

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Panama: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPA007
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000225-PAN
Update n° 1
8 December 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.

Period covered by this update: 12
November to 4 December 2010.

Summary: 79,699 Swiss francs (82,608 US dollars or 59,494 Euro) were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 11 November 2010 to support the Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) in delivering assistance to some 645 families.

Rains in Panama have continued to fall very heavily throughout the month, and during the first week in December a cold front coming in from the Pacific interacted with a system of low pressure in the Caribbean, spreading further rains into the provinces of Los Santos and Bocas del Toro. Thus far, some 19,876 persons have been affected since the onset of the rains.

Due to the current developments, the Red Cross Society of Panama and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have expanded the operation to assist 400 further families affected by the ongoing rain and flooding with relief distributions. To support the extension, an additional 82,864 Swiss francs were allocated from the DREF fund on 4 December 2010. A total of 162,563 Swiss francs have therefore been allocated from the DREF fund for this operation.



Since 6 November 2010 the Red Cross Society of Panama has mobilized across the country to assist hundreds of affected families with relief items. Source: RCSP

The timeframe of the operation was extended to four months and is now expected to be completed by March 2010. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 9 June 2010).

The Canadian Red Cross has contributed 8,000 Canadian dollars and the Netherlands government via the Netherlands Red Cross has contributed 30,000 Euro to the DREF in 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>

<Revised budget; click here to view contact details>

The situation

Rains in Panama have continued to fall very heavily throughout the month of November and in the first week of December a cold front coming from the Pacific interacted with a system of low pressure in the Caribbean, spreading rains further into the Provinces of Los Santos and Bocas del Toro, as well as into the Provinces previously affected by rains in early November, in particular the Province of Darién. Thus far, some 19,876 persons have been affected since the start of the current rains.

Early assessments from the National System for Civil Protection of Panama (Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil-SINAPROC) state that in the first week of December, some 254 houses were affected, and one person died when the Changuinola, Sixaola and Teribe rivers overflowed in Bocas del Toro Province. In Darien Province, at least 398 homes were affected in Puerto Indio and Sambu, where the water reached the five feet mark, while in the Province of Los Santos, around 300 homes were affected by the overflowing of the Tonosí River.

The rain has ruined large swathes of farmland across the country, which will not only have an immediate impact on local food production, but also on the economic situation in the coming months. As many were subsistence farms cultivating plantain and rice, a number of vulnerable families lost their main source of food and income.

Coordination and partnerships

The RCSP is coordinating closely at the local level with SINAPROC and other government offices through the local Emergency Operation Centres (EOC). The National Society is also cooperating with the National Police and the Fire Service Department to carry out search and rescue activities, and with the Ministry of Housing to share information about assessments. Coordination is also taking place with the Office of the

First Lady, the Minister of Health and the Major's Office of Panama City.

The American Red Cross is supporting the RCSP with human resources and equipment to carry out further assessments as well as with relief items. The private company Minera Panama has provided support for the provision of humanitarian relief to those affected in Coclesito in the Province of Coclé.



An elderly Embera woman receives food and non-food items to recover from the effects of the emergency. Source: RCSP

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As well as assisting 645 families with relief items, the RCSP has deployed some 53 volunteers, seven of them who are trained as National Intervention Team members (NIT) and three as

Regional Intervention Team members (RIT), to respond to these new developments. Currently, the National Society is supporting two collective centres, completing new assessments and carrying out search and rescue activities, as well as providing first aid services.

Progress towards outcomes

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.

Based on national assessments carried out by the RCSP and SINAPROC on 4 December, the number of people affected by the month of rains has now reached 19,876.

