

DREF operation n° MDRNI004
GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000166-NIC](#)
27 September 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: 235,352 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 26 October 2011 to support the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) in delivering assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries. The operation closed with a total expenditure of 195,926 Swiss francs, with a final balance of 39,426 Swiss francs unspent and returned to the DREF fund.

After a low pressure system and the remnants of Tropical Depression 12-E passed through Nicaragua, affecting an estimated 28,000 persons, the National Society launched a plan of action and requested support from different partners.

At the end of their relief operations, 2,876 families (13,560 persons) had received assistance, of which 1,250 families (5,398 persons) were reached with the direct support of the DREF. All families were assisted with food parcels and relief items such as hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins and jerry cans. In addition, the National Society worked alongside other humanitarian partners to reach some 5,200 families with water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.



In December 2011, the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) distributed relief items to the families affected by Tropical Depression 12-E. Source: NRC

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. The Australian Red Cross and Australian government, the Canadian Red Cross and government, and the Netherlands Red Cross have replenished the DREF for the allocation made to this operation. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/responding/disaster-response-system/financial-instruments/disaster-relief-emergency-fund-dref/>

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Nicaragua felt the effects of two low pressure systems that began on 12 October 2012, experiencing a similar situation to the rest of Central American countries. Consequently, severe rainfall fell over the northern and western regions of the country, causing serious damage to homes, infrastructure and crops. The most affected departments are Chinandega, León, Managua, Estelí, Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Carazo, Masaya, Granada and Rivas.

The National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación y Atención de Desastres, SINAPRED) reported on 19 October that overall 13 departments, 80 municipalities and 546 communities were affected, with damaged infrastructure, flooded wells and latrines, and loss of agricultural production.

Figures of affectation were:

- 5,616 families (28,091 persons) affected.
- 2,042 families (10,278 persons) sheltered in 104 collective centres.
- 9 deaths, 18 injured and 3 missing.
- 5,616 houses affected: 335 destroyed, 3,707 flooded, 1,236 moderately damaged, and 338 at risk of landslides. Most damages were related to roofs detachments and uprooted trees.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) activated their Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and called for volunteers to assist with evacuations, first aid care and assessments. Some 13 staff and 250 volunteers worked alongside local authorities and SINAPRED, as well as other humanitarian actors of the United Nations System and Partner National Societies such as the American Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

Under the framework of its overall Plan of Action and through support from different collaborators, the National Society reached 2,876 families (13,560 persons) from the departments of Chinandega, León, Estelí and Managua. Their assistance consisted of distribution of food and non-food relief items, hygiene promotion and psychosocial support.

| Donor | Type of assistance | No. of families ¹ | Area reached (Department: municipality) |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| South African government | Shelter kits (roof repairs) | 500 | N/A |
| Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) | Food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, mats and tarpaulins. | 1,000 | Chinandega: Villanueva León : Malpaisillo, Jicaral, Achuapa |
| DREF-IFRC | Food parcels, hygiene kit, kitchen kits, blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, jerry cans | 1,000 | Chinandega: Villanueva León: León, Telica, la Paz centro Esteli: San Juan de Limay, Condega Managua: Tipitapa, San Francisco Libre |
| Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) | Household water filters, with 2 containers | 722 | Chinandega: Villanueva León: Malpaisillo, Jicaral |
| American Red Cross | Hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets, mosquito nets and tarpaulins | 500 | Esteli: San Juan de Limay, Condega. Managua: Tipitapa |

¹ Although the number of families from this table adds up to 3,972 families, many of them were assisted by a combination of resources from these donors. Therefore, only 2,876 families were beneficiaries of the National Society's work.

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|---|
| Canadian Embassy | Food parcels | 250 | Chinandega: Villanueva |
| World Food Programme (WFP)/ United States Agency for International Development (USAID) | Water filters and tool kits | 370 | Chinandega: Villanueva, Somotillo. León: Jicaral, Achuapa Esteli: Malpaisillo, San Nicolás Managua: Crucero, la Concepción |

Through the support of the DREF, food and non-food relief items for 1,000 families were procured. However, through the strategy of combining resources, the DREF was used to support 1,250 families (5,398 persons).

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate needs of the population affected by the 12-E tropical depression in the municipalities of Chinandega, León, Estelí, Granada and Managua are met through the provision of food and non-food items.

Outputs: 1,000 families (5,000 people) affected by flooding will receive non-food items (kitchen kits, blankets, tarpaulins and jerry cans) as well as food parcels to complement nutritional needs for a period of one month.

