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## Emergency Plan of Action Belize: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation</b>	<b>Operation no. MDRBZ004</b>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 2 November 2015	<b>Date of disaster:</b> 18 October 2015
<b>Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA):</b> Tamara Lovell, regional disaster management coordinator, Anglo-Caribbean	<b>Point of contact (name and title):</b> Lily Bowman, Director-General
<b>Operation start date:</b> 18 October 2015	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 2 months
<b>Overall operation budget:</b> 71,925 Swiss francs (CHF)	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 20,000 people (estimated)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 1,750 people (350 families)
<b>Host National Society presence:</b> Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS)	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/ Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) <b>Government Agencies:</b> National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), City Emergency Management Organization (CEMO)	

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### A. Situation analysis

#### Description of the disaster



Severe flooding in Belize City, Belize. Source: BRCS

On Sunday, 18 October 2015 at 6:00 a.m., NEMO reported that an area of low pressure moved away from Belize, causing heavy rainfall across the country and affecting Belize City in particular, where residents were affected by localized flooding; the heavy rains began on 15 October.

This system continued to produce heavy rainfall across coastal, northern and western Belize throughout the night and into Monday, 19 October, causing severe flooding in Belize City and other parts of the country. CEMO evacuated people living in low lying and extremely vulnerable areas to four different evacuation centres in the city and a few more in the northern district of Corozal. Residents living along rivers, creeks, other types of waterways and low-lying areas whose homes were likely to flood were cautioned to move to higher grounds with their family members or to evacuation centres. Farmers started to make the necessary preparations for their livestock and crops.

The Belize River levels have increased, cresting up to 2 feet above the road level, which has made many of the roads impassable. In other areas in the south, roads were washed out. It is feared that the water heading downstream from Guatemala will cause the Macal and Mopan Rivers to also rise in the west.

Additionally, another weak area of low pressure located in the Gulf of Honduras produced showers and thunderstorm activity across portions of Belize. The disturbance moved slowly westward across the southern Yucatan Peninsula and into the extreme south-western Gulf of Mexico. This system further produced heavy rainfall across portions of Belize, northern Guatemala, and the Yucatan Peninsula. Between the two systems, Belize received a total of 28 inches of rain over a period of 5 days. Official assessments are ongoing, as it was impossible to go into some communities in Belize City in the first few days due to fallen electrical lines lying in flooded yards. However, it is estimated, that several hundreds of families were affected.

Some houses lost roofs and were severely damaged by water, and families lost their household items.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

Since the onset of the emergency in Belize City and Corozal, the Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS) joined CEMO/NEMO in the preliminary activities (assessments, evacuation and distributions). It was evident that the Belize Red Cross Society needed to launch its own response operation due to the severity of the situation and the increasing numbers of families that had been affected and needed assistance.

The Belize Red Cross Society drafted a plan of action to contribute to the government's efforts in the response to the floods in Belize City and in the Corozal district communities of Ranchito and Alta Mira. Assessments are still ongoing in Alta Mira, and the BRCS is in communication with NEMO to coordinate additional assessments possibly in Sarteneja and Chula Vista.



Volunteers preparing relief aid. Source: BRCS

The Belize Red Cross Plan of Action aims to assist 350 families (approximately 1,750 people), 150 families in Corozal and 200 families in Belize City through the distribution of blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, buckets, drinking water, cleaning kits, jerry cans, and clothing over a period of two months. Assessments are still ongoing.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Belize Red Cross Society staff members, through funding from the American Red Cross, are implementing Resilience in the Americas (RITA) project. The in-country project team is supporting the National Society in the initial emergency operation, including damage assessments and relief distributions.

### Movement Coordination

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), through the disaster management regional coordinator for the Anglo-Caribbean, has been in contact with the National Society to determine the impact of the flooding on the affected areas. Initial reports indicated that external assistance would not be required and that the Belize Red Cross Society would coordinate activities with NEMO. However, as the situation evolved, it was deemed necessary to request assistance in an effort to ensure a timely humanitarian response.

### Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Not having declared a state of emergency, CEMO activated their emergency operations centre (EOC) on 17 October 2015. People living in the most vulnerable and affected areas of Belize City were evacuated. NEMO has been issuing advisories and warnings to families living in low-lying areas along the Mopan River. As the water heads downstream it might cause severe flooding in western and central Belize. The digging of drains has started to allow for the free flow of floodwaters in the affected areas in Corozal (Chula Vista, and Libertad; in the Belize District, Lucky Strike and in Cayo in Paslow Falls, Bullet Tree Falls and Maya Heights). Damage and Needs Assessments (DANA) are still ongoing while initial assessments are being carried out by the Ministry of Human Development.

