



## COLOMBIA: FLOODS

**Final Report for  
DREF Bulletin  
no. MDRCO001  
28 December 2007**

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 185 countries.

### In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 22 May to 31 August 2006.

[Click here to go the attached final financial report](#)

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 160,000 (USD 132,642 or EUR 103,320) allocated from the Federations DREF on 5 March 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation.
- This operation was expected to be implemented in 3 months, and was completed by 31 August 2006. In line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) was due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 November 2006).

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Colombia: Walter Cotte, National Director of Operations and Relief, Colombian Red Cross Society, Bogotá; email: [walter.cotte@cruzrojacolombiana.org](mailto:walter.cotte@cruzrojacolombiana.org) Phone (571) 437-6300, fax (571) 473-6301
- In Lima: Giorgio Ferrario, Head of Regional Representation for South America, email: [giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org](mailto:giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org) Phone (511) 221-8151, fax (511) 441-3607
- In Panama: Dario Alvarez, Acting Head of the Federation Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; email [dario.alvarez@ifrc.org](mailto:dario.alvarez@ifrc.org), phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1082
- In Panama: Xavier Castellanos, Deputy Head of Zone, Americas, email: [xavier.castellanos@ifrc.org](mailto:xavier.castellanos@ifrc.org) phone (507) 317 13 00; fax; (507) 317 13 04

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

*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>*

## Background and Summary

The 2006 rainy season in Colombia saw an unusual increase in rainfall levels. The rains have caused floods and landslides affecting homes and seriously affecting the local population. According to the National Disaster Preparedness and Response System (Sistema Nacional para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres – SNPAD) and the Colombian Civil Defence, the heaviest rains fell between 6 March and 14 May.

The communities affected live in high risk areas, prone to harsh and worsening weather phenomenon; with each rainy season homes and land are flooded or exposed to landslides.

Since the start of the rainy season, the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRC) monitored the situation in coordination with SNPAD. Between 1 January and 15 June a total of 77,843 families (367,835 people) were affected by the flooding; 139 people died and 250 were injured. In addition, a total of 1,527 houses were destroyed and 24,518 were damaged throughout 316 municipalities in 28 Departments. Around 60 percent of the affected population were families who depend on farming for their livelihoods (agriculture, fishing and small-scale cattle farming) and live in rural areas. Other groups are those who live along the riverbanks in flood zones and in semi-rural regions that are difficult to access, as well as marginalized people living in urban areas characterized by vulnerability and poverty.



Evaluations being carried out by CRC volunteers to assess the situation and needs of the affected population.

**Source: Colombian Red Cross**

The Colombian government, through SNPAD declared a state of emergency in 21 municipalities of the Boyacá and Cundinamarca departments. The capital city of Bogotá declared an emergency situation in 13 of its 30 municipalities.

## Coordination

The Colombian Red Cross (CRC) maintained close contact with the local authorities, the SNPAD, Civil Defence and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to coordinate relief activities, prevent the duplication of efforts and monitor the situation. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member was deployed to provide technical and operative support to the CRC. The main relief operation was coordinated between SNPAD and the National Society. SNPAD provided food and non food relief with logistical support from CRC volunteers. This assistance was made possible thanks to agreements with local governments, donations from entrepreneurs and the public, and alliances with Conexión Colombia and the RCN television channel.

The National Society participated in each of the 24 Regional Committees for Prevention and Response to Disasters (CREPAD). The CRC developed a plan of action together with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Italian government to assist an additional 840 families.

The following organizations participated, together with the CRC, in the provision of this assistance: the Directorate for Prevention and Response to Disasters; Regional and local disaster prevention and response committees, the Ministry of Social Protection, AFIDRO, private companies such as Kellogs, Servientrega, Transgraneles S.A,

**DREF Bulletin no. MDRCO001; Final Report**

Fundación Saldarriaga Concha, OCENSA, BBVA, Conexión Colombia, Canal RCN, City TV, COMCEL, Ericsson, humanitarian organizations and agencies such as OXFAM GB, the United Nations, the Italian Government, the American Embassy / USAID, together with contributions from individuals and small organizations.

**Analysis of the operation – achievements and impact**

After evaluations of the situation on the ground and of the needs of the affected population, the CRC decided to request support from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for a total of CHF 160,000 to support the Plan of Action and respond to the needs of 1,000 families affected by the rainfall and resulting floods.

From the onset of the emergency, the CRC has been working to provide support to those affected by the floods and landslides. The branches of the affected municipalities responded to the floods by carrying out evacuation activities, preliminary surveys, needs assessments and humanitarian relief activities.

RIT member supporting the CRC at distribution activities in the department of Cesar in July 2006.  
**Source: Colombian Red Cross**



**Objective: 1,000 families affected by floods will have benefited from the provision of food and non-food relief items in the emergency phase as part of the CRC's overall activities targeting 5,000 families**

The departments of Santander, Cesar and Chocó were identified for the distribution of relief assistance. The original objective was to provide assistance to 1,000 families (approximately 5,000 people), however savings thanks to beneficial negotiations with the providers of the relief items, meant that 162 more families (810 people) in Chocó could be reached, increasing the total number of families assisted to 1,162 (5,810 people). The beneficiary families were identified based on the degree to which they were affected by the floods, the community and social context, vulnerability and assistance received in coordination with SNPAD.