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure food items locally and prepare parcels.
- Distribute food parcels and non-food relief items (kitchen kits, blankets, tarpaulins and jerry cans) through 1 time distribution to targeted families
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Impact: The immediate needs created by Tropical Depression 12-E were successfully met. The NRC, with the support of the DREF, reached 1,250 families (5,398 persons) with food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins² and jerry cans, 125 per cent more than the original target.

| Department | Municipality | No. of families reached | No. of persons reached |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Managua | Tipitapa | 232 | 1,155 |
| Chinandega | Villanueva | 250 | 1,101 |
| Estelí | San Juan Limay | 135 | 706 |
| | Condega | 103 | 526 |
| León | La Paz Centro | 175 | 736 |
| | León | 273 | 789 |
| | Telica | 82 | 385 |
| TOTAL | | 1,250 | 5,398 |

The National Society was able to surpass their original target through a strategy of combining DREF resources with those from other agencies and actors. For example, the 250 families in Chinandega received non-food relief items from the DREF but the food parcels were covered by the Canadian Embassy, while the families in Estelí received food parcels from the DREF but non-food relief items provided by the American Red Cross.

² In the original budget this item was included on the shelter transitional line by mistake, but on the final report as can be revised it is on shelter relief, therefore the difference.



Selected families received a registration ticket that was then validated with an ID card the day of the distribution. Source: NRC

The NRC took special care in coordinating all their activities not only with government authorities such as SINAPRED, but also with the communities themselves. The NRC provided explanations on the source of funding and their work through volunteers. Beneficiaries were selected by the branches alongside community leaders of the affected areas, ensuring to include low income families, that were most affected by the emergency and that had not yet received assistance from other actors. Community members were also involved in the selection of distribution points and the organization of the event. The outcome of this approach was significant, as the families went from a position of “beneficiaries” to a position of main actors of the relief effort. Community leaders and local

authorities have expressed their gratitude to the NRC for its efforts in relieving the needs of the population affected by the Tropical Depression 12-E.

Emergency health

Outcome: The immediate risks to the health of populations affected by TD 12-E are reduced.

Output 1: Up to 1,000 families (5,000 persons) will benefit with community-based disease prevention and health promotion activities.

Activities planned:

- Provide training on recognition of symptoms and warning signs for immediate referral to health care centres.
- Develop informational materials in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- Provide awareness materials on disease prevention (including dengue, H1N1 and leptospirosis) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- Distribute 3 mosquito nets and 1 hygiene kit per family.
- Monitor and report on the health activities on a timely manner.

Impact: As mentioned on the previous section, the NRC successfully completed the distribution of mosquito nets, hygiene kits and jerry cans. Yet, due to some administrative delays, the DREF-supported operation closed without the completion of the awareness campaign for disease prevention. Nevertheless, the community-based disease prevention and health promotion activities were completed by the National Society alongside United Fire-fighters without Frontiers (Bomberos Unidos Sin Fronteras, BUSF) with the support of resources provided by the United Nations’ Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID). Volunteers from the National Society’s branches of Chinandega, León, Managua, Estelí and Tipitapa worked alongside teams from BUSF to clean wells and complete hygiene promotion using the materials designed by the NRC. A total of 5,283 families were reached through this partnership.

Additionally, volunteers took the opportunity of community gatherings on the day of distribution to provide information on personal hygiene and disease prevention. The Red Cross volunteers used different methods such as talks, illustrative posters as well as recreational activities using puppets and life-size marionettes that are traditional to the Nicaraguan culture. Therefore, families received their hygiene kits, mosquito nets and jerry cans alongside information on their adequate use and ways to promote the health of family members.



During distribution of relief items, volunteers of the Nicaraguan Red Cross disseminated health and hygiene messages through different methods and approaches. Source: NRC

Conclusions and lessons learnt

- The National Society was successful in engaging community members during the completion of assessments and organization of relief activities. This participation created an environment where assisted families became part of the relief efforts.
- The setting of an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) in the NRC was a crucial element for coordination and planning of the response, particularly through its link with the National EOC.
- Pre-disaster coordination with municipal authorities and community leaders is key to compiling accurate information in the least amount of time.
- Having human resources specialized in different technical areas allowed a more ample scope of the National Society's actions, therefore better positioning the organization within the response system in Nicaragua
- Constant and clear communication between the National Society and the Americas Zone office was essential throughout the operation to ensure an informed decision making process.

