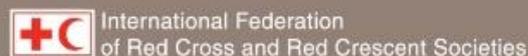


www.ifrc.org  
Saving lives,  
changing minds.

# DREF Operation Update no. 1

## Belize: Hurricane Eta



<b>DREF Operation n°</b> MDRBZ006	<b>GLIDE n°</b> <a href="#">TC-2020-000224-BLZ</a>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 25 March 2021	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> 16 November 2020 – 31 January 2021
<b>Operation start date:</b> 16 November 2020	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 4 months <b>End date:</b> 31 March 2021
<b>DREF allocated:</b> 425,329 Swiss francs (CHF)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 5,000 (1,000 families)
<b>Host National Society:</b> The Belize Red Cross Society (BRC) delivers humanitarian services through its seven branches (and headquarters), in close coordination with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), Ministry of Health (MoH), public authorities civil societies and non-governmental organizations to serve communities in crisis nationwide. The BRC has 420 active volunteers and 15 staff.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), Belize Defence Forces (BDF), UNICEF, IOM.	

[<Click here for the financial report and here for the contact information.>](#)

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

Hurricane Eta made landfall on Nicaragua's shores as a strong Category 4 hurricane on 4 November 2020, causing destruction and excessive rain with a wind speed of 140 mph. Several Central American countries experienced the negative effects of Hurricane Eta, including Belize.

The rains started in Belize on 3 November 2020, increasing in intensity over the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November. Approximately twenty inches of rainfall, caused severe flooding in the Western District of Cayo and Belize District, including Belize City. More than 40 communities were affected, mainly along the Mopan, Macal, Belize, and Sibun rivers. In the Cayo District, the Macal and Mopan rivers rose more than 8.8 meters, inundating every village from Arenal to Roaring Creek. Collective Centers were activated on 3 November 2020, to facilitate people living in swampy and low-lying areas. According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMO), 60,000 people living along the impacted areas were affected whilst some 5,000 persons were directly impacted<sup>1</sup>.

The floods caused damage to residential property, utilities, farms, and road infrastructure and further added to the vulnerabilities due to COVID-19, which has had a huge effect on the tourism industry, leaving many families with limited income.

Additionally, on 16 November, Hurricane Iota made landfall in Nicaragua, which brought additional rain to Belize and exacerbated the floods in many areas.

Among the hardest-hit communities were Arenal, Benque, Calla Creek, Bullet Tree Falls, Valley of Peace, Santa Familia, Blackman Eddy, Roaring Creek, La Rivera, Bomba, Maskall, Crooked Tree, May Pen, Rancho Dolores, Freetown Sibun, and Lemonal.

<sup>1</sup> [OCHA. Central America: Tropical Storm Eta. 9 November 2020.](#)

## Summary of current response

Even before Hurricane Eta made landfall, the Belize Red Cross (BRC) closely coordinated with NEMO, the National Disaster Office (NDO). On November 3, 2020, the BRC attended the first meeting to discuss the Hurricane actions with the City Emergency Management Organization (CEMO) and NEMO, and other actors.

Many volunteers of BRC were themselves affected by the floods, stranded in flooded communities, which initially affected the capacity to carry out Damage and Needs Assessments. However, Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTS), trained by the Belize Red Cross to strengthen the national response capacity, conducted DANA within their respective communities. The results were submitted to both NEMO and BRC. As communities started to reach out to BRC for assistance, the NS overcame the challenges, conducted assessments in the affected communities, and started distributions of food and non-food-items that were available from their pre-positioned stock or were donated from private and institutional donors. Within the first weeks of the disaster, the NS reached more than 700 households with food packages, water, hygiene kits, cleaning kits, jerry cans, blankets, and COVID kits, among other things.



*Belize, 2021. One of the beneficiaries receiving humanitarian assistance. Source: Belize Red Cross.*

The DREF was issued on 16 November, and relief items arrived in the country from Panama on 19 December. Distribution of these items and prepaid debit cards for 500 households were distributed on 27 January 2021 after detailed household level assessments and rapid market assessments.

At the time of reporting, the BRC flood response had reached 1,496 affected and vulnerable households. 734 of these (3,670 people) have been served with the items or debit cards funded by the DREF. All households included in the household level assessment received assistance.

## Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Americas Regional Office (ARO) is not directly represented in Belize but provided support through its Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) office based in Trinidad and Tobago. The CCST supported the DREF response and development of the emergency plan of action (EPoA) for the Hurricane Eta floods response. A representative from the CCST office came to Belize soon after the approval of the DREF to kick-start the response. Later, two delegates were deployed to Belize. The Relief and Cash Delegate arrived on 25 November for 3 months, and the CEA Delegate started her mission remotely on 7 December, arriving in the country on 8 January 2021.

## Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) took control of the emergency relief operations in country. The United States, Mexico and International Financial Institutions were offered assistance with food, water and shelter as needed. The British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) assisted the Belize Defence Force (BDF) with search and rescue operations. According to the Minister of National Security, the BDF and the Coast Guard were in operation in the centre and south of the country, while his office was coordinating with the villages to help distribute food and water, subject to COVID-19 protocols.

IOM has been supporting displaced families in Cayo with water, hygiene, and food. UNICEF has supported emergency WASH response activities following a request from NEMO for water and food supplies. WASH partners distributed hygiene kits to the government for national and sub-national delivery. Together with UNICEF and BRC, the American Embassy has distributed food packages and hygiene parcels to flood-affected communities in Cayo District.

## Needs analysis and scenario planning

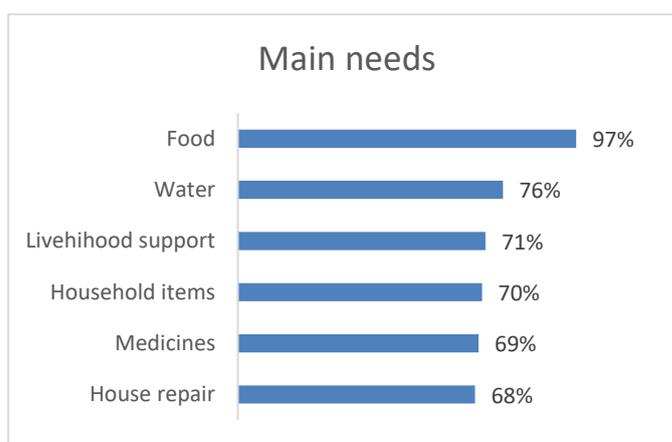
### Needs analysis

Based on information from national and local authorities and regarding to flood-prone areas and the initial assessments carried out by the National Society, BRC identified 42 communities to be included in the household level detailed assessments. Many affected households also contacted BRC by themselves, informing about their situation and their need for assistance.

The survey was set up in ODK Collect, and 20 volunteers were trained on the data collection through mobile phones on 15 December 2020 and 9 January 2021. 16 volunteers subsequently participated in the assessments. The assessments were carried out by BRC staff and volunteers between the 6th and the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, capturing data from 762 households in 42 communities. Community leaders were contacted as part of the protocols before the assessments were conducted to seek their assistance in locating the people most affected within their community and their role as leaders in the communities.

The 762 households included in the survey, comprised 3,097 people (1,609 males and 1,488 females). 41% of the households were single-headed households. 10% of the households included a pregnant or lactating woman, and 16% of the households included a member with special needs (physically or mentally challenged or older adults).

Among the main needs identified in the household assessment were food, water, livelihood support, household items, medicines, and house repairs. This was also confirmed by people calling BRC directly and talked with people in the communities. Many people asked for food or mentioned loss of livelihoods or damage to their house as their main challenges.



### Livelihoods

87% of the households had their main source of income affected by the floods. Many were engaged in different types of paid labor, had their own business or were farmers, and on top of being affected by COVID, they had now also been affected by the floods. Some described how their fields, or animals had been washed away by the floods. 38% of the households had their income reduced by 50% or more, 43% of the households had suffered the loss of crops, 22% of the households had lost animals, and 39% of the households had members who lost a paid job.

94% of the households had a monthly household income of less than 700 BZD (350 USD) following the floods, leaving them with extremely limited resources to cope with their loss. To overcome the household income reduction, 38% of the households mentioned support from family, 34% were spending savings, 33% mentioned humanitarian assistance (NEMO, humanitarian organizations), and 16% mentioned support from neighbors and friends.

### Shelter

Following the floods, it was estimated that up to 500 families were temporarily displaced. Many families opted to stay with family and friends, avoiding collective centers due to the risk of COVID. At the time of the assessment in early January, almost everyone had moved back, cleaning up and repairing their houses. 79% of the households included in the survey had their house flooded by 2 feet or more, and 32% of the houses surveyed were either destroyed or in need of major repairs. Many households had also lost key household items in the floods. 38% of the households had lost their stove, 31% had lost their refrigerator, 54% had lost mattresses, 24% had lost kitchen utensils, and 38% had lost clothes.

When asked about their preferred cash or in-kind support, 15% said they preferred in-kind support, and 28% said they preferred cash. The large majority (57%) said that they wanted a combination of cash and in-kind support. Still, when looking at the reasons behind their wish for a combination of cash and in-kind support, almost everybody said that they had bills to pay or needed other things than the standard household items.

