

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Bolivia: Floods and landslide

Emergency appeal n° MDRBO006  
GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000020-BOL](#)  
Operations update n° 2  
14 June 2011

**Period covered by this Operations Update:** 12 April to 19 May 2011.

**Appeal target (current):** 518,725 Swiss francs

**Appeal coverage:** 84%. [<Click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 8 March 2011 for 6 months to assist 2,500 beneficiaries.
- 78,074 Swiss francs were initially allocated on 3 March 2011 from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bolivian Red Cross to respond.
- On 26 April 2011, the operation update no. 1 included a redistribution of the budget to incorporate activities in transitional shelter for 100 families, with changes in the sectors of relief distribution and early recovery.



On 25 April 2011, the Bolivian Red Cross distributed 538 hygiene kits to families affected by the landslide in La Paz City. Source: BRC.

**Summary:** The water levels have returned to normalcy and the government alerts were lifted in May 2011. However, the situation of the families affected by the landslide in La Paz, and currently inhabiting tent camps, is still a concern with winter approaching. The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) is working alongside government institutions, United Nations agencies and local organizations to assist with shelter solutions. Thus far, the BRC has finished the tendering process for construction materials, started improvements to the *Colegio Militar* camp, and will soon start the construction of 50 transitional shelters.

In addition, the Bolivian Red Cross finished the distribution of hygiene kits for families in La Paz city. With this update, the BRC is increasing the number of families that will be reached with food parcels from 1,500 to 1,700 families (200 additional families) and with hygiene kits from 1,500 to 2,300 families (500 additional families). The health, sanitation and hygiene promotion component is currently under revision as the main health risks, respiratory and intestinal infections, have been identified.

The IFRC expresses its gratitude to the following Partner National Societies (PNS) and governments for their kind support to the Appeal: the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and Canadian government, the Finish Red Cross, the Monaco Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and Netherlands government, the

Swedish Red Cross, and the Swiss Red Cross and Swiss government. The IFRC also gratefully acknowledges the Voluntary Emergency Relief Fund of the World Health Organization (WHO), which has contributed to this operation.

## The situation

Throughout the month of February 2011, there were many days of intense and constant rainfall, causing the Bolivian government to declare a state of emergency due to widespread flooding across the country and a massive landslide in La Paz city. The weather disruption affected 78 municipalities in 9 departments, particularly the valley region in the Cochabamba department; the Chapare region in the Beni department; and the municipalities of Rurrenabaque, Reyes and San Borja in La Paz department.

During the first two weeks of May 2011, the situation and water levels have returned to normal and government alerts have been lifted. The final figures of affected population remain the same as the last update. As reported by the Vice-ministry of Civil Defence (Vice-ministerio de Defensa Civil - VIDECI) 17,765 families were affected, of which 13,352 are from the departments of Beni, Cochabamba and La Paz.

### Situation in La Paz:

The hillside that collapsed in La Paz city on 25 February 2011, where approximately 140 hectares of a hillside caved in, has stabilized and no more landslides have been reported. As of 3 May, the Water and Sanitation Public Social Company (Empresa Pública Social de Agua y Saneamiento - EPSAS) has restored its services to full capacity and most families have regained access to running water.

The shelter situation of the affected population is still a concern. The municipality has identified 744 families that need temporary housing solutions. Local and international organizations will be capable of providing temporary shelters to 595 of these families, to which the Bolivian Red Cross and IFRC will contribute with 50 transitional shelters. However, the municipality of La Paz, who has committed itself to provide appropriate land for these projects, has only been able to secure enough land to build 408 shelters as of 11 May.

### Situation in Cochabamba:

On 11 April, VIDECI held a conference in Cochabamba to inform to the public about the humanitarian need in this department and the relief director from BRC assisted the meeting. This department reports 4,950 families severely affected by the floods, with most of the damages due to loss of crops. The main need identified by VIDECI is the distribution of food, seeds, fertilizers, tools and farming equipment.

### Situation in Beni:

The latest official figures of 3,204 affected families in the municipalities surrounding the Beni River have not changed. Now that the floods have dried out in most areas, a team from the BRC is currently in the area to complete further assessments.

Finally, and as noted in the previous report, Bolivia is also suffering a dengue outbreak. Details on the activities carried out by the Bolivian Red Cross to combat the outbreak can be found in the [DREF update report](#).

## Coordination and partnerships

The BRC continues to attend to the meetings held by government institutions, including the departmental emergency operation centres (EOCs), as well as the meetings held by the United Nations agencies in the informally established clusters of water and sanitation, shelter, health, nutrition, early recovery, protection and education.

