



## BOLIVIA: FLOODS

*Final Report for  
DREF Bulletin  
no. MDRBO001  
9 November 2006*

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**Period covered by this Final Report: 2 February to 4 May 2006.**

**History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:**

- CHF 106,832 (USD 85,891 or EUR 67,297) was allocated from the Federation DREF fund on 2 February 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation.
- Replenishment of DREF by unearmarked contributions is welcome and needed.

*[Click here to go to the attached Financial Report](#)*

**The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.

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*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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support*

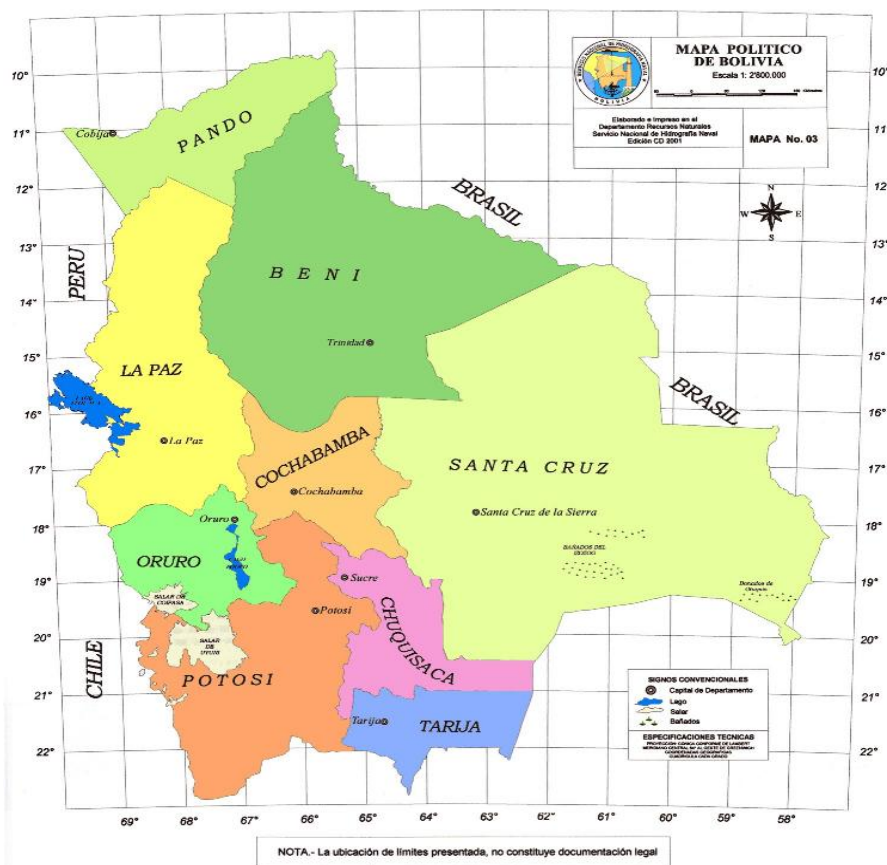
to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background and Summary

Between December 2005 and January 2006, intense rains fell in Bolivia, causing serious floods in a large number of communities and municipalities in the departments of Beni, Santa Cruz and Cochabamba.

In the last weeks of January, rains continued and intensified causing rivers to overflow and flood land, damaging crops and houses, particularly in the departments of Beni and Santa Cruz as well as in the departments of Tarija, Potosí and Oruro. As the rains continued to fall and began to affect additional areas of the country, it was very difficult to obtain accurate figures, and the numbers of families reported as affected varied significantly. It was also difficult to obtain an accurate picture of the extent of the damages as it was not possible to reach remote areas.

According to official figures, 39,000 people in six of the nine departments in Bolivia were affected by the rains in terms of partial and total losses, and 4,200 people were forced to seek refuge in temporary shelters. Serious damage was caused to homes, agriculture and infrastructure: more than 4,500 homes were destroyed; 163,000 hectares of crops were affected including a significant number of livestock; and 2,100 kilometres of roads and 20 bridges were damaged.



