

DREF operation n° MDRCR009 GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000126-CRI](#) 09 April 2013

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: 90,095 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 750 families (3,750 persons).

On the last week of July, a low-pressure system in the Caribbean brought severe precipitations to the Limón and Cartago provinces of Costa Rica. More than 9,500 persons were affected by the overflowing of rivers, particularly in the Talamanca municipality, and landslides in Turrialba. With the support of the DREF, the CRRC assisted 2,060 families with non-food relief items and access to drinking water through the cleaning of wells and hygiene promotion, significantly surpassing the original target of 750 families.



The Costa Rican Red Cross collaborated with governmental authorities to assist affected families with the cleaning of wells. Source: CRRC

The IFRC, on behalf of the Costa Rican Red Cross, gives thanks to the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the Netherlands Red Cross Silent Emergencies Fund for the generous contributions provided to replenish the DREF allocation for this operation. 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 National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions, in particular to the Norwegian Red Cross and ECHO who 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

Between 28 and 30 July 2012, a low system pressure in the Caribbean brought severe precipitations to Limón and Cartago provinces of Costa Rica. The overflowing of rivers and landslides prompted the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (*Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgo y Atención de Emergencias*, CNE) to declare alerts in several cantons on the eastern side of the country. Many communities in these regions were flooded, became isolated by the landslides and road damages, and lost access to public services such as electricity and water.

The region affected is characterized by small communities and a low-density population of less than 200,000 inhabitants. Overall, over 124 communities were affected by landslides, with 9,523 persons directly impacted prompting the opening of 46 collective centres.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

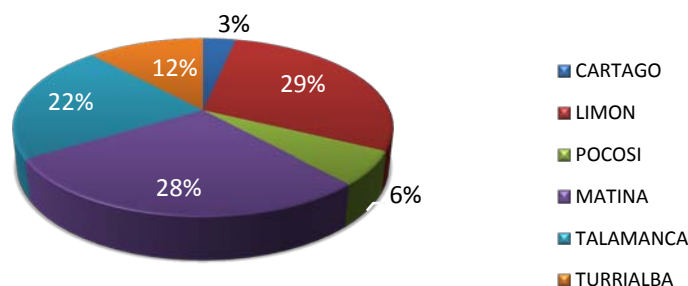
From the start of the emergency, the CRRC coordinated with other actors in their search, rescue, evacuation and pre-hospital treatment of affected people. Once, the first immediate response was concluded, volunteers visited families in the affected areas to converse with beneficiaries to better understand their specific needs. In this way, distribution during this operation was targeted based on the detailed reports gathered, with some families receiving diverse non-food items, while others were assisted only with the cleaning of their wells.



Volunteers of the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) visited communities and homes to talk with the affected families to better understand the situation and needs of beneficiaries. Source: CRRC

This strategy allowed the National Society to assist a total of 2,060 families, 274% of the original target of 750 families. Of the population assisted, 1,207 were children.

Percentage of families reached per area



Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate needs of 750 families affected are met through the distribution of essential household items

Outputs: 750 families (3,750 persons) will receive one kitchen kit, one hygiene kit and two jerry cans.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure and distribute relief supplies to affected families.
- Monitor and report on relief distributions.

Impact: In an effort to increase efficiency, the Costa Rican Red Cross implemented a method of distribution that target the specific needs of affected families instead of a general distribution with all families receiving the same items. Therefore, the National Society was able to reach more beneficiaries with fewer items. This strategy allowed the National Society to assist a total of 2,060 families, 274% of the original target of 750 families. Of the population assisted, 1,207 were children.

Relief items were distributed as stated in the table below:

	Cartago	Limon	Pocosi	Matina	Talamanca	Turrialba	Total
Hygiene kit	65	182	82	100	179	141	749
Kitchen set	68	164	70	173	133	142	750
Jerry cans	945	5	64	215	66	-	1,295

To avoid duplication of efforts, the CRRC selected the families assisted in partnership with the CNE, municipal and local authorities, and other humanitarian and technical actors. The following criteria was used:

1. Families with proven difficulties to recover with their own resources.
2. Families that lost their livelihood of agricultural production due to the emergency.
3. Families that are not being similarly assisted by other organizations or actors.
4. Families with single parents, elderly members, children under five years old, or with members with physical or mental disabilities.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Reduction of the risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities through the provision of safe water as well as hygiene promotion.

