

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

PERU: FIRE

3 April 2002

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund Allocated: CHF 75,000

This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 75,000 has been released, and the Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update.

The Situation

On December 29, Peru experienced its worst ever fire disaster. A shopping area known as “Mesa Redonda” in Lima, went up in flames after several tonnes of fireworks exploded. Several surrounding buildings were also destroyed. Official reports said that 286 bodies were recovered and 424 people are recorded as missing.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The relief support to the vulnerable families affected (phase II) is ongoing. Two distributions of food parcels and hygiene kits for 350 families, funded by the International Federation, were completed by last month. Meanwhile, the psychological and social assistance to victims, families of missing and volunteers involved in after-fire support activities (phase III) has continued coordinated by the National Prosecutor Office and at the Committee for Emergency Operations (CEO). Eighty people have been assisted during the last two months.

The National Society actively participate in the Committee for Emergency Operations set up by the authorities and is leading the Commission for Assistance to Mesa Redonda Victims. In coordination with the Ministry of Health (MINSa), the Peruvian Red Cross is managing a blood donation campaign to supply hospitals.

The Chinese Red Cross has funded the Peruvian Red Cross blood donation campaign, carried out by groups of volunteers.

The Belgian Red Cross is coordinating - with the Peruvian Red Cross and the Ministry of Health - the distribution of several specific medicines and technical electronic equipment and products for hospitals to assist burned people still in need of medical care. The Danish Red Cross has also offered assistance in this area.

Psychological and Social Assistance

After a signed agreement with the National Prosecutor Office and the National Office for Mental Health, the Peruvian Red Cross is taking part in a mid-term psychological and social programme assisting the injured, families of missing people and volunteers. A team consisting of psychologists and volunteers provide psycho-social assistance to victims and relatives from Monday to Friday at the National Prosecutor Office.

All members of Red Cross brigades that have participated in rescue activities and/or supporting the affected families in the aftermath of the tragedy are attending regular meetings with psychologists who provide mental care.

Relief Assistance

The most vulnerable families affected by the fire have already received one standard food parcels (20 Kg of rice, 10 Kg of pasta, 5 Kg of lentils, 1 Kg of salt, 10 Kg of sugar and 2 litres of oil) and one hygiene kit (10 toilet papers, 6 bars of soap, 3 toothbrush, 2 toothpaste tubes and 1 towel). In the coming weeks, 350 families will be provided with another food parcel and another hygiene kit.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website [at http://www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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