

DREF operation update



Honduras: Earthquake

**DREF operation n° MDRHN001
GLIDE EQ-2009-000108-HND
Update n° 2
25 June 2009**

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.

Period covered by this update: 16 June to 24 June 2009.

Summary: CHF 30,000 (USD 28,132 or EUR 19,879) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 2 June 2009 to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) to carry out initial damage and needs assessments due to the earthquake. On 16 June 2009, an additional CHF 186,562 was allocated from DREF to the Honduran Red Cross to assist 800 families.

Due to a change in the plan of action of the Honduran Red Cross 36,617 CHF of the DREF allocation was reimbursed and the total budget for this operation is therefore CHF 179,945.



Honduran Red Cross volunteers carrying out assessments. Source: Honduran Red Cross

This operation update n° 2 reflects a revised budget and plan of action as a result of changes in the relief activities. The plan of action proposed by the HRC will assist a total of 800 families (approximately 4,000 people). The affected families will receive food items for two months in several communities in ten affected municipalities. The previous operation update mentioned that the 800 targeted families would receive shelter kits. However, shelter kits will no longer be distributed since the Honduran government will provide assistance in this area.

Due to the changes in strategy and in order to complete distribution activities, this operation will be completed by 16 September 2009. In line with Federation reporting standards, a Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 16 December 2009).

[<Click here to view contact details and revised budget>](#)

The situation

The Republic of Honduras is located between the tectonic plates in Islas del Cisne in the Atlantic Ocean and Isla de Cocos in the Pacific Ocean. On 28 May 2009 the plates activated causing an earthquake measuring

7.1 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was located 63 kilometres from the Bay Islands on the Caribbean coast of Honduras.

The table below indicates the areas and types of damages sustained:

Municipality	Destroyed homes	Damaged homes	Educational sector (schools, universities that sustained damages)
El Progreso	215	1,740	11
Puerto Cortes	100	500	32
Omoa		320	-
Colinas	88	47 partial damages 292 minor damages	3
Santa Bárbara	2	11	2
Trinidad	3	28	-
Chinda	-	44	-
Gualala	-	5	-
Ilama	4	-	-
Petosa	-	8	-
Ceguaca	2	-	-
Las Vegas	-	7	-
Olancho	-	216	-
Jesus de Otoro	36	53	-
Total	450	3,271	48

The departments that sustained most damages were Yoro, Cortes and Santa Barbara in the northwestern region of the country as well as Intibucá in the south west of Honduras where many houses are made of adobe. Many water systems were damaged due to the earthquake. In some coastal towns like Puerto Cortes, the sea level increased after the earthquake causing minor floods. Infrastructure including bridges and electric systems also sustained damages in the city of El Progreso and Puerto Cortes respectively.

The Permanent Commission of Contingencies (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias - COPECO) initially issued a green alert since replicas were felt throughout the country. Since tremors are still affecting the region, COPECO has been constantly monitoring the situation in case it worsens. The population in the affected communities are not used to this type of emergency and this situation has caused an increase in medical visits from people who are experiencing anxiety and stress-related symptoms. The exact damages sustained throughout the country are still being assessed.

On 15 June 2009, the Honduran government declared a national state of emergency and allocated funds to assist the affected families with construction materials (lime, sand, steel, , cement, nails, zinc sheets, etc), at a cost of USD 500 for families whose homes were completely destroyed and USD 150 for families whose homes were partially damaged.

Currently, the Republic of Honduras is going through a difficult political period that is causing social turmoil among the population. The operation proposed by the Honduran Red Cross might change due to this political and social instability and the programmed activities might be affected. Nevertheless, in the final report we will describe in detail what activities were accomplished and the challenges that were faced by the HRC.

Coordination and partnerships

The Honduran Red Cross has been coordinating and communicating with actors in the field, local authorities including COPECO, and the municipalities of the affected regions to facilitate assistance and avoid the duplication of efforts. For example, the HRC had planned to provide shelter kits for the affected people, but the plan of action had to be adjusted since the government is covering this area by distributing construction materials to the affected people. In addition, the National Society is part of the national response system (COPECO). The HRC has been participating in monitoring and coordination meetings with the United Nations system which is being led by the Honduran government.

The Partner National Societies present in the country including the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross have been in constant communication with the Honduran Red Cross and the International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to coordinate relief response activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The HRC has 52 local branches in 18 departments with a volunteer network of 3,500 people. The HRC has a team of 13 trained Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members and 53 National Intervention Team (NIT) members coordinated through the Central Disaster Response Office (Oficina Central de Respuesta a Desastres - OPADE).