The National Society is in coordination with CEMO/NEMO at the city, national and district level. CEMO and the Department of Human Services in the Ministry of Human Development initiated the distribution of relief items, and they have contacted the Belize Red Cross Society for assistance in conducting the distributions. The district NEMO in Corozal has also been conducting assessments and distributions to several families in Chula Vista and Alta Mira.

NEMO has requested assistance from the Corozal Branch of the Belize Red Cross Society with the assessments and distributions. USAID has provided funds to the National Society to support the initial response.

### **Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning**

Due to the severity of the flooding, the increasing number of people affected as well as the lack of information on the level of damage and number of affected people, the Belize Red Cross Society determined that it should assess the extent of the flooding impact. The Belize Red Cross Society has started conducting damage and needs assessments for 348 households. Initial findings indicate the need for immediate relief items, the provision of safe water, hygiene promotion, including epidemic and vector control awareness.

**Damage and Needs Assessment:** The DANA results are pending. The 2010 Population and Housing Census for Belize indicates the population sizes of the affected areas of Belize City and Corozal are 57,169 and 10,287, respectively. Authorities estimate that less than one third of the population has been significantly affected. The government of Belize, through the media, have pledged support for the affected communities, and the Belize Red Cross Society will focus on the immediate relief to the affected families, which will be based on the results from the DANA.

**Health and Care, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion:** People have started to experience rashes and other skin-related conditions caused by possible contaminated water. In addition, existing reports and health trends over the last couple of years indicate a rise in the number of dengue cases. Consequently, deterioration in the hygiene and sanitation conditions due to the current flooding situation will further contribute to an increase in mosquito-borne diseases. The Belize Red Cross Society will work closely with the Ministry of Health on educating people on the appropriate water, health and hygiene methods, including the prevention of mosquito and other vector-borne diseases. The migrant population in the affected areas were more significantly impacted than other residents. There is some hesitancy by affected members of the migrant population to access health services available outside of these communities. However, Community Nurse Aides and the National Health Insurance are available for everyone.

**Shelter and Non-Food Items:** The Belize Red Cross Society aims to support the immediate shelter needs of the affected population, whose roofing structures have been damaged. The National Society has distributed tarpaulins to affected households to address the priorities of the affected families; however, additional tarpaulins are needed.

The Belize Red Cross Society Plan of Action aims to assist 350 families (approximately 1,750 people), 150 of which are in Corozal and 200 are in Belize City, through the distribution of blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, buckets, drinking water, cleaning kits, jerry cans, and clothing over a two-month period.

#### **Risk Assessment**

- The occurrence of other natural hazards can interrupt the implementation of the current emergency operation.
- With national general elections scheduled for 4 November 2015, the Belize Red Cross Society will support the transparent identification and selection of beneficiaries in adherence with the IFRC's Fundamental Principles.

## **B. Operational strategy and plan**

### **Overall objective**

To provide immediate support to 350 families affected by the floods through the provision of relief items, including long-lasting insecticide treated (LLIT) mosquito nets for the prevention of vector-borne diseases.

### **Proposed strategy**

The BRCS will ensure that the operation meets the immediate needs of the most vulnerable affected people through the following actions:

- Carry out a detailed damage assessment and needs analysis
- Distribute relief items (hygiene kits, blankets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, buckets, cleaning kits and donated items received from the public) to the affected families in the districts of Belize and Corozal.
- Reduce the risk of outbreaks of vector-borne diseases
- Provide safe drinking water

#### **Community selection criteria:**

1. Communities affected by flooding
2. Communities with minimal access to adequate food, water and sanitation

**Family selection criteria:**

1. Temporarily displaced families
2. Families with damage to their dwellings
3. Families with limited access to food, potable water, and adequate sanitation
4. Single mothers with children
5. Elderly
6. Families with children under 5 years of age
7. Persons with disabilities

**Operational support services****Proposed Field Structure**

**Corozal:** The branch chairperson will lead and coordinate the field activities, and he/she will report to the BRCS's headquarters. There will be 30 volunteers implementing the activities (assessments and distributions).

**Belize City:** The National Society director general will lead and coordinate with the government of Belize and with CEMO/NEMO, with assistance from the communications officer, and he/she will be responsible for ensuring the quality of the financial and narrative intermediate and final reports.

The IFRC Americas regional office technical staff will provide technical support to the National Society as required. The IFRC regional disaster management delegate based in Barbados will be responsible for monitoring and coordination with the BRCS and for the mobilization of additional human, logistical and financial resources for project implementation if required.

