

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) El Salvador: Drought 2015	Operation MDRSV009
Date of issue: 22 April 2016	GLIDE no: DR-2015-000114-SLV
Date of disaster: June to July 2015	
Operation start date: 26 August 2015	Expected timeframe: 26 August 2015 to 26 January 2016
Host National Society: Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRCS)	Overall Operation budget: 290,386 Swiss francs (CHF)
Number of people affected: 500,000 people	Number of people to be assisted: 1,000 families
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the Operation: Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The El Salvador Civil Protection System and the United Nations system in El Salvador.	

[<Click here to view the final financial report. Click here to view the contact information>](#)

A. Situation Analysis

Description of the Disaster

The drought El Salvador has been experiencing since 2013 has mostly affected its eastern region; however, the situation became worse after May 2014, causing the loss of a high percentage of maize and bean crops, a high rate of food insecurity, and difficulty accessing financial resources which would have come from crop sales, which is an important source of income for farming families. More than 100,000 farmers across the country have suffered losses. According to El Salvador's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and its counterpart ministries in Central America¹, the 2016 El Niño phenomenon will have an even more negative impact on agricultural activities, which makes it necessary to remain alert and to provide for resources and efforts - including international cooperation - to deal with the difficult situation which especially affects poor families and farmers in eastern El Salvador.

Eastern regions have very limited access to drinking water systems, so many communities get their water from artisan wells, rainwater harvesting, or by purchasing bottled water, which impacts the financial situation of those who have lost their crops.

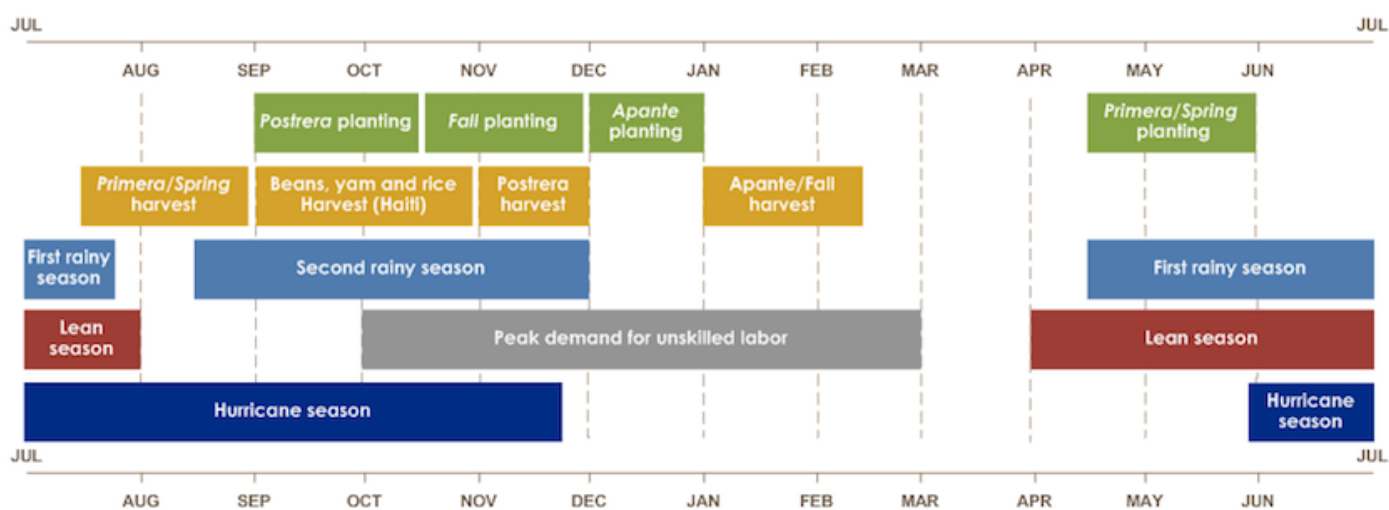
¹http://www.rree.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=5196:gobierno-de-el-salvador-se-reune-organismos-internacionales-y-cuerpo-diplomatico-para-exponer-situacion-de-sequia-en-el-pais&Itemid=792

According to official data, crop yields are down by 75 per cent due to low rainfall levels. As this drought has affected much of the Central American region, the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) in San Salvador declared a regional emergency on 21 August 2015.²

According to Fewsnets, this current El Niño will cause below-normal levels of accumulated rainfall in Nicaraguan and Honduran Atlantic basins during the first quarter of 2016, which could have a negative impact on the second red bean planting season.

It is expected that the majority of poor Dry Corridor subsistence farmer and day labourer households in south-western Honduras, eastern **El Salvador**, and north-western Nicaragua will be considered as under **Stress (Phase 2, CIF) from December to February**, with a seasonal improvement in terms of access to food thanks to second season harvests, job opportunities in the coffee sector, stabilization of grain prices, and food assistance programmes underway.

Because of the up to 100 per cent corn crop losses (first planting season) among subsistence farmers in the Dry Corridor; the deterioration of livelihoods given consecutive losses over the past years; and the effects of the drier- and warmer-than-usual conditions predicted for the first quarter of 2016, the poorest households in these areas will have once again returned to a crisis status (Phase 3, CIF) as of March 2016 if no assistance is provided.



