

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Panama: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPA007
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000225-PAN
11 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.

79,699 Swiss francs (82,608 US dollars or 59,494 Euro) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) in delivering immediate assistance to some 645 households. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since 4 November, continuous rains fell across Panama, resulting in two deaths and affecting over 6,200 people. By Monday, 8 November, the overflowing of rivers had caused floods over wide areas, while landslides affected homes and cut off many communities in five provinces.

In order to alleviate the needs of the affected population, the Red Cross Society of Panama will assist 645 families with food parcels and relief items. The National Society will also carry out workshops on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, and the need for a community vulnerability and capacity analysis workshop is under consideration.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by February, 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 May 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



The Red Cross Society of Panama is supporting the government with rapid assessments and search and rescue operations. Source: Panama Red Cross Society

The situation

Due to the effect of a low pressure system in the Caribbean Sea interacting with Tropical Storm Tomas, strong and continuous rains fell across Panama, producing landslides and flooding in 5 provinces: Chiriquí, Veraguas, Colón, Darién and Coclé. By Monday, 8 November, there had been two deaths and the government reported 6,200 people affected.

Additionally, on 7 November, the National System for Civil Protection (SINAPROC) launched a week-long national alert for high tides along the Pacific shore, which combined with the forecasted continuation of rains,

could give rise to further floods. In the Caribbean coastal area, the rivers have reached their maximum capacity, also threatening further floods.

Most of the damage reported by the Red Cross Society of Panama is in the Province of Chiriquí, where more than 12 communities have been affected by flooding. Initial assessments in the area reported two deaths and more than 3,000 people affected. In the Province of Darién, the Chucunaque River has over-flowed, affecting the indigenous communities of Lajas Blancas, Sambu, El Salto and Santa Fe, where people have been evacuated to higher ground.

Furthermore, on Sunday, 7 November, the Rio Grande in Coclé Province overflowed, blocking the Inter-American Highway and destroying several farms, while landslides occurred in two communities, affecting 80 homes. A SINAPROC bulletin also reported 7 landslides and flooding in Colón Province during the same day.

In Bocas del Toro, the Changuinola River has reached its maximum capacity and two children are reported missing.

Although the National Society is still carrying out assessments, trying to reach areas which have been cut off, it has been possible to assess the situation in the following communities:

Province	Communities	Damages	Persons in Shelters	Persons Rescued	Persons injured	Families Affected
Chiriquí	Corotú Civil, Baco, La Esperanza, Comunidad de los Indios en Majagual, San Valentín, Berbá, Majagual, Almendro, La Colcha, Divala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooded houses. Destroyed houses. Landslides Lack of potable water. Destroyed farms. Road damages. Loss of personal possessions. 	1,096	64	42	580
Darién	Sambú, Jaqué, Lajas Blancas, El Salto, Santa Fe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads blocked Affected houses Flooded houses, Cut off communities 	48	35	28	150 (To be confirmed)
Coclé	El Caño, Capellanía, La Pintada Coclesito, Río Grande, Río Chico,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads blocked, Affected homes Loss of personal possessions. Access to potable water impaired. 	76	48	8	100 (to be confirmed)
Colón	San Pedro, Vista Alegre, Santa Rita, Nvo. Colón, Río Gatún, Costa Arriba, Costa Abajo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homes affected. Homes destroyed Loss of personal possessions. Access to potable water impaired. Landslides 	8	25	12	65
Veraguas	Soná, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Norte de Veraguas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homes affected, Loss of farms Loss of personal possessions. 	0	22	6	To be confirmed

Coordination and partnerships

From the onset of the emergency, the RCSP has worked alongside the government, particularly with SINAPROC, which is the institution in charge of coordinating the national Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), carrying out search and rescue activities, carrying out assessments and delivering relief.

Other governmental agencies also responded to the emergency. The First Lady's Office distributed relief items in communities and collective shelters. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Housing is already evaluating damages to homes in order to create a plan for repairs, and the Ministry of Public Works is assessing damages to the road infrastructure and dredging river banks.

Additionally, the regional delegation of the American Red Cross is working alongside the National Society, supporting the monitoring of activities, receiving and systematizing the information coming from community organizations in Darién.



