# DREF operation update

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

# Mexico: Hurricane Jimena

**DREF operation n° MDRMX003**
**GLIDE TC-2009-000167-MEX**
**Update n° 1**
**22 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:**
15 to 17 September 2009.

**Summary: CHF 331,705 (USD 319,632 or EUR 219,302) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 families on 15 September 2009.**

The budget was revised to CHF 193,476 since the American Red Cross provided a bilateral contribution to the MRC consisting of 3,000 kitchen kits and 1,840 hygiene kits. Therefore, CHF 133,730 will be reimbursed to DREF.

MRC personnel carrying out assessments in the community of Santa Rosalia. Source: Mexican Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross kindly contributed 48,314 Swiss francs (CAD 50,000) 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

On 3 September 2009, Hurricane Jimena hit the coast of Baja California, Mexico as a category two hurricane. The storm caused infrastructural damages to homes, businesses, electricity, water and also affected the transportation sector. This DREF allocation will provide the Mexican Red Cross with essential relief items for immediate distribution and re-positioning of stocks.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 14 December 2009; a Final Report will be made available by 14 March 2010 (three months after the end of the operation). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

***<Click here for the DREF revised budget, or here for contact details>***

# The situation

Hurricane Jimena made landfall on 3 September 2009 on the coast of Baja California in Mexico as a category two hurricane. The storm lasted for 80 hours over the area, causing major damages to homes and businesses located in the small cities along the coastline. The rain and heavy winds damaged rooftops while water levels of the Mulege River rose by 10 metres sweeping up everything in its way. Forty five per cent of the homes in CD Constitución, Puerto Lopez Mateos, Magadalena and Puerto Alcatraz, amongst other cities sustained roof top damages. The state government is procuring zinc sheets and will supply 10 sheets per family.

Hurricane Jimena generated 711 ml of rain in Guaymas and 360 ml in Empalme, both cities in the state of Sonora. The main road located between San José del Cabo and Tijuana is affected due to several creeks that overflowed. The airports in los Cabos, La Paz and Loreto which were temporarily closed are now functioning normally and did not sustain damages. Several ports were also temporarily closed and are currently operating. The major sectors affected by Jimena were the electric and water systems, especially in Santa Rosalia, which remains without safe drinking water. The municipal government has supplied portable water units, but these are insufficient for the entire population. Seventy per cent of the electricity network between the cities of Constitución and Santa Rosalia was affected due to damaged power lines and conduction towers. There are still electricity shortages at night. The MRC local branches in CD Constitución and Santa Rosalia sustained infrastructural damages. Preliminary reports indicate that Jimena caused over USD 37,544,866 in damages.

The most affected municipality is Mulege, located in the northern region of the state of Baja California. The second most affected municipality is Santa Rosalia City, the capital of the state of Baja California. A total of 72,000 people have been affected, 4 have been reported dead and 2,500 people are in temporary shelters due to the effects of Hurricane Jimena.

Due to the distance between the affected cities, CD Constitución and Santa Rosalia (approximately 400 kilometres), Mexican Red Cross assessment teams had difficulty in carrying out assessments due to the vast distances and level of damages caused by the hurricane. Several ranches in these cities could only receive assistance through helicopters from the Marine Secretary.

School classes were suspended in Guaymas and Empalme. The Federal government through the local State authorities of the affected population has been coordinating activities with the Mexican army, the National Electricity Commission and the National Water Commission.

**Mexican Red Cross personnel and local fishermen loading relief items for distribution in Puerto Adolfo Lopez Mateos, Baja California. Source: Mexican Red Cross**

## Coordination and partnerships

Since the onset of the emergency, the Federal government activated the Mexican army Contingency Plan to assist the civil population. The Health Ministry, National Water Commission, the Federal Electricity Commission and the Social Development Secretary have also been coordinating with the MRC response actions. The MRC assessment personnel have been coordinating with state authorities to facilitate the distributions in the affected areas.

The MRC has been in constant communication with the International Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico.

# Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Mexican Red Cross established a support unit to carry out the emergency operations. Branches in the state of Baja California Sur deployed 35 vehicles, and 16 rescue units were also mobilized. A total of 170 volunteers have been involved in emergency response.

A National Intervention Team was deployed from the National Society headquarters and is currently in the field, coordinating with the branches to provide support. The Mexican Red Cross's National Relief Coordinator prioritized the evacuation of people in high risk zones.

Along with the local authorities, the Mexican Red Cross is maintaining communication with the International Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico in order to coordinate the implementation of the plan of action within this DREF operation. The Mexican Red Cross has also maintained constant communication with Partner National Societies (PNS) and other international organizations. The American Red Cross has kindly contributed bilaterally to the MRC by providing hygiene and kitchen kits.

**The Mexican Red Cross has distributed relief items to affected families in the Mulege municipality, located in the northern region of the state of Baja California. Source: Mexican Red Cross**

The local MRC branches in Sonora, Baja California South and Baja California North with the MRC National Rapid Response Unit (Unidad Nacional de Intervención Rápida - UNIR) are working in the affected areas performing several relief activities. The MRC has been focusing on the distribution of humanitarian aid and, to date, 30 tons of relief items have been distributed by the MRC including food parcels, hygiene kits, children's kits, cleaning kits, chlorine, kitchen kits and school kits. Thirty damage and needs assessment experts from the three affected states have been mobilized to carry out a detailed assessment.

