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Emergency Plan of Action (EpoA) Nicaragua: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation MDRNI007 DREF update no. 2	Glide n°: TC-2017-000148-NIC
Date of issue: 5 December 2017	Date of disaster: 4 October de 2017
Operation start date: 5 October 2017	Expected timeframe: 4 months (ending on 5 February 2018)
Overall budget: 162,543 Swiss francs (including first allocation of 55,079 Swiss francs for preparedness)	
Number of people affected: 39,200 people (7,840 families)	Number of people to be assisted: 2,160 people (432 families)
Host National Society: The Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) has 22 staff members, 100 volunteers from its headquarters and Rivas departmental branches, which are active in the operation; and 34 branches.	
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the country include the Spanish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society and American Red Cross; they are all part of the active Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has an office at the country level.	
Other partner organizations involved in the operation Civil Defence; National System of Prevention, Mitigation and Disaster Response (SINAPRED for its acronym in Spanish); Departmental Committee of Prevention, Mitigation and Disaster Response (CODEPRED for its acronym in Spanish); Municipal Committee of Prevention, Mitigation and Disaster Response (COMUPRED for its acronym in Spanish).	

This DREF Operations Update no. 2 reflects an extended operational timeframe of one month (up to 5 February 2018) and progress of the activities carried out since the beginning of the operation. The Nicaraguan Red Cross has had difficulties in procuring water and sanitation items, including cleaning and disinfecting kits for water wells, delaying the start of the activities outlined in the Water and Sanitation component of this Emergency Plan of Action. The IFRC logistics unit in Panama is supporting the procurement of these items. Additionally, heavy rains continue to affect the regions delaying further activities. An additional month is needed to complete the procurement of items and provide potable water to the targeted families.

Summary: Following the declaration of a yellow alert on 4 October 2017, the NRC activated its emergency operation centre, and it prepared its staff at the national and branch levels; it also activated its Monitoring and Information Commission to track situation reports from the Pacific Region departments of Rivas, Carazo, León and Chinandega and in the central regions of Matagalpa and Juigalpa.

An initial Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation was requested on 5 October 2017 to support the Nicaraguan Red Cross' preparedness actions, such as pre-positioning NRC staff and volunteers for the arrival of Tropical Storm Nate.

On 7 October, SINAPRED reported that the following 16 departments were affected by floods and heavy winds: Rivas, Chontales, Madriz, Boaco, Rio San Juan, Nueva Segovia, Estelí, Carazo, Managua, Masaya, Granada, Chinandega, León, Matagalpa, Jinotega and the Autonomous regions of the North Caribbean Coast and



Psychosocial support sessions carried out on 1 November in the community of Ochomogo in the Lilly Pedroza Carballo Education Centre. Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross

the South Caribbean Coast; the flooding affected a total of 87 municipalities, with 7,840 families impacted (270 families in collective centres), 5,900 affected homes (211 damaged, 32 destroyed and 27 at risk of collapsing) and 15 people reportedly died¹.

On 14 October, the IFRC published DREF operation update no.1, which reflected the assessment's results and the National Society's response activities after the passage of Tropical Storm Nate; furthermore, it outlined the emergency plan of action) with an overall budget of 162,543 Swiss francs and an operational timeframe of three months and the scaling up of the response through the provision health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and shelter (including non-food items).

Twenty volunteers from the branch in Rivas, who were supported by a volunteer from the headquarters, carried out damage and needs assessments in the communities of Ochomogo and Gil González (Rivas department); additionally, National Society personnel evacuated people from flooded homes and provided immediate assistance to the most affected. A water and sanitation team has been deployed, and it is conducting rapid assessments in health, water and sanitation, including chemical analysis of water sources and wells; it is estimated that 432 families are affected, and 87 wells are flooded and contaminated in Rivas. Volunteers have provided psychosocial support (PSS) and are carrying out a survey of families that are being sheltered in Lilly Pedroza School (Ochomogo community, Belén municipality, Rivas department).