Each family received one food parcel, one hygiene kit, one kitchen set, three blankets and three mosquito nets. These were distributed within the timeframe set out in the CRC Plan of Action.

In order to carry out distributions, 60 volunteers were mobilised from municipal and departmental branches with the support from 15 personnel from departmental branches and logistical support of 8 vehicles including trucks, 4x4 and boats. Each volunteer committed between six and eight hours daily to activities such as initial damage and needs assessments, development of the plan of action, distributions and preparation of reports.

Table showing the number and location of families who received relief assistance:

Department	Municipality	Communities	Nº of families
Santander	Puerto Wilches	Corregimiento el Llanito, Vereda el Playon, Comes si Llevas, Barrio Arenas	150
	Barrancabermeja	Vereda Terno Galan Berlin,	100

<b>Cesar</b>	Gamarra	Puerto Acapulco, Perto Capulco, La Palomera, El Cable	150
	Tamalameque	Comunidades de San Francisco, Nuevo Triunfo, Mata de Guadua, 12 de Octubre	100
	La Gloria	Comunidades 11 de Noviembre, 1 de Mayo,	50
<b>Chocó</b>	Itsmina	Comunidad Primavera	150
	Condoto	Comunidades la Unión, Muriña, Aguacate	100
	Medio San Juan	Comunidad Boca Zuruco y Chiquichoqui	150
	Medio Atrato	Comunidades de Bebara Llano, Villa y Peña	112
	Tado	Comunidad Angostura y Carmelo	100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,162</b>

### Impact

1,162 families (5,810 people) saw their basic needs met through the timely distribution and provision of food-items, and through the provision of items such as hygiene kits, blankets, kitchen sets and mosquito nets. This greatly improved the well-being of the affected families. Purchasing items locally also contributed to the recovery of the local economy.



At an institutional level, the cooperation between the various emergency and disaster agencies was strengthened, through a coordination and criteria-unifying process which allowed the extent of the activities to be broader and it also complemented the assistance provided by SNPAD.

Families receiving relief items at distributions in the municipality of Tado in July.  
**Source: Colombian Red Cross**

### Constraints

Logistical difficulties affected the distribution of the relief items. Due to armed conflict in the area and poverty conditions, the entry roads were inaccessible, therefore accounting for a delay in the distributions. In addition to this, the topographical conditions were not favourable. Despite these problems, the CRC still managed to comply with the set objectives of the Plan of Action.

### Lessons Learned

- The support provided by the Federation RIT member allowed for experiences to be shared from other response operations for emergencies of this type. This broadened knowledge and allowed for an improved response.

**DREF Bulletin no. MDRCO001; Final Report**

- As this kind of disaster requires immediate assistance and the availability of relief items ready to be dispatched, the CRC recognises the need for the pre-positioning of relief items and goods.

**[Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)**

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDR0001 - Colombia - Heavy Rains

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/11
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDR0001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		160,000				160,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>DREF</i>		160,000				160,000
<i>C3. Reallocations (within appeal or</i>		160,000				160,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		160,000				160,000
D. Total Funding = B + C		160,000				160,000

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		160,000				160,000
E. Expenditure		-160,000				-160,000
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRCO001 - Colombia - Heavy Rains

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/11
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRCO001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>160,000</b>					<b>160,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief			13,255				13,255	-13,255
Clothing & textiles	63,865		48,318				48,318	15,547
Food	20,950		18,346				18,346	2,604
Utensils & Tools	13,090		13,075				13,075	15
Other Supplies & Services	21,474		27,007				27,007	-5,533
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>119,379</b>		<b>120,003</b>				<b>120,003</b>	<b>-624</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring			1,648				1,648	-1,648
Transport & Vehicle Costs	9,506		6,703				6,703	2,803
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>9,506</b>		<b>8,351</b>				<b>8,351</b>	<b>1,155</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff Payroll Benefits			8,250				8,250	-8,250
Regionally Deployed Staff	2,000		1,817				1,817	183
National Society Staff			2,451				2,451	-2,451
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>2,000</b>		<b>12,518</b>				<b>12,518</b>	<b>-10,518</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training			183				183	-183
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>			<b>183</b>				<b>183</b>	<b>-183</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	4,300		5,294				5,294	-994
Office Costs	14,415		843				843	13,572
Communications			1,092				1,092	-1,092
Financial Charges			1,891				1,891	-1,891
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>18,715</b>		<b>9,120</b>				<b>9,120</b>	<b>9,595</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	10,400		9,825				9,825	575
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>10,400</b>		<b>9,825</b>				<b>9,825</b>	<b>575</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>160,000</b>		<b>160,000</b>				<b>160,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>0</b>				<b>0</b>	