

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central America: Tropical Storm Matthew

DREF operation n° MDR43006

GLIDE n° **TC-2010-000188-NIC**

TC-2010-000188-HND

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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: 20,000 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 24 September 2010 (DREF Bulletin issued on 27 September) to support the Central American Red Cross Societies to prepare for and carry out needs assessments in the wake of Tropical Storm Matthew.

With the support of the DREF, Regional Intervention Teams members were deployed to Nicaragua and Honduras to assist the National Societies on a timely manner before Tropical Storm Matthew reached Guatemala. In addition, the DREF was used to cover the damage and needs assessments in El Salvador and the travel costs of two delegates from the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to the memorial ceremony for the volunteers that passed away during the response operation in Nicaragua.



The IFRC supported Honduras and other countries in Central America to assess the impact brought by Tropical Storm Matthew. Source: Honduran Red Cross

The DREF allocation also covered fuel, volunteer mobilization and meals, communications costs. This report is final in terms of narrative and financials. The operation is now closed, with a final balance of 1,683 Swiss francs unspent and returned to the DREF.

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

The situation

On 23 September 2010, Tropical Storm Matthew, the thirteenth storm of the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season, developed while approaching the Central American Atlantic coastline. Several preventive measures were

taken to respond to the increased risk as Central America had previously experienced high rainfall since Tropical Storm Agatha that left the soil extremely saturated. The Nicaraguan and Costa Rican governments issued yellow alerts, while the Guatemalan and El Salvadoran governments issued an orange alert and the Honduran government issued a red alert for the municipalities near the Ulua River. Matthew made landfall in Nicaragua on 24 September and swept through Honduras, Belize, Guatemala and Mexico over the following days.

As anticipated, heavy rains resulted from the storm, leading to several local floods and landslides, but assessments revealed that the damaged was not as severe as originally anticipated. The following table summarized the effects of the storm on Central American countries:

Country	Affected areas and actions carried out by national authorities
Belize	The Toledo and Stan Creek districts received heavy rain and evacuations were undertaken ahead of time to community collective centres.
Guatemala	Floods affected the departments of Petén, Isabel and Suchitepéquez and landslides occurred in the departments of Huehuetenango and El Progreso. The National Coordination Office for Disaster Reduction of Guatemala evacuated people in several of the departments
Honduras	According to the Permanent Contingency Commission, the departments of El Paraiso, Atlántida, Isla de la Bahía, Colón, Yoro, Gracias a Dios (indigenous territory) and Comayagua were affected by heavy rains and evacuations were undertaken.
Mexico	The states of Chiapas, Veracruz and Tabasco received heavy rains and shelters were opened.
Nicaragua	The autonomous region in the North-Atlantic coast was affected.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Societies of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua participated in coordination meetings with their national disaster management agencies and raised their alert levels in accordance to the national and department levels. Their branches shared information with local representatives of the civil defence agencies and undertook preparedness activities in coordination with municipal organizations.

This DREF-supported operation financed the deployment of Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members to Honduras and Nicaragua as well as the operational costs of damage and needs assessments in El Salvador. It was also used to support the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) after the accident that took the lives of five volunteers during an operation in response to floods.

In addition, the IFRC supported the operations through the IFRC staff present in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras that are part of the Regional Representation of Central America and Mexico.

Achievements against outcomes

National Societies capacity

RIT members were deployed to support the National Societies in Nicaragua and Honduras. One RIT member went to Honduras from 25 September to 7 October 2010 to assist the Honduran Red Cross with needs assessments and gathering of information, as well as to guide them with the procedures to request support from IFRC if it was needed. The RIT also assisted with the assessments in the areas of Colón, Atlántida, Omoa, Choloma and El Progreso, areas that did not have Red Cross branches or where the information was insufficient.

In addition, the Nicaraguan Red Cross was responding to the cumulative effects of several weather fronts that occurred prior and after Tropical Storm Matthew, stretching their capacity. Therefore, the DREF was used to deploy another RIT member and a consultant to support the National Society with information management of the relief operations and reporting. They contributed with information-sharing between the NRC and Partner National Societies, the IFRC and the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). The RIT member and the consultant also supported the training of 36 volunteers and staff in a 2-day workshop on information management and communication with the press.

Assessments in El Salvador and Honduras

With the support of the IFRC, the National Society of El Salvador carried out assessments from 28 September to 1 October 2010. Nine assessments teams, each formed by four volunteers or staff members, were deployed to different communities. Information was collected in eight departments (La Unión, San Miguel, Usulután, La Paz, San Vicente, La Libertad, Ahuachapán, and Sonsonate) after coordination meetings with local authorities.

