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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update

Guatemala: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Emergency n° MDRGT011	GLIDE n° FL-2017-000130-GTM
DREF Operations Update n° 1; 29 November 2017	Timeframe covered by this update: 2 months
Operation start date: 19 September 2017	Operation timeframe: 3 months, end date 29 December 2017
Overall operation budget: CHF 63,140	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 63,140
N° of people being assisted: 1,000 people (200 families)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Local, Municipal, Departmental and National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), First Lady Social Works Secretary (SOSEP), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Ministry of Social Development, and National Civil Police (PNC).	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This operations update no.1 reflects the progress of the operational activities and an operational timeframe extension of one month; therefore, the operation will now end on 29 December 2017.

Since the beginning of September 2017, heavy rainfall has affected Guatemala; the rainfall continued throughout October 2017, thus delaying the response activities in the departments of Suchitepequez and Retalhuleu. An additional DREF operation was launched on 10 November 2017 to assist affected families in the department of Alta Verapaz.



Guatemalan Red Cross providing vouchers as part of the CTP programme in the department of Retalhuleu. Source: Guatemalan Red Cross

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

On 18 September 2017, heavy rainfall caused flooding throughout Guatemala, particularly in the north-western region of the country. In the departments of Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu, floods damaged homes, crops and household goods, and around 2,016 families were affected according to local authorities.

The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) deployed Damage Analysis and Needs Assessment (DANA) teams to the departments of Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez, identifying the level of damages in the water network, including artesian water wells and several houses with severe damage in which families lost all their belongings. The Guatemalan Red Cross branches in the departments of Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu initially provided pre-hospital assistance and evacuated families at risk to safer locations

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Since the launch of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operation on 2 October 2017, the Guatemalan Red Cross, with support from the IFRC, provided essential relief items to 200 affected families in the departments of Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez. The following relief items have been distributed:

Department	No. of families	Mosquito nets (LLITNs)	Jerry cans	Blankets
Suchitepéquez	69	69	69	345
Retalhuleu	131	131	262	655
Total	200	200	331	1,000

To date, 331 jerry cans have been distributed (2 per family); the 69 pending jerry cans will be distributed in the department of Suchitepéquez.

Through the Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) component, the Guatemalan Red Cross has reached 129 families in the department of Retalhuleu with vouchers in the amount of USD\$187.50 per family. The aim was to reach 131 families in Retalhuleu; however, two families could not be located, and the National Society will determine how it can deliver the vouchers to the two remaining families. Plans are underway to reach 69 families with vouchers in the department of Suchitepéquez, thereby achieving the objective of reaching 200 families in both departments.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The GRC develops its activities within the National Response Plan in accordance with its operational structure, lines of actions and procedures aimed at providing an adequate emergency response. The Spanish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross are present in the country, and there is also an IFRC office and an International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) office in the country. Finally, the IFRC's Disaster and Crisis Units' Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is in continuous communication with the GRC.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

CONRED oversees the National Response System in Guatemala, which coordinates disaster preparedness and response activities at the local, municipal, departmental, regional and national levels. The GRC is part of the CONRED Operation Centre, which is organized in sectors according to response needs, the Inter- Institutional Liaison System and the Centre for Humanitarian Aid and Assistance Coordination (CAAH).

At the local level, the SOSEP works with local authorities to coordinate the provision of assistance to temporary collective centres.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The flooding severely affected infrastructure in the departments of Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez. The United Nations continues conducting evaluations on the food security situation of the affected families since they will not have a harvest until the middle of next year. The CTP component of this plan of action will help the affected families defray some of these costs; nevertheless, it is expected that January and February 2018 will be most critical as the families will not have a productive harvest.

The Guatemalan Red Cross continues evaluating the affected artesian wells' level of contamination in the impacted areas; additionally, the National Society's volunteer and health departments are coordinating the provision of medical assistance, the distribution of drinking water and the implementation of vector-borne disease prevention activities with the Ministry of Health.

Operation Risk Assessment

The rainy season continues, which can further affect families that have already suffered the onslaught of climate-related events; in addition, several earthquakes have struck the country in 2017, and further aftershocks could endanger the population.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy


The general objective is to implement a humanitarian aid operation to meet the urgent needs of 200 families affected by the flooding in the departments of Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez; the intervention is focused on providing safe water, health assistance and promotion, and an unconditional cash transfer programme.

The Guatemalan Red Cross continues implementing the operation through relief distributions and the provision of vouchers to the affected families. Since the start of the operation, the National Society has been in close communication with the affected communities, allowing for continuous evaluation and feedback of the activities and needs.

