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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Guatemala: Volcanic Eruption

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRGT013	Glide n° VO-2018-000066-GTM
Operation start date: 6 June 2018 Date of issue: 6 June 2018	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 6 September 2018
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow	
DREF allocated: 256,877 Swiss francs (CHF)	
Total number of people affected: 1,701,965 people	Number of people to be assisted: 500 families (3,000 people)
Host National Society presence: The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) has one national headquarters, 21 branches throughout the country and 1,684 active volunteers (56 per cent men and 44 per cent women).	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Spanish Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction of Guatemala (CONRED for its acronym in Spanish)	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 3 June 2018, Guatemala's 3,763-meter (12,346-feet) Fuego Volcano erupted, killing a reported 75 people. The volcano emitted an 8-kilometer (5-mile) stream of hot lava and a dense plume of black smoke and ash that blanketed Guatemala's capital, Guatemala City, and other regions. According to Guatemalan authorities, 12,089 people have been evacuated from the affected area (see [map of affected areas](#)), and the fatalities are concentrated in three towns: El Rodeo, Alotenango and San Miguel los Lotes. Guatemala's president was considering declaring a state of emergency in the departments of Chimaltenango, Escuintla and Sacatepequez. Furthermore, Guatemala City's La Aurora international airport closed its only runway due to the presence of volcanic ash and the danger it poses to the safety of passengers and aircraft. The volcano is 25 miles (40 km) south-west of Guatemala City, and it is close to the tourist destination of Antigua¹.

Volcanic ash continues to fall on communities such as La Soledad, San Miguel Dueñas, Alotenango, Antigua and Chimaltenango. The level of alert has been increased to red in the following departments: Escuintla, Alotenango, Sacatepéquez, Yepocapa and Chimaltenango, and CONRED opened three collective centres in the department of Escuintla. Local authorities said the volcano could cause more mud and pyroclastic flows, and heavy rains threaten to worsen the volcano's impact by causing rivers to overflow their banks.



Photo: Attention of affected people. 5 June 2018. Source: Guatemalan red cross.

¹ RSOE Emergency and Disaster Information Service, Budapest, Hungary Situation Update No. 1

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society



GUATEMALA RED CROSS ACTIONS

1,648 VOLUNTEERS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY ALERT AND READY TO BE MOBILIZED | **21** BRANCHES

- ▶ **Psychosocial support** for the survivors
- ▶ **Ambulances** of three branches deployed to transport people to hospitals
- ▶ **Medical and prehospital care** in shelters and in the impact zones
- ▶ **Collection centers** open at national level
- ▶ **Voluntary blood donation**
- ▶ **Restoring family links** service activated
- ▶ Support to the **rescue and evacuation** efforts

REQUEST FOR DREF FUNDS FOR
CHF 256,877
TO SUPPORT
3,000 PEOPLE

The GRC deployed a support team from its headquarters to Escuintla to carry out a needs assessment and provide support and guidance to Restoring Family Links (RFL), psychological support (PSS) actions and the provision of medical care in the collectives centres.

Furthermore, using its ambulances, the GRC is providing support to the transfers of burn patients.

The Guatemalan Red Cross develops national-level actions as established in the National Response Plan, which also determines the operational structure, lines of action and procedures that facilitate disaster response; the National Society has 100 staff members, 21 branches and more than 1,684 volunteers nationwide.

The GRC has implemented a cash transfer programme (CTP) in its last two Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operations, one of which was completed in the last week of December 2017 and well received by the target community.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

There are Partner National Societies (PNSs) present in the country such as the Spanish Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross, IFRC and the ICRC, with which the GRC president and general director maintain permanent institutional cooperation and coordination.

