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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Guatemala: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRGT014	
Date of issue: 24 October 2018	Date of disaster: 13 October 2018
Operation start date: 23 October 2018	Expected timeframe: 3 months; the operation end date is 23 January 2018
Head of Operation (responsible for EPoA): Santiago Luengo, Disaster Management Coordinator	Point of contact: Daniel Javiel – Director of Guatemalan Red Cross.
Overall operation budget: 77,504 Swiss francs (CHF)	
Number of people affected: 8,500 people, although the situation is volatile and each border crossing registers different data.	Number of people to be assisted: 5,405 people
Host National Society(ies) presence: The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) has 1 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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations system (United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA], the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], International Organization for Migration [IOM], Pan American Health Organization [PAHO]); human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as World Vision; local and national governments in the affected countries, Oxfam, Pastoral of Human Mobility 	

[<Click here for the DREF budget. Click here for the contact information >](#)

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 13 October 2018, the migrant caravan began its journey in San Pedro Sula, Honduras with approximately 1,500 people (increasing to an average of 8,500 people within a few days of its initial departure). The caravan, which includes men, women, elderly persons, children and babies, entered through the Agua Caliente customs office in the department of Chiquimula, Guatemala and other access points such as El Amatillo and El Florido.

The caravan's migratory route through Guatemala began in the municipality of Esquipulas in the department of Chiquimula before heading to Guatemala City and then to the city of Tecún Umán (via the CA9 Road) in the municipality of Ayutla, department of San Marcos, which borders Tapachula, Mexico in the state of Chiapas.



Blue GRC volunteer provides pre-hospital care to an injured migrant. Source: GRC

According to surveys carried out by various humanitarian organizations from Monday, 15 October to 17 October 2018 and data from the official collective centres, about 8,500 people passed through the department of Chiquimula.

Once the migrants reached the municipality of Esquipulas, Guatemala, they were transported by bus or private vehicle. Since the onset of the emergency, civil society actors, religious organizations, the GRC, volunteer firefighters, the Guatemalan government and United Nations agencies have been providing temporary shelters, basic first aid, potable water, transfers to hospitals and restoring family links (RFL) services.

This massive mobilization of people, both those who are on the southern border of Mexico and those who are still trying to enter Guatemala through various borders, reveals a crisis that could extend for several days; a protracted crisis situation would increase the migrants' needs and likely exceed the Guatemalan Red Cross's material and economic resources and thus its ability to provide dignified care and alleviate the suffering of the migrants.

Summary of the current response

With the aim of preventing and alleviating the migrants' suffering of the GRC began providing humanitarian assistance on 14 October 2018, when there was an alert issued about the high number of migrants concentrated in the Agua Caliente, Chiquimula border area.

The GRC's operation began with 12 active volunteers in the department of Chiquimula before increasing to 75 volunteers on Saturday, 20 October 2018, who have been active through the migrants' journey through Guatemala.

Likewise, the National Society has provided coordinated assistance through its branches in the departments the caravan is passing through. The GRC's response plan intends to provide assistance to the migrants in the border areas between Guatemala and Honduras, along their migratory route and the border area between Guatemala and Mexico in the municipality of Ayutla.

To this end, the GRC developed an analysis of its internal needs, which corresponds to the migrants' needs during their migratory journey by determining the National Society's pre-hospital care supply and, basic medical supply (medicines), capacity to provide safe drinking water, the number of volunteers that will needed to be mobilized and the amount of fuel for the continuous mobilization of ambulances that it has each of its affected branches.

The GRC developed this EPoA based on the findings of the technical migration team that was deployed to the situation. The findings consisted of field actions, coverage of the intervention areas. The information has been shared with the GRC's headquarters' emergency operations centre (EOC) through its affected branches.

The GRC based the development of this EPoA on its technical migration team's monitoring of the situation, which consisted of field actions, coverage of the intervention areas, a constant exchange of internal

As of 20 October 2018, the GRC had attended to 2,303 people through the following actions:

- 14 people transferred to health centres
- 2,303 people assisted with psychosocial support (PSS)
- 1,139 people through pre-hospital care
- 47 people through RFL services.
- 1,045 people received safe water.

The most common conditions treated through the GRC's provision pre-hospital care are the following: dehydration, hypertension, fever, high blood pressure, injuries to lower extremities, respiratory problems, gastrointestinal infections and dermatological diseases.