In an effort to provide a coordinated response to the shelter needs in La Paz, the municipal office has held two more meetings since the previous update to discuss agreements, allowances, and to identify appropriate land. The International Organization for Migration IOM is the lead agency within the shelter cluster and shelter actors, including those under the Foundation for Participative Community Development (Fundación para el Desarrollo Participativo Comunitario - FUNDEPCO) consortium. The following table states the contribution of different organizations:

Organizations	Quantities of transitional shelter
<u>UnaLaPaz</u> (Oxfam, FUNDEPCO, Help Age Fund, Fundación Carla Ortiz, CAF, Sinchiwayra e	232

Intervida)	
World Vision	110
OIM	70
<u>Un Techo Para Mi Pais</u> (Cosude, Chilean Consulate, Finning, Caritas, Samritan's Purse and Drogueria Inti)	133
Bolivian Red Cross - IFRC	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>595</b>

**National Society Capacity Building:** Through the current Emergency Appeal an operation coordinator has been hired. The coordinator is currently strengthening the programmes for the emergency health and the water and sanitation activities, ensuring that all future actions are harmonized with the transitional shelter programme. In addition, as indicated by the participation in the different coordinating meetings previously mentioned, the Bolivian Red Cross is trying to increase the number of alliances with governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This networking is in line with the goals established under the 2011 IFRC's Country Support Plan for the Bolivian Red Cross.



The IFRC's shelter coordinator visited Bolivia to support the National Society's efforts to contribute with transitional shelter solutions. Source: BRC

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In addition to the progress on the proposed operation described below, the BRC is also working alongside the Spanish Red Cross to assist the communities affected by floods in La Paz department. The main focus is food distribution, and 509 target families have already been identified. Further damage assessments to their agricultural activities are now being carried out. In addition, the BRC and the Spanish Red Cross will complete workshops on disaster prevention, health education, community organization and soil conservation.

Moreover, the Chinese Red Cross is supporting the procurement of food and hygiene kits that will be distributed in San Buenaventura, department of Beni.

### Overview

During the period covered by this operation update, the BRC has reached 538 families residing in tent camps with hygiene kits in La Paz, and has started the tendering process for another 1,700 hygiene kits and 1,700 food parcels. The BRC has also initiated their activities to improve the shelter situation of 100 families in La Paz, purchasing construction materials to improve the *Colegio Militar* camp (50 families), and to start the construction of 50 transitional shelters (50 families).

Volunteers of the BRC have also assessed the health situation of the affected families, and the new operation coordinator is currently working on a comprehensive health, sanitation and hygiene community-based promotion programme. Assessments for early recovery activities are underway, but this section of the operation may be put on hold until available funds are clarified.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome: The most vulnerable families will benefit from the provision of essential food and non-food items to meet their immediate needs resulting from the emergency situation.**

Outputs	Activities planned
1,700 families from the departments of Cochabamba and Beni will receive food parcels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop a beneficiary targeting and distribution plan and a registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Prioritize local tendering following IFRC standards.</li> <li>• Identify distribution points and monitor supply movements to end user.</li> <li>• Monitoring and reporting from BRC headquarters.</li> <li>• Complete a general National Intervention Team (NIT) training.</li> </ul>
2,300 families from the departments of Cochabamba and Beni and the city of La Paz will receive hygiene kits.	
50 families from La Paz Department will receive kitchen kit.	

**Progress:** As humanitarian relief gaps became more detailed, the current operations update features some changes in the activities that will be carried out by the Bolivian Red Cross. As of May 2011, the BRC aims to increase its support, covering the needs of 1,700 families with food parcels in the departments of Cochabamba and Beni, and of 2,300 families with hygiene kits in La Paz city, as well as in and the departments of Cochabamba and Beni.

On 20 April, the BRC proceeded with the distribution of 600 hygiene kits for the families identified in La Paz. As the stated in the table below, 538 families were reached on that day as some beneficiaries were not present. The remaining kits will be distributed in a later date.

CAMP		
	Shelter in the municipality Sur	Families
1	UE SIMON BOLIVAR	30
2	EX UE ROSSMERY BARRIENTOS	11
3	CIUDAD DEL NIÑO	93
4	COMMUNAL HOUSE ARTESIA CAM ARGO	32
5	KONINI 2	64
6	BAJO PAMPEASE-SAN JUAN HEALTH CENTRE	18
7	CANCHA ALTO ESCOBAR URIA	16
8	BAJO SAN ISIDRO	16
9	AWICHAS (senior citizens)	27
10	ZENOBIO LOPEZ	114
11	FLOR DE IRPAVI	117
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>538</b>

Quotations for another 1,700 hygiene kits and 1,700 food parcels have been carried out and are currently being purchased. The Bolivian Red Cross plans to distribute these kits to 900 families in Beni and to 800 families in Cochabamba.

