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# DREF Final Report

## Philippines: Batanes Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Final Report</b>	<b>Operation n° MDRPH034</b>
<b>Date of Issue:</b> 6 February 2020	<b>Glide number:</b> <a href="#">EQ-2019-000086-PHL</a>
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 27 July 2019	
<b>Operation start date:</b> 1 August 2019	<b>Operation end date:</b> 31 October 2019
<b>Host National Society:</b> Philippine Red Cross (PRC)	<b>Operation budget:</b> CHF 100,032
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 2,963 <sup>1</sup>	<b>Number of people assisted:</b> 2,365
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> PRC were working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Spanish Red Cross in this operation.	
<b>Other partner organizations involved in the operation:</b> The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) is leading the coordination of the response. Other Government Departments and Agencies at national and regional level are part of the response: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), National Housing Authority (NHA), Local Government Units; Philippine Armed Forces; Philippine National Police; etc. The Humanitarian Country Team with the support of OCHA is coordinating the non-government humanitarian response with I/NGOs and UN Agencies.	

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

- 27 July 2019:** A 5.4 magnitude earthquake strikes Itbayat Island, Batanes, the northernmost province in the Philippines. Itbayat Island has about 3,000 inhabitants. On the same day PRC deploys ERU's, rapid need assessment teams and communication team with radio communication equipment's. An information bulletin was issued.
- 29 July 2019:** Itbayat Island, is declared a state of calamity by the Provincial Government to access the calamity funds for fast response.
- 1 August 2019:** IFRC allocates 100,032 Swiss francs (CHF) from its [Disaster Relief Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) to support the National Society.
- 10 September 2019:** Emergency [Operations Update 1](#) is published.

### Description of the disaster

On Saturday 27 July 2019, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology ([PHILVOCS](#)) reported two moderate sized shallow earthquakes of magnitude 5.4 and 5.9 that had occurred at 4:16am and 7:37am respectively. Their epicentres were located on the northeast of Itbayat, Batanes.

In accordance with the PHIVOLCS Earthquake Intensity Scale (PEIS), the maximum intensities were VII (destructive), felt on Itbayat, while the intensity level V



Earthquake impact on houses at Itbayat. (Photo: PRC)

<sup>1</sup> Itbayat, Batanes has a total population of 2,963 with 911 families. It is estimated that each family has a household size of around 3.3.

(Strong) in Basco and IV (moderately Strong) occurred in Sabtang and Ivana respectively.

Based on the impact of earthquake, Itbayat municipality declared the state of calamity on 29 July 2019. This allowed the government to mobilize the calamity funds and start the process for relief items rapidly. As August 1, 2019, the entire province of Batanes had been placed under a state of calamity.

Based on the NDRRMC report no.15, the table below shows the reported impact of the earthquake:

Damages and Casualties
<b>Affected families:</b> 1,052 families (2,982 individuals) were affected in five Barangay in Itbayat.
<b>Injuries:</b> 64 persons were injured
<b>Death:</b> 9 persons reported dead
<b>Damaged house:</b> 209 houses (182 fully, 27 partially) were damaged
<b>Public infrastructure:</b> School - 1 fully and 3 partially damaged Health facility - 1 fully and 3 partially damaged Water system - 1 fully and 3 partly damaged
<b>Total estimated damaged cost of infrastructures:</b> PHP 266 million (approximately CHF 5 million)

## Summary of response

### Overview of Host National Society

Immediately after the earthquake struck, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) operations centre (OpCen), which operates 24/7, started collecting, monitoring and disseminating information through RCY and RC 143 volunteers to its chapters. The PRC communications teams also posted updates and shared information via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Response team, assessment team and other specialized PRC personnel's such as relief, WASH, health and welfare were deployed.

With regards to initial coordination, the PRC, the National Headquarters (NHQ) and the Batanes' Chapter coordinated with national to local level government units to carry out a rapid need assessment. To this end, NHQ deployed assessment teams and a radio technical team to set the emergency telecommunication in the affected area and support the newly established chapter, established in 2017, in its response operation.

With continuous aftershocks and damaged houses, many families slept in open spaces during the first days after the earthquake. In response, PRC deployed staffs and volunteers to provide tarpaulins and support to set-up tents in the evacuation centre. In addition, to assist on emergency shelter for affected families, 200 tarpaulins were dispatched. Furthermore, PRC set-up the one welfare desk at Itbayat Plaza and provided psychosocial support (PSS) to 96 individuals. A total of 6,575 hot meals were provided twice a day for seven days to approximately 470 people. In addition, 620 families received ready to eat food<sup>2</sup>.



PRC volunteers assisting to setting up tent for evacuation centre in Itbayat. (Photo: PRC)

Based on identified needs, 209 shelters were assessed as damaged. Shelter tool kits were provided to each affected family, along with information on build back better safe shelters and technical advice on the use of the kit. This response was to supplement the emergency and recovery assistance provided by the Philippine government.

The two main existing water supply systems were damaged by the earthquakes in Ivatan<sup>3</sup> communities, resulting in immediate drinking water needs. In response to the need for safe water, PRC's chapter coordinated with the local government unit (LGU) to determine a safe and appropriate site to set up a water production and distribution station. The water production site identified, PRC deployed a water tanker and set up a water production station as well as a water distribution station with a capacity of 70,000 litres. A total of 61,450 litres of safe drinking water was produced and distributed to four communities, enabling earthquakes-affected communities to have access to safe drinking water, in accordance with WHO standards.

<sup>2</sup> Canned foods

<sup>3</sup> Ivatan is a local name of Batanes community or people

Because of the damage done to schools, many children were not able to attend classes. In response, PRC established Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) for children to have access to safe class with child-friendly environment. A total of 339 school children benefitted from these TLS.

In response to the immediate needs for basic livelihoods and shelter, 205 affected families received multi-purpose unconditional cash grants. Please see [Section C](#) for more details.

