

MINOR EMERGENCY



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

COSTA RICA: FLOODS

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

CHF 30,000 (USD 23,187 OR EUR 19,286) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION.

UN earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

For information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

Since Monday, 19 September, heavy rains in Costa Rica have caused flooding in several regions of the country, especially in the southern Pacific coastal area; communities particularly affected are located in the Brunca region, Huétar Norte, Zona de los Santos, and the Central Pacific and Corotega areas. As of 26 September, rains were continuing on the Nicoya Peninsula and in the Southern Pacific. Some 198 communities have now been affected in the following cantons of the **Provinces of San José**: Vásquez de Coronado, Dota, Tarrazú, León Cortés, Acosta, Tibás and Pérez Zeledón; **Puntarenas**: Osa, Aguirre, Parrita, Garabito, Buenos Aires, Golfito, Esparza and Puntarenas; **Alajuela**: San Carlos, Upala, Alajuela and Valverde Vega; **Guanacaste**: Nandayure, Hojancha, Nicoya, Santa Cruz, Abangares, Bagaces and Carrillo; **Cartago**: Turrialba and **Heredia**: Heredia and Sarapiquí. As a result, over 1,500 people have been obliged to evacuate their homes and are currently accommodated in 35 shelters or in the houses of family and neighbours. To date, 398 houses have been reported as damaged by the rains, water and electricity supply has been affected in some areas, 48 bridges, 4 dikes and 28 sewerage systems have been damaged and over 100 roads have been waterlogged. On Tuesday, 27 September, the Costa Rican president, Abel Pacheco, declared a state of emergency. This move facilitates the release of state and private funding and other resources to the National Emergency Commission.

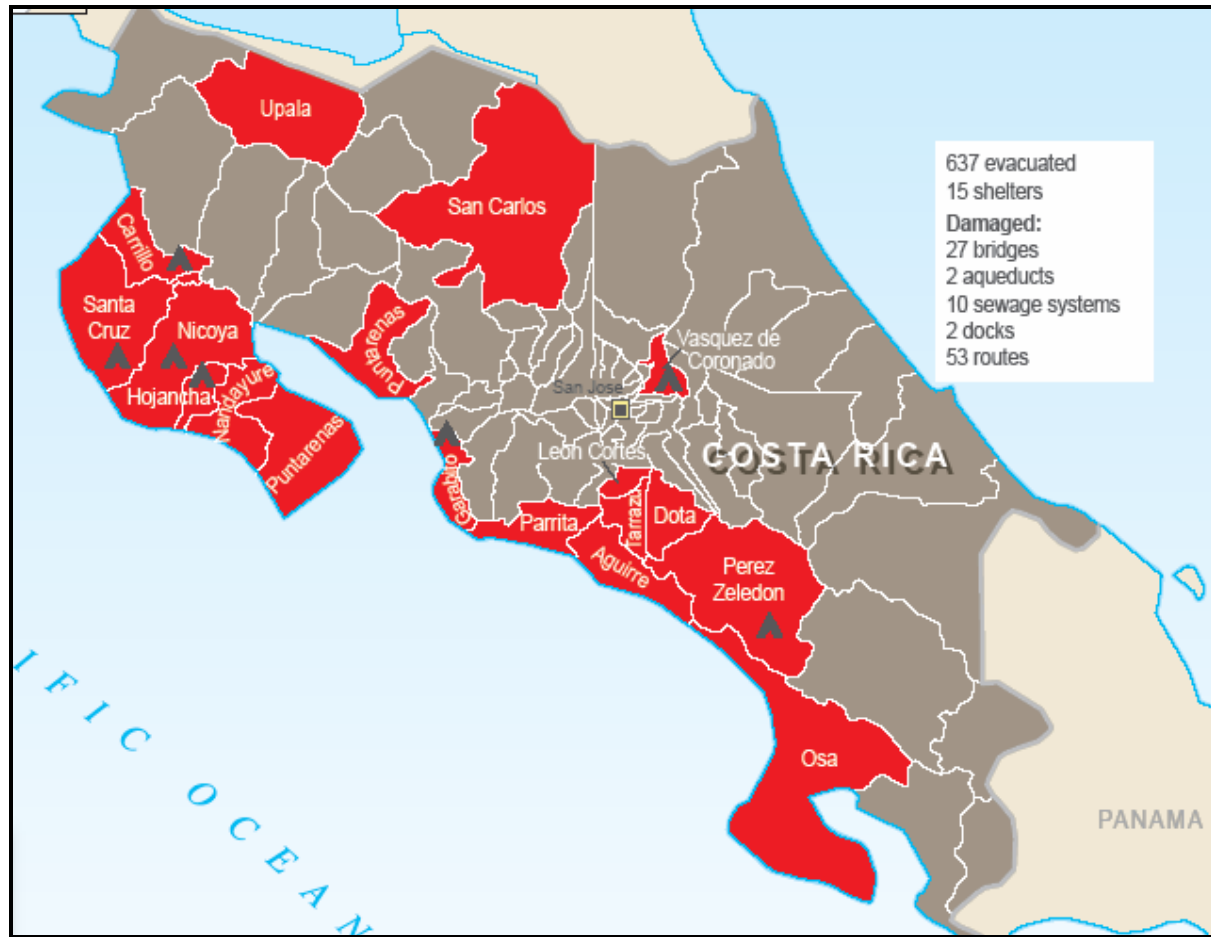
The table below shows the numbers of towns and villages affected in the listed cantons.