Overflowing of rivers affected wide areas, especially in Chiriqui, Cocle and Darien provinces. Photo by PRC

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In coordination with the government, the Risk Management Team of the RCSP, the local branches, 23 National intervention Team members (NITs) and 5 Regional Intervention Team members (RITs) were deployed to the affected areas. They started search and rescue operations, provided first aid, carried out damage and needs assessments, as well as shelter management and food distribution. Overall, 26 staff members and 200 volunteers are providing assistance across the country.

The needs

Most of the damage occurred in rural areas, where families are affected by the flooding of their community water systems and latrines. Therefore, first rapid assessments show that water and sanitation activities are a need which will be covered by the current DREF. Also, communities in Chiriqui, Coclé, Darién and Veraguas lost their farms and source of livelihood. The RCSP will provide families with food parcels to alleviate the effect of this loss.

Beneficiaries will be selected in coordination with local authorities to ensure that the most vulnerable families are reached. The following criteria will be used:

- Households living under the poverty line directly affected by the event, unable to recover quickly.
- Households headed by single mothers.
- Households headed by handicapped people.
- Households with young children or elderly people.
- Households that lost their entire source of livelihood.

Although the RCSP has been working over a wide area, assessing the needs and damages, some areas are still not accessible due to the continuation of rains. During the operation, further assessments will be carried out in remote areas and isolated communities.

The proposed operation

Damage and Needs Assessment

Outcome: The Red Cross Society of Panama will have a better understanding of the needs and damages in currently inaccessible areas.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Volunteers will mobilize to perform needs and damage assessments, and further determine target families, to reach previously inaccessible communities.
- A report will be compiled with the information gathered and analyzed.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 645 families will benefit from the provision of essential food and non food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Continue with rapid needs assessments to select target families.
- Distribute food parcels, mosquito nets and hygiene kits to 645 families.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion workshops with affected families.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Analyze needs assessments to determine target families and communities.
- Conduct training workshops for the affected families, in particular hygiene promotion and the safe use of water.