Seasonal Calendar-Source: Fewsnets.

It is important to note that the most affected departments in eastern El Salvador are Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán, and La Unión.

Projections for 2016 remain unchanged; however, a slight improvement is expected as of August 2016, which is why the SRCS launched an international emergency appeal to respond to the needs of the population so as to contribute to their speedy recovery and resilience in future emergencies.

Summary of measures taken

Overview of Host National Society

Given the humanitarian crisis caused by drought in eastern El Salvador, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society formed a technical team with institution staff in order to monitor areas reported as stricken by drought, visiting the departments of Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán, and La Unión. As a result of this monitoring, and as a member of the civil protection system, the SRCS began coordination with other institutions that make up the Civil Protection System (PC), such as the Ministry of the Interior, San Miguel Town Hall, National Administration of Aqueducts and Sewerage Systems (ANDA), MAG, National Agricultural and Forestry Technology Centre (CENTA), and the Ministry of Health (MISAL). This is how

² http://www.rree.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=5196:gobierno-de-el-salvador-se-reune-organismos-internacionales-y-cuerpo-diplomatico-para-exponer-situacion-de-sequia-en-el-pais&Itemid=792

early actions began, which were aimed at ensuring the necessary logistics and supplies to allow the efficient development of activities. Given the drought scenario, the need was identified to raise funds to bring aid to affected families through short-term actions aimed at mitigating the damage to their health and finances. With support from the IFRC, the SRCS implemented a humanitarian project named Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) *Sequía* (drought) to benefit 1,000 families in affected communities in the municipality of San Miguel, department of San Miguel, focusing on the following:

- a) Distribution of 2,000 food kits to 1,000 families over two months
- b) Distribution of safe water and water filters
- c) Health promotion and water handling

To develop this operation, the SRCS had the support of its entire administrative structure, especially the departments and units directly involved in project activities. There was a technical team responsible for implementing the activities, with support from the volunteer corps.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

In El Salvador there is an IFRC delegation, as well as delegations from the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross, who have been supporting previous projects in community health, disaster preparedness, organizational development, social inclusion, and youth violence prevention.

Likewise, the Finnish Red Cross and the American Red Cross are funding disaster preparedness projects, and there is support from the Italian Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross in social inclusion and health projects.

During this emergency we had bilateral support from the Spanish Red Cross, which provided USD\$50,000 to livelihoods actions in the department of La Unión. The Swiss Red Cross contributed USD\$150,000 to humanitarian food actions in the department of Usulután, benefitting approximately 300 families through the delivery of food parcels. Residents of the communities of El San Morán, Nuevo Amanecer and La Ceiba in Usulután also benefitted from humanitarian aid thanks to funds provided by the Swiss Red Cross.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

At the national level the emergency is being coordinated by the Civil Protection System, of which the Salvadorean Red Cross Society is part at national, departmental and municipal levels. The Ministry of the Interior, MINSAL, MARN, MAG and others are involved as well.

Initial coordination actions with the national government, which contributed to the implementation of activities throughout the project's duration, include facilitating access to drinking water through water replenishment plants which the National Authority for Aqueduct and Sewage Administration (*Autoridad Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados – ANDA*) has in the municipality of San Miguel; selection of adequate and safe spaces for keeping SRCS vehicles, in this case trucks and tanker trucks; and coordination between the San Miguel Town Hall, the Emergency Operations Centre and the SRCS. The Ministry of the Interior helped to obtain sector-level community information and community contacts; the National Agricultural and Forestry Technology Centre (CENTA) contributed to the identification of affected agricultural areas; and the Ministry of Health provided information regarding health coverage aspects. With the aim of reducing the impact of food insecurity among small producers in the most drought-affected municipalities, MAG delivered food parcels from 7 to 17 December

The government of El Salvador distributed 200,000 agricultural packages consisting of maize and bean seed to affected farmers. The distribution of replanting packages prioritized producers in the dry corridor, and the beneficiary registry was created after CENTA technicians verified damages. MAG expected deliveries to be completed by the end of September.

According to the latest weather information for the last quarter, the government anticipates that there will be enough rain for successful corn and bean harvests during the second season, so farmers have been instructed to be mindful of official instructions. The government also authorized the free import of 14,000 tonnes of maize and 550 tonnes of beans from outside the Central American sub-region in order to mitigate price increases in domestic markets. The head of MAG, pointed out that delivering improved bean seed packages guarantees a significant 15/16 harvest important for national production; furthermore, he stated that any shortages due to El Niño would be offset by an already established import quota to seek red beans in other markets.

The United Nations have made available USD\$2.7 million in Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funds for families in the departments of Morazán, Usulután and San Miguel. Funds were to be implemented for a period of three months starting December 2015 until the date this final report was drafted.

