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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Costa Rica: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCR010
GLIDE n° EQ-2012-000160-CRI
7 September, 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.

CHF 52,498 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) damage and need assessments and in delivering immediate assistance to some 100 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On the morning of 5 September 2012, an earthquake with magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale struck Costa Rica off the coast of the Nicoya Peninsula, with over 200 small aftershocks felt on the following hours. First reports gathered by the National Commission of Risk Prevention and Emergency Response indicate that some 107 communities have some level of affectation, particularly in Guanacaste and Puntarenas.

A red alert was issued by the government of Costa Rica and the National Society mobilized their emergency teams. The current DREF-supported operation will assist with detail assessments needed to better understand the scope of the affectation to the safety of homes and buildings. An exact number of affected persons have not yet been established.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by December, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by March, 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#)
[here for contact details;](#)
[here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



Damage and need assessments are still ongoing across Costa Rica to gather information on affected homes and buildings. Source: Costa Rican Red Cross.

The situation

On the morning of 5 September 2012, an earthquake with magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale struck Costa Rica off the coast of the Nicoya Peninsula. The United States Geological Services located the epicenter at some 60 kilometres of Liberia, the provincial capital of Guanacaste with a depth of 40 kilometres. The earthquake was felt across the country and part of Nicaragua. By 17:30 local time, the Volcanological and

Seismological Observatory of Costa Rica reported 230 aftershocks with magnitude above 2.0. The strongest aftershock was felt at 09:12, with a magnitude of 4.7.

It was one of the strongest earthquakes ever felt in the country, nonetheless there are no deaths directly attributed to the earthquake, nor are there injured patients in the affected hospitals. First reports gathered by the National Commission of Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgo y Atención de Emergencia, CNE) indicate that 26 cantons in 6 provinces had some level of affectation:

- Alajuela: Alajuela, Alfaro Ruiz, Atenas, Grecia, Naranjo, Poás, San Carlos, San Ramón, Valverde Vega and , Upala
- Guanacaste: cantons of Abangares, Carrillo, Hojancha, Liberia, Nicoya Nandayure and , Santa Cruz
- Heredia: Barva and Sarapiquí
- Limón: Limón
- Puntarenas: Aguirre, Garabito and Puntarenas
- San José: Acosta, Puriscal and San José

The following table summarizes the information provided by different public institutions on the same day of the event:

Sector	Quantity	Location and situation
Affected communities	107	Alajuela, Guanacaste, , Heredia, Limón, Puntarenas and San José .
Roads and highways	6	Road-508 (Naranjal- Rio San Juan) Road-141 (Naranjo-San Carlos), closed due to landslide Road-84 (Tarbada), subsidence Road -85 (Calero), collapsed bridge Road Sarapiquí, collapse of a Bailey bridge Road34 (Costanera Sur) subsidence at the entrance of the Tárcoles bridge.
Aqueducts	2	Water tank in Filadelfia collapsed. Water supply interrupted in Nicoya, Santa Cruz and Puntarenas due to lack of electric power
Health	Several	Hospital de San Ramón (under assessments) Hospital Monseñor Sanabria (1,200 persons evacuated) Guanacaste: health damage and need assessment in Nicoya, Hojancha, Nandayure
Education	9	mild to moderate damages to educational buildings in Guanacaste
Tourism	Several	Light damages in Guanacaste and Puntarenas hotels. Tourism activities continue normally.
Energy and Telecommunications	Several	Several sector with power outages in Hojancha, Cóbano, Jicaral, Nandayure, Samara, Lepanto due to a failure in the distribution plant in Santa Rita
Houses damaged	54	Reports arriving from Guanacaste (Hojancha, Santa Cruz and Nicoya), Puntarenas (Cóbano, Jicaral, Tambor), Alajuela (Valverde Vega, Naranjo), and San José.
Fuel	Several	Lack of fuel has not been reported. The oil pipeline is being assessed at several points.