Comments in relation to the financial report:

No expenditure was incurred in relation to deployment of a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member, which was initially budgeted but it was not needed afterwards. In addition, no expenditure was incurred in relation to educational materials for hygiene promotion activities, as the National Society used their own materials.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 26 October 2011 for 235,352 Swiss francs for three months to assist 5,000 beneficiaries.



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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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) 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.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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MDRNI004 - Nicaragua - Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 26 oct 11

Appeal Timeframe: 26 oct 11 to 26 jan 12

Final Report

I. Funding

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2011/10-2012/8 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2011/10-2012/1 |
| Appeal | MDRNI004 |
| Budget | APPROVED |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

| | Disaster Management | Health and Social Services | National Society Development | Principles and Values | Coordination | TOTAL | Deferred Income |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| A. Budget | 235,352 | | | | | 235,352 | |
| B. Opening Balance | 0 | | | | | 0 | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| <u>Other Income</u> | | | | | | | |
| <i>DREF Allocations</i> | 235,352 | | | | | 235,352 | |
| C4. Other Income | 235,352 | | | | | 235,352 | |
| C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4) | 235,352 | | | | | 235,352 | |
| D. Total Funding = B +C | 235,352 | | | | | 235,352 | |
| Coverage = D/A | 100% | | | | | 100% | |

II. Movement of Funds

| | Disaster Management | Health and Social Services | National Society Development | Principles and Values | Coordination | TOTAL | Deferred Income |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------|-----------------|
| B. Opening Balance | 0 | | | | | 0 | |
| C. Income | 235,352 | | | | | 235,352 | |
| E. Expenditure | -195,926 | | | | | -195,926 | |
| F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | 39,426 | | | | | 39,426 | |

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| Appeal | MDRNI004 |
| Budget | APPROVED |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

| Account Groups | Budget | Expenditure | | | | | TOTAL | Variance |
|---|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| | | Disaster Management | Health and Social Services | National Society Development | Principles and Values | Coordination | | |
| A | | | | | | | B | A - B |
| BUDGET (C) | | 235,352 | | | | | 235,352 | |
| Relief items, Construction, Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Shelter - Relief | | 21,087 | | | | 21,087 | -21,087 | |
| Shelter - Transitional | 21,202 | | | | | | 21,202 | |
| Clothing & Textiles | 39,754 | 34,044 | | | | 34,044 | 5,710 | |
| Food | 61,839 | 65,396 | | | | 65,396 | -3,556 | |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 22,086 | 19,535 | | | | 19,535 | 2,550 | |
| Teaching Materials | 4,417 | | | | | | 4,417 | |
| Utensils & Tools | 29,153 | 27,843 | | | | 27,843 | 1,310 | |
| Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies | 178,451 | 167,905 | | | | 167,905 | 10,545 | |
| Logistics, Transport & Storage | | | | | | | | |
| Storage | | 131 | | | | 131 | -131 | |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 5,742 | 4,656 | | | | 4,656 | 1,087 | |
| Transport & Vehicles Costs | 4,417 | 3,731 | | | | 3,731 | 686 | |
| Logistics Services | 5,248 | 6,041 | | | | 6,041 | -793 | |
| Total Logistics, Transport & Storage | 15,407 | 14,559 | | | | 14,559 | 848 | |
| Personnel | | | | | | | | |
| International Staff | 10,601 | | | | | | 10,601 | |
| National Society Staff | 1,590 | | | | | | 1,590 | |
| Volunteers | 5,301 | 2,287 | | | | 2,287 | 3,013 | |
| Total Personnel | 17,492 | 2,287 | | | | 2,287 | 15,204 | |
| General Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | 2,650 | | | | | | 2,650 | |
| Information & Public Relations | 883 | 656 | | | | 656 | 227 | |
| Office Costs | 442 | 9 | | | | 9 | 433 | |
| Communications | 663 | 134 | | | | 134 | 528 | |
| Financial Charges | 5,000 | -1,583 | | | | -1,583 | 6,583 | |
| Total General Expenditure | 9,638 | -783 | | | | -783 | 10,421 | |
| Indirect Costs | | | | | | | | |
| Programme & Services Support Recov | 14,364 | 11,958 | | | | 11,958 | 2,406 | |
| Total Indirect Costs | 14,364 | 11,958 | | | | 11,958 | 2,406 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D) | 235,352 | 195,926 | | | | 195,926 | 39,426 | |
| VARIANCE (C - D) | | 39,426 | | | | 39,426 | | |