## Progress towards objectives

The MRC plan of action aims to assist 3,000 families with essential relief items to assist with the cleaning of homes and the replenishment of basic household items. In addition, the affected families will receive relief items including: hygiene kits, cleaning kits and mosquito nets. The DREF allocation will also cover distribution and monitoring costs, mobilization and per diem of Mexican Red Cross volunteers assisting in the distributions. Moreover, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member has been budgeted to provide support if the National Society requires it. The operation will also cover one operations coordinator and a member of staff working in disaster risk reduction from the National Society working in the operation.

| **Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)** | |
|---|---|
| **Objective: 3,000 families in the areas most affected by Hurricane Jimena will receive essential relief items.** | |
| **Expected results** | **Activities planned** |
| 3,000 families' living conditions will be improved by receiving relief items. | • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.<br>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.<br>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.<br>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.<br>• Develop an exit strategy. |

The hygiene kits will contain:

| No. | Hygiene kit (for 5 persons for 1 month) | Quantities |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Washing powder, 1 kg, for washing machine, for cloth | 3 |
| 2 | Toilet paper (rolls) | 12 |
| **3** | Body soap, (100g bar) | 5 |
| 4 | Toothpaste tube (75 ml) | 5 |
| **5** | Tooth brush | 5 |
| 6 | Shampoo (250 ml) | 2 |
| 7 | Disposable razor | 5 |
| 8 | Hygienic pads (packages) | 8 |

The International Federation's PADRU will dispatch 6,000 impregnated mosquito nets and 1,160 hygiene kits to Mexico (the remaining 1,840 hygiene kits will be provided by the American Red Cross through a bilateral contribution). Therefore, targeted families will receive hygiene kits, mosquito nets (2 per family) and cleaning kits. The 3,000 cleaning kits will be locally procured and will contain the following items:

| Cleaning kit | Quantities |
|---|---|
| Broom | 2 |
| Trash collector | 1 |
| Powder soap | 2 |
| Plastic gloves | 1 |
| Clorox | 1 |
| Pine sol | 1 |
| Cleaning cloths | 2 |
| Brush | 1 |

## 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 Mexico**: Isaac Oxenhaut Gruuzco, Relief Director, Mexican Red Cross; phone: (52) 55 36 27 08 94; e-mail: desastres@cruzrojamexicana.org.mx.
- **In Panama**: Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- **In Panama**: Mauricio Bustamante, Operations Coordinator of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit, email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** Francisco Maldonado, disaster management delegate of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit, email: francisco.maldonado@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** María Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
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***<Revised budget; or click here to return to the title page>***

**APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY** Annex 1

Mexico: Hurricane Jimena MDRMX003

| | ORIGINAL | REVISED | VARIANCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **RELIEF NEEDS** | | | |
| Shelter | | | 0 |
| Construction Materials | | | 0 |
| Clothing & Textiles | 31,170 | 31,170 | 0 |
| Food | | | 0 |
| Seeds & Plants | | | 0 |
| Water & Sanitation | | | 0 |
| Medical & First Aid | | | 0 |
| Teaching Materials | | | 0 |
| Utensils & Tools | 138,987 | 54,828 | 84,159 |
| Other Supplies & Services | 68,574 | 26,515 | 42,059 |
| **Total Relief Needs** | **238,731** | **112,513** | **126,218** |
| **CAPITAL EQUIPMENT** | | | |
| Land & Buildings | | | 0 |
| Vehicles Purchase | | | 0 |
| Computers & Telecom Equipment | | | 0 |
| Office/Household Furniture & Equip. | | | 0 |
| Medical Equipment | | | 0 |
| Other Machinery & Equipment | | | 0 |
| **TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES** | | | |
| Storage - Warehouse | | | 0 |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 35,802 | 35,802 | 0 |
| Transport & Vehicles Costs | | | 0 |
| Service fee & Recovery | 9,500 | 5,000 | |
| **PERSONNEL** | | | |
| International Staff | | | 0 |
| Regionally Deployed Staff | 3,300 | 3,300 | 0 |
| National Staff | | | 0 |
| National Society Staff | 7,976 | 7,976 | 0 |
| Consultants | | | 0 |
| **WORKSHOPS & TRAINING** | | | |
| Workshops & Training | | | 0 |
| **GENERAL EXPENSES** | | | |
| Travel | 4,725 | 4,725 | 0 |
| Information & Public Relations | 1,039 | 1,039 | 0 |
| Office running costs | 520 | 520 | 0 |
| Communication Costs | 312 | 312 | 0 |
| Professional Fees | | | 0 |
| Financial Charges | 8,240 | 9,713 | -1,473 |
| Other General Expenses | | | 0 |
| **PROGRAMME SUPPORT** | | | |
| Programme Support - PSR | 21,561 | 12,576 | 8,985 |
| **Total Operational Needs** | **92,975** | **80,963** | **7,512** |
| **Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)** | **331,706** | **193,476** | **133,730** |