

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Honduras: Tropical Storm Agatha

DREF operation n° MDRHN003
GLIDE n° TC-2010-000105HND
9 December 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: 93,706 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 31 May 2010 to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) in delivering assistance to some 250 families.

Initially, the Honduran Red Cross with technical support from the IFRC developed a Plan of Action to assist 250 families with food and non-food items. However, after the first month of delivery, coordination meetings with other agencies showed that the food needs of these families were being satisfied already. This allowed the HRC to reach additional affected families by distributing the remaining food packages to other vulnerable families. Therefore, 492 families were reached through this DREF operation.

In addition, the introduction of a seven day internship programme during the emergency operation was crucial for the strengthening of the HRC, especially its National Monitoring Centre. Finally, the HRC conducted an evaluation meeting with the staff and volunteers involved in the operation to gather information on its implementation and impact, creating a list of recommendations for future procedures based on the lessons learnt. All the planned activities were completed within the three month implementation period of this DREF operation.

The Canadian Red Cross contributed 16,426 Swiss francs, and the Netherlands government through the Netherlands Red Cross contributed 27,850 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

In May 2010, Tropical Storm Agatha struck Honduras, leaving behind 16 deaths, several injured, dozens of evacuated families as well as large losses of property, and blocked roads all over the country. The most



Food and non-food items delivered to 19 families at Colonia el Retiro, Comayagüela central municipal district (M.D.C.) on 18 August 2010. Source: Honduran Red Cross.

affected areas were the southern region, the Central District and the northern region of the country. On 29 May, the Government of Honduras declared a national emergency. The government coordinated the start of relief efforts with its different institutions and appealed to national and international organizations to support its response.

The HRC activated its contingency plan to support the flood-affected population, carrying out search and rescue activities, and delivering humanitarian aid through its own resources. However, due to the size of the disaster and the declaration of a national emergency, the HRC with the support of the IFRC drew up a plan of action to better respond to the population's needs. This plan of action included the completion of damage and needs assessments and family registration, the delivery of food and non-food items to 250 families, and an internship programme with the National Monitoring Centre of the HRC's Disaster Response Office. All the aforementioned objectives were reached; and in addition it was possible to reach an additional 242 families as a result of successful coordination with other agencies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From the onset of the emergency, the HRC activated approximately 900 volunteers in 36 branches to monitor, rescue, and assess damages in coordination with other institutions. Another 16 branches were on alert. The following actions were carried out during and after the emergency:

- Coordination with Partner National Societies (PNS) and the IFRC for the development of the Plan of Action.
- Mobilization of specialized rescue personnel and equipment (aquatic and urban rescue) and performance of search and rescue activities.
- Settlement of rescued people into secure collective centres.
- Installation of a water treatment plant and water tanks with the support of the Swiss Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. This made it possible to provide drinking water to 15 affected communities in the southern region of the country.
- Mobilization of vehicles to logistically support water distribution.
- Distribution of hygiene kits, blankets, jerry cans and tarpaulins to the affected population in the southern, central and northern regions of the country.
- Organization of psychological support brigades to attend to people in collective centres.
- Coordination with the Swiss Red Cross delegation to support 1,000 families from 15 communities of the Cholutega and Valle departments with basic relief items.
- Coordination with the Embassy of Japan to distribute one water tank (with a capacity of 3,000 litres) to each one of the six communities of the Nacaome municipality, as well as 500 blankets to the capital city's collective centres.
- Development of learning internships of National Intervention Team members within the National Monitoring Centre of the HRC.

The HRC's National Monitoring Centre coordinated with the Municipal Emergency Committee (CODEM) of Tegucigalpa to organize and support collective centres. The HRC's community branches coordinated at the community level within each affected zone. Finally, to maintain updated statistics of the affected population receiving relief, the HRC maintained constant coordination with the Permanent Contingency Commission (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias - COPECO) and the Department of Social Projection of the Central District Mayor's Office, as these two institutions were in charge of collecting donations and managing collective centres.