Province	Deaths	Injured	Affected families	Destroyed homes	Affected Persons	Persons in Shelters	Rescued
Bocas de Toro	1	2	928	500	6,000	93	134
Chiriqui	2	42	842	33	5,894	1,096	123
Los Santos		12	569	345	2,500	632	231
Veraguas			355	432	1,345	123	256
Darién		31	396	470	2,300	48	167
Eastern Panama		3	54		270		
Western Panama		1	69	45	300		
Colon		12	65	12	325	8	25
Cocle		8	200	25	942	76	48
TOTAL	3	111	3,478	1,862	19,876	2,076	984

Challenges:

With the continuation of rains, the RCSP has been dedicating its attention to immediate response, assessments and provision of relief. A more detailed table with the results of all the assessments will be provided in the final report.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 1,045 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 1,045 families, and blankets, jerry cans cleaning kits to 400 families.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

With the initial DREF funding allocation, the RCSP has distributed food and non-food items to 645 families; however, as a result of national donations and collaborative work with the American Red Cross, the National Society has been able to extend the relief distribution to some 1,473 beneficiary families.

Since 6 November 2010, the RCSP has distributed the following:

Items	Provinces						Total
	Baru	Colón	Darién	Western Panama	Eastern Panama	Cocle	
Hygiene kits	900	65	214	40	54	200	1,473
Food parcels	900	65	214	40	54	200	1,473
Kitchen kits		65		40		200	305
Mosquito nets	1,800	130		80	110	400	2,520
Blankets			856			600	1,456
Water purification tablets	9,000	650	4,800			2,000	16,450

In addition, as the rains continue to fall throughout the month and extend the level of damage, a further 400 families will be provided with relief items, targeting a total of 1,045 families who will receive assistance with the DREF funding allocation. The next phase of the delivery of relief items to 400 families will be carried out from 7 to 12 December. The 400 additional beneficiary families will be identified in the Provinces of Los Santos and Bocas del Toro as a result of the latest assessments performed by the National Society. These 400 families will receive blankets, jerry cans and cleaning kits, in addition to the food parcels, hygiene kits and mosquito nets, given the needs and the economic situation of the population in these regions.

Challenges:

The main challenge is that of transportation. Most affected communities are difficult to reach under normal circumstances, and as the rain has continued to fall and landslides have occurred, the RCSP has had to use chained 4x4 vehicles and horses as well as boats on swollen rivers.

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.

Progress:

The water and sanitation activities including training will start in January 2011, once the relief distributions have been completed.

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:

- **In Panama:** Jorge Alemán, Relief Director of the Red Cross Society of Panama; phone: (507) 6668 2856; email: bolivar15@hotmail.com
- **In Costa Rica:** Fabricio Lopez; Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org
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[<Revised budget; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPA007
Panama Floods 2010

date
12/07/2010

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		-
Shelter - Transitional		-
Construction - Housing		-
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		-
Construction - Materials		-
Clothing & Textiles	23,082	23,082
Food	42,729	42,729
Seeds & Plants		-
Water & Sanitation	3,200	3,200
Medical & First Aid		-
Teaching Materials		-
Ustensils & Tools	16,000	16,000
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	29,910	29,910
Total Supplies	114,921	114,921
Land & Buildings		-
Vehicles		-
Computer & Telecom		-
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		-
Medical Equipment		-
Other Machinery & Equipment		-
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		-
Distribution & Monitoring		-
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,394	7,394
Total Transport & Storage	7,394	7,394
International Staff		-
Regionally Deployed Staff		-
National Staff		-
National Society Staff	10,252	10,252
Other Staff benefits		-
Consultants		-
Total Personnel	10,252	10,252
Workshops & Training	4,144	4,144
Total Workshops & Training	4,144	4,144
Travel		-
Information & Public Relation	4,108	4,108
Office Costs	1,018	1,018
Communications	611	611
Professional Fees		-
Financial Charges	4,432	4,432
Other General Expenses	224	224
Total General Expenditure	10,393	10,393
Cash Transfers to National Societies		-
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		-
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	9,922	9,922
Total Programme Support	9,922	9,922
Services & Recoveries	5,538	5,538
Shared Services		-
Total Services	5,538	5,538
TOTAL BUDGET	162,563	162,563