Table 1 below presents a summary of PRC's overall response<sup>4</sup>.

**Table 1: Breakdown of PRC overall response**

Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 206 families received tarpaulins</li> <li>• 206 families received a shelter toolkit</li> <li>• 149 families were reached through safe shelter awareness and technical guidance on shelter tool kit</li> </ul>
Livelihoods and Basic needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6,575 people were served with hot meals for seven days</li> <li>• 680 families received ready-to-eat food</li> <li>• 206 families received multi-purpose cash grants</li> </ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 first-aid jump kits were provided to chapter</li> <li>• 35 people received first-aid service</li> <li>• 96 people were reached through psychosocial support</li> </ul>
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 water production point was established, and a water distribution station installed to distribute safe drinking water</li> <li>• 1 water tanker was mobilized</li> <li>• 64,425 litres of safe drinking water were provided to affected families (WHO standard)</li> <li>• 1,619 people were reached through hygiene promotion</li> <li>• 44 volunteers were trained on emergency hygiene promotion (with 42 mobilized)</li> </ul>
PGI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 welfare desk was established along with child friendly spaces</li> <li>• 1 temporary learning space centre with 16 temporary learning classes was established in child friendly environment</li> <li>• 339 school children benefitted from the temporary learning space centre</li> </ul>
CEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 staffs from chapter were trained on community engagement and accountability (CEA) and open data kit ODK)</li> <li>• 5 BaReCom<sup>5</sup> members were oriented on CEA</li> <li>• 71 complaints and feedback were received and responded to by the National Society</li> </ul>
Manpower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 chapters mobilized their staffs and volunteers to support operation</li> <li>• 88 PRC personal were directly involved in the response operation, i.e. 37 RCY volunteers, 28 RC143 and 3 chapter staffs, 12 PRC NHQ staffs and 8 NHQ volunteers</li> </ul>

## Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Country

PRC led the overall operation and maintained the close coordination with in-country Movement partners

The following Partner National Societies (PNSs) are present in the country: American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, the Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent Society.

On 9 August 2019, the PRC convened a Movement Coordination meeting to review the situation on the ground following the rapid needs assessment and to present its action plan for the operation.

## Movement Coordination

The National Society maintained close coordination with in-country Movement partners and continued to provide updates. IFRC Country Office supported PRC in disseminating updates to Movement partners with in-country presence and coordinating with the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur in accordance with the IFRC Secretariat's Operational Response Framework. The Country Office stayed in close contact with ICRC on any security-related considerations.

## Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, PRC maintains a strong relationship with government bodies. The PRC headquarter in Manila and local chapter coordinated closely with national, provincial and local disaster risk reduction and management councils and the local government units (LGUs), as defined in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act from 2010 as well as other government organizations such as Armed Forces of the Philippines. PRC

<sup>4</sup> Table 1 shows the summaries of the overall PRC response in regards to this DREF operations. See [Section C](#) for more details.

<sup>5</sup> The BaReComs are community-based committees established by PRC to oversee early recovery interventions (shelter and livelihood) and act as a channel between PRC and the community, ensuring accountability and transparency in the programme implementation.

has a seat on the NDRRMC and coordinates with other agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), provincial, municipality and the Department of Health (DOH). At the same time, the PHIVOLCS monitors seismic events and issues earthquake information and real-time updates.

Several government agencies have provided support to the earthquake affected people. The DSWD, the DOH and the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) provided assistance in terms of food and household items, including packed rice, ready-to-eat food, blankets, sleeping kits, mosquito nets and tarpaulins. All these initial relief items were transported to Batanes by Philippine Air Force. In addition, DSWD provided cash grant support to families with damaged houses (PHP 60,000 for fully damaged and PHP 30,000 for partially damaged) as shelter assistance. For its part, the DOH deployed a medical response team and provided medication together with generators and WASH items such as hygiene kits, water purification tablets and first aid kits.

Furthermore, with coordination of municipality, relief distributions were organized to occur the same day. Therefore, LGU distributed galvanized iron (GI) sheets, lumbers and four GI pipes for temporary shelter assistance to those families whose houses had been damaged. The same day PRC distributed the multi-purpose cash grants, tarpaulins and the shelter tool kits (STK) were also distributed. Which was acknowledged by the municipality.

According to the Itbayat Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, the government has a recovery plan for the affected population. The National Housing Authority (NHA) and DSWD is supporting the construction of temporary and permanent shelters in Itbayat. To support and complement government recovery plan, PRC coordinated with 'Build Change' organization. Team from PRC and Build Change conducted damaged house assessment and analysed local practice and materials to build houses to take into account in response strategy. Team also provided safe shelter awareness with technical guideline and distributed build back better IEC materials to targeted families.

## Needs analysis and scenario planning

Immediately after the earthquake, PRC deployed the rapid need assessment team with specialized personal in Shelter, Welfare, WASH and Livelihoods. Immediate needs based on the results and priorities of the evaluation were:

- I) Food and non-food items
- II) Shelter
- III) Livelihoods and basic Needs.
- IV) Health and Welfare
- V) Water and Sanitation
- VI) Education in Emergencies
- VII) Protection, Gender and Inclusion

The PRC response focused on Batanes, Itbayat's Barangays (Communities). Families were selected in Itbayat, from areas with highest number of affected families. Food and non-food items were distributed to most vulnerable people along with first aid. This assistance complemented the efforts of the government and other non-governmental agencies responding to the disaster.

The PRC overall Plan of Action, with the support of the DREF, was able to address the needs of targeted population delivering relevant and appropriate support and services such as welfare assistance, hygiene and health promotion, safe drinking water, establishment of temporary learning spaces, support on safe shelter and immediate support to the basic needs and livelihoods through multi-purpose cash grants.

