

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Ecuador: Floods

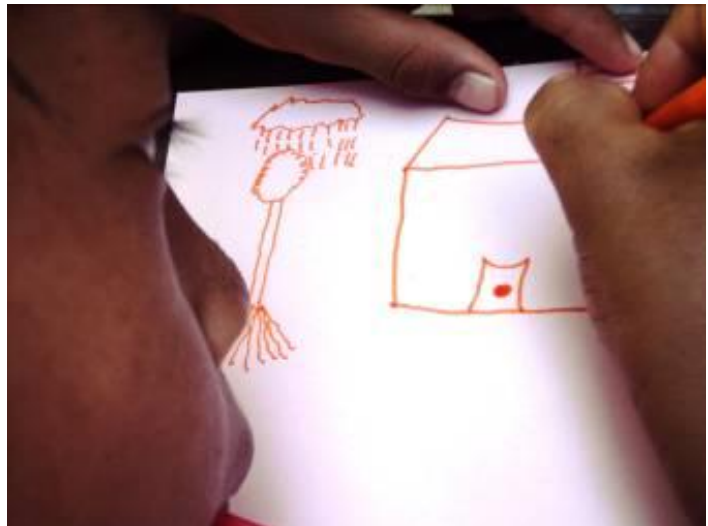
**DREF operation n° MDREC004**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2010-000023-ECU**  
**Update n° 1**  
**24 June 2010**

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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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:** 20 April to 13 May 2010.

**Summary:** 59,583 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 April 2010 to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) in delivering assistance to some 250 families.

A second distribution was carried out by the ERC, reaching 251 families with food parcels; 156 children (school uniforms); and 2 psychosocial support interventions where 56 children and 20 volunteers participated to assist them to cope with the crisis. This DREF allocation will support 250 families with essential relief items including food parcels, hygiene kits and cleaning kits.



**56 children and 20 volunteers received psychosocial support to overcome the crisis caused by the floods. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross**

This operation is expected to be implemented in three months, and completed by 19 July 2010. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 19 October 2010).

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed 28,694 Swiss francs 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>

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## The situation

On 6 April 2010, torrential rainfall in the Ecuadorian Amazon province of Napo caused the Napo River to overflow, according to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) 1,288 families were affected. Water levels reached three metres high in the city of Tena causing the death of two people. A hundred and seven homes and 3 bridges were destroyed, including 13 affected neighbourhoods and a road was obstructed. The government declared a national state of emergency.

After initial assessments and as the population returned to their homes, a census was conducted of all the affected areas assigned by the EOC. The first census identified 228 affected families, but after the first distribution of humanitarian aid, additional affected families were identified, increasing the number to 251 families in 12 communities.

Furthermore, after the initial assessments additional needs were identified such as psychosocial support for the affected population as well as for the Ecuadorian Red Cross volunteers from the Napo branch. These volunteers carried out search and rescue activities in the most affected community of Las Playas. In this community, group and personal therapies were carried out to handle post traumatic stress caused by the floods and loss of personal belongings. Fifty six children and 20 volunteers received therapy and participated in recreational activities for emotional support.

## Coordination and partnerships



Ecuadorian Red Cross volunteers carried out recreational activities with children in the city of Tena. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross

Since the onset of the emergency operation the National Society coordinated the response activities with several institutions and organizations. These institutions were: the National Risk Management Secretary, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, the Provincial Council, the Political Possession of the Ahuano district, the National Police and the Armed Forces in technical coordination and logistics, and with the Social Security of Retirees Association to provide warehouses.

Additionally, the IFRC through its DREF allocation has financed part of the plan of action of the National Society in the areas of: food items, cleaning and hygiene kits.

to be distributed in 4 educational centres since 179 students lost their uniforms and school supplies in the floods.

The ERC has also received contributions that include school uniforms from the Samaritan's Purse

School uniform distributions in 4 Educational Centres	Children
Camilo Cerda	38
Cristóbal Vargas	94
Centro de Formación Artesanal Básica	24
Guardería Camilo Cerda	23
<b>Total children</b>	<b>179</b>

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has completed its plan of action. However, the number of families reached increased since they were not included in the first census and the population required assistance. As mentioned earlier, school uniforms were donated by an NGO and were distributed by the National Society.

