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# Information Bulletin

Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua: Tropical Depression 16 and floods



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Information Bulletin N° 1</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 4 October 2017
<b>Date of disaster:</b> emerging	<b>Focal Point:</b> Santiago Luengo, disaster manager coordinator for Central America, email: <a href="mailto:santiago.luengo@ifrc.org">santiago.luengo@ifrc.org</a>
<b>Host National Societies:</b> Colombian Red Cross Society, Costa Rican Red Cross, Guatemalan Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Nicaraguan Red Cross and Salvadorian Red Cross Society.	

**This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.** The National Societies of Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), have determined that external assistance is not required, and are therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time. However, the Nicaraguan Red Cross is in process of requesting an allocation from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and the Guatemalan Red Cross has launched a DREF operation on 2 October for floods and with this tropical depression the situation has worsened and may amend their plan of action.

## The Situation

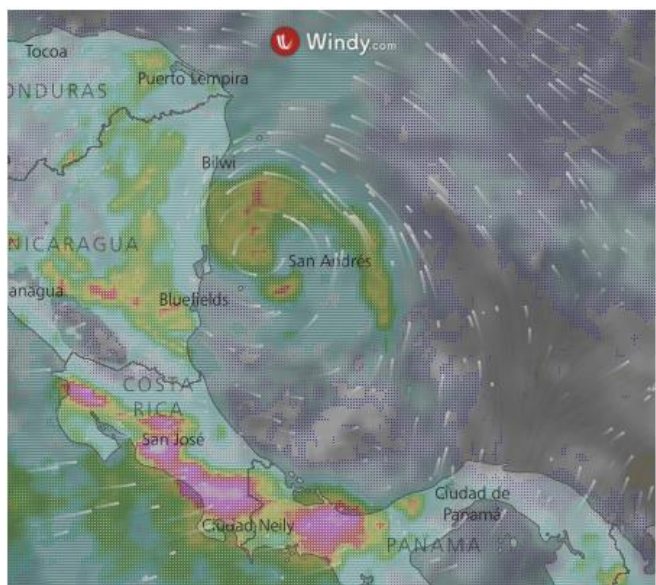
On 4 October 2017, according to the National Hurricane Center, life threatening flash floods and mudslides are possible over portions of Central America from the Tropical Depression 16.

Forecasts indicate the depression should be nearing the coast of Nicaragua early Thursday, then across northeastern Nicaragua and eastern Honduras late Thursday and later emerging into the northwestern Caribbean Sea on Friday, 6 October 2017.

As Tropical storm warning is in effect for Sandy Bay Sirpi Nicaragua to Punta Castilla in Honduras. Other possible areas to monitor are the Bay Islands in Honduras, western Cuba and the Yucatan Peninsula



Map 1 Rain



Map 2 Cloudiness

The maps above show the countries affected by colour. On both maps, red means areas with most rain and floods. On map 1 blue colour means rainfall while on map 2 grey colour means cloudiness. Click [here](#) to see the dashboard elaborated to track this tropical depression 16.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



### Colombia

The Colombian Red Cross Society provided the following information:

Situation	Actions
Tropical depression 16 is affecting with rainfall in the island of San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina in Colombia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Colombian government prepositioned relief kits for 5,000 people in the island of San Andres.</li> <li>The Colombian government in coordination with the Colombian Red Cross Society dispatched a water treatment plant, water pumps, generators and a water tank to the islands.</li> </ul>



### Costa Rica

The Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) provided the following information:

Situation	Actions
<p>A Red alert was emitted for the following regions: South Pacific, Region 8- South Zone – Central Pacific: Region 6- Puntarenas- North Pacific: Region 5- Guanacaste- Huetar Norte: Region 9- North Zone- Central Valley: Region 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports of 9 related incidents in 32 districts, 249 people are in 10 collective centres.</li> <li>Constant monitoring for rain and high tides in the Pacific coast region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) has responded to 762 rainfall related events since 21 September: 667 flood incidents – 4 incidents for strong winds- 5 incidents related to mudslides and avalanches- 84 landslides- 2 incidents in isolated communities.</li> <li>The CRRC made available a 11-tonne truck to the National Emergency Commission for the use of distribution of humanitarian aid.</li> <li>The CRRC posted a report on the IFRC's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) with initial information</li> </ul>



### El Salvador

Situation	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of El Salvador declared a yellow alert in two departments, due to landslides and damages to roads in the departments of Chalatenango and La Libertad including the 29 municipalities located in all the coastal zone of the country. For the rest of the country the green alert is maintained, due to the rains that range from moderate to intense in some areas for approximately ten days.</li> <li>The Civil Protection System; Issued a yellow alert in the departments of La Libertad and Chalatenango including the 29 municipalities of the country in the coastal zone, as well as the municipalities of Juayúa and Nahuizalco. A green alert is maintained at national level in the remaining 181 municipalities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Salvadorian Red Cross Society (SRCS) has supported families in the coastal area with distributions of hygiene kits, blankets and mats, as well as needs assessments for families affected by landslides in the Department of La Libertad. A report will be sent out by the National Society.</li> <li>The SRCS posted a report on the IFRC's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) platform with information on the emergency.</li> <li>The IFRC maintains direct contact with the National Society's Director of Risk Management.</li> <li>The IFRC is providing remote support to the National Society.</li> </ul>