**Logistics and supply chain**

The operation will entail the procurement of items locally and regionally. The Belize Red Cross Society currently has 21 National Intervention Teams (NITS) trained in logistics, which will be available to support the relevant logistical functions for the operation. An outline of the considerations made on logistics and the supply chain is shown below:

- *Procurement plans* – Items will be sourced and procured in line with IFRC standards. The majority of relief items will need to be sourced regionally.
- *Warehouse and storage plans* – The Belize Red Cross Society has adequate warehousing and storage facilities to accommodate the quantity of requested items.
- *Transport and fleet needs* – There will be a need to cover the cost of transportation to conduct damage assessments and to support the distribution of relief items.

**Communications**

The Belize Red Cross Society will promote the Red Cross's work to beneficiaries and the general public. The National Society will ensure visibility for the emergency response activities.

The following are the communications objectives:

1. Internal Communication - Members of the Red Cross are aware of the humanitarian context through field briefings, reports and coordination of operations. There will also be timely communication on the emergency response through stories from the field and updates of the BRCS's social media page.
2. External Communications - A series of public awareness and public education initiatives on water, health and hygiene promotion will be developed to disseminate information through the Public Service Announcements (PSA) in conjunction with the Ministry of Health.
3. Documentation – The BRCS will promote knowledge management through the provision of adequate documentation of the emergency operation. Consequently, all relevant articles, photos and beneficiary stories will be compiled and archived to capture the emergency support provided.

**Security**

Security issues have not been identified at this stage. However, with general elections for the country scheduled for 4 November, the BRCS will take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of volunteers and staff during the operation.

## **Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)**

The National Society director general and the IFRC disaster management coordinator will monitor, with the assistance of the National Society's monitoring and evaluation officer, the implementation of the plan of action and the communities/beneficiaries' receptiveness. Assessments and distributions will be monitored for accuracy, transparency and accountability as well as impact. Additional assessments will be done during distributions to monitor any changes in the affected communities' needs.

The following activities will be conducted for monitoring and evaluation:

- An updated report will be delivered 30 days after the start of the operation
- Field visits to monitor emergency operations
- Regular evaluation meetings during the course of the operation
- Beneficiary satisfaction survey
- Final report

The regional disaster management coordinator for the Anglo-Caribbean will conduct at least one monitoring visit to support the implementation of the operation. A beneficiary satisfaction survey is planned to assess the timeliness and effectiveness of the assistance.

## **Administration and Finance**

The Belize Red Cross Society has trained administrative and finance staff able to provide the necessary support to the emergency operation.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

### Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

<b>Outcome 1: The Belize Red Cross has an integrated emergency plan of action that complements actions of key stakeholders</b>	No. of meetings with stakeholders Plan of action developed based on immediate needs and strategies identified in the emergency assessments									
<b>Output 1.1: Detailed assessments are carried out in the affected districts of Belize City and Corozal with adequate monitoring and evaluation of activities linked to the findings of the assessments.</b>	No. of detailed assessments Plan of action based on strategies and needs drawn from assessments developed Beneficiaries from the affected areas indicate at least 75% satisfaction with the level of support provided									
<b>Activities planned</b>	<b>Week</b>									
Assessments of affected areas are conducted	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Registration of beneficiary families	X	X								
Plan of action developed and submitted to PADRU	X									
Evidence based communications and advocacy that leverage both traditional and non-traditional media is produced throughout the operation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Beneficiary communications mechanisms are used during project planning in order to ensure beneficiary participation and accountability		X	X	X						
IFRC disaster management regional coordinator mission in country for monitoring and reporting	X							X		

### Health & care

**Needs analysis:** Disease prevention and health promotion needs to be undertaken immediately in order to protect overall health and prevent outbreaks of diseases, including water and vector-borne diseases. As there is the likelihood of more rain, affected families will receive information to build awareness on the importance of proper water, health and hygiene practices to avoid water and vector-borne diseases.

**Population to be assisted:** Up to 350 families from the affected districts of Belize City and Corozal.

<b>Outcome 1: The Belize Red Cross Society has contributed to the reduction of immediate risks for outbreaks of vector-borne diseases amongst the affected population.</b>	350 families have received long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets and education on their use in Belize City and Corozal District
<b>Output 1.1: Target population participates in activities that increase their knowledge and receive materials to contribute to the prevention of vector and water-borne diseases</b>	No. of people participating in vector and water borne prevention activities based on community-based health and first aid (CHBFA) strategy No. of vector-borne disease prevention materials produced No. of LLIT mosquito nets distributed

