

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Honduras: Civil Unrest

DREF operation n° MDRHN002
Update n° 2
7 December 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: 14 October to 2 December 2009.

Summary: CHF 150,000 (USD 144,199 or EUR 99,005) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 14 September to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) in strengthening the capacity of 30 local branches in preparedness for an event of a civil unrest due to presidential elections held on 29 November.

The DREF funds supported the pre-positioning of relief items, equipment for volunteers, medical and first aid supplies and operational costs. These items assisted the HRC in providing assistance during the several manifestations held during the time before the presidential elections on 29 November 2009. This update no. 2 reports on the National Society's activities carried out in preparation for the elections. Additionally, the budget was revised due to item modifications that will be distributed to local HRC branches to strengthen its disaster response capacity.

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

The Netherlands Red Cross has contributed CHF 22,646 and the Canadian Red Cross CHF 24,085 (CAD 25,000) to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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



The Honduran Red Cross staff and volunteers met prior to the election day to prepare the first aid and pre-hospital care units. Source: Honduran Red Cross.

The situation

On 25 June 2009 the Honduran Red Cross reported social and political instability experienced in the country due to political decisions made by the President. Since then, there has been high political tension in Honduras, compounded by the ousting of the President on 28 June 2009. This situation has caused pressure among the different political groups and the population is uncertain of the events this might generate in the future. The uncertainty the population faces led to a series of public demonstrations punctuated by calm periods. On 29 June 2009 and for several days afterwards, violent confrontations occurred in the capital city of Tegucigalpa.

On Monday 21 September, the ousted President returned to the Honduran territory and sought refuge in the Brazilian embassy in Tegucigalpa, while hundreds of his supporters gathered outside. The Honduran authorities imposed a round-the-clock curfew (on some days) and airports were closed down temporarily to avoid and control riots and violent demonstrations. Curfews are no longer in place and airports are operating normally.



Volunteers monitoring manifestations near the Tegucigalpa airport.
Source: Honduran Red Cross

The Honduran authorities imposed a round-the-clock curfew (on some days) and airports were closed down temporarily to avoid and control riots and violent demonstrations. Curfews are no longer in place and airports are operating normally.

Protests in major cities in the country have been periodically occurring in several regions of the country. There was tension among the population before the presidential election. A number of violent acts occurred several weeks before the presidential elections, including the

detonation of explosive devices in different locations, causing no casualties or major damage. The presidential elections were held on 29 November with no major problems or violent demonstrations.

Coordination and partnerships

The coordination and information channels are of crucial importance for the proper internal functioning of the Movement. The Honduran Red Cross is strengthening its institutional capacity to respond to the attention of the adverse events during the socio-political crisis from the past five months, with support and coordination efforts from Partner National Societies (PNS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation.

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) are in permanent contact with the National Society and have contributed to the HRC first aid actions with logistical support, complementing this DREF operation.

The ICRC has a permanent delegate in the country to provide assistance and support to the HRC in the area of safe access. In addition, the ICRC has provided technical equipment which includes portable radios, protective helmets and vests for the proper identification of volunteers.

The International Federation maintains constant support to the National Society in country through the country project manager and a RIT member deployed for a three-month period. The International Federation's through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit and Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico based in Panama have also been monitoring and supporting the National Society since the onset of the civil unrest.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Honduran Red Cross has been constantly monitoring the situation the country is experiencing since 28 June 2009. On 21 September, when the ousted President arrived in-country, the HRC activated its Emergency Operations Centre (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia - COE).

Volunteers specialized in first aid and pre-hospital care have been active in the HRC headquarters in Tegucigalpa. More than 130 people have received medical assistance for treatment of: respiratory complications, minor injuries, hypertensive anxiety symptoms, traumas, hyperglycemia, fractures and cephalic symptoms.

The communications system has been improved through the implementation of information and reporting mechanisms among the local HRC branches and the Emergency Operations Centre. The procurement of telecommunications equipment is a key component to this improvement. The local HRC branches maintain constant communication with the Emergency Operations Centre through the delivery of situation reports where all actions carried out are summarized for each of the local branches. The Emergency Operations Centre informs the National Disaster Intervention Teams through information reports and there is a constant flow of information between the HRC headquarters and the local branches. In addition, monitoring activities and information dissemination is carried out through communications media (radio, newspaper and internet).



