

DREF operation update Guatemala: earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRGT004
GLIDE n° [EQ-2012-000188-GTM](#)
Update n°01 - 14 February 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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

Period covered by this update: 10 November to 31 January 2013.

Summary: 309,147 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 10 November 2012 to support the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) in delivering assistance to some 6,000 beneficiaries, and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

On 7 November an earthquake of magnitude 7.2 on the Richter scale hit the northwestern Guatemalan coast. Government figures state that the homes of 26,010 persons were severely affected or destroyed, while 1,300,000 persons were indirectly impacted by the earthquake.



Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers have assisted affected families with pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, epidemic control activities, and water distribution. Source: GRC

With the support of the DREF and other Red Cross partners, the Guatemalan Red Cross has been able to reach over 3,000 families with relief items and over 4,000 persons with psychosocial support, violence prevention activities and epidemic control and hygiene promotion. Additionally, 4,458 families were reached with safe water. However, with many actors targeting shelter needs and a new government plan to support the construction of some 3,000 homes, the National Society is now changing its strategy to more effectively use DREF funds. After food security warnings from different institutions, the Guatemalan Red Cross carried out special assessments to target vulnerable families with food parcels to avoid the exacerbation of already existing malnutrition in the region. As a result, the current update has a budget revision to reflect this change in strategy.

Due to the extension for an additional 30 days of the state of emergency and the fact that the food insecurity situation was aggravated as result of the earthquake, the GRC has requested the extension of the DREF implementation timeframe for additional 30 days to continue their support as auxiliary to the government. This operation is now expected to be implemented in four months, and completed by 10 March 2013. A revised budget for this DREF operation has been drawn up and can be seen below. In line with Federation reporting standards, the final report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 10 June 2013).

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 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 ECHO, the Canadian Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government for their support to the Guatemala earthquake operation.
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/responding/disaster-response-system/financial-instruments/disaster-relief-emergency-fund-dref/>

[<click here to view contact details>](#) or [<click here to view the revised budget>](#)

The situation

An earthquake of magnitude 7.2 on the Richter scale occurred on 7 November 2012 at 10.35 hours local time off the coast of Guatemala, near the border with México. It had a depth of 33.2 km, and was felt across the country within a radius of 200 km from the epicentre.

A report from the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (*Coordinadora Nacional de Reducción de Desastres*, CONRED) on 14 November 2012 stated the following figures on the impact of the earthquake:

Deaths	44
Injured	178
Severely affected	26,010
Affected	1,321,564
Sheltered	12,119
Persons at risk	6,715,140
Evacuated	25,941

Through Governmental Decree No. 3-2012, the president of Guatemala declared a state of emergency on 7 November for the departments of Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, Sololá, Quiché, Totonicapán, San Marcos, Totonicapán, and Huehuetenango. This Decree allowed for faster purchase and delivery of assistance by the governmental authorities. On 5 February, the state of emergency was extended for 30 more days through decree No. 2-2013.

As part of the government response to the emergency, the Ministry of Social Development started a National Housing Plan with the goal of building 3,000 new houses for the families that lost their homes. The construction of the first 1,400 homes in San Marcos is starting in February 2013. Additionally, the Inter-American Development Bank has offered support for the reconstruction plans.

Coordination and partnerships

The Guatemalan Red Cross actively coordinates with CONRED through its system of inter-institutional liaisons, maintaining close working partnerships with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance. Similarly, the National Society participates in the coordination meetings of the Guatemalan Humanitarian Network, participating in its technical clusters of shelters, health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, and food security.

Additionally, in coordination with the Guatemalan Red Cross leadership, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, and the Spanish Red Cross supported the assessment, implementation and monitoring of the affected areas, providing financial support to assist vulnerable families. In support of the National Society's efforts, the IFRC country coordinator joined the discussions and analysis with the National Society, while an emergency health delegate and a disaster management delegate from the disaster & crisis response and early recovery unit were deployed to support

the damage and needs assessments. In addition, the unit's virtual EOC was activated to support meetings between the National Society, the secretariat and Partner National Societies.

Type of support	No. of families	Location	Funds	Cooperante
Water filters, 2 jerrycans, 5 blankets, 1 food parcel,	710	Serchil, Tejutla, San Marcos, Sololá	€ 105,000.00	Spanish Red Cross
Water filters, 2 jerrycans, 1 food parcel.	700	San Cristobal Cucho	€ 189,000.00	German Red Cross

At local level, members of the National Intervention Teams coordinated with the local activities to assist families in 15 collective centres. Information on their action was shared within the departmental EOC to ensure all actors providing response had enough information to avoid the duplication of efforts. Due to the damages to the San Marco branch building, a base camp was set up to direct all analysis and proposed actions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As a result of monitoring the situation in the region, the actions carried out by other partners and the support from other Movement members, the National Society is proposing modifications to the DREF supported operation. As the shelter needs were being covered by other actors, the Guatemalan Red Cross will now distribute food parcels to 1,000 affected families whose livelihoods were affected. Additionally, water filters will also be provided, as many systems have not been yet re-established and safe water will need to be guaranteed for several months. The objectives in the area of health for 1,000 families to reduce the risks of outbreaks of epidemics have not undergone any changes.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distribution

