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Emergency Plan of Action Final Report

Guatemala: Floods



DREF Operation n° MDRGT011	
Date of issue: 5 July 2017	GLIDE: n° FL-2017-000130-GTM
Date of disaster: 18 September 2017	Operation budget: 63,140 Swiss francs (CHF)
Operation start date: 29 September 2017	Operation end date: 29 December 2017
Host National Society: The GRC has 1 national headquarters, 21 branches throughout the country, 239 staff members and 1,862 active volunteers (56 per cent men and 44 per cent women). ¹	
N° of people affected: 10,080 people (2,016 families)	N° of people assisted: 1,000 people (200 families)
N° of National Societies involved: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
N° of non-Movement partner organizations: Local, Municipal, Departmental and National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), First Lady Social Works Secretary (SOSEP), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Ministry of Social Development, and National Civil Police (PNC).	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 18 September 2017, heavy rains caused flooding in much of the country, especially in Guatemala's south-western regions. In Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu Departments, the floods damaged homes, crops and household goods, affecting 2,016 families according to local authorities.

The Guatemalan Red Cross deployed its Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) teams to Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez, which found severe damage to the water network, including artisanal water wells, and to several homes; the inhabitants of these homes lost all their belongings.

The Guatemalan Red Cross delegations in Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu initially provided pre-hospital care and evacuated at-risk families to safer ground; they also participated in several coordination meetings with the various departmental Disaster Coordinating Centres (CODRED) to pool and share timely information.

The heavy rains that affected Guatemala since early September through October 2017 delayed the original plan of action's response activities for Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu, requiring a one-month extension to the operation².

Summary of the response

Overview of Host National Society

With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Guatemalan Red Cross delivered essential relief items to 200 affected families in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez as soon as the DREF operation was launched on 2 October 2017. These were distributed as follows:

Department	N° of Families	LLITNs ³	Jerry cans	Blankets	Repellent
Suchitepéquez	69	69	138	345	138
Retalhuleu	131	131	262	655	262

¹ Data as per FDRS: <http://data.ifrc.org/fdrs/societies/guatemalan-red-cross>

² Please see [DREF Operations Update 1](#).

³ This acronym stands for long-lasting insecticide treated [mosquito] nets

Total	200 families	200	400	1,000	400
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Four-hundred jerry cans were distributed throughout the entire operation, meeting the target. Two jerry cans per family were delivered in Retalhuleu and one per family in Suchitepéquez; the delivery of two jerry cans and two units of repellent per family was completed on 21 December 2017.

The Guatemalan Red Cross implemented the cash transfer programme (CTP) component through the delivery of a check for USD\$187.50 (CHF175.10) to each family. Although the original target was 200 families, 4 families did not show up to claim their checks during the humanitarian aid distribution; consequently, 196 families in both departments received checks, thus meeting the target. Community leaders speculated that these families did not claim their checks because they relocated elsewhere or lacked personal identification documents.

Department	Nº of families	Checks delivered	Total (USD)
Suchitepéquez	69	67	12,562.50
Retalhuleu	131	129	24,187.50
TOTAL	200	196	36,750.00

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The Guatemalan Red Cross develops national-level actions as established within the National Response Plan, which also determines the operational structure, lines of action and procedures that facilitate disaster response. The Spanish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross are present in the country, and there is also an IFRC and an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in the country. The IFRC's Disaster and Crisis Department's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) maintained continuous communications with the Guatemalan Red Cross; it should be noted that all these offices provided guidance and support to develop this operation.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The National Disaster Reduction Coordinating Centre (CONRED) is responsible for the country's national response system, coordinating disaster preparedness and response actions at the national, regional, departmental, municipal and local levels. The Guatemalan Red Cross is part of CONRED's Operations Centre (organized into sectors according to response needs), as well as of the Institutional Liaison System and the Humanitarian Aid and Assistance Coordination Centre (CAAH).

At the local level, the First Lady's Social Work Secretariat (SOSEP) worked with local authorities to coordinate the assistance provided to the established collective centres.

The United Nations conducted assessments on the affected families' food security situation since they will not have a harvest until the middle of next year, while the National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH) continuously monitored adverse events in the country during the operation.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The flooding severely damaged the infrastructure in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez, prompting the GRC to coordinate its response with CONRED.

The plan of action's CTP component helped the affected families defray some of the costs generated by the floods. Food production has also been affected, and January and February 2018 are expected to be the most difficult months as the affected families will not have a harvest, which will not only affect their income, but also their ability to obtain food. According to the operation's satisfaction surveys and the Guatemalan Red Cross' interactions had with the affected communities, the humanitarian aid provided through the CTP helped the target population's meet their basic needs.

