

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Panama: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPA005
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000252-PAN
25 June 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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: 55,038 Swiss francs (54,459 US dollars/ 36,425 euro) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 26 November 2009 to support the Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) in replenishing relief items distributed from prepositioned stocks to assist some 1,250 people.

A total of 250 affected families (200 in the Darien province and 50 families in Colón province) have received essential food and non-food items thanks to support provided by this DREF allocation.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed 20,000 euro and the Canadian government –via the Canadian Red Cross– contributed 20,000 Canadian dollars to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors of 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>

This operation was extended for one additional month to close payments to suppliers.

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



A beneficiary receives non-food items in the Darien province. Source: Red Cross Society of Panama

The situation

Since 19 November, a high pressure system located over the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea caused heavy rain in Central America. According to the Panamanian National Civil Protection System (Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil - SINAPROC), this phenomenon produced heavy rain and floods. Rivers overflowed and floods caused landslides mainly affecting the provinces of Darien and Colon. These provinces sustained damages to the housing sector, basic services, infrastructures and family livelihoods. It is difficult to access the most affected areas, since they could only be reached by air, or by walking through the flooded rivers. In the province of Darien, 4,138 people were affected by the overflowing of 4 rivers. According to SINAPROC, 70 per cent of the agricultural production was damaged.

Province of Darien



Affected families are reached through the distribution of relief items in the province of Darien. Source: Red Cross Society of Panama.

According to assessments conducted by SINAPROC, a number of communities in Darien were affected by the overflowing of four rivers: Rio Chico, Rio Tupiza, Rio Tuqueza and Rio Chucunaque, whilst other communities were affected by floods and landslides due to the heavy rainfall.

SINAPROC reported that the agricultural sector and the livelihoods were affected in the Darien province. The assessments conducted in this province reflected the severe damages to crops and family orchards that were destroyed. The Civil Protection provided assistance to the people affected by distributing food parcels, safe drinking water and water purification tablets.

Province of Colon

SINAPROC reported that heavy rain and

floods also affected the province of Colon, mainly in the community of Eyadrua. A total of 30 families (110 people were affected, including: 60 children up to 17 years old; and 50 adults between 18 and 60 years old). In the district of Portobelo, 20 families from the communities of Buena Ventura, Bello Horizonte, Valle de la Media Luna and Maria Soto were affected by floods and landslides. At the onset of the emergency, roads were blocked for a period of eight hours and the local government along with the RCSP conducted rescue and evacuation activities with the people in high risk areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency the Red Cross Society of Panama was coordinating activities and reviewing assessment information with SINAPROC and the Ministry of Health. SINAPROC and the government provided drinking water to the most affected people. The Ministry of Agricultural Development (Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario - MIDA) carried out assessments in the affected areas to obtain agricultural production and housing damage details. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided technical advice during the assessments.



The Red Cross Society of Panama sent relief items by truck to the province of Darien. Source: Red Cross Society of Panama.

Since the beginning of the emergency the Red Cross Society of Panama carried out search and rescue, evacuations and first aid activities in the affected areas in coordination with SINAPROC. Initial damage and needs assessments were carried out by National Intervention Teams (NITs) in coordination with the Emergency Operations Centre (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia - COE) established in the town of Yaviza in the province of Darien and in the city of Colon (province of Colón).

There were 83 volunteers from the branches of Real and Meteti in Darien responding to the emergency in coordination with the COE. The COE was in permanent contact with the health, SINAPROC and police authorities.

In line with the assessments carried out, the National Society drew up a plan of action to meet the basic needs of 200 families (with food and non-food items) in the province of Darien and 50 families (with non-food items) in the province of Colon. The RCSP coordinated the delivery of safe drinking water and water purification tablets with the Ministry of Health in both of the affected provinces.

The International Federation, through PADRU and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico were in constant communication to provide support to the National Society. In addition, technical support was provided by a disaster management delegate from PADRU.

Achievements against outcomes

This DREF operation allowed the National Society to replenish its prepositioned stocks and cover operational costs related to this emergency response. The DREF allocation also covered other costs related to distributions such as: vehicle maintenance and gas, rental cost of a 4x4 pick-up vehicle, boat motor repair (used in Darien), accommodation, transport, and per diem for volunteers, the operations coordinator from the National Society, office and visibility costs (t-shirts, caps and overalls).