The GRC's EOC is continuously monitoring the situation, and it is keeping its 21 branches throughout the country informed about the evolving situation. To ensure better intra-organization communication, the GRC established a strategic communication group and identified focal points for each intervention area that are in close contact with the National Society's communication manager and its migration programme coordinator.

Summary of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the country

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

The IFRC supports Movement coordination through its regional office for the Americas (ARO)'s Disaster and Crisis Department, which maintains close communication with the GRC. Additionally, the IFRC's migration coordinator has been supporting the GRC during its operation.

Since the onset of the emergency, the ICRC has supported the GRC through:

- The provision of pre-hospital care, medical supplies and medicine
- Support for GRC volunteers
- The provision of RFL services through call points

The ICRC's support to the GRC is intended to cover the migrants' needs at the following points along their migratory route: Eastern border between Honduras-Guatemala, Guatemala City, western border (mainly) and the northern Guatemala-Mexico border, as well as through mobile support along the migratory routes.

The ICRC's teams in Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico are coordinating with the respective National Societies to follow up on the migrants' the situation in real time, especially their RFL and protection needs. The ICRC maintains a Protection dialogue with relevant actors and the authorities, including security forces, at the headquarters and local level.

The ICRC is also providing direct support to the Shelters of the Scalabrinians' network through:

- The provision of financial support to Medical Doctors (especially to cover nightshifts)
- Financial support to the GRC for the provision of RFL services (this will cover the Migration sector)
- The provision of orthopedic support (wheelchairs, crutches) and possible in-country rehabilitation for those who require it
- Dissemination of health-related preventive messages

The affected National Societies (Guatemalan Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross and Mexican Red Cross) established a regional coordination mechanism to ensure communication between them, as well as one with the following Movement partners to inform them of in a coordinated manner about the situation and the specific assistance they can provide: Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society, Norwegian Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, American Red Cross and the ICRC .

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

The inter-institutional coordination has mainly been on the management of the collective centres, which has made it possible for the GRC to channel aid where it has been most needed. The following groups are aiding migrants:

Group	Actions
UNHCR	Dissemination of Information on migrants' rights; monitoring observance of migrants' human rights
Oxfam	Conducting water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) actions

IOM	Assisting with the management of the collective centres
PAHO	Provision of medical care
Pastoral of Human Mobility/Migrant House Human Rights Ombudsman	Monitoring observance of migrants' human rights and managing the collective centres
Voluntary firefighters	Providing pre-hospital care
Doctors of the World	Monitoring the situation and working in coordination with Guatemala's Ministry of Health
Civil Society Organizations such as Children's Shelter	Assisting with the management of the collective centres in the department of Chiquimula
The Guatemalan Civil Society Migration Group	Issuing proclamations and holding press conferences on migrants' right

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Shelter

The primary needs are emergency shelter for the population in transit and management of the collective centres. These needs are being covered by Pastoral for Human Mobility, UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision, among other organizations.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Some of the migrants have suffered from dehydration due to their exposure to high temperatures. Furthermore, to satiate their thirst, some migrants have consumed water from unsafe sources, putting them at risk of contracting waterborne illnesses or other water-related diseases.

The WASH actions are being covered by other organizations such as UNICEF in the established collective centres and along the migratory route.

Health

The migrants' journey north under precarious conditions has greatly impacted their physical and mental health; factors such as seasonal rains, unsuitable clothing and footwear, dehydration, overcrowding in collective centres and lack of protection increase the migrants' level of vulnerability.

Many migrants suffer from health conditions such as dehydration, high blood pressure, injuries to their lower extremities, respiratory problems, gastrointestinal infections and dermatological diseases. It has also been observed that the separation of families, the difficulties present during their migratory journey and the uncertainty of what to expect once they reach their destination has affected migrants psychologically (depression, anxiety and sleep disturbances, among other conditions).

Therefore, the GRC has carried out a series of interventions in first aid, pre-hospital care and PSS.

Additionally, the National Society will carry out PSS activities with the GRC volunteers that are participating in the operation to protect their mental health.

Restoring Family Links

In these types of emergencies, families can become separated from their loved ones, requiring the provision of RFL services to keep families intact and ensure that communication is maintained between their members.

The National Society has resolved 47 RFL cases since 20 October 2018, and it will be necessary for the GRC to continue to provide RFL services such as telephone calls, conducting people searches and family reunification due to the nature of this emergency with the support of the ICRC.

