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Emergency appeal final report

Guatemala: Tropical Storm Agatha

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Preliminary Final report

Emergency appeal n° MDRGT002

GLIDE n° TC-2010-000105-GMT

4 April 2012

Period covered by this Preliminary Final Report: 01 June 2010 to 31 May 2011.

Appeal target: 1,286,382 Swiss francs to support 1,500 families for 12 months

Appeal coverage: 103%
<Click here to go directly to the interim financial report or here to view the contact details>

Appeal history:

- On 31 May 2010, 172,274 Swiss francs were allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) to initiate the response and deliver immediate humanitarian relief.
- On 1 June 2010, a [Preliminary Appeal](#) was issued for 1,223,815 Swiss francs in cash, kind or services to support the Guatemalan Red Cross to attend to the humanitarian needs of 1,500 families (7,500 people).
- On 9 June 2010, a [Revised Appeal](#) was issued reflecting a revised budget of 1,286,382 Swiss francs and adjusting the Emergency Appeal planned outcomes based on the needs identified by the National Society after detailed assessments.
- On 4 January 2011, [Operations Update no. 3](#) extended the timeframe to 12 months to enable the GRC to carry out activities related to shelter and early recovery planned outcomes that were delayed due to the continuous torrential rains.



The Guatemalan Red Cross agronomist and GRC volunteers monitor new corn crops. A total of 583 families were reached with agricultural inputs and technical support as part of recovery activities. Source: GRC

Summary: After suffering from one of the most severe rainy seasons in decades, Tropical Storm Agatha brought additional strong and persistent rains to Guatemala in late 2010. The rains damaged homes, infrastructure and crops, and created concerns regarding water, sanitation, health and food security. The Guatemalan Red Cross drew up a plan of action with the aim to support 1,500 families with their immediate needs through distribution of relief items, emergency health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, repair to homes and recovery of crops. These activities were managed by the GRC with support from the Partner National Societies (the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross) and the IFRC.

Through the support of the Emergency Appeal, 1,500 families were able to resume household activities after receiving one food parcel, one kitchen kit, two mosquito nets and five blankets. In addition, health risks were reduced through the provision of preventive and community-based health care workshops on sexual and reproductive health, hygiene promotion, disease prevention and psychosocial support, reaching more than 2,658 beneficiaries. Epidemic control activities included community education, training, fumigation and clean-ups, benefitting 748 families. A comprehensive emergency health services approach was followed by using a variety of participatory community-based techniques to address multiple health issues. Special attention was given to youth and women, in line with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the project output of placing special attention to the priorities of the most vulnerable groups of the population. Furthermore, the health of the affected communities was improved through the provision of clean water to 616 families, as well as with the distribution of two jerry cans, one hygiene kit and one water filter to 1,500 families, and the implementation of community-based actions, such as well-cleaning (291 wells). The National Society also focused on raising awareness and promoting behaviour change of basic sanitation and hygiene through education activities with 1,449 participants, and training to 54 volunteers and 24 NITs on the use of water treatment equipment.

By the end of the operation, the GRC's shelter programme had effectively supported 489 households (2,250 persons) with construction materials while also building six collective centres and repairing four, which supported an additional 1,200 households (some 6,160 persons). The GRC did not simply build infrastructure but rather contributed to communities' actions to become well-prepared. Affected families expressed a commitment to participate in the shelter management trainings during the operation, as well as to working to improve the use of these collectively-managed buildings during emergencies. It is important to note that this approach is based on an understanding of the connection between community-based preparedness and emergency shelter response. Finally, the GRC surpassed its outcome of reaching 500 households with early recovery activities. A total of 583 families (2,850 people) in 17 communities were reached. The National Society provided seeds and agricultural tools to selected households to resume their agricultural production following Agatha and other major tropical storms. In some cases, agriculture has not only resumed but the project has boosted production.

Lessons learned:

- The importance of organizing distributions regionally: Potential problems with local transport due to difficult weather conditions and poor roads were also resolved by transporting items to local branches and warehouses prior to scheduled distributions.
- The worth of national mobilization in country: The National Society is expanding their capacity to inform major national stakeholders about the GRC's emergency operations. As a result of this emergency appeal, a video documenting the actions of the National Society and their main achievements was filmed to support their visibility campaign. This video will soon be available on the web. In addition, 500 booklets will be printed and provided to different actors across the country.
- The value of leaving behind an installed capacity in the communities as was the case with water distribution activities: The installation of tanks in communities (beyond merely distributing water by trucks) in addition of community trainings enabled beneficiaries to organize and seek assistance from other actors for a more sustainable access to water.
- During this operation, the GRC also successfully completed for the first time a cash transfer programme with vouchers to acquire construction materials.

