

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Colombia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCO004
Glide No. FL-2008-000197-COL
24 October 2008

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 95,700 (USD 87,477 or EUR 60,955) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate emergency assistance to 1,000 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Heavy rainfall during the second rainy season in the regions of La Mojana, Llanos Orientales and Region Andina have led to severe flooding, affecting many people by damaging or destroying their homes and belongings. The Colombian Red Cross Society has been working since the onset of the disaster to provide relief assistance to the affected population.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 22 January 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 22 April 2009).

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

The situation

The second rainy season continues in most parts of Colombia, causing several mudslides, the overflowing of rivers and flooding in the low areas adjacent to the Magdalena and Cauca rivers. The Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies Institute (Instituto de Hidrologia, Metereologia y Estudios Ambientales – IDEAM) forecast that the heavy rains will continue, particularly in the Caribbean and Andean region of Colombia. Alerts were issued around critical rivers (Magdalena, Sinu, San Jorge) that could overflow, as well as to warn people of the imminent risk of mudslides.

The Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS), in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior's Direction of Disaster Prevention and Response (Direccion de Prevencion y Atencion de Desastres), estimated that throughout this year an accumulated number of 575,574 people were affected by the rains, 94 people were killed, 139 injured and 13 missing.

The zones that sustained the heaviest damage during this second season are the regions of La Mojana, Llanos Orientales and Region Andina due to the overflowing of the Cauca, Sinu, San Jorge, Arauca, Atrato and Meta rivers. The intensive rains battered 76 municipalities in 16 department of the country; from these the departments of Cordoba, Bolivar, Sucre, Magdalena, Atlantico, Antioquia, Meta, Cauca, Norte de Santander, Cundinamarca and Guajira were the most affected.

Affected residents have taken refuge in improvised shelters such as schools, colleges and local warehouses, while others are staying with friends and families. In all cases, the outbreak of diarrhea, respiratory infections, vector spread and skin diseases and gastrointestinal problems is an imminent concern.

Coordination and partnerships

The CRCS, through its municipals and sectional branches, has been and will continue supporting the actions of the Local and Regional Committees for Disaster Prevention and Response (Comite Local de Prevencion y Atencion de Desastres – CLOPAD and Comite Regional de Prevencion y Atencion de Desastres – CREPAD). The CRCS is specifically supporting CLOPAD and CREPAD in the coordination of efforts, damages evaluation, need assessments and initial assistance to the affected people. The International federation, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating relief activities.

CLOPAD and CREPAD have supported emergency actions with 750 million Colombian pesos of humanitarian aid consisting of food and non-food relief items, and the construction of contingency barriers in the Bolivar department.

Relief items provided by CLOPAD and CREPAD

Quantity	Item	Municipalities benefitted
6,000	Blankets	Baranquilla (Atlantico department)
4,000	Food parcels	Baranquilla (Atlantico)
6,000	Hammocks	4,000 in Baranquilla (Atlantico) 2,000 in Cordoba, Villanueva, San Juan Neponuceno, Yambrano, Guamo, Cicuco, Pinillos and Morales (Bolívar)
4,000	Hygiene kits	Baranquilla (Atlantico)
2,000	Mattresses	Baranquilla (Atlantico)
2,000	Kitchen kits	Baranquilla (Atlantico)
70,000	Bags of polypropylene to build contingency barriers	Cordoba, Villanueva, San Juan Neponuceno, Yambrano, El Guamo, Cicuco, Pinillos and Morales (Bolívar)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency, the CRCS activated its Contingency and Implementation plans in each affected branch. Joint operative coordination with the National System for Disaster Prevention and Response followed, in the support of temporary shelters; the CRCS provided technical and operational support by mobilizing National Intervention Team (NIT) members. It also mobilized its immediate response teams for Water and Sanitation emergencies with 14 water treatment and supply plants to the most affected zones.

The National Society has carried out evaluation of damages and need assessments in the different departments in Cordoba, Bolivar, Sucre, Atlantico, Cesar Santanderes, Tolima, Cundinamarca, Valle, Boyaca, Guajira, among others. Also, CRCS installed high frequency (HF) and very high frequency (VHF) communication systems to facilitate communication in remote areas.

The Colombian Red Cross has distributed 25 tons of humanitarian aid in the form of food and non-food relief items to the northern areas of the country. Moreover, its branch of La Mojana, jointly with the National Calamity Fund (Fondo Nacional de Calamidades – FNC) provided support to the affected people in this region.

The needs

The most important needs identified by the Colombian Red Cross Society are food, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, mattresses, utensil kits, blankets, hammocks, tents, plastic sheeting. Also, Water and Sanitation, promotion of good health practices and prevention of outbreak of diseases are priority areas.

In regards to emergency management and capacity strengthening, operational and logistic support is required to provide efficient assistance to each area of work.

Programs for the recovery of crops, the development of relocation plans and mitigation actions must also be developed and implemented.

The proposed operation

There will be 1,000 families in the departments of Cordoba in the most affected municipalities that will receive relief assistance: San Pelayo (400 families), Monteria (300 families) and Moñitos (300 families). This assistance consists of food parcels, non-food items and health programmes.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 1,000 families in the department of Cordoba, Colombia will benefit from the provision of essential food items and non-food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

Relief items to be provided by Colombian Red Cross Society to the affected families

Quantity	Item	Municipalities benefited
1,000	Food parcels	San Pelayo (400 families), Monteria (300 families) Moñitos (300 families)
1,000	Hygiene kits	

Activities planned:

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

Emergency health

Objective: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population are reduced through the provision of health mobile units, preventive community-level and curative services in the most affected areas.

The CRCS will procure two tents to set up as hospitals when performing in field health activities. Additionally, the health mobile units will provide people free consultations and will have access to medicines. The 1,000 families will receive 3,000 mosquito nets (3 per family) to help them prevent water-borne diseases.

Activities planned:

- Carry out health assessments and consultations and deliver medicines to the population benefited by Red Cross health programmes taking into account their necessities.
- Provide psychosocial support.
- Initiate activities on health promotion and disease prevention by risk groups and local vulnerability.
- Promote workshops on education and promotion of healthy habits and personal hygiene to prevent diseases related to the mismanagement of water sources and wastes.
- Monitor the epidemic diseases in coordination with health institutions of the country.

National Society Capacity Building

Objective: The capacity of the Colombian Red Cross Society in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.

Aiming to enhance the Colombian Red Cross Society capacity response to the emergency situation previously described, the resources provided by this DREF operation will be assigned to improve capacities in logistical, administrative and operational support.

Activities planned:

- Procure computer equipment for registry, statistics and reports of the activities carried out in the field.
- Clear out the warehouse in the Cordoba department for the prepositioning of relief items in this zone, facilitating a quick and timely intervention in emergency situations in the region.

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction

Objective: Existing tools for training on disaster preparedness and response focusing on floods and mudslides in the country are strengthened.

Activities planned:

- Produce and distribute 2,000 brochures with essential information on how to mitigate and prepare for emergencies such as floods and mudslides.

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

Colombia Floods 2008

Annex 1

MDRCO004

ORIGINAL**RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	23,400
Food	23,600
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	4,500
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	24,000
Total Relief Needs	75,500

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	1,100
Radio equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	3,000
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	750
Service fee & recovery	

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,200
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	900
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	1,500
Information & Public Relations	500
Office running costs	1,500
Communication Costs	
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	230
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	6,221
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Total Operational Needs 20,201**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) 95,701****Available Resources****Net Request 95,701**