

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Honduras: Civil Unrest

**DREF Final Report**  
**DREF operation n° MDRHN002**  
**19 March 2010**

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 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.

**Summary:** 150,000 Swiss francs (144,199 US dollars/ 99,005 Euros) 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 2009.

The DREF funds supported the pre-positioning of equipment for volunteers, medical and first aid supplies and operational costs. These items enabled the HRC in providing assistance during the several manifestations held before, during and after the presidential elections.

The Netherlands Red Cross has contributed 22,646 Swiss francs and the Canadian Red Cross 24,085 Swiss francs (25,000 Canadian dollars) 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>



**Honduran Red Cross volunteers from the branch in San Pedro Sula providing medical assistance during protests held during the Presidential elections. Source: Honduran Red Cross**

[<Click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

## 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 caused pressure among the different political groups and the population was uncertain of the events this might generate in the future. The uncertainty the population faced 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.



**Honduran Red Cross volunteers and available ambulances near the public demonstrations held in September 2009 by the United Nations office in Tegucigalpa. Source: Honduran Red Cross**

On Monday 21 September 2009, the ousted President returned to 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.

Although there were protests in major cities in the country and several violent acts occurred 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 2009 with no major problems or violent demonstrations.

On 27 January 2010, the Presidential Inauguration was held, same date that the ousted President left the Brazilian Embassy and travelled to the Dominican Republic without any major incidents.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since 28 June 2009, the Honduran Red Cross was constantly monitoring the situation throughout the country. The Emergency Operations Centre (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia - COE) and volunteers specialized in first aid and pre-hospital care were activated throughout this DREF operation. Additionally, it is the first time the HRC has faced this type of emergency situation.

To date, more than 150 people received medical assistance for treatment of: respiratory complications, minor injuries, hypertensive anxiety symptoms, traumas, hyperglycaemia, fractures and cephalic symptoms.

The HRC in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) 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. Additionally, the HRC with support from the ICRC has produced the "Security and Operational Guidelines for election day". These guidelines

provided the necessary guidance to the Honduran Red Cross personnel and volunteers to perform humanitarian operations safely during the presidential elections. Both documents were distributed and discussed before the Elections.



**Presidents from all Honduran Red Cross branches held a meeting before the Presidential elections. Source: Honduran Red Cross**

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 was a key component to this improvement.

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.

Two workshops on operating Secure Access in first aid and pre-hospital care were completed before the Elections. The National Society requested additional assistance in Safer Access in all trainings and workshops to strengthen the knowledge in the area. 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.

## Achievements against 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.

This DREF allocation also covered the costs of per diem for volunteers, fuel for ambulances, visibility material (stickers), office and communication related costs.

Replenishment of volunteer equipment
<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>Activities planned:</b>
<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>

Thirty local branches from the Honduran Red Cross have received the following items and equipment:

- 10 first aid tents
- 292 portable first aid kits
- Pre-hospital equipment

The first aid items were locally procured while 292 aid backpacks and 10 first aid tents were procured and dispatched by the IFRC's 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. Because of the change in plans for procuring hygiene kits (see [DREF operations update n° 1](#)), the additional funds available helped to increase the number of first aid kits from 150 to 292. The aforementioned items were distributed among the 30 local branches identified by the HRC:

### 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
	Siguatopeque
	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 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	60 ml bottle	Vaseline
30	60 ml bottle	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	Toothache drops (Anestil)
150	Units	Antibiotic cream
150	Units	Scissors
30	Units	Stethoscopes
30	Units	Sphygmomanometer
150	Units	Cervical emergency collars (non orthopaedic)
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.