An exact number of affected persons has not yet been established, but first reports indicate that at least 54 homes have been damaged and 207 persons have sought shelter in collective centres:

Province	Damaged homes	No. Collective Centres	No. of persons in Collective Centres
Alajuela	17	2	32

Guanacaste	19	3	175
Heredia	1	-	-
Limon	2	-	-
Puntarenas	12	-	-
San Jose	3	-	-
TOTAL	54	5	207

Although a red alert was declared for the whole country, the national authorities have not requested any international assistance so far, as first rapid assessments show no major damage after the earthquake. Detail assessments will be needed still to better understand the scope of the affectation and the safeness of homes and buildings.

Coordination and partnerships

The CRRC maintains constant coordination with the CNE as a member of its Board of Directors and the National Emergency Operations Centre. Through this coordinating structure, the National Society exchanges information with all the different institutions involved in the response at national level.

The CRRC and IFRC had been in coordination since the beginning of the emergency and response operation, with the IFRC country coordinator joining the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) of the National Society early in the morning. A humanitarian diplomacy delegate and disaster management delegates of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) also arrived in country to support with damage and needs assessments. In addition, PADRU's virtual EOC was installed to support meetings between the National Society, the secretariat and Partner National Societies (PNS), including the American Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.



205 members and 66 vehicles of the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) are involved in the emergency response after the strong earthquake on 5 September. Source: CRRC

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The CRRC maintains open its EOC under the leadership of the President of the National Society and the National Directorate of Relief and Operations. A second EOC has been installed in the Santa Cruz branch to facilitate the coordination on a regional level.

Emergency teams have been deployed to the affected areas, with approximately 205 persons and 66 vehicles directly involved in the response, providing first aid care, rescue and evacuations, and to assist on the transfer of persons to health centres. Thus far, the National Society has assisted more that 120 persons and was a fundamental actor in the preventive evacuation of Monseñor Sanabria Hospital that was affected by

the earthquake. Some of the resources that have been mobilized are:

- First Intervention Especialized Unit
- Rescue Unit
- Advance Assistance Unit
- Basic Assistance Unit
- six technical specialists in health in emergencies, K-sar team, and infrastructure evaluation team.
- National Intervention Teams

In addition, a team composed by the Costa Rican Red Cross and secretariat staff performed an aerial assessment of the situation in order to obtain first hand information, while other teams are being deployed on the ground to carry out evaluations to gather more detailed information.

The needs

This DREF-supported operation will assist with the deployment of emergency teams to the affected areas and with damage and needs assessments being carried out by the National Society, to gather a realistic overview of the current situation. Given the nature of the event and first reports received, the National Society foresees some psychosocial support and some emergency relief actions.

The operation will assist with the mobilization cost of approximately 200 persons involved in the response, while also covering the insurance of 120 Red Cross volunteers. A project coordinator will also be hired to assist with the operation.

The proposed operation

Relief distribution

Outcome: The Costa Rican Red Cross is ready to assist with the immediate needs of some 100 families in the affected provinces.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Conduct emergency damage and needs assessments.
- Hiring of an helicopter to complete a rapid assessment of large damages.
- Identify affected areas and develop a Plan of Action with the possible use of a cash transfer system.
- deliver intended assistance to some 100 families if needed.
- Provide technical support to affected communities as needed.

Emergency health

Outcome: Affected population have access to pre-hospital care and psychosocial support.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Support rescue and evacuation efforts.
- Provide first aid care to the affected population and provide referral and transfer services to health centres.
- Provide psychological first aid and psychosocial support as needed to persons in affected regions.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In the Costa Rican Red Cross:** Jim Batres Rodriguez, national deputy director of operations and relief; phone: + 506. 254.25.011; email: jim.batres@cruzroja.or.cr
- **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
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1. DREF budget [below](#)