Project Title	Window	Agency	Sector	Amount Approved	Approved Date
Emergency food assistance to the population in food insecurity resulting from drought crisis in El Salvador	Rapid Response	World Food Programme (WFP)	Food Security	USD\$1,600,000	17-Dec-15
Provide emergency water quality and quantity access to vulnerable families affected by drought in El Salvador	Rapid Response	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Water Sanitation Hygiene	USD\$340,000	18-Dec-15
Nutritional recovery of children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition between 0-9 years old	Rapid Response	The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition	USD\$160,000	17-Dec-15
Immediate assistance in response to the food insecurity of families affected by the 2015 drought in El Salvador	Rapid Response	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Food Security	USD\$610,000	18-Dec-15

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection and risk assessment and scenario planning

Direct visits to communities, as well as interviews with local authorities and government agency representatives, were used to analyze the drought impact in eastern El Salvador, determining that the population's main needs were as follows:

Water and Sanitation:

- Safe water supply for human consumption.
- Improving the capacity for storing water for family use.
- Improving the quality of water to be consumed by using water filters.
- Improving water handling and hygiene promotion knowledge.

Food security:

- Access to food

Livelihoods:

- Water supply for agriculture and livestock
- Animal feed
- Diversification of crops and sources of income.

In view of the needs identified and resource capacity, the decision was made to support 1,000 families in terms of water and sanitation and food security.

The planning of the humanitarian assistance response was based on six stages aimed at 24 selected communities, as follows:

Table #1, Response planning phases

Phase	Action	Objective
1	Identification of communities and beneficiaries	Identification of families that meet selection criteria and identification of community of origin

2	First delivery of food kits	Provide food items (112 pounds) to 1,000 families
3	Distribution of water drums	Deliver 1,000 black drums to an equal number of families to increase their safe water storage capacity
4	Water delivery (in the entire community)	Supply drinking water to all families in affected communities
5	Second distribution of food, together with water delivery	Provide food items (112 pounds) to 1,000 families for the second time
6	Delivery of home water filters	Deliver 560 home water filters so families can consume safe water

The planning and execution of phase six was possible thanks to savings in the food budget, which allowed for the purchase of 560 home water filters. This had previously been considered as an alternative solution to the access to safe water issue, since the lack thereof is a direct source of disease. Having access to water was not enough to ensure the communities' health, but rather having access to safe water.

Risk Assessment

The following were considered to be among the risk factors encountered during the development of activities:

Table 2 - Types of risks

Types of risks	Actions conducted
A. Social Risk: This factor is a very important one to consider for determining proper activity development. The presence of <i>maras</i> or gangs in the sector generated a certain degree of insecurity for teams in the field	A.1. Dialogue with community leaders allowed awareness of the activities' objectives, which resulted in increased engagement by communities in field activities A.2. SRCS actions were always conducted as per practice 4 of our Fundamental Principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, and Independence A.3. Due to the presence of gangs, the operation purchase visibility materials for the volunteers such as shirts with the Red Cross logo; the costs for these materials were not included in the budget.
B. Risk in access over road infrastructure: the lay of the land made it difficult to conduct activities in some areas. Some roads had potholes and ditches which hindered access and posed the potential risk of damage to vehicles	B. After talking to community leaders, they agreed to repair some stretches of access roads to enable conducting activities and to reduce the risk of damaging SRCS vehicles.
C. Risk to the state of institutional vehicles: SRCS vehicle fleet is very old and prone to breaking down. This caused small delays and adjustments on how activities were conducted	C. Constant assistance from the procurement department and repair shop was required in dealing with mechanical failures.
D. Risk due to lack of personnel: not enough qualified staff during some project phases	D. Support was requested from some departments which had the needed staff, and a broader call for personnel was made: aid workers, responders, youth and volunteer women's groups, as well as delegation staff members who wished to participate in activities.

B. Strategy and plan of action

Overall objective

Families in the departments of San Miguel and La Union affected by the drought in terms of agricultural losses and limited water supply are assisted with humanitarian first response supplies to survive an emergency, albeit a slowly evolving one, that has severely impacted health and livelihoods.

Proposed Strategy

Operational Support Services

Human Resources

To implement the DREF operation, the SRCS created a team to provide the support necessary to ensure the operation's success:

Operation management: Management of Emergency Operations

- 1 Operation coordinator
- 1 Administrative logistics assistant
- 1 Accounting assistant
- 30 volunteers to support community actions and distributions
- 1 Member of the water and sanitation Regional Intervention Team (RIT)

This team conducted actions during the established period and according to schedule. The number of volunteers was adjusted as phases were completed, successfully delivering food kits, water drums, hygiene promotion and water handling lectures, water distributions, water filters, and lessons learned processes.

Logistics and supply chain

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has a specific department for procurement of goods and services, with procedures established and accepted by local authorities and donors in general. Most units and departments have information systems to streamline the required processes. The local market allows alternatives in terms of suppliers. Likewise, the IFRC's Global Logistical Services (GLS) supported all purchases made internationally, and all purchases over CHF 50,000 were reviewed and approved by GLS according to IFRC procedures. The 2,000 food kits were procured in-country, and 1,000 drums and 560 water filters through the IFRC.