Batanes chapter is classified as 'Category E', which means that the chapter can only cover very basic operation costs with very limited funds and human resources mobilization locally. Therefore, PRC National Headquarters (NHQ) and other chapters supported the Batanes' chapter during this operation. Furthermore, Batanes' chapter is very newly established hence additional support was provided by PRC, NHQ and IFRC.

For more detail on needs analysis, beneficiary targeting, operational risk and scenario planning, please refer to [Operation Update No.1](#).

## Risk Analysis

The operation suffered from some delays due to difficult physical access to Itbayat. Moreover, because of its location, Batanes is a place of entry and exit for tropical depressions and typhoons. During this monsoon season, tropical low-pressure areas (LPAs) and typhoons hit the island and made access very difficult. This resulted in delays in some activities. After the earthquake in Batanes, several meteorological disasters such as typhoon Hanna, tropical depression Marilyn, typhoon Hagibis, occurred.

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Overall objective

This operation aimed to meet the immediate needs of 1,000 most vulnerable people affected by the earthquakes in the Itbayat, Batanes.

### Proposed strategy

The operation consisted of closely integrated sectors aiming to provide:

1. Shelter assistance to support the access to safe shelter conditions at the initial phase of emergency by providing cash grant, tarpaulins and shelter tool kits along with technical guidelines and awareness, in cooperation with Build Change organization.
2. Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions focused on access to safe drinking water, sanitation and risk reduction of waterborne diseases.
3. Health interventions with a focus on psychosocial support, first aid, communal disease prevention and hygiene promotion
4. Livelihoods and immediate needs supported by unconditional multi-purpose cash grants to most affected families
5. Human resources mobilization

The operation integrated cross-cutting issues such as community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI). CEA was to provide right information and collect the feedbacks from earthquake affected communities and to ensure the quality of assistance that was provided during this operation. In addition, PGI measures were integrated to ensure that children, vulnerable and minority, disable people would not be left behind regardless of their socio-economic status.

Furthermore, a process of continuous activity monitoring, post-disaster situation monitoring, and lessons-learned workshop was set-up to ensure that interventions were consistent with planned interventions and to capture useful lessons for the future.

This DREF contributed to the PRC's overall action plan for its earthquake response, including the replenishment of the items.

### Targeting

PRC deployed the assessment teams to augment the chapter's capacity to conduct rapid assessment and needs analysis (RDANA) in Batanes Itbayat and ensured that programmes were aligned with its own as well as IFRC's commitment in taking account that no one be left behind regardless of their socio-economic status.

Geographical targeting was based on data and information provided by the Government and on validation from PRC assessment teams. Priority was provided to areas with dire needs. Beneficiary selection was carried out according to a participatory approach of the community. PRC worked closely with community leaders to select the people to be supported based on specific selection criteria. Following step was for the community to validate whether the pre-identified beneficiaries met the selection criteria. Once validated, beneficiaries were given a PRC beneficiary card with their individual and household members' names. The card formed the basis for recognition of the holders as beneficiaries of the PRC. During implementation, PRC volunteers ensured that the names on the identification card were those on the distribution lists. With these records, cases of double-assistance or double-counting have been avoided.



A couple sitting inside their makeshift shelter. (Photo: Maria Roxanne Nicolas/PRC)

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



### Shelter

**People reached: 1,617**

Male: 808

Female: 809

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people targeted/reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlement	1,000	1,617
# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	300	206
# households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive	300	149

#### Narrative description of achievements

Immediately after the earthquake, households left their homes damaged and destroyed to stay in Itbayat town plaza, an open field. Based on the coordination with the LGU, PRC completed the response of the LGU when setting up tents by providing tarpaulins for roofing of the evacuation centres. This evacuation centre was able to support approximately 1,617 people.

A total of 206 targeted families received shelter and settlement assistance that includes tarpaulins and shelter tool kit along with technical support on safe shelter awareness, grounded on build-back better approach. The distribution of items was also complemented with an orientation on safe shelter awareness and build back better, based on the local knowledge and practice of masons, and the safe shelter guide booklet. However, only 149 people could attend since it was the harvest season, and many needed to ensure their livelihoods. Safe shelter orientation was facilitated by PRC engineer and 'Build Change<sup>6</sup>' technical staffs. These activities complemented the emergency and recovery shelter assistance to be provided by the government.



An earthquake-affected household family member received multi-purpose cash grant, tarpaulin, shelter tool kit from PRC and in addition he also received GI sheets as a shelter assistance from LGU in same day. Where he said "it's very good to get full package relief items including safe shelter awareness orientation. I'm happy to get this and I will use this assistance to build strong temporary shelter." (Photo: Rajeev KC/IFRC)

Based on the need assessment and coordination with the LGU the original target of PRC for emergency shelter was reduced to 206 from 300 families. Earthquake affected each family received one tarpaulin (total 206 families) and one IFRC standard shelter tool kit (total 206 families).

#### Breakdown of households provided with emergency shelter items

Barangay	Households provided with shelter kit and tarpaulins	Number of female reached	Number of male reached
Raele	6	9	10
San Rafael	42	66	44
Sta. Lucia	31	42	41
Sta. Maria	76	107	114
Sta. Rosa	51	81	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>291</b>

#### Challenges

The main challenge came from logistics. Access to the distribution centre was difficult because of the unavailability of transportation and the remoteness of the island. For this reason, the PRC coordinated with Air Force of Philippines (AFP) for the deployment of a needs' assessment team. Batanes is a central location for typhoons and tropical

<sup>6</sup> 'Build Change' – is an international organization that works for disaster resistant houses and schools. <https://buildchange.org/>

depressions, which has significantly delayed the transport of relief items such as shelter tool kits and tarpaulins going to Itbayat.

