

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bolivia: floods and landslides

DREF operation n° MDRBO006
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000020-BOL
3 March 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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.

78,074 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) in completing a needs assessment and start relief activities for 600 families affected by the floods in the department of La Paz. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Several weeks of heavy rain caused severe floods and mudslides in 9 departments of Bolivia affecting some 11,000 families and taking the lives of 45 persons. The most affected departments are Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and La Paz. The Bolivian Red Cross, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are undertaking a joint-assessment of the situation and developing a plan of action in coordination with the local authorities to respond to the needs. The National Society will also attend to the immediate needs of 600 families in La Paz.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by June, 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by September, 2011).



Some 800 homes were destroyed when a hillside collapsed in Kupini, a neighbourhood in the capital city of La Paz. Source: BRC

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The situation

Due to the phenomenon of La Niña, the weather pattern in Bolivia has been disrupted, with drought in late 2010 and early 2011, and many days of intense and constant rains throughout February. These weeks of heavy rain caused floods and mudslides in 9 departments of the country affecting almost 11,000 families and causing 45 deaths. The Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and La Paz departments present the highest level of affectation.

The most prominent event occurred on 25 February when a hillside collapsed onto Kupini II, a poor neighbourhood of the capital city, La Paz. Emergency services evacuated the area before the landslide hit, and there were not major casualties. The exact affectation is difficult to determine as the hillside is still unstable and landslides are still occurring. However, as much as 800 homes seem to be affected. As weather forecasts predict the continuation of rains in the coming days, the possibility of new landslides is still high.

The Bolivian government declared a state of emergency on 23 February 2011. The areas on red alert are the valley region in Cochabamba; the Chapare region in Beni, particularly along the banks of the Beni River; the municipalities of Rurrenabaque, Reyes and San Borja in La Paz. Ninety 90 per cent of the affected population in the country resides in these areas. The Vice-ministry of Civil Defence reported on 27 February the following affected families:

Families affected by La Niña phenomenon	
Department	Total
Beni	1,294
Chuquisaca	1,221
Cochabamba	4,430
La Paz	2,792
Oruro	500
Pando	-
Potosí	440
Santa Cruz	65
Tarija	250
Total	10,992

The Vice-ministry of Rural Development states that an estimated 3,000 hectares of food crops have been lost. Furthermore, access to the affected areas is difficult, as several roads and bridges have been affected. A report from the Bolivian Road Administration (Administración Boliviana de Carreteras - ABC) states that 26 highways are closed to traffic due to landslides.

Coordination and partnerships

Generally, in case of emergencies there is inter-institutional coordination through national and departmental level Emergency Operations Centres (EOC), where the BRC participates. Although the National EOC meetings are not being carried out at the moment, there are other spaces open to share information and establish collaboration. On 28 February a meeting was held in the Major's Office of La Paz with different national and international organizations, and another meeting took place in the Governor's Office with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The World Food Program is also organizing meetings with the government and other organizations. The National Disaster Relief Unit (Unidad Nacional de Socorro y Desastres) of the BRC has been present on all these meetings, as well as keeping up to date with the information of the National Civil Defence. In addition, the governmental authorities are working alongside OXFAM and Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) to establish 42 collective centres for the affected population.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The needs

As the effects of the floods and landslide become clear, the Bolivian Red Cross will continue to carry out damage and needs assessment in the affected areas. Alongside this, a comprehensive plan of action will be

drawn up in coordination with local authorities in order to cover all gaps and avoid duplication of services. This will take into consideration the financial, human and relief resource capacity to manage an operation with support from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners. However, as many families in La Paz lost all their possessions and are in immediate need for many items, the National Society will support 650 of them with food parcels, kitchen sets and hygiene set while the assessments around the country continue.

The proposed operation

This DREF will support the deployment of a disaster response delegate from the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and a member of the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) to support the BRC in identifying the needs of the affected population and drawing up a plan of action. In addition, the BRC will distribute relief items to 600 affected families in the department of La Paz.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items) and assessment	
Outcome: 600 families will benefit from the provision of essential food and non food items to meet their immediate needs resulting from the emergency situation	
Outputs and activities planned:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify affected areas after a rapid emergency needs and capacity assessment. • Develop a plan of action, if required. • Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reports on relief distributions. 	

The National Society will distribute food parcels, kitchen kits and hygiene kits to 600 families in the La Paz department. The following tables show the contents of these packages.

Food Parcels			
Item	Size	Quantity	TOTAL
Rice	5 kg. bag	3 bags	15 kg.
Sugar	5 kg. bag	2 bags	10 kg
Noodles	5 kg. bag	2 bags	10 kg.
Flour	5 kg. bag	1 bag	5 kg.
Salt	1 kg. bag	2 bags	2 kg.
Coffee	1 kg. bag	1 bag	1 kg.
Oil	1 lt. bottle	2 bottle	2 lt.

Hygiene Kit	
Item	Quantity
Toothpastes	3
Toothbrushes	5
Soap bars	3
Medium size towel	2
Laundry soap	3
Feminine pads packages	3
Rolls of toilet paper	10

Once the detailed assessments and the coordination with local authorities are completed, the National Society and the IFRC will determine if a more comprehensive Plan of Action will be needed to cover further needs of the population.

Kitchen Kit	
Item	Quantity
Stove	1
Gas tank	1
Pots and pan set	1
Ladle	1
Glasses	5
Plates	5
Cutlery	5

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Bolivia:** Ruben Gonzalez, Relief Director of the Bolivian Red Cross; phone: + 00 5912 2202934; and email: socorro@cruzrojaboliviana.org.
- **In Peru:** Fernando Casanova, Regional Representative for the Andean Countries; email: fernando.casanova@ifrc.org.
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- **In Panama:** Jorge Zequeira, Coordinator of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: + 507 316 1001; fax: + 507 316 1082; and email: jorge.zequeria@ifrc.org.
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BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		-
Shelter - Transitional		-
Construction - Housing		-
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		-
Construction - Materials		-
Clothing & Textiles		-
Food	30,690	30,690
Seeds & Plants		-
Water & Sanitation		-
Medical & First Aid		-
Teaching Materials		-
Utensils & Tools	10,602	10,602
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	12,276	12,276
Total Supplies	53,568	53,568
Land & Buildings		-
Vehicles		-
Computer & Telecom		-
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		-
Medical Equipment		-
Other Machinery & Equipment		-
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage	930	930
Distribution & Monitoring	930	930
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,860	1,860
Total Transport & Storage	3,720	3,720
International Staff		-
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,000	7,000
National Staff		-
National Society Staff	1,860	1,860
Other Staff benefits		-
Consultants		-
Total Personnel	8,860	8,860
Workshops & Training		-
Total Workshops & Training	0	0
Travel	4,650	4,650
Information & Public Relation	465	465
Office Costs	465	465
Communications	930	930
Professional Fees		-
Financial Charges	651	651
Other General Expenses		-
Total General Expenditure	7,161	7,161
Cash Transfers to National Societies		-
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		-
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	4,765	4,765
Total Programme Support	4,765	4,765
Services & Recoveries	0	0
Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	78,074	78,074