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# DREF Operation

## Belize: Hurricane Earl

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation no. MDRBZ005</b>	<b>Glide no. <a href="#">TC-2016-000078-BLZ</a></b>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 8 August 2016	<b>Date of disaster:</b> 4 August 2016
<b>Operation manager (responsible for this EPOA):</b> Mariela Moronta, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator; email: <a href="mailto:mariela.moronta@ifrc.org">mariela.moronta@ifrc.org</a>	<b>Point of contact in the National Society:</b> Lili Bowman, Director-General, Belize Red Cross Society
<b>Operation start date:</b> 7 August 2016	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 3 months
<b>Overall operation budget:</b> 143,828 Swiss francs	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> To be determined	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 2,200 people (440 families)
<b>Belize Red Cross Society:</b> 300 volunteers, 15 staff, 8 branches and a headquarters office	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> American Red Cross International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
<b>Other organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Belize National Emergency Management Office (NEMO).	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

Tropical Cyclone Earl made landfall on 4 August, with wind gusts of up to 110 km/h, as estimated by National Hurricane Center of the United States. As of 9am (GMT -6) on 4 August Tropical Cyclone Earl's centre (Category 1) was located at approximately 189 miles east-southeast of Half Moon Caye, 231 miles east-southeast of San Pedro Ambergris Caye, 230 miles east of Dangriga, 236 miles east-southeast of Belize City, 271 miles east-southeast of Corozal Town, and 267 miles east of Punta Gorda Town. The cyclone was moving west at about 14 miles per hour. At its centre the hurricane was estimated to have wind speeds of 70 miles per hour. The Belize National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) urged people to secure their homes, properties, businesses or livestock as Tropical Cyclone Earl approached the country.



Photo 1: Belize Red Cross Society volunteers are conducting preliminary assessments in the areas affected by the heavy rains and flooding. Source: Santiago Luengo/ IFRC.



**Photo 2: Damage to house caused by the passage of Hurricane Earl. Source: Santiago Luengo/ IFRC**

Major infrastructure and building damage are reported by NEMO. Roads and streets are blocked in San Pedro, Caye Caulker, Belize City, and Ladyville, Belize River Valley, Orange Walk, Belmopan and other affected areas. Schools, markets, civil and international flights and ports have been closed, government hospitals are on standby, and electricity and water supply is still affected in several parts of the country.

After the passage of the hurricane, NEMO has prioritized search and rescue, medical care, sheltering and looking after people affected, clearing of debris along the highways, restoration of utilities, inspection of airports and seaports. The Philip Goldson International Airport (PGIA) resumed operations on 4 August.

City are open at this time. NEMO is currently responding to flash flooding in the Cayo District. Communities along the Macal and Mopan River must seek higher ground immediately. In addition, NEMO has issued alerts to the population to not stay in buildings near floodwaters and to activate flood plans. Heavy rains and wind persist hampering the initial damage assessments. The government undertook an aerial survey in the afternoon of 4 August.

Up to 4 August, 29 collective centres are open across the country and 907 people have sought shelter in these centres.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society:

In preparation for the hurricane making landfall in Belize, the BRCS headquarters has been in close contact with all eight branches, providing them with situation updates. All BRCS branches are on standby. In the northern division, volunteers are supporting the local authorities in the collective centres.

On 4 August, as Hurricane Earl made landfall, BRCS volunteers assisted people to evacuate their houses and move to collective shelters, where first aid was administered by BRCS as required.

An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is active in the BRCS headquarters with teams on standby rotating every 12-hour. The National Society's contingency and disaster management plans have been activated. National Intervention Team (NIT) members, equipment and vehicles are on stand-by and disaster preparedness stocks are ready to be dispatched as soon as needed.

The BRCS has vast experienced responding to disasters. In 2015, it carried out a DREF operation to support the population affected by heavy rains and floods in October.

### Movement Coordination

The IFRC's Disaster & Crisis, Prevention, Response and Recovery Department (DCPRR) has been in initial contact with the BRCS prior to Hurricane Earl's arrival. The Emergency Shelter officer was deployed to Belize on 3 August to support the National Society. DCPRR is in contact with the deployed team and the National Society. Coordination meetings have been held to inform Movement members. The American Red Cross will support with two delegates to support assessments specialized in risk reduction and assessments.

### Coordination with non-RCRC actors in the region

The IFRC has been sharing information and coordinating with CDEMA. NEMO is coordinating the National Emergency Operations Centre where government agencies have deployed representatives while sector specific assessments are conducted in the affected areas. The Regional Response Mechanism has been placed on alert to inform on the situation and to coordinate possible regional support.

The IFRC is coordinating as well with PAHO's Caribbean regional office in Barbados, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office, the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the World Food Program (WFP). Close coordination will take place with PAHO and national authorities in relation to damage and needs assessments.

### Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Detailed sector assessments are currently ongoing across the country for emergency and relief intervention. These activities are being conducted by ministries to determine the impact at sector level. However, the impact at household level needs to be identified. In the interest of a timely response, it is proposed that this operation include a needs assessment as a priority activity. Once completed, and target population and sector needs are identified, a DREF update will be issued reflecting any necessary revisions to the Emergency Plan of Action. With a high probability of more rainfall, it is important for detailed assessments to be conducted as a way of building community resilience as well as informing the National Society contingency planning processes.

The overall population of Belize per district is as follows:

District	Capital	Area	Population (2015 estimate)	Population density (2015)
Belize	Belize City	4,310 km <sup>2</sup>	110,644	25.7/km <sup>2</sup>
Cayo	San Ignacio	5,200 km <sup>2</sup>	87,876	16.9/km <sup>2</sup>
Corozal	Corozal Town	1,860 km <sup>2</sup>	45,530	24.5/km <sup>2</sup>
Orange Walk	Orange Walk Town	4,600 km <sup>2</sup>	49,466	10.7/km <sup>2</sup>
Stann Creek	Dangriga	2,550 km <sup>2</sup>	39,865	15.6/km <sup>2</sup>
Toledo	Punta Gorda	4,410 km <sup>2</sup>	34,928	7.9/km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>			<b>368,309</b>	

National authorities are advancing relief efforts which are constrained by logistical, communication and transportation challenges. Currently, electricity services are down in affected areas and in particular Belize district. Preliminary needs identified by the Belize Red Cross Society to enhance the relief efforts are:

- **Water** - There will be a need to ensure that affected people have access to safe water, pending restoration of supply. The National Integrated Water Resources Authority (NIWRA) reports indicate that some communities will be without potable water for some weeks. In the medium term, rehabilitation of water systems will need to be undertaken. The needs will be detailed after further assessments are completed and based on the findings of NIWRA.
- **Sanitation** - Clearing of rubble needs to be done in a manner that will not lead to accumulation of debris, which combined with stagnant water as a result of potential rains during the season, may pose public health risks.
- **Relief and cash transfer programme** – Assessments will look at market analysis, affectation to livelihoods and the feasibility of a cash transfer programme (CTP) to respond to the most immediate needs of the vulnerable families.
- **Health:** The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will deploy experts to carry out assessments. The Belize Red Cross Society will coordinate with local health authorities and PAHO in relation to health interventions based on prioritized needs. Hygiene promotion, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) - With many areas cut off, lack of potable water and the likelihood of more rains going forward, there is the need for some public awareness on the importance of proper water, health and hygiene practices to avoid water and vector-borne diseases. Disease prevention and health promotion activities at collective centres and at community level need to be undertaken immediately in order to protect health, and prevent the occurrence of outbreaks of diseases, including water and vector-borne diseases. There is also the need to promote safe water and food handling, and to provide hygienic items to reinforce practice. The Belize Red Cross Society has suitable awareness materials and will need support for adaptation, printing and dissemination.

- **Vector-borne diseases in Belize:** Malaria cases decreased significantly between 2006 and 2010, dropping from 844 to 150. This dramatic decrease came about due to the Ministry of Health's concerted efforts, such as increased surveillance, foci elimination, and case identification, in the main endemic areas. Belize was on track to halt the spread of malaria by 2015. Data for 2009 revealed that there were 87 clinically-confirmed cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever, and in 2010 that figure increased to 293 cases. The number of detected cases of Chagas' disease through screening at the National Blood Bank was 45 in 2010. Between 2006 and 2009, there were 35 cases of hepatitis B and 52 clinical cases of mumps. To EW 25 there were 56 suspected cases and 1 confirmed case of Dengue mainly from Serotype DEN3. (PAHO/WHO epi update July 29). In Epidemiological Week (EW) 20 of 2016, the Belize International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) reported two autochthonous cases of Zika virus from Belize City and Cayo District<sup>1</sup>. There were no cases of yellow fever, measles, tetanus, rubella, diphtheria, or pertussis in the reporting period.
- **Shelter:** Assessments will be conducted to determine specific shelter needs of the affected population.
- **Vulnerable groups:** Belize in proportion to its local population is one of the Central American countries that receives a high percentage of migrants. In addition, the BRCR intervention will work based on the minimum standards in emergency contexts in relation to children and people living with disabilities.

### Risk Assessment

- Damaged roads will cause difficulty in accessing cut-off communities.
- The Belize Red Cross Society will work closely with the Ministry of Health to implement activities geared towards public education on appropriate water, health and hygiene methods including the prevention of mosquito and other vector-borne diseases.

