

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Belize: Floods

**DREF operation n° MDRBZ001
FL-2008-000198-BLZ
29 October, 2008**

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.

CHF 119,300 (USD 109,049 or EUR 75,987) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 28 October to support the National Society of Belize in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Tropical depression 16 drenched Belize with constant rain, overflowing several rivers affecting many villages in Cayo, Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Belize districts. This DREF operation is focused in providing the most affected with essential relief items and to jump start activities for the Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS). Since other countries in Central America were affected by the same phenomena, this DREF operation will be included in the Central America emergency appeal operation.

This operation is expected to be implemented over nine months, and will therefore be completed 30 July, 2009; a Final Report will be made available by 30 October, 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

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



**An aerial photograph of the flooded Cayo district.
Source: National Emergency Management
Organization**

The situation

The emergency began as a result of heavy rains caused by Tropical Depression number 16, on 16 October, 2008. Several areas of the country remain flooded with river water levels rising. Several sections of **Cayo district** have been declared disaster area. Approximately 24 communities have been severely impacted affecting some 38,000 people. Temporary emergency shelters were opened housing 400 evacuated people while others are staying with friends and family. Livelihoods in farming, commerce and tourism have been affected due to floods, but also due to interruptions in transportation. Many of the affected people are

farmers who depend for their means of living on their crops; due to the floods they have lost corn, rice, beans and papaya among others. They therefore may require food assistance.

Heavy rain causing flash floods hit other districts including **Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Belize districts**. The District Emergency Committee in Cayo district responded swiftly to the emergency and remains on high alert in the flooded areas across the country. Rescue teams are performing damage and need assessments in Calla Creek, Arenal, Bullet Tree Falls, 7 miles and Georgeville. According to the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) a team of four doctors was deployed to Calla Creek in Cayo district to attend those who require medical attention.

The Emergency Committee in **Orange Walk** district is performing damage and need assessments and is distributing food items to the flood victims in the areas of Guinea Grass, Santa Martha, Trial Farm and Carmelita (in Orange Walk). 52 people were evacuated and placed in a multi purpose center in Orange Walk Town. The other people are staying with family members in Guinea Grass Village.

No major damages have been reported in **Corozal district** although some shelters were opened assisting 42 people. Members of the District Emergency Committee have been assessing damages in the flooded areas in Corozal Town. The areas affected by the flooding are Chula Vista, White Cocal and Port-Sal.

It is also important to note that the Belize Red Cross Society has been implementing a relief operation to respond to Tropical Storm Arthur, since June of this year.

Coordination and partnerships

The Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS) is working closely with NEMO and Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the field (Norwegian Red Cross). The U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has made contact with the Belize Red Cross Society to offer support.

The International Federation also provides support through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation Office in the Caribbean: they are communicating with and providing support to the National Society. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in reporting will be deployed to Belize to support the Belize Red Cross Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

BRCS has been conducting damage and need assessments since the beginning of the emergency in all the affected areas of the country. BRCS has been providing hot meals for people in shelters. To date, it has provided 268 hot meals, 2,500 liters of water, 57 blankets and 59 school kits. National Intervention Team (NIT) members specialized in water and sanitation and first aid responded swiftly to the emergency to attend injured people; one emergency water plant was installed and one portable water unit was relocated to Cayo from Belize City and will be providing water for smaller villages not reached by the Emergency Water plant. Volunteers in Southern Belize, including National Intervention Teams (NIT) and Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRT) assisted with evacuations from affected areas. More than 30 NIT members have been deployed to the Cayo area to perform assessments and deliver supplies.

BRCS continues to perform evaluations and has elaborated a preliminary plan of action (PoA) for 400 families that includes distribution of food and non food items.

The needs

The BRCS has identified the following as the most immediate needs:

Non-food items (NFI): Tarpaulins, mosquito nets, blankets (light), hygiene kits and jerry cans.

Food items: A food parcel will be distributed to each family as well as a cash voucher for food.

The proposed operation

This emergency relief operation will help jump start damage and need assessments activities to help identify early recovery needs and food security issues and will initially provide 400 families (2,000 people) with food parcels, cash vouchers for food and non-food items.

Initial NFI distributions were made possible due to strategic pre-positioning that took place both after the relief activities carried out in response to Hurricane Dean and Tropical Storm Arthur.

The PoA of the Belize Red Cross Society will be adapted accordingly once all damage and need assessments are completed. This operation will be included in the Central America emergency appeal and will therefore be implemented over a period of nine months.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 400 families in the most affected areas of Belize will benefit from the provision of essential food and non-food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

The Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in Panama will ship the following relief items to Belize:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Jerry cans | 800 | (2 per family) |
| Hygiene kit | 400 | (1 per family) |
| Blankets - Light Weight | 800 | (2 per family) |
| Mosquito nets | 1,500 | (2 per family) |

The rest of the mosquito nets will be to replenish BRCS stocks for future emergency operations.