On 27 January 2006, the newly elected Government declared a State of Emergency in the entire country, giving permission for the Ministry of Interior to use special funds to respond to the emergency situation. The government, which at the time was undergoing the handover of administrative duties, appealed for international assistance and the Ministry of the Presidency requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to coordinate and manage all supplementary international funding, in coordination with the Vice-Ministry of Decentralization.

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Since the early stages of the alert, the departmental branches of the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) in Beni, Oruro, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz, Pando and La Paz – which are members of departmental Centres for Emergency Operations (COE) – engaged in community work in various projects over the years, attended follow up and coordination meetings to provide support and assistance in damage and needs assessments, local campaigns for food donations, distribution of aid, first aid, the transportation of patients and evacuations.

A mapping was carried out of the affected areas according to specific needs of the communities and the institutional capacities to hand, and it was decided that the Civil Defence and each organization participating in the operation would support one particular geographical area.

In addition, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC) in coordination with the Department of Civil Defence, the Vice-Ministries of Civil Defence and Decentralization, the Bolivian Red Cross, international cooperation agencies and specialized NGOs created five teams to assess all damages and prioritize needs.

The Bolivian Red Cross was chosen to coordinate and assist in the municipalities of San Borja, Reyes and Rerrenabaque, within the department of Beni, located in the East of Bolivia, considered one of the most vulnerable areas. The communities which had been affected by the floods in Beni mostly depend on agriculture as a means of living, growing crops such as rice, maize, cassava and bananas. They also produce flour, starch, rice bran and raise cattle, sheep, farm animals and poultry.

In order to respond to the identified needs, the Bolivian Red Cross developed a Plan of Action, and CHF 106,832 were mobilized from DREF funds to contribute to the Plan to assist some 2,000 families, with a particular focus on the indigenous communities of Chimanés and Mosetenes. Other contributions were made from the Belgian Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), and ECHO. (See table below).

Date	Department	Province	Municipality	Number of Families	Donor	Contribution (USD)
February 2006	Beni	Ballivián	San Borja	1,149	Federation	72,500 <sup>1</sup>
		Ballivián	Reyes	358	Federation	
		Ballivián	Rerrenabaque	393	Federation	
April 2006	Beni	Ballivián	San Borja	1,169	German Red Cross	100,000
March 2006	La Paz	Murillo	Achocalla	78	AECI	8,000
March 2006	Potosi	Linares	Yocalla	895	Swiss Red Cross	30,091
April 2006	Oruro	Cecado	Challacollo	400	Spanish Red Cross Federation	9,331
May 2006	Beni	Moxos	San Ignacio	1,200	Belgian Red Cross	110,000
March – August 2006	Beni	Ballivián	Reyes	662	ECHO	144,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>6,304</b>		<b>473,922</b>

All actions carried out by the BRC across the country have had the active participation of approximately 600 volunteers, and four members of the National Intervention team (NIT) working with them, who are highly qualified and experienced in rescue and assessment operations. Two members of the BRC relief department are also members of the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) and were able to bring their regional experience and expertise to this operation.

<sup>1</sup> USD 72,500 was provided for the relief goods and their distribution; the remainder of the DREF funds were used for other costs relating to the BRC operation.

The BRC has also had support from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Lima Regional Delegation throughout the operation in coordination and planning activities. The community risk reduction delegate and the organizational development manager from the Federation’s Lima Regional Delegation and the cooperation delegate from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were present in the country in the early days of the emergency. A Disaster Management delegate from PADRU was in regular communication with the National Society and was mobilized to support the BRC in the operation and coordination meetings on the ground.

### Coordination

The BRC is part of the National Civil Defence System (SENADECI) and participated, before the National Emergency was declared and throughout the operation, in inter-agency meetings with the United Nations, Civil Defence, Ministry of Health, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), Save the Children, Medicus Mundi, Caritas, World Vision, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Medecins du Monde (MdM) in order to coordinate joint actions.

During the operation, the BRC also worked closely with local authorities and community organizations, particularly indigenous and peasant organizations, to ensure an effective response to the communities’ needs. For the distribution of humanitarian aid, a number of meetings were held in advance with community leaders of the affected areas and with the mayors of the three Municipalities. At these meetings the aim of the operation and the main Principles of the Red Cross Movement were laid out as well as the identification of the donors.

