

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central America: Floods

DREF operation n° MDR43004
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The International Federation's 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 response to emergencies. 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.

CHF 271,000 (USD 247,715 or EUR 172,611) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Societies of Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua in delivering immediate assistance to 1,500 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Tropical depression number sixteen, located inland over Central America, brought with it heavy rains from northern Costa Rica to south-eastern Mexico. The system affected the countries of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala with heavy rain which led to major flooding.

This DREF operation focuses on providing the National Societies with the means to jump start their initial assessment and emergency relief activities, mobilize regional support and draft a plan of action for recovery activities.

[<click here for the DREF budget,](#)
[Or here for contact details>](#)



Floods in El Progreso, Honduras. Source: La Prensa newspaper in Honduras.

The situation

Tropical depression number 16 slowly crossed over Central America causing torrential rain. In **Honduras**, the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) reports that 25,000 families have been affected and 4,000 people are housed in emergency shelters. COPECO declared a red alert in the departments of Choluteca, Valle, and Cortes. The northern departments of Atlantida and Yoro are in green alert while the departments of Copan, Ocotepeque, Lempira among others are in yellow alert. The southern municipality of San Lorenzo in the department of Valle in Honduras has been deeply affected. This community is located near the Pacific ocean and has a population of 122 families. Over the past few years

reports have indicated the main river that crosses the community overflows and floods the entire town during the rainy season.

Several members of the Local Emergency Committee (Comite de Emergencia Local, CODEL) alerted that the Laure river had overflowed flooding approximately 60 houses. No casualties have been reported, but main crops including maize have been lost deaths of domestic animals have been reported. The main walls of six houses collapsed and many families lost all their home appliances.

There has been constant rainfall in **Costa Rica** for several weeks now, with precipitation levels reaching up to 2,100 mm, causing rivers to overflow, landslides and blocking roads. The country has not seen these levels of rain fall in more than 40 years. On 18 October, the Costa Rican government declared a state of emergency after state agencies reported many areas had been affected with heavy rain and floods. The provinces of Guanacaste in the northern Pacific and Puntarenas in the central Pacific are the most affected regions. Approximately 1,800 people are housed in 37 temporary shelters and latest reports indicate there are 77,000 people affected. There have been 287 destroyed houses. All main roads located in the northern and southern regions of the country are blocked due to landslides.

In **Nicaragua**, the government has declared yellow and red alerts in the Pacific, north and north Atlantic regions. On 18 October, preliminary reports indicated at least 8,053 people have been affected within eight departments (Chinandega, Madriz, Esteli, Leon, Managua, Granada, Rivas among others) and 22 emergency shelters have been opened. The members of the emergency center (SINAPRED) are coordinating all emergency activities in their region using all available resources, assisting in shelters and updating information.

In **El Salvador**, the National Territorial Study Service (SNET) confirmed the weather conditions will not improve. Due to soil saturation the possibility of additional landslides and overflowing rivers is high. Several creeks near the capital city of San Salvador have started to overflow causing floods in some communities. Landslides have taken place in many communities. Several hydroelectric dams report having high levels of water forcing them to release the water, which in turn has caused streets to flood in several communities. The civil protection evacuated nine families from several communities. To date, there are 19 families housed in different shelters in the country.

Coordination and partnerships

The fire department and Municipality office in San Lorenzo, **Honduras** have been supporting the evacuation process of the affected families. The temporary shelter managed by the Municipality has been providing food items and other essential needs. COPECO has been coordinating relief actions with the Honduran Red Cross. Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the field including the Italian, Netherlands, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross Societies are cooperating with the HRC.

The **Nicaraguan Red Cross** is working with Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the country including Spanish Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross. NRC is also working in coordination with the national emergency centre (SINAPRED).

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico are communicating with and providing support to the National Societies. An alert for a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member has been issued for immediate deployment to the National Society in most need of support. Three PADRU disaster management delegates have been deployed to Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua to coordinate initial relief actions with the National Societies.

The American Red Cross and international agencies including ECHO and OFDA have already made contact with the International Federation to offer their support to this emergency.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Volunteers from the **Honduran Red Cross (HRC)** local branch in San Lorenzo have been providing food items, clothes and blankets to the people housed in temporary shelters. National Intervention Teams (NITs) have been activated in the southern part of the country and are cooperating in providing support to the affected families and at the same time monitoring the various rivers and creeks in the area. The HRC has put together a preliminary Plan of Action (PoA) that includes the distribution of food and non food items.