## Lessons Learned

Generally, residents of Itbayat traditionally constructed their homes for typhoons/cyclones because they used heavy stone masonry walls that have performed well during strong winds. Also, the builders in Itbayat had adopted good construction practices for constructing their roofs using lessons learned from previous strong typhoons. However, the same unreinforced limestone masonry houses that have strong resistance to typhoons also have weak resistance to strong earthquakes. Almost all houses close to the earthquake epicentre that were constructed of unreinforced limestone masonry totally collapsed, while those in barangays further from the epicentre remained standing but suffered major cracks in the walls that have made the houses unsafe to occupy. Technical assistance is recommended to help the communities rebuild homes that are earthquake and typhoon resistant.



An example of a typical house in Itbayat where it is made of stone.  
(Photo: Maria Roxanne Nicolas/PRC)

A post distribution monitoring survey (PDM) was conducted where household items were distributed. The survey had a total of 114 respondents and results are as follows:

Percentage	Response
99%	Satisfied with the quality of the tarpaulins and shelter repair kit
96%	Were informed about the day, time and location of the distribution
96%	Were informed of the number and type of items they were supposed to receive
78%	Did not found difficulties in transporting the received items
73%	Think that all the people affected by the disaster were included in the lists given by the barangay officials to PRC
74%	Have understood how they were selected to benefit from the programme
65%	Prefer cash than NFI

Based on the PDM, overall, people reached with support through this operation has good impression on the overall programming. Building from the PDM results of the previous and this operation, people reached has a strong cash preference as a type of support compared to NFI. Based on this information, PRC will further intensify and improve its cash and voucher system programming.



### Livelihoods and basic needs

**People reached: 596**

Male: 291

Female: 305

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# targeted households that have enough cash to meet their survival threshold	300	206
# households provided with multi-purpose cash grants to address their basic needs	300	206

Narrative description of achievements

Considering the immediate food needs of people sheltering in the evacuation centre, PRC provided 6,575 hot meals, twice a day for seven days, to approximately 470 people. 680 families were also served with ready-to-eat food.

With regards to multipurpose cash grants, the initial target was 300 families. However, based on the assessment's results and actual needs, the number of targeted households was reduced to 206. The initial value of the cash grant was PHP 3,500 (approximately CHF 66) for each family, based on the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) of the provinces affected by Mangkhut in Region II, which also includes the province of Batanes. Though, based on the market assessment for the affected area, the cash grant was increased to PHP 4,500 (CHF 85) per family because of higher cost of goods transportation due to remoteness of island. This corresponds to 30 per cent of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) (average value of monthly expenditure in Itbayat of around PHP 14,000 (CHF 265). In addition to the multi-purpose cash grant, the assistance included a PHP 1,500 to supplement for the shelter support per family, bringing the total amount of the financial grant to PHP 6,000.

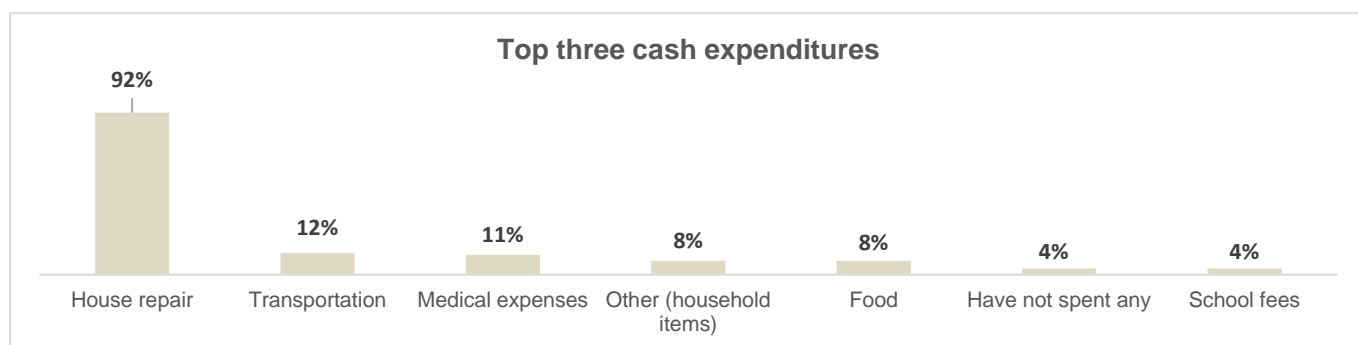


Beneficiaries receiving the multi-purpose cash grant, STK and Tarpaulins. (Photo: PRC)

#### Breakdown of households provided with cash grants

Barangay (Community)	Households provided with cash	Number of female reached	Number of male reached
Raele	6	9	10
San Rafael	42	66	44
Sta. Lucia	31	42	41
Sta. Maria	76	107	114
Sta. Rosa	51	81	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>291</b>

As result, 206 highly vulnerable families (596 people) received PHP 6,000: PHP 4,500 as multipurpose cash grant to meet their basic needs and PHP 1,500 to support their short-term shelter needs. The top three expenditure for the cash assistance is as follows:



#### Challenges

The PRC Batanes Chapter is a newly established chapter which only have three manpower, including the Chapter Administrator. The Batanes Chapter is categorized as "Category D" classification with a special fund support from NHQ since they are unable to generate fund locally which implies that the chapter can cover basic operational costs. The chapter did not have experienced staff who can support the cash distribution. Thus, PRC technical staff from the National Headquarters needed to be deployed longer in the field.

