

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Costa Rica: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCR003
Glide No. TC-2008-000147-CRI
17 September 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 81,000 (USD 73,636 or EUR 50,155) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 2 September, 2008 the Costa Rican government declared a red alert throughout the country due to the indirect influence of several tropical storms of the season. Constant rain affected the Pacific and Chorotega region. The DREF funds are intended to assist the National Society with the rehabilitation of water wells and other water and sanitation activities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 17 December, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 17 March, 2009).

[<click here for contact details>](#)



Affected rivers in Costa Rica.
Source: Costa Rica Red Cross

The situation

According to Costa Rica's National Emergency Centre (Centro Nacional de Emergencias – CNE) heavy rains caused by the 2008 Hurricane Season have generated floods through the overflow of several rivers in the Chorotega and south Pacific region. Approximately 12 communities are isolated and six communities have sustained damages to homes due to landslides. Several main roads have been blocked. 29 emergency shelters have been opened, providing housing to some 2,358 people. Latest reports indicate at least 4,498 people are directly affected while more than 5,000 people are indirectly affected by the emergency.

The transit of several main highways is being regulated due to the threat of landslides. The highway between Liberia and Santa Cruz is closed and bridges in Bambu and Filadelfia have been damaged. There is a

continued threat of additional flooding and landslides because of high quantities of precipitation. Currently, the country remains in a green state of alert.

Coordination and partnerships



The Costa Rican government through the CNE declared a red alert in several communities throughout the country. The CNE has constantly been monitoring the emergency. The government also activated all regional and local emergency committees. The government distributed relief supplies including blankets, mattresses and basic food items to the most affected areas.

Heavy floods in Costa Rica are affecting over 5,000 people throughout the country, among which in Santa Cruz, Guanacaste. Source: Costa Rica Red Cross.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation Office for Central America and Mexico are communicating with and providing support to the National Society. An alert for a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in water and sanitation has been emitted for immediate deployment to Costa Rica to impart a Water and Sanitation workshop to instruct the proper usage of the equipment for the National Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Costa Rica Red Cross (CRRC) activated the Emergency Operations Committee, led by the National Society's president and the relief director. CRRC's main actions were focused on search and rescue activities and medical care. The CRC opened and is managing the emergency shelters and delivered basic relief items including water, food items, blankets and mattresses.

Seven Red Cross auxiliary committees were active during the emergency and 63 remain in alert. In the region of Chorotega, six relief workers as part of a National Intervention Team (NIT) are responding to the emergency with the support of approximately 154 volunteers.

The CRRC Emergency Operations Centre (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia – COE) was activated for the first 24 hours of the emergency in the Headquarters in San Jose. All information provided by the local branches was channelled through this office to be processed. CRRC personnel was deployed to the affected areas. The CRC elaborated a Plan of Action that includes continued monitoring of possible outbreaks, contaminated water wells, needs, and additional distributions.

The needs

The immediate needs identified by the local authorities and the CRRC are the provision of drinking water, jerry cans, cisterns and the rehabilitation of water wells.

The proposed operation

Water and sanitation

Objective: To ensure safe water supply by cleaning the water wells and promote good hygiene practices among 1,000 affected families.

A RIT specialized in water and sanitation will provide a training to a team of CRRC water and sanitation volunteers to undertake the cleaning and rehabilitation of contaminated water wells.

Activities planned:

- Conducting a workshop for Red Cross volunteers focusing on the training of water well restoration after a flood emergency and dealing with safe water.
- Cleaning and rehabilitating of 1,000 family wells, conducted by two CRC teams. Each team consists of five people specialized in water and sanitation and will use a vehicle equipped with a special water pump, mobile laboratory and chemical products.
- Delivering potable water to the affected families using cisterns.
- Conducting information sessions on best hygiene practices to beneficiary families.

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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DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex XX

DREF Costa Rica Floods**MDRCR003****BUDGET CHF****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	45,000
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Total Relief Needs	45,000

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	10,735
Service fee & Recovery	

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	700
National Staff	
National Society Staff	13,500
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	1,800
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	800
Information & Public Relations	600
Office running costs	1,500
Communication Costs	600
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	5,265
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Total Operational Needs 36,000

DREF ALLOCATION 81,000