Brief introduction

The Guatemalan Red Cross provided financial support to affected families in response to the floods caused by the 2017 rainy season; this multi-purpose aid was intended to cover the affected families' most immediate needs of.

Affected families had several immediate needs such as purchasing food, appliances, medicines, school supplies for the coming school year and recovering important personal documentation such as the Single Identification Document (DPI), among others.

Objective:

The overall objective was to implement a humanitarian aid operation aimed at addressing the urgent needs of 200 families affected by the floods in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez Departments; the intervention focused on providing safe water, assistance, health promotion and an unconditional cash transfer programme.

Operation Risk Assessment

The Guatemalan Red Cross' assessments detected that the quality of water from artisanal wells in affected areas was not adequate; while this situation was not resolved structurally, lectures on obtaining safe water coupled with jerry can deliveries to enable families to use and store safe water in such containers helped mitigate it. In addition, the National Society's volunteer and health departments coordinated the provision of medical assistance and the distribution of drinking water and vector-borne disease prevention activities with the Ministry of Health; furthermore, the GRC supported these actions through the delivery of long-lasting insecticide treated [mosquito] nets (LLITNs) and repellent to the affected families.

During this operation, no direct or indirect security incidents were reported involving Guatemalan Red Cross facilities, assets and staff; moreover, the affected population and its leaders organized themselves to facilitate access conditions and coordination with beneficiaries to permit the GRC to carry out the operation in a satisfactory manner.

B. Operational strategy


Proposed strategy

The Guatemalan Red Cross implemented an operation that provided humanitarian aid, including relief and delivery of checks (CTP), to affected families. Additionally, through its delegations, the National Society maintained close communication with the affected communities from the beginning of the operation, which allowed for the performance of continuous assessments and the provision of feedback on activities and needs.

Part of the response was developed through an integrated programme, including housing and health improvements, with an emphasis on strengthening the affected families' economic security. As part of the CTP (check distribution), families were guided and sensitized on how to best use the funds, and a commitment was established between the community and the Guatemalan Red Cross to make proper use of the delivered funds.

Finally, the Guatemalan Red Cross shared all its actions through its various social networks: [Twitter](#), Facebook and its [portal](#).

C. Detailed Operational Plan

 <p>Health People targeted: 1,000 Males: 400 Females: 600</p>		
Outcome 1: Affected families in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez improve their health.		
Indicators:	Target	Reached
Nº of families assisted through health improvement actions	200	200
Output 1.1: At least 200 families affected by the floods receive LLITNs and mosquito repellent.		

Indicators:	Target	Reached
Nº of LLITNs (200) and mosquito repellent (400) distributed	600	600

Narrative descriptions of achievements

The objectives stated in the Plan of Action were satisfactorily fulfilled; a total of 200 families received mosquito repellent and LLITNs in a timely and qualitative manner; The GRC purchased the repellent locally in accordance with the Guatemalan Ministry of Public Health's regulations.

No.	Community	LLITNs	Mosquito Repellent
1	Cantón Tzululá	17	34
2	Calle de la Cruz	20	40
3	Canton Ican and Campo Borrayo	14	28
4	San Benito	8	16
5	Canton la Otra Banda	10	20
6	La Estación	1	2
7	Col. Fegua	2	4
8	Aldea La Piedad 2	5	10
9	Lot. San Pablo	5	10
10	Caserío el Esfuerzo	12	24
11	Barrio la Llovisna	6	12
12	Nuevo Pomarrosal sector 1	6	12
13	Sector Tinaquita	5	10
14	Armenia Ortíz	2	4
15	Ceiba Blanca	2	4
16	Ajaxá	1	2
17	Comunidad La Loma	1	2
18	Línea C-10 Achiotes	40	80
19	Línea C-8 Polígono 7	8	16
20	Samalá 1	19	38
21	Pajoson	12	24
22	Parinox	1	2
23	Puca 1	3	6
Total		200	400

Challenges

The logistical challenges for distribution included the poor conditions of Guatemala's road system, especially in the south-western regions. Given the conditions, more time was needed to transport in-kind humanitarian aid.