#### Lessons Learned

A post distribution monitoring survey (PDM) was conducted where household items were distributed. The survey had a total of 114 respondents and results are as follows:

Percentage	Response
91%	Reported that they received PHP 6,000 cash assistance
96%	Were informed of the amount that they going to receive
97%	Reported that community felt positive about the cash distribution
97%	Were informed about the day, time and location of the cash distribution
99%	Found the date, time and location of distribution convenient
97%	Felt safe during the day of the distribution
97%	Felt safe going back home with the money and keeping it at home
95%	Felt safe travelling with the cash to the markets
91%	Found what they needed in the market/stores
100%	Reported that the cash assistance did not cause any tension in the household
98%	Reported that the community perceived positively if women received the cash assistance
97%	Reported that if women received the cash assistance, they able to keep it
100%	Reported that the cash grant did not negatively affected the relationships in their household
92%	Thought that the cash grant has created tension in the community, particularly with non-beneficiaries
82%	Prefer cash than NFI

Based on the PDM, overall, people reached with cash support had a good impression on the overall programming. As mentioned in AOF 1, people reached has a strong cash preference as a type of support compared to NFI. Based on this information, PRC will further intensify and improve its cash and voucher system programming.



### Health

**People reached: 131**

Male: 65

Female: 66

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people directly reached to lessen immediate risks to the health	1,000	131
# of people provided with first aid services	-	35
# of people directly reached with community-based disease prevention and health promotion programming	1,000	-
# of people provided with direct psychosocial support	1,000	96
# of volunteers mobilized for PSS	5	5

#### Narrative description of achievements

PRC established one welfare desk in the evacuation centre which also supported first aid activities. Part of the standard services provided under the welfare desk set up by PRC are (i) restoring family links; (ii) tracing; and (iii) referral. Health stations were also set up in the evacuation centres as part of the PRC's welfare desk. A total 37 volunteers and 96 affected people were provided with psychological first aid. In addition, three sets of first aid jump kits were provided to the chapter.

PRC welfare desk services provided the total 96 individuals PSS through psychological first aid by five PRC technical staff and volunteers in Itbayat. There was a strong social cohesion in Itbayat hence communities were able support each other to cope with from the traumatic event they had experienced following the earthquake.

PRC had planned to provide first-aid to the injured, however, based on assessment, the local health authorities were able to accommodate all the patients for immediate treatment. Hence, PRCs intervention was reduced. This impacted on the number of people reached as per the original target.



PRC teaches Batanes volunteers on how to provide child friendly spaces activities. (Photo: PRC Welfare Service)

Through the Welfare Service, 41 volunteers for Batanes Chapter were trained on Child Friendly Space; How to Set up a Welfare Desk; Hot Meals; Psychological First Aid and Basic Sign Language.

**Breakdown of Batanes Chapter volunteers trained in different barangays**

	<b>Itbayat island</b>	<b>Sabtang Island</b>	<b>Basco Island</b>
Females	14	10	9
Males	4	-	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>

This is to capacitate the chapter and ensure that there are volunteers at the Chapter who will conduct Welfare Services in times of Disasters.

For this response, the government was able to provide necessary health support to the affected population. After the earthquake, the DOH activated the Code Blue Alert in the province of Batanes – meaning the Health Development (CHD) Operations Centre has to render 24-hour duty in the aftermath earthquake. The DOH deployed eight-man trauma team from the Cagayan Valley Medical Centre which was composed of five doctors, one nurse, and two Health Emergency Management Staff. Considering the small population of the affected area, DOH was able to meet the health needs of the affected population. Health activities were need-based. The role of the PRC through the chapter is to provide augmentation to government's effort, hence activities related to community-based disease prevention and health promotion was no longer conducted.

**Challenges**

In organizing the date to mobilize the health volunteers was challenges due to lack of volunteers. However, there was on going communication, support and coordination between PRC, NHQ and chapter to promote and ensure the volunteers availability.

**Lessons Learned**

A post distribution monitoring for health activities and NFI was conducted as newly established chapter, chapter was happy to receive First Aid jump kits and it was a good experience and practice for chapter to building relationship with local hospital through good communication to involve them with the Red Cross activities.



**Water, sanitation and hygiene**

**People reached: 1,619**

Male: 809

Female: 810

**Indicators:**

	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people directly provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context	1,000	710
# of assessments/monitoring visits undertaken	2	4
# of people provided with safe water (according to WHO standards)	1,000	771
# of people with access to adequate sanitation facility.	1,000	Deprioritized
# of volunteers involved in hygiene promotion activities	24	42

**Narrative description of achievements**

WASH related needs were assessed during the RDANA. Access to safe water and sanitation facilities were identified following the RDANA.

In evacuation centres and affected communities, PRC's WASH services conducted emergency hygiene promotion activities to increase public awareness of poor sanitation and promote personal hygiene practices. The hygiene promotion session focused on topics such as personal hygiene, safe water storage and prevention of diarrhoea. A total of 1,619 individuals were reached through this activity where 42 volunteers were mobilized.



Community children fetching drinking water from water station that was established by PRC. **(Photo: PRC)**

To meet immediate water needs, PRC established one water production station and one water distribution station with capacity of 70,000 litres. Water purification system was also deployed and installed. As a result, 64,425 litres of potable water were distributed, and 771 people benefited from the safe water services to ensure that the people in the evacuation centres and earthquake affected communities could access to safe drinking water.

PRC had originally planned to deploy temporary portable latrines to support the people who were staying in the evacuation centres. Based on government response and considering that many people have now returned to their homes, PRC identified these were no longer needed and have been de-prioritized from the plan of action and removed as a budgeted activity.



PRC staff conducting emergency hygiene promotion to the affected population. (Photo: PRC)

### Challenges

Based on assessments, PRC had identified the immediate need to provide support to affected families who plan to return to their damaged or destroyed houses to provide emergency repairs to their latrines. Previously, PRC planned to support 116 households with cash grants for households to buy materials and provide labour to repair their latrines. It was supposed to address the secondary impact of the earthquake in relation to sanitation induced diseases. However, this activity was not carried out due to the lack of construction materials and available market. In addition, with having a very challenging and interrupted means of transportation, it would be difficult to finish the activity within the DREF timeframe.