At the operational level, BRC volunteers have been crucial in providing assistance to the affected families, travelling to affected areas, supporting the selection process of beneficiaries, handing out distribution cards, and packing and distributing aid. The volunteers, who worked in coordination with the BRC’s relief team, participated continuously throughout the operation showing genuine commitment.

### Analysis of the operation - achievements and impact

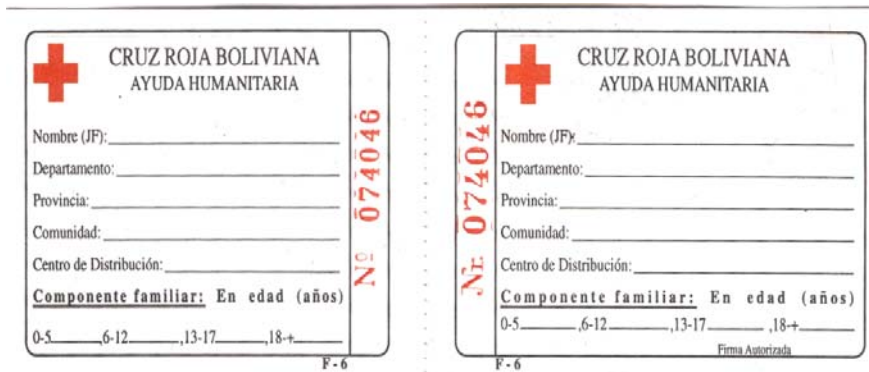
The following activities were carried out under the BRC’s Plan of Action:

#### *Evaluation of the Emergency and assessment of the affected population*

With the aim of assessing the situation with regard to needs, visits were made to west Beni, to the areas of San Borja, Reyes and Rurrenabaque. The assessment carried out showed that 2,000 families had been affected by the floods and that their primary needs were for food packages and hygiene kits.

#### *Identification of the beneficiaries*

To ensure effective distribution to families in need, beneficiary families were provided with an identity card by the BRC when the survey was carried out, see below.



These identity cards show basic information such as the name and surname of the beneficiary, the community where they live, the nearest distribution centre and their family composition. Each card has two parts, one for the card holder and the other for the BRC to be shown at distribution centres.

The criteria for the selection of the beneficiaries was defined together with leaders from the affected communities and the lists sent by community leaders were checked by volunteers from the Relief Department and the BRC branch in La Paz. The selection criteria were based on the following:

- Families affected by the damage to agricultural crops
- Families whose homes had been partially or totally affected
- Families whose means of income were affected by the floods
- Families with children, elderly and those with female heads of households

The identity cards were completed and distributed between 8 and 12 February by a technical team which travelled from La Paz and worked in coordination with leaders from the beneficiary communities. The use of distribution cards in the operation showed that the number of beneficiary families was actually 1,900 rather than 2,000 as originally anticipated.

The remaining 100 food packages and hygiene kits were used to reinforce the humanitarian aid operation in the department of Oruro, thereby supporting families affected by the floods that were not included in the beneficiary selection of other aid operations.



*Members of communities registering to receive food packages and hygiene kits*

#### *Packing and distribution of humanitarian aid*

One food package and one hygiene kit was distributed to 1,900 families affected by the floods in the communities of San Borja, Reyes and Rurrenabaque in the department of Beni.

The contents of the food packages and the hygiene kits were purchased from local providers in La Paz, and the composition of these were based on SPHERE standards. The contents for packages and kits were received from providers in bags of 5kg, and were repacked into bags of 45kg and stored in a warehouse, lent by the Neighbourhood Board of El Alto. This repacking was carried out by BRC volunteers, in three shifts, using sacks with BRC and the Federation logos. The same procedure was used in the activities supported by other donors.

**Contents of the food package:**

Item	Quantity	Total
Rice	3 x 5 kg bag	15 kg
Sugar	2 x 5 kg bag	10 kg
Pasta	2 x 5 kg bag	10 kg
Flour	1 x 5 kg bag	5 kg
Salt	2 x 1 kg bag	2 kg
Oil	2 x 1 lt bottles	2 lts
Coffee	1 x 1 kg bag	1 kg
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>45 kg</b>

**Contents of the hygiene kit:**

Item	Quantity
Toothpaste	3 tubes
Toothbrush	5 units
Soap	3 units
Toilet paper	4 rolls

After several meetings and visits to the affected areas, it was decided that three simultaneous distributions would take place, each 300km apart, to distribute one 45kg food package for one month and one hygiene kit per family.