Financial situation: This appeal was 103 per cent covered with contributions totalling 1,327,946 Swiss francs. This Preliminary Final Report is accompanied by an interim financial report.

The IFRC and the Guatemalan Red Cross are thankful to the following Partner National Societies and governments for their kind support to the Appeal: American Red Cross, British Red Cross and British government, Canadian Red Cross Society and government, Japanese Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross and government, New Zealand Red Cross and government, Norwegian Red Cross and government, Red Cross of Monaco, and Swedish Red Cross and government. The IFRC also expresses its gratitude to the VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief of its contribution.

The situation

The 2010 rainy season in Guatemala, considered the worst in over four decades by governmental authorities, severely impacted thousands of families across the country. Tropical Storm Agatha, the first Pacific storm of the 2010 season struck Guatemala on 29 May, two days after the eruption of Pacaya Volcano. Official figures

reported 174 deaths, 13 missing people and 154 injured people. The Executive Secretariat of the National Coordinating Body for Disaster Reduction (*Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres - CONRED*) registered 397,808 affected people and an additional 133,102 people at risk. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) identified 96,500 people living in 453 collective shelters.

The level of affectation across several regions in the country drove CONRED to declare the event a National Catastrophe on 3 June 2010. Evaluations identified five highly affected regions: the Guatemala City metropolitan region, particularly the informal human settlements, the Motagua River basin (including the El Progreso, Zacapa and Izabal departments), the southern coastal basins, the Polochic River basin (Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments) and the Atitlan Lake basin (Sololá department).

The strong and persistent rains continued to fall throughout August and September, with Tropical Storm Alex and Tropical Storm Mathew also affecting the country. By mid September, the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS) / USAID report stated that official numbers had increased to 272 deaths and 144,000 living in collective centres. Additionally, the report launched an alert on severe agricultural losses, reducing access to food for many families.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements against outcomes

Overview

The GRC has completed its activities of providing relief items, emergency health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, emergency shelter and early recovery to the most affected families of Tropical Storm Agatha. These activities were managed by the GRC through monthly Movement meetings with Partner National Societies in country (the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross) and the IFRC. Coordination was also facilitated by working within the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Centre (CAAH), the Humanitarian Network and CONRED.

The outcome of relief distributions was achieved 100 percent, with 1,500 relief kits distributed to six of the most affected communities. Additional relief distributions were coordinated with Partner National Societies reaching a total of 7,930 families. Reduction of health risks was accomplished through community participation in workshops, including: 2,658 individuals in sexual and reproductive health, 147 families in disease prevention and 927 persons in psychosocial support. Health risks were also reduced through vector control activities, including community clean-up activities, which benefitted 71 families and fumigation of homes, which reached 530 households. This exceeds the outcome of providing comprehensive emergency health services to 500 families.



The GRC provided assistance to many hard-to-reach communities that were affected by Tropical Storm Agatha. Source: GRC

The health of the affected communities was also improved through the provision of clean water to 616 families, distribution of water and sanitation items to 1,500 families and the implementation of community-based actions, such as the cleaning of 291 wells. Increased awareness and behaviour change in basic sanitation and hygiene were accomplished through education and promotional activities to 1,449 participants, and training in water and sanitation was conducted with 54 GRC volunteers. These activities achieved 60 per cent coverage in the distribution of water and sanitation materials, successful completion of promotional activities, and 180 per cent coverage in the training

component. In addition, 24 NIT were trained in the use of the water purification plant (SETA 3000).

Safe shelter activities were initially intended to provide materials to 500 families to build or repair emergency shelter. These activities were modified slightly to provide for community reconstruction, as well as household reconstruction. A cash transfer programme using vouchers was successfully implemented, which provided 489 families with the materials needed to support the reconstruction or repair of their homes. This was complemented with trainings and a follow-up process to support the building activities. In addition, six collective centres were reconstructed and four were repaired, which benefited 1,200 families. This represents a comprehensive approach that not only met the immediate needs of the affected families but also preserved the physical and mental well-being of the community and prevented further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. As the weather continually disrupted relief activities, the collective centres were an important support to the community as it worked to recover. Recovery activities intended to assist 500 families who had lost their crops. The operation succeeded in supporting 583 families in recovering their crops through the distribution of seeds, fertilizers and herbicides, and the support of an agronomist hired by the GRC.

Activities in all sectors were affected by the continuous rainfall, which delayed construction, required GRC staff and volunteers to conduct additional relief activities, problem solve continued degradation of safe water sources, and disrupted the normal agricultural planting season. Despite these challenges, the GRC met or exceeded most of the outcomes set out in the original plan, and have greatly increased their capacity in relief distribution, water and sanitation, and shelter activities.