Part of the response has been developed through an integrated programme, both in housing and health improvement, and the strengthening of the affected families' economic security has been particularly emphasized. During the implementation of the CTP (voucher distributions), families received guidance and sensitization on the best use of their vouchers.

The Guatemalan Red Cross has disseminated all its actions through social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook. The GRC expects to conduct a beneficiary satisfaction survey before the end of the operation, which will include a lessons learned workshop to improve future operations.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Shelter People reached: 1,000 Male: 400 Female: 600</p>					
Outcome 1: Affected families in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez receive Non-Food Items					
Indicators:				Target	Actual
N° of people to be assisted				1,000	1,000
Output 1.1: At least 200 families affected by the floods receive blankets and jerry cans for water storage					
Indicators:				Target	Actual
N° of blankets distributed				1,000	1,000
N° of jerry cans distributed				400	331
Progress towards outcomes					
A total of 200 families received jerry cans and blankets as follows:					
Department	Municipality	Community	No. Of Families	Jerry cans	Blankets
Suchitepéquez	Cuyotenango	Cantón Tululá	17	17	85
		Calle de la Cruz	20	20	100
		Canton Ican and Campo Borrayo	14	14	70

Retalhuleu		San Benito	8	8	40
		Canton la otra banda	10	10	50
	San Felipe	La Estación	1	2	5
		Col. Fegua	2	4	10
		Aldea La Piedad 2	5	10	25
		Lot. San Pablo	5	10	25
		Caserío el Esfuerzo	12	24	60
		Barrio la Llovizna	6	12	30
		Nuevo Pomarrosal sector 1	6	12	30
	San Martín Zapotitlán	Sector Tinaquita	5	10	25
		Armenia Ortíz	2	4	10
		Ceiba Blanca	2	4	10
		Ajaxá	1	2	5
		Comunidad La Loma	1	2	5
	San Andrés Villa Seca	Línea C-10 Achiotes	40	80	200
		Línea C-8 Polígono 7	8	16	40
	San Sebastián	Samalá 1	19	38	95
		Pajoson	12	24	60
		Parinox	1	2	5
		Puca 1	3	6	15
		TOTAL	200	331	1,000

The GRC will distribute the remaining jerry cans in the department of Suchitepequez.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 645

Male: 400

Female: 600

Outcome 2: Families affected by the floods in Retalhuleu and Suchitepequez receive humanitarian assistance to improve their living conditions and facilitate their early recovery.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
N° of families receiving relief items.	200	129

Output 2.1: An unconditional CTP is implemented to support the early recovery of 200 families affected by the floods in Retalhuleu and Suchitepequez.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
N° of families receiving cash bonuses for their early recovery.	200	129

Progress towards outcomes

Branches conduct a preliminary emergency assessment

The GRC carried out a detailed damage and needs assessment in the affected communities in the departments of Suchitepequez and Retalhuleu; the GRC identified 200 families to receive cash bonuses for their early recovery as follows:

Department	Municipality	Community	No. of families	Houses at risk	Houses with severe damages
Suchitepequez	Cuyotenango	Cantón Tuluá	17	X	X
		Calle de la Cruz	20	X	X
		Canton Ican and Campo Borrayo	14	X	X
		San Benito	8	X	X
		Canton La Otra Banda	10	X	X
Retalhuleu	San Felipe	La Estación	1	X	X
		Col. Fegua	2	X	X
		Aldea La Piedad 2	5	X	X
		Lot. San Pablo	5	X	X
		Caserío el Esfuerzo	12	X	X
		Barrio la Llovisna	6	X	X
		Nuevo Pomarrosal sector 1	6	X	X
	San Martín Zapotitlán	Sector Tinaquita	5	X	X
		Armenia Ortíz	2	X	X
		Ceiba Blanca	2	X	X
		Ajaxá	1	X	X
		Comunidad La Loma	1	X	X
	San Andrés Villa Seca	Línea C-10 Achiotes	40	X	X
		Línea C-8 Polígono 7	8	X	X
	San Sebastián	Samalá 1	19	X	X
		Pajoson	12	X	X
		Parinox	1	X	X
		Puca 1	3	X	X
	TOTAL			200	

Analysis and selection of the modality for CTP

The GRC conducted a market analysis in the affected areas to review if a CTP component would be feasible to implement; the analysis showed financial services, banking systems were working and that local markets were affected, but agricultural products were still available, including a network of basic staples and general consumable products. Additionally, the analysis indicated that families lost their crops, home items and their houses were damaged; therefore, the National Society included a CTP component to support the local economy and to benefit 200 families that sustained minor to moderate damages to their homes.