Outcome: The Guatemalan Red Cross contributes to meet the immediate needs of 1,000 families in the departments of San Marcos and Quetzaltenango
Outputs and activities planned: • Conduct emergency damage and needs assessments alongside government authorities and other humanitarian partners. • Hire a helicopter to complete a rapid assessment of large-scale damage. • Develop a beneficiary communication plan with affected communities to ensure their participation throughout the process. • Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance to affected families together with affected communities and their leaders. • Replenish pre-positioned stock used during the emergency • Support the distribution of non food relief items to 450 families and the distribution of food parcels for 1,000 families.

Progress: As part of their overall relief efforts the National Society, with the support of Red Cross partners has assisted 1,005 families with blankets, 1,279 with hygiene kits, 3,889 with food parcels and 299 with mattresses. With the extension of the state of emergency by the governmental authorities, the GRC continues with their assistance to affected families.

Municipalities	No. of families reached			
	Blankets	Hygiene kits	Food parcels	Mattresses
San Marcos	424	378	1772	258

San Pedro Sacatepéquez	114	77	773	36
Tejutla	30	100	80	
Esquipulas Palo Gordo	382	502	1002	5
El Quetzal	-	-	4	-
San Cristobal Cucho	-	167	258	-
San Antonio Sacatepéquez	55	55	-	-
Total	1005	1279	3889	299

The selection process of beneficiaries had clear criteria to follow in order to ensure that the most vulnerable persons would be reached: homes headed by single women, elderly people, homes with children under five, persons with disabilities, and people living with HIV-AIDS.

A special assessment process was carried out to determine and monitor the evolving needs of the affected population, particularly related to their vulnerability to risks and their food security, looking at the nutritional intake of family members and access to different food sources. The information compiled by the National Society, in addition to that shared by other organizations in country, determined that the earthquake exacerbated the situation in the affected area, prompting a re-evaluation of the GRC plan of action. As a result, the National Society is now proposing the distribution of the following food parcels to alleviate the situation:

Family food parcel for 1 month	
Item	Quantity
Corn flour	30 lbs.
Beans	30 lbs.
Rice	20 lbs.
Sunflower oil	1 gal.
Salt	2 lbs.
Sugar	5 lbs.
Incaparina ¹	5 lbs.

During the tendering process of the food parcels, the National Society will require providers to ensure that:

- All products should be in good and marketable conditions.
- Following the Cartagena Biosecurity Protocol, all products should indicate if the food contains any Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO).
- The name of the product, its production and expiry dates must be clearly indicated in each package.
- Have an expiry date of at least one year (with the exception of the rice).

As part of the DREF support, 1,000 families will be receiving two food parcels to cover their needs and help to lessen the burden of those families who are hosting additional persons, for two months.

Emergency health, water and sanitation

Outcome: 6,000 persons (1,000 families) affected have access to pre-hospital care, information on epidemic control, a campaign against malnutrition, psychosocial support and violence prevention activities.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Support rescue and evacuation efforts.
- Provide first aid care to the affected population and ensure referral and transfer services to health centres.
- Provide psychological first aid and psychosocial support to persons (including affected volunteers) in the San Marcos region.
- Provide violence prevention messages to communities (including affected volunteers and migrants) in

¹ A protein supplement

affected regions.

- Conduct community training on epidemic control (main focus on acute respiratory infections) and on good nutritional practices for children under five, including indigenous communities.
- Distribute safe water for affected people for at least two weeks.
- Carry out continuous assessments of water, sanitation, and the situation relating to hygiene.

Progress: During the period covered by the report, the GRC has reached 4,212 persons with psychosocial support and violence prevention activities and 4,195 persons with epidemic control and hygiene promotion. Additionally, 4,458 families were reached with safe water.

Trained Red Cross volunteers visited 33 communities and collective centres in San Marcos, Tejutla and Serchil. They completed different psychosocial support activities, including games and painting sessions with children and group session with adults to support them in their mourning process and post-traumatic stress. The activities were targeted at women, men, boys and girls in an effort to assist them with their emotional recovery, return to their normal everyday activities and reduce the risk of violent acts. These same families also had sessions on violence prevention.

In order to reduce health risks and the spread of diseases, volunteers also targeted 15 collective centres and 11 communities in the municipalities of Serchil, Tejutla, San Pedro and San Marcos with hygiene promotion and other epidemic control measures. Some of the topics discussed were the washing of hands, the means of transmission of diseases (diarrheic and respiratory) and preventive measures, and the safe use and storage of water.