Lessons learned

- *Pre-positioning supplies is a determining factor in expediting the distribution of non-food humanitarian aid.*
- *Coordination mechanisms with the IFRC and the National Society facilitate the authorizations, dispatch and delivery of required supplies.*
- *Previous processes to pre-qualify suppliers with the capacity to distribute repellents, according to other health programmes implemented by the GRC, are essential for emergency operations.*



Shelter - Relief

People targeted: 1,000

Males: 400

Females: 600

Outcome 2: Affected families in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez receive Non-Food Items

Indicators:	Target	Reached																																																																																																				
Nº of people assisted	1,000	1,000																																																																																																				
Output 2.1: At least 200 families affected by the floods receive blankets and jerry cans for water storage																																																																																																						
Indicators:	Target	Reached																																																																																																				
Nº of blankets distributed	1,000	1,000																																																																																																				
Nº of jerry cans distributed	400	400																																																																																																				
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Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 1,000

Males: 400

Females: 600

Outcome 3: Families affected by the floods in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez receive humanitarian assistance to improve their living conditions and facilitate their early recovery.

Indicators:	Target	Reached
Nº of families who receive relief items	200	196

Output 3.1: An unconditional CTP is implemented to support the early recovery of 200 families affected by floods in Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez

Indicators:	Target	Reached
N ° of families who receive cash vouchers for their early recovery.	200	196

Narrative descriptions of achievements

In total, 196 families received humanitarian aid through the cash transfer programme; four beneficiary families did not show up to collect their humanitarian aid in cash, and community leaders had no news about them because they had already left their homes.

The operation covered the purchase of 20 pairs of boots for volunteers.

No.	Item	Community	Quantity Delivered
1	CTP	Cantón Tululá	19
2		Calle de la Cruz	18
3		Canton Ican y Campo Borrayo	14
4		San Benito	6
5		Canton la Otra Banda	10
6		La Estación	1
7		Col. Fegua	2
8		Aldea La Piedad 2	5
9		Lot. San Pablo	5
10		Caserío el Esfuerzo	12
11		Barrio la Llovisna	6
12		Nuevo Pomarrosal sector 1	6
13		Sector Tinaquita	5
14		Armenia Ortíz	2
15		Ceiba Blanca	2
16		Ajaxá	1
17		Comunidad La Loma	1
18		Línea C-10 Achiotes	38
19		Línea C-8 Polígono 7	8
20		Samalá 1	19
21		Pajoson	12
22		Parinox	1
23		Puca 1	3
		Total	196

Challenges

Please see the Challenge section under the Health sector for this information.

Lessons learned

- *Coordination with community leaders made it possible to implement cash transfer programme actions and for each party to fulfil their commitments.*

- *The communities and their leaders play an important role in the adequate development of humanitarian actions by the National Society, especially in terms of security.*
- *Security during field operations is fundamental for implementing an operation; it is therefore necessary to carry out an in-depth analysis of the risks for GRC volunteers and the communities exposed to crime and violence such as muggings and extortion.*

D. Financial report

The overall budget was for CHF 63,140, out of which CHF 54,687. The reminder balance of CHF 8,453 will be returned to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund. The detailed financial report is available on [page 8](#).

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRGT011 - Guatemala - Floods

Timeframe: 29 Sep 17 to 29 Dec 17

Appeal Launch Date: 29 Sep 17

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2017/9-2018/07	Programme	MDRGT011
Budget Timeframe	2017/9-2017/12	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		63,140				63,140	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		63,140				63,140	
C4. Other Income		63,140				63,140	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		63,140				63,140	
D. Total Funding = B + C		63,140				63,140	

* 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		63,140				63,140	
E. Expenditure		-54,054				-54,054	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		9,086				9,086	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	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)			63,140			63,140		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	5,444		5,652			5,652	-207	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,280						1,280	
Medical & First Aid	1,927		1,874			1,874	53	
Utensils & Tools			1,326			1,326	-1,326	
Cash Disbursement	36,134		35,022			35,022	1,112	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	44,785		43,874			43,874	910	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	530						530	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,754		270			270	1,483	
Logistics Services			434			434	-434	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	2,284		705			705	1,579	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	3,363		2,031			2,031	1,332	
Volunteers			855			855	-855	
Other Staff Benefits	1,176		697			697	479	
Total Personnel	4,538		3,583			3,583	955	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,891		866			866	2,025	
Information & Public Relations	1,416		510			510	906	
Office Costs	1,349		194			194	1,155	
Communications	964		767			767	197	
Financial Charges	964		256			256	707	
Other General Expenses	96						96	
Total General Expenditure	7,680		2,593			2,593	5,087	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	3,854		3,299			3,299	555	
Total Indirect Costs	3,854		3,299			3,299	555	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	63,140		54,054			54,054	9,086	
VARIANCE (C - D)			9,086			9,086		

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

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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 management	63,140		63,140	63,140	54,054	9,086	
Subtotal BL2	63,140		63,140	63,140	54,054	9,086	
GRAND TOTAL	63,140		63,140	63,140	54,054	9,086	