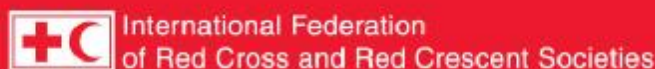


# DREF operation



## Honduras: Civil Unrest

DREF operation n° MDRHN002  
14 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.

**CHF 150,000 (USD 144,199 or EUR 99,005) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) in strengthening the capacity of 30 local branches in preparedness for an event of a civil unrest. The DREF funds will support the pre-positioning of relief items, equipment for volunteers and medical and first aid supplies. These items will aid the HRC in providing assistance in a possible situation of civil unrest during the upcoming presidential elections.**

**This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 11 December 2009;**

**a Final Report will be made available by 11 March 2010 (three months after the end of the operation). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**



A Honduran Red Cross volunteer assisting a person suffering from high blood pressure in one of the demonstrations. Source: Honduran Red Cross

**Summary:** Honduras has been experiencing high social and political tension since the ousting of the President of the Republic on 28 June 2009. The HRC has been providing first aid to the affected population as a result of the social unrest. This DREF allocation aims to prepare the Honduran Red Cross with essential relief items and volunteer equipment in anticipation of recurrent emergencies during this crisis and especially for the forthcoming presidential elections to be held in November 2009. The funds will provide the National Society with essential relief supplies including: first aid tents, first aid kits, hygiene kits and will facilitate the mobilization of a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to support the National Society. In addition, the DREF will cover fuel costs of ambulances and for mobilization of HRC volunteers.

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

## The situation

On 25 June 2009, the Honduran Red Cross informed of the social and political instability experienced in the country due to political decisions made by the President. As a result, there has been high political tension in Honduras, compounded by the ousting of the President on 28 June 2009. This situation has been causing pressure among the different political groups and the population is uncertain of the events this might generate in the future.

The intensity of the demonstrations has resulted in high peaks of violence on some occasions with short, calm periods. On 29 June 2009 and for several days afterwards, violent confrontations were experienced in the capital city of Tegucigalpa.



Honduran Red Cross ambulances assisting people in the capital city of Tegucigalpa. Source: Honduran Red Cross

Protests in major cities in the country continue to occur. The tension among the parties involved is latent, and there is a concern that this tension might worsen during the upcoming presidential elections to be held in November 2009.

## Coordination and partnerships

Since the start of crisis, the Honduran Red Cross has been in constant coordination and communication with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation. Delegates from both organizations have been in-country providing support and advice to better prepare the Honduran Red Cross in case the situation worsens. The ICRC and the International Federation assisted the Honduran Red Cross in the drafting of a contingency plan; in addition, the ICRC has supplied the National Society with telecommunications equipment and support for a visibility campaign.

The Partner National Societies (PNS): the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross are present in the country and are ready to provide support to the Honduran Red Cross with resources and personnel if needed. To date, the Spanish Red Cross has provided the HRC with volunteer equipment as well as financial support and the Swiss Red Cross has supported the HRC with medical supplies. Moreover, the Honduran Red Cross, the International Federation and the ICRC have been in constant communication with the PNS present in the country. Periodic meetings are held in order to share information, plans, and information around needs.

As a result of the need for preparation and of the demand for Red Cross services, the National Society has requested additional technical and financial support through its President, the Governing Board and operational personnel, taking into consideration the difficult financial situation and the prolonged timeframe of the crisis.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Honduran Red Cross volunteers and staff have been mobilized since the onset of the crisis in order to aid those affected by the demonstrations. Personnel from the Honduran Red Cross provided pre-hospital care to 30 injured people and mobilized 7 ambulances as well as 70 Red Cross volunteers and personnel. A violent situation occurred at the Honduras-Nicaragua border between the opposing political groups; the HRC immediately mobilized 4 ambulances and 30 volunteers from the local branches in the departments of El Paraiso to assist approximately 420 people.

The lack of communication equipment among the local HRC branches has limited provision of assistance. Volunteers and relief teams have been mobilized with medical supplies, ambulances and additional items to care for the injured people as a result of the demonstrations. The President of the National Society conducted a press conference about the Movement's Fundamental Principles and how the HRC is abiding by these in the assistance provided to the affected people.