Achievements against outcomes

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.

Achievements: During Tropical Storm Agatha the first response came from the volunteers of the municipal and departmental branches. HRC volunteers carried out search, rescue and evacuation, as well as information-gathering. The HRC through its local branches supported the local committees in the coordination, damage and needs assessments (DANA) and initial response for the affected people.

Furthermore, National Intervention Team (NIT) damage and needs assessment specialists were deployed to the affected areas. The data gathered was then sent to headquarters for analysis and systematization by the Disaster Management Office (OPADE) of the HRC.

As a result of the damage and needs assessments, the Honduran Red Cross drew up a plan of action with technical support from the IFRC to assist 250 families with food and non-food items.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items) and assessment
Outcome: 250 families will benefit from the provision of essential food and non food items to recover from the effects of the emergency
Outputs and activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of affected areas after a rapid emergency needs and capacity assessment. • Develop a 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 relief activities and provide reports on relief distributions.

Impact: 492 families were reached through the provision of essential food and non-food items which helped them to recover from the effects of the emergency. This planned outcome was therefore met and surpassed. Two hundred and fifty families received a complete package of food and non-food items; while the rest received food parcels only (see below).

The HRC procured through the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) 250 kitchen kits, 250 hygiene kits and 750 blankets. Also, as part of the DREF operation, 500 food rations were purchased; each package had enough food items to cover the needs of a family of five members for one month. These food packages contained: 25lb of rice, 25lb of beans, 25lb of sugar, 20lb of corn flour and 10lb of lard. In addition, 250 kits of cleaning supplies were purchased. These kits contained the following items: 1 gallon of chlorine, 1 bag of soap powder of 450gr, 3 bars of dishwashing soap, 6 bars of laundry soap, 4 sponges, 1 floor mop and 1 broom.

The beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance followed these steps:

1. Coordination meetings took place with other institutions involved in similar relief operations with the affected population.
2. Meetings with local authorities were organized to determine the extent of damages in each zone.
3. A house-by-house census was carried out using a standard template from the HRC's OPADE.
4. Tickets were distributed to the identified affected families.
5. Basic relief items were then distributed to affected families.

The following table shows the number of families reached per community:

Nº	Name of the community, neighbourhood intervened	Type of relief items distributed	Number of families reached
1	El Guangelolo Village (central municipal district)	Kitchen kit Hygiene kit Blankets Cleaning kit Food rations	194
2	El Espino Village (located in the municipality of Venta del Sur)	Food rations	154
3	Barrio Abajo neighbourhood (located in the municipality of Pespire)	Food rations	25
4	El Retiro community (located in the central municipal district of Tegucigalpa)	Kitchen kit Hygiene kit Blankets Cleaning kit Food rations	19
5	La Ulloa community (central municipal district of Tegucigalpa)	Kitchen kit Hygiene kit Blankets Cleaning kit Food rations	16
6	Obrera community (located in the central municipal district)	Food rations	64

7	Los Pinos community (central municipal district)	Kitchen kit Hygiene kit Blankets Cleaning kit Food rations	11
8	Families of flood-affected volunteer living in the Pespire municipality	Kitchen kit Hygiene kit Blankets Cleaning kit Food rations	5
9	Volunteer families of San Lorenzo municipality	Kitchen kit Hygiene kit Blankets Cleaning kit Food rations	2
10	Volunteer families of Nacaome municipality	Kitchen kit Hygiene kit Blankets Cleaning kit Food rations	1
11	Volunteer families of central municipal district of Tegucigalpa	Kitchen kit Hygiene kit Blankets Cleaning kit Food rations	1
Total number of families reached			492
*Food parcels damaged due to dampness			8

The following table describes the population reached by age group:

Age group	0-2	3-5	6-12	13-18	19-29	30-59	+60	Total
Number of People	130	101	273	291	369	411	137	1,712 people
The average number of members per family is 4								

