

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Colombia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCO004
Glide No. FL-2008-000197-COL
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The International Federation's 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: CHF 95,700 (USD 87,477 or EUR 60,955) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 24 October 2008 to support the Colombian Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to 1,000 families.

Throughout the month of September 2008, hundreds of communities in 27 departments of Colombia were deeply affected by floods caused by the year's second rainy season. This DREF operation provided 1,000 families with food and non-food items and basic medical assistance. All objectives foreseen were successfully completed by the Colombian Red Cross Society.



An International Federation water and sanitation officer assessing the damages in Los Moñitos. Source: CRCS

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The situation

The second rainy season that started in September 2008 brought heavy floods, mudslides and landslides in 428 municipalities in 27 of the 32 departments of Colombia. The constant rain, especially in the department of Cordoba, increased the water levels of the Sinu and San Jorge Rivers and overflowed the water drainage systems of several municipalities.

After several days of rain, overflowing rivers and drainage systems flooded several sectors in Bolivar, Choco, Magdalena, Sucre and Cordoba, located in the Colombian Caribbean Region. The Ministry of the Interior's Secretariat of Disaster Prevention and Response (Dirección de Prevención y Atención de Desastres), estimated that throughout the entire rainy season a total of 1,225,325 people were affected, 68 people died and 18 people remain missing. The affected residents took refuge in improvised shelters such as schools, colleges and local warehouses, while others stayed with friends and families. There were 40 shelters opened, housing approximately 1,765 people.

The Regional Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response (Comite Regional de Prevención y Atención de Desastres, CREPAD) provided humanitarian aid along with the Fire Department and the Colombian Institute for Family Well Being (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar – ICBF) for the organization of the

temporary shelters and water and sanitation activities. CREPAD provided the affected population with food parcels, kitchen kits, cleaning kits, hammocks, mattresses, mosquito nets and blankets, amongst other relief items. The municipalities in the affected areas distributed wood and zinc sheets for the construction of temporary shelters. Additionally, CREPAD set up health and vector control brigades which worked in the affected communities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency, the CRCS activated its contingency plans in each of the affected branches. The CRCS provided technical and operational support by mobilizing National Intervention Team (NIT) members. It also mobilized its immediate response teams specialized in water and sanitation with volunteers operating 14 water treatment and supply plants in the most affected zones. The International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) deployed a water and sanitation officer to assist the National Society in the initial emergency response. Additionally, the International Federation and the Regional Representation for the Andean Region were in constant communication with the CRCS in order to provide additional assistance.



Flooded community in Los Moñitos. Source: Colombian Red cross Society

The Colombian Red Cross Society distributed 25 tonnes of food and non-food relief items (food parcels, mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, clothes and towels) to 4,300 families in the northern areas of the country. The CRCS mobilized a total of 54 volunteers which participated in activities including search and rescue, first aid, pre-hospital care, water and sanitation and beneficiary registration. In addition, the CRCS monitored the 40 emergency shelters by conducting periodic general inspections and promotion of hygiene. The DREF funds allocated to this operation contributed to part of the overall CRCS plan of action, facilitating immediate action to respond to the emergency.

The CRCS cooperated with government agencies to complete damage and needs assessments and provide initial relief assistance to the affected people. Additionally, the CRCS installed high frequency (HF) and very high frequency (VHF) communication systems to facilitate communication in the affected remote areas during the emergency.

Progress towards objectives

This DREF operation formed part of a broader National Society response plan. The general objective of this operation was to assist 1,000 families in the departments of Cordoba in the most affected municipalities through the distribution of food parcels, non-food items and health programmes: San Pelayo (400 families), Monteria (300 families) and Moñitos (300 families).

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 1,000 families in the department of Cordoba, Colombia, will benefit from the provision of essential food items and non-food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

Activities completed:

- Obtained quotations from distributors for food and non-food items

- Procurement of items
- Transportation and warehousing
- Distribution of items

Impact:

1,000 families in the municipalities of Momil, Purisima and Moñitos in the department of Cordoba saw their basic needs for food and non-food items met after the floods through the provision of immediate relief assistance as part of this DREF operation. Each family received one food parcel, three mosquito nets and one hygiene kit.

