

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Bolivia: Floods

**DREF operation n° MDRBO003**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2007-000231-BOL**  
**27 November 2008**

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 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.

**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 (BRC) in delivering humanitarian assistance to 1,300 families (some 6,500 people) due to the climatic phenomena known as La Niña.

Since November, 2007, continuous rain in Bolivia caused severe floods affecting more than 121,145 families. Most affected areas were the departments of La Paz, Santa Cruz and Beni.

The Bolivian Red Cross, with support from the International Federation, Partner National Societies and private donors carried out relief distributions in order to alleviate the immediate needs of the affected population.



**Distribution activities in La Paz.**  
**Source: Bolivian Red Cross**

The BRC plan of action was revised and provided a total distribution of essential non-food items and food parcels to 8,814 families (some 44,070 people) in the Departments of Cochabamba, Beni, La Paz and Santa Cruz.

This final report considers the relief actions carried out by the Bolivian Red Cross with DREF funding, private donations as well as activities supported by other Red Cross partners.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

Heavy and continuous rain, which started in mid-November 2007 throughout March 2008 due to the climatic phenomena known as La Niña, caused many rivers to overflow severely flooding the departments of Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, La Paz, Santa Cruz and el Beni, amongst others. The floods caused extensive damage to crops and livestock. On 15 January the National Council for Disaster Reduction and Response (Consejo Nacional de Reducción y Atención a Desastres - CONRADE) reported 19,000 families affected,

and advised the President of the country to declare a National Emergency throughout the entire country. The most affected departments were Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, La Paz and El Beni with 56,986 affected families and 54 deaths as of February 2008. Health problems started to increase due to the floods, including cases of dengue fever, diarrhea, respiratory infections and skin diseases. The Emergency Operations Center (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia – COE) indicated that six out of the nine departments were deeply affected, therefore the President declared a National Disaster throughout the country on 11 February.

Figures from April 2008 show that the most affected departments were La Paz, Beni and Santa Cruz.

The latest figures from the Civil Defense indicated 80 deaths, four missing people and more than 121,145 affected families in 189 municipalities. Several access roads and bridges in these departments were impassable or were blocked by authorities for security reasons, slowing down the humanitarian relief efforts.

**Beneficiaries receiving their food parcel.**  
Source: Bolivian Red Cross



Since the beginning of the emergency, several international organizations and governments such as those from Argentina, Brazil, Spain, Venezuela and the United States engaged in the initial emergency phase by providing transportation, rescue equipment and personnel to support the Bolivian governmental relief actions. The Bolivian government activated the “joint command for disaster response” (Comando Conjunto para respuesta a desastres) consisting of the three bodies of the armed forces: air force, navy and military. The joint command was in charge of managing humanitarian aid at national level.

### **Coordination and partnerships**

Since the beginning of the operation, Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), led by Civil Defense with support from the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team and the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT), were activated at both national and departmental level in order to provide a coordination platform for all national and international actors.

General coordination meetings took place on a regular basis, providing updated information on the situation and relief activities carried out. More specific meetings regarding sectors such as water and sanitation, food security, health and shelter were also organized for information-sharing and better coordination at both national and departmental level.

The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) and the International Federation participated in general coordination meetings, and also in those specific meetings related to the sectors of intervention for the Red Cross emergency operation; the sectors being: health, water and sanitation and food security.

The BRC emergency operation received support from several Partner National Societies (PNS) such as the German, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross and the International Federation. Also, the Chinese government and other private enterprises supported this operation with funds.

The International Federation through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) deployed a disaster management delegate and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to support the BRC in the operation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



**Beneficiary receiving food parcel in the department of Beni.**

Source: Bolivian Red Cross

All BRC branches participated in the relief operation, carrying out search and rescue, evacuations and first aid actions. More than 200 volunteers were mobilized to assist the affected population in all nine departments.

The International Federation, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) deployed one Disaster Management Delegate and one Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to provide technical support to the emergency operation during the initial assessment and coordination phase.

Following the field assessment findings, the BRC developed an initial plan of action aiming to meet

the basic needs of 1,300 families (6,500 people) in the departments of Cochabamba, La Paz and Santa Cruz by distributing food parcels and essential non-food items such as hygiene and

school kits. A Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was approved to support the operation and achieve the objectives.

After assessments and initial distributions were carried out, the plan of action was revised. The number of families reached increased to 8,814 (44,070 beneficiaries) in five out of the nine departments of Bolivia.

The Bolivian Red Cross distributed food and non-food items as follows:

Department	Municipality	No. Communities	No. Families
La Paz	Meca Peca	3	239
Cochabamba	Puerto Villaroal	20	500
	Vinto Cercado	3	300
Santa Cruz	Mineros	6	300
	Guarayos	13	767
El Beni	San Javier	3	306
	La Paz	44	1,062
	Riberalta	42	1,000
	Guayaramerin	58	1,340
	Reyes	24	450
	San Borja	48	1,450
Potosí	Tupiza	32	807
	Villason	10	293
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>8,814 FAMILIES</b>

This chart includes relief items supported by DREF, donors and in-kind donations provided by PNS and private companies. The relief items distributed were jerry cans, plastic buckets, food parcels, impregnated mosquito nets, hygiene kits and school kits. The food parcels could feed a family of five people and last up

to one month and included items such as: rice, sugar, noodles, flour, salt, cooking oil and coffee. Similarly, hygiene kits were for a family of five people to last up to one month and contained: toothpaste, toothbrush, medium sized towels, soap, detergent, sanitary pads and toilet paper. The school kits contained: notebooks, pencils, pens, pencil sharpener and a backpack.