The National Society also has a large and secure warehouse to protect acquired assets, which allowed storing the drums and filters. There were three trucks for transporting supplies to communities and two 2,000-gallon tanker trucks to distribute water, with support from two branches near the affected area.

We had two 4-wheel drive vehicles available which were mainly used to transport personnel to their respective activity sites, gather survey information, conduct distributions, and other activities that required deploying staff.

Communications

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society Public Relations and Press Department periodically informed both the institutional authorities and the general public regarding the progress of the operation, using its own means of communication, such as the SRCS's web site: www.cruzrojasal.org.sv, and local media, thus facilitating the dissemination of information regarding the Red Cross's actions. Below are some links used to that end:

- <http://www.ifrc.org/es/noticias/noticias/americas/el-salvador/cruz-roja-beneficia-a-familias-afectadas-por-la-sequia-69622/>
- <http://www.cruzrojasal.org.sv/>
- <http://www.cruzrojasal.org.sv/noticias-es.php?noticia=221>
- <http://www.diariocolatino.com/cruz-roja-realiza-analisis-de-calidad-del-agua-en-san-miguel/>
- <http://elperiodista.com.sv/index.php/23-mi-pais/social/5478-cruz-roja-entrega-alimentos-a-mas-de-mil-familias-en-san-miguel.html>
- <http://elpais.com.sv/elsalvador/?p=24649>
- <http://elblog.com/noticias/registro-23447.html>

<http://vanguardiasv.net/index.php/nacionales/sucesos/item/593-afectados-por-sequia-en-el-oriente-del-pais-reciben-filtros-purificadores-de-agua#sthash.B2eoMUKL.dpuf>

<http://www.diarioleosv.com.sv/?p=7069>

<http://elespectadorsv.com/2016/01/mas-de-500-familias-en-san-miguel-beneficiadas-con-entrega-de-filtros-para-agua/>

<http://elperiodista.com.sv/index.php/23-mi-pais/social/6517-cruz-roja-entrega-filtros-de-agua-en-san-tml?platform=hootsuite>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CFdfA9Ej3Q&feature=share>

The positioning of the institutional image was recognized in communities, and strengthened in the public eye through various media stories highlighting the efforts conducted to benefit families affected by drought. In addition, two beneficiary stories were done, expressing their opinions regarding the assistance provided by the SRCS.

Security

The national SRCS security policy was implemented during the development of the operation, and on-going coordination was maintained with branches, key actors, and authorities responsible for security in the area.

All operational actions took place during daytime hours provided that security conditions had been previously analyzed with authorities and community leaders. All staff and equipment was properly identified and highly visible.

Thanks to the communities and their leaders, there were no incidents that put at risk either the staff or the development of the operation itself

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

The General Vice-Directorate for Community Programmes and Resilience and the Emergency Operations Directorate ensured that the coordination team fulfilled and complied with all actions in the plan of action, making sure that both intermediate reports were submitted

Coordination meetings were held regularly with the SRCS branches in San Miguel, which directly supported the operation.

A presentation regarding progress was given every two weeks to authorities and headquarters departments involved in administrative, financial and operational aspects of the plan of action, in order to monitor the level of progress and immediate work priorities for proper project development.

Finally, a lessons learned workshop was held, which was attended by volunteer, administrative and IFRC staff. This served as an opportunity to reflect on achievements, challenges, as well as lessons learned from this DREF operation, in order to apply these during future emergency operations.

The detailed operational plan analyses challenges and lessons learned by area of intervention, and the complete workshop report is available in Spanish upon request.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

	Outputs	% achieved
Outcome 1 Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis are used to inform the design and implementation of	Output 1.1 Initial needs assessment are updated following consultation with beneficiaries.	100%
	Output 1.2 The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system	100%

the operation.	Output 1.3 Operation activities are disseminated at the local, national and regional levels		100%
Activities	Implementation on time		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Conducting an emergency rapid assessment)		x	100%
Creating a cross-sector plan of action	x		100%
Conducting a detailed assessment of impact on communities	x		100%
Assessment of the operation (relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of activities			100%
Draft and disseminate 2 press releases Draft and disseminate 2 beneficiary stories			100%
3 monitoring visits by the IFRC			100%
Monitoring by the National Society			100%
Achievements			
<p>Initial data was collected and the first projections regarding damage to agricultural production and number of affected families were made by monitoring the media and through contact with the SRCS branches near the most drought-affected areas.</p> <p>In this case we held coordination meetings with institutions that make up the Civil Protection System so they could provide us with information regarding the actions underway and future actions to be taken according to the emergency's evolution.</p> <p>The weekly and bi-weekly presentations about achievements from activities developed served to evaluate various aspects, which allowed maintaining a proper level of execution or identifying aspects that needed improvement.</p> <p>The Public Relations Department disseminated the actions implemented, and publicized them over both own media and local press and television.</p> <p>As for beneficiary stories, Public Relations Department did in fact do the humanitarian stories.</p> <p>IFRC officials visited the National Society at different times during the DREF operation. They conducted interviews during their visit to SRCS headquarters and during a visit to the field.</p> <p>Activities under this drought operation were monitored in two ways: One was via the bi-weekly activity presentation made to all SRCS departments and units directly involved in the operation; and the second was via visits from officials from the departments involved in the operation, which in this case was General Management, Programme Deputy Management, and Emergency Operations Deputy Management.</p> <p>The operation allowed conducting a more detailed assessment, which later served to inform the Emergency Appeal, launched so as to be able to continue with actions aimed at community resilience in the departments of San Miguel and La Unión.</p>			
Challenges			
<p>Timeframe of implementation was longer than usual due to a delay in international purchases, related to items that are not usual during emergency, such as like drums that take more than 40 days to produce</p>			
Lessons learned			
<p>A more thorough assessment was very useful in order to plan the Emergency Appeal published after this DREF.</p> <p>More field visits by IFRC will be carried out in future operations in order to support the staff and bring more technical advice and support to the staff working at field level.</p>			