The 1,000 families received food and non-food items, basic health care in coordination with local authorities and regional disaster systems. The food items distributed to the beneficiaries assisted them in jump starting their daily activities, whilst the mosquito nets provided protection from diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. The CRCS accomplished its objective of assisting the affected people and therefore easing their suffering.



CRCS volunteers in the department of Cordoba preparing the food parcels. Source: Colombian Red Cross Society.

Emergency health

Objective: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population are reduced through the provision of health mobile units, preventive community-level and curative services in the most affected areas.

Activities completed:

- Carry out health assessments and consultations and deliver medicines to the population benefited by Red Cross health programmes taking into account their necessities.
- Provide psychosocial support.
- Initiate activities on health promotion and disease prevention according to risks and local vulnerability.
- Promote workshops on education and promotion of healthy habits and personal hygiene to prevent diseases related to the mismanagement of water sources and waste.
- Monitor the epidemic diseases in coordination with health institutions of the country.

Impact:

The activities focused on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable population groups targeting children under five years old, children between five and fourteen years old and pregnant women. Previous to this activity the CRCS completed a census to identify the beneficiaries, and the health mobile units provided free basic medical care for three days to residents in the rural areas in Moñitos, known for its rates of extreme poverty and marginalization.

Table #1 Mobile health unit coverage

Service	# of people reached
Awareness-raising in Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI)	115
Medical assistance	452
Dental hygiene	209
Psychosocial assessment	20
Recreational activities	146

The CRCS ensured an integrated community health approach in line with the International Federation emergency health guidelines. However, it also included other services with a more comprehensive approach, including components of first aid, health promotion and disease prevention information.

Each CRCS mobile health unit was made up of three doctors, four relief volunteers, four volunteers and one logistics driver. Additional external human resources needed to be hired in order to provide specialized medical assistance to the affected people, which consisted of one coordinator, four nurses, one psychologist and one dentist.

The CRCS completed this activity thanks to effective coordination with other actors, such as community leaders and local municipalities. Agreements were made between the CRCS and local authorities to obtain additional human resources including doctors, health promoters and nurses.

The awareness raising campaign using the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) was implemented reaching the following groups:

Table # 2 IMCI

Awareness-Raising (IMCI strategy)	<5 years		5 to 14 years		Adults 15-25 years		Adults 26-36 years		Adults 37 years or more		# of beneficiaries
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
	-	-	2	15	30	10	20	10	16	12	115

The medical assistance provided consisted of basic medical activities that included measuring arterial pressure for older patients and weighing and measuring children. The following table demonstrates the assistance provided by age groups:

Table # 3 Medical attention

Days/Month/Year 8,9,10/01 /09	<5 years		5 to 14 years		Adults 16-36 years		Adults 37-45 years		Adults 46 years and more		# of beneficiaries
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Medical attention	60	56	70	50	97	41	31	13	19	15	452

Among the people who received **medical attention**, 20 children under the age of 5 had anaemia and 51 children from 5 to 14 years old also showed anaemic conditions. Other diseases were detected, including dermatitis, flu, intestinal parasites and headaches. The corresponding treatment was provided to the affected people in order to improve their health condition.

Table #4 Dental hygiene by age

Dental hygiene	<4 years		5 to14 years		15 years		Adults 37-45 years		Adults 46 years and more		# of beneficiaries
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
	16	20	79	91	2	1	-	-	-	-	209

Dental hygiene was provided to children under 4 years old and children between 5 and 15 years old. Dental hygiene awareness was focused on educating children in brushing techniques. A total of 209 children participated in this campaign and each received a hygiene kit.

Table # 5 Psychosocial assessment by age

Psychosocial assessment	13 to 24 years		25 to 35 years		Adults 36-46 years		Adults 47 years and more		# of beneficiaries
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
	12	1	4		2			1	20

The 20 people that received psychosocial support showed signs of volatile behaviour, stress, rebelliousness, disorientation, depression, emotional instability and low self esteem. The 20 people reached through the psychosocial assessment received support in order to cope with stress-related signs and symptoms.