### Lessons Learned

A post distribution monitoring for WASH activities was conducted, in which 30 per cent were satisfied with the items they received, most of the people found water distribution was very useful.

It was important to improve the on coordination on assessment findings and identify existing barriers of implementation and help the team in prioritizing the target areas to have an effective implementation in future operations for remote islands and in unset disaster.



### Protection, Gender and Inclusion

**People reached: 2,365**

Male: 1,182

Female: 1,183

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with access to equitable access to disaster response	1,000	2,365
NS (PRC) ensure improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	Yes	Yes
# of staff and volunteers mobilized to support PGI activities.	30	5
# of staff and volunteers trained for PGI activities.	30	5
# of staff and volunteers trained on SGBV activities.	30	5
# of staff and volunteers mobilized to support SGBV activities.	30	5
# of welfare desks conducting PSS activities for children	2	1
Narrative description of achievements		

PRC ensured that interventions were aligned with its protection, gender and inclusion commitments during emergencies, in line with IFRC's minimum standards.

PRC Welfare Services in the National Headquarters supported the Batanes Chapter in establishing a referral system which can be use in case of child abuse or sexual-gender based violence (SGBV). There was a referral directory put in place for Batanes Chapter following the consultation and collaboration with the DSWD, DOH and PNP, as these government agencies are responsible in handling these types of cases.

PRC set up welfare desks in an evacuation centre, which supported child protection services and child-friendly activities. In the evacuation centre and temporary learning centre, PRC welfare services provided psychosocial support to children through first aid and traumatized people received psychosocial support. Psychosocial support helped people deal with the fear and anxiety related to the trauma brought by the earthquakes, especially for children. The establishment of a welfare desk also supported protection issues for the 747 families (2,365 individuals) living in the evacuation centre.

PRC set up a temporary learning space centre (TLS) with 16 classrooms in collaboration with DSWD and NDDRMC for high school students, to prevent classes from being disrupted and displaced students to continue their studies in a child-friendly environment. As a result, 339 school children benefited from temporary learning classrooms.

In addition, 201 school-children from Mayan Elementary School and Itbayat Central School were provided with child-friendly space activities through psychosocial support game: Building Community: "Our Space Together"; Emotional Learning: "My Feelings"; Well-being and Coping: "Feeling Good"; Social Support: "My Friends and Family"; Relating to others: "Being a Good Friend"; Protection and Boundaries: "My Safety"; and Building on Strengths: "All My Supports".

Batanes chapter administrator and 41 volunteers received the training on PGI. The training included crash courses on Child Friendly Spaces, Child Protection Policy, Basic Sign Language and Psychological First Aid (PFA). Further, PSS was also provided to the Chapter administrator and those volunteers who were mobilized in the operation.



Temporary Learning Spaces Centre in Plaza ground. (Photo: Rajeev K.C. IFRC)



PRC Welfare Services conduct child-friendly space activities through psychosocial support game to school-children in Itbayat Central School. (Photo: PRC Welfare Services)

## Challenges

The unpredictability of the weather in Batanes caused some delays on the implementation of activities under the Welfare Services. When the team was deployed, they were stranded in Batanes for one week before they can reach Itbayat due to unfavourable weather condition. Upon arrival, children were already back to school and adults have already returned to their regular works (either in farms or work). The team only catered a few adults in the conduct of PFA because most adults were not in their houses during the time of visit. Only elderly and people living with disabilities were given PFA. Also, the children and youth has returned to their schools. The team decided to conduct the school-based Child Friendly Spaces activities instead of Community-based CFS, as planned.

## Lessons Learned

For future similar operation, with consideration of the local chapter's capacity just like Batanes chapter, Welfare Teams should be deployed right after the incident. This is to ensure that the timing of the intervention is appropriately provided to the affected population especially PSS activities.

## Strengthening National Society

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS branches that are well functioning	1	1
% of volunteers insured	100	100%
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>During this operation, PRC National Headquarters (NHQ) directly supported Batanes' chapter with technical support, man power and budget for the implementation the operation in the field. The Batanes chapter is newly established and is not yet fully functioning. As mentioned, the chapter belongs to "Category D" which means that it needs special financial support from NHQ because it is unable to generate funds locally. As such, the chapter can only cover basic operational costs and therefore requires support from the national headquarters and other chapters to carry out assessments and to implement the operation. There were 88 staff members and volunteers both from the NHQ and chapter mobilized and deployed for this operation.</p> <p>Prior to mobilization, all human resources were trained to the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) history and the seven fundamental principles.</p> <p>During the operation, NHQ staff provided the necessary trainings/orientation to the chapter and volunteers such as Protection Gender and Integration (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS). All volunteers mobilized for this operation were insured under the Membership and Accident Assistance Benefit (MAAB) of PRC.</p>		
Challenges		
<p>The isolated island Batanes and communities were very difficult to access. In addition, Batanes is one of the islands most affected by extreme weather conditions. This resulted in delays in planned activities.</p>		
Lessons Learned		
<p>The chapter did not have experienced staff who can fully support the whole operation. There was a need to build the capacity of the chapter in terms of organizational development and to implement activities such as cash and voucher system programming, shelter, recruitment of volunteers and provision of basic equipment.</p> <p>Considering the capacity of the Chapter, PRC technical staff from the National Headquarters needed to be deployed longer in the field and had provided the necessary training and orientation based on the areas which needs development. The operation was fully supported by the NHQ. The chapter was also provided with a VHF radio set for emergency communication considering that the area is remote and has challenging communication network.</p>		

## International Disaster Response

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured.	Yes	Yes
# of RDRT deployed in the country	1	0
# of methods established to share information with communities about what is happening in the operation.	2	8
% of complaints and feedback received responded to by the NS.	100%	100%
Logistics department provides constant support to the National Society's logistics unit for replenishment and other procurements.	Yes	Yes
Narrative description of achievements		

For this operation, no RDRT member was deployed because it was not possible to find a shelter-specific profile required in a timely manner. However, PRC coordinated with 'Build Change' to assist with the shelter assessment. As a result, three engineers were deployed (one from PRC and two from Build Change).

