

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bolivia: Floods

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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.

Period covered by this update: 13 February to 18 March, 2008.

Summary: CHF 125,000 (USD 110,132 or EUR 75,758) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Fund (DREF) on 28 January, 2008 to support the Bolivian Red Cross in delivering humanitarian assistance to 6,500 beneficiaries.

Since November, 2007, continuous rain in Bolivia caused floods that severely affected 94,090 families in several communities. This DREF operation update is focused on the objectives accomplished thus far.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 28 April, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 28 July, 2008).

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Temporary shelters in the plaza
Source: International Federation.

The Situation

Since November 2007, continuous rainfall has affected several departments in Bolivia due to the climatic phenomena known as La Niña. Latest reports from the United Nations indicate 71 deaths to date and more than 94,000 affected families. The most affected departments are Santa Cruz, Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and La Paz.

The following chart shows the number of affected families by department:

Departament	Number of affected families since November, 2007	Alert level
La Paz	21,911	Red
Cochabamba	9,940	Red

Oruro	2,731	Orange
Santa Cruz	20,830	Red
Tarija	801	Orange
Chuquisaca	9,114	Red
Potosí	6,754	Orange
Beni	20,992	Red
Pando	1,017	Red
Total	94,090	

There are 33 temporary camps in the urban areas and six in the rural areas in the department of Beni providing relief assistance to some 5,106 families. Some 1,024 families are housed in temporary shelters in the municipalities of San Julian, Pailon and El Puente in the department of Santa Cruz.

The temporary shelters in the urban areas are being assisted by the local municipalities, World Vision, OXFAM, Save the Children; the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is evaluating compliance with the SPHERE standards. In Beni, some 15,000 families are still living in shelters. There is a problem with residual waste due to the fact that it is only being treated in eight of the 33 shelters.

UNICEF is elaborating a water and sanitation program in order to treat the residual waters and educate the people. A total of 26 health posts have been affected by the floods in Beni. The World Health Organization/ Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) informed that the epidemiological situation in Beni remains under control, but there is a need for dermatological medication.

Some 56,000 affected families have received food parcels to date, but the Ministry of Health solicited extra food parcels to assist an additional 26,500 families.



Flooded street in Bolivia.

Source: International Federation.

The continuous and heavy rainfall in La Paz and Santa Cruz was causing trouble

throughout the entire country. Santa Cruz and El Beni have been especially affected due to the strength of the descending water which flows northward towards and through their communities. Landslides damaged homes, bridges and fiber optic lines in Santa Cruz leaving many without any type of communication. A UNETT mission in Santa Cruz informs that given the recurrent floods (third consecutive year), the affected families are considering not to return to their communities; therefore, the local government is planning to relocate these families to urban areas.

Latest data obtained on 18 March indicate that the situation is stabilizing as the rainfall is subsiding.

Coordination and partnerships

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) sent a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to support the BRC in their emergency response. Coordination of activities is maintained nationally as well as departmentally. Regular communication and coordination among national authorities, UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), the Federation (through PADRU) and other organizations is done through periodic cooperative and section meetings.

Within the Movement, the National Societies from Spain and Switzerland are supporting the emergency. The BRC is in close contact with the German Red Cross for cooperation in the second phase of the emergency.

Red Cross Action

The BRC, with support from the Federation, completed a general plan of action which will supply basic needs such as food items and non-food items (hygiene kits, jerry cans and mosquito nets) to the affected families in the departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, el Beni and La Paz.

With support from the Federation's DREF, 1,339 families received food parcels and hygiene kits for one month in the departments of La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

The following areas have benefited from these distributions:

Table 1

Dates of Distribution	Department	Municipality	Nº Families assisted
24 February	Cochabamba	Puerto Villaroel	500
17 February	La Paz	Meca Peca	239
15 March	Santa Cruz	Guarayos	600
Total families assisted			1,339

The BRC will distribute an additional 2,000 mosquito nets with the collaboration from the Spanish Red Cross. These mosquito nets have been dispatched and will arrive in Bolivia on 26 March. The Spanish Red Cross also sent 7,200 mosquito nets and 5,040 jerry cans to support BRC disaster response which have been distributed by the Bolivian government through their Armed Forces in the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni.



The BRC expanded their plan of action to provide food and non-food items (hygiene kits and mosquito nets) for one month to more than 2,794 families in the department of Beni and La Paz due to bilateral contributions from the Chinese government, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross (below in table 2):

Distribution activities

Source: International Federation.

Table 2

Department	Province	Municipality	Communities	Families	Humanitarian Aid
Beni	Cercado	San Javier	3	1,918	Food parcels, hygiene kits and mosquito nets
Beni	José Ballivián	Rurrenabaque	25		
Beni	Vaca Diez	Riveralta			
La Paz	Iturrealde	San Buenaventura	20	412	
Santa Cruz	Guarayos	Guarayos	2	464	
TOTAL				2,794	

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 1,300 affected families (6,500 persons) in the departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and La Paz will benefit from food items in order to help them recuperate from the effects of the floods.

Activities planned:

- Conduct needs assessments, census and beneficiary targeting.
- Procurement of relief supplies according to Federation procedures.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

- A census was completed and identification cards were handed out.
- Quotes for the procurement of the food items were completed.
- Food parcels were distributed in the departments of Cochabamba, La Paz and Santa Cruz (see table 1).
- The BRC assisted an additional 39 families to the 1,300 families that were originally planned in the Plan of Action with the DREF funds.

Challenges:

The constant rainfall made the distribution process difficult, nevertheless it was completed in due time.

Objective 2: 1,300 families (6,500 people) affected by the floods see their immediate needs met through the distribution of 1,300 hygiene kits to help them recover from the emergency.

Activities planned:

- Conduct needs assessments, census and beneficiaries targeting.
- Procurement of relief supplies according to Federation procedures.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

- The procurement and distribution process are completed (see table 1).
- The hygiene kits were distributed in the departments of Cochabamba, La Paz and Santa Cruz.
- The BRC assisted an additional 39 families to the 1,300 families originally planned in the Plan of Action with the DREF funds.

Challenges:

The constant rainfall made the distribution process difficult, nevertheless it was completed in due time.

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:

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