With the support of the Emergency Appeal, the National Society hired a consultant to produce a video and booklet highlighting the main activities and accomplishments of the operation. Copies of these documents will be shared with national stakeholders to increase the visibility of the GRC and support future resource mobilization in the country.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Affected families have access to food and non-food items to support their efforts to resume essential household activities.

Outputs	Activities planned
Up to 1,500 households (7,500 people) resume household activities through the distribution of 1 food kit, 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen set and 5 blankets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and a registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user, prioritizing local tendering. • Train NIT members from the most affected municipalities in disaster management. • Maintain inter-institutional coordination. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. • Develop an exit strategy.

Impact: Through the support of the Emergency Appeal 1,500 families were able to resume household activities after receiving one food parcel, one kitchen kit, one hygiene kit, two mosquito nets, five blankets, two jerry cans and one water filter. As table 1 below shows, the Guatemalan Red Cross supported affected families in 29 communities in the following affected departments of: Izabal, Jalapa, San Marcos, Retalhuleu and Quetzaltenango. To ensure that the most vulnerable families, including several pregnant women and families with special needs, received food and non-food items, the GRC carried out continuous assessments throughout the delivery process. The assessment was conducted with the support of 20 local branches and 100 GRC volunteers.

Table 1. Beneficiaries of relief distribution

Department	Municipality	No. of communities	No. of families
Guatemala	Guatemala	1	100
Izabal	Morales Amates	4	400
Jalapa	Mataquescuintla Juan Carlos Alzatate	10	200

Santa María			
Quetzaltenango	Coatepeque	3	213
San Marcos	Ocos Tecún Umán (Ayatla)	6	484
Retalhuleu	Champerico Retalhuleu	5	103
TOTAL		29	1,500

In addition to these 1,500 families, the GRC partnered with the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross and reached a further 6,400 families with relief food and non-food items.

The pre-positioning stock at the GRC's headquarters helped to avoid transportation delays of relief items to Guatemala. Potential problems with local transport due to difficult weather conditions and poor roads were also resolved by transporting items to local branches and warehouses prior to scheduled distributions. In coordination with local authorities, some branches also opted to deliver relief items alongside the water filters, jerry cans and mosquito nets. Whilst the combined distributions generated some initial delays, it prevented the risk of transporting items when the road conditions were not yet stable and the risk of landslides was still presented. Also, the combined distributions helped to reduce transportation costs.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population are reduced through provision of preventive and community-based health care, including sexual and reproductive health, hygiene promotion, disease prevention and psychosocial support to the affected communities.

Outputs	Activities planned
Comprehensive emergency health services are provided to at least 500 families in affected communities and individuals with special attention to the priorities of the vulnerable population and employing a community-based healthcare approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid evaluation of health needs. • Organize and facilitate educational activities on sexual and reproductive health. • Provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and information within the framework of existing community health and public services. • Support the establishment of dengue control activities and training for GRC volunteers and members from affected communities. • Provide training opportunities in emergency health for GRC volunteers, members and communities.
Selected affected groups and communities receiving psychosocial support have increased their resilience and coping mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of GRC volunteers in skills in community based psychosocial support and psychological first aid. • Provide psychosocial support to targeted affected groups, communities and GRC volunteers.

Impact: Assessments completed on the health needs after Tropical Storm Agatha indicated that only 4 per cent of the population surveyed used contraceptive methods and 65 per cent had no information on HIV and AIDS. This prompted the implementation of education on sexual and reproductive health, which was completed in three phases reaching more than 2,658 beneficiaries in total. The first phase of the workshops were conducted in 17 communities and reached 1,731 people. The first workshops, completed by the end of October 2010, focused on HIV and AIDS, how viruses are transmitted and prevention methods (See Table 2).

The second phase of workshops were conducted in 25 communities and reached 674 people. These workshops were completed by the end of February 2011. See table 3 for a breakdown of communities and participant numbers. The workshops again focused on sexual and reproductive health, but also integrated psychosocial aspects of coping with stress and disasters, and the support mechanisms available in the community. The workshops were successful for the overall community, but also in specifically reaching groups in particularly vulnerable conditions such as youth and women, as 70 per cent of the participants were youth and 73 per cent were women. See table 4 for a graph showing the distribution of female and male participants. These sets of workshops were also conducted in three communities in the Guatemala department: La Canada, Concepción and Trocha 8, reaching an additional 253 families, although no information on gender and age was available.

The second output of the emergency health sector was to increase the resilience and coping mechanisms of the affected groups and communities through the provision of psychosocial support. This goal has been met by providing support to 28 affected communities reaching over 927 beneficiaries.