As the earthquake resulted in the collapsed of several water systems, the GRC installed three water treatment plants that reached 18 communities from 3 municipalities in San Marcos, 15 collective centres and three humanitarian institutes. Over 1,315,300 litres were distributed over 30 days with the support of 25 volunteers from different branches of the National Society, and the activities are still ongoing. As part of the efforts, the GRC has joined the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance to monitor PH and chlorine levels in the water distributed to affected families. The table below indicates the number of families reached with safe water:

Communities and Collective Centres	Families reached
Esquipulas Palo Gordo	135
Aldea Las Lagunas	162
Aldea Ojo de Agua	195
Ixtagel	250
San Agustín Tonala	250
Federacion	250
Villa Hermosa	15
Albergue San Pedro	175
La Esmeralda, Palo Gordo	375
Albergues	250
Las Escobas	125
Champolla	275
El Recreo	200
Miralvalle 1	125
Potrillos	125
Jerusalén	125
El Paraíso	165
Tierra Blanca	100
Piedra Grande	200

Municipio, San Cristobal Cucho, San Marcos	780
Escuela de Niños Especiales	13
Cruz de Piedra	100
Jireh	30
El Rosario	38
Total	4,458

So far, no outbreaks of disease have been reported.

Emergency Shelter

Outcome: 300 families with damaged houses from the areas affected by the earthquake are assisted with shelter solutions

Outputs and activities planned:

- Identify communities and specific beneficiaries in coordination with local government authorities and the community leaders.
- Deploy a RIT member specialized in emergency shelter.
- Immediately provide 300 families with shelter kits (including 2 tarpaulins each).
- Assess the feasibility of the use of a cash transfer system with the involvement of the affected communities in the planning process to support 300 families with the repair of damaged houses.
- Develop analysis mechanisms to ensure inclusion of gender and violence prevention considerations during the provision of shelter solutions.
- Carry out repairs to the National Society branches affected by the earthquake to ensure their ability to function.

Progress: As mentioned in the situation section of this report, soon after the launch of the current plan of action, the government of Guatemala developed a national plan to assist affected families with their shelter needs. Therefore, the National Society analyzed the current situation in relation to gaps in the humanitarian assistance to create a new strategy to use the funds provided more efficiently. As a result, the shelter sector is now being eliminated from their plans and the funds are being redirected to assist families with food parcels as it is feared that rates of malnutrition may worsen, particularly among small children, due to the disruption of livelihoods after the earthquake in a country already affected by the severe loss of crops for the last five years. It should be noted that the majority of the families are now staying with friends and families.

However, several dispensary tents were needed in the operation as a base camp was installed in San Marcos when the departmental branch building was affected by the earthquake. In addition, dispensary tents are also being used during the health activities with communities. Therefore, the dispensary tents and the repairs to the branch continue to be included in the DREF support.

Logistics

Outcome: The local logistics capacity of the Guatemalan Red Cross to respond with relief items is strengthened with the support of standardized items prepositioned in the IFRC's zone Logistics Unit in Panama as well as enhanced with technical support

Outputs	Activities planned
Enhanced logistics capacity and technical support facilitate the distribution of relief items to 1,000 families and other related activities.	• Management of logistics mobilization • Procurement of transport services through the ZLU transport network • International procurement as required. • Pipeline management of in-kind goods.

Progress: Most of the relief distributions were carried out with the support of two Tropical Mobile Storage Units (TMSU) that were repositioned in the country with the assistance of the Americas zone's global logistics service. Therefore, in support of the DREF operation the logistics service is assisting with the replenishment of the blankets, jerry cans, buckets, and hygiene kits used by the Guatemalan Red Cross.

Communications

Communications officers in the Americas zone office assisted the GRC communications department in posting three articles regarding GRC actions in response to the earthquake in San Marcos. Communications officers also supported the editing and formatting of two videos on GRC actions as well as interviews with beneficiaries. One other video of the GRC San Marcos branch of office that was damaged is still pending approval by the National Society to be uploaded and shared. In addition, these videos and articles were promoted on the IFRC's Spanish language twitter account @ifrc_es. Below are the links to both videos made available on the Youtube channel of the National Society.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuEMZFOOWCU>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDj9Nia0zTo>

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- In IFRC Zone: Jane Grimshaw, PMER manager
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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 10 November 2012 for CHF 309,147 for 3 months to assist 6,000 beneficiaries.
 - The current DREF update includes a budget revision to include the distribution of food parcels to 1,000 families for two months and an extension of the timeframe for additional 30 days.
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[Click here](#)

1. Revised DREF budget [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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.

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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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DREF OPERATION

13-Feb-13

MDRGT004 GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	15,851
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	9,435
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	12,737
Food	116,993
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	41,608
Medical & First Aid	4,717
Teaching Materials	23,587
Utensils & Tools	5,307
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	230,235
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	14,046
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,595
Logistics Services	2,819
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	25,460
International Staff	
National Staff	1,887
National Society Staff	8,638
Volunteers	
Total PERSONNEL	10,525
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	14,152
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	3,066
Communications	5,425
Financial Charges	1,415
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	24,059
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	18,868
Total INDIRECT COSTS	18,868
TOTAL BUDGET	309,147