The following communities received NFIs during the operation:

Arenal	La Rivera
Arizona	Lady Ville
Bainsville	Lemonal Village
Belama	Lords Bank
Belama 3	Maskall
Belama 4	May Pen
Belama 5	More Tomorrow
Benque	Nagobank
Benque, Border road	Ontario
Biscayne	Rancho Dolores
Blackman Eddy	Roaring Creek
Bomba	Roaring Creek, Chicken on the run
Bomba Road	San José Succotz
Branch Mouth	Sandhill
Bullet Tree Falls	Santa Familia
Burrell Boom	Scotland Halfmoon
Calla Creek	St. Matthew's
Crooked Tree	Sunset Park
Flowers Bank	Teakettle
Freetown Sibun	Valley of Peace
Gardenia	West Lake
Grace Bank	Western Paradise
Gracie Rock	Western Pines
Hattieville	Young Bank Camelot

### Health and WASH

Floods increase the risk of water-borne diseases like diarrhea, respiratory diseases, skin diseases, and vector-borne diseases like Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika, and Malaria, and there is a risk of an increased spread of COVID 19 if many people are together on limited space, for instance in collective centres.

When asked about the impact of the flood on their health situation, 38% of the households mentioned having been affected by a cold/flu afterwards. 19% had suffered from skin diseases, 5% had suffered from diarrhea, and 1% were infected with dengue. During the assessments, many households asked for mosquito nets as they saw an increase in mosquitoes following the floods. But there was also a need for hygiene kits, cleaning kits, water purification tablets, and PPE, along with dissemination of COVID 19 messages and general hygiene promotion activities to prevent disease outbreaks.

14% of the households had tapped water as their main source of drinking water, 44% relied on bottled water, 36% relied on rainwater as their main source of drinking water, 4% relied on river water, and 3% got their drinking water from a well or a water pump. 91% of the households regarded their water source as clean, but this has not been systematically tested by any of the country's WASH actors.

### Operation Risk Assessment

As per, 9 February 2021, Belize has recorded 237 active cases of COVID-19, 12,079 cases have been confirmed, and 310 deaths have been reported.

This DREF operation and its operational strategy have considered the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic and is aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Belize, 2020. Volunteers from the Belize Red Cross ensuring COVID-19 measures were implemented throughout the distributions of relief items under the Hurricane Eta DREF Operations. Source: Belize Red Cross.*

Throughout the flood response, measures have been taken to limit the risk of COVID-19. Staff and volunteers have been provided with PPE's (masks, face shields, and hand sanitizer), and social distancing has been observed during training and fieldwork. Due to a reported case of COVID-19 among the staff and the general fear of being infected before the holiday season, some planned field activities in December were postponed until January. During distributions beneficiaries have been requested to wear a face mask, they have had their hand sanitized before entering the distribution area, and social distancing has been maintained.

Furthermore, the NS has been actively involved in assisting families affected by COVID 19 by distributing hygiene kits, COVID kits, food packages, and COVID 19 preventive measures. The NS has been working closely with the health officials by supporting training, donating PPE's and hygiene kits to front-line workers.

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

The overall operational objective was to provide disaster relief to 1,000 families (5,000 people) within the affected areas of Cayo and Belize Districts who had been heavily affected and/or displaced due to the floods.

Assistance would be provided within shelter, livelihoods and basic needs, health, and WASH through in-kind or cash assistance. 500 households would receive cash grants, and 500 households would receive non-food items. The response would target the most vulnerable households whose houses were flooded or had their livelihoods affected by the floods. A special focus would be on reaching households with pregnant or lactating women and on families that included a member with special needs (physically or mentally challenged or older adults)

The response would be coordinated with NEMO and other first responder agencies to avoid duplication and gaps.

### Implemented strategy

#### Shelter:

Shelter tool kits, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, and blankets were procured and distributed to replace lost assets and support house repair. These items would support the restoration of homes that had been severely impacted. The BRC also distributed mattresses to affected families based on the needs assessments conducted. As distributions conducted in the first weeks of the disaster were done using the National Society's stock, some of the items procured were used to replenish the stock utilized and pre-positioned for distribution in future disasters.