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome 1 Reducing the risk of dehydration and water-related diseases in the target population.			% achieved	
	Output 1.1 Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards are provided to the entire affected population.			100%
Output 1.2 Drinking water is distributed to affected families			100%	
Activities	Implementation on time		% of progress	
	Yes	No		
10 hygiene promotion workshops in communities	X		100%	
Assessment of hygiene conditions in prioritized communities to establish an intervention		X	100%	
Water distribution with tanker trucks from the National Society	X		100%	
Baseline of adequate water handling knowledge		X	0%	
Achievements				
<p>The rapid assessment found that most farmers did not have enough time to participate, but that they did during distribution activities. The choice was made to disseminate information on hygiene promotion and water handling, which fell to 24 volunteers who had been previously trained by the SRCS's water and sanitation department. In this way, 1,000 people were reached through 36 informative talks about proper handling of water, hygiene promotion, hand washing, and cleanliness of areas surrounding homes. These talks were provided in parallel with food deliveries as a condition for receiving the assistance. Some families had received similar talks in the past from Ministry of Health promoters assigned to the area.</p> <p>Hygiene conditions could be detected through observation or interviews to families, which is how the risk of consuming water that was unsafe or from inadequate sources was detected. This led to identifying the need for water filters to improve the quality of drinking water.</p> <p>The distribution of drinking water was much appreciated by community members, as this reduced the financial burden of having to buy water because they had no purification processes. Water was distributed to all who needed it, for which distribution routes were established - and always accompanied by a community leader. The DREF supported the maintenance of the water trucks, water pumps and pipes in order to provide more efficient services to the affected population.</p>				
<p>Table 3 – List of communities participating in community hygiene promotion and water handling workshops</p>				
#	Community	Families	Men	Women
1	Chaparrastique	47	15	32
2	El Casco	77	25	52
3	Ciprés	36	14	22
4	Ermita	37	18	19
5	Santa Lucia	35	20	15
6	Guadalupe	74	17	57
7	La Esperanza	48	27	21
8	Marañonera	25	15	10

9	Los Cocos	30	13	17
10	La Mascota	48	24	24
11	La Ceiba	19	12	7
12	San Andrés	13	4	9
13	Los Plateros	25	14	11
14	San Jacinto	44	26	18
15	La Isla	19	7	12
16	Concepción Corozal	84	59	25
17	Altomiro	45	23	22
18	Jacinteña	66	37	29
19	Los Ranchos	78	41	37
20	EL Cedral	43	28	15
21	Los Cuatro	33	18	15
22	Las Unidas	10	3	7
23	Los Treinta	29	14	15
24	El Progreso	35	14	21
	total	1000		

