

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Colombia: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRCO008
GLIDE n° [FL-2010-000076-COL](#)
Revised Appeal
03 June 2011

Progress under the programmatic sectors of this Revised Appeal covers from 20 March to 19 May 2011.

Revised appeal target: This revised appeal seeks 1,320,878 Swiss francs (USD 1,554,360 or EUR 1,086,060) to support the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) in providing assistance to 14,372 affected families over a period of 9 months. [<Click here to view the attached Revised Emergency Appeal Budget>](#)

Appeal coverage: Approximately 80.8 per cent; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details>](#)



The church in Cantagallo, south of Bolivar department, was one of many community areas flooded as the emergency situation continues. Source: CRCS

Appeal history:

- 25,000 Swiss francs were allocated from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation.
- On 8 December, a Preliminary Emergency Appeal was launched to support 3,800 families for 6 months.
- On 17 December, an Emergency Appeal was issued to seek 1,075,905 Swiss francs to support the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS), increasing the assistance to 14,300 families (71,500 persons).
- On 1 April, an operations update was issued informing that the department of Córdoba was exchanged with the department of Bolivar to fill an assistance gap discovered during coordinating meetings with other organizations.

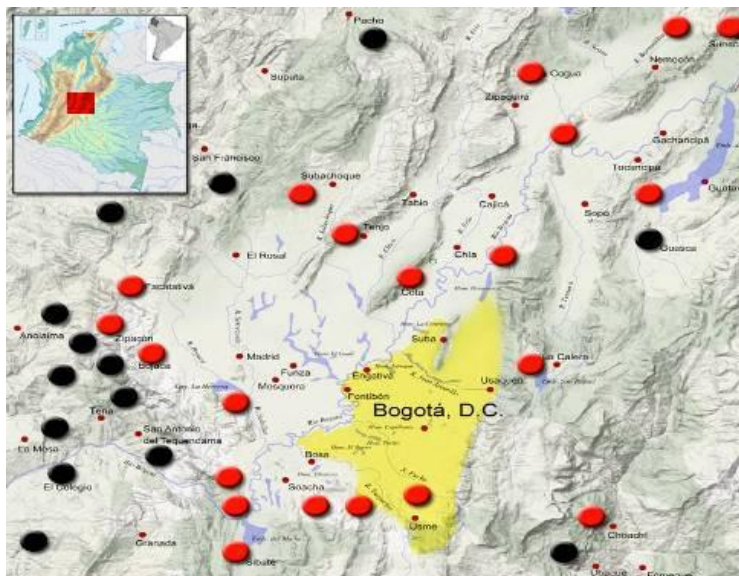
This Revised Appeal reflects an extension of the implementation timeframe to 9 months to complete activities and a revised budget of 1,320,878 Swiss francs. In addition, the target number of people has been increased to 14,372 families (72 additional families).

Summary: The Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) has now reached 263,608 families with the support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as through the collaboration with other organizations and national donations. In regards to the activities planned as part of the emergency appeal, during the period covered by this Revised Appeal, the National Society reached its emergency health outcome, and completed 80 per cent of the water distribution to 3,500 families.

However, as the emergency situation continues to be critical in Colombia and with additional rainfall forecasted for the upcoming months, the National Society calls for an extension of three months to complete all the remaining activities. In addition, the National Society would like to purchase and pre-position 450 family tents to enable the quick provision of shelter solutions for future affected families. The operation will therefore be

completed by the end of August 2011. In line with the IFRC's reporting standards, the final report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by the end of November 2011).

The IFRC is thankful to the following Partner National Societies and governments for their kind support to the Appeal: the American Red Cross, the Australian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian government, the Danish Red Cross, the Red Cross Society of China, Hong Kong branch, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Monaco Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the New Zealand Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross.



Red alerts on the Bogotá savannah, Andean region of Colombia.
Source: CRCS

The situation

Although there was a two-month reprieve early in the year, the emergency situation due to floods in Colombia continues after almost a year of incessant rainfall. The country now has 3,289,107 persons affected, approximately 766,476 families in 28 departments. The current situation has surpassed the response capacity of all institutions as areas that had no history of flooding, such as the Bogotá savannah, are now also underwater and the frequency and intensity of landslides has increased.

