

DREF operation update

Honduras: Tropical Depression 12-E

DREF operation n° MDRHN005
GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000127-HND](#)
Update n° 2 – 23 January 2012

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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

Period covered by this update: 15 November 2011 to 15 January 2012.

Summary: 220,262 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 October 2011 to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) in delivering assistance to 800 families (approximately 4,000 beneficiaries).

After almost two weeks of severe precipitations, including those caused by Tropical Depression 12-E, the Honduran government declared a state of emergency on 16 October to facilitate relief activities. The Honduran Red Cross, in its auxiliary role to the government, drew up a plan of action to provide relief support to some 5,000 families, of which 1,848 families have been supported by the DREF in the municipalities of Nacaome and Marcovia, surpassing the original target of 800 families. Of these families, 800 are being assisted with food and non-food relief items and health promotion. In addition, 1,095 families have been assisted with drinking water¹.



The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) is implementing their health activities following a community-base approach to ensure the sustainability of their actions. Source: HRC

However, after some monitoring visits in the affected areas, it became evident that some families have not yet recovered completely from the emergency and were still in need of assistance. As a result, the HRC has requested a three-week extension of the operation's timeframe to reach 250 families from the municipality of Liure with food parcels. The new distribution will be funded by a surplus created after a very cost-effective procurement process and a financial extension will not be needed. This operation is now expected to be completed by 6 February 2012. The Final Report (narrative and financial) will still be due on 20 April 2012.

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The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross

¹ Only 47 families are receiving both safe drinking water and relief items.

and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the national society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. The Australian Red Cross and government, the Belgian government, the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian government, and the Netherlands Red Cross and government have replenished the DREF for the allocation made to this operation. Details of all donors can be found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

Since late September until mid-October 2011, Honduras experienced constant rainfall, particularly during the passage of Tropical Depression 12-E. The severe precipitation brought by this weather front caused damages in the southern region of Honduras, particularly in the Choluteca and Valle departments. The most affected municipalities were Marcovia, Choluteca, Apacilagua and Pespire (in the Choluteca department), and San Lorenzo, Nacaome and Alianza in the Valle department. Final figures of affectation after damage assessments concluded indicate that more than 69,700 persons were affected and 29 deaths were reported.

Affectation	Quantity
Deaths	29 persons
Missing persons	4 persons
Affected persons	69,798 persons
Evacuated persons	12,601 persons
Persons in collective centres	6,958 persons
Families left homeless	2,341 families
Houses severely damaged	2,288 houses
Houses destroyed	182 houses
Houses damaged	1,053 houses
Road affected	55 roads
Road damaged	68 roads
Bridges affected	19 bridges
Bridges damaged	22 bridges
Bridges destroyed	17 bridges
Flood banks damaged	27 banks
Flood banks destroyed	2 banks
Schools damaged	97 schools
Public buildings destroyed	2 buildings
Public buildings damaged	3 buildings
Electric networks affected	27 networks
Water distribution networks affected	17 networks
Sewage networks affected	175 networks
Agricultural losses (<i>manzanas</i>)	10,898 <i>manzanas</i>

Based on this situation, the President of Honduras declared a state of emergency on 16 October for the southern region of the country, facilitating coordination between government institutions and accepting international support to respond to the situation.

Coordination and partnerships

At the national level, the Honduran Red Cross is part of the National Risk Management System. Since the start of the emergency the National Society had a member within the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) led by the Permanent Contingency Commission (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias – COPECO), institution in charge of coordinating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other humanitarian actors. At the local level, the HRC also works alongside the Municipal Emergency Committees (Comités de Emergencia Municipal - CODEM) from the affected areas. All activities carried out by the HRC have been coordinated with these agencies, as well as other organizations such as Caritas, *Ayuda en Acción* and Oxfam.