As previously mentioned, the HRC drafted a contingency plan for the civil unrest. In relation to this, the National Society is planning activities to respond to any of the situations which could occur during the upcoming presidential elections. Additionally, the HRC completed a plan that includes response, presenting several worst case scenarios and the International Federation has developed a contingency plan that will respond specifically to those situations. Moreover, a plan of action was developed for the implementation of urgent activities to take place over the next three months. This includes preventive activities for the November presidential elections.

## The needs

The HRC has been carrying out activities to assist the affected people; however, this has placed an additional burden on its resources as activities are also being carried out in response to the recent earthquake that hit the country in May 2009. This has obliged the HRC to use its reserves in volunteer equipment, vehicles and financial resources. Even though the HRC has well trained National Intervention Teams to provide support in case of an emergency, currently the HRC Disaster Management Office (Oficina para la Administración de Desastres - OPADE) has limited human resources to face such a complex emergency.

The Honduran Red Cross's Plan of Action includes the pre-positioning of relief items: hygiene and first aid kits, provision of pre-hospital care, and logistical support including visibility and safety equipment for HRC volunteers. Furthermore, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member will be deployed to support the HRC. In addition, a workshop in logistics, Safer Access and the operational application of the Code of Conduct in complex crises will be carried out for volunteers in the HRC headquarters and local branches.

## The proposed operation

This DREF-funded operation aims to support the National Society to provide first aid and pre-hospital care to the affected people as well as to pre-position essential relief items including hygiene kits for 200 families and first aid kits, and prepare the Honduran Red Cross with human resources and volunteer equipment. As previously, training will be provided to HRC volunteers supporting the operation. In addition, the Honduran Red Cross will:

- Identify and integrate four National Intervention Team (NIT) members within the HRC.
- Identify and appoint a local operations coordinator and a RIT.
- Map the available warehouse resources of the National Society.

<b>Replenishment of volunteer equipment</b>	
<b>Objective: The operational capacity of 30 Honduran Red Cross local branches will be strengthened by receiving visibility and first aid equipment to respond to an imminent disaster.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Volunteers will be better prepared for civil unrest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the 30 HRC local branches</li> <li>• Bidding of suppliers following local procurement procedures</li> <li>• Mobilization of first aid equipment from PADRU to Honduras</li> <li>• Distribution of equipment among the local branches.</li> </ul>

Approximately 350 volunteers from the Honduran Red Cross will receive the following items and equipment:

- 10 first aid tents
- 150 portable first aid kits

The selection criteria process will be described in the DREF update.

<b>Disaster preparedness</b>	
<b>Objective: The Honduran Red Cross will be better prepared with the pre-positioning of hygiene kits and communications equipment. In addition, the HRC will carry out a workshop focusing on: logistics, Safer Access and application of the code of conduct in complex crises for its volunteers.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The HRC will be better prepared for the upcoming presidential elections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement and mobilization of 2,000 hygiene kits and communication equipment.</li> <li>• Installation of communications equipment in the local branches.</li> <li>• Holding of a logistics workshop with a significant component in</li> </ul>

	Safer Access and the operative application of the Fundamental Principles and the Code of Conduct.
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## 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](mailto:direcciongeneral@honduras.cruzroja.org).
- **In Honduras:** Nelson Aly, country project manager, Honduras; phone: (504) 220 4009; email: [nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org)
- **In Panama:** Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email: [fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org](mailto:fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- **In Panama:** Mauricio Bustamante, Operations Coordinator, email: [mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org](mailto:mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** Natalia Garcia, disaster management delegate of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit, email: [natalia.garcia@ifrc.org](mailto:natalia.garcia@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org); phone: (41) 22 730 4300.

[<DREF budget; click here to return to the title page>](#)

**DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY**

Annex MDRHN002

**Honduras****BUDGET CHF****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	3,185
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	28,077
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	46,706
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>77,967</b>

**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	5,308
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	637
Distribution & Monitoring	4,246
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,548
Service fee & Recovery	3,000

**PERSONNEL**

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	9,900
National Staff	
National Society Staff	5,785
Consultants	

**WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

Workshops & Training	5,095
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**GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	12,207
Information & Public Relations	4,777
Office running costs	1,776
Communication Costs	2,548
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	4,457
Other General Expenses	

**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR	9,750
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**Total Operational Needs** **72,033**

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**DREF ALLOCATION** **150,000**

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