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Emergency appeal

Costa Rica: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal no. **MDRCR014**

5,000 people to be assisted

Appeal launched **18 January 2016**

Glide no. [OT-2015-000157-CRI](#)

51,054 Swiss francs DREF allocated

Appeal ends **May 2016**

642,202 Swiss francs Appeal budget

Timeframe **6 months**

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of some **642,202 Swiss francs** to enable the IFRC to support the **Costa Rican Red Cross Society (CRRC)** to deliver assistance and support to some **5,000 people**, with a focus on **first aid, shelter, health and care, psycho-social support, water, sanitation, hygiene promotion, preparedness, and restoration of family links**. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this point 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

November 2015: Arrival of increasing numbers of Cuban migrants at the Paso Canoas border crossing between Panama and Costa Rica.

51,054 Swiss francs allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the start of assessments and the delivery of assistance.

December 2015: DREF update issued, including a one month extension.

January 2016: Emergency Appeal launched for 642,202 to reach 5,000 vulnerable people.



Psycho-social support for vulnerable children in the Collective Centre of La Cruz, Costa Rica, December 2015

The operational strategy

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection:

The migrant population has very limited financial resources, and the available funds are being used to meet their basic needs such as personal hygiene, health, and household items. Since the border is closed they have had to remain in Costa Rica longer than planned, depleting their already limited resources that they had hoped to use to continue their journey in the event that they are allowed to pass.

Health: The initial DREF allocation has supported the development of pre-hospital activities such as the identification of chronic illnesses (diabetes and hypertension) among the migrant population. The CRRC effectively serves as a go-between with government health services, and transports patients to designated medical centres. The National Society has reached 1,000 people with this type of pre-hospital care. The migrants have been subject to severe stress, and the uncertainty of their situation and their limited resources and minimal subsistence items makes this population highly vulnerable both socially and psychologically, and therefore necessitates a significant psycho-social support component.

Water and sanitation: Collective centres do not have adequate structures or conditions to properly accommodate the growing number of migrants, increasing their vulnerability to waterborne diseases and to their spreading due to the level of overcrowding.

Restoring family links: Some migrants have managed to contact their families by paying for calls themselves, but with the dwindling the resources the loss of family contacts are a cause for concern.

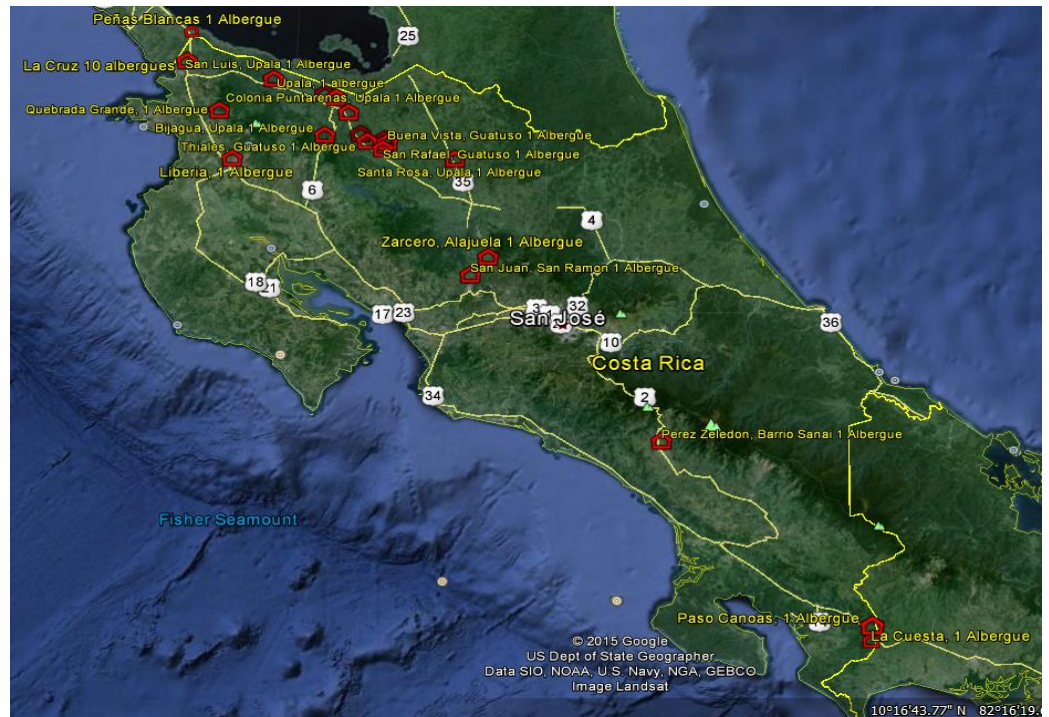
Immediate needs: The main needs identified are first aid care, psychosocial support transport to medical centres, improvement of sanitary conditions in collective centres, hygiene prevention campaigns, distribution of hygiene kits, and restoration of family links.

