

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Honduras: Tropical Storm Agatha

DREF operation n° MDRHN003
Glide No. TC-2010-000105-HND
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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.

93,706 Swiss francs (81,056 US dollars/ 65,892 euro) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) in delivering immediate assistance to 250 families. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The first named tropical storm of the 2010 Pacific Hurricane season –Agatha– caused severe rainfall. Overflowing of rivers is causing floods over wide areas, there are several damaged bridges and roads and many communities are cut off.

Heavy rainfall through the western regions, Valle de Sula, Central and Southern regions of the country have caused flooding and landslides. Several departments and municipalities have been affected. The Honduran Permanent Contingency Commission (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias - COPECO) reports 17 deaths, 1 person missing, 4 injured and 3,227 evacuees with 235 people seriously affected, and 3,168 people who are currently in collective centres.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 31 August 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (30 November).

[<Click here for the DREF budget , here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



Floods in Tegucigalpa Source: Honduran Red Cross Society

The situation

The first named tropical storm of the 2010 Pacific Hurricane season –Agatha– caused severe rainfall. Overflowing of rivers is causing floods over wide areas; there are several damaged bridges and roads and many communities are cut off. Rescue activities are still ongoing and landslides are reported in many places in the country.

On 29 May Honduras began to experience occasional heavy rainfall with consistent rainfall through western regions, Valle de Sula, Central and Southern regions of the country, causing people to evacuate their homes due to flooding and landslides. The Honduran cabinet declared a state of emergency on 30 May and provided immediate assistance to people in collective centres, consisting of food items, water, mattresses, hygiene items and kitchen kits. This assistance was provided by the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO). The most affected departments are: Valle, Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, Lempira and Intibucá. However, other departments have also been affected to a lesser degree by the rains including: Cortes, Santa Bárbara, Yoro, Copan, Ocotepeque, Comayagua, and Olancho.

In addition, there have been many damages to the national infrastructure, approximately 30 roads, 17 bridges, 15 sewer drains, 5 schools and 2 public buildings have been affected. COPECO has also reported that more than 3,000 hectares of basic grain crops and 700 households have been affected and 63 homes have been completely destroyed.

People	Quantity
Injured	4
Missing	1
Dead	17
Evacuated	3,227
In Collective Centres	3,168

Residents in the affected areas are being confronted with needs for food, medical and communication services. Educational services have also been suspended temporarily as a result of the situation.

Tegucigalpa

The Choluteca and Guacerique River along with the El Sapo streams overflowed in different areas of the city, obliging residents to evacuate to collective centres in the city. Electricity services were interrupted in Tegucigalpa and Comayaguela. In addition, the Civil Department of Aeronautics closed the Toncontín Airport due to poor visibility because of the heavy rainfall.

Southern Region

The Choluteca River affected 70 homes in Pespire community, while the Goascorán River is affecting communities on the Costa de los Amates in the mouth of the Pacific Ocean including hundreds who have been affected in Valle in the lower areas of Costa de los Amates.

Valle de Sula Region

Currently both the Ulúa and Chamelecón rivers are under observation.

North Eastern Region

Two bridges have been destroyed in the Catacámas and one bridge in Dulce Nombre de Culmí.

Coordination and partnerships

The Honduran Red Cross, through its municipal branches, will continue supporting the actions at national and local level. The HRC is specifically supporting COPECO in the coordination of efforts, damage and needs assessments and initial assistance to the affected people.

The International Federation, through its country programme coordinator based in Honduras, is supporting the HRC. The PNS in-country – Canadian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross – are also supporting the HRC at the headquarters and branch levels to coordinate the disaster response.

The IFRC is ready to help communities in the Americas withstand the 2010 hurricane season through a careful integration of disaster response and disaster risk reduction activities, which translates into a more

effective and efficient coordination of processes involved in relief operations. The International Federation through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico, have been in constant communication with the Honduran Red Cross since the onset of the emergency. PADRU delegates are ready for deployment in case the situation requires it.

PADRU has also been in contact with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (DG - ECHO). In addition it is coordinating with Partner National Societies in-country. Once damage assessments are completed, PADRU will coordinate additional relief actions with the National Society, if required.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Honduran Red Cross has constantly been monitoring the development of the emergency and has activated its crisis room where early assessments and decisions on the situation are being made. The HRC through its local branches has been supporting the local committees in the coordination, damage and needs assessments (DANA) and initial response for the affected people.

The HRC branches are responding to the emergency through their volunteers. HRC volunteers are supporting search and rescue activities as well as the ongoing damage and needs assessments. The HRCS has 450 volunteers supporting the response efforts in the headquarters and a total 650 volunteers are in the field area already.

The National Society has trained personnel including NITs and staff specialized in assessments, logistics and relief to support the ongoing activities. For example, a specialized water rescue team was deployed to the south zone of the country to support efforts in the San Lorenzo and Nacaome branches. Relief goods are also being sent to these areas including hygiene kits and blankets.



HRC volunteers and personnel are conducting damage and needs assessments in the areas affected by the flooding.
Source: Honduran Red Cross

Based on previous lessons learnt, the National Society's vehicles were evacuated due their close proximity to the Choluteca Rive in case of flooding. Also, half of the blood reserve was mobilized to a safe location in the capital city to guarantee conservation and availability. Moreover, HRC volunteers in Tegucigalpa are conducting a census of the affected population living in the collective centres.

The HRC has started to assess the damage and needs of the municipalities in the southern region (near the Fonseca Gulf) and has 200 active volunteers. Furthermore, the HRC has provided technical support by deploying National Intervention Team (NIT) damage and needs assessment specialists to the affected areas.

In the Valle department the National Society has identified 1,800 families that have been directly affected by the rains and flooding. Assessments will continue in three additional municipalities in this department.

The needs

The most essential needs identified by the Honduran Red Cross are food, kitchen kits, hygiene and cleaning kits.

It is foreseen that programmes for crop recovery and the development of relocation and mitigation actions must also be implemented both in the short and long term

The proposed operation

This DREF operation aims to provide support to the National Society to complete damage and needs assessments as well as to provide relief assistance to 250 families through the distribution of food and non food items.

Damage and need assessments

Outcome: Honduran Red Cross NIT members will perform damage and need assessments in the affected departments.

Outputs:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop a plan of action, if required.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 250 families will benefit from the provision of essential food and non food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

Outputs:

- Identification of affected areas.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation'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 International Federation'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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- **In Costa Rica:** In Costa Rica: Fabricio Lopez, Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico, phone: (506) 526-4092; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org
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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRHN003 HONDURAS-TROPICAL STORM

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles	6,083	6,083
Food	21,725	21,725
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation		0
Medical & First Aid		0
Teaching Materials		0
Ustensils & Tools	15,062	15,062
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	8,690	8,690
Total Supplies	51,560	51,560
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring	2,897	2,897
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,586	11,586
Total Transport & Storage	14,483	14,483
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300	3,300
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	4,924	4,924
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
Total Personnel	8,224	8,224
Workshops & Training	2,317	2,317
Total Workshops & Training	2,317	2,317
Travel	1,738	1,738
Information & Public Relation	927	927
Office Costs	869	869
Communications	869	869
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges	3,500	3,500
Other General Expenses		0
Total General Expenditure	7,903	7,903
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	5,719	5,719
Total Programme Support	5,719	5,719
Services & Recoveries	3,500	3,500
Shared Services		0
Total Services	3,500	3,500
TOTAL BUDGET	93,706	93,706



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