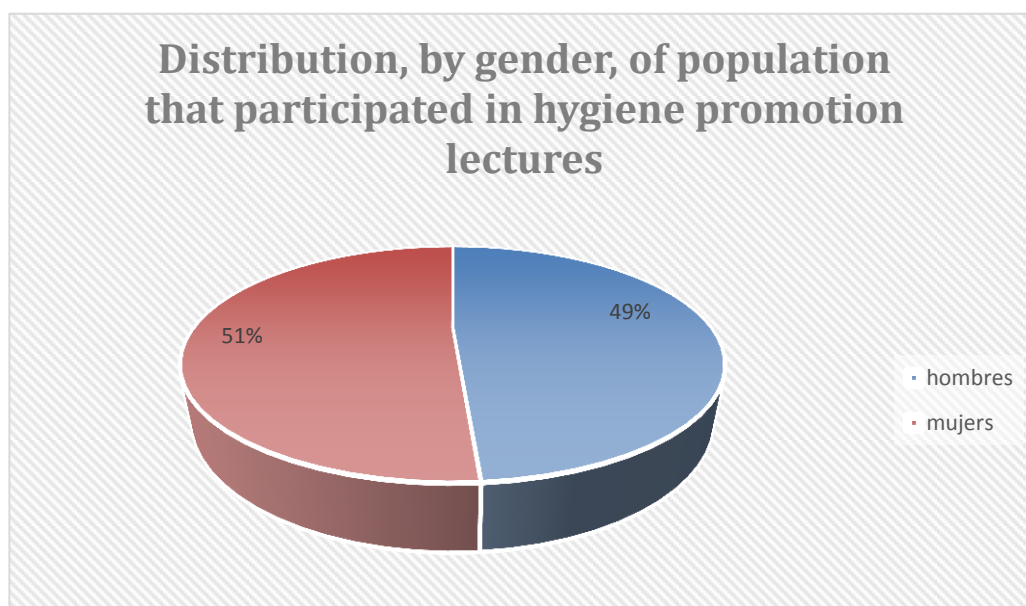


Chart 1

Chart 1 shows the distribution, by gender, of the people who participated in hygiene promotion and water handling lectures. Men account for 51 per cent of participants and women account for 49 per cent, which shows a balanced gender distribution.

1,000 55-gallon drums for water storage were distributed to targeted communities between late October and early November 2015.

Thanks to coordination with the ANDA, the SRCS secured free water provision to the following communities:

1. Southern San Miguel : Los Cuatro, Las Unidas, Los Treinta, El Progreso, Los Ranchos, El Cedral
2. Northern San Miguel : La Isla, Altomiro, Concepción Corozal, San Jacinto, Jacinteña

The water required to meet the needs of the 11 initial communities was 29,320 gallons of drinking water per week. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society managed to deliver 48,000 gallons of drinking water per week, i.e. 63 per cent more than the actual demand, thus benefitting around 1,000 families (approximately 5,000 people).

In addition, 554 families received a water filter. This delivery was very important since many families got their water from unsafe sources, such as artisan wells, which are generally polluted; rain water harvesting or, in the most critical

cases, from the nearest river; or water sold from drums, which is usually untreated and unfit for human consumption.

Challenges

Among the challenges encountered from the beginning to the end of the operation was free water provision. In the first coordination meetings it had been said that water was to be provided free of charge, but once the operation started the SRCS was informed the water could not be provided for free. This was resolved after extensive negotiations by the SRCS.

The SRCS addressed the communities' concerns regarding the origin and type of water that was being provided. After the processes for handling, transporting and ensuring the quality of the water was explained, the communities were more accepting, trusting and at ease.

In terms of logistics, a factor that sometimes hindered water distribution was the frequent breakdown of SRCS trucks, which meant incurring high costs to repair and provide maintenance to National Society vehicles. The same happened with the trucks' water pump accessories, such as adapters, hoses and others that failed to work properly, but which were replaced for water distributions.

The process for procuring the drums was slow, as this is not an item commonly used during emergency operations, which meant that manufacturing them took around 40 days. Another challenge involved receiving delivery of the water filters, since their arrival coincided with new year activities that delayed customs processes. Despite these delays, having delivered the filters and drums had a high impact in communities in terms of access to and storage of quality water.

The baseline assessment that was planned for the operation was canceled due to the short length of the DREF; however, there will be more time to perform a baseline assessment and a more thorough analysis during the emergency appeal's implementation.

Lessons learned

Expand induction sessions in communities to inform about the actions to be implemented. The SRCS adequately informed community members, which facilitated the work with the population and ensured safe access for the team working on the project.

Actions to deliver items not frequently used in emergencies, e.g. drums, have had a significant impact on communities. The time it takes to manufacture them needs to be taken into account in future emergency operations

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

		% achieved		
Outcome 1: Drought-affected families have basic foods to prevent acute malnutrition for at least two months until the harvest comes in or further assistance is arranged.	Output 1.1 Delivery of food to 1,000 families for 2 months	100%		
	Activities	Implementation on time		% of progress
		Yes	No	
	Identification and selection of beneficiaries using ODK	X		100%
	Identification and selection of suppliers	X		100%
Procurement and distribution of 2,000 food packages	X		100%	
Beneficiary satisfaction survey	X		100%	
Achievements				

Using the ODK platform, initially as technological support, allowed SRCS volunteers to be trained in this tool; enabled them to gather data from respondents during both the data collection and the beneficiary selection phases; to apply it during the satisfaction surveys; and to validate beneficiaries during humanitarian aid distributions

In this case, it was a joint effort between the logistical support team and the SRCS procurement unit, who managed the entire vendor selection process. The process was reviewed and approved by the IFRC's Global Logistics Services (GLS).

A work team was assembled to deliver the food parcels to the 24 beneficiary communities at the established delivery points. It was responsible for several aspects, including keeping control of beneficiaries during distribution; validation and control of distribution cards; unloading of food parcels and delivery thereof to beneficiaries; and their subsequent exit from the security perimeter.

