

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Colombia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCO006
Glide No. FL-2009-000052-COL
26 February 2009

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 and 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.

CHF 177,000 (USD 152,369 or EUR 118,932) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Colombian Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to 1,000 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



An aerial view of a street and houses in the municipality of Tumaco (province of Nariño) completely flooded by the rivers. Source: Colombian Red Cross Society

Summary: The Andean region of Colombia has been deeply affected by constant rain since 16 February 2009. The sectors of Antioquia, Tolima, Santander, Cauca and Nariño amongst others in the Pacific region are in a high state of alert due to floods and landslides. Latest reports indicate that 41,395 people have been affected. However, this number might increase since the rain in the Pacific region continues.

This operation will focus on providing relief assistance and basic medical care for the most affected families as well as carrying out water and sanitation activities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 23 May 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 23 August 2009).

[<Click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

On 16 February, 2009, in Department of Nariño – the Andean region between Ecuador and Colombia – constant rainfall increased the water level of the Mira River. Tumaco, a municipality in Nariño, is the most affected by the overflow of the river causing floods and isolating some regions.

The municipal authorities performed search and rescue activities in the affected area with support from the Civil Defence and the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS). Other authorities such as the Colombian Armed Forces, the Fire Department and the National Police have provided immediate response to the emergency.

The most affected communities in the department of Nariño are Tumaco, Sotomayor, Barbacoas, Mallama, Ipiales, Ricaurte and Roberto Payán, leaving over 40,000 people affected, 8 dead, and 22 missing. The National Disaster Prevention and Response System informs that 20,000 hectares of land were affected, 14 schools and 1,400 houses were damaged and 1,125 houses were destroyed. Currently, 13 temporary shelters are operating in the zone. The Health department has diagnosed several diseases in the affected areas, among them: flu, parasites, cephalaea, urinary tract infections and dengue. Infrastructure was also severely affected, especially the water systems in Tumaco and the surrounding areas of Barbacoas and Roberto Payán. The electric supply has been interrupted in 13 districts due to the floods. Damage and needs assessments are still being completed and additional overflow of rivers is expected. Authorities are contemplating the relocation of homes and communities that will not be able to go back to their homes as a result of the emergency.

The Colombian government declared on 23 February, a disaster alert in the municipality of Tumaco and neighboring communities. The government provided immediate assistance to the people in temporary shelters, consisting of food items, water, mattresses, hygiene items and kitchen kits. This assistance was provided with support from the Regional Committee for Prevention and Response to Disasters (Comité Regional de Prevención y Atención de Desastres - CREPAD). Medium and long term programme are needed to reactivate and rehabilitate the social and economic situation in the affected areas.



The flooded municipality of Tumaco. Source: Colombian Red Cross Society

Coordination and partnerships

The Colombian Red Cross Society through its municipal and sectional branches is constantly supporting the actions of the local and regional Committees for Disaster Prevention and Response (Comite Local de Prevencion y Atencion de Desastres – CLOPAD) and CREPAD. The Risk Management Department has provided ten tonnes of relief aid, including: 1,500 hygiene kits, 1,500 kitchen kits, 3,000 food parcels, 30 rolls of plastic sheeting, 2 tonnes of water for the most affected people.

The General Management for Disaster Prevention (Dirección General para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres – DPAD) with the support of the Armed Forces has carried out search and rescue activities and deployed an additional 20 tonnes of relief aid to the affected areas in Tumaco. The local committees of Tumaco and Nariño will prepare a plan that every public and private entity should follow in order to contribute to the rehabilitation of the affected areas. The plan will cover the following actions:

- Humanitarian assistance.
- Shelter management.
- Subsidy for loss of crops.
- Basic sanitation activities (water and sanitation).
- Economic and social reactivation of the area.
- Definition of prevention and mitigation actions in the area.

Several private companies have been involved in the emergency through the provision of relief items and funds as well as other non-governmental agencies present in the field.

The International Federation through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representative for Andean Countries have been in constant communication with the Colombian Red Cross Society since the onset of the emergency. Regional Intervention Teams (RIT) specializing in water and sanitation and PADRU delegates are ready for deployment in case the situation requires it.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Colombian Red Cross Society has constantly been monitoring the evolution of the emergency by activating its crisis room where early assessments and decisions on the situation are made. The CRCS through its local branch in Nariño, has been supporting the local committees, CLOPAD and CREPAD, in the coordination of damage and needs assessments and provision of first aid to the affected people.