The communities receiving NFIs included:-

Arenal	La Rivera
Arizona	Lady Ville
Bainsville	Lemonal Village
Belama	Lords Bank
Belama 3	Maskall
Belama 4	May Pen
Belama 5	More Tomorrow
Benque	Nagobank
Benque, Border road	Ontario
Biscayne	Rancho Dolores
Blackman Eddy	Roaring Creek

Bomba	Roaring Creek, Chicken on the run
Bomba Road	San José Succotz
Branch Mouth	Sandhill
Bullet Tree Falls	Santa Familia
Burrell Boom	Scotland Halfmoon
Calla Creek	St. Matthew's
Crooked Tree	Sunset Park
Flowers Bank	Teakettle
Freetown Sibun	Valley of Peace
Gardenia	West Lake
Grace Bank	Western Paradise
Gracie Rock	Western Pines
Hattieville	Young Bank Camelot

### Livelihoods and basic needs:

The BRC has been trained in Cash Transfer Programming and has successfully used this modality in their latest response operation in 2016. For the Eta floods response 500 households (2,500 people) were targeted for unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance, each receiving a debit card with a value of 640 BZD (320 USD) to support their immediate and recovery needs. The transfer value was reflective of the minimum wage in the country of 1.65 USD per hour or 264 USD per month<sup>2</sup>, topped up with an amount to replace lost items and transportation costs to reach an ATM machine.

The multi-purpose, unconditional cash assistance was implemented through Visa debit cards, a tested, reliable, and transparent mechanism widely used by IFRC in the Americas. The cash grants allow the most vulnerable, low-income families to cover their immediate needs regarding shelter, health, WASH, and livelihoods. The cash modality enabled each household to prioritize their specific needs and has the added value of stimulating local markets that are themselves either directly or indirectly impacted by the floods.



*Belize, 2021. Relief Delegate deployed to the Belize Red Cross DREF Operations, provides instructions to a Beneficiary of a Cash Transfer Programme. 476 households benefitted from this programme.*

*Source: Belize Red Cross*

### Health:

Due to the high risk of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, health promotion activities were provided to the target population by distributing information material and health promotion campaigns through social media use. To reduce the risk of COVID-19, PPE's was distributed to the targeted households. Similar items were procured for distribution to community health workers in the targeted communities, as they face increased risk due to their job.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion:

As the floods could negatively impact the quality of the drinking water, the NS distributed cleaning kits and hygiene kits and information on best practices on safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Buckets and jerrycans were also distributed to facilitate the safe storage of water, and aqua tabs were procured to be distributed through community health workers. COVID kits, funded by other donors, were also distributed. Community Health Workers in every target community were involved in the household distribution and use of the aqua tabs and will also assist in the monitoring of usage. Educational pamphlets were issued to each household on how to use the tablets upon distribution.

<sup>2</sup> [Minimum wage in Belize.](#)

Item	General Composition
Cleaning Kits	Broom, mop, cleaning solution, gloves, chlorine bleach, scrubbing brush, sponge
Family Hygiene Kits	Washing powder, soap, shampoo, toilet paper, rags, toothpaste, toothbrush, sanitary towels
COVID kits / PPEs	Masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes

### **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI):**

In the context of disaster, there is a strong probability of compounding existing gender inequalities and increasing the harm and risks for women, girls, and people of sexual diversity, both at home and in the community. The situation could worsen in hurricane Eta's aftermath due to overcrowding in shelters, isolation of communities, and the police force and security institutions' workload. The risk of domestic abuse increases when families are in shelters, or when they are stressed for a long time due to economic losses related to a disaster.

Two child abuse cases were detected and reported to the police department in two separate communities during the distributions. The BRC has two staff trained in PGI and is represented on the district Gender-Based Violence Committee. One of the cases is currently being dealt with by police and Social Services Dept. of the Ministry of Human Development.

### **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)**

The assessments focused on the households most severely affected by the floods. Communities assessed were selected based on local knowledge of community leaders, local volunteers, and the NS staff. During assessments, the community-directed the Red Cross to the most affected areas within each community.

Beneficiaries were all contacted before distributions to inform them of the time and place for distributions. All got detailed information regarding the assistance both at distribution site and in a brochure to take with them. Community leaders helped find people who could not be reached for some reasons and therefore did not come to the distribution point. It was carefully guarded that people kept social distancing and sanitized their hands due to COVID-19. All beneficiaries, volunteers, and staff wore masks. The few that showed up without masks were provided one. All beneficiaries got a number for a Hotline run as feedback and supporting mechanism.

The operation's feedback mechanism was a hotline offering both the possibility of WhatsApp and regular phone calls. Requests and other feedback were also collected at distribution sites, at the office and office phone, and private phone numbers of staff circulated some of the communities. The hotline received 51% of calls, 29% called to personal phones of staff members, and 13% on distribution sites. When it came to the gender of callers, 47% were male and 53% female. Most people who called in were requesting assistance as they had not been assessed in the first assessment, or 79%, followed by 10% of callers who needed assistance with the debit card they had received. The Belize Red Cross received 140 calls from 27 January (first day of distributions) to 10 February.

