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## Emergency Appeal Costa Rica: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRCR016

Glide n° [FL-2017-000151-CRI](#)

24,000 people (6,000 families) to be assisted

316,177 Swiss francs DREF allocated

1,523,001 million Swiss francs current Appeal budget

Appeal launched 12 October 2017

Appeal ends 11 April 2018

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of some **1,523,001** Swiss francs to enable the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** to support the **Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC)** to deliver assistance and support to some **24,000 people for six months**, with a focus on the following areas of focus and strategies of implementation: **livelihoods and basic needs (including multipurpose/unconditional cash transfer programming); health; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH); restoring family links (RFL), disaster risk reduction (DRR) and National Society capacity building.** The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation, and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments. Details are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) [<click here>](#)

### The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

**21 September- 6 October 2017:** A zone of intertropical convergence, Tropical Wave No. 42 and the formation of Tropical Wave No.16, develops into Tropical Storm Nate causing flooding in Costa Rica.

**4 to 5 October:** The cumulative rainfall exceeds 400 mm in Guanacaste, while the cumulative rainfall ranged from 150 to 250 mm in some sectors of the Central Valley, leading to oversaturation of the soil in the affected areas.

**5 October 2017:** The CRRC Emergency Response and Risk Management Unit activated the CRRC's National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC).

**12 October 2017:** The IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for 1,523,001 Swiss francs and allocates 316,177 Swiss francs from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the CRRC to assist 24,000 people for six months.



CRRC-led rescue activities in Guanacaste. Source: CRRC

## The operational strategy

### Needs assessment and beneficiary selection

#### Health

Some of the country's health centres, both its tertiary hospital and primary care centres, currently have limited capacity due to damage caused by the flooding; therefore, patients are being transferred by air from the damaged health centres to the capital city of San Jose for medical attention. Approximately 81 health facilities were damaged in the regions of Chorotega, Brunca, Huetar Caribe, North Central and South Central.

The main concerns are the lack of access to the affected areas and potential disease outbreaks.

#### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Floods have affected the water supply and disrupted the provision of medical care and sanitation actions, heightening the risk of waterborne diseases.

The national water agency has been working to restore services in the affected communities, and it is providing water cisterns and bottled water to the affected population; nonetheless, isolated communities, where floods and landslides have affected water supply systems and wells, remain.

Due to the poor hygienic conditions, waterborne diseases are a primary concern, vector control has been made more difficult by saturated water drains and inadequate solid waste disposal, and reports indicate that 509,628 people are without drinking water throughout the country. Moreover, dengue, Zika and chikungunya are present in the country, and there is currently a national health alert for malaria. Consequently, the need to restore water and sanitation conditions and implement vector control actions is vital.

#### Livelihoods

People in the affected communities have lost their banana, pineapple, maize, cassava and bean crops, and the flooding destroyed agricultural products and affected community members' stored food; coastal communities, whose main source of livelihoods is fishing, were also affected.

The impacted families' economic security has been affected, which will imperil their income generation in the coming months. Moreover, the affected families will need to replace the assets they lost, and they will need financial assistance to help support the upcoming scholastic enrollment of their children (January and February 2018). In addition, the livelihoods sector should consider the migratory status of people in coastal and border areas during the emergency and recovery phase when formulating activities.

The National Society's food campaign will be able to cover the immediate food needs of the affected people for at least 45 days; however, a cash transfer programme is needed to prevent further damage to local businesses and to support the local economy, thus contributing to a rapid restoration of the local markets during the early recovery stage.

#### Restoring Family Links

The flooding damaged communications infrastructure, and it has caused sporadic power outages, thereby interrupting telecommunication services and making it difficult for families to locate and contact missing family members.

#### Current Response

The CRRC has activated its disaster response plan, and has requested its 121 auxiliary branches throughout the country to activate their institutional response mechanisms to address the needs of the communities affected by heavy rains and flooding. The CRRC has a physical presence throughout Costa Rica's nine regions.

When the emergency occurred, the CRRC emergency response and risk management unit activated the CRRC's NEOC; likewise, the National Society's auxiliary branches have been providing essential information to the population in high risk areas and regions under alert since the beginning of the emergency.

Approximately 2,000 staff and volunteers and 199 vehicles have been mobilized to conduct rescue and evacuation activities and safely evacuate people to the collective centres.

### Beneficiary selection

The beneficiary selection will be based on the CRRC's assessments, which are currently being carried out by its field teams and the auxiliary branches. The planned interventions will be aligned with the IFRC's commitments to the inclusion of gender and diversity in emergency programming.