As mentioned in the DREF operation updates n° 1 and 2, 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 initially planned were not procured. The HRC could not locally procure the first aid and pre-hospital care equipment; therefore the National Society requested for the RLU to procure the inputs. This process was a challenge for the operation as there was not enough time to despatch the cargo before the elections. Nonetheless, the following pre-hospital care equipment was sent and is now already in the Honduran Red Cross' warehouse:

#### First aid kits detailed content

Description	Quantities per unit
Vehicular extraction vest	40
Rigid plastic board	40
Harness for support	40
Cervical collar kits (6 units)	40
Digital thermometer	40
Manual vacuum for secretions	40
Manual resuscitator (AMBU)	20
Stretcher (scooper)	35
Type D aluminium cylinder with 420 litres capacity	40
Backpacks	40
Regulator of 0 to 25 LPM	40
CPR mask with bag	100
Adult and paediatric masks for high concentration kit	40

The repeater antenna was procured and installed in a strategic location in the country in order to improve communications with all the Honduran Red Cross 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 training relief personnel and volunteers specialized on pre-hospital care and first aid from the Tegucigalpa HRC branch. The objective of this workshop was to strengthen the application of the fundamental principles as well as the security measures recommended by the ICRC and IFRC. During this one-day workshop a total of 28 people participated (16 men and 12 women). The training session was held with a participatory methodology since participants discussed case studies and carried out role playing exercises to understand better the technical concepts and be in a position to put them into practice.



**Repeater installed in the Cerro Negro mountain in the department of Copan. 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 was 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 the branches and enhance knowledge among Red Cross staff and volunteers before the presidential elections took place.

#### **Impact:**

Thanks to equipment, training and preparation methodologies for socio-political crisis events, the National Society was well prepared for the Presidential Elections. The installed capacity and the empowerment of volunteers and permanent staff has been one of the main accomplishments of this operation.

The HRC has carried out an evaluation of the operation during the first week of December 2009 in order to analyse the challenges, goals and lessons learnt. The results show the strengths and weaknesses of the National Society and the importance of integrating the Safer Access component in all activities being developed by volunteers and staff. The experience has been registered in order to be better prepared for future similar situations.

One of the challenges the National Society faced was that the medical and pre-hospital equipment could not be procured locally, which caused delays. At the end, the equipment was procured by RLU in Panama but it arrived after the elections.

Another challenge for this operation was 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## **Contact information**

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRHN002 - Honduras - Civil Unrest

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/9-2010/3
Budget Timeframe	2009/9-2009/12
Appeal	MDRHN002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	150,000					150,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	128,349					128,349
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	128,349					128,349
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	128,349					128,349
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	128,349					128,349
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	86%					86%

## II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	128,349					128,349
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-128,349					-128,349
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	0					0

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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>150,000</b>					<b>150,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	3,185	2,809				2,809	376	
Medical & First Aid	74,783	71,917				71,917	2,866	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>77,968</b>	<b>74,726</b>				<b>74,726</b>	<b>3,242</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom	5,308	4,970				4,970	338	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>5,308</b>	<b>4,970</b>				<b>4,970</b>	<b>338</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	637	1,146				1,146	-509	
Distribution & Monitoring	6,950	650				650	6,300	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,598	4,405				4,405	-2,807	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>9,184</b>	<b>6,201</b>				<b>6,201</b>	<b>2,984</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff	9,900	9,560				9,560	340	
National Society Staff	6,564	5,823				5,823	742	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>16,464</b>	<b>15,383</b>				<b>15,383</b>	<b>1,082</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	4,564	3,166				3,166	1,398	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>3,166</b>				<b>3,166</b>	<b>1,398</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	9,563	3,644				3,644	5,919	
Information & Public Relation	4,777	6,064				6,064	-1,287	
Office Costs	2,246	3,286				3,286	-1,040	
Communications	2,663	2,778				2,778	-115	
Financial Charges	4,512	-878				-878	5,391	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>23,762</b>	<b>14,894</b>				<b>14,894</b>	<b>8,868</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	9,750	8,292				8,292	1,458	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>9,750</b>	<b>8,292</b>				<b>8,292</b>	<b>1,458</b>	
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries	3,000	718				718	2,282	
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>718</b>				<b>718</b>	<b>2,282</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>128,349</b>				<b>128,349</b>	<b>21,651</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>21,651</b>				<b>21,651</b>		