For the second round of distribution, 110 households had requested assistance after the first distribution list had been decided. Few cash cards had been saved from being able to respond to further requests. Out of the 110 households, 5 should have received in the first round. 4 households were considered vulnerable and prioritized. Then two communities were prioritized, one based on households still being in a shelter during the initial assessment and one based on the impact of floods. Of those requesting assistance, it was not possible to assist 81 households or 74%. All households were informed about the result of the assessment in the second round of distributions.

Along with all distributions, a Social Media campaign with a supportive message was designed. It was not rolled out from the beginning of distributions but started two weeks later for technical reasons. The social media campaign focused on supportive messaging with infographics regarding Water and Sanitation, COVID-19, and vector-borne diseases.

### **Operational support:**

#### **Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting:**

Operational updates have been provided through the ARO Weekly Operations Report and the weekly Operations and monitoring meetings. A final report will be issued within three months of the operation's completion. Lessons Learned workshops had been conducted with staff and volunteers after the completion of the assessment phase. Similarly, feedback sessions are planned to follow up on the distribution phase. Market price monitoring has been planned and will take place in mid-February.

#### **Administration and Finance:**

The Director-General of the National Society, who has extensive experience in disaster response, provides the overall oversight and sets the operations direction. An experienced Project Manager, supported by a dedicated team, is in charge of the response operation's detailed planning and management.

The IFRC CCST has assigned a dedicated Programme Manager to support the National Society. The IFRC PMER and finance team provide the necessary support and guidance to the NS operations team to ensure that IFRC policies and procedures are followed during the planned activities under DREF. IFRC also provides the necessary operational support for budget review and validation and bank transfers and technical assistance to National Societies on expense justification procedures, including invoice review and validation.

#### **Human Resources:**

This DREF operation is supported by:

- One Project Manager, for 4 months
- One Logistics Officer, for 4 months
- One Finance Officer, for 4 months

In addition, 16 volunteers and additional staff members of the Belize Red Cross have actively supported the operation's targeted areas.

The Belize Red Cross has a total of 420 volunteers, and they have all been insured through the IFRC volunteer insurance scheme. Furthermore, visibility material has been provided to the volunteers involved in the response activities.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 operation, the National Society has been operating at full capacity. Surge personnel has been deployed for three months to support the cash assistance and the CEA components. The surge personnel have also assisted in the general execution, monitoring, and reporting of operational activities.

#### **Logistics:**

All procurements related to this operation have followed the IFRC's standard procurement procedures and Sphere Standards for household item purchases. The IFRC Regional Logistics Unit in Panama has procured and shipped most of the household items included in the response: Shelter tool kits, tarpaulins, blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, buckets 14L, and jerrycans collapsible 10L. This approach was chosen to reduce the NS's workload and minimize the number of funds transferred to the NS via the Working Advance system. The National Society has locally procured mattresses, cleaning kits, and aqua tabs per the IFRC procurement procedures. The household items procured in Panama benefitted from the tax exemption on imported goods that the Belize Red Cross enjoys.

#### **Communications:**

In the early days of the disaster, a Communication Delegate was deployed from the CCST to provide coverage of the situation and the main actions. The material was disseminated through various channels, including on social media. Likewise, BRC has posted updates on their flood response through their [Facebook page](#), and they have provided messages on the creation of safe water and dengue prevention.

#### **Security:**

Belize Red Cross volunteers have been trained in basic safety standards (based on the Stay Safe manuals). They have the necessary visibility material (uniforms according to BRC regulations) and have been provided with accident insurance made available by the Movement. 50% of the BRC volunteers deployed in the flood operation are trained National Intervention Team members (NITs).

All volunteers have been briefed on the possible risks faced due to COVID 19 and were provided with the necessary PPE to conduct their duties effectively and safely.

## **C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN**

At the time of reporting, the BRC floods response has reached 1,496 affected and vulnerable households. 734 of these (3,670 people) have been served with the items or debit cards funded by the DREF. All households included in the household level assessment will receive assistance. The CTP programme was completed by the end of February 2021.