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Honduran Red Cross at the headquarters level has been in constant communication with its local branches to update information on damage and needs assessments performed in the affected areas. The NIT team was activated to provide disaster response support to the affected local branches, to coordinate with the regional COPECO offices and the Municipal or local Emergency Committees.

The National Society, through its local branches, visited the affected areas to perform damage and needs assessments. During these assessments the local branches identified that the following infrastructures sustained damages: homes, educational centers and water wells. The local branch in Puerto Cortes distributed water for a period of ten days, benefiting approximately 2,500 people per day.

The HRC drew up a plan of action that included assisting 800 families in the most affected departments: Cortes, Yoro, Santa Barbara and Intibucá. The assistance will include provision of food items for 800 families. A disaster management delegate from the Federation's PADRU was deployed to Honduras to provide support to the National Society to adjust its plan of action and gather information in light of the assistance provided by the Honduran government in shelter. In addition, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member will be deployed to assist the HRC in the distribution activities as well as in gathering information on the situation.

Progress towards objectives

The Honduran Red Cross adjusted its plan of action to assist 800 families with essential food items for a period of two months. The beneficiary criteria established by the HRC are for assistance to be provided to those families whose houses have been partially damaged, with at least half of the structure being affected. . Additionally, this DREF operation will cover operational expenses incurred by the National Society in the areas of water distribution, vehicle costs for distribution and monitoring, and visibility material.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 800 families in the most affected departments will benefit with food kits for two months.

Activities planned:

- Coordination with public and nongovernmental organizations.
- Completion of a socio-economic study and census of the beneficiary families.
- Drawing up of a budget per family.
- Description of the materials to be procured, bids, and purchases.
- Identification of most affected areas.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- 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 distributions.

Progress:

The following municipalities and number of families will benefit from 800 food kits:

Department	Municipality	# of families
Cortes	Puerto Cortes	210
	Omoa	75
Yoro	El Progreso	100
	Olanchito	78
Santa Bárbara	Colinas	135
	Santa Bárbara	38
	Las Vegas	7
	Quimistan	6
	Trinidad(Chinda)	75
Intibuca	Jesus de Otoro	76
TOTAL		800

The 1,600 food kits (1 food kit per family each month) will be procured locally following the International Federation procurement standards. Each food kit will contain the following items:

Product	Quantity
Rice	25 lbs.
Sugar	25 lbs.
Beans	25 lbs.
Corn flour	16 lbs.
Cooking oil	10 lbs.
Total	101 lbs.

This food kit will not only ensure food items for the families that have been affected by the earthquake, but also will help families to save funds in order to improve or rebuild their homes.

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 Honduras:** Maria Elisa Alvarado, Honduran Red Cross, General Director, phone: (504) 237 4558; email: direcciongeneral@honduras.cruzroja.org.
- **In Honduras:** Nelson Aly, country project manager, Honduras; phone: (504) 220 4009; email: nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org
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- **In Panama:** Ariel Kestens, Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, email: ariel.kestens@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** Natalia García, disaster management delegate of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, email: padru.rit08@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
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DREF BUDGET SUMMARY
Honduras Earthquake

Annex 1
MDRHN001

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter	71,411	0	71,411
Construction Materials			0
Clothing & Textiles			0
Food	53,558	107,117	-53,558
Seeds & Plants			0
Water & Sanitation		446	-446
Medical & First Aid			0
Teaching Materials			0
Utensils & Tools			0
Other Supplies & Services			0
Total Relief Needs	124,970	107,563	17,406
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Land & Buildings			0
Vehicles Purchase			0
Computers & Telecom Equipment			0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.			0
Medical Equipment			0
Other Machinery & Equipment			0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse			0
Distribution & Monitoring	5,021	0	5,021
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11,158	17,351	-6,193
Cost Recovery - RLU	5,000		5,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff			0
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,905	3,905	0
National Staff			0
National Society Staff	29,011	26,110	2,901
Consultants			0
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	6,695	0	6,695
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	3,347	3,347	0
Information & Public Relations	5,579	5,579	0
Office running costs	669	502	167
Communication Costs	3,347	1,883	1,465
Professional Fees			0
Financial Charges	3,783	2,008	1,774
Other General Expenses			0
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	14,077	11,696	2,380
Total Operational Needs	91,592	72,382	19,211
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	216,562	179,945	36,617