Outputs: 750 families are reached with the cleaning of their wells and with hygiene promotion

Activities planned:

- Procure water analysis and cleaning equipment.
- Clean wells in affected communities.
- Train volunteers on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.
- Coordinate and complete well cleaning and hygiene promotion activities in coordination with local and national authorities.
- Monitor activities and report in a timely manner.

Impact: The Costa Rican Red Cross cleaned a total of 1,361 wells that were contaminated after the rains and floods of July 2012. This strategy ensured that the CRRC target specific needs of the affected families, instead of providing a more general intervention, thus enduring these families could have access to safe water and reducing their risk to water related diseases.

With the direct support of the DREF, the National Society was able to clean a total of 964 wells while the remaining 397 wells were reached with the support of the local authorities (Juntas Regionales) who provided transportation and other resources.

	Cartago	Limon	Pocosi	Matina	Talamanca	TOTAL
Cleaned wells	-	295	95	313	261	964
Jerry cans (4 Gal.)	945	5	64	215	66	1,295

This activity was completed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health who provided technical support to monitor and to validate the work completed by the volunteers. Additionally, the lists of beneficiaries were created alongside the Mixed Institute of Social Assistance (Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social), the governmental authority in charge of assisting persons after emergencies. The support of the authorities also permitted to significantly reduce the cost of the objective as is reflected in the final financial report.

In addition, 1,622 affected families in Talamanca, Limón, and Matina were reached with hygiene promotion campaigns. They received information on the importance of washing hands, adequate latrine use, and waste disposal.

Area	No. of families
Limon	595
Matina	580
Talamanca	447
Total	1,622

Lessons Learnt

On 14 and 15 November, members of the CRRC involved in this DREF-supported operation held a lessons learnt workshop to identify gaps in procedures and recommendations for future operations. Although different elements were analyzed, one of the main conclusions was the need to improve the process of information gathering on the first days after the emergency. It was decided to create more simple and standard field forms to expedite the collection of data and facilitate the analysis of the situation.

The examination of the emergency response also proved that the operation had the added value of facilitating the draw up of matrixes to carry out Vulnerabilities and Capacities Analysis (VCA) with the affected communities. Finally, it was also decided to revise the pre-positioning of relief items at regional level to improve the timing of the response and reduce the operational cost of distribution.

Members of the governing board of the National Society were invited to the last day of the meeting when all the recommendations were compiled.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In the Costa Rican Red Cross:** Jim Batres Rodriguez, national deputy director of operations and relief; phone: + 506. 254.25.011; email: jim.batres@cruzroja.or.cr
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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 9 August 2012 for CHF 90,095 for three months to assist 3,750 beneficiaries.



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1. Financial final report [below](#)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in 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.

www.ifrc.org
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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MDRCR009 - Costa Rica - Floods / Talamanca

Appeal Launch Date: 09 aug 12

Appeal Timeframe: 09 aug 12 to 09 nov 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/8-2013/2
Budget Timeframe	2012/8-2012/11
Appeal	MDRCR009
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	90,095					90,095	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	90,095					90,095	
C4. Other Income	90,095					90,095	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	90,095					90,095	
D. Total Funding = B +C	90,095					90,095	
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	90,095					90,095	
E. Expenditure	-72,367					-72,367	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	17,728					17,728	

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Reporting Timeframe	2012/8-2013/2
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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)		90,095					90,095	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	31,771	20,290				20,290	11,481	
Utensils & Tools	22,275	24,940				24,940	-2,664	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	54,046	45,229				45,229	8,817	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	6,795	827				827	5,968	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,890	3,430				3,430	-1,540	
Logistics Services	1,938						1,938	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,623	4,257				4,257	6,367	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	3,510	2,991				2,991	519	
Volunteers	3,276	8,886				8,886	-5,610	
Total Personnel	6,786	11,877				11,877	-5,091	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	2,250						2,250	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	2,250						2,250	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	6,750	1,677				1,677	5,073	
Total Workshops & Training	6,750	1,677				1,677	5,073	
General Expenditure								
Travel	720						720	
Information & Public Relations	900	1,473				1,473	-573	
Office Costs	810	714				714	96	
Communications	810	38				38	772	
Financial Charges	900	2,686				2,686	-1,786	
Total General Expenditure	4,140	4,911				4,911	-770	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	5,499	4,417				4,417	1,082	
Total Indirect Costs	5,499	4,417				4,417	1,082	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	90,095	72,367				72,367	17,728	
VARIANCE (C - D)		17,728				17,728		