Table 2. Beneficiaries of HIV and AIDS workshop (phase one)

Department	Municipality	No. of Communities	No. of beneficiaries
Suchitepéquez	Santo Domingo	4	388
Izabal	Morales	1	76
Quetzaltenango	Zunil	1	23
	Quetzaltenango	2	274
San Marcos	Tecún Umán	3	310
Retalhuleu	Retalhuleu	3	403
Jalapa	Jalapa	2	57
Guatemala	Amatitlán	1	200
Totals		17	1,731

Table 3. Beneficiaries of HIV and AIDS and psychosocial support workshop (phase two)

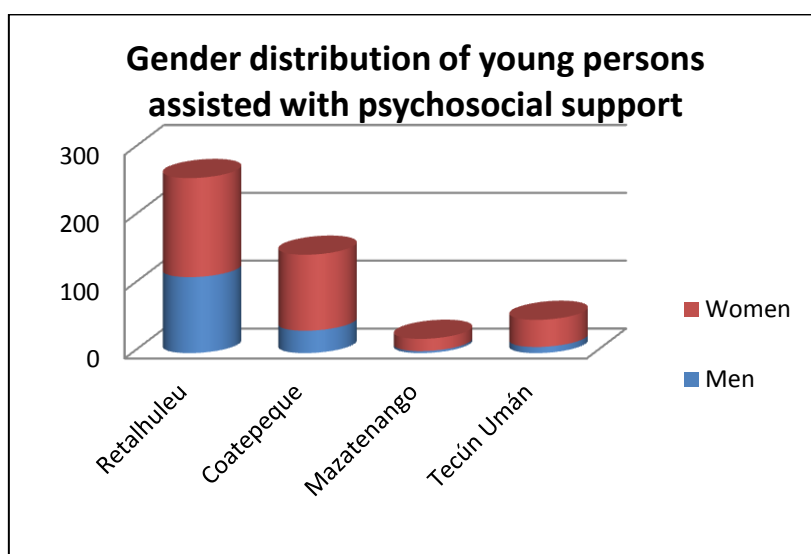
Department	Municipality	No. of communities	Youth		Adults	
			Female	Male	Female	Male
Retalhuleu	Retalhuleu	12	146	112	0	0
Quetzaltenango	Coatepeque	7	112	33	0	0
Suchitepéquez	Mazatenango	4	18	3	172	29
San Marcos	Tecún Umán	2	40	9	0	0
Totals		25	316	157	172	29

The initial health assessment also indicated that there was a high rate of skin diseases and acute respiratory infections (49 per cent of the assessed), diarrhoea (36 per cent) and cases of dengue fever (4 per cent) related to the flooding. Therefore, it was important to conduct response activities that would support epidemic control.

Community workshops were carried out on epidemic control in three of the most affected communities with 147 families participating (55 in Mazatenango municipality, 49 in Coatepeque, and 43 in Retalhuleu). The workshops provided information on prevention of malaria, dengue, diarrhoea and respiratory infections, dehydration home remedies, promotion of hand-washing and water purification techniques.

Vector control was another important component to minimize the risks of epidemics. Activities on this included the cleaning and fumigation of homes in six communities in the Tecún Umán and Mazatenango municipalities, and reached 530 families. The reduction of mosquito breeding grounds through the clearing of debris from the streets and around homes also contributed to vector control. These community clean-ups occurred in Valle Lirio and benefitted 71 families. These activities were undertaken by the GRC volunteers in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Furthermore, GRC volunteers also received psychosocial support. Training was provided to 29 GRC volunteers from the GRC branches of Retalhuleu, Tecún Umán, Coatepeque, El Palmar, Serchil, Quetzaltenango, Chiquimula, Coban, Mazatenango, Concepción Chiquirichapa and Guatemala. These volunteers were responsible for facilitating the workshops.

Table 4. Gender distribution of phase two workshops

All the activities of the emergency health section were completed, and the target number of 500 beneficiary families has been achieved to varying degrees depending on the activity. The following table shows the total amount of beneficiaries reached through the various activities (see table 5). In summary, health risks were reduced through the provision of preventive and community-based health care workshops on sexual and reproductive health, hygiene promotion, disease prevention and psychosocial support, and reached more than 2,658 beneficiaries. Epidemic control activities included community education, training, fumigation and clean-ups, and covered 748 families. A comprehensive emergency health services approach was followed by using a variety of participatory community-based techniques to address multiple health issues. As noted above, special attention was given to youth and women, in line with the fundamental principles and the project output of placing special attention to the priorities of vulnerable populations. Therefore, the overall outcome of health and care has been met and in some cases exceeded.

