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DREF Operations Update

El Salvador: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRSV012; Operations Update n° 1	Glide n° TC-2018-000167-SLV
Date of issue: 14 January 2019	Expected timeframe: 4 months The operation has been extended by 1 month; the new end date is 15 February 2019
DREF allocated: 150,671 Swiss francs (CHF)	Timeframe covered by this report: 16 October 2018 to 10 January 2019
Total number of people affected: 7,085 (1,417 families)	Number of people to be assisted: 2,090 people (418 families)
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Salvadorian Red Cross Society (SRCS) has one headquarter, 63 branches throughout the country, 2,300 volunteers and 250 staff.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: e International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: El Salvador Civil Protection System and departmental, municipal and community commissions, the Medical Emergency System (SEM for its acronym in Spanish), the Solidarity Fund for Health (FOSALUD for its acronym in Spanish), Rescue Commandos, Salvadoran Green Cross	
Summary of changes made to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) emergency plan of action (EPoA):	
The SRCS extended this operation by one month due to the absence of key personnel and the delayed entry of relief items during the holiday season; additionally, during the initial operational period, the SRCS had difficulty coordinating with government agencies in the intervention areas because of the upcoming presidential election. The new operation end date is 15 February 2019 . The SRCS expects to complete outstanding activities such as the medical and psychosocial support (PSS) interventions and the safe water and hygiene promotion training sessions during the one-month extension.	

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A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 6 October 2018, rains began falling over eastern El Salvador due to the influence and combination of a low-pressure system in the Pacific and the tropical depression number 14 located near the Honduran Atlantic coast, prompting the Salvadorian Civil Protection System to declare a green alert for the country. On 7 October 2018, the tropical depression was upgraded to Tropical Storm Michael, which continued moving north over the Yucatán channel toward the Gulf of Mexico. In response to the storm's increasing strength, the Civil Protection System declared a yellow alert for 29 coastal municipalities on 7 October 2018; the following day, the number of municipalities under alert increased to 34 to include three municipalities in Morazán department and two in La Unión department, and a green alert remained in place for the rest of the country. The rains have affected the entire country, with the hardest hit areas in El Salvador's eastern region, specifically the cantons of El Brazo, La Canoa and El Tecomatal in the municipality of San Miguel, the cantons of San Felipe and Las Tunas in La Unión department, the



Map 1: Zone affected by Tropical Storm Michael (in yellow).
Source: SRCS

cantons of Capitán Lazo and Puerto Parada in the municipality of Usulután, the canton of Metalío in Sonsonate department (western El Salvador) and the cantons of San Diego and San Rafael Abajo in the municipality of La Libertad in central El Salvador. The floods have affected most of the country's coastal municipalities.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The SRCS has been constantly monitoring the situation since the onset of low-pressure system No. 14 and later after Tropical Storm Michael struck through its branches. The National Society's Initial response actions focused on the preventive evacuation of 174 families in the villages of Santa Fidelia, Casa Mota and El Consuelo in San Miguel department. In La Unión department, the SRCS assisted 16 flood-affected families, and it delivered humanitarian aid to two collective centres; both departments are in eastern El Salvador. The second most affected areas were in the west, specifically the village of El Amatal in Sonsonate department, where the SRCS evacuated 25 families and conducted a damage assessment and needs analysis (DANA). Throughout the emergency, the SRCS carried out rescue actions and assisted with the distribution of humanitarian aid such as hygiene kits, mats and blankets; the humanitarian aid the SRCS distributed to the affected families in the collective centres consisted of a hygiene kit, mats and blankets.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

