

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Ecuador : Floods

DREF operation n° MDREC004  
GLIDE n° **FL-2010-00023-ECU**  
21 September 2010

The Emergency Fund for Disaster Relief International Federation (DREF) is a source of funds and created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support for emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of disaster response system of the International Federation and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

### Summary:

59,583 Swiss francs were designated from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 April 2010 to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) in providing humanitarian assistance to 250 families affected by the flooding of the Napo River.

A large percentage of those affected were indigenous Quechua speakers who live along the Napo River and its tributaries. These communities traditionally obtain their daily food intake from plantain, cassava and papachina. However, these crops were lost due to the flooding. At the end of operation, 295 affected families in the province of Napo (eastern Ecuador), received the final delivery of humanitarian aid in line with the Action Plan of the Ecuadorian Red Cross on 12 June.

The overall Plan of Action of the ERC is valued at 132,090 Swiss francs of which 40 per cent was funded by this DREF allocation. The remainder of the Plan was funded by private sector in Ecuador and the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The National Society is grateful for the support received from its partners to implement its Plan of Action.

During the 3 months of implementation of the overall Plan of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (April-June 2010), 13 beneficiary communities received 1,680 food kits, 590 hygiene kits, 245 kitchen kits, 200 bed kits, 200 protection kits, 295 cleaning kits and 735 drums each containing 5lt of water, psychosocial support, clothing, school uniforms and also benefited from community mobilization activities while returning to their daily routine and recovering their livelihoods. This DREF allocation supported the purchase and distribution of hygiene and cleaning kits, and at least 250 food kits.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed 28,694 Swiss francs and the Italian Cooperation 20,000 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>

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



## The Situation

On 6 April, torrential rains caused the flooding of the tributary rivers of the Napo River affecting 1,288 families, according to the Emergency Operations Committee (COE). The water level reached up to 3 metres high within the city of Tena (capital of the Napo province), which resulted in 2 deaths, 107 destroyed houses, 3 collapsed bridges, 13 affected neighbourhoods and 1 blocked road. The Ecuadorian government declared a national state of emergency.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross developed a Plan of Action after conducting search and rescue activities. The Plan of Action focused on providing humanitarian aid for 250 families from 12 communities, with a three-month implementation timeframe.

By the end of April, 245 families' needs were met with the second distribution of aid. However, during these distributions 45 additional families were identified. These affected families had been relocated outside the target area and were staying with friends and relatives. They returned home after the river levels had subsided. Therefore, the Ecuadorian Red Cross included the additional families, increasing its coverage to 295 families during the last two distributions. The new families accounted for one additional community.

### Beneficiary communities:

1. Pacaichicta
2. Pivichicta
3. Chimbadero
4. Playas
5. Palandacocha
6. Punta Ahuano
7. Nuevo Paraíso
8. Barrio Boacana Rodríguez
9. Ahuano
10. Nuevo Horizonte
11. San Venancio
12. San Ramón
13. Nuevo Mundo



The Ecuadorian Red Cross transported the relief items for distribution via boats to reach communities. Ahuano community. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross

### Coordination and partnerships

Since the onset of the emergency, the National Society coordinated the response activities with several institutions and organizations. These institutions were: the National Risk Management Office (the national coordinating body), the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) and the regional and local government authorities (the Provincial Council and the local political authority of Ahuano). The ERC received technical and logistic support from the National Police and Armed Forces; while the Association of Social Security Retirees provided their headquarters in Napo as temporary warehousing space.

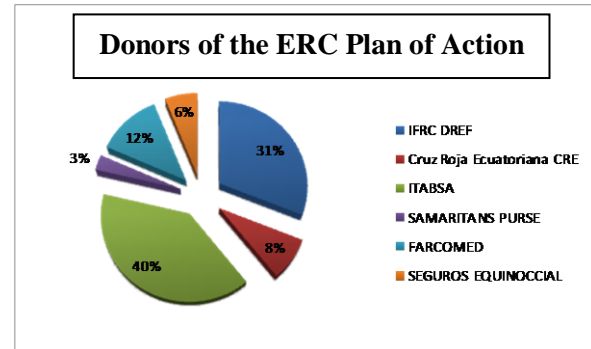
During the second distribution, Samaritan's Purse supported the relief efforts with the provision of school uniforms for three schools and a kindergarten. This support directly benefited 178 students who lost their uniforms and school supplies as a result of the floods.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross also received support for the final distribution from the following partners: Seguros Equinoccial (3,578 US dollars), ITABSA (15,000 US dollars) and Fybeca (Farcomed) (7,480 US dollars). In addition, Fybeca's staff volunteered to participate during the last scheduled distribution of humanitarian aid.