Each of the 400 families will receive a food parcel and will also receive a cash food voucher. The items for this food parcel will be procured locally.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure local items.
- Distribute relief supplies procured and received and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

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

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Belize:** Lily Bowman, Director General of the Belize Red Cross Society; email: bzercshq@btl.net; phone: (501) 227 3319; fax: (501) 223 0998
- **In Panama:** Jono Anzalone, Disaster Delegate of Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; email: jono.anzalone@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082
- **In Panama:** Ilir Caushaj; Regional Logistics Coordinator, Regional Logistics Unit; email:

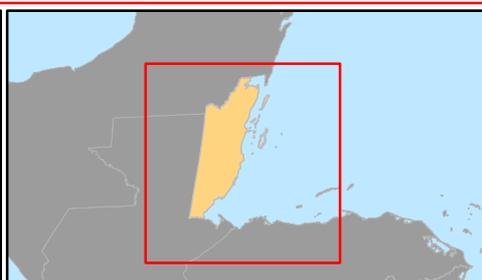
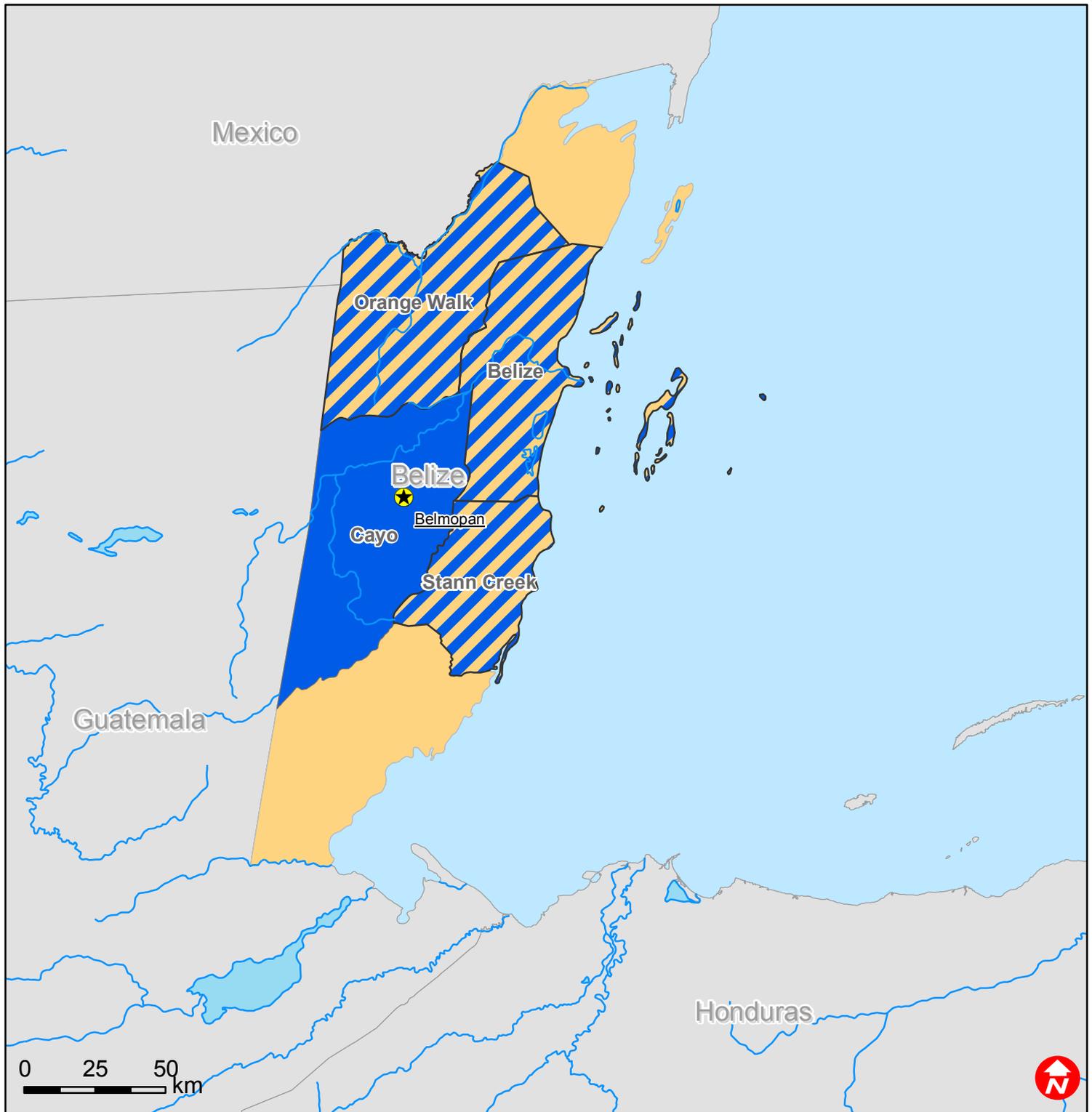
ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 1001; cell phone: (507) 6679 5355; fax: (507) 316 1082.

- **In Trinidad and Tobago:** Tanya Wood, Representative of the Regional Representation Office; email tanya.wood@ifrc.org; phone (868) 624 1557; fax: (868) 627 9627
- **In Panama:** Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas; e-mail maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone (507) 380 0254; fax (507) 317 1304
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas, email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone (41) 22 730 4381.

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



Belize: Floods



- ★ Capitals
- River
- Affected districts
- Most affected district

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, International Federation - MDRBZ001-DREF.mxd