Activities planned	No. participants in the cleaning campaign								
	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Awareness activities on the prevention of vector and water borne diseases are conducted with different groups in the affected areas			X	X	X				
Cleaning campaigns are developed in the target communities	X	X	X	X	X				
Production and distribution of vector-borne disease prevention materials			X	X	X				
Distribute 700 LLIT mosquito nets to target population			X	X	X				
Communication mass campaign is delivered through social media to increase epidemic control awareness and to prevent water and vector-borne diseases		X	X	X					

## Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Needs analysis:** Areas in pockets of the affected districts remain flooded thereby increasing the risk of sanitation and hygiene issues amongst the population. This section of the plan of action seeks to contribute to the immediate reduction in water-borne diseases through the distribution of purified water and water containers by the Belize Red Cross Society. Donations of bottled water will be supplemented with the provision of additional water purchased locally to ensure adequate distribution to the targeted number of affected families. Sensitization on safe water and hygiene practices will be conducted as necessary.

**Population to be assisted:** 350 families from the affected districts of Belize City and Corozal

<b>Outcome 1: Affected communities in Belize City and Corozal Districts have been provided with purified water</b>	No. of people provided with safe water (according to World Health Organization [WHO] standards) No. of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items								
<b>Output 1.1 Immediate reduction of water-borne diseases in targeted districts</b>	No. of families provided with hygiene promotion								
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Local procurement of water and buckets									
Distribution of purified water and safe water promotional materials to 350 affected families	X	X	X						
Distribution of 700 jerry cans and 700 buckets to 350 affected families		X	X	X					
Distribution of 700 hygiene kits and hygiene promotion materials to 350 affected families		X	X	X					

## Shelter and settlements (and household items)

**Needs analysis:** Preliminary assessments indicate that more than 100 houses have been severely affected as a result of flooding, leading to the temporary displacement of families. Reports from NEMO indicate that the YWCA emergency collective centre remains open in Belize City with 40 people whilst 29 people are registered at the Rancho Community Centre in Corozal. There will be a need to meet immediate needs through the provision of essential items including tarpaulins, cleaning kits and blankets. Cleaning kits will be purchased and distributed to the affected families with separate funding provided by USAID.

**Population to be assisted:** 350 affected families from the districts of Corozal and Belize City.

<b>Outcome 1: 350 affected families in Corozal and Belize City are reached with essential items</b>	% of households most affected by the floods indicate that essential needs are met									
<b>Output 1.1 Provide Non-Food Items to affected people as an immediate response</b>	No. of households receiving non-food items (NFIs)									
Activities planned	Week									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Conduct detailed assessments		X	X							
Local procurement of blankets		X	X							
Procurement of tarpaulins		X	X							
Distribute Non-Food Items (1,750 blankets, 350 tarpaulins) to 350 affected families		X	X	X	X					

## Contact information

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

- **In the Belize Red Cross Society:** Lily Bowman, Director General, phone: +501 627 8801 Email: [bzercshq@btl.net](mailto:bzercshq@btl.net)
- **In the IFRC Caribbean regional representation office in Port of Spain:** Lorraine Mangwiro, IFRC regional representative for the English-speaking Caribbean region; email: [Lorraine.mangwiro@ifrc.org](mailto:Lorraine.mangwiro@ifrc.org).
- **In IFRC Americas regional Office in Panama,** Phone: +507 317 3050;  
Carlos Inigo Barrena, disaster response and crisis and early recovery coordinator; email: [ci.barrena@ifrc.org](mailto:ci.barrena@ifrc.org).  
Stephany Murrilo, zone senior logistics & mobilization officer, email: [Stephany.murillo@ifrc.org](mailto:Stephany.murillo@ifrc.org)  
Priscila Gonzalez, planning, monitoring & reporting team coordinator; email: [priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org](mailto:priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org)
- **In Geneva:** Cristina Estrada, quality assurance senior officer, phone: +41.22.730.4529; email: [cristina.estrada@ifrc.org](mailto:cristina.estrada@ifrc.org)

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

- **In IFRC Americas regional Office in Panama:** Ursula Araya, relationship management coordinator; email: [ursula.araya@ifrc.org](mailto:ursula.araya@ifrc.org); phone: +507 317 3050

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# DREF OPERATION

MDRBZ004 - Belize Floods

02/11/2015

DREF Grant  
Budget CHF

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	4,545
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	9,124
Food	3,615
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	24,101
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	738
Utensils & Tools	5,233
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>47,355</b>
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	1,348
Distribution & Monitoring	3,689
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,579
Logistics Services	1,879
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>8,495</b>
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	148
Volunteers	7,651
Other Staff Benefits	0
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>7,799</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	0
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	2,459
Information & Public Relations	344
Office Costs	295
Communications	590
Financial Charges	197
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,886</b>
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	4,390
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>4,390</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>71,925</b>