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DREF operation update Costa Rica: earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCR010 GLIDE n° EQ-2012-000160-CRI Update n°1 –18 January 2013

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:
5 September to 25 September
2012.

Summary: 52,498 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's DREF to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) to carry out damage and needs assessments and in delivering immediate assistance to some 100 families.

On the morning of 5 September 2012, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale struck Costa Rica off the coast of the Nicoya Peninsula, one of the strongest earthquakes ever felt in the country. With the support of the DREF allocation, the National Society was able to conduct detailed assessments in coordination with the Costa Rican

governmental authorities, assist with pre-hospital care for 222 persons, and conduct a psychosocial support intervention with 1,549 persons in the affected areas. As damages to homes and structures were not severe, the CRRC will not complete any distribution of relief items or cash vouchers. However, the National Society continues with the health activities to ensure more people in the affected areas, particularly the children, have access to more psychosocial support in order to cope with the emotional consequences of the strong earthquake.

This operation is expected to be implemented in three months, and completed by December 2012. In line with IFRC reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 7 March 2013).

The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) for their contributions to replenish the allocation made to this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross



A Red Cross volunteer completes recreational activities with children in the areas affected by the earthquake as part of their psychosocial support objective.
Source: Costa Rican Red Cross.

and government, ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society , the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross 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.

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/responding/disaster-response-system/financial-instruments/disaster-relief-emergency-fund-dref/>

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The situation

On the morning of 5 September 2012, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale struck Costa Rica off the coast of the Nicoya Peninsula, one of the strongest earthquakes ever felt in the country. The United States Geological Survey located the epicentre at some 60 kilometres from 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 a magnitude above 2.0. The strongest aftershock was felt at 09.12, with a magnitude of 4.7. Although no deaths were directly attributed to this event, the strength of the tremor caused damage to houses and public structures that required detailed assessments to determine the effects on the safety of homes and buildings.

Coordination and partnerships

The CRRC maintains constant coordination with the National Commission of Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgo y Atención de Emergencia, 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 the IFRC have been working in coordination since the beginning of the emergency and response operation, and the IFRC country coordinator joined the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) of the National Society early in the morning of the event. A humanitarian diplomacy delegate and disaster management delegates from 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 set up to support meetings between the National Society, the secretariat and Partner National Societies (PNSs), including the American Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

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 a 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.

Progress: Shortly after the earthquake the CRRC hired a helicopter to transport a team of Red Cross volunteers for a rapid aerial assessment to identify possible areas of widespread damage. On the following days, additional teams moved to communities that reported some level of damage to complete more detailed assessments, including:

1. Santa Cruz
2. Nicoya
3. Hojancha

4. Nandayure
5. Carrillo
6. Liberia
7. Puntarenas
8. Grecia
9. Atenas
10. San Carlos
11. Zarcero
12. Valverde Vega

All the assessment reports completed by the National Society were shared with the CNE to be included with the information gathered at the national level.

Given that the damage was less severe than originally expected, the CRRC did not consider it necessary to distribute relief items or implement a cash transfer system. However, there was a strong need to provide psychosocial support in the areas where the earthquake was strongly felt, particularly for children. Therefore the funds originally assigned for relief items were designated to the health unit to increase the reach of their activities. This DREF update therefore includes a revised budget for the allocation of funding.

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.

Progress: During the time covered by the current update, a total of 222 persons were assisted with pre-hospital care and 1,549 with psychosocial support.

The request for support with pre-hospital care was increased in the hours immediately after the earthquake, with branches in the affected areas using all their resources. The National Society's assistance was crucial during the evacuation of the Monseñor Sanabria Hospital, one of the main health providers in Puntarenas province. This hospital incurred some structural damage and all patients and staff needed to be evacuated. As a result, the CRRC supported the evacuation of some 800 persons, with the National Society's ambulances supporting the transfer of patients to other peripheral health centres or even to other hospitals further away in the Central Valley.

Similarly to the damage and needs assessments, the psychosocial support intervention of the National Society is being closely coordinated with the CNE to avoid duplication of efforts. As of 25 September, the CRRC had been able to reach 1,549 persons with psychosocial support as illustrated in the table below:

Canton	Community	Children	Adults	Total
I Intervention: 8-10 September				
Nicoya	La Montañita	8	12	20
Nandayure	Centro	30	27	57
	Santa Rita	40	25	65
Response Personnel	CCO	0	18	18
	Cañas	0	10	10
	CCO	0	6	6
Hojancha	-	242	125	367
Sub-total		320	223	543
II Intervention: 13-15-16 September				
Hojancha	Matambú	13	42	55
	Carrillo	30	48	78
	Monte Romo	32	0	32
	Huacas	25	50	75
	Estrada Rabago	70	100	170
Sub-total		170	240	410
III Intervention: 20-23 September				

Zarcelero	Laguna	69	0	69
	Tapezco	73	0	73
Naranjo	Concepcion	109	0	109
	Naranjo Centro	-	-	25
	Dulce Nombre	-	-	75
Paquera	Cóbano Centro	-	-	37
	Los Mangos	-	-	63
	Montezuma	-	-	25
	La Guaria	-	-	110
	Paquera Centro	6	4	10
Sub-total		257	4	596
TOTAL		747	467	1,549

Challenges: Although, significant progress has been achieved in this sector, the need to coordinate with other institutions has caused some delays, as it limits the number of communities that can be reached each weekend in each designated area.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 7 September 2012 for CHF 52,498 to assist 500 beneficiaries.



[Click here](#)

1. Revised DREF budget [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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](#) 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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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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DREF OPERATION

18/01/2013

MDRCR010 Costa Rica Earthquake

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	17,172
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIE:	17,172
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,310
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	14,310
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	763
Volunteers	2,977
Total PERSONNEL	3,740
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	8,586
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	1,908
Communications	2,624
Financial Charges	954
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	14,072
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	3,204
Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,204
TOTAL BUDGET	52,498