### Guatemala

The Guatemalan Red Cross has carried out the following actions due to increase in rainfall:

Situation	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rainfall has left damages and destruction of roads houses and crops. The floods and landslides have left 307,367 people affected, 6,237 people were evacuated, 1,629 people are at risk, 4,012 people affected, 1,409 people and 25 deaths. There were 1,972 homes with mild damage, 1,929 homes with moderate damage, 145 with severe damage, and 295 homes are at risk. 110</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A DREF operation was launched on Monday, 2 October in order for the National Society to reach people affected by floods.</li> <li>The Guatemalan Red Cross is carrying out monitoring actions in other departments of Guatemala, in addition to damage and needs assessments.</li> </ul>

affected roads, 609 schools affected, 24 bridges affected and 14 destroyed. (In total for the rainy season).

- The National Coordination for Disaster Reduction of Guatemala (CONRED) maintains 5 departments in yellow alert, 3 in red and 12 in green, but an evaluation is being made by the authorities to declare a state of emergency.

- The Guatemalan Red Cross has set up a collection centre where humanitarian aid will be received, which will be classified, packaged and distributed to the affected families.
- Daily information is posted on the DMIS about the situation and actions of the National Society.
- The IFRC is coordinating with the GRC's Programme Coordinator the possible visit of disaster manager and/or Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to support the emergency.
- Daily contact is maintained with the Director of Risk Management.
- Constant communication maintained with CONRED.



## Honduras

The Honduran Red Cross has carried out the following actions:

Situation	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The departments of Ocotepeque, Copán, Lempira, Intibucá, Santa Bárbara and Comayagua are in yellow alert.</li> <li>• The municipalities bordering the Ulua River are in red alert.</li> <li>• According to the Permanent Contingency Commission of Honduras (COPECO) there are more than 6,000 people affected by the rainfall since last month.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IFRC is providing remote support to the Honduran Red Cross (HRC).</li> <li>• The HRC's National Centre for Monitoring and Strategic Monitoring Centres were activated.</li> <li>• The HRC is providing support to collective centres.</li> <li>• Assistance to COPECO's National Emergency Operations Centre.</li> <li>• Water distribution in the Municipality of San José de Colinas (Santa Barbara).</li> <li>• Coordination meetings with the Emergency Municipal Committees.</li> </ul>



## Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan Red Cross will be requesting a DREF for preparedness. So far, the National Society has carried out the following:

Situation	Comments
<p>Rain continues in the northern departments of the country and in the Atlantic area, there are several bridges that have collapsed due to the flooding of rivers. Some houses reported flooded in some municipalities.</p> <p>The Government of Nicaragua continues monitoring the situation and is implementing contingency plans. The operational centre of disasters was activated. Rain in recent days has left at least 79 homes flooded in Managua.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IFRC is supporting the National Society in preparing a DREF emergency plan of action.</li> <li>• The Nicaraguan Red Cross's Emergency Operations Centre was activated as well as its local branches.</li> <li>• There is permanent communication with Nicaragua's national disaster prevention and response agency (SINAPRED) to share and disseminate information to the general population.</li> </ul>

IFRC actions:

- The disaster management coordinator has been in communication with all National Societies affected by the Tropical Depression and floods to obtain information on the situation.
- A [dashboard](#) has been created for the tracking of the Tropical Depression 16.
- A DREF plan of action is under development to support the Nicaraguan Red Cross

## Contact information

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

**In the IFRC country cluster office for Central America, in Tegucigalpa:**

- Nelson Aly Rodríguez; Head of Country Cluster office for Central America; email:

[nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org)

#### In the IFRC Americas regional office in Panama:

- Santiago Luengo: Regional Disaster Management Coordinator for Central America and Mexico, mobile: +507 6679-3238; email: [santiago.luengo@ifrc.org](mailto:santiago.luengo@ifrc.org).
- Iñigo Barrena, head of the disaster and crisis department; mobile: +507 6679-3238; email: [ci.barrena@ifrc.org](mailto:ci.barrena@ifrc.org)
- Diana Medina, communications manager for the Americas, phone: +507 6780-5395; email: [diana.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:diana.medina@ifrc.org)
- Priscila Gonzalez; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting team coordinator; phone: +507 317-3050; email: [priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org](mailto:priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org)
- Marion Andrivet; emergency appeals & marketing officer; phone: +507 317-3050; email: [marion.andrivet@ifrc.org](mailto:marion.andrivet@ifrc.org)

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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 (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.

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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.