The NRC's Communication and Press Department has been providing recommendations and key messages to affected people through the communicators network. In addition, the NRC's Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) is receiving daily status reports from the local branches, and the logistics department has opened collection centres in the NRC's headquarters and branches to receive donated items for the affected families.

The NRC's EOC continues to coordinate with several branches through a strategy and structure defined by the National Council, which is in line with the NRC's national response, contingency, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) Plans.

Coordination and partnerships

The Nicaraguan Red Cross' National Council's structure was defined and adopted for the operation of the EOCs and the overall intervention. The National Society has a National Response Plan, contingency plans and Standard Operating Procedures, and it has been trained in different specialties based on the role it plays in the EOC. In terms of equipment, the National Society has the basic equipment and logistical capacity needed to mount a first response in any emergency.

The PNSs present in the country include the American, Canadian, Italian and Spanish Red Cross Societies, with which the National Executive Committee and EOC team is in coordination. In addition, the NRC, through the American Red Cross' support, is implementing a community preparedness programme in the country, and the PNSs are supporting the Nicaraguan Red Cross on its response activities with vehicles and staff.

The ICRC delegation in Nicaragua coordinates actions with the NRC in respect to conflict, riots or other violence-related events in Nicaragua.

The IFRC's Country Cluster Support Team for Central America and its Disaster & Crisis department are in close communication with the Nicaraguan Red Cross. Lastly, the NRC developed a Dashboard to track Tropical Storm Nate at the onset of the emergency for monitoring purposes.

According to Nicaraguan Law No. 337, SINAPRED's executive secretary must coordinate disaster response efforts; SINAPRED consists of clusters of government representatives and Red Cross personnel in areas such as water, special operations, environment and health, among others. The Nicaraguan Red Cross is an active member at the national, departmental, municipal and local levels (CODEPRED, COMUPRED and Local Committee for the Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness for Disasters (COLOPRED for its acronym in Spanish) of this system. Lastly, World Vision has offered technical and financial assistance to the NRC's operation.

Operational implementation


Overview

Prior to the effects of Tropical Storm Nate, the National Society requested a DREF for preparedness activities which included:

¹ [Report from SINAPRED, 7 October 2017.](#)

- The pre-positioning of non-food items (NFIs) in Managua for 200 families. (200 kitchen kits, 400 tarpaulins, 600 jerry cans, 600 long-lasting insecticide treated [mosquito] nets [LLITNs] and 600 blankets); The NRC has already distributed these items, which will be replenished.
- The mobilization costs of the team of volunteers from NRC's headquarters and branches that carried out the damage assessments.

After the passing of the Tropical Storm and the completion of the rapid assessments, the National Society revised the Emergency Plan of action to include support for 432 families (2,160 people) affected by the tropical storm in the communities of Ochomogo and Gil González (Belén municipality, department of Rivas) in the Pacific region; the support is in the form of essential non-food items, water, sanitation, hygiene promotion and psychosocial support, and The NRC will reach all the members of these communities, including persons living with disabilities and senior citizens.

	Health People targeted: 2,160 people People reached: 275 Requirements (CHF): 8,320						
	Outcome 1: Contribute to the protection and recovery of physical and mental wellbeing in the affected communities in the department of Rivas (communities of Gil Gonzales and Ochomogo).						
Output 1.1 Psychosocial support is provided to 432 families (2,160 people) and volunteers.		To be reported at final report 12%					
Activities	Is Implementation on time?		53 % of progress				
	Yes	No					
Beneficiary selection	X		100%				
Provision of psychosocial support sessions to families in the communities, schools and collective centres	X		12%				
Procurement of 3 emergency psychosocial kits	X		100%				
Provision of psychosocial support workshops to volunteers in the NRC's branches and headquarters	X		0%				
Progress:							
<u>Beneficiary selection</u> From 7 to 8 October 2017, the NRC selected beneficiaries in the communities of Ochomogo and Gil Gonzales in the department of Rivas.							
<u>Psychosocial support</u> The NRC has provided psychosocial support to 275 people as follows:							
Community	Date	Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Persons with disabilities	Total/day
Ochomogo	1 Nov 2017	64	72	10	2	0	148
	8 Nov 2017	40	49	13	3	1	106
	10 Nov 2017	0	0	18	2	1	21
Sub-total		104	121	41	7	2	
Activity Total		225		48		2	275



Psychosocial support activities carried out on 8 November with teachers and families in the community of Ochomogo.
Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross



Psychosocial support sessions carried out on 1 November in the community of Ochomogo in the Lilly Pedroza Carballo Education Centre

The NRC used methodology the "Carousels of Joy", which has been updated by the Nicaraguan Red Cross to carry out psychosocial support interventions with large populations because it is participatory and involves all participants.

