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DREF operation update

Honduras: Tropical Depression 12-E

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRHN005
GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000127-HND](#)
Update n° 1 – 14 December 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.

Period covered by this update: 21 October to 15 November 2011.

Summary: 220,262 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 October 2011 to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) in delivering assistance to 800 families (some 4,000 beneficiaries).

After the severe rains in October that prompted the declaration of a State of Emergency in the southern region of Honduras, the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) started the implementation of a Plan of Action to bring relief to some 5,000 families, of which 800 families will be supported by the DREF in the municipalities of Nacaome and Marcovia. The National Society has worked



The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) registering affected families in the community of Playa Grande, municipality of Nacaome, where 185 families will be assisted. Source: HRC

alongside government authorities, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement components and other organizations to complete detailed assessments in the affected areas, analyzing not only the immediate needs for relief items, but also the health situation of selected communities. The HRC has also distributed relief items to 1,265 families through the use of pre-positioned stock, completed the registration of families to be assisted through the support of DREF funds and concluded the tendering process of food items. During the following days, the National Society will carry out a workshop with community leaders on prevention of communicable diseases who will act as community facilitators for future health activities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by January 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by April 2012).

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the

Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Honduran Red Cross, would like to extend their thanks to the Australian Red Cross and government, the Belgian government, the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian government, and the Netherlands Red Cross and government for their generous contributions to the allocation made to this operation.
<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

Similarly to other countries in Central America, Honduras was affected by the intense rainfall brought by Tropical Depression 12-E (TD 12-E). This weather front, combined with the effects of previous precipitations and the saturation of soils since early October, caused severe damages in the southern region of Honduras, particularly in the departments of Choluteca and Valle. The most affected municipalities were Marcovia, Choluteca, Apacilagua and Pespire (in the Choluteca department), San Lorenzo, Nacaome and Alianza in the Valle department. Final figures of affectation after assessment concluded indicate that more than 69,700 persons were affected and 29 deaths were reported.

Affectation	Quantity
Deaths	29
Missing persons	4
Affected persons	69,798
Evacuated persons	12,601
Persons in collective centres	6,958
Families left homeless	2,341
Houses severely damaged	2,288
Houses destroyed	182
Houses damaged	1,053
Road affected	55
Road damaged	68
Bridges affected	19
Bridges damaged	22
Bridges destroyed	17
Flood banks damaged	27
Flood banks destroyed	2
Schools damaged	97
Public buildings destroyed	2
Public buildings damaged	3
Electric networks affected	27
Water distribution networks affected	17
Sewage networks affected	175
Agricultural losses (<i>manzanas</i>)	10,898

Based on this situation, the President of Honduras declared a State of Emergency for the southern region of the country, facilitating coordination between government institutions and accepting international support to respond to the situation.

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination with authorities and other agencies: At the national level, the Honduran Red Cross is part of the National Risk Management System. Since the start of the emergency the National Society had a member within the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) led by the Permanent Contingency Commission (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias – COPECO), institution in charge of coordinating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other humanitarian actors. At the local level, the HRC also works alongside the Municipal Emergency Committees (Comités de Emergencia Municipal - CODEM) from the

affected areas. All search, rescue and evacuation activities, as well as distribution of relief items have been coordinated with these institutions, and with the other members of the National Risk Management System such as the Fire and Police Departments. In addition, the Honduran Red Cross participates on the Risk Reduction working group alongside organizations such as Caritas and *Ayuda en Acción*, where there is ongoing exchange of information on assessments and technical resources.

Movement coordination: the HRC's National Monitoring Centre was activated before the first effects of the emergency situation were felt, keeping constant communication with all branches in the regions at risk. The information was shared with the IFRC's programme coordinator in country and members from Partner National Societies (PNS) in country (Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross) who supported with information management and the preparation of the plan of action and who opened channels of communication to obtain resources for the response. At the local level, members from Partner National Societies supported the branches during the monitoring, and later on participated on their assessments and the first response phase.

Currently, the National Society overall plan of action targets 5,000 families, of which at least 3,412 families will be assisted with the support of the following partners:

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Type of Assistance</i>	<i>Nº of families</i>	<i>Areas</i>
<i>American Red Cross</i>	Hygiene kits, tarpaulins, mosquito nets	500	Villanueva
<i>IFRC-DREF</i>	Food, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, blankets, tarpaulins	800	Choluteca and Nacaome
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>	Food, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, construction kits	800	San Lorenzo and municipalities in southern Francisco Morazán
<i>Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)</i>	Food	300	Liure and El Paraíso
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>	Food, hygiene kits, cleaning kits, health activities	1,000	Marcovía, Pespire and Nacaome
<i>Embassy of Chile in Honduras</i>	Construction of shelter	12	To be determined

In addition, the Finnish Red Cross and the German Red Cross coordinated with the National Society to present two proposals to the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) for water and sanitation and relief distribution. Approval of these proposals is still pending.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

With the support from the DREF, the National Society is targeting 800 affected families in the municipalities of Nacaome (Valle department) and Marcovia (Choluteca department).

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: The immediate needs of 800 families affected by Tropical Depression 12-E are met through the distribution of food items and essential household items.
Outputs: 800 families (4,000 people) receive food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets and jerry cans.
Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop beneficiary selection and registration system to deliver intended assistance.