The IFRC provides support on Movement coordination through the regional office for the Americas (ARO)'s Disaster and Crisis Department, which maintains close communication with the Guatemalan Red Cross.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

CONRED is responsible for the country's national response system, establishing the structure for the national, regional, departmental, municipal and local levels, and coordinating disaster preparedness and response actions. CONRED's operations centre is organized into response sectors and functions, in which the GRC is part of the Inter-Institutional Liaison System and the Humanitarian Aid and Assistance Coordination Centre (CAAH for its acronym in Spanish).

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The GRC deployed assessment teams on 3 June. While the GRC is still compiling the and analyzing the data, the immediate needs are evident. At risk communities need to be persuaded to leave their homes, livestock, and assets and be evacuated to safe areas. Consequently, there is a need to develop a communication plan, along with key messages, to persuade people to evacuate to safety.



Photo: Coleccion centre. 5 June 2018. Source: Guatemalan Red Cross

Additionally, the GRC needs to conduct further assessments to understand the needs of displaced families, which should include the people staying in collective centres, spontaneous camps in vacant buildings and those staying with host families.

The potential impact of the volcano eruption includes:

- Health: Health problems among the affected population (ophthalmological, respiratory, dermatological and digestive).
- Agriculture and livestock: Loss of livelihoods due to flows, ash or road closures and the destruction of crops and death of livestock.
- Water: Damage to drinking water system and water source contamination.
- Infrastructure: Damage to roads and bridges.
- Shelter: Relocation of affected people to collective centres due to the destruction of their homes and due to the lava flows and heavy rainfall.

The information at this moment is:

- 1,701,965 people affected
- 3,200 people evacuated
- It is not known how many people are missing; the relief corps is trying to reach the communities that were cut off by the eruption
- 20 people transfer to hospitals for burns
- 7 fatalities
- Flights out of Aurora International Airport has been suspended
- 2 affected energy networks
- 1 destroyed bridge (Las Lajas Bridge)
- More than 2,000 people are currently sheltering in the collective centres in Escuintla and Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa.

Targeting

The Guatemalan government is coordinating the collective centres, in which approximately 3,100 people are being housed.

In its emergency responses, the GRC ensures that its programmes are aligned to the Red Cross's commitment to gender and diversity through the targeting of female-headed households, pregnant or lactating women, men and boys made vulnerable by disasters, households with persons special needs, elderly people, those suffering from chronic illnesses, children-headed households and families with children under five years old; the GRC also targets families that have not received any or sufficient assistance from the government or other organizations, those belonging to the

socially vulnerable households and those who lack relevant resources to cope with the basic humanitarian needs on their own in its relief efforts; these groups will be considered according to the level of impact in the current operation.

Scenario planning

Best scenario: Volcanic activity subside within a month, allowing households to return to their homes and the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to be used to support the people's needs in the collective centres due to the disaster's low humanitarian impact.

Most likely: Long-term displacement of households; medium humanitarian needs that require a top up of the DREF operation top-up or an emergency appeal to support relief activities for more households for a longer period.

Worst scenario: High humanitarian needs the requiring the launch of an emergency appeal to support relief and early recovery activities for affected households

Operation Risk Assessment

It has not been ruled out that the current rainy season might last for a few more weeks, causing other emergencies in the region and further affecting families that have already suffered from the onslaught of climate related events. Moreover, the road infrastructure conditions in the country, especially in the affected region, make it difficult for the Guatemalan Red Cross, the population and the institutions linked to the emergency to mobilize their personnel and equipment.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The operation aims to support 500 families affected by the eruption of the Fuego Volcano in the communities of La Soledad, San Miguel Dueñas, Alotenango, Antigua Guatemala and Chimaltenango through the provision of essential non-food items (NFIs), health, water, sanitation, hygiene promotion, PSS and RFL actions. The GRC will reach all community members, including persons with special needs and senior citizens.

The GRC has responded to the emergency by deploying its ambulances, staff and supporting rescue and evacuation activities; however, due to the increase in volcanic activity and the rains, the National Society needs to scale up its response.