In water and sanitation, CRCS volunteers from Pasto and one technician from the local CRCS branch in Valle have been deployed to the affected areas to analyze the water quality. The CRCS has been providing trainings in the communities on how to disenfect the water using special chemicals. Moreover, the CRCS has distributed clean water thanks to donations from private Colombian companies.

The CRCS is managing three temporary shelters and has placed a water and sanitation unit in one of the shelters providing 3,000 liters of water for hygiene purposes. To date, 14,000 people have received assistance in the temporary shelters managed by the CRCS and 1,390 food parcels have been distributed. A CRCS doctor was deployed to the local branch in Valle to complete health assessments.

Two vehicles were dispatched to the local CRCS branches of Risaralda and Tolima. The CRCS has mobilized more than 19 tonnes of in-kind donations (food items), 15 volunteers from the Quindio branch and a National Intervention Team (NIT) member to support the operation. In addition, a total of 50 volunteers are in the field and are managing the local warehouse in Tumaco.

The needs

The most important needs identified by the Colombian Red Cross Society are food, kitchen kits and hygiene kits. Also, the promotion of health, prevention of diseases, water and sanitation are all high priority topics.

In the short and long term programmes for the relocation of people, recovery of crops and mitigation actions must also be implemented.

The proposed operation

In the department of Nariño, 1,000 families, in the most affected municipalities, will receive relief assistance consisting of food parcels, non-food items, health programmes, and water and sanitation activities.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

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

Activities planned:

- Obtain quotes from distributors for food and non-food items
- Procurement of items
- Transportation and warehousing
- Distribution of items

Relief items to be provided by Colombian Red Cross to the affected families

Quantity	Item	Municipalities benefited
1,000	Kitchen kits	Tumaco and Barbacoas (1,000 families)
1,000	Hygiene kits	
1,000	Mosquito nets	

Emergency health

Objective: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population are reduced through the provision of health mobile units, safe water and hygiene promotion in the most affected areas.

Activities planned:

- Provide basic medical care to 1,000 families through two health mobile units.
- Safe supply of water to 1,000 families through two ERIE specialized in water and sanitation.
- Provide 1,000 families with basic information on safe water management techniques, hygiene promotion and waste water management.

1,000 families will receive basic medical care in the municipalities of Tumaco and Barbacoas through the medical assistance of two health mobile units. Safe drinking water will be provided through two Immediate Response Teams (Equipos de Respuesta Inmediata en Emergencias - ERIE) in water and sanitation. DREF funds will cover the cost of health materials and transportation of the two health mobile units, and operational costs of a water treatment plant.

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:

- **In Colombia:** Carlos Iván Márquez, National Director of Operations and Relief, Colombian Red Cross Society, Bogotá; phone: (571) 4376300; fax: (571) 473-6301; email: carlos.marquez@crozrojacolombiana.org
- **In Panama:** Ariel Kestens, Head of the Federation's Pan American Disaster Management Unit; email: ariel.kestens@ifrc.org; phone: (506) 316-1001, fax: (506) 316-1082.
- **In Panama:** Gothai Ghazialam, PADRU disaster management delegate, email: gothai.ghazialam@ifrc.org, phone: (506) 316-1001, fax: (506) 316-1082
- **In Lima:** Giorgio Ferrario, Regional Representative for the Andean Region; email: giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org; phone: (511) 221 8151; fax: (511) 441 3607
- **In Panama:** Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

COLOMBIA FLOODS 2009

MDRCO006

BUDGET CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	14,524
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	13,200
Medical & First Aid	16,470
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	22,271
Other Supplies & Services	48,414
Total Relief Needs	114,879

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings
Vehicles Purchase
Computers & Telecom Equipment
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.
Medical Equipment
Other Machinery & Equipment

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	10,400
Transport & Vehicles Costs	8,700
Service fee & Recovery	

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,400
National Staff	
National Society Staff	20,665
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	4,500
Information & Public Relations	2,400
Office running costs	150
Communication Costs	200
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	201
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	11,505
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Total Operational Needs **62,121**

DREF ALLOCATION **177,000**



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