At the moment, the most intense affectation is concentrated in the middle and lower areas of the Bogotá River basin, with the highest levels of alerts for the Andean, Pacific and Atlantic regions.

Since the start of 2011, 25 departments and the capital district have been affected. The CRCS maintains its alerts on all these areas. Only in 2011, an estimated 102,844 families (468,156 persons) have been affected and the National Society estimate that 125 persons have died. The following table illustrates the level of affectation of the ten departments with the highest impact (which represent 70 per cent of the overall number of people affected – 3,289,107 – in the country since 2010).

10 most affected departments: La Niña weather phenomenon 2010 - 2011				
Department	Deaths	Injured	Persons	Families
Bolívar	5	0	518,214	110,415
Magdalena	5	7	334,797	70,292
Cauca	9	10	298,106	65,880
Córdoba	0	0	201,460	47,266
Chocó	16	11	181,173	41,619
Atlántico	6	7	175,609	42,694
César	8	1	168,277	33,662
Valle del Cauca	13	12	165,088	34,290
Nariño	31	52	141,396	69,403
Tolima	12	4	122,483	26,511
TOTAL	105	104	2,306,603	542,032

The Colombian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stated that the agricultural losses reached 1,080,000 hectares, with some 700,000 farm animals lost and 1,430,200 displaced.

Coordination and partnerships

Given the size of the emergency situation and the scale of the response needed, the CRCS has worked intensively to increase coordination and collaboration with diverse partners. In addition to the partnerships mentioned in the previous operations updates ([click here to view n° 1](#) and [here to view n° 2](#)), the National Society during the reporting period has now established agreements with the following organizations:

Donor	Amount (Colombian Pesos)	Area	Activity	Target population
OXFAM GB- ECHO¹	\$ 916,894,132	Atlántico	Water and sanitation	1,000 families
ECHO – German Red Cross - CRCS	\$ 804,990,800	Santander Magdalena	Water and sanitation, relief items	2,400 families
American Red Cross	\$ 192,416,500	Bolívar Córdoba Sucre Guajira Atlántico Tolima	Water and sanitation, health, risk reduction.	3,000 families

At present, the overall operation of the CRCS has 20 projects covering relief distribution, water and sanitation, health and shelter, with a budget of 21,762,195,002 Colombian Pesos (approximately 10,278,500 Swiss francs or 11,821,400 US dollars).

In Colombia, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has a Memorandum of Understanding in place which is part of a series of mechanisms to ensure appropriate and effective coordination. The CRCS is in constant communication with the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), the Regional Representation for the Andean Region, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies (PNS), which are monitoring the situation and determining actions. In this regard, during the first week of May, a member of the IFRC's finance unit visited the National Society to support the local procurement process, as well as other administrative activities.

National Society Capacity Building: As the severe weather is forecasted to continue in the following months, the CRCS continues to work with the local and regional Committees for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CLOPAD and CROPAD, respectively), supporting the risk reduction and damage mitigation processes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

With the support of national donations, the CRCS has thus far distributed 3,498.02 tons of emergency relief items since the emergency started in March 2010, reaching 156,714 families (798,869 people). The table below illustrates the number of persons reached by the National Society with the support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as through collaboration with other organizations and national donations:

Activity	Families reached	Persons reached
Relief distribution	190,484	964,230

¹ The Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission

Water and sanitation	72,507	364,060
Emergency health	-	10,436
Shelter	617	3,130
TOTAL	263,608	1,341,856

In regards to the emergency appeal, during the period covered by this document the CRCS finished all the planned health activities, reaching 2,716 persons with general practice consultations, 1,080 persons with dentistry consultations, 391 persons with nursery visits, 227 persons with psychological consultations and 3,135 with counselling and health promotion activities. In addition, 80 per cent of the target to distribute potable water to 3,500 families was reached, and the National Society is finishing the process to purchase 5,070 water filters.

As part of the emergency appeal, the CRCS now intends to reach **14,372 families**, 72 more than the original target: two more families will be assisted with transitional shelter while 70 more families will receive water filters.