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

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MDRPA007
Panama Floods 2010

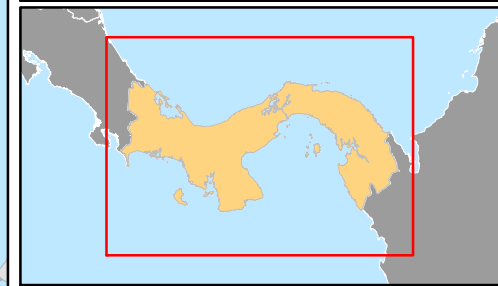
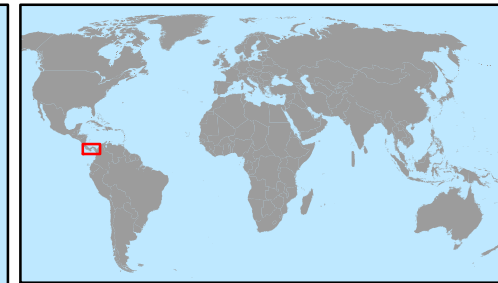
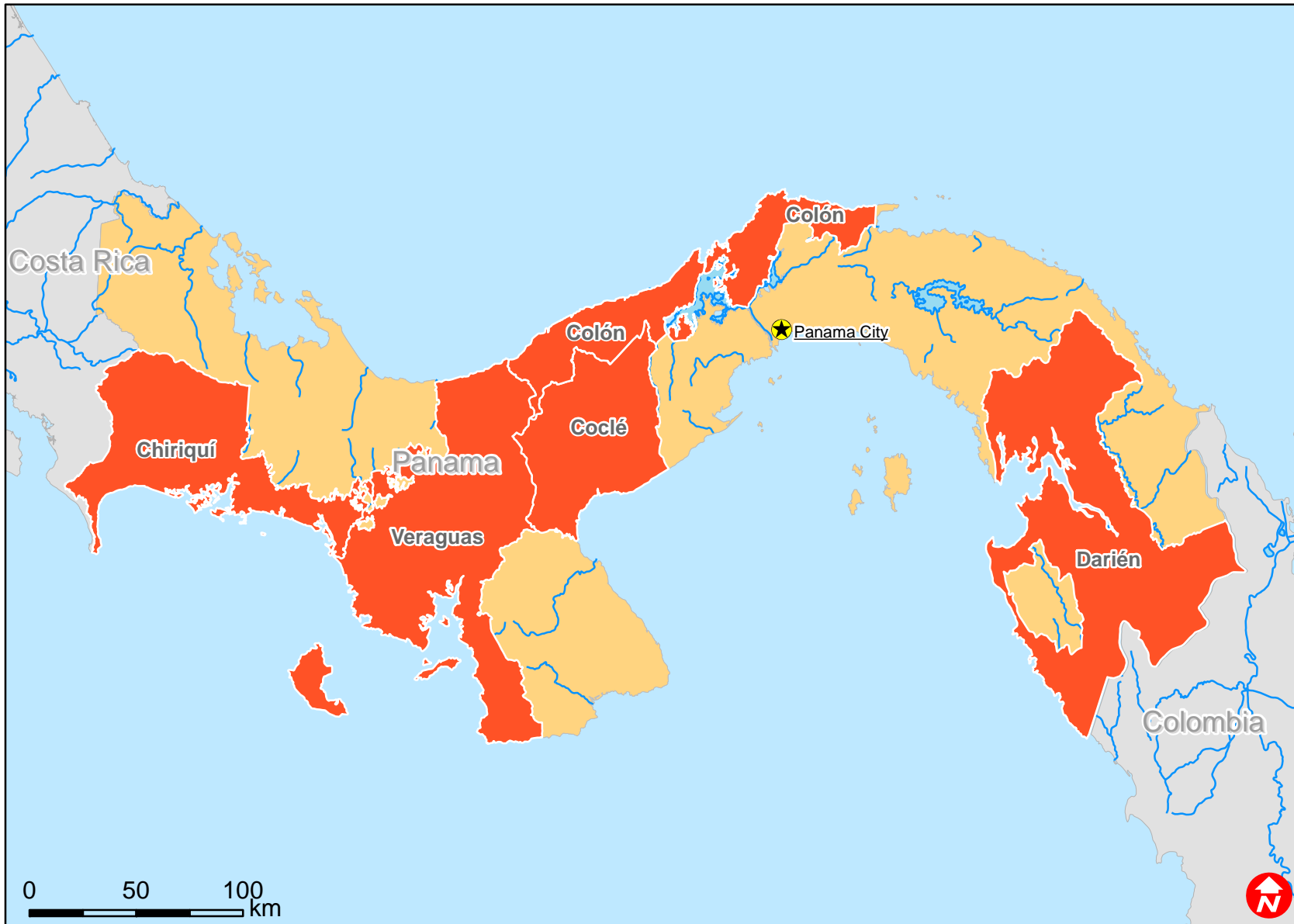
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BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		-
Shelter - Transitional		-
Construction - Housing		-
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		-
Construction - Materials		-
Clothing & Textiles	6,682	6,682
Food	26,729	26,729
Seeds & Plants		-
Water & Sanitation		-
Medical & First Aid		-
Teaching Materials		-
Ustensils & Tools		-
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	18,710	18,710
Total Supplies	52,121	52,121
Land & Buildings		-
Vehicles		-
Computer & Telecom		-
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		-
Medical Equipment		-
Other Machinery & Equipment		-
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	-	-
Storage		-
Distribution & Monitoring		-
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,144	4,144
Total Transport & Storage	4,144	4,144
International Staff		-
Regionally Deployed Staff		-
National Staff		-
National Society Staff	7,252	7,252
Other Staff benefits		-
Consultants		-
Total Personnel	7,252	7,252
Workshops & Training	4,144	4,144
Total Workshops & Training	4,144	4,144
Travel		-
Information & Public Relation	3,108	3,108
Office Costs	518	518
Communications	311	311
Professional Fees		-
Financial Charges	1,980	1,980
Other General Expenses	114	114
Total General Expenditure	6,031	6,031
Cash Transfers to National Societies		-
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		-
Total Contributions & Transfers	-	-
Program Support	4,864	4,864
Total Programme Support	4,864	4,864
Services & Recoveries	1,142	1,142
Shared Services		-
Total Services	1,142	1,142
TOTAL BUDGET	79,699	79,699



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 Affected provinces