The HRC placed special attention on providing relief support to the most vulnerable families within the affected population. The next table shows the number of families with special conditions that were assisted through this operation:

	Families headed by a single mother	Families headed by a single father	Families with a member living with disability
Number of Families	56	10	22

Changes to the original plan:

The original plan of action for the DREF operation was to provide relief items to 250 families in a two-stage distribution plan. In the first stage, the families would receive 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen kit, 3 blankets, 1 cleaning kit and 1 food ration package (enough for one month). In the second stage these same families were going to receive a second food ration package. However, after coordination meetings with the institutions which are members of the National Risk Management System, it became clear that those families assisted by the HRC were also going to receive support from other institutions. Therefore, in order to avoid duplicating efforts, OPADE decided to deliver the second food ration package to other families affected by Tropical Storm Agatha that had not yet received emergency relief.

Thus, 250 families received the complete package of non-food items and one food ration package, while other 242 families were reached with the extra food ration packages. A total of 492 families were assisted with the DREF. All the planned activities were completed within the three month implementation period of this DREF operation.

Eight food packages were lost during distribution. While delivering the packages in the town of El Espino, in Venta del Sur municipality (department of Francisco Morazán), eight of the registered families did not arrive at the place and time established for collection. Following institutional guidelines, these packages were set to return to the warehouse. However, on the way back from the community strong rain fell and the food items

became damped. As these food items can go bad fast once wet, they were discarded with the approval of the General Office in accordance with internal audit.

Strengthening of the National Society

Outcome: Improve the operative capacity of HRC

Outputs:

- Provide local branches with visibility material and relief equipment.
- Strengthen National Intervention Teams through an internship programme in the National Monitoring Centre
- Organize an evaluation meeting with the National Intervention Teams

Impact: HRC volunteers and technical staff of the community branches received t-shirts with the institutional logo to use during the current situation and the rest of the rainy season.

The second output under the planned outcome aims at strengthening capacities of National Intervention Team (NIT) members. During Tropical Storm Agatha the HRC's National Monitoring Centre received ten interns from the local branches of Quimistan, Choloma, La Ceiba, El Progreso, San Lorenzo, Pimienta, Danli, Catacamas and Juticalpa. All interns were volunteer NIT members. The goal was to train them in the National Monitoring Centre within the Disaster Management Office of the HRC. This Centre receives, systematizes and analyzes all information coming from the community branches and forwards it to the decision-making officers as well as to other institutions. The NIT members that participated in the internship programme had the opportunity to understand all administrative processes, planning, implementation and evaluation of the disaster response. In addition, the National Monitoring Centre has basic tools for climate and seismic monitoring, and equipment to follow-up the media (television and radio). This DREF operation covered meals and incentives of the ten volunteers supporting the National Monitoring Centre during the emergency response to Tropical Storm Agatha. The following criteria were used to select the NITs participating in the internship:

- High school education
- A NIT graduate
- An active member of the Honduran Red Cross
- Provides active service within the institution
- Participates in disaster management activities
- Participates in the management of Emergency Operation Centres.
- Has a working knowledge of Microsoft Office and Internet.

In addition, 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, meals and incentives, salary for the project coordinators from the National Society, maintenance and fuel for vehicles, salary and per diem of the RIT member deployed in this emergency for month and a half, and 200 t-shirts with a logo for Honduran Red Cross visibility during the emergency response.

Changes on the original Plan

The third planned output, the evaluation meeting, was not established in the original DREF proposal. The HRC received approval to use funds saved in the transport, storage and vehicles section of the budget for the evaluation meeting. The meeting took place from 29 to 31 August 2010 with the volunteers and technical staff involved in the relief operation of Tropical Storm Agatha to draw recommendations for future actions. The conclusions of the meeting were:

- The response operation to Tropical Storm Agatha carried out through this DREF allocation was successful. Relief was delivered not only to the original 250 families, but also to 242 additional families.
- The HRC's National Monitoring Centre played an important role in the operation. The centre quickly processed the information received from the community branches, becoming an important tool in the decision-making process.
- The local branches –including volunteers and technical staff– responded appropriately to the emergency.
- The distribution of humanitarian aid with DREF funds brought important responsibilities to the institution; for example, assessing and registering families, and conducting ticket distribution for the

final distribution of relief items. These activities reinforced the image and credibility of the HRC in the communities.