The HRC headquarters has dispatched and distributed the following relief items:

Department	Families	Items
CHOLUTECA	1,000	Kitchen kits
		Hygiene kits
SAN LORENZO VALLE	20	Kitchen kits
		Hygiene kits
TOTAL	1,020	Families

The **Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)** is the leading organization in Nicaragua during this emergency. The National Society is coordinating with members of the national emergency center (SINAPRED) and is participating in all coordination meetings. The NRC has also deployed staff to the affected areas to provide support and start assessment activities. An initial PoA drafted by the NRC includes provisions of food and non food items.

The **Costa Rican Red Cross (CRC)** is updating the information obtained from the affected regions while some communities still remain isolated. The CRC volunteers are performing damage and needs assessments in the communities and are distributing relief items to the emergency shelters and to families that have not left their homes. Coordination meetings have been held among regional supervisors to define all relief actions.

The needs

Beneficiary selection:

This DREF operation will support the three National Societies in performing Damage Analysis and Need Assessments (DANA) and first response activities. The Honduran Red Cross and the Nicaraguan Red Cross identified as priorities the distribution of food and non food items including kitchen kits and hygiene kits. Once all evaluations are completed and additional needs are identified (particularly in the areas of water, sanitation, early recovery and food security), a preliminary appeal will be launched. This may include additional countries that are being affected by the heavy rains.

The NRC PoA plans to benefit families in the department of Chinandega and is coordinating actions with SINAPRED, to provide humanitarian assistance consisting of food parcels and non food items.

The HRC visited some affected communities to determine the immediate needs. The selection of the beneficiaries will be done impartially based on the vulnerability of the affected people and according to internationally recognized humanitarian standards.

The proposed operation

This emergency relief operation will help jump start damage and need assessments activities to help identify early recovery needs and food security issues and will initially provide 1,500 families (1,000 in Honduras and 500 in Nicaragua) with food parcels and non food items. The objective of the disaster management delegates' mission is to prepare a regional preliminary emergency appeal in order to cover emergency and early recovery needs among the countries once evaluations are completed.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 1,500 families (1,000 in Honduras, 500 in Nicaragua) will benefit from the provision of essential food items and non food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

Honduras

1,000 families will each receive the following:

- 100 lbs food parcel
- Hygiene kits (toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, soap, shampoo, sanitary pads, towel, bath soap, deodorant)

- Kitchen kits (aluminium pots, soup ladle and aluminium casserole).

The food parcels will be purchased locally.

Activities planned:

- Obtain quotes from distributors for food and non food items
- Procurement of items
- Transportation and warehousing

Nicaragua:

Food parcels distributed to the 500 identified families will contain the following items:

Item	Quantity
Rice	30 lbs.
Beans	30 lbs.
Sugar	30 lbs.
Corn	30 lbs.
Oatmeal	30 lbs.
Soup	10 packages
Salt	5 lbs.
Cooking oil	1 gallon
Soap	1 package

Non food items:

- Blankets (3 per family)
- Plastic buckets (2 per family)

Activities planned:

- Identification and beneficiary survey
- Identification of distribution centres
- Purchase and transportation
- Distribution

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

CENTRAL AMERICA FLOODS 2008

	Total	
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>		
Shelter		
Construction Materials		
Clothing & Textiles	30,000	
Food	30,000	
Seeds & Plants		
Water & Sanitation		
Medical & First Aid		
Teaching Materials		
Utensils & Tools	59,250	
Other Supplies & Services	75,150	
Total Relief Needs	194,400	72%
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Land & Buildings		
Vehicles Purchase		
Computers & Telecom Equipment		
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.		
Medical Equipment		
Other Machinery & Equipment		
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>		
Storage - Warehouse		
Distribution & Monitoring	13,500	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	9,500	
Service fee & Recovery	12,000	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
International Staff		
Regionally Deployed Staff	6,600	
National Staff	0	
National Society Staff	4,500	
Consultants		
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>		
Workshops & Training		
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>		
Travel	3,600	
Information & Public Relations	4,425	
Office running costs	1,500	
Communication Costs	2,400	
Professional Fees		
Financial Charges	960	
Other General Expenses		
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme Support - PSR	17,615	
Total Operational Needs	76,600	28%
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Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	271,000	100%
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Available Ressources		
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Net Request	271,000	