Table # 6 Recreational activities by age

Recreational activities	4 years		5 to 14 years		15 years		Adults 37-45 years		Adults 46 years and more		# of beneficiaries
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
	11	15	59	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	146

The mobile health units provided recreational activities for a total of 146 children.

National Society Capacity Building

Objective: The capacity of the Colombian Red Cross Society in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.

Activities completed:

- Procure computer equipment for registration, statistics and reports on the activities carried out in the field.
- Procure two hospital type tarpaulins to be used for health activities in northern Colombia.
- Clear out the warehouse in the Cordoba department for the pre-positioning of relief items in this zone, facilitating a quick and timely intervention in emergency situations in the region.

Impact:

The computer equipment was procured and assisted in the registration of beneficiaries and elaboration of reports in the field. The hospital tarpaulins were procured and used during the implementation of health activities. These can be utilized in future operations. Lastly, the CRCS local branch warehouse in Cordoba was cleaned and organized with the objective of pre-positioning relief items in this area and to be able to respond rapidly in a future emergency. A total of 20 volunteers in the local branch of Cordoba were involved in these activities

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction

Objective: Existing tools for training on disaster preparedness and response focusing on floods and mudslides in the country are strengthened.

Activities completed:

- Produce and distribute 2,000 brochures with essential information on how to mitigate and prepare for emergencies such as floods and mudslides.

Impact:

The 2,000 brochures contained information with detailed explanations on landslides and floods and what preventive measures people should carry out, such as emergency evacuation plans. Volunteers from the Cordoba branch distributed brochures to families and health centres in the communities located in Cienaga de Oro.

Conclusion

Lessons learned:

The CRCS has vast experience in disaster preparedness and response as it faces emergencies every year. The clear capacity of the National Society and the activation of the DREF system contributed to the CRCS' rapid response to the emergency. This operation sought to contribute to the relief phase of the response as well as to provide integrated support to affected communities and to strengthening community and National Society capacities to respond to future emergencies. The combination of disaster response and disaster preparedness is an important step towards the mitigation of future floods and strengthening communities' resilience. Nevertheless, with each operation new lessons are learned, more volunteers are better prepared and further communities become more resilient against disasters.

The technical support provided by the water and sanitation officer from PADRU and financial support provided by the International Federation supported the CRCS assistance and ensured assistance to 1,000 families as part of the National Society's response to the emergency. The water and sanitation officer supported the CRCS operation, recommending activities to include in its plan of action and assisting in identifying communities most in need for potable water. This also strengthened the National Society's capacity in water and sanitation issues for future emergencies.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCO004 - Colombia - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/10-2009/08
Budget Timeframe	2008/10-2009/08
Appeal	MDRCO004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	95,701					95,701
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	93,766					93,766
C5. Other Income	93,766					93,766
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	93,766					93,766
D. Total Funding = B + C	93,766					93,766
Appeal Coverage	98%					98%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	93,766					93,766
E. Expenditure	-93,766					-93,766
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/10-2009/08
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		95,701					95,701	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	23,400	12,510				12,510	10,890	
Food	23,600	22,297				22,297	1,303	
Medical & First Aid	4,500	6,096				6,096	-1,596	
Other Supplies & Services	24,000	23,779				23,779	221	
Total Supplies	75,500	64,682				64,682	10,818	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	1,100	1,638				1,638	-538	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1,100	1,638				1,638	-538	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	3,000	4,915				4,915	-1,915	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	750	1,182				1,182	-432	
Total Transport & Storage	3,750	6,098				6,098	-2,348	
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300						3,300	
National Staff		4				4	-4	
National Society Staff	1,200	1,475				1,475	-275	
Total Personnel	4,500	1,479				1,479	3,021	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	900						900	
Total Workshops & Training	900						900	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,500	7,439				7,439	-5,939	
Information & Public Relation	500	714				714	-214	
Office Costs	1,500	462				462	1,038	
Communications		1,013				1,013	-1,013	
Financial Charges	230	4,147				4,147	-3,917	
Total General Expenditure	3,730	13,775				13,775	-10,045	
Programme Support								
Program Support	6,221	6,095				6,095	126	
Total Programme Support	6,221	6,095				6,095	126	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	95,701	93,766				93,766	1,934	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,934				1,934		