- The coordination between institutions during this emergency operation was crucial to avoid duplication of efforts. Constant coordination and information-sharing with other institutions also helped to confirm the information received from the affected areas.
- The assessment, family census and relief distribution procedures used during this DREF operation should be used in all future situations.
- The HRC volunteers that supported this operation had an invaluable opportunity to understand all the processes involved in a relief operation. This new understanding will guide their future support and actions.

The participants in the meetings drew up the following recommendations for the future based on their lessons learnt:

- The prepositioning of humanitarian relief items during DREF operations should be considered in order to strengthen the capability of local branches to respond immediately.
- HRC volunteers should be considered during the personnel hiring processes as long as they have the experience and skills for the position.
- It is important to include within the DREF the possibility to have basic training on security procedures and the Code of Conduct for those involved in the operation.
- Training sessions on DREF procedures should be conducted for the whole National Society, including the administrative personnel.
- It is imperative to revise the cooperation agreements with other institutions, such as the World Food Programme, to improve coordination during emergencies.
- The National Society believes that DREF funds should allow for continued support for the strengthening of the Disaster Management Offices within the National Society, for example the HRC's National Monitoring Centre.
- At the institutional level, it is necessary to create standardized procedures for relief distribution to be used by all branches in the country.
- It is important to establish a management system for emergency funds to facilitate implementation in the allocated time.
- It is crucial to have a meeting between a representative of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit and the HRC prior to the launch of a DREF operation in order to clarify all important points.

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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MDRHN003 - Honduras - Tropical Storm

Appeal Launch Date: 01 jun 10

Appeal Timeframe: 01 jun 10 to 31 aug 10

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/5-2010/11
Budget Timeframe	2010/5-2010/11
Appeal	MDRHN003
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	93,706					93,706
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Other Income						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	76,916					76,916
C6. Other Income	76,916					76,916
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	76,916					76,916
D. Total Funding = B + C	76,916					76,916
Appeal Coverage	82%					82%

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	76,916					76,916
E. Expenditure	-76,916					-76,916
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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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)		93,706					93,706	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	6,083	3,990				3,990	2,093	
Food	21,750	20,106				20,106	1,644	
Utensils & Tools	15,073	5,952				5,952	9,121	
Other Supplies & Services	8,750	10,287				10,287	-1,537	
Total Supplies	51,655	40,335				40,335	11,320	
Transport & Storage								
Storage		101				101	-101	
Distribution & Monitoring	2,897	2,486				2,486	410	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,586	2,530				2,530	9,056	
Total Transport & Storage	14,483	5,118				5,118	9,365	
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300	4,172				4,172	-872	
National Society Staff	4,924	6,025				6,025	-1,101	
Total Personnel	8,224	10,197				10,197	-1,973	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,317	2,426				2,426	-109	
Total Workshops & Training	2,317	2,426				2,426	-109	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,738	1,882				1,882	-144	
Information & Public Relation	927	1,483				1,483	-556	
Office Costs	869	917				917	-48	
Communications	869	798				798	71	
Financial Charges	3,404	7,875				7,875	-4,471	
Total General Expenditure	7,807	12,954				12,954	-5,147	
Programme Support								
Program Support	5,719	4,694				4,694	1,025	
Total Programme Support	5,719	4,694				4,694	1,025	
Services								
Services & Recoveries	3,500	971				971	2,529	
Shared Services		220				220	-220	
Total Services	3,500	1,191				1,191	2,309	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	93,706	76,916				76,916	16,790	
VARIANCE (C - D)		16,790				16,790		