Table 5. Beneficiaries of emergency health and care activities

Activity	No. of beneficiaries
Workshops on sexual and reproductive health	1,731 beneficiaries
Workshops on sexual and reproductive health and psychosocial support	674 beneficiaries
Workshops on sexual and reproductive health and psychosocial support (Guatemala department)	253 families
Epidemic control education	147 families
Fumigation of homes	530 families
Community clean-up	71 families

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The health of affected communities is improved with the provision of clean water, minimum sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Outputs	Activities planned
Appropriate water and sanitation materials will be provided to 1,500 families (7,500 people) which include two jerry cans, one water bucket, two mosquito nets and water filters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct rapid health and water and sanitation emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with the relevant local authorities. Provide learning-by-doing and other training opportunities for GRC volunteers in basic water and sanitation, including water purification plans, well cleaning, participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) methodology.

<p>The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.</p> <p>Thirty GRC volunteers strengthen their knowledge and skills of basic water and sanitation during the first phase of the emergency response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, in coordination with local authorities, a community and beneficiary targeting strategy. • Provide clean water via water tanks to people located in communal shelters and affected communities. • Clean wells in flood-affected communities. • Support the building and use of community latrines. • Conduct hygiene promotion activities (personal and community hygiene, epidemic and vector control, solid and human waste disposal, disinfection of wells) at the community level. • Support community-organized fumigation efforts in high prevalence dengue areas. • Provide repellent-sealed mosquito nets, jerry cans, a water bucket and water filters.
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Impact: Rapid water and sanitation assessments were conducted by staff and volunteers from 11 GRC branches in 65 communities covering 11,974 people. These assessments revealed that 53 per cent of people were dependant on wells for water; none of the persons surveyed had knowledge of how to keep water safe or to purify it and the majority (68 per cent) defecated in fields, despite 93 per cent having latrines. These results prompted the GRC to conduct hygiene promotional activities, clean wells, provide safe water, conduct trainings on safe water purification and storage, and provide hygiene and sanitation materials. The following describes the activities conducted by the GRC to meet the outcome of improving the sanitation and hygiene of the affected communities.

The GRC developed a beneficiary targeting strategy which identified 1,500 of the most vulnerable families. Each of these families was provided with two jerry cans, two mosquito nets, a bucket and water filters in order to improve access to safe water, storage, and basic health and hygiene. Thus, 100 per cent of the initial target output of providing appropriate water and sanitation materials was reached.

This was further supported by the provision of clean water to the affected communities. A water purification plant (SETA 3000), which was procured by the GRC supplied 20,100 litres to 616 families (3,371 people) over the course of the operation (see table 6). The mobile water purification plant operated in six communities within two of the most affected municipalities: Venecia, El Jardin, El Martillo and Los Tiestos in Mazatenango; and Mareas del Suchiate and Los Faros in Tecún Umán. Tanks with a capacity to storage 1,100 litres were positioned in these six communities and trucks were made available to transport water. A water purification line, including a portable water-quality laboratory kit, storage tanks, pumps and other spare parts was mobilized to support this operation through an agreement between UNICEF-AECID and the IFRC.

Table 6. Distribution of water

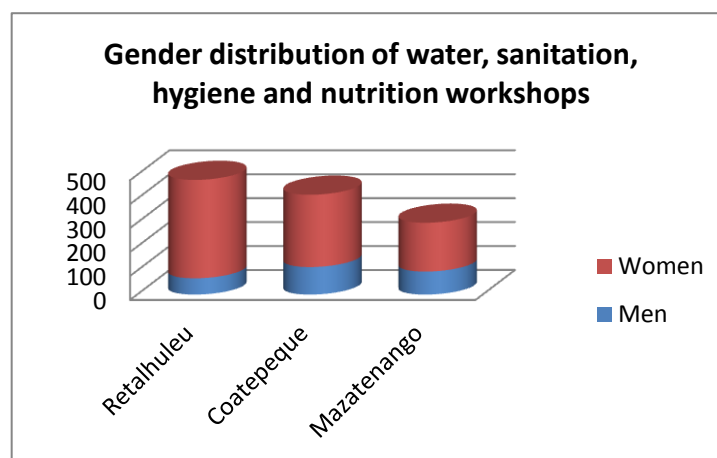
Department	Municipality	No. of Communities	Litres of water distributed	Total no. of families reached
San Marcos	Tecún Umán	2	6,000	228
Suchitepéquez	Mazatenango	4	14,100	388
Total		6	20,100	616

The second output was to improve the health status of the population through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities. This was supported by conducting community workshops in water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. Workshops were initiated in 23 communities and reached 1,196 beneficiaries (see table 7). Trained volunteers acted as facilitators and provided information on disinfection processes, protection of water sources, hand washing, safe food preparation, latrine use, waste disposal and management, and healthy living (nutrition and exercise). A second set of workshops were conducted in another three communities (La Canada, La Concepcion and Trocha 8) and reached an additional 253 families. Consideration was again given to the inclusion of women, with 76 per cent of participants being women (see table 8).