Honduran Red Cross volunteers prepared the first aid kits. Source: Honduran Red Cross

The HRC in collaboration with the ICRC and International Federation developed and implemented a National Contingency Plan for the presidential elections that were held on 29 November 2009. The plan included information on the capacity of all the branches (human and logistical resources), as well as coordination mechanisms at all levels (national, departmental and local) for each of the possible scenarios that could take place and the definition of guidelines for intervention in each scenario. Fifty local branches implemented their own Contingency Plans for the elections based on the National Plan. .

The HRC with support from the ICRC has produced and distributed "Security and Operational Guidelines for election day". These guidelines provide the necessary guidance to the Honduran Red Cross to perform humanitarian operations safely during the presidential elections.

The National Society distributed the Contingency Plan and Operational guidelines in a preparatory meeting before the elections where the HRC National Headquarters members, Presidents and coordinators of all branches, the International Federation and ICRC participated.

In preparation for the presidential elections, the HRC activated its 757 volunteers in 46 local branches and mobilized 69 ambulances and 27 vehicles to support operations in several cities on 29 November.

The first workshop for staff and volunteers of the HRC Tegucigalpa branch on operating Secure Access in first aid and pre-hospital care was completed on 11 October. A total of 28 participants (8 staff and 20 volunteers) were trained during the workshop facilitated by the RIT member in the country. A second workshop on Safe Access and Safety Standards was conducted by the RIT member and held in San Pedro Sula, department of Cortes. Volunteers and staff from 11 branches in the country participated in this workshop. The National Society requested additional assistance in safer access in all trainings and workshops to strengthen the knowledge in the area. These activities were completed thanks to DREF funds allocated to this operation.

Additionally the HRC conducted three workshops to enhance the knowledge of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and the application of the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for personnel of the National Society in different areas.

Progress towards objectives

General Objective: To accomplish an effective and efficient response before a combination of disaster and Civil Unrest.

Specific Objective: Replenish equipment for the first aid team and visibility to 30 HRC local branches and the volunteer integration in preparation actions at a National level.

Replenishment of volunteer equipment

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.

Activities planned:

- Identification of the 30 HRC local branches
- Bidding of suppliers following local procurement procedures
- Mobilization of first aid equipment from PADRU to Honduras
- Distribution of equipment among the local branches.

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

- 10 first aid tents
- 150 portable first aid kits

Progress:

Selection criteria for 30 identified branches:

1. Branches reporting an increase of relief services and local events after the socio-political situation.
2. Located in points prone to social unrest and with major concentrations of people.
3. Logistical influence: branches located along the main roads of communication that make them strategic points in the case of possible paralysis of the country.
4. Branches in border areas.
5. Since elections were held in November (last month of the rainy season), branches located in areas prone to risk of adverse and recurrent events were taken into consideration.

The aforementioned items were distributed among the 30 local branches identified by the HRC:

Department	Local Branch
Francisco Morazán	Tegucigalpa
	Talanga
Cortes	Puerto Cortes
	Choloma
	San Pedro Sula
	Potrerrillos
	Pimienta
	Villanueva
	San Manuel
Atlántida	La Ceiba
	Tela
Valle	Nacaome
	San Lorenzo
Comayagua	Comayagua
	Siguetepeque
	Taulabe
Yoro	El Progreso
El Paraiso	Yuscaran
	El Paraiso
Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara
	Quimistan
	Trinidad
	Las Vegas
Copan	Santa Rosa de Copan
Intibucá	Jesus de Otoro
	La Esperanza

Olancho	Catacamas
	Juticalpa
La Paz	Marcala
Choluteca	Choluteca

The bidding and procurement process of first aid items has been completed. The first aid items were locally procured while 292 aid backpacks and 10 first aid tents were procured and dispatched by the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Panama. After the arrival of the items at the end of October, the HRC prepared the first aid kits and distributed them to the 30 identified HRC local branches along with the 10 tents days before the presidential elections. Due to the change in plans for procuring hygiene kits (see previous DREF update), the additional funds available helped to increase the number of first aid kits from 150 to 292. The DREF operation will also cover

The contents of the first aid kits were the following:

Quantity	Unit of measure	Description
30	Gallon	Antiseptic soap
30	Gl.	Iodine solution
30	Gl.	Clinical alcohol
30	Gl	Oxygenated water
30	LB	Big roll of gauze
750	Units	Roll of bandages of 2"
750	Units	Roll of bandages of 2"
300	Units	Elastic bands of 4"
600	Units	Triangular bandages
30	Tubes	Hyper Allergenic Surgical tape of 2"
150	Boxes	Latex gloves
30	Lb	Roll of cotton
30	Bottles 60 ml	Vaseline
30	Bottles 60 ml	Methyl salicylate
30	Gl	Anti spasmodic
30	Gl	Anti diarrheic
7,500	Unit	Acetaminophen of 500 Mg.
150	Units	Thermometer tapes
30	Boxes	Surgical masks
150	Unit	Burn ointments
150	Small bottle	Eye drops
300	Small bottle	Drops for toothache (Anestil)
150	Units	Antibiotic cream
150	Units	Scissors
30	Units	Stethoscopes
30	Units	Sphygmometer
150	Units	Cervical emergency collars (non orthopedic)
1000	Bottles of 100 ml	Empty plastic bottles with lid
1000	Bottles of 50 ml	Empty plastic bottles with lid
150	Units	Small lamps for pupil examination

Disaster preparedness

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.