The National Society's proposal is focused on the following lines of action:

- Continuous and detailed assessments and analyses to inform the design and ongoing implementation of the operation.
- Ongoing process of adjustments based on these assessments.
- Distribution of safety equipment to support the population (face mask) and information on ash fall and prevention messages.
- Deployment of the health team for psychological support and medical care in the collective centres.
- CTP for 500 families.

Strategies for implementation

Human Resources

The Guatemalan Red Cross has apprised its 1,684 volunteers of the situation and put them on alert in its 21 branches. Volunteers providing support to the operation have the necessary profiles and basic security to conduct this operation. It is important that each volunteer has the appropriate visibility as established by GRC and that they are covered by insurance during the operation.

A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member will support the GRC on the implementation of the activities.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

The Guatemala Red Cross Society has pre-positioned stock of blankets and kitchen sets on its premises that can be used immediately to support operational needs. Additional relief items are ready to be sent from the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU)'s warehouse Panama by ground transport if needed, with a maximum transit time of five days.

The National Society has limited warehousing space and the supply chain needs to be handled carefully to ensure the safety of operational goods.

All procurement related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standards procurement procedures and Sphere standards for NFI purchases. The procurement of items and services will meet the required conditions based on the needs of the affected population and/or the operational areas to guarantee the appropriate level of supplies and optimal performance. All the GRC's purchases will be made in-country with the support of a procurement officer from RLU Panama.

Information Technology (IT)

The GRC's branches use a 2-metre and an 11-metre radio communications system at the national level, which allow for communication and the coordination of operational and security aspects.

There are no plans to buy any communication materials for this operation.

Communications

The GRC's organizational structure includes a Communications and Press Department, which is responsible for the dissemination of operative-technical information, public information, information to donors and institutional information. It is important that all actors who participate directly or indirectly in deployments have the operational plan, the mandate and the Red Cross and Red Crescent's Movement Fundamental Principles; therefore, the strategy includes the issuing of a bulletin that will widely disseminate the National Society's position and efforts.

The IFRC's Communications Department is providing technical support and assistance to the communications strategy, and its communications officer will be deployed as necessary to support these activities.

Press releases will be issued as events develop, sent to national media outlets and uploaded to social networks and the institutional website.

At the country level, the GRC will use its social networks, its web site and the media to disseminate information about the operation.

Security

A National Society security mission contingency plan has been (or will be) developed for the operation, which is based on Stay Safe, Safe Access safety protocols and procedures; all deployed GRC personnel will be made aware of these safety guidelines. The National Society is in the process of strengthening its security situation / position, and it will require assessment, analysis and support as the situation progresses.

As part of the CONRED, the GRC and Guatemalan response effort, the Military Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is providing provide logistical, evacuation and health services support to the affected population.

Security of affected areas will continue to be a concern as the emergency continues and areas are evacuated. Security and military forces will be called in to secure these areas and both security and civil-military relations support and guidance will be needed.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

The Guatemalan Red Cross's disaster management coordinator is responsible for implementing the plan, in coordination with other GRC directors.

The IFRC will continuously monitor and hold meetings with the GRC to keep abreast of the planned actions' progress and the situation's evolution, and IFRC technical staff will also conduct monitoring visits during the operation.

The scenario is constantly changing, and constant monitoring will help assess the need to expand the area of intervention.

Administration and Finance

The administrative and financial procedures are in line with the GRC's quality control procedures, and they will support all actions included in the National Society's humanitarian mission, ensuring transparency and adequate accountability. The GRC's Management and Finance Unit will be closely involved in supporting the operation. Furthermore, the IFRC's in-country office will also support the administrative and financial management processes, and ARO provide support to ensure the fulfilment of established quality standards.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Livelihoods and Basic Needs

People targeted: 500 families

Male: 1,500

Female: 1,500

Requirements (CHF): 204,137

Needs analysis: Preliminary assessment reports indicate that the eruption has damaged crops of maize, coffee and possibly sugarcane², affecting all the communities, which could impact the families' food security and welfare as these crops help the affected communities subsist.