With the current Revised Appeal, the CRCS calls for support to purchase 450 family tents as the emergency situation continues and there is the possibility in the future to quickly provide shelter solutions to new families I need. In addition, an extension of three months will be needed to fulfill all activities that were delayed due to the need to response to the ongoing emergency.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome: The families most affected by the constant rains will benefit with humanitarian emergency relief to support their efforts to resume essential household activities.	
Outputs	Activities planned
5,000 families (25,000 persons) will receive hygiene kits, kitchen kits, dinner sets, hammocks and mosquito nets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Coordinate with the Regional Committees for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CREPAD), the Local Committees for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CLOPAD) and local authorities to prioritize affected families and develop a beneficiary targeting strategy. • Procurement and distribution of relief items. • Coordination of relief distributions with CLOPAD and CREPAD. • Monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities and quality of items and reporting on relief distributions.

Progress: In an effort to save resources and time, the National Society decided to distribute all items simultaneously. As shown in the table bellow, all purchased items are being pre-positioned in the departmental branches' warehouses until the complete set has being acquired and distributions can be completed:

Red Cross branch	Mosquito nets	Hygiene kits	Kitchen kits	Dinner sets	Hammocks
Atlántico	2,000	1,000	1,000		1,000
Bolívar	2,000	1,000			1,000
Chocó	2,000				1,000
Magdalena	2,000				1,000
Valle	2,000				*

*These families will receive mattresses.

As mentioned on previous updates, the National Society is now distributing hammocks to 4,000 families and mattresses to 1,000 families to respect cultural practices and decrease costs.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: The families affected by the current rainy season will have access to primary health care and monitoring.	
Outputs	Activities planned
Public health services are supported with mobile health units to meet the health needs of 750 families (3,700 persons).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with existing public health services to assess and monitor the health risks of 750 families in terms access to health services, prevention, and risk of communicable diseases. • Assist 750 families with health care through Mobile Health Units, consultation and distribution of medicines, as well as provide advice on children's growth and development. • Organize and facilitate educational activities on hygiene promotion, skin diseases, acute respiratory infections and diarrheic diseases.
Selected affected groups and communities receiving psychosocial support have increased their resilience and coping mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide psychosocial support to 750 families (3,700 persons) affected by the current rainy season. • Provide psychological support to medical staff and volunteers.

Progress: All five Mobile Health Units (MHU) supported by the emergency appeal have been mobilized. The MHU offered services of general practice, dentistry, nursing and psychology. The table below shows the number of people reached with each type of consultation.

Region and date			Consultations				
Branch	Municipality	Date	General practice	Dentistry	Nursing	Psychology	Counselling
ATLÁNTICO	Baranoa, Candelaria, Manatí	11 to 14 March	762	472	214	26	1,793
BOLÍVAR	Magangué	15 to 18 March	468	189	-	47	282
CHOCÓ	Taparal	19 to 22 March	194	106	177	-	16
MAGDALENA	Pedraza	21 to 24 March	783	-	-	34	102
VALLE	Obando	24 to 27 March	509	313	-	120	942
TOTAL			2,716	1,080	391	227	3,135

In addition to the individual psychological session completed through the MHU, the National Society also carried out community health counselling, with group sessions focusing on oral health care, nutrition, violence prevention, dengue fever prevention, sexual and reproductive health.

All emergency appeal activities in the health sector have now been completed, and the outcome of providing families affected by the current rainy season with access to primary health care and monitoring has been successfully reached. However, it must be mentioned that in addition to the activities completed with the support of the emergency appeal, the National Society has also mobilized MHU to five other departments (Córdoba, Risaralda, César, Cauca, Norte de Santander) and has reached a total of 10,436 persons.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 8,500 families.	
Outputs	Activities planned
8,500 families have improved access to safe water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid health and water and sanitation emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with CREPAD, CLOPAD and community leaders. • Select beneficiary families and develop a delivery strategy in

The health status of 8,500 families is improved through hygiene and sanitation promotion activities	<p>coordination with the relevant local authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and distribution of 5,070 artisan earthenware water filters. • Train beneficiaries in the use and maintenance of water filters. • Mobilize five water treatment plants to supply safe water to 3,500 families in collective centres. • Conduct 10 training workshops on the use of filters and campaigns for hygiene and sanitation promotion.
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Progress: Water treatment plants were mobilized to the departments of Atlántico, Bolívar, Chocó and Magdalena, reaching 80 per cent of the target of 3,500 families.