- The following Partner National Societies (PNSs) are present in the country: Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and American Red Cross. The Spanish Red Cross provided vehicles to transport rescue personnel to affected areas, while Swiss Red Cross personnel assisted the SRCS with its damage assessments in eastern regions.
- The SRCS ensures inter-institutional coordination through the Civil Protection and Disaster Mitigation Law, cooperation agreements and through the National Response Plan via actions implemented with the respective operational directorates in each of its branches. All humanitarian actions conducted by the Red Cross Movement in El Salvador are carried out under one single plan of action to achieve greater impact on affected communities. The SRCS is responsible for preparing, coordinating and leading the plan of action's implementation.
- The SRCS's head of disaster risk management has sent four situational reports via the IFRC's GO platform, and the SRCS has apprised the IFRC's continental operations coordinator for the Americas region, its head of its country cluster office for Central America and its disaster management coordinator for Central America of the situation in the country.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

- At the national level, El Salvador's Civil Protection System, which the SRCS is part of at the national, departmental and municipal levels, is coordinating emergency response actions
- Active communication is maintained between the Salvadorian government, the country's humanitarian network and civil society members
- Municipal and departmental commissions have been activated in affected municipalities.
- The government established 17 collective centres in the affected areas during the height of the emergency
- Municipal governments conducted a census of the population in the collective centres

Needs analysis, targeting, and operation risk assessment

Needs analysis

The needs have not changed since the [DREF EPoA](#) was issued on 15 October 2018.

Targeting

The SRCS used DANAs conducted by Civil Protection System personnel and SRCS teams deployed to the field to inform the following selection criteria for targeted assistance:

- Dwellings flooded or seriously affected by the event
- Families whose livelihoods were affected due to the flooding of their land
- Low-income families in highly vulnerable areas

Operation Risk Assessment

The SRCS is conducting the operation in an area plagued by violence due to the presence of the two major Salvadoran gangs and paramilitary groups; consequently, the SRCS's field operations must consider Safer Access procedures, and all National Society personnel must follow the SRCS's security policy.

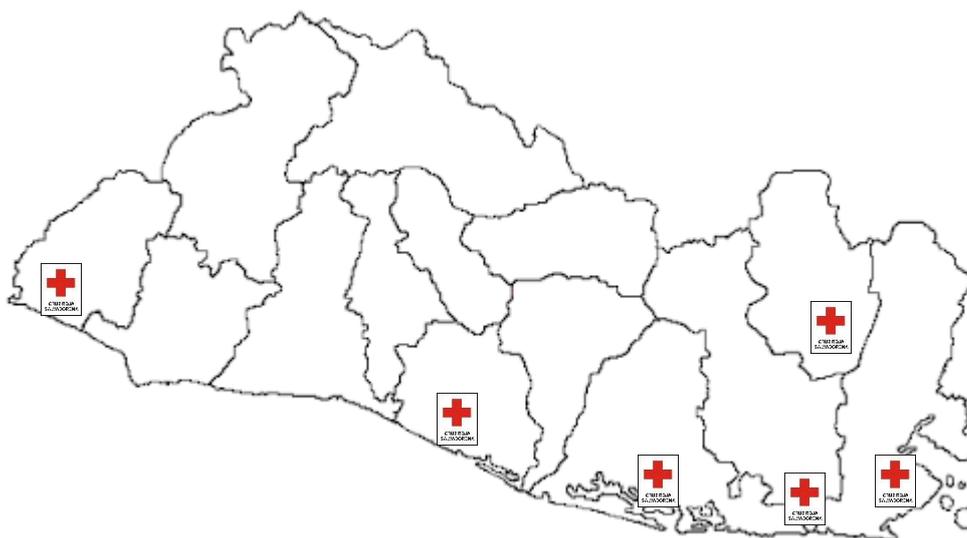
B. Operational Strategy

General objective

Provide humanitarian assistance to 418 families (2,090 people) affected by the low-pressure system and Tropical Storm Michael through the provision of shelter, health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) actions.

Proposed strategy

The SRCS's strategy is based on direct work with the affected communities and conducted in coordination with the National Society branches in the affected departments and municipalities (as shown below in map 2) and different institutions that are members of the National Civil Protection System. Since the SRCS is part of the National Civil Protection System, the National Society is coordinating with it to prevent the duplication of efforts.