The presence of ashes in these areas, the damage to the land, loss of livestock, the constant rains and the likelihood of further flooding is a scenario that discourages families from farming, as they have no land available for this purpose. Most of the affected people are farm workers as opposed to landowners, which means that the disaster will leave them without work.

The GRC damage assessment and needs analysis teams' rapid assessment identified homes with severe and moderate damage, as well as impact to the livelihoods of the area. Following the National Society's disaster response director's assessment, the GRC decided that the best way to support the families was through a cash transfer programme (CTP). Moreover, CONRED is supporting all the GRC's actions in the collective centres.

Families are living in collective centres and many more sought shelters on their own. Records show loss or damage to household items, household supplies and personal belongings.

Considering the context of the intervention zone, this plan of action contemplates assisting disaster-affected families through the provision of USD\$372 through a CTP, which will be informed by a feasibility study based on previous emergency experiences; the purpose of the CTP is to support the families' decisions regarding which basic needs to prioritize and to provide a boost to the local economy.

Population to be assisted: A total of 500 families in municipalities in Escuintla, Alotenango, Sacatepéquez, Yepocapa and Chimaltenango affected by the volcano eruption receive support to strengthen household economic security. Since some of the families have access to the markets, CTP has been identified as the most appropriate intervention. Following the completion of the feasibility study, the National Society will determine the best approach for the CTP (voucher, cash or card).

Programme standards/benchmarks: The GRC will use the basic food basket at the country level.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and Basic Needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, have enough resources to cover their immediate needs	<i>100% of targeted population meet their immediate needs, including basic food needs</i>
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² Lava and ash by eruption of the Volcano of Fire swept with flora and fauna ([article in Spanish](#)) from Prensa Libre Guatemala, 04.06.2018.

DREF OPERATION

MDRGT013

06.06.2018

GUATEMALA: VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0	0
Shelter - Transitional	0	0
Construction - Housing	0	0
Construction - Facilities	0	0
Construction - Materials	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	0	0
Food	202,210	202,210
Seeds & Plants	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0
Medical & First Aid	10,279	10,279
Teaching Materials	2,372	2,372
Ustensils & Tools	0	0
Other Supplies & Services	0	0
Emergency Response Units	0	0
Cash Disbursements	0	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	214,861	214,861
Land & Buildings	0	0
Vehicles	0	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
Medical Equipment	0	0
Other Machiney & Equipment	0	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0
Storage, Warehousing	0	0
Dsitribution & Monitoring	0	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,200	4,200
Logistics Services	0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	4,200	4,200
International Staff	0	0
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	9,093	9,093
Volunteers	544	544
Other Staff Benefits	0	0
Total PERSONNEL	9,636	9,636
Consultants	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0
Workshops & Training	5,930	5,930
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	5,930	5,930
Travel	4,447	4,447
Information & Public Relations	494	494
Office Costs	296	296
Communications	1,038	1,038
Financial Charges	296	296
Other General Expenses	0	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	6,572	6,572
	0	0
Partner National Societies	0	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	15,678	15,678
Total INDIRECT COSTS	15,678	15,678
TOTAL BUDGET	256,877	256,877

Contact Information

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Budget](#)
- [Map of the affected areas](#)

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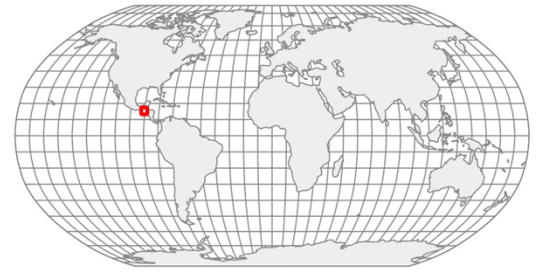
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Guatemala, Volcano Fuego: Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

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