The following communities have been reached:

District	Community	# HH reached	Debit card	Household Items
Belize	Nago Bank	13	13	13
Belize	Bomba	38	38	
Belize	Maskall	54	54	
Belize	Lemonal	13	13	
Belize	Rancho Dolores	11	11	11
Belize	Flowers Bank	18		18
Belize	Scotland Halfmoon	14		14
Belize	Freetown Sibun	24	24	
Belize	Sand Hill	3		3
Belize	Western Paradise	24		22
Belize	Grace Bank	7		7
Belize	Crooked Tree	19	19	
Belize	Hattieville + Bainsville	61		61
Belize	More Tomorrow	14	14	
Belize	Roaring Creek	31	30	1
Belize	Lords Bank	25	25	
Belize	Ladyville	5	5	
Belize	May Pen	5	5	
Belize	Biscayne	4		4
Belize	Gardenia	3		3
Belize	Belama 3 and 4	30		30
Belize	Gracie Rock	29		29
Belize	Burrell Boom	11	11	
Belize	Teakettle	10		10
Belize	Young Bank Camalote	3	3	
Belize	Arizona	2		2
Belize	Blackman Eddy	22		22
Cayo	Arenal	9		9
Cayo	Benque and B. Border	10		10
Cayo	San Jose Succotz	1		1
Cayo	Santa Familia	8		8
Cayo	Ontario	1		1
Cayo	Branch Mouth	1		1
Cayo	Calla Creek	54	54	
Cayo	Bullet Tree	69	69	7
Cayo	Valley of Peace	48	48	
Cayo	La Rivera, BMP	23	23	
Cayo	St. Matthews	17	17	
	<b>TOTAL - DREF</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>287</b>



## Shelter

People reached: 1,435

Male: 746

Female: 689

**Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided emergency shelter and settlement assistance	500	287

**Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with household/shelter items (at least one)	500	287

### Progress towards outcomes

287 households have been reached with shelter related items. The names of the communities are the same as above. The communities and beneficiaries were selected based on the HH surveys conducted with the use of the ODK tool and a specific criterion developed, as well as based on the needs. NEMO also gave input. The following items were distributed:

ITEMS	#
Toolkits	214
Mattresses	200
Blankets	53

The remaining shelter items procured under the DREF will be prepositioned for the next disaster. These items were purchased in Panama and received by the NS. Shelter kits, Blankets, Hygiene kits and buckets, are included in the current expenditure<sup>3</sup>. This includes 1447 blankets, 286 toolkits, and 1000 tarpaulins. It was decided not to distribute any of the tarpaulins as none of the households were affected by wind damage or had suffered damage to their roof.

In addition to the items funded by the DREF, the National Society has distributed 419 blankets from their prepositioned stock or with funding from other donors.



## Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 2,380

Male: 1,238

Female: 1,142

**Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families assisted to meet basic needs	500	476

**Output 1.1: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
One cash feasibility study and Rapid Market Assessment done	1	1

<sup>3</sup> A reflection of this expenditure will be in the final report as this report covers up to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

**Progress towards outcomes**

At the time of reporting, 476 HH had received a debit card loaded with 640 BZD (320 USD). The transfer value is reflective of the minimum wage in the country of USD\$1.65 per hour or USD\$264 per month, topped up with an amount to replace lost items and transportation costs to reach an ATM machine. A folder with guidance on how to use an ATM machine and some key information on the program was distributed together with the debit cards.

The multi-purpose cash assistance has targeted the communities that were hardest hit by the floods. All targeted households in the selected communities received debit cards to avoid dissatisfaction and conflict among community members if some would receive cash and others in-kind assistance. It is expected that many households will use part of the cash to buy food or livelihood inputs, as this was identified as one of the main needs by 97% and 71% of the assessed households.

A cash feasibility analysis was done based on secondary information as well as an assessment of the availability of ATMs in Belize. The assessment showed that cash was a feasible response option, although many households would have to go far to reach an ATM machine.

A rapid market assessment was conducted, including 13 shops in 11 communities. The assessment showed that the shops in the targeted communities are mainly small shops selling basic food and hygiene products. For instance, to buy other items, shelter material, or livelihood inputs, people would have to go to the nearest bigger town. Some of the shops had themselves been affected by the floods, and among their main challenges was the lack of liquidity and the request for credit from their customers. The distribution of cash in these communities could help overcome these challenges.

**Health****People reached: 3,670**

Male: 1,908

Female: 1,762

**Outcome 2: The immediate risk to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with health and hygiene services	500	0

**Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of PPE distributed to families	500	0

**Progress towards outcomes**

BRC was running a COVID response programme simultaneously. As funding was available for PPE (COVID kits) from other sources, the DREF did not fund any PPEs for flood-affected households. But with support from other funding sources, more than 600 COVID kits were distributed. The COVID kits included masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes. Therefore, it was decided to provide COVID kits to Community Health Workers in close contact with community members that may be infected. These will be distributed during the second half of February 2021.

**Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential reduced.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families reached with disease control activities	1,000	734

**Output 4.1: Community based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of awareness-raising sessions at the community level	3	0

# of families reached by health promotion campaigns, and disease prevention and control activities	1,000	734
Information material, including health and hygiene, was produced and distributed together with the household items and debit cards. The messages included information on handwashing and creating safe water after a flood.		



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 3,435

Male: 1,786

Female: 1,649

### **Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with water-related services	2,000	2,000

### **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**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people benefit from water that is fit for human consumption	2,000	2,000

#### **Progress towards outcomes**

Main sources of drinking water were identified in the household assessment. In the Cayo District, 19% of households rely on unsafe drinking water sources (wells, rivers, or rainwater). In the Belize District, 59% of households rely on these three sources.

Contact was made to the national WASH Working Group, of which BRC is a member together with the Ministry of Health. However, no monitoring of the water quality in the flooded communities had been done by any of the members, as they were busy with COVID-related activities. The National Society has two water purification plants from an earlier response operation, but both needed servicing and repair. With funding from other sources, they were sent to be repaired to be ready for the next disaster.

Instead of distributing bottled water in sufficient quantities to the target population, it was decided to distribute water purification tablets. However, when preparing for distributions, the tablets were sold out in the country. In February 2021, 24,000 aqua tabs were procured, distributed to 2,000 people (400 households) through Community Health Workers.

### **Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (household items) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# family hygiene kits delivered to target population	500	287
# cleaning kits distributed	500	67

#### **Progress towards outcomes**

287 households were reached with hygiene-related items through the DREF. The following items have been distributed:

ITEMS	#
Hygiene kits	292
Cleaning kits	67
Buckets	90

Jerry cans (10 litres)	242
------------------------	-----

The remaining items procured under the DREF will be prepositioned for future disasters. This includes 208 hygiene kits and 258 jerry cans. Most of the buckets were stuck together and could not be separated and distributed.

With funding from other sources and prepositioned stocks, the NS distributed 577 hygiene kits, 479 cleaning kits, 23 buckets, and 462 jerry cans in the early stages of the response before the DREF items could arrive from Panama.

**Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies and capacities to plan and perform**

**Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of insured volunteers	420	420
# of volunteers equipped	100	16
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>420 volunteers have been included in the volunteer insurance programme of IFRC for the full calendar year of 2021. 16 volunteers that were part of the DREF operation received vests, raincoats, rubber boots, and COVID kits, including masks, shields.</p> <p>50 vests are being procured to replace old ones.</p>		

**Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of National Society Staff Members actively involved in the operations	3	3
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>Three staff members are dedicated to the flood response operation, and others are supporting, as necessary. 16 volunteers have been involved in the assessments and distributions in the communities.</p> <p>The office and warehouse space of BRC and vehicles and office equipment have been used in support of the operation. Mobile phones donated under previous responses were used to support the data collection in ODK Collect.</p>		

**Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured**

**Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge deployments to support the operation	2	2
# of monitoring visits	1	1
# of lessons learned carried out	1	1
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>A representative from the CCST office came to Belize soon after the approval of the DREF to kick-start the response until delegates to support the response could be identified and deployed. Two delegates were deployed to Belize. The Relief and Cash Delegate arrived on 25 November for 3 months, and the CEA Delegate started her mission remotely on 7 December, arriving in the country on 8 January 2021.</p> <p>Lessons Learned workshops were held at the branch level on 21 January 2021, collecting feedback from staff and volunteers on the assessment phase. Similar workshops are planned for 11 February, focusing on the experience from the distributions.</p>		

Market price monitoring is planned for mid-February, including the shops that participated in the Rapid Market Assessment.

***Output S2.1.3: National Society compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved***

**Progress towards outcomes**

Activities:

Regular communication with the Chairpersons of the communities occurred and liaison with the NEMO district offices to keep the people informed. Also, direct contact with focal points within these communities established over the years of work by the BRC was effective in communicating operational plans during the response. Information was shared with NEMO Headquarters as often as possible to ensure there was no duplication of efforts. A hotline number was also established and disseminated for beneficiary feed-back. Community members outside of distributions also utilized the hotline to request support.

## **D. Financial Report**

The total budget for the DREF was 425,329 CHF. For the reporting period a total of 101,970 CHF has been spent under Shelter, Strengthening National Societies and Effective International Disaster Management (See [Interim Financial Report](#) attached for details.)