Map 2: SRCS branches involved in the operation.
Source: SRCS

C. Detailed operational plan



Shelter

People reached: 1,030 people (206 families)

Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and short-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families benefitted with shelter activities	418	206

Shelter Output 1.1: Short-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families that receive blankets and mats	418	128

Progress toward outcomes

SRCS shelter actions:

- The SRCS carried out distributions with its own stock at the start of the emergency.
- The SRCS has begun the process to purchase 1,000 mats through its procurement unit.
- The SRCS identified the beneficiary population for the shelter sector.
- The SRCS has held planning and coordination meetings with local actors to optimize the implementation of its shelter actions.
- The SRCS has planned further distributions of relief items under the shelter sector.



Hygiene kits, Jerry cans and filters in the SRCS's main warehouse that are ready to be distributed to the areas affected by Tropical Storm Michael. Source: SRCS



Health

People reached: 0

Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of assisted population with reduced health risks	80%	0%

Health Output 2.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed upon guidelines.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessments to collective centres and communities affected	N/A	0

Health Output 2.2: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of the target population assisted through medical sessions	90%	0%
# of families that receive medical attention	418	0
Health Output 2.3: Psychosocial support provided to the target population.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of the target population assisted with PSS	100%	0%
Progress toward outcomes		
SRCS health actions:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of the purchase of supply kits for disease prevention • Development of a basic medical chart for the purchase of medicine for daily use • In conjunction with the IFRC, management of the budget line for the purchase of medicine • Drafted an authorization request for the purchase medicine • Planned medical interventions • Defined the logistics strategy for the coordination of the medical interventions • Coordination with local actors and government agencies on the medical interventions • Planned PSS interventions in the beneficiary communities • Acquired materials and supplies for the PSS interventions • Developed educational material about disease prevention • Selected beneficiary communities for the medical and PSS interventions • Designed visibility materials for SRCS volunteers participating in the operation to ensure their safety and ready identification¹ 		

 Water, sanitation and hygiene People reached: 1,055 people (211 families)		
WASH Outcome 3: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families with access to safe water	418	0
WASH Output 3.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of target population that use safe water	100%	0%
WASH Output 3.2: Daily access to safe water, which meets Sphere and World Health Organization (WHO) standards in terms of quantity and quality, is provided to target population.		
Indicators	Target	Actual
# of families that use safe water to prevent disease	418	0
WASH Output 3.3: Hygiene promotion activities, which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items, are provided to target population.		
Indicators	Target	Actual
% of families that are informed about hygiene promotion	100%	0%

¹ The activities listed above reflect the planning, coordination, preparation, application for authorizations and management of all the necessary supplies for the development of the health sector's activities in the beneficiary communities and a corresponding 50 per cent advance for this sector; the remaining 50 per cent pertains to the implementation of the medical and PSS interventions in the field. Since all of this sector's indicators are related to field actions, the implementation rate appears as 0 due to the absence of field activity, which the SRCS will soon begin.

WASH Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (non-food items [NFIs]), which meet Sphere standards, and training on how to use those goods are provided to the target population.		
Indicators	Target	Actual
% of families that receive hygiene kits	100%	50%
Progress toward outcomes		
SRCS WASH actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed training sessions for SRCS volunteers on water quality assessments and hygiene promotion • Carried out a preliminary assessment of the potable water supply in the affected communities • Verified customs and hygiene habits of affected communities • Finalized procurement process for the water filters, jerry cans and hygiene kits • Developed training sessions on safe water storage and management • Developed educational material on hygiene promotion • Coordinated the purchase of educational material on hygiene promotion • Designed training sessions on the promotion of good hygiene habits and disease prevention • Distributed hygiene kits to 211 affected families (one per family) • Designed visibility materials for SRCS and IFRC personnel² 		

² The activities listed above reflect the planning, coordination, preparation, application for authorizations and management of all the necessary supplies for the development of the WASH sector's activities in the beneficiary communities and a corresponding 50 per cent advance for this sector; the SRCS will complete the safe water and hygiene promotion activities, which currently reflect an implementation rate of 0, during the one-month extension.

Reference documents

Click here for:

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

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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**.