2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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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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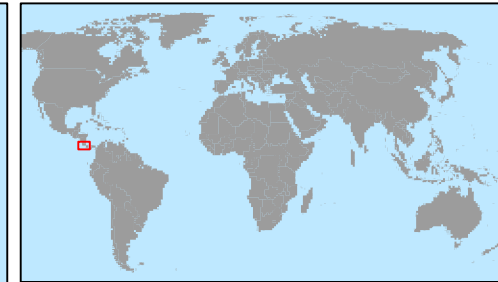
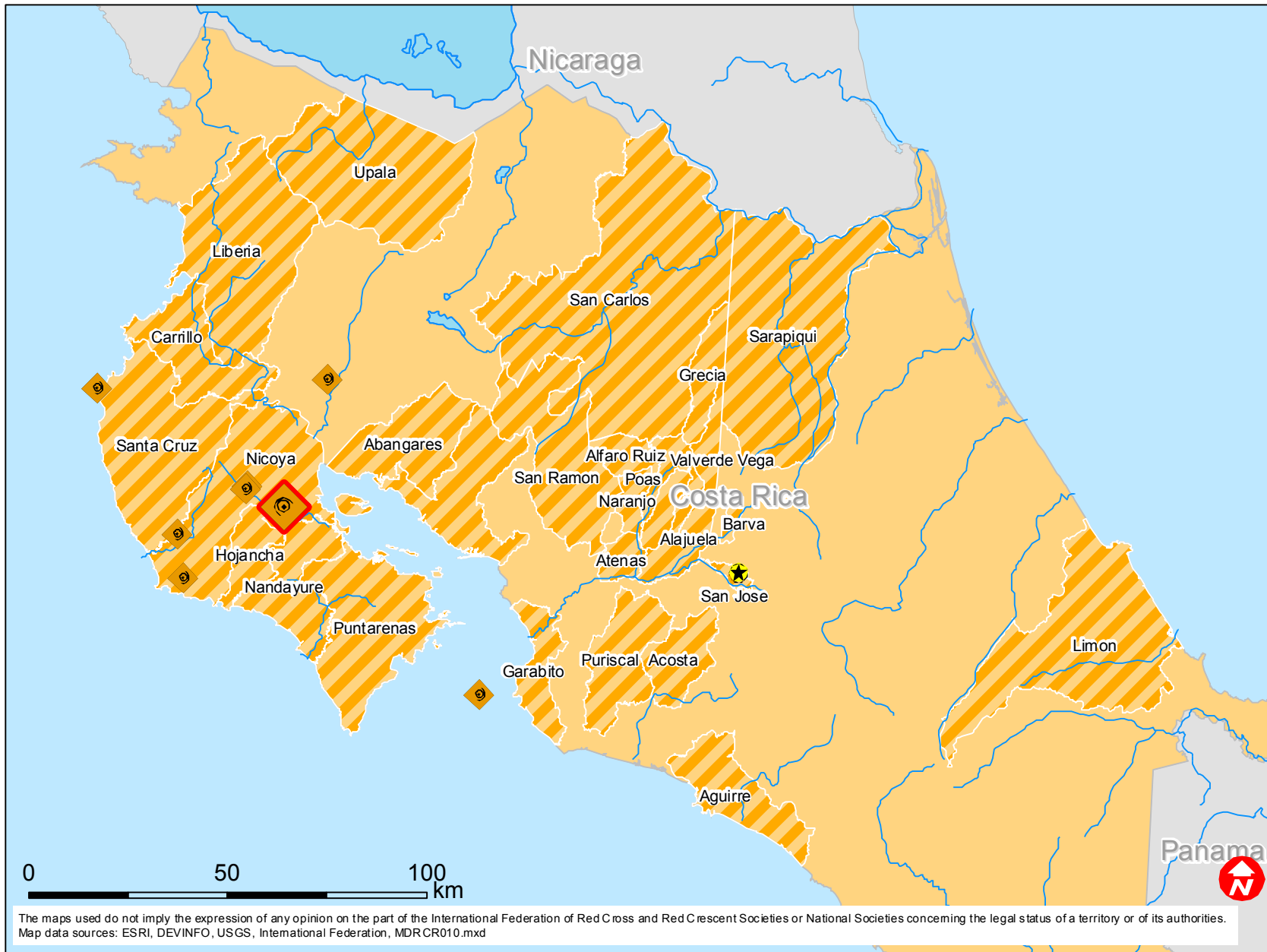
The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:




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.
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Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	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	5,724
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Regional Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	11,448
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	17,172
Storage, Warehousing	0
Dsitribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,310
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	14,310
National Society Staff	763
Volunteers	2,977
Total PERSONNEL	3,740
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	8,586
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	1,908
Communications	2,624
Financial Charges	954
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	14,072
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	3,204
Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,204
TOTAL BUDGET	52,498



Costa Rica: Earthquake



-  Affected cantons
-  Aftershocks
-  Main earthquake - 7.6