The table below summarizes the main results of the assessments:

Area		Usulután	Sonsonate	La Unión	Ahuachapán	La Libertad	San Vicente	La Paz	San Miguel	Total
Event	Floods	17	0	3	2	3	4	18	6	53
	Mudslides	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Type of affectation	Affected Families	496	6	200	140	45	60	289	284	1,520
	Affected People	2,480	30	1,000	700	225	300	1,445	1,420	7,600
	Families in collective centres	45	0	18	140	76	60	54	115	508
	People in collective centres	225	0	90	700	380	300	270	575	2,540
	Injured	108	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	109
	Pregnant Women	3	0	0	0	12	1	3	0	19
	Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Evacuated Families	6	0	18	140	32	60	54	5	315
Isolated families	0	0	112	0	0	0	0	0	112	
Infrastructural damages	Destroyed homes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Affected Homes	368	150	30	40	142	10	723	205	1,668
	Affected Schools	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
	Affected health centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

As mentioned above, from 30 September to 2 October, the RIT that travelled to Honduras supported their needs assessments. To complete this activity, the Honduran Red Cross formed three teams that deployed to Colón, Atlántida, Omoa, Choloma a land El Progreso. The results of their assessments are integrated with those from the rest of the country on the table below:

Area	People			Situation			Houses		Roads	
	Death	Injured	Missing	Evacuated	People in C. Centres	Affected People	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed
ATLÁNTIDA	0	0	0	897	621	1,122	56	0	5	0
COLÓN	0	0	0	1,039	989	1,039	0	0	0	0
GRACIAS A DIOS	0	0	0	701	299	751	0	0	0	0
ISLAS DE LA BAHIA	0	0	0	55	39	55	0	0	0	0
CORTES	1	0	0	4,156	1,888	4,156	132	0	11	0
SANTA BARBARA	0	0	0	25	25	25	4	0	5	0
YORO	1	2	0	914	729	921	0	0	2	0

COPAN	0	0	0	8	8	28	3	2	0	0
LEMPIRA	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	1	2	0
OCOTEPEQUE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
COMAYAGUA	0	0	0	0	5	43	7	0	4	1
INTIBUCÁ	0	0	0	110	110	110	0	0	9	0
LA PAZ	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
OLANCHO	0	0	0	33	25	8	22	2	9	0
CHOLUTECA	1	0	0	3,172	4,013	27,696	2,752	24	41	3
VALLE	0	0	0	1,062	650	3,874	890	6	70	1
EL PARAISO	0	0	0	783	214	787	54	41	8	0
FRANCISCO MORAZÁN	0	0	0	206	170	3	8	2	23	0
TOTAL	6	2	0	13,166	9,790	40,623	3,928	78	195	5

Incident in Nicaragua: On 2 October, volunteers of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and accompanying journalists were distributing relief items to communities in the Boaco department. On their way back from the distribution and unexpected flash flood trapped 2 of their vehicles with 11 people inside. Unfortunately, only five of them could be rescued. The loss of the five of their fellow volunteers and a journalist, together with significant material losses, had a deep impact for the National Society.

As a sign of support during this lamentable time, the acting coordinator and a disaster manager delegate from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit travelled to Nicaragua. They attended a memorial service for those volunteers that passed away during their efforts to assist families suffering the effects of the rains.

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:

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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/9-2011/2
Budget Timeframe	2010/9-2010/12
Appeal	MDR43006
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	20,000					20,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Other Income						
Voluntary Income	18,317					18,317
C6. Other Income	18,317					18,317
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	18,317					18,317
D. Total Funding = B + C	18,317					18,317
Appeal Coverage	92%					92%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	18,317					18,317
E. Expenditure	-18,317					-18,317
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

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)	20,000					20,000		
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,000	1,892				1,892	108	
Total Transport & Storage	2,000	1,892				1,892	108	
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300	1,424				1,424	1,876	
National Society Staff	5,000	2,787				2,787	2,213	
Consultants		5,278				5,278	-5,278	
Total Personnel	8,300	9,488				9,488	-1,188	
General Expenditure								
Travel	7,479	4,370				4,370	3,109	
Office Costs		643				643	-643	
Communications		596				596	-596	
Financial Charges	750	209				209	541	
Other General Expenses	250						250	
Total General Expenditure	8,479	5,818				5,818	2,661	
Programme & Service Support								
Programme & Service Support	1,221	1,118				1,118	103	
Total Programme & Service Support	1,221	1,118				1,118	103	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	20,000	18,317				18,317	1,683	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,683				1,683		