Longer-term needs: Given the current conditions it is impossible to predict how long the migrants will remain in Costa Rican territory, and there is therefore a need to include basic humanitarian assistance for the first six months of the intervention. As the intervention progresses, additional needs will be determined by constantly monitoring the situation.

Beneficiary selection: Priority will be given to vulnerable groups: children, pregnant women, the elderly, dehydrated people, and those in need of medical assistance.

Operational strategy

Overall objective: The migrant population's survival and immediate needs are met through appropriate support in the sectors of shelter, health and care, water and sanitation, psycho-social support (PSS), and the restoration of family links for 5,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance. The proposed sectors have been defined



Location of collective centres across the country (image provided by NEC).

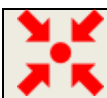
based on results obtained from activities developed in the field under the current DREF operation, and continuous field assessments and monitoring in coordination with authorities (National Emergency Commission of Costa Rica).

While 1,523 people have been reached through PSS activities, the number of migrants arriving at the border is much higher than the number of migrants actually leaving. The 6,000 migrants currently in Costa Rica and the 2,000 coming in from Panama are expected to pass through the collective centres, so the goal is to be able to provide them with this service and therefore reduce the negative consequences of their overall situation.

Image to the right: Migration route used by Cuban migrants to reach the United States. Source: IFRC



Proposed sectors of intervention



Coordination and partnerships



From the onset of the emergency the IFRC's country coordinator has maintained direct communication with the CRRC's National Relief and Operations Directorate (DINASO). A joint field visit was conducted to assess the needs of the population, the operation strategy, and to support the field efforts. Since 15 November, the IFRC's disaster management coordinator for Central America has maintained constant communications with the National Society, and to support ongoing actions.

The CRRC has also been supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Risk management activities in Costa Rica are coordinated from the National Risk Management System, National Emergencies Commission (NEC) which involves all public institutions in the country. The Costa Rican Red Cross is the only non-governmental institution present at two levels; the political level where it has representation on the NEC's Board of Directors, and at the operational level where the National Society maintains a presence in Technical Advisory Committees (sectoral panels). The main actors in national emergency coordination are: Security Forces (State Police), Fire Department, Ministry of Health, Costa Rican Social Security (national hospital system), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, National Animal Health Service (SENASA), National Child Welfare, Joint Social Assistance Institute, Aqueducts and Sewers, Costa Rican Petroleum Refinery, Costa Rican Electricity Institute, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the 9-1-1 Emergency System, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which have contributed budget resources to support the NEC. Security management is also a vital element of the operation, ensuring the security of personnel, assets and programmes. The CRRC will continuously monitor the security environment and respond to changes in the threat and risk situation, if any, by implementing adequate security risk reduction measures. This includes measures related to safety-related threats and risks, e.g. road traffic accidents, fire safety, and health-related concerns.



Health and care

Outcome 1. Immediate health problems among the Cuban migrant community are treated through pre-hospital care and psychosocial support in Paso Canoas and Peñas Blancas for 6 months.

Output 1.1 Members of the Cuban migrant community showing symptoms or signs of disease receive pre-hospital care.
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-hospital care is provided to the Cuban migrant population through 3 ambulances, one support vehicle, and 20 Costa Rican Red Cross volunteers and staff • The beneficiary population is referred to hospital care if required by the situation • Key messages and guidelines for self-health care.
Output 1.2 Psychosocial support is provided to the affected migrant population in Peñas Blancas and Paso Canoas.
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSS activities are conducted with the affected population at both borders posts, including support to the CRRC with child protection activities in the form of working with partner agencies, communicating messages on anti-trafficking, exploitation, and domestic violence. • Activities to strengthen coping strategies (education sessions) are conducted with the population at both borders posts.



Water; Sanitation; Hygiene promotion

Outcome 2. Immediate risk of contracting diseases related to water, sanitation and hygiene are reduced by improving safe water storage, distribution and handling conditions in 5,000 Cuban migrants in Peñas Blancas and Paso Canoas for 6 months.
Output 2.1. Safe water storage conditions are strengthened in collective centres
Output 2.2 Personal hygiene kits that meet Sphere standards are provided to 5,000 people.
Output 2.3 Hygiene systems in collective centres are strengthened
Output 2.4 Knowledge of hygiene measures, sanitation, safe water and community health is strengthened
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of 5,000 14-litre buckets with lid and dispenser • Distribution of personal hygiene kits to 5000 people in Paso Canoas and Peñas Blancas • Construction of showers and drains • Improvement and/or construction of wash basins • Improvement and/or construction of drains • CBHFA workshop for volunteers in hygiene promotion, water and sanitation component • Workshop for communities on hygiene promotion, water and sanitation • Safe water, hygiene, and sanitation awareness-raising campaign