The development of this methodology is done by building 7 stations:


- First station: welcome to the carousel stations
- Second season: stress (relaxation exercise)
- Third season: mourning and loss (painting)
- Fourth station: storytelling
- Fifth station: psychological first aid
- Sixth station: individual intervention
- Seventh station: refreshments

Each of the stations is led by a member of the psychosocial support brigade, who is responsible for ensuring everyone's participation.

Procurement of 3 emergency psychosocial kits

The NRC procured three emergency psychosocial kits, and they will be used to continue the PSS activities in Ochomogo and Gil Gonzales; the kits consist of items such as crayons, paper, paints, markers and story books, among other items.

Psychosocial support workshops for Nicaraguan Red Cross volunteers are planned for the upcoming month.

	<h3 style="color: red;">Water, sanitation and hygiene</h3> <p>People targeted: 2,160 people People reached: N/A Requirements (CHF): 88,299</p>		
Outcome 2: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.		14.28 % of progress	
Output 2.1: Access to safe water is provided to the affected population		0%	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		14.28 % of progress
	Yes	No	
Identification and target of water wells and water sources		X	100%

Installation of water treatment plants	X		0%
Chemical analysis of water	X		100%
Production and distribution of safe water to targeted families		X	0%
Procurement and distribution of 432 home water filters		X	0%
Sensitization talks on how to optimize potable water in homes		X	0%
Engage community on the design and acceptability of water and sanitation facilities		X	0%

Progress:

Identification and target of water wells and water sources

On 8 November 2017, the NRC identified 93 wells in Ochomogo, while it identified 63 wells in Gil Gonzales.

Installation of water treatment plants

On 7 October 2107, the NRC mobilized a SETA 1000 water treatment plant, with a capacity of providing 1,000 litres per hour, to its branch in Rivas.

Chemical analysis of water

From 8 October to 8 November 2017, the NRC conducted 22 water turbidity and PH level tests in the communities of Ochomogo y Gil González, Las Mesas, La Montaña, La Cruz and Mata de Caña; the results showed the water was cloudy and the PH levels were higher than 8.

Production and distribution of safe water to targeted families

The NRC has not distributed water since it has procured the cleaning and disinfection kits h to clean the water wells yet.

Procurement and distribution of 432 home water filters

The procurement of the home water filters is ongoing as the bidding process has not been completed yet since there is only one local supplier.



Water chemical analysis conducted on 8 November in the community of Ochomogo.
Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross



Sensitization talks on how to optimize potable water in homes/Engage community on the design and acceptability of water and sanitation facilities

These activities are planned for next month since procurement of the required items has been delayed; nevertheless, the NRC held a coordination meeting on 9 November with community leaders in Gil Gonzales for their involvement in the cleaning of wells and water provision activities.

Meeting with Gil Gonzales community leaders to plan the cleaning of wells activity. Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross

Output: 2.2 Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards are provided to targeted families.

100 % of achievement

Activities	Is implementation on time?		Progress
	Yes	No	

Beneficiary identification	X		100%
Distribution of 600 jerry cans to affected families	X		100%

Progress:**Beneficiary identification**

The NRC identified beneficiaries in the communities of Ochomogo and Gil Gonzales.

Distribution of 600 jerry cans to affected families

On 8 October 2017, the NRC distributed 600 jerry cans (3 per family) in the communities of Ochomogo and Gil Gonzales.