This DREF included a beneficiary satisfaction survey to learn the beneficiaries' opinions regarding the SRCS's humanitarian aid intervention, considering the following criteria:

CRITERION	OBJECTIVE
Service to beneficiaries	Gathering information regarding the treatment community members received from staff participating in the operation
Product quality	Obtaining the beneficiaries' impressions regarding the quality of the products delivered (food kits)
Distribution site	Getting the beneficiaries' opinion regarding whether the choice of distribution site was easily accessible to them
Product quantity	Getting the beneficiaries' opinion regarding the amount of products included in the food kits
Content of lectures	Getting the beneficiaries' opinion regarding whether the lectures and the way they were delivered were sufficiently explicit
Changes/improvement in habits	Achieving, through hygiene promotion lectures, that the population change or implement hygiene habits that lead to improved health

The ODK platform was used to create the form to conduct the survey. First, a form was first created to gather the answers provided by beneficiaries according to the established criteria. Once the form was prepared, an induction lecture was given to the volunteers who would be in charge of obtaining the opinions. Once these activities had been completed, it was decided that the data would be gathered prior to the second food delivery, randomly selecting a sample of 600 interviewees from a universe of 1000 families from the 24 communities.

Volunteer and technical staff delivered 2,000 food parcels to 1,000 families, one delivery per month for two months. Details of the contents of the food parcels are provided below - which consisted of two sacks, one containing the flours (weighing 52 lbs.) and the other containing basic grains (62 lbs.).

Food Item	Quantity per package	Quantity for 2000 packages
White corn flour	30 pounds	60,000 pounds
Rice	20 pounds	40,000 pounds
Red beans	30 pounds	60,000 pounds
Iodized salt	2 pounds	4,000 pounds
Sugar with vitamin A	10 pounds	20,000 pounds
Vegetable oil	1 gallon	2,000 gallons
Incaparina	10 kilograms (22 kilograms)	20,000 kilograms (44,000 pounds)

In order to carry out this process, a series of inter-agency meetings began in order to identify areas in which data collection would be centred; learn which institutions were working on this issue and where; and to learn about the type of assistance communities were receiving to prevent duplication of efforts. This initiated a process where an inter-agency meeting schedule was created that allowed for the gathering of available information and its cross check in order to have a clearer picture of the situation.

One of these meetings was with members of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, specifically with the health promoters, in order to gather information on the nutritional status of the population assigned to each of them in the sectors under their responsibility, as well as on water issues in their communities.

The second strategic meeting was intended to learn about the information that the National Centre for Agricultural Technology and Forestry had on the subject, since they had already identified agricultural areas in the department and the type of crops in which each drought-affected community and area engaged. This information served to map the location of farming communities to start our visits, during which the opportunity emerged to gather first-hand information, as was the case when interviewing community leaders.

Once the information had been collected, selection of the greater-impact communities ensued. To this end, the map was divided into three sectors: Sector 1: San Miguel volcano, which is known as Chaparrastique, El Casco, El Ciprés, La Ermita, Santa Lucia, Guadalupe, La Esperanza, Marañonera, Los Cocos, La Mascota, El Amate, La Ceiba, San Andrés, and Los Plateros; Sector 2: Northern San Miguel: San Jacinto, La Isla, Concepción Corozal, and Altomiro; and Sector 3: lower areas: Los Ranchos, Cedral, Los Cuatro, Las Unidas, Los Treinta, and El Progreso.

Once communities were identified, community leaders were convened to make them aware of the emergency drought operation and the criteria the families would have to meet in order to benefit, and asked for their cooperation in identifying the families most likely to meet said criteria. Information gathering days were organized, using survey forms which would later be entered into a computer program for processing.

Following the census, the information was processed so the software could select beneficiary families as per the selection criteria. The next stage involved printing the list of beneficiaries, the list that the beneficiaries would sign, as well as the distribution cards. The list was used to conduct a pre-distribution process where community leaders were informed which families were to receive aid so that when the actual distribution happened only those selected families would be convened. Coordination established the necessary logistics to start the delivery of humanitarian aid. A mechanism was designed that would enable the control of the flow of people passing through each station after having received the hygiene promotion lecture (36 community hygiene promotion workshops)

The delivery mechanism consisted of the following steps: 1) Families were queued according to the list provided to community leaders; 2) Review of single document with beneficiary data and delivery of personal distribution card; 3) Validation of card via the software by employing a barcode reader; 4) The beneficiary had his signature registered, distribution card returned, and received 2 sacks of food divided by weight and type: one contained basic grains and the other had flours and oil. People were then expected to leave the delivery perimeter. They were allowed to bring one person along to help with the transport.

List of selected communities

Drought Operation - DREF / El Salvador 2015 Summary of number of benefitting families and Communities in the department of San Miguel

No.	Community	Population
1	Chaparrastique	47
2	El Casco	77
3	Ciprés	36
4	Ermita	37
5	Santa Lucia	35
6	Guadalupe	74
7	La Esperanza	48
8	Marañonera	25
9	Los Cocos	30
10	La Mascota	48
11	La Ceiba	19
12	San Andrés	13
13	Los Plateros	25
14	San Jacinto	44
15	La Isla	19
16	Concepción Corozal	84
17	Altomiro	45

18	Jacinteña	66
19	Los Ranchos	78
20	EL Cedral	43
21	Los Cuatro	33
22	Las Unidas	10
23	Los Treinta	29
24	El Progreso	35
Total		1,000

Challenges

The biggest challenge was selecting the beneficiaries because of the criteria they were expected to meet. It was also hard to raise awareness regarding who the assistance was supposed to target, and making the community leader who accompanied the operation understand this in order to avoid misunderstandings. The problem is that this area's population is poor and extremely poor, and they could easily assume that their poverty makes them eligible to receive the humanitarian assistance. Another determining factor was gaining the community leaders' trust and collaboration. In terms of logistics, mobilizing personnel was a challenge because the type of terrain required a certain type; therefore, a deployment strategy was planned that included security, communication, transport, hydration, and meals. Another important aspect was the selection of the distribution site since it had to meet certain conditions such as accessibility for people and vehicles, security, and flat terrain.

