

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Honduras: Earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRHN001  
GLIDE EQ-2009-000108-HND  
Update n° 3  
10 September 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:** 24 June 2009 to 8 August 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 149,945 was allocated from DREF to the Honduran Red Cross to assist 800 families.

This operations update n° 3 reflects the activities accomplished to date by the Honduran Red Cross. The plan of action proposed by the HRC has assisted the affected families with food parcels in 10 municipalities.



Honduran Red Cross volunteer distributing food parcels. Source: Honduran Red Cross

Initially, this operation had a timeframe of 6 months, but it was reduced to 3 months since the plan of action was revised to include only food parcel distribution activities. Operational costs previously contemplated in the HRC initial Plan of Action were not spent entirely since not all activities were carried out. Therefore DREF funds will be reimbursed, as stated in the DREF Bulletin update n° 2. The 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).

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## The situation

On 28 May 2009, an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, with the epicentre located 63 kilometers from the Bay Islands on the Caribbean coast of Honduras, affected several departments in the country. Damages were sustained mainly in the northeastern departments of Yoro, Cortés and Santa Barbara.

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

Department	Municipality	Destroyed homes	Damaged homes	Educational sector
Yoro	El Progreso	215	1,740	11
Cortés	Puerto Cortés	100	500	32
Cortés	Omoa		320	
Santa Barbara	Colinas	88	47 partial damages 292 minor damages	3
	Santa Bárbara	2	11	2
	Trinidad	3	28	
	Chinda		44	
	Gualala		5	
	Ilama	4		
	Petoa		8	
	Ceguaca	2		
	Las Vegas		7	
Yoro	Olanchito		216	
Intibucá	Jesús de Otoro	36	53	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>3,271</b>	<b>48</b>

In addition to the housing and educational sectors affected by the earthquake, water systems and infrastructure including bridges and electric systems also sustained damages. Puerto Cortés, a coastal town in the department of Cortés experienced minor floods since the sea level increased.

The Honduran government declared a national state of emergency and allocated funds to assist the affected families with construction materials: lime, sand, steel structures, cement, nails, zinc sheets. Additionally, government aid includes cash grants of USD 500 for families whose homes were destroyed and USD 150 for families whose homes sustained minor damages.

### **Socio-political situation**

There has been high political tension in the country since the ousting of the president on 28 June 2009. Distribution activities were delayed due to security issues; however different methods were tailored for each targeted area. The International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided support for the organization of each customized distribution method.

A contingency plan was developed by the Honduran Red Cross which addresses the socio-political tension and the possible occurrence of differing specific disaster events during the 2009 hurricane season. The HRC presented an emergency plan for the socio-political crisis that contains urgent, medium and long term activities.

The HRC has been providing first aid assistance in the context of violent demonstrations; preventive measures have been taken, as well as ensuring that HRC personnel, volunteers and vehicles carry adequate Red Cross visibility.

## Coordination and partnerships

Since the onset of the earthquake emergency, the Honduran Red Cross has been leading the coordination with different actors (municipalities, the World Food Program and other regional organizations) to share the information gathered in each area of the intervention and avoid duplication of efforts.

The Disaster Response Office at headquarters (Oficina para la Administración de Desastres y Emergencias - OPADE) coordinated relief activities with the departmental and municipal councils in each of the local branches within the affected areas.

The HRC coordinated with the World Food Program as well as Partner National Societies present in the country including the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross. In addition, the HRC has been in constant communication with the Federation's Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico (based in Panama) and the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to coordinate relief response activities.

The HRC with financial support from the government of Australia carried out the distribution of construction materials including zinc sheets, nails, a hammer, a saw and wood panels to 15 families.

## 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 Disaster Response Office).

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Honduran Red Cross was in constant communication with local branches to receive information on damage and needs assessments conducted in the affected areas. The National Intervention Team was activated to provide disaster response support to the affected local branches and to coordinate with the regional Permanent Commission for Contingencies (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias - COPECO) offices and the municipal or local emergency committees.

The HRC elaborated a plan of action to assist 800 families in the most affected departments: Cortés, Yoro, Santa Barbara and Intibucá with food items. In addition, the HRC has supplied hygiene kits, blankets and mattresses for 15 families from prepositioned stock. .



A beneficiary receiving food parcels. Source: Honduran Red Cross

## Progress towards objectives

In the revised plan of action, the Honduran Red Cross seeks to assist 800 families with essential food items for a period of two months. The beneficiary criteria established by the HRC targets those families whose houses sustained damages of more than 50 percent. Additionally, this DREF operation covered operational expenses sustained by the National Society in the areas of visibility material, water distribution and transport costs.

### 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 non-governmental organizations.

- Completion of a socio-economic study and census of the beneficiary families.
- Elaboration of a budget per family.
- Description of the materials to be procured, bids, and purchases.
- Identification of 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:

Each of the local HRC branches within the affected communities was given tools to conduct preliminary assessments. This strengthened the capacity of the volunteers to apply appropriate beneficiary selection criteria. Visibility material was printed to identify the distribution activities carried out by the Honduran Red Cross. A census of the identified communities was elaborated in order to prepare a database to use as support in the distributions. Once the database and the procurement of items were completed, one distribution (two rations per family) was carried out to avoid complications due to the socio-political instability of the country.

The final distributions by local branches took place as follows:

Local branch	Date of distribution	# of benefited families	Men	Women	Total people
Quimistan	26/07/2009	4	13	8	21
Las Vegas	27/07/09	7	23	20	43
Jesus de Otoro	30/07/09	74	226	194	420
Trinidad	31/07/09 01/08/09	50	154	134	288
Santa Barbara	02/08/09	38	119	76	195
San Jose de Colinas	03 to 06/08/09	150	421	292	713
Omoa	06/08/09	75	271	216	487
Olanchito	06/08/09	76	218	185	403
Puerto Cortés	07,08,11/08/09	226	590	512	1,102
El Progreso	09/08/09	100	288	211	499
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>800</b>	<b>2,323</b>	<b>1,848</b>	<b>4,171</b>

The 1,600 food kits (1 kit per family per month) were procured locally following the Federation procurement standards. Each kit contains 101 lb of food items. The following table shows the number of food parcels distributed by Department and Municipality.

No.	Department	Municipality	Food Kits
1	Intibuca	Jesus de Otoro	148
2	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	76
		Trinidad	100
		Las Vegas	14
		Quimistan	8
		San Jose de Colinas	300
3	Yoro	El Progreso	200
		Olanchito	152
4	Cortes	Omoa	150
		Puerto Cortes	452

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.

## Challenges

The major challenges encountered during this operation have been related to the socio political tension the country is experiencing. This caused initial delays in the distribution of the food parcels since roads were seized by demonstrators in the communities selected to receive the assistance.

## 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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