Table 7. Beneficiaries of water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition workshops

Municipality	No. of sessions	No. of participants	
		Women	Men
Retalhuleu	12	411	68
Coatepeque	7	302	115
Mazatenango	4	204	96
Totals	23	917	279

Further education and training opportunities were provided to the GRC volunteers in the use of water pumps, and in the cleaning of wells. Training was also carried out for 24 National Intervention Team (NIT) members, and an additional 54 volunteers on the use of the water purification plant. This surpasses the target for the third output of improving the knowledge of 30 GRC volunteers in water and sanitation.

Table 8. Gender distribution of workshops' participants

Influencing behaviour change requires the provision of accurate information, which the workshops and trainings accomplished. However, the other important factor required for behaviour change is through the application of the new knowledge acquired. A learning-by-doing approach was used by the GRC, in which volunteers applied their new knowledge of water and sanitation to clean 291 wells in 12 communities. This activity supported 1,038 families and it was facilitated with assistance from the Norwegian Red Cross and the provision of two cleaning kits provided by the IFRC. As mentioned in the above section, fumigation activities were also undertaken in high prevalence areas, as were hygiene promotional activities. This further increased the skills of the GRC in basic water and sanitation during a response.

The above activities detail how the health of the affected communities was improved through the provision of clean water to 616 families, distribution of water and sanitation items to 1,500 families, and the implementation of community-based actions, such as well cleaning (291 wells). The National Society also focused on increasing awareness and promoting behaviour change on basic sanitation and hygiene through educational activities with 1,449 participants, and training for 54 volunteers and 24 NIT members on the use of water treatment equipment.

During the evaluation of the impact of this activity, a female beneficiary and member of a women's organization in the Ocos community (San Marcos department), commented how the GRC helped the community beyond the emergency. Thanks to the tanks installed, and the capacity installed in the community through workshops, the government and several other organizations are now working with the community to ensure that their tanks are maintained and replenished on a regular basis, ensuring the access to safe drinking water.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: Ensure that the most vulnerable families have a healthy, safe and dignified shelter solution to preserve their physical and mental well-being and prevent the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

Outputs	Activities planned
Up to 500 households receive shelter materials to assist the building or repairing of emergency shelters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop a community and beneficiary targeting strategy in coordination with local authorities and institutions. • Assess the extent of the emergency shelter needs, employing local suppliers when possible. • Provide technical support for the building or repairing of emergency shelters. • Distribute construction materials for 500 families. • Monitor housing improvement activities.

Impact: Whilst the original shelter objective aimed to support 500 households affected by Tropical Storm Agatha, the region faced constant precipitations which continued to wreck damage throughout the Guatemalan western coast and central highlands. Considering this, the GRC strategically divided its focus to incorporate also collective centres within the sponsored reconstruction activities. At the end of the operation, the GRC's shelter programme had effectively supported 489 households (2,250 persons) with construction materials while also built six collective centres and repaired four collective centres, which supported an additional 1,200 households (some 6,160 persons).



Family members from affected communities supported the works to build back their homes. The operation reached 489 families with construction materials, training and monitoring activities. Source: GRC

An important element of the building and reparation of family homes project is that it was achieved through a cash voucher system. This was the first time the methodology was used by the National Society in Guatemala. The cash voucher had a value of 1,700 quetzals (approximately 206 Swiss francs) that could be used to claim construction materials, including corrugated galvanized iron sheets, wood, cement, sand, construction blocks, steel bars, wire and tools. When the vouchers were delivered, the GRC explained that certain materials needed to be bought together. For example, if corrugated galvanized iron sheets were bought, hurricane straps were also needed. Through this methodology, the families themselves prioritized the construction needs to have a healthy, safe and dignified home; while the IFRC and the GRC, with the support of the Majors' Offices, followed-up the work and provided technical advice. During the project, all construction materials were bought through local providers, not only strengthening the local economy, but also reducing distribution costs and guaranteeing that the continuous rains did not severely

disrupt deliveries. Another example of the success of the shelter activities was that neighbours formed partnerships while carrying out the constructions and reparations, working together on each other's homes, enabling a faster construction and the exchange of knowledge and skills. As mentioned before, 489 household were reached through this project: 84 families in Amatitlán, 128 families in Quetzaltenango, 138 families in Morales and 139 families in Retalhuleu.



