

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Paraguay: Fires

DREF operation n° MDRPY002  
WF-2007-000156-PRY  
10 April, 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 120,000 (USD 99,750 or EUR 72,993) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 September, 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 1,922 families.

Paraguay faced one of the worst droughts and forest fires in history, affecting more than 260,000 people. The most vulnerable received emergency assistance such as food parcels in the departments of San Pedro and Concepcion.

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



Distributions in the department of  
Concepcion. Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

## The situation

During 2007, Paraguay endured one of the most severe winters and one of the most extreme droughts. The lack of rain caused the vegetation to scorch; initiating three weeks of continuing fires (August to September, 2007). The fires deeply affected the northern departments of San Pedro, Concepcion, Presidente Hayes, Amambay and Canindeyu; the fires affected 260,000 people and more than one million hectares of agricultural land, forests, pastures and houses and left one person dead.

On 12 September, the Paraguayan government declared a national state of emergency. The most urgent needs were immediately identified: water distribution, rehabilitation of water supply systems, food parcels, medical assistance, construction supplies, agricultural tools and seeds. The government selected the beneficiaries by identifying the families directly affected by the fires, farmers who lost no more than 20 hectares of land and families affected by the fires that are associated in indigenous organizations.



Distributions conducted in the department of Concepcion.  
Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

After the emergency, the Secretary of National Emergency (Secretaria de Emergencia Nacional – SEN) together with the UN started to work on the issues of risk management on national, departmental and municipal level. The aim of this process is to stimulate the creation and organization of risk reduction structures and emergency and disaster attention in the departments, cities and villages of the country, which will allow for a strengthening of the civil protection and which will coordinate the activities as established by the law.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

At the beginning of the emergency, the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) deployed an assessment team to the departments of San Pedro and Concepcion. The support from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) was requested immediately after the evaluation team identified the most urgent needs.

The DREF funds contributed to the overall PRC plan of action to respond to the needs of the communities affected by the fires, which included community risk reduction, food security, water, institutional capacity building and communication and awareness raising actions in both Guaraní and Spanish.

Within the PRC's plan of action there were several organizations who supported activities like water and sanitation; provided by the Inter American Development Bank (Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo – BID). USAID provided the affected families in San Pedro with seeds, the International Committee of the Red Cross provided hygiene kits and ECHO provided additional food parcels.

The actions below reflect the immediate response activities in the affected departments of San Pedro and Concepción in Paraguay included in the PRC plan of action covered by this DREF operation to respond to the needs of 1,922 families (11,532 people).



Distributions in the department of Concepcion.  
Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

## Progress towards objectives

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

**Objective 1:** 1,922 families (11,532 people) from the San Pedro and Concepción departments will benefit from the provision of a supplementary food parcel (47 kg), consisting of rice, flour, noodles, sugar, beans, salt, tea and oil, to last up to a month.

The PRC provided food parcels to 1,922 families covered with the DREF funds; in total, 2,820 families benefited from the distribution of food parcels; the additional food parcels were also supplied by the PRC, thanks to donations from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

**Impact:** The objective of providing 1,922 families from San Pedro and Concepción with food parcels was accomplished. The beneficiaries were thankful in receiving their food items and were especially appreciative of the PRC since they were the only organization providing food parcels.

**Challenges:** The only challenge within this objective was the difficulty in obtaining up-to-date data about the situation in order to provide immediate response to the affected communities. It was concluded that there should have been better coordination with the local authorities.

**Objective 2:** 3,858 families (23,148 people) in eight communities in the department of Concepción will receive drinking water.

This objective did not need to be covered by the DREF; the 3,858 families did receive drinking water provided by the PRC, due to the cooperation of other international organizations.

## Conclusion

### Lessons learned:

- The PRC acknowledges the need to have a more active relationship with local governments in order to have a steady flow of information and to be able to coordinate activities.
- It is important to have stronger team leaders in order to comply with all security protocols established in the field
- It is also paramount to have already identified local suppliers for a faster procurement process
- The National Society has to promote a volunteer system in local branches in order for the NS and the branches to have more and stronger capacities.

## 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 Paraguay: Dr. Luis Fernando Díaz de Bedoya: President of the Paraguayan Red Cross; e-mail: [crppcia@uninet.com.py](mailto:crppcia@uninet.com.py); phone: (595) 21-208199; fax: (595) 21-211 560.
- In Peru: Giorgio Ferraro, Regional Representative of Regional representation for South America, [Giorgio.ferraro@ifrc.org](mailto:Giorgio.ferraro@ifrc.org); phone: (511) 221 8151; fax: (511) 441 3607.
- In Panama: Dario Alvarez, Acting Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: [dario.alvarez@ifrc.org](mailto:dario.alvarez@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; email [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org); phone: (41) 79 2173376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395.

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

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

MDRPY002 - Paraguay - Fires

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/9-2008/5
Budget Timeframe	2007/9-2008/5
Appeal	MDRPY002
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
<b>A. Budget</b>		120,000				120,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		115,771				115,771
<b>C5. Other Income</b>		115,771				115,771
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>		115,771				115,771
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		115,771				115,771
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		96%				96%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		115,771				115,771
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-115,771				-115,771
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

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

MDRPY002 - Paraguay - Fires

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/9-2008/5
Budget Timeframe	2007/9-2008/5
Appeal	MDRPY002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**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>		<b>120,000</b>					<b>120,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Food	81,500		84,931			84,931	-3,431	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>81,500</b>		<b>84,931</b>			<b>84,931</b>	<b>-3,431</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring	4,600						4,600	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,000		1,205			1,205	795	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>6,600</b>		<b>1,205</b>			<b>1,205</b>	<b>5,395</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,000		1,757			1,757	5,244	
National Staff			1,172			1,172	-1,172	
National Society Staff	10,000		1,434			1,434	8,566	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>17,000</b>		<b>4,362</b>			<b>4,362</b>	<b>12,638</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	3,000		6,096			6,096	-3,096	
Information & Public Relation			2,874			2,874	-2,874	
Office Costs	3,100		3,777			3,777	-677	
Communications	1,000		254			254	746	
Financial Charges			4,748			4,748	-4,748	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>7,100</b>		<b>17,748</b>			<b>17,748</b>	<b>-10,648</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	7,800		7,525			7,525	275	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>7,800</b>		<b>7,525</b>			<b>7,525</b>	<b>275</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>120,000</b>		<b>115,771</b>			<b>115,771</b>	<b>4,229</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>4,229</b>			<b>4,229</b>		