To date, 120 families in the department of Retalhuleu have received vouchers in the amount of USD\$187.50, which have allowed the families to cover their basic needs such as housing repair items, home items and hygiene items, among other needs.

CTP implementation (USD\$187.50 per family)

Department	Municipality	Community	No. Of families reached
Retalhuleu	San Felipe	La Estación	1
		Col. Fegua	2
		Aldea La Piedad 2	5
		Lot. San Pablo	5

		Caserío el Esfuerzo	12
		Barrio la Llovizna	6
		Nuevo Pomarrosal sector 1	6
	San Martín Zapotitlán	Sector Tinaquita	5
		Armenia Ortiz	2
		Ceiba Blanca	2
		Ajaxá	1
		Comunidad La Loma	1
	San Andrés Villa Seca	Línea C-10 Achiotes	38
		Línea C-8 Polígono 7	8
	San Sebastián	Samalá 1	19
		Pajoson	12
		Parinox	1
Puca 1		3	
TOTAL		129	

*Please that Note that the remaining two families in the department of Retalhuleu will receive vouchers to complete the planned 131 families.



CTP distribution of vouchers in the department of Retalhuleu.
Source: Guatemalan Red Cross

The remaining 69 families in the department of Suchitepéquez will receive vouchers as follows:

Department	Municipality	Community	No. of families
Suchitepéquez	Cuyotenango	Cantón Tuluá	17
		Calle de la Cruz	20
		Canton Ican and Campo Borrayo	14
		San Benito	8
		Canton La Otra Banda	10
		TOTAL	69

The planned beneficiary satisfaction survey will focus on the GRC's CTP activities once all the vouchers have been distributed.



Health

People reached: 1,000

Male: 400

Female: 600

Outcome 3: Affected families in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez improve their health.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
N° of families assisted with health improving actions.	200	200

Output 3.1: At least 200 families affected by the floods receive LLITNs and mosquito repellent.

Indicators:				Target	Actual	
N° of long-lasting insecticide treated [mosquito] nets (LLITNs) (200) and units of mosquito repellent (400) distributed				600	200	
Progress towards outcomes						
A total of 200 families have received LLITNs (1 per family), and the GRC will soon deliver mosquito repellent (2 units per family) to them.						
Department	Municipality	Community	No. Of families	Mosquito repellent	LLITNs	
Suchitepéquez	Cuyotenango	Cantón Tululá	17	0	17	
		Calle de la Cruz	20	0	20	
		Canton Ican and Campo Borrayo	14	0	14	
		San Benito	8	0	8	
		Canton la otra banda	10	0	10	
Retalhuleu	San Felipe	La Estación	1	0	1	
		Col. Fegua	2	0	2	
		Aldea La Piedad 2	5	0	5	
		Lot. San Pablo	5	0	5	
		Caserío el Esfuerzo	12	0	12	
		Barrio la Llovizna	6	0	6	
		Nuevo Pomarrosal sector 1	6	0	6	
	San Martín Zapotitlán	Sector Tinaquita	5	0	5	
		Armenia Ortiz	2	0	2	
		Ceiba Blanca	2	0	2	
		Ajaxá	1	0	1	
		Comunidad La Loma	1	0	1	
	San Andrés Villa Seca	Línea C-10 Achiotés	40	0	40	
		Línea C-8 Polígono 7	8	0	8	
	San Sebastián	Samalá 1	19	0	19	
		Pajoson	12	0	12	
		Parinox	1	0	1	
		Puca 1	3	0	3	
	TOTAL			200	0	200

International Disaster Response

Outcome 4: Continuous and detailed analysis and assessments are conducted during the operation's development and implementation phases.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessments conducted in water and sanitation (artesian wells)	5	5

Output 4.1: An initial needs assessment is conducted, and the GRC consults with beneficiaries during the assessment

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Assessment reports on beneficiaries are consulted (assessment reports, plan of action).	5	5

Progress towards outcomes

The flooding severely affected the health and livelihood sectors, prompting the Guatemalan Red Cross, through the local branch in Retalhuleu, to provide support through the deployment of medical brigades and the assessments of the artesian wells' level of contamination.



Artesian water well assessments in the department of Retalhuleu. Source: Guatemalan Red Cross

Output 4.2: Operational management is implemented per a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Plan of action and sectorial plans are developed according to a monitoring and evaluation plan.	1	1

Progress towards outcomes

Through community leaders and GRC volunteers in the operational area, the National Society carried out monitoring of the activities on a regular basis; moreover, with assistance from the IFRC, the GRC's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) is providing technical support to the monitoring plans and the development of the operations | updates

D. BUDGET

The budget as per initial [DREF Emergency Plan of Action](#) for this operation remains valid.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