PROVINCE	CANTON	Numbers of affected towns and villages
San José	Vásquez de Coronado	1
San José	Tarrazù	11
San José	Dota	6
San José	León Cortés	2
San José	Pérez Zeledón	10
Puntarenas	Buenos Aires	3
Puntarenas	Osa	16
Puntarenas	Aguirre	38
Puntarenas	Parrita	1
Puntarenas	Garabito	2
Puntarenas	Golfito	3
Puntarenas	Puntarenas	16
Puntarenas	Esparza	1
Alajuela	San Carlos	10
Alajuela	Upala	5
Guanacaste	Carrillo	7
Guanacaste	Santa Cruz	10
Guanacaste	Abangares	14
Guanacaste	Nicoya	17
Guanacaste	Bagaces	1
Guanacaste	Hojancha	6
Guanacaste	Nandayure	8
San José	Acosta	10
TOTAL		198

The table below shows numbers of houses affected to date per canton.

CANTON	NUMBER
Nicoya	182
Tarrazù	12
Dota	1
Pérez Zeledón	1
Aguirre	161
Parrita	15
Alajuela	13
Heredia	5
Esparza	5
Aserri	1
Tibàs	2
Total	398

Map of the Most Affected Areas in Costa Rica



Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs—ReliefWeb

Red Cross action taken so far

The Costa Rica Red Cross activated its emergency operations centre and initiated activities in search and rescue and evacuation as well as ambulance services. The National Society also assisted with the setting up of temporary shelters with the help of volunteers and staff from the branches in the affected areas and of national intervention team (NIT) members. The Red Cross branch network is being provided with support from the National Society headquarters.

The needs

It is urgent to gain access to communities which have remained isolated as a result of the flooding in the provinces of Puntarenas and Cartago and to carry out assessments in Quepos in the province of Puntarenas which is the area which has been worst hit by the disaster.

Current reports from Red Cross volunteers and the media indicate that there are at least 15 communities which are currently inaccessible over land, complicating assessment efforts and the delivery of relief items.

The following are needed in order to assist those affected by the floods:

- Clean water and 20 litre water containers
- Food rations for 2,000 persons

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- Blankets, mattresses, clean-up kits and hygiene kits
- Kitchen kits
- Personal hygiene kits
- Clothing
- Equipment for rescue teams working in flood situations
- A 5000 kw generator
- Boat with outboard motor for rescue operations
- Communications equipment
- Food, accommodation and fuel for personnel working in the floods operation.

Coordination

The government has ensured evacuation of 327 families in the cantons of Santa Cruz, Nicoya, Hojancha, Carrillo, Garabito, Tarrazú, Osa, Aguirre and Pérez Zeledón. A total of 1,421 food rations, 1,017 mattresses and 981 blankets were dispatched to the affected areas for those in need. In addition, funds were made available for the purchase of food and fuel and 1,000 litres of drinking water were forwarded to the city of Liberia in Guanacaste. In addition, reconnaissance flights took place to carry out a preliminary assessment of the situation in view of search and rescue and logistics support.

Budget outline

A budget has been prepared itemizing the capital equipment and relief items referred to above and costing administrative and personnel expenditures for implementation of the operation to assist those affected by flooding.



Flooding in Quepos, Puntarenas

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