The communities understood that the Red Cross support was for their advantage and empowerment. This awareness promoted them to organize with neighbours and other communities the use of additional boats during distributions. During this operation, 42 boat trips and 105 trips with trucks or other land vehicles were made to complete the distributions.

The following table details the funds collected to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross Plan of Action:

CHF	USD	Institutions
52,302	48,113	IFRC DREF
40,959	37,678	Ecuadorian Red Cross
16,306	15,000	ITABSA
8,131	7,480	FARCOMED
3,890	9,658	SAMARITAN'S PURSE
3,890	3,578	SEGUROS EQUINOCCIAL

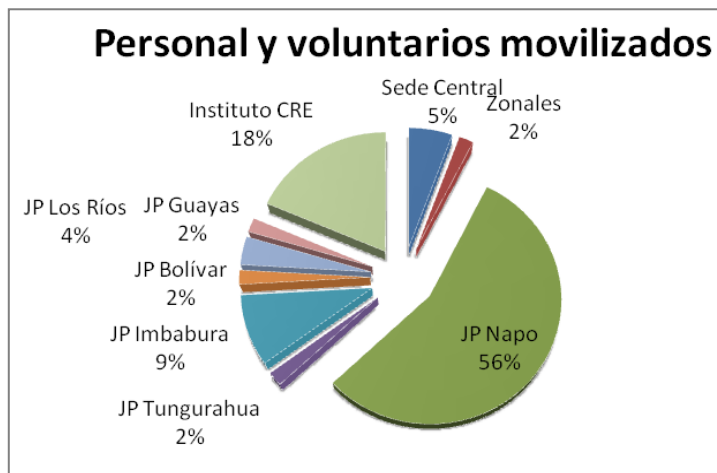


### Summary figures

- 295 families assisted
- 13 beneficiary communities
- 132,090,01 Swiss francs invested
- 3,210 kits delivered
- 161 people mobilized (88 per cent volunteers)
- 7 provincial branches of the National Society mobilized.

## Action of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund - DREF, facilitated the start of response efforts and positioning of the ERC. This encouraged national donors and partners to increase their contributions, which in turn allowed the ERC to implement its entire Plan of Action. Fifty eight per cent of the most affected population (1,475 people), as determined by the COE, were reached through the Plan of Action. The remaining 42 per cent was supported by the Ecuadorian government.



**Figure 1: ERC Personnel and volunteers mobilized per National Society branch to support the emergency response. (JP or Junta Provincial= branch, Sede Central = headquarters)**

volunteers mobilized for this operation.

The response efforts were supported in their majority by Ecuadorian Red Cross volunteers. Eighty eight per cent of people supporting the operation were volunteers from six branches and the Institute of the Ecuadorian Red Cross; while the remaining 12 per cent were paid staff of the Red Cross and the media. Nonetheless, during the last distribution all the operational and logistic activities were performed by Ecuadorian Red Cross volunteers from Napo. This demonstrates the enhancement of capacities within the National Society and the experienced gained by the volunteers. Moreover, the emergency response operation strengthened volunteering with personal equipment (raincoats, boots, helmets, vests and other supplies). The following graph shows the percentage of personnel and

The skills transferred to volunteers were also passed on to the communities through the dissemination of information on how to make Contingency and Family Plans. This training had the participation of 30 volunteers and over 40 representatives from schools, the Armed Forces, community members and business owners. All the participants were keen on learning how to prepare and respond to disasters.

## Progress towards objectives

This DREF allocation focused on covering the sectors of food items, non-food items, cleaning utensils as well as mobilization and transportation of people and relief supplies.

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>

### Impact:

The Emergency Operations Centre, as the coordinating body, collected information from the affected areas and designated which institution would cover each area. The Ecuadorian Red Cross was assigned an area with 12 communities: Pacaichicta, Pivichicta, Chimbadero, Playas, Palandacocha, Punta Ahuano, Nuevo Paraíso, Barrio Boacana Rodríguez, Ahuano, Nuevo Horizonte, San Venancio and San Ramón. During the second week of April, the ERC conducted damage and needs assessments. In the area of action of the Red Cross 250 families were identified. The relief assistance provided had to include food because the affected families lost their livelihoods, including crops, as a result of the flooding. The following table summarizes the relief distributions completed by the Ecuadorian Red Cross:

Distribution round	N° of Families reached	Food Parcels	Kitchen Kits <sup>1</sup>	Bed kits <sup>2</sup>	Water (5lt) <sup>3</sup>	Protection Kits	Hygiene Kits	Cleaning Kits
1 <sup>o</sup> distribution	245	245	245	200	735	200	0	0
2 <sup>o</sup> distribution	251	251	0	0	0	0		0
3 <sup>o</sup> distribution	295	594					295	245
4 <sup>o</sup> distribution	295	590	0	0	0	0	295	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>295</b>

As mentioned above, the Ecuadorian Red Cross identified 45 affected families that had returned to their homes in the community of Nuevo Mundo after the water levels returned to normal during the second distribution. The National Society included these new families in its target population and at the end of the operation reached **295 beneficiary families** (approximately 1,475 people) in 13 communities. Thus, the objective for this operation was surpassed by 118 per cent.

House by house surveys were carried out in which the Red Cross was accompanied by the local political authority of the area. Through this method, the number of families requiring humanitarian aid and the quantity and type of aid was determined.

During April and May, volunteers were trained on relief distributions by the Coordinator of the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The distribution of aid was conducted in four rounds in the months of April, May, June and July. In addition, on 11 July volunteers from the Napo ERC branch participated in a Contingency and Family Planning workshop, which provided them with firm concepts and more technical preparation for disasters. These trainings were covered through this DREF allocation.

<sup>1</sup> Kitchen kits were distributed with funds outside of this DREF allocation.

<sup>2</sup> The bed kits and protection kits were covered through the overall plan of the ERC, outside of this DREF allocation. Each bed kit consist of a blanket, a set of sheets and a pillow.

<sup>3</sup> Water was distributed with funds outside of this DREF allocation.

Before each distribution round, a distribution plan was made including travel costs, the number of volunteers needed, a registry of items and taking into consideration security and other issues.



A beneficiary waits with his ID and ticket for receive relief assistance from the Ecuadorian Red Cross. Source: ERC

The relief items were dispatched in convoy from the Ecuadorian Red Cross' headquarters (in Quito) and travelled between six to seven hours before their arrival to the Napo province. Then the Napo ERC branch verified the registry of the items sent. The communities were notified a week before of the distribution day. In the field each head of family had an ID and ticket from the survey that was taken by the Red Cross. All the information was cross-checked with the beneficiary lists. After this verification process, the beneficiary received the relief items and signed a receipt form.

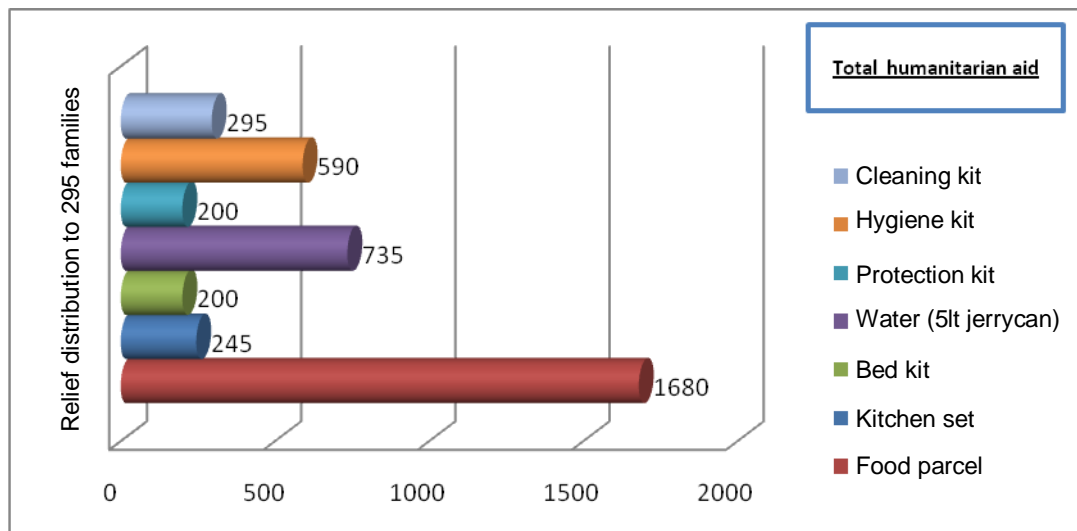
The monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities was conducted in a systematic manner by the National Society as well as reporting on relief distributions. An internal evaluation meeting was conducted after each distribution to gather lessons learnt and issues to improve. Upon completion of the response operation 14 internal situation reports were drafted, DREF bulletin, a DREF Update and a final report.

The monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities was conducted in a

Since the beginning of the community-based activities, volunteers fluent in the kiwcha language explained to the community members about the Red Cross actions and how long these would last. After each visit –both distribution and evaluation visits– the population was made aware of the scope of this assistance and how to move forward to re-start of their livelihood activities, particularly agriculture. Furthermore, as of the second distribution round of humanitarian aid, some families had already started to plant cassava crops. At the end of the operation, the majority of the communities had returned to their normal livelihood methods.

All the planned activities were completed within the three month implementation period of this DREF operation. Additionally, this DREF operation covered costs related to the effectiveness of this operation. Funds were used for distribution and transport of food items and kits, volunteers' accommodation and incentives, maintenance and fuel for vehicles and visibility and protection equipment for volunteers during the emergency response including: raincoats, helmets, boots and vest.

**Response from the communities reached:** In several communities the Ecuadorian Red Cross volunteers were welcomed with expressions of gratitude by the indigenous communities.



\* In the ERC warehouse, 155 extra hygiene kits were purchased with DREF funds to replenish the ones distributed by the National Society. These kits will help the National Society to speed up the distribution of relief items in case of future emergencies.



*"I want to keep the food ticket they gave me to have it with my ID and the birth certificate of my children. These documents are the most important documents in my house because they help me to remember the most difficult moments of my life, but also the day that the Red Cross arrived with help. It not only brought food to feed my children and husband, but also hope and encouragement to move forward..."*

**A mother from the community of Kiwcha Palandacocha**

### Challenges:

- The geographic dispersion of the target population made it necessary to re-check and redo the census.
- Due to the lack of accessibility over land, several boat or canoe trips were needed to reach the communities with supplies and volunteers.
- At the beginning of the operation, it was a challenge to work with the type of community structure, where the responsibility lies with the community leader only or certain clans; nonetheless, through the work of the ERC volunteers, the communities were empowered at the end of the operation.
- During the distribution of hygiene kits, volunteers realized that the mop was not appropriate for these communities because in many of the households the floors is made of soil. The evaluation made by the National Society included this as a lesson learnt. For future operations, alternative kits will be designed according to the location and culture to respond more adequately to needs of the most vulnerable.
- The main challenge experienced was the language barrier. In several of the communities, the population only speaks Kiwcha (an indigenous dialect) and few individuals speak Spanish. Nonetheless, it was a major asset to have local volunteers from the shuar ethnic group who were proficient in the local dialect. The volunteers from the area worked jointly with the communities to translate and explain the Red Cross actions and outreach.



**A total of 295 affected families in 13 communities from the province of Napo received food and non food items through the Ecuadorian Red Cross emergency response operation. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross**

## 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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# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDREC004 - Ecuador: Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/4-2010/08
Budget Timeframe	2010/04-2010/08
Appeal	MDREC004
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>	59,583					59,583
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	59,583					59,583
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	59,583					59,583
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	59,583					59,583
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	59,583					59,583
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	100%					100%

## 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>	59,583					59,583
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-56,022					-56,022
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	3,561					3,561

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/4-2010/08
Budget Timeframe	2010/04-2010/08
Appeal	MDREC004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### 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>59,583</b>					<b>59,583</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Food	19,738	18,939				18,939	799	
Utensils & Tools	7,895	6,676				6,676	1,219	
Other Supplies & Services	7,895	13,753				13,753	-5,858	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>35,528</b>	<b>39,368</b>				<b>39,368</b>	<b>-3,840</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring	4,211	624				624	3,587	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,105	1,596				1,596	509	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>6,316</b>	<b>2,220</b>				<b>2,220</b>	<b>4,096</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	4,473	5,911				5,911	-1,438	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>4,473</b>	<b>5,911</b>				<b>5,911</b>	<b>-1,438</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	2,105	817				817	1,289	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>817</b>				<b>817</b>	<b>1,289</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	1,579	437				437	1,142	
Information & Public Relation	1,053	2,474				2,474	-1,421	
Office Costs	1,579	1,324				1,324	255	
Communications	1,814	1,605				1,605	210	
Financial Charges	1,500	-1,552				-1,552	3,052	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>7,525</b>	<b>4,288</b>				<b>4,288</b>	<b>3,237</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	3,637	3,419				3,419	217	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>3,637</b>	<b>3,419</b>				<b>3,419</b>	<b>217</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>59,583</b>	<b>56,022</b>				<b>56,022</b>	<b>3,561</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>3,561</b>				<b>3,561</b>		