Scenario planning

Best-case scenario:

The government of Mexico allows migrants to enter to its territory in a non-violent way, preventing the migrants from being physically harmed, especially women, children and babies, and the decreasing the seriousness of the situation within the next 15 days.

Probable scenario:

The emergency continues unabated as new groups mobilize for the journey in Honduras, requiring the extension of humanitarian services for another month or two. Another possibility to be considered is that migrants could temporarily settle in the city of Tecún Umán in the municipality of Ayutla until they achieve their destination.

Therefore, the GRC would need to revise its strategy to increase the resources it is dedicating to this emergency.

Worst-case scenario:

The migrant caravans grow larger and more frequent, overwhelming the regional mechanism's and the affected National Societies' response capacities. Affected countries close their borders, effectively stranding migrant populations in whichever host countries they are journeying through at that time. The stranded migrants then form makeshift encampments in their de facto country of residence, increasing disease, contamination of water sources and crime in their host communities, where feelings of solidarity with the migrants are quickly replaced by hostility, discrimination and xenophobia. Faced with growing discontent among the host communities and a restive migrant population, the host government has no choice but to violently oust the migrant population.

Operational risk

The current rainy season could extend for a few more weeks, which could impede the National Society's provision of care to the migrants.

A tropical storm has formed on the Pacific coast of Guatemala and threatens more rain in the southern region of the country. In addition, Guatemala's road conditions make it difficult for the population and the institutions linked to the situation to mobilize.

Given the size of the migrant caravan, there are fewer security risks than previous smaller-scale population movements; however, the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual assault and human trafficking, and death or injury from the treacherous journey, among other threats are still present, especially for vulnerable populations like pregnant women, the elderly and unaccompanied youths.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this operation is to ensure the provision of appropriate humanitarian assistance to at least 5,405 people along the migratory route in a timely, effective and efficient manner. Additionally, the GRC will ensure that all affected women, men, children, persons with disabilities and minority groups receive the necessary support during their migratory journey

The assisted population crossed the Honduran-Guatemalan border through Agua Caliente; it is now passing through the departments of Chiquimula, Zacapa, El Progreso, Guatemala, Escuintla, Suchitepéquez, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, Peten, Izabal and San Marcos on its way to the Mexican border (please see a map of their route and various care points in [Annex 1](#))

The GRC will identify and register the migrants it assists in collective centres, along the migratory route or any other place that they require assistance.

Based on the current information, the GRC's operational strategy is to contribute to the response by focusing on the following intervention areas:

1. Supporting the health response and PSS components for one month through the performance of continuous and detailed assessments and analyses to inform the operation's design and ongoing implementation and the provision of medical care, transport to hospitals and collective centres and PSS. **Target: 5,405 people**
2. Conducting WASH actions for safe water and hygiene promotion activities. **Target: 2,405 people.**
3. Provision of RFL services with the support of the ICRC. **Target: 5,405 people.**

Support Services

Human Resources

The GRC has informed its 1,684 volunteers of the situation and alerted its 21 branches. The volunteers supporting the operation have the necessary profiles, basic security and visibility materials to carry out safely this operation.

Through the Fuego Volcano operation Emergency Appeal, the GRC has insured all its volunteers.

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 the IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

All procurement related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standards procurement procedures and Sphere standards for non-food item (NFI) purchases. The GRC's 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 ARO's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in 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 all operational and security aspects.

The GRC has 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 operational, institutional and technical information, as well as information for donors and the public.

From the beginning of the emergency, the GRC's communications team has deployed its communications team along the migratory route to talk to the migrants, develop beneficiary stories and cover the situation.

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.

The GRC will issue press releases as events develop, send them to national media outlets and upload them to its social networks and its institutional website. At the country level, the GRC will use its social networks, its website and the media to disseminate information about the operation.

To ensure that the situation and the GRC's actions are visible, the National Society proposes the production of at least one video and one photographic mission, in addition to the deployment of a communication surge member.

Security

The GRC will develop a security mission contingency plan based on Stay Safe, the Safer Access framework and the 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.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

The GRC'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. Moreover, ARO's Disaster and Crisis Department is monitoring the situation through its PMER senior officer and the disaster management coordinator for Central America.

Administration and Finance

This operation's administrative and financial procedures are in line with the GRC's quality control procedures, and they will strengthen all the GRC's actions included in its humanitarian mission, ensuring transparency and adequate accountability.