#### Criteria for the selection of the communities:

1. Communities are inaccessible for more than a week
2. Communities that have lost their livelihoods
3. Communities with damage to their transport routes, making it difficult for them to carry out their economic activities
4. Communities that will not receive food aid, water and hygiene materials from other organizations or the Costa Rican government.

#### Criteria for the selection of the families:

1. Families with affected homes
2. Single mothers
3. Families with elderly members
4. Families with children under five years of age
5. Families that do not have a source of income due to the flooding's impact on their livelihoods
6. Migrants without access to assistance
7. Persons with disabilities

The indicated criteria will be reviewed once the detailed assessments are available in the coming days.

### Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC has a country office in Costa Rica, in which its volunteering and youth regional coordinator for the Americas works; he has been coordinating with the National Society since the onset of the emergency. Likewise, the IFRC deployed its disaster management regional coordinator to the country to support the development of the emergency plan of action.

Additionally, an American Red Cross staff member has been providing support to the National Society's NEOC.

Furthermore, in coordination with the National Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has provided support through its Platform for Restoring Family Links.

In coordination with the CRRC, the IFRC country office and the regional office for the Americas have been in constant communication with the ICRC and Partner National Societies to provide them with information on the developing situation in Costa Rica. Finally, the IFRC developed a dashboard that is continuously updated with new information on the current situation in Central America.

## Proposed Areas for intervention

### Overall Objective

The objective is to ensure humanitarian assistance during the emergency and recovery phase to at least 24,000 people (6,000 families) impacted by flooding in the affected communities (initially in the regions of Guanacaste, Central and Pacific South), through the provision of health and care, WASH, shelter (including non-food items), RFL, DRR and CTP actions.

### Areas of Focus



#### Livelihoods and Basic Needs

**People targeted:** A total of 2,000 families will receive CTP (the total number of beneficiaries is dependent upon the feasibility study).

**Requirements:** 436,384 Swiss francs

**Needs analysis:** People in the affected communities have lost their banana, pineapple, maize, cassava and bean crops, and the flooding destroyed agricultural products and affected community members' stored food; coastal communities, whose main source of livelihoods is fishing, were also affected.

**Planned activities:**

- Development of a CTP feasibility study
- Conduct a rapid market analysis
- Training in CTP for CRRC volunteers and personnel
- Development and implementation of a question and answer system for CTP
- Selection and registration of beneficiaries
- Implementation of unconditional CTP
- Development and implementation of a CTP monitoring and evaluation system



## Health

**People targeted:** A total of 6,000 families in the affected areas will be assisted.

**Requirements:** 25,659 Swiss francs

**Needs analysis:** Some of the country's health centres currently have limited capacity due to damage caused by the flooding.

**Planned activities:**

- Evacuation response and pre-hospitality services are provided during the emergency phase
- Development of a matrix for the monitoring of health conditions
- Training on the matrix to be implemented
- Implementation of the matrix in the different visited collective centres
- Consolidation of the results for a more tailored implementation
- Implementation of the "Return to Joy Programme" in the most affected communities.
- Psychosocial support (PSS) provided to CRRC volunteers
- Print and distribute 6,000 self-care PSS flyers to affected people



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**People targeted:** A total of 6,000 families will be assisted during the operation's first phase; this phase involves hygiene promotion messages and the distribution of hygiene materials and water filters. The second phase will involve the cleaning of wells for at least 500 families.

**Requirements:** 720,241 Swiss francs

**Need analysis:** Much of the population does not have access to drinking water and the available drinking water is at risk to contamination.

**Planned activities:**

- Campaigns to raise awareness and promote hygiene through social media and community messages in the affected areas are conducted
- Distribution of 6,000 water filters
- Purchase and distribution of 12,000 long-lasting insecticide treated nets (LLITNs) and 12,000 units of repellent
- Dissemination of messages on vector control and the identification and eradication of mosquito breeding grounds in the affected areas
- Recruitment of technicians for well cleaning
- Cleaning of 500 wells in the affected communities



## Migration & Displacement

**People targeted:** RFL assistance will be provided for a period of 10 days; if needed, the duration of this activity can be extended. The assisted population will be anyone affected by the emergency in Costa Rica that requests the service.

**Requirements:** 8,814 Swiss francs

**Needs analysis:** Due to the damage to the telecommunications infrastructure and electrical outages, families are having difficulty establishing contact with missing family members.