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanisms were integrated into the earthquake response operation to ensure direct access to information for affected people and to obtain feedback on the nature and extent of the disaster assistance provided by the PRC. This process allowed the participation and the feedback of the community and ensured the quality of the assistance. To support the newly established chapter with CEA's activities, three NHQ staff, a chapter staff member and a volunteer were deployed.



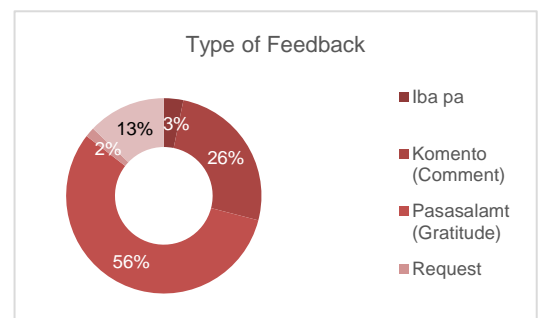
CEA team explain the information regarding earthquake: on what they should do before, during and after earthquake. (Photo: PRC)

A feedback and complaint-handling mechanism was put in place in five Barangays (Communities). Ivatan is the official dialect of the island's inhabitants although Tagalog (Filipino language) was used as common language for sharing and collecting information. The following are the activities carried out for CEA:

Chapter **staff and volunteer were oriented about CEA** and how to use mobile devices to record feedback. The [Feedback Starter Kit](#) was used to gather feedback, concerns and complaints from affected families. Feedback was collected during the households' visits and community meetings where affected community members were assessed and consulted about their needs.

- **Developed information about CEA and the assistance being provided by PRC.** Information's were disseminated with four key messages (earthquake key message, Batanes earthquake operation, shelter tool kit and beneficiary's selection criteria).
- Information disseminated on social media accounts and stories published in a special PRC report where PRC staff provided real-time responses to all queries received.

Analysis of the feedback collected reflected that the majority of the feedback was people expressing their gratitude for the support provided by PRC to the affected population. Other comments related mostly to the water and ready to eat food. It was mentioned that people did not like the water because of a chlorine after taste, and since those from Itbayat were not used to drinking treated water. Another comment was that the people did not like the ready to eat food. The reason was that the local population was not used to having canned foods. Questions being raised during the gathering of feedback were also addressed immediately by the operations team in the field level.



Logistical support for this operation was provided through the strong capacity of the PRC logistics built in recent years, in collaboration with an experienced IFRC logistics team that has effectively managed the supply chain. Logistics activities such as procurement, customs clearance, storage and transportation at distribution sites were rolled out in accordance with operational requirements and aligned with IFRC logistic standards, processes and procedures. Additionally, as support to the operation, the IFRC CO logistic team dispatched essential household items such as tarpaulins and shelter tool kits for 209 earthquake-affected families. All disaster stock prepositioning (DP) movements were carried out in close coordination with PRC logistic and Disaster Management services departments.

In order to complete the procurement of IFRC standard essential household items (tarpaulins and shelter tool kits), the Asia-Pacific Operational Logistic Procurement and Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM) team offered complete assistance. The IFRC CO office supported the operation with the deployment of a light fleet to transport staff and volunteers in the field.

## Challenges

The very poor connection to the mobile network in Itbayat was a challenge. To solve the communication problem, the PRC installed a VHF radiator in Itbayat in order to quickly obtain real-time information in the field.

The feedback's boxes were not established for several reasons, including the very challenging access from Basco to Itbayat, and the lack of volunteers on the ground to monitor.

## Lessons Learned

The feedback starter kit was used to gather feedback both from people who were targeted with support and the wider community.. This is the first time where the feedback starter kit was used to gather and record feedbacks. There is a need to improve the feedback documentation and analysis of the information. It is essential that all complaints and feedbacks are well received and addressed in the operational areas. PRC is currently developing a tool to document, analyse, monitor and report all comments during operations.

## Influence others as leading strategic partner

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.	Yes	Yes
# of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.) to share information about the operation.	3	29
# of post-distribution visits done to affected communities.	2	2
# of lesson learned workshop conducted.	1	Not conducted

### Narrative description of achievements

The PRC communications team ensured that Red Cross response efforts were effectively communicated to key target audiences in a timely manner. PRC staff and volunteers across the country have actively contributed to institutional communication through their own social media networks.

In addition to a press release, regular updates on the operation were posted on official social media accounts of the PRC. In addition to subscribers, traditional media also collected information from these posts. The social media posts reached more than 400,000. In total, there were 25 different communications materials across multiple platforms such as Facebook posts, tweets and press releases produced for this operation.

#### Press release:

- [PRC: Psychosocial support, water, food among the top needs in quake-hit Itbayat](#)

#### News articles:

- [Red Cross extends assistance to victims of quake-hit Batanes](#)
- [Red Cross battles Batanes, dengue crises](#)
- [PH Red Cross reaches out to over 2,000 affected by Itbayat quakes](#)

The IFRC Communications team also promoted the visibility of the Red Cross efforts to aid Batanes earthquake affected communities using social media by posting information about the operation and reposting the PRC's updates to reach more people.

Reports on the operation have been prepared in accordance with IFRC's reporting standards. An [operations update](#) was published in September. The operation team was supported by a technical PMER capacity at country level. Additional technical support was provided through IFRC Asia Pacific regional Office's PMER team.

Organizing a lesson's learned workshop was originally part of the plan for this operation. However, there were some delays on the implementation of activities due to logistical and weather challenges. Thus, lessons learned workshop was not able to be organized as the team needs to prioritize the completion of activities before the DREF operation closes. Post distribution monitoring was conducted and results are described in above sections.