The GRC's Management and Finance Unit will support the operation.

Furthermore, the IFRC's in-country office will also support the administrative and financial management processes, and ARO will provide support to ensure compliance with established quality standards.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Health

People targeted: 5,405 people

Male: **3,000**

Female: **2,405**

Requirements (CHF): 25,286

Needs analysis: The migrants' journey north under precarious conditions has greatly impacted their physical and mental health; factors such as seasonal rains, unsuitable clothing and footwear¹, dehydration, overcrowding in collective centres and lack of protection increase the migrants' level of vulnerability.

Many migrants suffer from health conditions such as dehydration, high blood pressure, injuries to their lower extremities, respiratory problems, gastrointestinal infections and dermatological diseases. It has also been observed that the separation of families, the difficulties present during their migratory journey and the uncertainty of what to expect once they reach their destination has affected migrants psychologically (depression, anxiety and sleep disturbances, among other conditions). Therefore, the GRC has carried out a series of interventions in first aid, pre-hospital care and PSS. Additionally, the National Society will carry out PSS activities with the GRC volunteers that are participating in the operation to protect their mental health.

Population to be assisted: The GRC will provide health assistance for 30 days; if needed, the GRC can extend the duration of the activity with other funds. The assisted population will be anyone in need that is part of the migrant caravan.

Program Standards/Reference Parameters: The GRC will use the parameters of t PAHO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Guatemalan Ministry of Health as a reference for its health actions.

¹ The GRC has many relief items in its central warehouse, such as clothes and blankets, which it could donate to migrants.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People targeted: 2,475

Male: 1,500

Female: 975

Requirements (CHF): 21,925

Needs analysis: Some of the migrants have suffered from dehydration due to their exposure to high temperatures. Furthermore, to satiate their thirst, some migrants have consumed water from unsafe sources, putting them at risk of contracting waterborne illnesses or other water-related diseases.

Population to be assisted: The GRC will provide WASH assistance for 30 days; if needed, the GRC can extend the duration of the activity with other funds. The assisted population will be anyone in need that is part of the migrant caravan.

Programmed standards/benchmarks: The activities implemented under this section will comply with Sphere standards.

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	# of people that receive safe water distribution services. <i>Target: 2,475</i>															
	WASH Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	# of people provided with access to safe water <i>Target: 2,475</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Provision of safe drinking water to migrants in transit and in collective centres. (recyclable water bottles and water filters).																
AP027	Provision of recycling bins in the health posts.																
AP026	Continuously monitor the water situation in collective centres.																
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population	# of hygiene promotion communication campaigns <i>Target: 1</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

D. BUDGET

Please see the attached [budget](#).

Contact Information

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

In the Guatemalan Red Cross:

- Daniel E. Javiel Orellana, General Director, Guatemalan Red Cross; phone: +502 23816515; [email: direcciongeneral@cuzroja.gt](mailto:direcciongeneral@cuzroja.gt)

In the IFRC regional office for the Americas:

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For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Paula Martes; Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Team Coordinator; phone: +507 317-3050; email: paula.martes@ifrc.org

In Geneva:

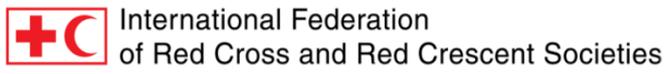
- Carmen Ferrer, Operational Support Disaster and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery); email: carmen.ferrer@ifrc.org