During the distribution of water, trained volunteers also conducted activities to ensure the correct transport, storage and treatment of water, as well as to inform on how to maintain water sources. Some of the activities included to:

- Inspect of the water storage equipment used by families to transport the water, providing recommendations when necessary.
- Give short explanations on how to store water properly and on how to treat it with chlorine, and the appropriate times to use the method.
- Recommend on the disposal of laundry and dish-washing residual waters to prevent the contamination of water sources.
- Conduct a laboratory test on drinking water to analyze the presence of microorganisms and the physical and chemical characteristics of the water.



The Colombian Red Cross Society distributed potable water in Candelaria, department of Atlántico. Source: CRCS

The National Society was also able to locate a supplier of water filters and is in the process of procuring 5,070 of them. The 70 additional units will be distributed in the municipality of La Unión, in the department of Valle del Cauca.

Challenges: Volunteers had difficulties accessing some areas, as was the case of Salamina, department of Magdalena, due to poor road conditions and lack of ferries to cross the river. In the department of Chocó, families were resistant to the approach the CRCS volunteers promoted as families traditionally used rainwater. This challenge was slowly overcome by the constant promotion on the benefits of potable water.

Shelter	
Outcome: Households in the most affected municipality have safe and adequate shelter and settlement solutions.	
Outputs	Activities planned
<p>52 families are assisted with shelter solutions.</p> <p>The CRCS will have the capacity in the future to quickly provide shelter solutions to 450 families through the purchase of family tents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with SNPAD, local authorities and community leaders to assess shelter needs and to select the beneficiary families. • Identify, in association with the Mayor's Office, the land where the homes will be built. • Carry out preliminary topographical and soil studies. Construction of 52 single-family transitional homes on stilts. • Purchase and pre-position of 450 family tents.

Progress: The Colombian government has requested support to the Colombian Red Cross Society reach the new families that are being affected with the ongoing emergency situation, therefore this Revised Appeal reflects an increase from 50 to 52 target families under this sector. Furthermore, as the weather forecast states the

continuation of heavy rainfall for the next two months, the National Society will procure and pre-position 450 family tents to enable the quick provision of shelter solutions for future affected families.

The CRCS plans to start the construction of the 52 transitional shelters during the last week of May.

Capacity of the National Society

Outcome: The capacity of CRCS to respond to the current and future emergencies is strengthened.	
Outputs	Activities planned
Five CRCS branches receive support to strengthen their capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure transportation to support operation activities in the Atlantic zone. • Procure one water treatment plant to support water and sanitation activities. • Procure one ambulance boat and outboard to support the water transportation network. • Procure two VHF relay stations and five base radios to replace damaged units. • Carry out 5 training courses for volunteers on basic swimming techniques. • Deliver security equipment to volunteers in the branches most affected by the emergency.

Progress: The purchase of the equipment to strengthen the capacity of the National Society will be completed on a later stage of the operation, as the next priority of the National Society is to complete the distribution of relief items and the construction of transitional shelters.

Logistics

Outcome: The local logistics capacity of the Colombian Red Cross Society to respond is strengthened with the support of standardized items prepositioned in the IFRC's Regional Logistic Unit in Panama as well as with technical support for local procurement.	
Outputs	Activities planned
Enhanced logistics capacity and technical support facilitate the procurement and distribution of relief items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of non-food items by the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU). • Procurement of transport services through the RLU transport network • Delivery of prepositioned mosquito nets for 5,000 families. • Delivery of 1,000 sleeping mats.

Progress: The IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) has delivered 10,000 mosquito nets to Colombia as part of the current emergency appeal. In addition, the RLU sent 200 family tents, 21,900 mosquito nets and 16,000 tarpaulins as a support to a bilateral collaboration of the CRCS with the UNHCR. The RLU also supported the local purchasing process of 5,070 water filters.