The community of Minerva, in Quetzaltenango now enjoys a fully refurbished collective centre. Source: GRC

The second element of the emergency shelter sector of the Emergency Appeal —the construction and/or maintenance of collective centres— was achieved in coordination with local authorities and the affected communities. The selected buildings were

identified as evacuation centres and/or reference points during emergency evacuations. Affected families expressed a commitment to participate in the shelter management trainings during the operation, and to work on improving the use of these collectively-managed buildings during emergencies. It is important to note that this approach is based on an understanding of the connection between community-based preparedness and emergency shelter response. The GRC did not simply build infrastructure but rather contributed to communities' actions to become well-prepared. At the end of the operation, the GRC had supported the construction of six buildings for collective use and another four were repaired and refurbished in Quetzaltenango, Santo Tomas, Tecún Umán, Retalhuleu and Amatitlán. The construction was coordinated closely with the municipalities and applied safe construction methods for earthquake and hurricane resistance.

Early Recovery	
Outcome: Contribute to the early recovery of 500 families (2,500 people) who have lost their crops as a result of the floods.	
Outputs	Activities planned
500 families receive technical and material support to recover their agricultural production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and develop a technical assessment and intervention strategy for seed distribution and agricultural improvement in prioritized affected areas. • Establish mutual collaboration agreements with national institutions (agricultural associations and/or NGOs). • Train beneficiary families on adequate soil use, plague control, and planting techniques. • Distribute seeds, fertilizer and basic agricultural tools to beneficiary families. • Provide technical support. • Conduct monitoring and evaluation activities. • Establish exit strategy.

Impact: The GRC has surpassed its planned outcome of reaching 500 households. A total of 583 families (2,850 people) in 17 communities in the municipalities of Retalhuleu, Mazatenango, Morales, Santo Tomas and Coban were reached. The National Society provided seeds and agricultural tools to selected households to resume their agricultural production following Tropical Storm Agatha and other major tropical storms. In some cases, agriculture has not only resumed but the project has boosted production.

The National Society hired an agronomist to provide the technical leadership necessary for this project. The GRC and its staff agronomist, alongside Red Cross partners present in country, evaluated and identified the best process to reach the targeted households. Whilst the ongoing heavy precipitation caused some delays, this time was used to select beneficiaries, purchase locally-appropriate seeds, and plan the collective trainings and follow-up activities.

Due to the topographic characteristics, soil type and access to water and land in the areas where the National Society worked, the GRC had to carefully select beneficiary families to ensure the project's success. Independent of whether the beneficiaries owned or rented the land, it was decided that 7,000m² was the minimum land plot and that the land should have access to an irrigation system. Based on the staple foodstuffs in Guatemala, corn and beans were the two sponsored crops. The purpose of the project was to increase beneficiaries' food intake, specifically the daily required nutrients, and generate a family income.

The households receiving support for corn production received 13.6 kilos (30 pounds) of corn



A total of 583 beneficiaries received corn or bean seeds, in addition to fertilizers, and technical inputs. Source: GRC

seeds, two different types of fertilizers (92 kilos each), insecticide and herbicide. The GRC estimated a combined investment of 303 US dollars for each .705 hectares of corn planted. A total of 552 households received comprehensive support (seeds and technical assistance) for the harvesting of corn.

The beneficiary households, which focused on bean production, received 45.45 kilos (100 pounds) of bean seeds, two different types of fertilizers (46 kilos each), insecticides, herbicides and fungicides. The investment for each .705 hectares of bean production was approximately 307 US dollars. Thirty-one households benefited from GRC-distributed seeds and technical support for their bean crops. Recognizing their collective responsibility, all of the beneficiary communities committed to provide 100 kilos of corn to the GRC for distribution in other affected communities. By the end of the operation, these commitments had been honoured and the community-to-community donations were distributed.

With the GRC agronomist's technical support, improved seeds, fertilizers and plague-reduction techniques, the small-scale farmers were not only able to resume their pre-storm activities, but even boost their production levels. Whilst previously 600 to 700 kilos (60 to 70 quintales) of corn could be produced per .705 hectares (1 *manzana*), beneficiaries reported an increase of up to 900 kilos. Bean production also increased from 100 kilos to 150 kilos per .705 hectares. Furthermore, the president of Mazatenango GRC branch commented that the prize of corn at the time of harvest had a significant surge, and benefited families were able to have approximately 180 per cent profit. A male farmer who was reached through the programme commented how the additional money enabled his family to buy clothing and sugar, items not always possible to purchase for them.

In addition to the actions to facilitate recovery of small-scale (and oftentimes subsistence) agricultural activities, the GRC provided specialized early recovery training to 24 volunteers. The National Secretariat for Disasters of the GRC organized a workshop in May 2011 with the objective of improving the link between future emergency response and early recovery actions. This workshop strengthened the National Society's technical skills in early recovery. Following the guidelines established in the National Society's plan of action, the majority of branch disaster coordinators received training.