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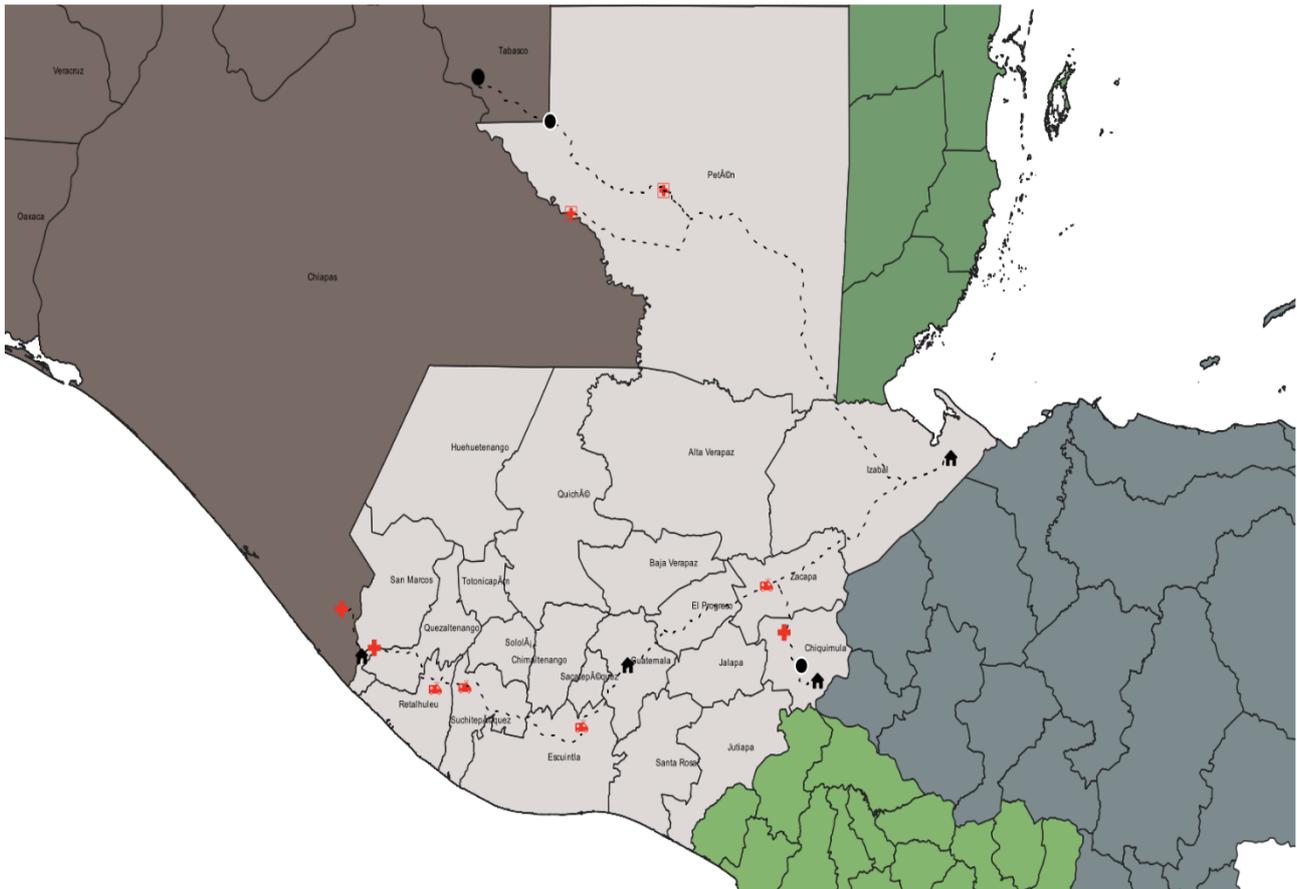
22/10/2018

Budget Group	Appeal Budget CHF	
500	Shelter - Relief	0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0
502	Construction - Housing	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0
505	Construction - Materials	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	0
520	Food	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	20,430
540	Medical & First Aid	23,791
550	Teaching Materials	2,990
560	Ustensils & Tools	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0
571	Emergency Response Units	0
578	Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES		47,211
580	Land & Buildings	0
581	Vehicles	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
587	Medical Equipment	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT		0
590	Storage, Warehousing	0
592	Distribution & Monitoring	0
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,285
594	Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE		4,285
600	International Staff	0
661	National Staff	0
662	National Society Staff	6,877
667	Volunteers	11,461
669	Other Staff Benefits	0
Total PERSONNEL		18,337
670	Consultants	0
750	Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES		0
680	Workshops & Training	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING		0
700	Travel	1,993
710	Information & Public Relations	598
730	Office Costs	0
740	Communications	299
760	Financial Charges	50
790	Other General Expenses	0
799	Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES		2,940
830	Partner National Societies	0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS		0
599	Programme and Services Support Recovery	4,730
Total INDIRECT COSTS		4,730
TOTAL BUDGET		77,504
Available Resources		
	Multilateral Contributions	0
	Bilateral Contributions	0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES		0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS		77,504

Annex 1: Migrants caravan route



-  Migrant house
-  Aid station
-  GRC Ambulance
-  Petén Branch



The maps used by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Cross Crescent Societies or National Societies do not imply any opinion about the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.