In the case of the National Society, the current logistic capacity is illustrated in the table below:

VEHICLES	QUANTITY	BRANCH	LOCATION	ACTIVITY SUPPORTED	AVERAGE DAILY TONS
Trucks HINO 4,5 Ton	5	Valle del Cauca	Cali	Relief distribution	3
		Antioquia	Medellin	Relief distribution	3,5
		Atlántico	Candelaria	Relief distribution	3

		Bolívar	Cartagena y Sur del Bolívar	Relief distribution - ACNUR, USAID/OFDA projects	4,5
		Meta	Villavicencio	Relief distribution – prepositioning of stock	3
Light truck 2 Ton	1	Headquarters	Bogotá	Available for mobilization	1,5
Truck NPR 4,5 Ton	1	Norte de Santander	Cúcuta	Relief distribution, Gramalote project, UNHCR	4,5
9 Ton trucks	2	Antioquia	Turbo, Necocli, Apartado, Vigía del Fuerte	Shelter	8
		Atlántico	Barranquilla	Relief distribution, and equipment mobilization, OXFAM and UNHCR projects	6
TOTAL 9 VEHICLES TOTAL 37 daily tons					

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

In order to achieve a steady flow of timely and accurate information, the Communication and Image department of the CRCs, in coordination with the Relief department, conducts the following activities during the emergency:

- Post periodical informative reports on the National Society web site: www.cruzrojacolombiana.org
- Updates in social-network websites such as *Twitter* (<http://twitter.com/#!/cruzrojacol>), and *Facebook* (<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001850443351>) informing about their current activities and needs.
- Publications of information in the newspaper *El Tiempo* that has a circulation of 200,000 copies
- Systematic uploads of pictures about the operation in the social-network of *Flicker* (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cruzrojacol/>)
- Upload an updated video about relief distributions on *YouTube* (<http://www.youtube.com/user/cruzrojacolombiana?feature=mhum>)
- Regular meetings and interviews with representatives from different media outlets to present updates about the development of the emergency operation.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Matthias Schmale
Under Secretary General
Programme Services

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

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.

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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Colombia:** Cesar Augusto Uruena Pulido, National Relief Director (Director General de Socorro Nacional), phone: (57) 310 294 3747; email: cesar.uruena@crozrojacolombiana.org
- **In Peru:** Carlos Iñigo Barrena, Regional Representative for the Andean Countries; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Jorge Zequeira, Coordinator of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), phone: +507 316 1001; email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Francisco Maldonado; Disaster Management delegate, PADRU ; phone: (507) 6747 31 48; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: francisco.maldonado@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Zuleyka Maynard; Resource Mobilization officer; phone: + 507 317 1304; email: zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Jan Gelfand; Head of Operations; phone: + 507 317 1304; and email: jan.gelfand@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Douglas Baquero; Regional Logistic Coordinator; email: douglas.baquero@ifrc.org; phone: +507 6747 3146; fax: +507 316 1347.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Pablo Medina, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 79 2173376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395.

[<Revised budget; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coordination	Coordinated Support (ERUs)	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	177,575			177,575
Shelter - Transitional	42,500			42,500
Construction - Housing				-
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure				-
Construction - Materials				-
Clothing & Textiles	125,000			125,000
Food				-
Seeds & Plants				-
Water & Sanitation	363,038			363,038
Medical & First Aid	41,000			41,000
Teaching Materials				-
Utensils & Tools	125,000			125,000
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements				-
ERU (Emergency Response Units)				-
Total Supplies	874,113	0	0	874,113
Land & Buildings				-
Vehicles				-
Computer & Telecom	15,850			15,850
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment				-
Medical Equipment				-
Other Machinery & Equipment	68,000			68,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	83,850	0	0	83,850
Storage				-
Distribution & Monitoring	24,000			24,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	47,500			47,500
Total Transport & Storage	71,500	0	0	71,500
International Staff	9,900			9,900
Regionally Deployed Staff	10,350			10,350
National Staff	9,000			9,000
National Society Staff	84,300			84,300
Other Staff benefits				-
Consultants				-
Total Personnel	113,550	0	0	113,550
Workshops & Training	26,416			26,416
Total Workshops & Training	26,416	0	0	26,416
Travel	8,000			8,000
Information & Public Relation	5,920			5,920
Office Costs	5,000			5,000
Communications	5,000			5,000
Professional Fees				-
Financial Charges	35,000			35,000
Other General Expenses				-
Total General Expenditure	58,920	0	0	58,920
Cash Transfers to National Societies				-
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties				-
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0	0	0
Program Support	80,617		0	80,617
Total Programme Support	80,617	0	0	80,617
Services & Recoveries	11,913			11,913
Shared Services				-
Total Services	11,913	0	0	11,913
TOTAL BUDGET	1,320,878	0	0	1,320,878
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions				-
ERUs contributions				-

TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	1,320,878	0	0	1,320,878