Non-food items distributions in the department of Rivas (Ochomogo and Gil Gonzales).
Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross

Output 2.3: Improved access to and use of adequate sanitation by the target population.			12.5 % of achievement
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Activities	Is implementation on time?		12.5 % of progress
	Yes	No	
Beneficiary identification	X		100%
Repair 75 latrines in affected homes and/or collective centres		X	0%
Sensitization of adequate use and maintenance of latrines		X	0%
Fumigation/ spraying of homes and collective centres to prevent vector-borne diseases among the most vulnerable population		X	0%
Cleaning and disinfection of 179 water wells		X	0%
Procurement of 2 cleaning and disinfection water well kits.		X	0%
Procurement of thermos nebulizers and pumps for fumigation		X	0%
Training for volunteers on the use of the equipment		X	0%

Progress:**Beneficiary identification:**

The NRC identified beneficiaries in the communities of Ochomogo and Gil Gonzales.

On 7 October, the NRC identified 100 latrines in the community of Ochomogo, of which 5 had collapsed and the rest were partially damaged. On 9 October, the NRC conducted an assessment in the community of Gil Gonzales, which identified 65 latrines, of which 7 were collapsed and the rest sustained partial damages.

Repair 75 latrines in affected homes and/or collective centres

This activity has not started yet, and it is planned for when the required items are procured.

Sensitization of adequate use and maintenance of latrines

This activity has not started yet, and it is planned for when the required cleaning kits are procured.

Fumigation/ spraying of homes and collective centres to prevent vector-borne diseases among the most vulnerable population/ Cleaning and disinfecting 179 water wells

Procurement of the necessary items is ongoing.

Procurement of 2 cleaning and disinfecting water well kits.


Procurement of the required kits is ongoing.

Procurement of thermos nebulizers and pumps for fumigation

Procurement of the necessary items is ongoing

Training for volunteers on the use of the equipment

The NRC will conduct this training once it acquires the needed items.

	<p>Shelter</p> <p>People targeted: 200 families (1,000 people) People reached: 1,000 people Requirements (CHF): 15,079</p>		
Outcome 3: The immediate shelter and household needs of the people in collective centres and self-sheltered are met.		100 %	
Output 3.1 Essential Household Items (non-food items) are provided to the target population.		100%	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		100 % of progress
	Yes	No	
Distribution of 200 kitchen sets (one per family)	X		100%
Distribution of 600 blankets (Two per family)	X		100%
Distribution of 600 LLITNs (three per family)	X		100%
Distribution of 400 tarpaulins (two per family)	X		100%
Progress:			
200 families received non-food items			
Among the non-food items the NRC distributed were kitchen sets, blankets, LLITNs and tarpaulins, reaching 200 families (65 male-headed households, 135 female-headed households) in the communities of Ochomogo and Gil González in the municipality of Belén in the department of Rivas.			

Quality programming/ Areas common to all Sectors	
Outcome 4: Response operation is well planned, coordinated and monitored	36% of achievement

Output 4.1: Continuous monitoring and assessment of Tropical Depression Nate informs the planning and implementation of the response operation.			50%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		50% of progress
	Yes	No	
Assessment of the present humanitarian situation while considering assessments conducted by other stakeholders	X		100%
Pre-positioning of trained volunteers to strategic areas in advance of the Tropical Storm	X		100%
Appoint a focal person in the Emergency Operations Centre to prepare daily situation reports, which will be posted on the Dashboard and shared with all stakeholders.	X		100%
Recruitment of National Society staff (DREF coordinator, financial assistant, field team leader).	X		100%
IFRC monitoring visits	X		0%
RIT deployment	X		0%
Lessons learned workshop	X		0%
<p>Progress:</p> <p><i>Assessment of the present humanitarian situation while considering assessments conducted by other stakeholders</i> The government agency SINAPRED conducted assessments in the affected areas. The Nicaraguan Red Cross volunteers carried out damage and needs assessments on 7 and 8 October.</p> <p><i>Pre-positioning of trained volunteers to strategic areas in advance of the Tropical Storm</i> On 7 October, the NRC deployed three National Intervention Teams (NITs) specializing in water and sanitation to the department of Rivas; the NRC mobilized two PSS volunteers from the National Society headquarters, along with volunteers from the Rivas local branch, to support the damage and needs assessments.</p> <p><i>Appoint a focal person in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to prepare daily situation reports, which will be posted on the Dashboard and shared with all stakeholders.</i> A communications and press officer from the National Society has gathering information and preparing reports in the EOC.</p> <p><i>Recruitment of National Society staff (DREF coordinator, financial assistant, field team leader).</i> The NRC completed the recruitment process on 17 October.</p> <p><i>IFRC monitoring visits</i> An IFRC disaster management coordinator was deployed in October 2017 to support the National Society on the Emergency Plan of Action.</p> <p><i>RIT deployment</i> The NRC identified RIT, who will be deployed in the coming weeks to support the National Society on the realization of the activities.</p> <p><i>Lessons learned workshop</i> The NRC is planning to conduct a lessons learned workshop once all the activities have been completed, and it expects to carry out a beneficiary satisfaction survey with target families to improve current and future interventions.</p>			
Output 4.2: Community engagement and accountability activities help target communities and families have access to life-saving and actionable information to take action on their safety, health, and wellbeing, through engagement with the Red Cross, to influence and guide action			33.3% of achievement