## Reference documents

Click here for:

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

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

**In the Belize Red Cross**

- Lily Bowman, Director General, [bzercshq@btl.net](mailto:bzercshq@btl.net) , 501-627-8801
- Jessie Young, Programme Manager, [jes.belizeredcross@yahoo.com](mailto:jes.belizeredcross@yahoo.com), 501-629-7890

**In the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation**

- Ariel Kestens, Head of Country Cluster Support Team, [ariel.kestens@ifrc.org](mailto:ariel.kestens@ifrc.org)
- Nasir Khan, Programme and Operations Manager, [nasir.khan@ifrc.org](mailto:nasir.khan@ifrc.org)
- Tanesha Thompson, Programme Manager, [tanisha.thompson@ifrc.org](mailto:tanisha.thompson@ifrc.org)
- Rhea Marie Pierre, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, [rhea.pierre@ifrc.org](mailto:rhea.pierre@ifrc.org)

**In the IFRC Americas Regional Office**

- Felipe del Cid, Continental Operations Coordinator; +507 317 3050; [felipe.delcid@ifrc.org](mailto:felipe.delcid@ifrc.org)
- Mauricio Bustamante, Regional Logistics coordinator, +507 317 • 3050; [mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org](mailto:mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org)
- Sandra Romero, Partnerships and Resource Development, +507 66706800, [sandra.romero@ifrc.org](mailto:sandra.romero@ifrc.org)
- Susana Arroyo, Communications Manager, +506 84161771, [susana.arroyo@ifrc.org](mailto:susana.arroyo@ifrc.org)
- Maria Larios; Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting manager; +507 317-3050; [maria.larios@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.larios@ifrc.org)

**In IFRC Geneva**

- Antoine Belair; Operations Coordination Senior Officer; [antoine.belair@ifrc.org](mailto:antoine.belair@ifrc.org)
- Eszter Matyeka DREF, Senior Officer; [eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org](mailto:eszter.matyeka@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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

# DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/11-2021/1	Operation	MDRBZ006
Budget Timeframe	2020/11-2021/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 16/Mar/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRBZ006 - Belize - Hurricane Eta

Operating Timeframe: 15 Nov 2020 to 31 Mar 2021

### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>425,329</b>
DREF Allocations	425,329
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-101,970</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>323,359</b>

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

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			<b>0</b>
AOF2 - Shelter	143,246	44,668	<b>98,578</b>
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	164,074		<b>164,074</b>
AOF4 - Health	6,901		<b>6,901</b>
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,836	3	<b>2,833</b>
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			<b>0</b>
AOF7 - Migration			<b>0</b>
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>317,057</b>	<b>44,670</b>	<b>272,387</b>
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	75,289	51,433	<b>23,856</b>
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	32,983	5,866	<b>27,117</b>
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			<b>0</b>
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			<b>0</b>
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>108,272</b>	<b>57,299</b>	<b>50,973</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>425,329</b>	<b>101,970</b>	<b>323,360</b>

# DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/11-2021/1	Operation	MDRBZ006
Budget Timeframe	2020/11-2021/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 16/Mar/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRBZ006 - Belize - Hurricane Eta

Operating Timeframe: 15 Nov 2020 to 31 Mar 2021

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>244,823</b>	<b>32,603</b>	<b>212,220</b>
Shelter - Relief	26,080	12,880	13,200
Clothing & Textiles	35,955	5,955	30,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	13,930	11,270	2,660
Medical & First Aid	283	283	0
Teaching Materials	2,300		2,300
Utensils & Tools	13,215	2,215	11,000
Cash Disbursement	153,060		153,060
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>57,999</b>	<b>9,637</b>	<b>48,362</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	38,400	5,529	32,871
Transport & Vehicles Costs	9,000		9,000
Logistics Services	10,599	4,108	6,491
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>31,853</b>	<b>4,091</b>	<b>27,762</b>
International Staff	18,162		18,162
National Society Staff	13,061	3,461	9,600
Volunteers	630	630	0
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>500</b>		<b>500</b>
Workshops & Training	500		500
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>18,147</b>	<b>3,367</b>	<b>14,780</b>
Travel	8,295	3,295	5,000
Information & Public Relations	6,480		6,480
Office Costs	2,373	373	2,000
Communications	819	19	800
Financial Charges	179	-321	500
<b>Operational Provisions</b>	<b>46,048</b>	<b>46,048</b>	<b>0</b>
Operational Provisions	46,048	46,048	0
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>25,959</b>	<b>6,224</b>	<b>19,736</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	25,959	6,224	19,736
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>425,329</b>	<b>101,970</b>	<b>323,360</b>