

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

BOLIVIA: FLOODS

4 March 2002

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DREF Allocated: CHF 30 000

This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described in the previous bulletin and below. Additional to CHF 30,000 jointly released by International Federation and Spanish Red Cross, a DREF allocation of CHF 30,000 has been released for the La Paz disaster. The current needs are met, but the International Federation and the Bolivian Red Cross continue monitoring, given the risk of landslides within some weeks. Moreover, they are assessing the situation in other departments, particularly in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, where floods have affected 1,300 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update

The Situation

La Paz is getting back to normal after the heavy rains and the hailstorm on 19 February. The effects of this disaster, though severe, were not as great as first feared. Because of graphic media images there has been a great response leaving few outstanding needs. The relief efforts are still suffering from a lack of inter-institutional coordination and clear responsibilities and roles. Now the challenge is to achieve a well managed and coordinated operation. The city of La Paz is now relatively normal but there are still buildings with the risk of collapsing. The affected fields in the rural "Río Abajo" ("Down the River") area still need to be cleaned.

The situation in La Paz, however, requires close monitoring, as according to OCHA and other international agencies there is a potential for landslides in the next 30 to 40 days. On top of this, floods have occurred in other departments, particularly Santacruz and Cochabamba, where 1,300 families are affected.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

As regards the La Paz disaster, the Bolivian Red Cross is trying to define its support in spite of the lack of inter institutional coordination and definition of roles and responsibilities. With support by the International Federation delegate and the delegates of German and Spanish Red Cross, the Bolivian Red Cross has been proactive and presented various proposals to the Government and agencies but still no clear responsibility within the area support to the affected has been defined. However the following activities have been defined. The funds from DREF will be used in La Paz to cover initial costs of the operation, to support the first intervention of the La Paz branch (material such as boots, spades and axes etc.) and to repair damage caused by the storm to the buildings of the Bolivian Red Cross national headquarters and the branch of La Paz.

Support from German Red Cross consists of humanitarian assistance of hygiene kits for 100 families, 60 emergency beds with mattresses and blankets will be distributed when the affected families move from shelters to temporary houses in El Alto. Support from Spanish Red Cross consists of the rehabilitation of one school financed jointly with AECI. Peruvian Red Cross has sent 400 blankets and 50 family tents.

The Federation delegate has met with the UNDAC head of mission and with the UNDP to assure coordination. UNDP is willing to cooperate closely with Bolivian Red Cross in the area of economic reactivation of those affected.

Considering the amount of aid received in Bolivia and the limited effects of the disaster the Bolivian Red Cross and the Federation agree on the fact that there is no need for an international appeal in response to the immediate effects of the La Paz disaster. Donors will be kept informed about needs that could arise from further effects of the disaster, such as landslides, within the coming weeks.

The Bolivian Red Cross and the International Federation are currently assessing the needs in other departments, particularly in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba.

Donors are thanked for their readiness to help and invited to replenish the International Federation's DREF and to be alert for further developments of the situation.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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