In addition, the BRC will complete the general National Intervention Team (NIT) training in combination with a water and sanitation NIT training.

As explained in the operations update no. 1 the 50 families that will be reached with a more durable shelter solution will also receive a kitchen set.

### Emergency Health

**Outcome: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population are reduced through provision of health promotion and community-based health care.**

Output	Activities planned
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500 families have reduced health risks as a result of habit changes and community-based health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid evaluation of health needs in those communities identified as priority.</li> <li>• Complete a workshop for volunteers on community health education.</li> <li>• Train leaders and pro-active community members on community first aid.</li> <li>• Complete health workshops and fairs for the whole community.</li> <li>• Print informative material developed by the National Society.</li> </ul>
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**Progress:** In the aftermath of the disaster, teams of 30 volunteers, working in day and night shifts, from La Paz branch assisted 238 victims of the landslide in La Paz. All volunteers were trained in first aid, and some of them had a medical background and were trained as NIT in health. Most interventions on the first days were for cuts and bruises, but shortly after, the interventions were increasingly related to intestinal diseases and respiratory tract infections.

Although there is high prevalence of these diseases, no official alerts have been declared. To respond to the current health situation, the new project coordinator of the BRC is in the process of reviewing the methodology to train volunteers that will later support the development of community health brigades. These brigades will be the ones to carry out health promotion activities, including workshops with community members and leaders and health fairs to be held with the whole community. The programme is under development in coordination with the water and sanitation, and shelter activities. Activities in the communities will begin at the end of May 2011

In addition, some volunteers from the local branch of Cochabamba completed psychosocial activities with children from 27 February to 3 April. Through this project, completed in coordination with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Departmental Services for Social Administration (Servicio Departamental de Gestión Social—SEDEGES), the Bolivian Red Cross reached 140 children between the ages of 3 and 14.

Furthermore, the BRC alongside the Spanish Red Cross will complete a community health training with the affected families in the municipality of Mecapaca in the department of La Paz.

<b>Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion</b>	
<b>Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion for 500 families.</b>	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
500 families receive safe water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid water and sanitation emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with the relevant local authorities.</li> <li>• Procure water tanks and general sanitation equipment.</li> <li>• Monitor water quality in the selected communities.</li> <li>• Complete a refresher course for the NIT trained in Water and Sanitation.</li> </ul>
The health status of the population is improved through hygiene and sanitation promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a timeframe of activities.</li> <li>• Coordinate with community leaders and government authorities.</li> <li>• Identify and prioritize target communities and camps.</li> <li>• Conduct training with locally recruited volunteers to continue hygiene and sanitation promotion activities.</li> <li>• Produce hygiene and sanitation promotion materials based on existing materials.</li> <li>• Carry out community workshops on hygiene promotion.</li> <li>• Establish cleaning brigades with the support of the community.</li> <li>• Monitor the correct use of the hygiene kit.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** In relation to the first output, thus far, the Bolivian Red Cross has not needed to truck safe water as the municipal authorities undertook the task. As stated in the previous report, the BRC aims to improve the access to basic hygiene and health facilities of the families who have moved into La Paz settlements and camps. The original plan was to procure two water tanks for the identified camps (Colegio Militar and Hospital Psiquiátrico); however, these materials have been provided by the municipality. At the moment, the authorities requested to the

BRC to provide two sinks and toilets for the Hospital Psiquiátrico camp. As this new request is in line with the emergency outcome, the BRC has started the procurement process and purchase will soon be completed.

With these sanitation appliances, together with the hygiene kits distributed in the camps, the National Society trusts to contribute to the reduction of waterborne and water related diseases of the affected population. Furthermore, the newly hired project coordinator is working on a programme to complete coordinated health, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities with community leaders and members, with particular emphasis on the camps that are being supported with shelter activities.