Activities planned:

- Procurement and mobilization of 2,000 hygiene kits and communication equipment.
- Installation of communications equipment in the local branches.
- Holding of a logistics workshop with a significant component in safer access and the operative application of the Fundamental Principles and the Code of Conduct.

Progress:

- Procurement and mobilization of 2,000 hygiene kits and communication equipment.

As mentioned in the DREF operation update no.1, due to the increase in violent events related to the socio-political situation and the need for additional HRC interventions in first aid and pre hospital care, additional resources were allocated for these activities; therefore, the hygiene kits were not procured. The HRC could not locally procure the first aid and pre-hospital care equipment; therefore the National Society requested for PADRU to procure it. This process is still ongoing and the distribution of the equipment will be informed in the final DREF operation report.

- Bidding and procurement of the first aid and telecommunications equipment.

The repeater was procured and a HRC technician in telecommunications is installing it in a strategic location in the country in order to improve communications with all the HRC branches.

- Two logistics and safer access workshop were carried out to apply the operational principles and Code of Conduct in complex emergencies.

On 11 October the first Safer Access workshop was carried out including relief personnel and volunteers specialized on pre-hospital care and first aid from the Honduran Red Cross in the Tegucigalpa branch. The objective of this workshop was to strengthen the application of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement as well as the security measures recommended by the ICRC and the International Federation. This workshop took place over 7 hours with the attendance of 28 participants: 16 men and 12 women and was held with a participatory methodology since participants discussed case studies and carried out role play to understand better the technical concepts and be in a position to put them into practice.



One of the Safer Access simulation workshops was held in Puerto Cortes. Source: Honduran Red Cross

A second Safer Access workshop was held on 23 and 24 October in the city of San Pedro Sula (department of Cortes) and it conducted by the RIT member in-country. The methodology of the workshop included a simulation day and a presentation and discussion day about Safer Access in relief operations. A total of 22 participants, 18 men and 4 women, from 11 branches attended the workshop. At the end of the workshop each participant committed to replicate the workshop in each of their branches in order to reach more volunteers and staff of the HRC.

These workshops trained a total number of 50 (34 men and 16 women) staff and volunteers of the National Society. After the replications of the workshop more volunteers will be trained at the end of this operation. Moreover, the safer access sessions have been introduced in all trainings that were implemented during the last two months in order to ensure a complete participation from all braches and enhance knowledge among Red Cross staff and volunteers before the presidential elections took place.

Challenges

One of the challenges the National Society faced was that the medical and pre-hospital equipment could not be procured locally. This caused delays; the equipment is being procured by the International Federation's Regional Logistic Unit in Panama and will arrive after the elections. Nevertheless, the country situation is still complicated and the HRC needs this equipment to provide a better response in relief operations (first aid and pre-hospital services).

Another challenge for this operation is related to the external environment and the social political instability experienced before, during and after the presidential elections. Work towards an institutional strategy for internal and external communication to ensure protection of the National Society's integrity and to guarantee safer and more efficient access, has also proved challenging.

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) 2374558; email: malvarado@honduras.cruzroja.org.
- **In Honduras:** Nelson Aly, country project manager, Honduras; phone: (504) 220 4009; email: nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Mauricio Bustamante, Acting Head of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Natalia Garcia, disaster management delegate of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: padru.rit08@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (507) 380 0254; 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.

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

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Honduras Socio Political Tension

Annex 1
MDRHN002

BUDGET CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	3,185
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	74,782
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Total Relief Needs	77,967

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	6,950
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,598
Service fee & Recovery	3,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	9,900
National Staff	
National Society Staff	6,564
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	4,564
----------------------	-------

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	9,563
Information & Public Relations	4,777
Office running costs	2,246
Communication Costs	2,663
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	4,513
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	9,750
-------------------------	-------

Total Operational Needs	72,033
--------------------------------	---------------

DREF ALLOCATION	150,000
------------------------	----------------