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY AND PLAN

**Objective: To respond to the immediate needs of 440 families (2,200 persons) affected by Hurricane Earl.**

**Once detailed assessments by sector are conducted and specific needs are identified, a DREF operation update will be issued to reflect changes in the Emergency Plan of Action based on identified sectorial needs.**

Initial actions aim to provide hygiene promotion and unconditional cash transfers to most affected families in the districts of Cayo, Belize and Stan Creek.

#### Community selection criteria:

1. Low-lying communities with restricted road access
2. Communities at high risk of landslides/rockfall as a result of topography
3. Communities with minimal access to adequate food, water and sanitation
4. Communities with high infrastructure damage

#### Family selection criteria:

1. Displaced persons
2. Families with damage to their dwellings
3. Persons with minimal access to food, potable water, and adequate sanitation
4. Single mothers with children
5. Elderly
6. Families with children under 5 years of age
7. Families who do not have a source of income due to loss of livelihoods (e.g. fishing and agriculture)
8. Persons with disabilities
9. Low income households

### Operational support services

<sup>1</sup> Source: [Regional Zika Epidemiological Update \(Americas\) July 29, 2016. PAHO](#)

## Human resources

The Director-General of the Belize Red Cross Society will have overall oversight for the emergency operation including public relations, timely submission and approval of financial and operation updates.

At least 10 volunteers from the National Society headquarter and the branches will be included in the coordination with the core operations team under this DREF operation. Insurance for volunteers will be provided. For support in the coordination and logistics, IFRC will provide technical field support for the implementation of activities.



Photo 3: BRCS volunteer are visiting affected communities to assess initial damages and needs. Source: Santiago Luengo/IFRC.

The IFRC Americas Regional Office will provide technical support to the National Society. The IFRC Regional disaster management delegate based in Dominican Republic will coordinate with BRCS to mobilize additional of human, logistical and financial resources for project implementation. The IFRC emergency shelter officer has been deployed to support initial actions and provide technical emergency trainings to the volunteers of the Belize Red Cross Society. The IFRC surge capacity and information management delegate and a RIT specialized on livelihoods and market analysis was deployed on 5 August for two weeks to carry out detailed assessments using ODK, identification and registration of beneficiaries with Mega V jointly with the National Society. Additionally, a RIT will be deployed later in the operation if further support is required. The American Red Cross is also deploying experts to support damage and needs assessments efforts.

Monitoring will be through the IFRC Disaster Management and the BRCS emergency operations team. The Director-General and Operations Coordinator will be responsible for quality financial and narrative intermediate and final.

## Logistics and supply chain

The sourcing strategy will be to use the prepositioned goods in the BRCS and neighbouring countries such as Guatemala and Honduras. This will be complemented with regional procurement of additional goods according to the needs.

The IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit is coordinating and gathering information of suppliers of basic relief goods in Guatemala and Honduras to ensure timely response to possible needs.

## Communications

The impacts caused by Hurricane Earl has attracted some international attention of media and mainly in social media platforms. The BRCS have been using social media to give information to the public. The IFRC Communication department shared basic key messages with the possibly affected National Societies, has been sending messages through social media and will publish a press release and additional web stories, and will continue supporting the actions of the National Society in the response.

The following are the communications objectives according to target audience:

- External Communications - The IFRC ARO Communication Unit will support BRCS in the production of web stories, social media messages, based on the information that the National Society can collect, and will publish this information in IFRC global communication channels.

## **Security**

The BRCS will review and analyse the safety and security conditions with local authorities and community leaders. Mobilization and operation activities will be implemented during daylight hours.

For the implementation of humanitarian action in the DREF, a security plan will be developed based on the principles of the IFRC Stay Safe and Safety Access procedures. All personnel will wear Red Cross visibility items and be covered by IFRC Volunteer Insurance. Red Cross personnel will also receive regular security briefings and sign the Code of Conduct.

## **Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)**

The National Society will have a monitoring team composed of technical staff responsible for the reviewing intermediate and final project evaluations. In view of the rainy season in the country, there is a risk of further rainfall which can result in additional soil saturation leading to flooding and landslides. Therefore, the National Society will closely monitor the situation.

The following activities will be conducted for monitoring and evaluation:

- Field visits to monitor the emergency operation
- An update report will be delivered 40 days after the start of the operation (or before if required).
- Regular evaluation meetings during the course of the operation
- Weekly progress reports of activities and coordination actions conducted within the context of the DREF operation
- Indicators will be periodically reviewed to measure their level of progress
- Beneficiary satisfaction survey using ODK to assess timeliness and effectiveness of the assistance
- Lessons Learnt workshop
- Final report

The IFRC will conduct at least one monitoring visit to support the implementation of the operation.

## **Administration and Finance**

The Belize Red Cross Society has trained administrative and finance staff. BRCS will be responsible for managing the funds in the country in accordance with the standard procedures of the IFRC on operational progress, and transfers will be made on the basis of the agreement in the Letter of Agreement to be signed between the National Society and the IFRC for the implementation of the project.