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 250 of the most affected families in the provinces of Darien and Colon will receive food parcels and essential relief items to assist them to return to their daily lives.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Local procurement of food items and items for children's kits.
- Dispatch of relief items from the Regional Logistics Unit in Panama to Darien and Colon.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

Impact:

The RCSP conducted rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with SINAPROC and local authorities. The RCSP reached 250 families in the provinces of Darien and Colon with essential relief items. The beneficiary selection criteria were based on:

- People directly affected by the floods and in vulnerable conditions due to extreme poverty
- Single mothers
- People with disabilities and heads of families
- Children and the elderly
- Families who lost their livelihoods
- Rural and excluded communities with no immediate access to resources

In the province of **Colon**, the RCSP provided humanitarian assistance to 50 families in the communities of Rio Gatun, Buena Ventura, Bello Horizonte, Valle de la Media Luna and Maria Soto. In addition, the RCSP provided training on how to use water purification sachets.

The following table shows the amount of items distributed to the 50 families:

Item	Quantity
Hygiene kit	50
Water (5.05 litres per family)	252.5 litres
Blankets (3 per family)	150
Water purification sachet (86 sachets)	4,320
Tarpaulin (1 per family*)	15
Mosquito nets (Six per family)	300
Soap (20 bars per family)	1,000

In Colon, the RCSP provided 15 families with tarpaulins that had lost their homes.

On 28, 29 and 30 November, the RCSP distributed relief items in the province of **Darien**, reaching 200 families. As mentioned earlier, the beneficiaries were selected by locality and level of loss of livelihoods (orchards). The following communities were reached:

Community in Darién	Number of benefited families
El Salto	70
Nazaret	48

El Comun	42
Nuevo Belen	35
Yaviza	5
Total	200

The 200 families received the following items:

Item	Quantity
Hygiene kit	200
Jerry cans (2 per family)	400
Plastic sheets (distributed according to the level of affectation per family)	150
Blankets (2 per family)	500
Water (1.5 litres per family)	200
Water purification sachet (12 per family)	2,400
Mosquito nets (6 per family)	1,200
Kitchen kit	200
Plastic buckets	200
Food parcel	200
Children's kit	200

The number of family members in the targeted communities oscillates between five and ten members; therefore, six mosquito nets were distributed per family. The National Society distributed a total of 1,500 mosquito nets in both provinces; the DREF allocation covered the cost of 500 of these, as the National Society was able to use 1,000 mosquito nets from its prepositioned stock.

Moreover, with the aim to strengthen the capacity of the National Society the following relief items have been prepositioned in RCSP warehouse in case of future emergencies:

- 136 jerrycans
- 85 tarpaulins
- 50 kitchen sets
- 50 plastic buckets

Challenges:

Distribution activities were challenging since many of the benefited communities were isolated and difficult to access. Nevertheless the RCSP completed the distributions by the end of November 2009.

How we work

All IFRC 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 IFRC'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 IFRC'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:

- **In Panama:** Jose Beliz, General Director of Red Cross Society of Panama; phone: (507) 315 1389; email: cruzroja@pa.gbnet.cc.
- **In Panama:** Francisco Maldonado, Acting Pan American Disaster Response Unit Operations Coordinator; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: francisco.maldonado@ifrc.org.

- **In Panama:** Fabricio Lopez, Representative of the Regional Representation Office for Central America; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Zuleyka Maynard, Resource Mobilization Officer for the Americas Zone; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone (41) 22 730 4300; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPA005 - Panama - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/11-2010/06
Budget Timeframe	2009/11-2010/02
Appeal	MDRPA005
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
A. Budget	55,038					55,038
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	47,471					47,471
C6. Other Income	47,471					47,471
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	47,471					47,471
D. Total Funding = B + C	47,471					47,471
Appeal Coverage	86%					86%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	47,471					47,471
E. Expenditure	-47,471					-47,471
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/11-2010/06
Budget Timeframe	2009/11-2010/02
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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	
BUDGET (C)		55,038					55,038	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	4,328	3,604				3,604	724	
Clothing & textiles	4,860	2,322				2,322	2,538	
Food	7,130	6,065				6,065	1,065	
Utensils & Tools	9,573	9,138				9,138	434	
Other Supplies & Services	10,695	10,320				10,320	375	
Total Supplies	36,585	31,449				31,449	5,136	
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,055	2,852				2,852	204	
Total Transport & Storage	3,055	2,852				2,852	204	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	2,648	2,627				2,627	21	
Total Personnel	2,648	2,627				2,627	21	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,037						2,037	
Information & Public Relation		3,291				3,291	-3,291	
Office Costs	817	3,116				3,116	-2,300	
Communications	815	20				20	795	
Financial Charges	3,900	-341				-341	4,241	
Total General Expenditure	7,568	6,086				6,086	1,481	
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,359	2,959				2,959	400	
Total Programme Support	3,359	2,959				2,959	400	
Services								
Services & Recoveries	1,823	1,498				1,498	326	
Total Services	1,823	1,498				1,498	326	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	55,038	47,471				47,471	7,567	
VARIANCE (C - D)		7,567				7,567		