Lessons learned

Beneficiary selection began with meetings with community leaders to explain the purpose of the operation, to clear doubts and concerns, and to request their collaboration as community counterparts. This coordination made data collection more efficient, more reliable, and safer for our staff as they became the first filters. Our staff collected data and completed the information using what they observed, which was then entered into the software in order to generate the list of beneficiaries according to previously established criteria. Once the information was processed, community leaders were convened for two specific purposes: to provide them with the pre-distribution list, i.e. the beneficiaries to be convened; and to select the most suitable distribution site in terms of accessibility, security, terrain, distance, and taking into account the community leaders' views. As for transport, deployment routes, schedules, and sectors were designed. Work teams were created - some would collect survey data and others would provide support by helping to meet all logistics' and communications' needs.

Contact information

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

- **In the Salvadorean Red Cross Society:** Roy Venegas, Relief Director, email: roy.venegas@cruzrojasal.org.sv
- **IFRC country office:** Marissa Soberanis, IFRC country coordinator for El Salvador and Guatemala; email: marissa.soberanis@ifrc.org
- **IFRC regional office:**
 - Carlos Inigo Barrera, Pan-American Disaster Response Unit coordinator; email: ci.barrera@ifrc.org
 - Stephany Murillo; zone senior logistics officer; email: stephany.murillo@ifrc.org
 - Alejandra Van Hensbergen; senior relationship management officer; email: alejandra.vanhensbergen@ifrc.org
 - Priscila Gonzalez, planning, monitoring and reporting team coordinator; email: priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

➤ [Click here](#)

1. 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 (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.

www.ifrc.org

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.

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRSV009 - El Salvador - Drought**

Timeframe: 26 Aug 15 to 26 Jan 16

Appeal Launch Date: 26 Aug 15

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/8-2016/3	Programme	MDRSV009
Budget Timeframe	2015/8-2016/1	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		290,386				290,386	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		290,386				290,386	
C4. Other Income		290,386				290,386	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		290,386				290,386	
D. Total Funding = B +C		290,386				290,386	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		290,386				290,386	
E. Expenditure		-282,644				-282,644	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		7,742				7,742	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRSV009 - El Salvador - Drought

Timeframe: 26 Aug 15 to 26 Jan 16

Appeal Launch Date: 26 Aug 15

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/8-2016/3	Programme	MDRSV009
Budget Timeframe	2015/8-2016/1	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			290,386			290,386		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Food	135,414		136,456			136,456	-1,042	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	62,103		54,025			54,025	8,078	
Teaching Materials	2,051						2,051	
Utensils & Tools			0			0	0	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	199,567		190,481			190,481	9,087	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	488		1,065			1,065	-577	
Distribution & Monitoring			2,884			2,884	-2,884	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	10,370		12,357			12,357	-1,987	
Logistics Services	7,441		7,500			7,500	-59	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	18,299		23,806			23,806	-5,507	
Personnel								
International Staff	14,647		9,210			9,210	5,437	
National Society Staff	13,416		14,703			14,703	-1,286	
Volunteers	13,963		11,747			11,747	2,216	
Other Staff Benefits			2,031			2,031	-2,031	
Total Personnel	42,026		37,691			37,691	4,335	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	2,929						2,929	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	2,929						2,929	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,172		1,581			1,581	-410	
Total Workshops & Training	1,172		1,581			1,581	-410	
General Expenditure								
Travel	3,808		5,852			5,852	-2,044	
Information & Public Relations	1,269		2,263			2,263	-994	
Office Costs	937		2,385			2,385	-1,448	
Communications	2,069		816			816	1,252	
Financial Charges	586		517			517	69	
Total General Expenditure	8,669		11,834			11,834	-3,165	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	17,723		17,251			17,251	473	
Total Indirect Costs	17,723		17,251			17,251	473	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	290,386		282,644			282,644	7,742	
VARIANCE (C - D)			7,742			7,742		

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRSV009 - El Salvador - Drought**

Timeframe: 26 Aug 15 to 26 Jan 16

Appeal Launch Date: 26 Aug 15

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/8-2016/3	Programme	MDRSV009
Budget Timeframe	2015/8-2016/1	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	290,386		290,386	290,386	282,644	7,742	
Subtotal BL2	290,386		290,386	290,386	282,644	7,742	
GRAND TOTAL	290,386		290,386	290,386	282,644	7,742	