

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Panama: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPA004
13 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 120,000 (USD 109,090 or EUR 74,303) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of Panama in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Heavy rain has caused floods in the province of Chiriqui since 3 September, 2008. With this DREF support the operation will focus on providing damage and need assessments, relief assistance and National Society capacity building.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by 12 January, 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 12 April, 2009).



Affected area in the province of Chiriqui.
Source: Red Cross Society of Panama

[<click here to go to the contact details, or here to go to the attached budget>](#)

The situation

On 3 September 2008 the province of Chiriqui, in particular the region of Ngöbe Buglé in the district of Besiko, was affected by a low pressure system in the central mountain range, producing heavy rain and floods. Eight rural communities were affected by the overflowed rivers of Fonseca and Boca de Soloy in the region Ngöbe Buglé mainly because seven suspension bridges were destroyed. 50 houses are affected, and 28 destroyed. There is also lack of electricity in the district of San Felix. According to the Civil Protection approximately 545 people have been affected, 11 are missing, and five people died. Two emergency shelters have been established in the district of Soloy, providing shelter for a total of 293 people. The data presented will be confirmed after assessments are completed.

The region of Ngöbe Buglé is located in the western part of the country. Its total population is 122,423 people since the year 2002 and their main occupation is agriculture and elaboration of craftwork.

Coordination and partnerships

In International Federation through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation Office for Central America and Mexico in Panama have been coordinating relief activities with the Red Cross Society of Panama. The Civil Protection National System (Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil – SINAPROC) has also been providing assistance to the Red Cross Society of Panama.

The National Society has formed alliances with local non-governmental organizations (NGO) present in the area. NGO's such as Nutre Hogar will provide assistance in temporary shelters while private companies will provide food items.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of Panama local branch in David deployed relief, search and rescue unit to the affected areas. Volunteers trained as Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members and National Intervention Team (NIT) member were also deployed to the areas in coordination with the local authorities. The National Society has also maintained close coordination with the regional Centre of Operations for Emergencies (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencias – COE) that is performing evaluations and actions in the field.

The local branch in David opened a place to receive donations and on 10 September a city wide collection was completed.

The needs

The most immediate needs for this operation are basic relief items including kitchen kits, hygiene kits, blankets, jerry cans and tarpaulins.

The proposed operation

This DREF operation will cover preliminary assessments to identify 500 of the most affected families. Immediate assistance in the sectors of emergency relief (food and basic non-food) and capacity building for the National Society will be delivered to the affected communities. Once damage and need assessments are completed the number of beneficiaries might increase.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 500 families (2,500 people) will benefit from the provision of relief items to recover from the effects of the floods.

The following items will be distributed to the most affected families:

- 500 kitchen kits (1 per family)
- 500 hygiene kits (1 per family)
- 2,500 blankets (5 per family)
- 1,000 jerry cans (2 per family)
- 1,000 tarpaulins (2 per family)

Activities planned:

- Conduct needs assessments, census and beneficiary targeting.
- Procurement of relief supplies according to Federation procedures.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end-user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distribution.

Two vehicles will be leased from PADRU to facilitate the distributions of the relief items.

National Society Capacity Building

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

A National Intervention Team (NIT) workshop will be held for volunteers in the local branch in David. In addition, two radios will be procured to be used by the communities, for early warning and preparedness activities.

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:

- In Panama: Jose Beliz, Director General of the Red Cross Society of Panama; phone: (507) 315 1389; email: cruzroja@pa.gbnet.cc.
- In Panama: Michele Detomaso, Programme Liaison Coordinator, Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: michele.detomaso@ifrc.org.
- In Panama: Fabricio Lopez, Representative of the Regional Representation Office for Central America and Mexico; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org.
- In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Zone Relationship Management Coordinator, Americas; phone (507) 380 0250; fax (507) 317 1304; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone (41) 22 730 4300; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

[<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Panama Floods**MDRPA004****ORIGINAL****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	17,000
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	13,750
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	21,500
Other Supplies & Services	12,000

Total Relief Needs **64,250****CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	8,200
Radio equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	14,000
Service fee & recovery	3,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	2,500
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	9,000
----------------------	-------

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	
Information & Public Relations	2,500
Office running costs	3,600
Communication Costs	2,000
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	1,200
Other General Expenses	1,950

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	7,800
-------------------------	-------

Total Operational Needs **55,750**

Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) **120,000**

Available Resources

Net Request **120,000**