### Planned activities:

- Deployment of the RFL team for 10 days
- Activation of the RFL platform for 10 days
- Training of CRRC volunteers in RFL



## Disaster Risk Reduction

**People targeted:** A total of 6,000 families will receive information on early warning systems (EWSs), 10 communities will undergo the EWS process and around 150,000 people will be reached through social media.

**Requirements:** 47,499 Swiss francs

**Needs analysis:** The current situation highlights the need to ensure that community preparedness and risk reduction measures are increased. As the floodwaters head south towards to the Pacific, there is a threat of erosion outside river embankments or the build-up of water within the embankments, which would adversely affect the livelihoods of thousands of families and communities. There is a need for small-scale mitigation projects, including EWS and emergency family plans.

### Planned activities:

- Training on EWS for CRRS volunteers
- Raising awareness and the dissemination of key messages on emergency family plans through social networks
- Training at the community level on emergency family plans in 10 communities
- Creation of local emergency committees in 10 communities
- Awareness campaign on environmental management linked to risk management

## Strategies for Implementation

**Requirements:** 284,404 Swiss francs

### Strengthening National Societies

**Needs analysis:** The current situation represents a challenge to the National Society because unlike previous emergencies, which were concentrated in specific regions, the current emergency has affected 90 per cent of the country, with two months remaining in the rainy season; the widespread nature of the emergency has required the use of the CRRC's emergency response equipment and demonstrated the need to replace the old equipment with new equipment. Also, there is a need to motivate the volunteers and recognise their work and to compile the lessons learned from previous operations to use them in future emergencies.

### Planned activities:

- Analysis of the auxiliary branches involved in the operation's equipment needs
- Purchase and distribution of equipment
- Evaluation of the condition of the equipment and an inventory to measure the capacity of future response
- Develop a comprehensive strategy for a better emergency response
- Recognition of volunteers involved in the emergency response

- Workshop on volunteer management during emergency response

Furthermore, based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: **human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.** More details are in the Emergency Plan of Action.

## Budget

See attached IFRC Secretariat budget ([Annex 1](#)) for details.

**Elhadj As Sy**  
Secretary General

### Reference documents



Click here for:

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

### Contact information

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

#### **In the Costa Rican Red Cross:**

- Dr. Edgardo Acosta, national relief and operations director of the Costa Rican Red Cross; phone: (+506) 2542-5010; email: [edgardo.acosta@cruzroja.or.cr](mailto:edgardo.acosta@cruzroja.or.cr).

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- Nelson Aly Rodriguez, head of country cluster support team for Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras; email: [nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org)

#### **For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:**

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#### **For Logistics support:**

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#### **In Geneva:**

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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.

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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.**

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# EMERGENCY APPEAL

MDRCR016 Costa Rica Floods

12/10/2017

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0			0
Shelter - Transitional	0			0
Construction - Housing	0			0
Construction - Facilities	0			0
Construction - Materials	0			0
Clothing & Textiles	48,001			48,001
Food	0			0
Seeds & Plants	0			0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	492,020			492,020
Medical & First Aid	0			0
Teaching Materials	47,009			47,009
Utensils & Tools	0			0
Other Supplies & Services	979			979
Emergency Response Units	0			0
Cash Disbursements	403,493			403,493
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>991,502</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>991,502</b>
Land & Buildings	0			0
Vehicles	0			0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	25,494			25,494
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0
Medical Equipment	0			0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>25,494</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,494</b>
Storage, Warehousing	9,794			9,794
Distribution & Monitoring	11,100			11,100
Transport & Vehicle Costs	109,785			109,785
Logistics Services	26,120			26,120
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>156,799</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>156,799</b>
International Staff	27,422			27,422
National Staff	3,428			3,428
National Society Staff	32,123			32,123
Volunteers	67,575			67,575
Other Staff Benefits	9,794			9,794
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>140,341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140,341</b>
Consultants	12,242			12,242
Professional Fees	0			0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>12,242</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,242</b>
Workshops & Training	53,864			53,864
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>53,864</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53,864</b>
Travel	14,201			14,201
Information & Public Relations	11,263			11,263
Office Costs	2,938			2,938
Communications	5,631			5,631
Financial Charges	12,536			12,536
Other General Expenses	979			979
Shared Office and Services Costs	2,258			2,258
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>49,806</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49,806</b>
Partner National Societies	0			0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0			0
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	92,953	0	0	92,953
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>92,953</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92,953</b>
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees				
<b>Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,523,001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,523,001</b>
<b>Available Resources</b>				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS</b>	<b>1,523,001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,523,001</b>