

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Argentina: Landslide

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This bulletin is being issued for information only. On 9 February 2009, due to intense rainfall a landslide took place on the western mountainous city of Tartagal in the province of Salta.

The Argentine Red Cross (ARC), with the support of the International Federation, have determined that external assistance is not required at this moment, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors.

[<Click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)



Flooded street in the city of Tartagal in the province of Salta.
Source: Tartagal News

The Situation

On 9 February, 2009, at approximately 9:00 a.m. a landslide consisting of water, mud and wood remains swept over the mountainous city of Tartagal in the province of Salta. After severe rainfall, the Tartagal River surged over its banks causing the landslide, which affected the southern part of the city in the province of Salta. The landslide flooded part of the cities' main streets. Tartagal has an approximate population of 60,000 inhabitants. Two deaths have been reported and approximately twelve people are missing. The landslide also damaged houses and automobiles. The city's electricity, telephone and internet services were interrupted for a short period of time.

On 10 February 2009, the Civil Defence (Defensa Civil) in the province of Salta informed that 10,000 people have lost their homes, 742 people have been evacuated and eight temporary shelters have been opened to shelter the affected families. The most immediate needs identified by the local authorities are safe water, food items, clothes, bed clothes, footwear, mattresses, diapers and the rehabilitation of sanitary systems.

The National Meteorological Service (Servicio Meteorológico Nacional) emitted an alert to the population for potential storms in the northern part of the country, including Salta. A crisis committee was formed including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Development to coordinate initial relief efforts. The army deployed an operative team to establish an "aerial bridge" to guarantee the victims' safety and provide medical assistance, food and shelter. National authorities in the capital city of Buenos Aires have opened a collection centre to receive donations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Argentine Red Cross (ARC) has been in constant communication with the Civil Defence and local authorities. A volunteer from ARC's headquarters, National Intervention Team (NIT) members and volunteers from the Salta ARC branch have been deployed to the disaster area in order to initiate damage and need assessments and start early response actions.

The local branch in Salta has launched a campaign to collect items such as: safe water, diapers and footwear.

The International Federation's, Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU and the Regional Representation Office for the Southern Cone are monitoring the situation and keeping close communication with the ARC in case assistance is needed for this emergency.



Houses suffered severe damage due to the landslide.
Source: Tartagal News

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

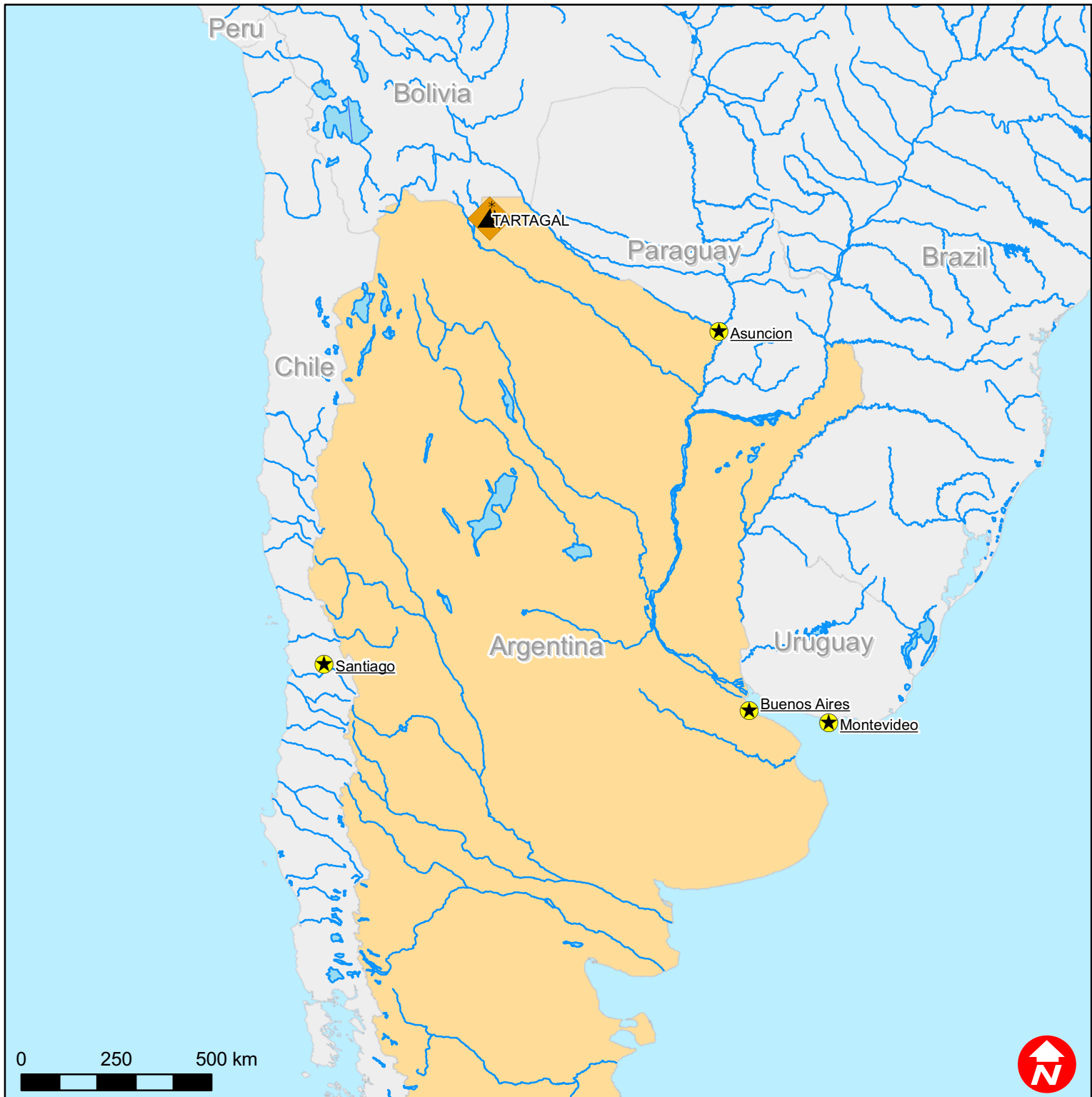
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- In Panama: Jean Pierre Taschereau, Disaster Management Delegate of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax (507) 316 1082; email: jp.taschereau@ifrc.org
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