Participants learned about new tools, methodologies and resources useful for a multi-pronged approach to humanitarian actions. Topics covered included restarting basic services and livelihood activities, providing shelter, forming good governance, safety and respect for the environment, beneficiary participation, as well as the rights and needs of displaced populations. Attention was also placed on ways to incorporate the concept of early recovery into damage and needs assessments that are conducted during the initial phases of a response. Overall, the workshop provided a foundation for branch-level knowledge on early recovery, as well as highlighted technical skills and good practices which are valuable for future interventions.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here](#)

1. **Emergency Appeal interim financial report** [below](#)
 2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) 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.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



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.

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/5-2012/2
Budget Timeframe	2010/5-2012/2
Appeal	MDRGT002
Budget	APPROVED

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	1,286,382					1,286,382
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	111,744					111,744
British Red Cross	58,445					58,445
British Red Cross (from DFID - British Government)	158,871					158,871
Japanese Red Cross Society	42,600					42,600
New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)	234,701					234,701
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	252,042					252,042
Red Cross of Monaco	20,638					20,638
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	113,258					113,258
The Canadian Red Cross Society	2,463					2,463
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Government)	109,565					109,565
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	49,728					49,728
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	1,500					1,500
C1. Cash contributions	1,155,555					1,155,555
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
American Red Cross	93,893					93,893
The Canadian Red Cross Society	42,333					42,333
The Netherlands Red Cross	34,434					34,434
C2. Inkind Goods & Transport	170,660					170,660
<u>Other Income</u>						
Programme & Services Support Recover	1,732					1,732
C4. Other Income	1,732					1,732
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	1,327,946					1,327,946
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,327,946					1,327,946
Appeal Coverage	103%					103%

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	1,327,946					1,327,946
E. Expenditure	-1,210,308					-1,210,308
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	117,639					117,639

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
MDRGT002 - Guatemala - Tropical Storm Agatha

Appeal Launch Date: 01 jun 10

Appeal Timeframe: 01 jun 10 to 31 may 11

INTERIM

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/5-2012/2
Budget Timeframe	2010/5-2012/2
Appeal	MDRGT002
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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)		1,286,382					1,286,382	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	116,000	178,082				178,082	-62,082	
Clothing & Textiles	69,510	61,347				61,347	8,163	
Food	87,000	81,624				81,624	5,376	
Seeds & Plants	185,365	161,686				161,686	23,679	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	182,022	172,592				172,592	9,430	
Medical & First Aid	5,793	7,379				7,379	-1,585	
Teaching Materials	34,579						34,579	
Utensils & Tools	72,900	59,520				59,520	13,380	
Other Supplies & Services	43,500						43,500	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supl	796,669	722,229				722,229	74,440	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	4,000	4,063				4,063	-63	
Office & Household Equipment	4,055	9,182				9,182	-5,127	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	8,055	13,245				13,245	-5,190	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage		4,083				4,083	-4,083	
Distribution & Monitoring	40,090	24,604				24,604	15,486	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	13,904	17,229				17,229	-3,325	
Logistics Services	20,000	2,867				2,867	17,133	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	73,994	48,783				48,783	25,211	
Personnel								
International Staff	83,394	89,612				89,612	-6,218	
National Staff	30,000	31,901				31,901	-1,901	
National Society Staff	69,518	10,560				10,560	58,958	
Volunteers		52,005				52,005	-52,005	
Total Personnel	182,912	184,079				184,079	-1,167	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	6,373	22,008				22,008	-15,635	
Professional Fees		883				883	-883	
Total Consultants & Professional Fe	6,373	22,891				22,891	-16,518	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	41,711	46,138				46,138	-4,427	
Total Workshops & Training	41,711	46,138				46,138	-4,427	
General Expenditure								
Travel	25,722	22,819				22,819	2,903	
Information & Public Relations	19,929	7,873				7,873	12,056	
Office Costs	7,650	9,300				9,300	-1,650	
Communications	9,846	7,486				7,486	2,360	
Financial Charges	35,009	42,383				42,383	-7,374	
Other General Expenses		115				115	-115	
Shared Office and Services Costs		765				765	-765	
Total General Expenditure	98,156	90,741				90,741	7,415	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		1,169				1,169	-1,169	
Total Operational Provisions		1,169				1,169	-1,169	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	78,512	72,429				72,429	6,083	
Total Indirect Costs	78,512	72,429				72,429	6,083	

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRGT002 - Guatemala - Tropical Storm Agatha

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Budget Timeframe	2010/5-2012/2
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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)		1,286,382					1,286,382	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee		5,267					5,267	-5,267
Pledge Reporting Fees		3,336					3,336	-3,336
Total Pledge Specific Costs		8,604					8,604	-8,604
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,286,382	1,210,308					1,210,308	76,075
VARIANCE (C - D)		76,075					76,075	