The HRC has also shared information with the IFRC's programme coordinator in country and members from Partner National Societies (PNS) such as the American Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross. Many of these PNS also supported with information management and the



Children from the community of El Cerro enjoyed a game of piñata as part of the psychosocial support activities carried out by the Honduran Red Cross. Source: HRC

preparation of the plan of action and opened channels of communication to obtain resources for the response. With the support of the Red Cross partners in country, the National Society is implementing a plan of action to assist more than 3,000 families² affected by the rains.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Through this DREF-supported operation the HRC has reached 800 families (3,525 persons) with food and household items such as food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen sets,

jerry cans and blankets. In addition, the DREF supported the distribution of drinking water during the month of January 2012, reaching 1,095 families with 54,000 litres of water. The HRC is also implementing health activities with the goal of preventing water-borne diseases and providing psychosocial support, particularly to vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly. Finally, during this emergency, five volunteers from different regional branches had the opportunity to learn about the management of the Emergency Monitoring Centre established at the National Society's headquarters.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate needs of 800 families affected by Tropical Depression 12-E are met through the distribution of food items and essential household items.

Outputs: 800 families (4,000 people) receive food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets and jerry cans.

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary selection and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Coordinate distribution activities with local and national authorities.
- Distribution of relief items
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress: The HRC has successfully assisted 800 families affected by Tropical Depression 12-E with the distribution of essential food and household items (hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets and jerry cans) as stated in the table below:

Community	No. families	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Playa Grande, Nacaome	185	205	225	166	135
El Cerro, Marcovia	98	126	135	92	76
Los Puentes, Marcovia	54	59	77	56	40
El Portón, Marcovia	83	110	106	111	95
Piedra de Agua, Marcovia	202	281	280	135	186

² This figure corresponds to the number of people targeted through the support provided to the HRC by the PNS and the IFRC. The remaining 2,000 families included under the overall Plan of Action of the National Society are being reached through their own resources.

Cacahulito, Marcovia	94	129	119	78	90
El Obraje, Marcovia	84	120	136	81	76
Total³	800	1,030	1,078	719	698

The procurement of non-food relief items was coordinated with the IFRC's Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) which dispatched items from the regional warehouse in El Salvador. In the case of the food items, the HRC formed a procurement committee who completed a tendering process to select the provider with the best offer. The provider then dispatched the parcels to the regional branches of Choluteca and Nacaome from where the distribution was organized. All distributions concluded on 16 December.

Distribution was also coordinated with the direct involvement of community leaders who determined the best time and place to carry out activities. Once families have gathered, volunteers of the National Society informed them on the contents of the assistance, the process of selecting families and the source of the assistance. Volunteers also explained that the Honduran Red Cross would complement the distribution of relief items with health activities.

However, after a very cost-effective procurement process, the National Society had a small surplus that allowed for further distribution of food parcels. After assessing the current situation in affected areas, it became evident that some families have not yet recovered completely and were in need of assistance. As a result, the HRC has requested a three-week extension of the operation to reach an additional 250 families from the municipality of Liure with food parcels.

Challenges: The assessment process completed, with detailed collection of information on beneficiaries and distribution of tickets ensured a successful distribution. However, the processing of the data was time consuming, particularly during an emergency situation. Therefore, the National Society is now considering the use the MEGA-V bar code system in future distributions.

Emergency health and safe water

<p>Outcome: The immediate risks to health of populations affected by TD 12-E are reduced in the Choluteca and Valle departments.</p> <p>Output 1: 800 flood-affected families have access to safe water.</p> <p>Output 2: 100 flood-affected families are reached with psychosocial support, disease prevention and health promotion activities.</p> <p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the existing coverage of water supply and select two of the most vulnerable communities. • Provide safe water to 800 families while damaged water systems are restored. • Train volunteers and community leaders with the ECV Toolkit on prevention of communicable diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis, acute respiratory diseases and skin diseases. • Monitor the activities conducted with community leaders at the community level. • Conduct basic sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. • Print and distribute information, education and communications (IEC) materials. • Monitor and provide reporting on the activities

Progress: after assessing the availability of safe drinking water in affected communities, the HRC identified 10 communities in need of assistance. During the month of November, the HRC distributed water with the support of the Swiss Red Cross, while Oxfam-Honduras supported the distribution in December. With the support of the DREF, the National Society is distributing water in January and thus far has reached 1,095 families with 54,000 litres of drinking water.

Communities (Choluteca department)	No. families	Quantity distributed
Botadero	166	5,000 l.
Los Puentes	47	8,000 l.
Ojochal	133	5,000 l.