Since the onset of the emergency, the Ecuadorian Red Cross carried out evacuation, search and rescue activities supported by the military brigade from Selva Pastaza. Additionally, in the community of Colonio Bolívar, two people received pre-hospital care. The preliminary assessments and census of affected families were conducted in the following communities: Santa Margarita, Pacaichicta, Pivichicta, Chimbadero, Playas, Palandacocha, Punta Ahuano, Nuevo Paraíso, Barrio Rodríguez and Ahuano.

As a result of the disruption of the water supply in the Napo province, the Ecuadorian Red Cross mobilized from the provincial branch in Tungurahua, 4,000 litres of bottled water (5 litres per bottle) to provide safe drinking water to the population, until the water supply was re-established. Thus, the bottled water has been distributed in 12 communities supported by the ERC.

Furthermore, the National Society deployed two specialized vehicles with a water treatment plant and two specialists in water and sanitation. The water purification station has been set up in Ongota Bajo community

(with 110 families) located at 8 km from the Tena River. This plant can produce 1,000 litres per hour and store 5,000 litres. The flood-affected families in this community have received jerrycans (20 litres capacity) as well as training on water and sanitation.

To date the ERC has delivered the following aid (outside the DREF allocation) to 245 families:

1° Distribution						
# Families	Community	Type of assistance				
		Food parcels	Kitchen kit	Blankets	Water (litres)	Protective equipment
3	Ahuano	3	3	3	6	2
8	Barrio Rodriguez	8	8	0	24	8
23	Chimbadero	23	23	23	69	23
25	Nuevo Horizonte	25	25	25	75	25
8	Nuevo Paradiso	8	8	8	24	8
25	Pacay Chicta	25	25		78	0
29	Palandacocha	29	29	29	87	28
18	Paraíso	18	18	18	54	18
50	Pivi Chicta	50	50	50	150	50
26	Playas	26	26	26	78	26
18	Punta Ahuano	18	18	18	54	0
12	San Venacio	12	12	0	36	12
<b>245 families</b>	<b>Total distributed</b>	<b>245 parcels</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>200 families reached</b>

The National Society mobilized IT/Telecom equipment to support the relief efforts in the affected areas (two repeater teams). Other resources that have also been deployed to the affected areas are: a 5-member assessment team (mobilized from Pichincha), 40 volunteers trained in damage and needs assessments, 2 zone coordinators, 1 ambulance, 2 water and sanitation specialists (from the Los Ríos and Guayas branches) and 2 IT/Telecom technicians.

Thirty Ecuadorian Red Cross volunteers carried out damage and needs assessments in the Napo province, in coordination with the EOC. During the distributions of the humanitarian aid, three technicians responsible for the operation assisted during the distributions with support from the ERC headquarters.

## Progress towards outcomes

To date, 250 affected families have received 2 food parcels for a month. The cleaning and hygiene kits have been locally procured and will be distributed shortly.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<b>Outcome: 250 families of the most vulnerable families in the province of Napo are provided with essential food and non-food items such as cleaning and hygiene kits.</b>
<b>Outputs and activities planned:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Train Red Cross volunteers on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** Each family received a food parcel of 60 kilos per month. The transportation of the relief items depends on the capacity of boats and it is foreseen that several trips will be required to complete the delivery of the items, resulting in higher mobilization costs. The relief items will be procured locally.

Distribution of food parcels		
# Families	Community	Type of assistance

		Food parcels
5	Ahuano	5
16	Barrio Rodriguez	16
15	Chimbadero	15
21	Nuevo Horizonte	21
10	Nuevo Paraiso	10
47	Pacay Chicta	47
34	Palandacocha	34
14	Paraíso	14
38	Pivi Chicta	38
21	Playas	21
18	Punta Ahuano	18
12	San Venacio	12
<b>251 families</b>		
<b>TOTAL DELIVERED</b>		<b>251</b>

The cleaning and hygiene kits have been procured and are scheduled to be distributed on 15 and 16 of May and 19 and 20 June 2010.

### Challenges:

The highly dispersed population placed a challenge during the census and verification. Access through rivers to carry out the distributions averaged 10 to 22 trips by boat or canoe per each visit thus more volunteers were needed to reach the beneficiary communities. In addition, language issues placed a challenge for volunteers during the distributions since the communities spoke Quichua (a Quechuan language spoken in Ecuador and Colombia). Fortunately ten ERC volunteers spoke Quichua, which greatly assisted in the communication with the families reached.

## 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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