The IFRC, through the Finance Department will provide the necessary operational support for the review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, technical assistance to the National Society and support on the procedures for justification of expenditures, review and validation of invoices for operational progress.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Needs analysis:** Detailed assessments will be conducted to determine the needs related to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion of the affected communities. However, preliminary assessments point towards the need to increase community awareness on hygiene practices.

**Population to be assisted:** While detailed damage and needs assessments are carried out, the BRCS volunteers will conduct hygiene promotion campaigns and activities to reduce the risk of water-borne and vector borne diseases in the districts of Cayo, Belize and Stan Creek targeting at least 440 households.

Objectives	Indicators																							
<b>Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities (440 families).</b>	440 households reached with information to improve hygiene habits and practices																							
<b>Output 1.1</b> Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population (2,200 people).	2,200 people reached by hygiene promotion activities (Field reports)																							
	Number of volunteers involved in hygiene promotion activities (Field reports)																							
Activities planned	Weeks												1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Conduct detailed assessment to define intervention strategy																								
Carry out hygiene promotion activities in affected communities																								
Monitor hygiene promotion actions at community level																								

### Quality programming/ Areas common to all sectors / Cash transfer programme

In order to support the National Society, the IFRC and the American Red Cross deployed additional personnel to carry out detailed assessment in the most affected areas. Assessments will include sectorial assessments (health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, shelter, livelihoods, CTP, or as needed). Visa cards are being sent jointly with the assessment team in case these are needed. However, electricity services are currently down in several areas and in particular

The BRCS is deploying teams to assess Stann Creek, Corozal and Cayo at the request of NEMO. The National Society also plans to carry out further assessments in Belize district and San Pedro.

Based on preliminary information, the National Society will provide assistance to at least 250 families in the districts of Belize, Cayo and Stan Creek.

Objectives	Indicators
<b>Outcome 2: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation</b>	Number of assessments conducted ( <i>general and/or sectoral</i> ) (Target = at least 4 communities)

<b>Output 2.1</b> Initial needs assessment are updated following consultation with beneficiaries	Assessment reports which show that beneficiaries are consulted (assessment reports, plan of action).											
<b>Output 2.2</b> Cash / voucher solutions (food, NFIs and livelihood asset replacement) are considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan where feasible	Market assessments and feasibility studies completed which inform programme design ( <i>assessment report, plan of action</i> )  Sectoral plans which show that use of cash / voucher solutions have been considered and incorporated where appropriate based on consultation with beneficiaries ( <i>plan of action</i> )											
<b>Output 2.3</b> The management of operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation	Planned evaluations identify recommendations and lessons learned with management feedback											
<b>Outcome 3: Affected families have unconditional funds to cover their immediate needs</b>	% of target population which reports being satisfied with cash transfer programme (means of verification = beneficiary satisfaction survey)											
<b>Output 3.1.</b> Distribution of unconditional cash transfer to 250 households through a cash transfer programme.	250 households who receive unconditional cash transfers											
Activities planned	Weeks											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Deploy BRCS and IFRC team to affected areas to conduct rapid assessments	■											
Procure ODK and Mega V kit	■											
Detailed assessment of impacts at community level (consultation with beneficiaries)	■	■										
Conduct livelihoods assessment and market analysis, determination the type and amount assistance	■	■										
Develop a multi-sectoral action plan and review the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)	■	■										
Train volunteers on cash transfer programming (CTP)	■	■										
Notification to beneficiaries of CTP	■	■										
Coordination with the bank to issue the cards	■	■	■									
Distribution of cards to beneficiaries	■	■	■									
Monitoring card use	■	■	■	■	■							
Monitoring visits by IFRC disaster manager	■	■				■					■	
Carry out beneficiary satisfaction survey	■	■				■					■	
Conduct a lessons learned workshop											■	■
Elaboration of intermediate and final report						■	■				■	■

## Budget

See [Annex 1](#) for the detailed DREF operation budget.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- **In the Belize Red Cross Society:** Lili Bowman, Director General of the Belize Red Cross Society; email: [bzercshq@btl.net](mailto:bzercshq@btl.net)
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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 (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.

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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.

# DREF OPERATION

MDRBZ005- Belize Hurricane Earl

07/08/2016

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	7,924
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	71,265
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>79,188</b>
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,508
Logistics Services	0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>5,508</b>
International Staff	6,281
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	290
Volunteers	14,697
Other Staff Benefits	0
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>21,268</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	4,832
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>4,832</b>
Travel	13,287
Information & Public Relations	1,160
Office Costs	7,827
Communications	966
Financial Charges	1,015
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>24,254</b>
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	8,778
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>8,778</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>143,828</b>