## Progress towards objectives

Thanks to the support from the International 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.

### 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.
- Procure relief supplies according to International Federation' procedures.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

A total of 189 Red Cross volunteers participated in the census and the logistic chain for relief distribution. The beneficiary selection criteria included those who have lost their homes and did not receive support from other sources. Both food parcels and hygiene kits were procured locally as national markets had enough stock available at reasonable prices. International Federation procedures and standards were applied during the acquisition process. 1,339 food parcels were distributed in the departments of Cochabamba, La Paz and Santa Cruz. The number of beneficiaries increased after accurate census of the affected population. More detailed information can be seen in the table below.

Dates of Distribution	Department	Municipality	N° Families assisted
24 February	Cochabamba	Puerto Villaroel	500
17 February	La Paz	Meca Peca	239
15 March	Santa Cruz	Guarayos	600
<b>Total families assisted</b>			1,339

#### Impact:

The provision of food and non-food items helped to ensure that 1,339 families were able to alleviate their immediate needs. At the same time, these families could focus their available resources on other essential items. As mentioned before, the quantity of food distributed is considered sufficient for one family (five members) during one month, measure based on taking into account local customs.

#### Challenges:

Some areas could only be reached by air as there was a lack of accessibility to some communities due to landslides and flooded roads. Because of this, some distributions had to be postponed for a few days until trucks could access the targeted area.

**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.
- Procure relief supplies according to International 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.

The hygiene kits were distributed to 1,339 families in the departments of Cochabamba, La Paz and Santa Cruz during the following dates of distribution:

Dates of Distribution	Department	Municipality	N° Families assisted
24 February	Cochabamba	Puerto Villaroel	500
17 February	La Paz	Meca Peca	239
15 March	Santa Cruz	Guarayos	600
<b>Total families assisted</b>			1,339

As previously mentioned, Red Cross volunteers were involved in the emergency operation and collaborated during the entire relief phase of the operation. Whilst applying International Federation' standards throughout the acquisition process, the International Federation encouraged the purchase of local goods to promote and support national markets. Also, Sphere standards were respected. The total number of beneficiaries increased after accurate census of the affected population.

#### Impact:

The provision of hygiene kits helped to ensure that 1,339 families were able to alleviate their immediate needs. At the same time, these families could focus their available resources on other essential items. As mentioned before, the hygiene kits are considered sufficient for one family (five members) during one month.

#### Challenges:

Some areas could only be reached by air as there was a lack of accessibility to some communities due to landslides and flooded roads. Because of this, some distributions had to be postponed for a few days until trucks could access the targeted area.

## Conclusion and lessons learned

- Experiences and lessons learned from the emergency operation during the last year provided the Bolivian Red Cross with the managerial, planning and logistical capacities necessary to respond to this event.
- The National Society through its plan of action was able to attract other donors at national level to increase the response activities.
- Activities were carried out in coordination with beneficiaries and local authorities, which helped to disseminate the Red Cross mandate and principles. This also gave the BRC and its operational partners greater visibility in the country.
- Even though coordination was maintained with other NGOs and international organizations present in the country, it needs to be reinforced in order to increase the impact of the relief actions.
- The lack of accessibility in some areas hindered relief distributions and made special transportation and the increase in the number of trucks for achieving the operation goals necessary.

## 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:**

- In Bolivia: Dr. Abel Peña y Lillo, President of the Bolivian Red Cross; phone: (5912) 220 2934 or 212 9225; fax (5912) 235 9102; email: [cruzrobo@caoba.entelnet.bo](mailto:cruzrobo@caoba.entelnet.bo).
- In Lima: Giorgio Ferrario, Regional Representative of the South America Regional Representation Office; phone: (511) 221 8151; fax: (511) 441 3607; email: [giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org](mailto:giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org)
- In Panama: Ariel Kestens, Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: [ariel.kestens@ifrc.org](mailto:ariel.kestens@ifrc.org)
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org)
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41) 79 2173376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395; email [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org).

**[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

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

MDRBO003 - Bolivia - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRBO003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	125,000					125,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	117,011					117,011
<b>C5. Other Income</b>	117,011					117,011
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	117,011					117,011
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	117,011					117,011
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	94%					94%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	117,011					117,011
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-117,011					-117,011
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	0					0

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

MDRBO003 - Bolivia - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRBO003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>125,000</b>					<b>125,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Food	54,834	54,453				54,453	381	
Utensils & Tools		21				21	-21	
Other Supplies & Services	25,363	33,799				33,799	-8,436	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>80,197</b>	<b>88,273</b>				<b>88,273</b>	<b>-8,076</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring		1,483				1,483	-1,483	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,000	2,356				2,356	5,644	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>3,839</b>				<b>3,839</b>	<b>4,161</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	3,405						3,405	
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,917	1,560				1,560	6,357	
National Staff	819						819	
National Society Staff	3,719	3,044				3,044	675	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>15,860</b>	<b>4,604</b>				<b>4,604</b>	<b>11,256</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	6,448	8,454				8,454	-2,006	
Information & Public Relation	2,065	1,805				1,805	260	
Office Costs	1,703	305				305	1,397	
Communications	2,270	667				667	1,603	
Financial Charges	333	1,467				1,467	-1,134	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>12,818</b>	<b>12,697</b>				<b>12,697</b>	<b>121</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	8,125	7,598				7,598	527	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>7,598</b>				<b>7,598</b>	<b>527</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>117,011</b>				<b>117,011</b>	<b>7,989</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>7,989</b>				<b>7,989</b>		