### Transitional Shelter

<b>Outcome: Improve the living condition of 100 affected families still living in tent-camps by assisting in their longer-term shelter needs</b>	
<b>Output</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<p>50 affected families whose houses have been damaged or destroyed have a more durable and appropriate-to-the-context housing solution to live in.</p> <p>At least 50 families living in <i>Colegio Militar</i> camp enjoy a multipurpose space, a warehouse for food items, a communal kitchen and an office space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of most appropriate, timely and feasible housing solutions.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy.</li> <li>• Complete a workshop to disseminate knowledge on temporary shelter solutions to the BRC.</li> <li>• Design housing alternatives in coordination with local authorities and communities.</li> <li>• Monitor activities and provide reporting.</li> <li>• Construction of a social area and a kitchen in <i>Colegio Militar</i> camp</li> <li>• Provision of a warehouse and office module for the <i>Colegio Militar</i> camp.</li> <li>• Community work at <i>Colegio Militar</i> camp</li> <li>• Coordinate activities with other sectors and actors.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** The tender process to identify a supplier for the 50 transitional shelters has been completed and approved on 19 May. Delivery and construction should start on 20 May and the Bolivian Red Cross plans to finalize these activities by the end of June 2011.

In relation to the second output, the warehouse for food items and the office space are already in place. The materials for the kitchen and multipurpose space in *Colegio Militar* camp has already been purchased by the BRC. As agreed previously, the camp authorities and beneficiaries will construct the areas themselves with the assistance of a contractor and architect provided by the municipality of La Paz.

Furthermore, BRC volunteers have participated in a workshop to increase their knowledge on shelter solutions. This workshop was completed in the La Paz branch on the third week of April with approximately 25 participants, including technical staff of the BRC headquarters and volunteers from La Paz city branch. The workshop was facilitated by the IFRC's shelter coordinator and covered different topics, including a general introduction, emergency shelter alternatives for assistance, standards, tools available and guidelines, and case studies of the operations completed in Peru and Haiti.

**Challenges:** Thus far, the Bolivian Red Cross has not encountered any mayor obstacles and activities are progressing as planned. However, as of 11 May 2011, only 408 lots have been secured by the authorities to construct the 595 temporary shelters offered by local and international organizations. The difficulty to locate appropriate land could become a challenge.

### Early Recovery

<b>Outcome: Contribute to the early recovery of vulnerable families who have lost their livelihoods as a result of the floods.</b>	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<p>450 families receive technical and economic support to recover their livelihoods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and develop a technical assessment and intervention strategy in prioritized affected areas.</li> <li>• Establish mutual collaboration agreements with national institutions (agricultural associations and/or NGOs).</li> <li>• Training beneficiary families.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Recovery Training to volunteers.</li> <li>• Provide technical support throughout the operation.</li> <li>• Conduct monitoring and evaluation activities.</li> <li>• Establish exit strategy.</li> </ul>
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**Progress and challenges:** The National Society is likely to put on hold the early recovery activities for 450 families due to limited funding, as the Emergency Appeal has not been fully covered. Therefore, the type of activities of early recovery to be carried out will be determined once available funds are clarified. It is possible that the type of activities to be completed will be simpler than originally planned and/or that less families would be reached. An additional assessment will be completed during relief distributions in Cochabamba and Beni, and the volunteers will work with social workers in the camps of La Paz to identify the needs of these urban residents.

In addition to the activities of early recovery included in the Emergency Appeal, the BRC is working alongside the Spanish Red Cross to assist 500 families in the Mecapaca Municipality with corn seeds and/or forage, as well as with agricultural tools. Within this project, the BRC will also support some risk reduction activities, including the installation of sandbags to protect crops from further floods.

## Logistics

**Outcome: The local logistics capacity of the Bolivian Red Cross to respond is strengthened with technical support for local procurement from RLU.**

Outputs	Activities planned
Enhanced logistics capacity and technical support to facilitate the procurement and distribution of relief items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mobilization table for 1500 Hygiene kits and 50 kitchen sets</li> <li>• Provide technical support for the local procurement process of 1,500 hygiene kits and food parcels, and of 50 kitchen kits.</li> <li>• Deployment of a logistics IFRC staff to support procurement if required.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** As mentioned on the previous update, a staff member of the Bolivian Red Cross was trained on the standard IFRC requirements for local procurement. The tender process to locally procure 600 hygiene kits was finished, and the kits have been distributed. Currently, the entire tender process for the 50 transitional shelters, 1,700 hygiene kits and 1,700 food parcels for Cochabamba and Beni is in its last stages. Thus far, the deployment of a logistic IFRC staff to support the procurement has not been required.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The communication unit of the Bolivian Red Cross continues to increase the visibility of the activities carried out by BRC in response to this emergency. The unit is updating the BRC's webpage, and distributed a press release on the distribution of relief items that was published in several national media outlets, including the newspapers Los Tiempos, La Prensa and El Deber.

## 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 \(NGOs\) 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

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