Activities	Is implementation on time?		33.3% of progress
	Yes	No	
Identification of target people and communication means	X		100%
Carry out beneficiary satisfaction surveys	X		0%
Promote community people to express their opinions through videos	X		0%

Progress:**Identification of target people and communication means**

The NRC identified targeted people in the communities of Gil González and Ochomogo, and it pinpointed local and national media to coordinate communication activities.

Carry out beneficiary satisfaction surveys

National Society technical staff are designing survey tools to conduct beneficiary surveys; This activity is planned for 13 to 14 December 2017.

Promote community people to express their opinions through videos

Once water and sanitation activities begin, the NRC will complete testimonial videos and communication materials to capture this operation's achievements of the operation.

The NRC has produced several videos that show the distribution of non-food items in the communities of Gil Gonzales and Ochomogo. Please see Annex 1 for links to the videos and news articles on the distribution activities:



Stills from NRC's video on the operation. The caption beneath the photo on the right says, "Red Cross delivers help to 200 families in Rivas." Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross

Output 4.3: Establishment of communication/public relations functions			25% of achievement
Activities	Is implementation on time?		Progress
	Yes	No	
Development of a national communications campaign and strategy	X		0%
Development of three videos to promote the National Society activities	X		100%
Development of visual material (posters, infographics, brochures)	X		0%
Development and implementation of social media campaign	X		0%

Progress:**Development of a national communications campaign and strategy**

Activities conducted by the Nicaraguan Red Cross have been disseminated through various media channels and social media. A television and radio (13 radio stations) campaign will run from 27 November to 27 December, focusing on recommendations during flood situations. Please see Annex 1 below for links on news links and videos.

Development of three videos to promote the National Society activities\Development of visual material (posters, infographics, brochures)

The NRC has produced three videos, and it has developed banners, stickers and posters to be used in the PSS interventions and the water and sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

Development and implementation of social media campaign

A media firm is currently working on two animated videos, which will focus on hand washing techniques and flood preparedness activities; The NRC will promote these through social media outlets and television channels.

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 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.

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.**



Annex 1 (media links)

<https://100noticias.com.ni/cruz-roja-entrega-ayuda-a-200-familias-en-rivas/>

<https://www.laprensa.com.ni/2017/10/19/nacionales/2317018-comision-europea-anuncia-ayuda-afectados-tormenta-nate-rivas>

<https://www.facebook.com/Canal100Noticias/posts/1762601514047714>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J95URnE-o1o>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqfginAQztI&list=UU9Jt_t5m3dq-uUyb5hfG17w&index=28

<https://www.laprensa.com.ni/2017/10/07/nacionales/2310202-cruz-roja-nicaraguense-inicia-la-recoleccion-de-articulos-para-apoyar-damnificados>

<https://www.laprensa.com.ni/2017/10/17/ptv/2315675-cruz-roja-beneficiara-comunidades-damnificadas-rivas>