For the distribution of humanitarian aid, 5 trucks were loaded with the items at the warehouse used for the operation in La Paz. All trucks were labelled with Red Cross and donor logos.



*BRC volunteers distributing food packages and hygiene kits to affected communities*

On the day of the distributions, beneficiaries checked their names on the list on a first come first served basis, showing their identity cards to BRC volunteers, and signing or leaving their fingerprint to confirm receipt of the aid and that the distribution had taken place. Once the distribution card was checked, beneficiary families went to the distribution area where BRC volunteers were on hand to help with the distribution of the food packages and hygiene kits. A final check was made to ensure that all goods had been received.

**Impact:**

- The basic needs in food and hygiene of 10,000 affected persons were covered for a month.
- The BRC, thanks to its branches and volunteers, has been recognized by the authorities and the population in Beni. Not only has material humanitarian relief been provided, but also emotional support in facing the emergency. The Red Cross was the first and the main organization present in the area.

- The BRC branches involved in relief operations have improved their capacities in disaster management and coordination.
- A positive outcome of the operation was the inter institutional work carried out, as each agency / actor worked in one particular geographical area, which led to 100% coverage and response to the needs of communities which were affected by the floods.
- A lesson learned during the emergency is the importance of working with national organizations as opposed to those that do not know the country so well, or those who are less aware of practical needs on the ground. The balance between knowledge and experience has shown to be essential in formulating the intervention strategy.
- An evaluation was carried out at the end of the Operation by the United Nations entitled “Lessons learned and recommendations - response to the floods and hail in Bolivia, 2006”. Aid agencies, government institutions and the Bolivian Red Cross participated in the evaluation, as actors active in the response to the emergency. The evaluation allowed for reflection to take place on how to improve actions in preparation, alert, cooperation, evaluation, response and the transition to rehabilitation in the event of a disaster.

**Constraints:**

- At the time of the emergency the Government had been recently elected which meant the government structure to face the emergency was not in place as the state functions were not yet operating fully.
- Roads across the country became inaccessible during the rainy season, making it difficult to reach the communities affected by the floods within the planned time frame.
- The continuous rains and the lack of access to remote areas for assessment made it difficult to gather accurate figures, and the numbers of families reported affected varied significantly during most of the emergency operation.
- The emergency situation was responded to by a number of international organizations, and support was secured to assist those affected. Although this was positive, it also led to a lack of coordination between organizations and operational deficiencies in the relief effort.

**[Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)**

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRBO001 - BOLIVIA - FLOODS

financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/10
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	Mdrbo001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		106'832				106'832
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		106'832				106'832
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		106'832				106'832
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		106'832				106'832
D. Total Funding = B + C		106'832				106'832

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		106'832				106'832
E. Expenditure		-106'832				-106'832
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/10
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**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		106'832					<b>106'832</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Food	66'974		66'974				66'974	0
Water & Sanitation	741		741				741	0
Other Supplies & Services	10'820		10'820				10'820	0
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>78'535</b>		<b>78'535</b>				<b>78'535</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	2'499		2'499				2'499	0
Distribution & Monitoring	10		10				10	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5'377		5'377				5'377	0
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>7'885</b>		<b>7'885</b>				<b>7'885</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff	1'160		1'160				1'160	0
National Staff	754		754				754	0
National Society Staff	3'411		3'411				3'411	0
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>5'325</b>		<b>5'325</b>				<b>5'325</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	3'080		3'080				3'080	0
Information & Public Relation	328		328				328	0
Office Costs	681		681				681	0
Communications	1'206		1'206				1'206	0
Financial Charges	2'848		2'848				2'848	0
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>8'143</b>		<b>8'143</b>				<b>8'143</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support	6'944		6'944				6'944	0
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>6'944</b>		<b>6'944</b>				<b>6'944</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>106'832</b>		<b>106'832</b>				<b>106'832</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>0</b>				<b>0</b>	