its procedures with IFRC ones. An updated mobilization table is available on the International Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS).

## Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The GRC communication department has been active in its role of providing information of the Red Cross action to general public. The GRC spokesperson and the President have given live interviews to the following local radio stations: Infinita 100.1, Emisoras Unidas, Radio Punto, Sonora, Radio Universidad, Federación Guatemalteca de escuelas radiofonicas -FGER- and Actualidad 1020am. The next local newspapers have featured articles focusing on the emergency and the GRC: Prensa Libre, Nuestro Diario, Al Dia, Siglo XXI, La Hora and El Periódico. In addition, press conferences from the GRC's headquarters have been broadcasted by CNN and NTN24, and several interviews were carried out with local TV such as Noti7, Telecentro 13, Telediario, Guatevision and Canal Antigua. A brief report on GRC is also featured at:

<http://www.cruzroja.tv/video.php?PlayList=239&VideoPlay=1>

## 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

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