

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

PERU: COLD WAVE

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

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In Brief

This document is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Although during the past few weeks the temperatures in the Peruvian highlands have begun to rise (0°-5°C), fresh snowstorms have covered zones 3,800 metres above sea level, worsening the cold wave. The departments most affected by the snowstorms are Cusco, Arequipa and Ayacucho; the most critical situation is in the province of Espinar, Cusco, where 50% of the cattle have been lost. The other affected departments: Tacna, Moquegua and Apurímac continue to suffer. The National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (SENAMHI) has forecast that rain and snow storms will continue to fall in Puno, Cusco, Ayacucho, Huancavelica and Junín over the coming days.



ReliefWeb Map, 28 July 2003

Regions affected:

Department	Province	Metres above sea level
Ayacucho	Lucanas	3,800
Ayacucho	Páucar	4,800
Huancavelica	Castrovirreyna	3,900
Arequipa	Caylloma	4,200
Arequipa	Castilla	4,000
Arequipa	Condesuyos	3,800
Arequipa	La Unión	3,800
Puno	Huancané	4,800
Puno	San Antonio de Putina	4,400
Puno	Carabaya	4,600
Puno	Azángaro	4,100
Puno	Melgar	4,300
Puno	Lampa	4,300
Puno	Chucuito	5,000
Cusco	Espinar	3,600
Cusco	Chumbivilcas	3,600
Cusco	Canchis	3,500
Cusco	Quispicanchis	3,300
Moquegua	General Sánchez Cerro	3,000
Tacna	Candarave	3,300
Tacna	Tarata	4,200
Tacna	Tacna	3,800
Apurímac	Antabamba	3,600

In these areas in which poverty is widespread, many children are malnourished and become the main victims of the severe cold wave. There are insufficient health centres in close proximity to the communities. For example, in Cojata, there are 32 communities which depend on a single local medical centre and all communities are located at a distance of four to eight hours. There are no ambulances available and therefore if there is an emergency, the only option is to rent a vehicle which is beyond the means of most.



Children are the main victims of the extreme cold climate.

The cold is also damaging the infrastructure of schools, health centres and homes. However, the main concern of farmers is their source of income, crops and cattle. In two communities alone, Chachas and Caylloma, in Arequipa, 3,000 baby alpacas were killed by the cold. In Tacna, 2,000 vicunas and alpacas died from hunger and in Apurímac, 6,000 animals also died since besides the cold temperature that freezes the grass, drought is also striking the region, worsening the problem.

Statistics to date are as follows:

- 177 children have died from pneumonia in the Southern region of Peru; 339 have died country wide.
- 26,462 cases of pneumonia have been registered during the year.
- 1,839,888 cases of severe respiratory infections had been registered as of July.
- 5,872 houses have been damaged by winds and cold temperatures.
- 70% of the zones where the lowest temperatures are recorded are characterized by extreme poverty and in which the population's work is associated with the wool trade.
- The average wind speeds reached 40 km per hour.
- In Tacna, in mid August, the lowest recorded temperature was -28°C.
- 25% of total heads of cattle have been lost in the affected regions.

Department	Number of Children under 5 who have died	Pneumonia cases	Severe Respiratory Infections
Ayacucho	6	423	36,254
Huancavelica	27	610	31,386
Arequipa	6	1,059	86,853
Puno	65	868	40,362
Cusco	58	1,626	65,411
Moquegua	5	47	18,284
Tacna	5	158	25,885
Apurímac	5	446	16,536

Sources: Newspaper Peru 21, Health Ministry, Regional Health Directorate of Puno and Regional Directorates of SENAHMI.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Thanks to the campaign “Let’s keep a brother from the South warm”, the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) was able to collect 50 tonnes of humanitarian aid, which was delivered between 28 and 30 August to the departments of Arequipa and Puno, benefiting 5,660 families. The truck with relief goods departed from Lima on 26 August for Arequipa, from where the distribution was coordinated. Distributions took place, as below:

Arequipa (Caylloma and Castilla)	1,160 families
Puno (San Antonio de Putina and Huancané)	5,000 families
Total beneficiaries	5,660 families

The campaign encouraged the population to donate warm clothes, blankets, boots, medicines, food and shovels to remove snow and building materials. For the dissemination of the campaign, the National Society enjoyed the cooperation of three important Peruvian media: the newspaper Perú 21 (www.peru21.com), the television network Frecuencia Latina and the radio network Radiomar Plus, the latter joined the campaign on 15 August.

The PRC collected 40 tonnes of relief goods and the additional 10 tonnes of aid were collected by a simultaneous campaign coordinated by the Renacer Institute in the province Cañete. Along with food and clothes, the PRC was able to deliver 57 boxes of medicines to fight pneumonia, donated by the Eske Group Company.

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The lack of facilities for transportation of donations, both vehicles and fuel, to reach the distant Andean communities, was the main problem in the implementation of this Red Cross campaign. The Federation was able to support the PRC with USD 8,113 to meet transportation and other needs, as below:

Human Resources	\$ 879
Visibility	\$ 425
Transportation	\$ 3,083
Training	\$ 1,000
Food Aid	\$ 2,726
Total	\$ 8,113

These funds were reallocated from the remaining balance of funds from the cold wave emergency in 2002 which was also supported by the Federation.

The PRC also received support from the airline AeroContinente to transport donations from Lima to Arequipa.



The PRC made a first emergency delivery of humanitarian relief on 2-3 August, which benefited 500 families in Arequipa.

Although the campaign “Let’s keep a brother from the South warm” officially closed on 28 August, due to the ongoing emergency situation, the PRC will continue receiving humanitarian donations at its headquarters in Lima. The National Society’s plan is to not only to provide relief assistance, but to ensure longer term aid, by promoting agricultural and cattle breeding projects to strengthen the capacities of indigenous communities to face emergency situations.

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

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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.