## Challenges

There were no challenges related to National Society strengthening

## Lessons Learned

The main lesson learned is to build the capacity of Batanes chapter staffs and volunteers as well as local stakeholder such as Phil Post in cash transfer program.

## Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of financial reporting respecting the IFRC procedures.	100	100
Staff security is prioritised in all IFRC activities.	Yes	Yes
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>The IFRC, through the finance department, provided operational support for the review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Societies with respect to expense justification procedures, including the review and validation of invoices. The PRC – which is on the working advance system – has been supported by the IFRC for many years and is used to these financial procedures. All financial transactions in this operation were in accordance with the standard financial procedures of the Federation. The IFRC Finance and Administration team in Manila provided administrative and transport support at headquarters and in the field.</p> <p>The IFRC security framework was applied to this operation. With respect to PRC staff and volunteers, the National Society's security framework was applied. Regular coordination was maintained with the ICRC and other Movement partners, in line with the existing security framework and Movement's coordination agreement. Regular sharing of information has been maintained and specific security protocols for each security level.</p> <p>In country, all staff members and volunteers were required to take the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses: Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security. There was no focal point for security based in the field, but this chapter regularly reported to the NHQ the current situation.</p> <p>A total of 88 PRC staff and volunteers was engaged /involved in the operation. All volunteers were insured under the Membership and Accident Assistance Benefit (MAAB) of PRC.</p>		
Challenges		
<p>The province of Batanes particularly the Municipality of Itbayat is an island located in the far North of Luzon, Philippines, which has proved to be a challenge in terms of accessibility. The means of transport used in the region was via air from Manila to Basco (Capital), with limited flights to and from Basco and Itbayat. The boat trip lasted four hours and was scheduled, with trips to Itbayat at 6:00am and back to Basco Batanes around 10:00am. Weather conditions were closely monitored during trips to Itbayat. Considering that PRC personnel must travel by boat for about four hours from Basco, Batanes in rough seas.</p>		

## D. THE BUDGET

The actual expenditure is 84 per cent (CHF 84,068) of the CHF 100,032 DREF amount requested. The closing balance variance was due to the reduction of families targeted with household items and shelter support, cancellation of some WASH activities, savings from joint needs assessment activity with the government and for not being able to organize the lessons learned workshop.

Full [financial report](#) is attached at the end of this report.

## Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Operation Update 1](#)

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

### In Philippine Red Cross

- Elizabeth Zavalla, secretary general; phone: +63 2 790 2300; email: [secgen@redcross.org.ph](mailto:secgen@redcross.org.ph)
- Leonardo Ebajo, director for disaster management services; phone: +63 917 806 8521; email: [leonardo.ebajo@redcross.org.ph](mailto:leonardo.ebajo@redcross.org.ph)

### In IFRC Philippine Country Office

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### In Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

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### In IFRC Geneva

- Tiffany Loh, senior officer, response and recovery; email: [tiffany.loh@ifrc.org](mailto:tiffany.loh@ifrc.org)
- Karla Morizzo, senior officer, DREF; email: [karla.morizzo@ifrc.org](mailto:karla.morizzo@ifrc.org)

### For resource mobilization and pledges:

- Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: [PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org](mailto:PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org)

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

- Liew Siew Hui, PMER manager; email: [siewhui.liew@ifrc.org](mailto:siewhui.liew@ifrc.org)

## 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 (NGOs) 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**.

# DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/8-2019/12	Operation	MDRPH034
Budget Timeframe	2018/8-2019/10	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 31/Jan/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRPH034 - Philippines - Batanes Earthquakes

Operating Timeframe: 01 Aug 2019 to 31 Oct 2019

### I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>100,032</b>
DREF Allocations	100,032
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-84,068</b>
Closing Balance	<b>15,964</b>

### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	25,503	29,524	-4,022
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	23,111	26,653	-3,542
AOF4 - Health	6,514	4,077	2,437
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	26,989	20,295	6,693
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion		140	-140
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>82,115</b>	<b>80,690</b>	<b>1,426</b>
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	7,652	299	7,353
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	5,282		5,282
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	4,982	3,079	1,903
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>17,916</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>14,538</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100,032</b>	<b>84,068</b>	<b>15,964</b>

# DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/8-2019/12	Operation	MDRPH034
Budget Timeframe	2018/8-2019/10	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 31/Jan/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRPH034 - Philippines - Batanes Earthquakes

Operating Timeframe: 01 Aug 2019 to 31 Oct 2019

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>36,813</b>	<b>39,207</b>	<b>-2,394</b>
Shelter - Relief	7,800	7,527	273
Clothing & Textiles	1,500		1,500
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	5,423	7,846	-2,423
Medical & First Aid		3	-3
Teaching Materials	2,308		2,308
Cash Disbursement	19,782	23,831	-4,049
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>		<b>2,803</b>	<b>-2,803</b>
Computers & Telecom		2,803	-2,803
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>12,620</b>	<b>6,823</b>	<b>5,797</b>
Storage		1,498	-1,498
Distribution & Monitoring	500	1,723	-1,223
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,620	2,364	2,256
Logistics Services	7,500	1,237	6,263
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>31,081</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>30,035</b>
National Staff		60	-60
National Society Staff	10,504		10,504
Volunteers	20,577	986	19,591
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>5,638</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>4,062</b>
Workshops & Training	5,638	1,576	4,062
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>7,775</b>	<b>27,482</b>	<b>-19,707</b>
Travel	6,096	23,392	-17,296
Information & Public Relations	1,181	1,920	-739
Office Costs	264	1,858	-1,594
Communications	234	102	132
Financial Charges		210	-210
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>6,105</b>	<b>5,131</b>	<b>974</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	6,105	5,131	974
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100,032</b>	<b>84,068</b>	<b>15,964</b>