- Coordinate distribution activities with local and national authorities.
- Distribution of relief items
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress: The selection of families to be benefitted with relief items was completed through coordination at two levels. Firstly, the National Society worked alongside the municipal authorities of Marcovia and Nacaome to identify affected communities. Secondly, the HRC shared the information with COPECO to ensure that the selected areas were not being targeted by other agencies or, if they were, that their assistance was complementary.

Once the communities were selected accordingly, volunteers and staff of the HRC proceeded with registration of families, gathering information on age and gender of the head of the family and household members. 800 families in 7 communities were selected, accounting for some 3,600 persons. Once this was completed, families received a numbered ticket to be used during distribution. The table below shows the communities and numbers of families selected:

Communities	No. of families
Playa Grande, Nacaome	185
El Cerro, Marcovia	98
Los Puentes, Marcovia	54
El Portón, Marcovia	83
Piedra de Agua, Marcovia	203
Cacahulito, Marcovia	84
El Obraje, Marcovia	93
TOTAL	800 families

The procurement of non-food relief items was coordinated with the IFRC’s Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) which dispatched items from the regional warehouse in El Salvador. In the case of the food items, the HRC formed a procurement committee who completed a tendering process to select the provider with the best offer. The National Society anticipates finalizing distributions by the first week of December.

As part of the response to the emergency situation, the HRC used their pre-positioned stock to reach 1,265 families in the municipalities of Pimienta, Villanueva, San Lorenzo, Potrerillos, Nacaome and Choluteca. Furthermore, after a successful alliance with media outlets, such as *Televiscentro* and *Emisoras Unidas*, the National Society had collected considerable national donations and was able to dispatch 48 trucks with clothing, food, medicines and water to assist with the immediate needs of affected families.

Challenges: Unfortunately, the relief items shipped from El Salvador experienced delays while passing through the El Salvador-Honduras border of El Amatillo. It is expected that the truck delivering the relief items will be able to pass through customs and enter the country on 16 November.

Emergency health and safe water

Outcome: The immediate risks to health of populations affected by TD 12-E are reduced in the Choluteca and Valle departments.

Output 1: 800 flood-affected families have access to safe water.

Output 2: 100 flood-affected families are reached with psychosocial support, disease prevention and health promotion activities.

Activities planned:

- Assess the existing coverage of water supply and select two of the most vulnerable communities.
- Provide safe water to 800 families while damaged water systems are restored.
- Train volunteers and community leaders with the ECV Toolkit on prevention of communicable diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis, acute respiratory diseases and skin diseases.
- Monitor the activities conducted with community leaders at the community level.
- Conduct basic sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.
- Print and distribute information, education and communications (IEC) materials.
- Monitor and provide reporting on the activities

Progress: the health technical team of the HRC, in coordination with the National Society’s office of disaster management, has completed two field visits to carry out assessments on the communities’ health situation,

including access to safe drinking water. Based on the information gathered, and in an effort to provide an integrated response, the current DREF-supported operation will reach with health activities the same communities assisted with relief items. Two of these communities will be selected as beneficiaries of the installation of a water treatment plant. The distribution of water is also being coordinated with Oxfam Honduras.

Currently, the HRC is organizing a workshop to train community leaders on community health issues and psychosocial support. This workshop will be carried out by National Intervention Team members specialized in health on 18 and 19 November. The individuals trained will then form working groups to continue with health activities and in order to reach more community members and promote a longer term sustainability of the actions. In addition, the National Society has concluded the organization of the first psychosocial support session with children from Playa Grande, in the Nacaome municipality.

Challenges: The main challenge for the HRC is the sustainability of their activities. On the one hand, the National Society is aware that the risk of water-borne diseases will be present as long as water sources remain contaminated and septic tanks are not repaired. Therefore, the HRC is currently working alongside community leaders to analyze the restoration of these infrastructures to avoid the dependence on the National Society's water treatment plant. Efforts are also being made to ensure the adequate integration of all activities into a comprehensive programme that effectively respond to the communities' needs.

Capacity of the National Society
Outcome: Volunteers involved in the response operation in Choluteca and Valle departments are better equipped and knowledgeable on programme implementation.
Output 1: 10 branches of the HRC have the appropriate equipment to support evacuations and rescue and to provide first aid care in affected areas.
Output 2: At least 6 volunteers participate as interns in headquarters dedicated to coordinating and monitoring all emergency response activities.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify branches which are most in need of equipment.• Procure locally safety equipment for volunteers• Conduct search and rescue activities and first aid care in coordination with the Civil Protection System authorities.• Monitor the population at risk at the national level focusing on possible landslides and rising river levels.• Create terms of reference and transparent selecting process• Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of activities

Progress: This sector was originally framed as evacuation in at-risk areas; however, it was rephrased in order to provide a clearer overview of the overall goal of the National Society in supporting their volunteers during this emergency operation. However, this change in format does not imply any new lines of actions or changes in the budget.

As mentioned in the DREF bulletin, the HRC is encouraging volunteers from their branches to complete internships in the monitoring centre run by the disaster management office at headquarters. These interns support the coordination and monitoring of response activities. Thus far, two volunteers trained as National Intervention Teams (NIT) have participated, one from the departmental branch of Yuscarán and one from the departmental branch of Comayagua.

The National Society is completing the tendering process to purchase the protective gear and equipment to replace those damaged during the strenuous evacuations carried out during the first days of the emergency. The HRC anticipates acquiring the equipment by early December.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 20 October 2011 for CHF 220,262 for three months to assist 800 families.
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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](#) 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.
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