

## ***BOLIVIA: FLOODS***

*19 January 2001*

### ***Information Bulletin N° 1***

#### ***The Disaster***

Unusually heavy rains are falling in Beni, Cochabamba and La Paz provinces in the Amazonian region of Bolivia. In Cochabamba, mainly urban and suburban areas are affected, together with low-lying valleys. In La Paz province, La Paz city, Guanay and Teoponte are particularly affected. However, Beni province is the worst hit, particularly Rurrenabaque and San Buenaventura as the banks of the river Beni are overflowing.

There are varying estimates of the numbers of people affected. The regional delegation in Buenos Aires received information on 18 January that around 800 families are displaced in Rurrenabaque because of the flooding. However, both this estimate, together with the number of houses, crops, roads and other infrastructure which have been damaged by the flood waters are yet to be verified.

#### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

An inter-agency assessment team including a representative of the Bolivian Red Cross and the Federation's regional disaster preparedness delegate is making its way to Beni province. However, flights from La Paz have been suspended as a result of the heavy rains and the team is obliged to travel by car.

#### ***Needs***

It is expected that the assessment team will be in a position to provide preliminary information as regards the extent of the damage and the numbers of vulnerable people displaced by the flooding as of Monday, 22 January. A further information bulletin will then be issued providing details of needs.

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