Shelter and settlements

Outcome 3: 5,000 people are assisted through CRRC mobile kitchens in at least 10 collective centres
Output 3.1 Safe water storage conditions are strengthened in collective centres.
Output 3.2 5,000 shelter kits are distributed by the CRRC to the population in collective centres
Output 3.3 The scope and quality of National Society services in collective centres is improved
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement with NEC for provision of food and gas. • Acquisition process for mobile kitchens • Installation of mobile kitchens • Monitoring, maintenance and cleaning of mobile kitchens • Disassembly of mobile kitchens. • Local procurement, transportation and distribution of a shelter covering kit (blanket, camping mattress, and a backpack). • Monitoring and evaluation of distribution activities, and reporting on distributions. • Shelter Management workshop for branch volunteers involved in managing collective centres • Local procurement of the shelter management kit.

- Guidelines and coordination manual for managing collective centres



Restoring Family Links (RFL)

Outcome 4: Family links are restored wherever people are separated from, or are without news of, their families.

Output 4.1: Family tracing and messaging services are provided to the migrant people

Activities planned:

- Identification of families in need for RFL
- Communication unit is established.
- Updating training for the volunteers
- Handling of tracing requests and provision of family messaging service.



Disaster preparedness and emergency response preparedness

Outcome 5: CRRC offers pre-hospital care in emergencies in cross border communities under a comprehensive legal framework.

Output 5.1. Adequate legal framework that regulates the provision of pre-hospital care in emergencies by CRRC.

Activities planned:

- Study that identifies the pertinent legislation that needs to be amended in order to facilitate the provision of pre-hospital care in emergencies in bordering communities
- Workshop to evaluate the strengths and gaps in the national legislation for the provision of pre-hospital care in emergencies in bordering communities
- Advocacy for the adoption of legislation that facilitate the provision of pre-hospital care in bordering communities



Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 6: The operation's implementation is managed in a coordinated manner, with an adequate implementation and monitoring system.

Output 6.1: The project has been monitored and implemented as per the timeframe established in the EPoA.

Activities planned:

- Monitoring visits from CRRC headquarters
- RIT deployment
- Monitoring visits from the IFRC
- Preparation of internal progress reports
- Lessons learned workshop
- Beneficiary satisfaction survey

Output 6.2: Costa Rican Red Cross efforts have been disseminated via press releases to the media, and the airing of key messages.

Activities planned:

- Preparation of internal progress reports
- Publication of press releases and key messages
- Regional Migration campaign
- Publication of a video of the operation

€ Budget

See attached IFRC Secretariat budget (**Annex 1**) for details.

Garry Conille
Under Secretary General
Programme Services Division

Elhadj Amadou As Sy
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous DREF bulletin and DREF updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Map](#)

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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**.

EMERGENCY APPEAL

18/01/2016

MDRCR014 - Costa Rica Population Movement

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0			0
Shelter - Transitional	5,045			5,045
Construction - Housing	0			0
Construction - Facilities	0			0
Construction - Materials	0			0
Clothing & Textiles	90,810			90,810
Food	0			0
Seeds & Plants	0			0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	191,584			191,584
Medical & First Aid	81,729			81,729
Teaching Materials	14,328			14,328
Utensils & Tools	12,613			12,613
Other Supplies & Services	0			0
Emergency Response Units	0			0
Cash Disbursements	0			0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	396,108	0	0	396,108
Land & Buildings	0			0
Vehicles	0			0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	7,527			7,527
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0
Medical Equipment	0			0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	7,527	0	0	7,527
Storage, Warehousing	6,155			6,155
Distribution & Monitoring	5,751			5,751
Transport & Vehicle Costs	20,079			20,079
Logistics Services	5,706			5,706
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	37,691	0	0	37,691
International Staff	15,135			15,135
National Staff	6,962			6,962
National Society Staff	41,974			41,974
Volunteers	7,263			7,263
Other Staff Benefits	12,613			12,613
Total PERSONNEL	83,947	0	0	83,947
Consultants	15,135			15,135
Professional Fees	0			0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	15,135	0	0	15,135
Workshops & Training	18,667			18,667
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	18,667	0	0	18,667
Travel	7,568			7,568
Information & Public Relations	23,712			23,712
Office Costs	2,119			2,119
Communications	3,128			3,128
Financial Charges	2,018			2,018
Other General Expenses	1,211			1,211
Shared Office and Services Costs	4,177			4,177
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	43,932	0	0	43,932
Partner National Societies	0			0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0			0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0	0	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	39,195	0	0	39,195
Total INDIRECT COSTS	39,195	0	0	39,195
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees	0	0	0	0
Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	642,202	0	0	642,202
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	642,202	0	0	642,202



Costa Rica: Population movements