³ The National Society assisted 3,525 persons with relief items. However, detailed information on gender and age was not available for all families and the total represented here (2,827 persons) are to provide an estimation of the breakdown of beneficiaries per family.

29 de abril	47	5,000 l.
Llanitos	220	6,000 l.
Santa Cruz	330	8,000 l.
La Bolsa	38	4,000 l.
Chapetón	48	5,000 l.
Zapote	42	5,000 l.
Tijeras	24	3,000 l.
TOTAL	1,095	54,000 l.

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, of these 10 communities, only the community members of Los Puentes are also recipients of relief items and health activities carried out by the National Society with the support of the DREF.

In order to reach the second output of this operation, the National Society has completed a two-day training for community facilitators on health promotion and psychosocial support. The training was carried out from 18 to 19 November, and 92 persons were trained. The participants included some volunteers of the HRC and some community members that can continue preventive activities on a longer-term.

The National Society has emphasized the need to provide psychosocial support to children affected by Tropical Depression 12-E and completed recreational activities in the communities of Playa Grande (municipality of Nacaome) and El Cerro (municipality of Marcovia). More than 100 children participated in the activities that included singing and dancing, *piñatas*, marionettes and group games. In addition, some activities for the elderly, such as traditional story-telling, were organized.

The HRC is also continuing with activities to prevent communicable diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis, acute respiratory diseases and skin diseases. The health unit of the National Society is working to establish a community-base health framework to ensure long-term sustainability of the process. More detail information of the scope of the actions will be provided on the next report.

Challenges: The reestablishment of water services on affected communities has encountered several challenges and still needs to be attained. In order to avoid the development of dependencies from external sources of water, the National Society is coordinating with community leaders to assess how to restore community infrastructures.

Capacity of the National Society

Outcome: Volunteers involved in the response operation in Choluteca and Valle departments are better equipped and knowledgeable on programme implementation.

Output 1: 10 branches of the HRC have the appropriate equipment to support evacuations and rescue and to provide first aid care in affected areas.

Output 2: At least 6 volunteers participate as interns in headquarters dedicated to coordinating and monitoring all emergency response activities.

Activities planned:

- Identify branches which are most in need of equipment.
- Procure locally safety equipment for volunteers
- Conduct search and rescue activities and first aid care in coordination with the Civil Protection System authorities.
- Monitor the population at risk at the national level focusing on possible landslides and rising river levels.
- Create terms of reference and transparent selecting process
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of activities

Progress: Thus far, five volunteers from the branches of Yuscarán, Comayagua, El Progreso, Omoa, and Río Lindo have participated in the internship programme in the HRC's headquarters. These volunteers have being a crucial element in managing the National Monitoring Centre during the emergency, as well as organizing and processing data related to the distribution of items and gathering current information on the situation in affected areas. At the end of the mission, the volunteers are required to analyze the experience, their successes and challenges.

The HRC is also finalizing the purchase of equipment for evacuations, rescue and first aid care to replenish the one damaged during this emergency. The ten branches that will receive these items are Choluteca,

Nacaome, Pespire, San Lorenzo, Tegucigalpa, Comayagua, Choloma, Chamelecon, Villanueva and San Miguel.

Contact information

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

- **In the Honduran Red Cross:**
 - Maria Elisa Alvarado, director general, Honduran Red Cross; phone: +504.2237.1800; email: maria.alvarado@cruzroja.org.hn
 - Oscar Fernandez, national director of operations and relief, Honduran Red Cross; phone: + 504.3399.4703; email: oferandez@honduras.cruzroja.org
 - **IFRC regional representation for Central America and Mexico in Costa Rica:** Fabricio Lopez, regional representative for Central America and Mexico; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org
 - **IFRC Americas zone office in Panama:** phone: + 507.317.3050
 - Jorge Zequeira, PADRU coordinator; email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org
 - Douglas Baquero, regional logistics coordinator; email: douglas.baquero@ifrc.org
 - Jane Grimshaw; PMER manager; email: jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org
 - **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, operations quality assurance senior officer; phone: + 41.22.730.4381; fax: + 41.22.733.0395; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org
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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 20 October 2011 for 220,262 Swiss francs for three months to assist 4,000 beneficiaries.
 - One DREF operation update was issued on 14 December 2011
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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.



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.