

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 لجمعية الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

PERU: COLD WAVE

21 July 2004

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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

In the high Andean regions of central and southern Peru, the winter season started in June with an abrupt change of temperature that affected the following departments: Ancash, Apurimac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cusco, Huancavelica, Huanuco, Junin, Lima, Madre de Dios, Moquegua, Pasco, Puno and Ucayali. In some areas, such as Puno, the temperatures have fallen to between -25°C and -35°C. Snow storms and cold winds caused by a polar air mass have mainly affected regions located 3,800 meters above sea level. The National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (SENAMHI) has declared several alerts in these departments. The Peruvian government declared an emergency by supreme decree on 16 July in 26 provinces of the 5 most affected departments: Arequipa, Cusco, Huancavelica, Moquegua and Puno. SENAMHI is also predicting another cold front that could cause further damage in the emergency zones.



Children have been the main victims of the severe cold wave.

Many children living in these poor regions of the country are malnourished, and as such, have been the main victims of the severe cold wave. Official reports state that 46 children under five years of age have died due to pneumonia caused by the cold wave, and that 158,000 Peruvians in 44 provinces have been affected by this disaster. Senior citizens have also been seriously affected by the cold weather. An official death toll has not yet been released.

Compounding the affects of the severe weather is the fact that there are not enough health centres in the region to attend to the needs of the population. In addition, in many cases, parents must attend to their farm animals rather than their children, as they constitute their main source of income.

The agricultural sector has been severely affected by these extreme temperatures as crops have been covered by snow. As much of the affected area is populated by subsistence farmers whose crops have now been damaged, many people will not have enough food for the rest of the year. Furthermore, most of these areas are the same ones that were affected by floods and drought earlier in the year and this new wave of extreme weather is increasing the negative impact on the already vulnerable population.

Regions affected by the cold wave



Damages in numbers from 25 June to 15 July 2004:

Persons affected	158,858
Houses affected	3,082
Crop affected (hectares)	347,563
Crop destroyed (hectares)	299,778
Farm animals affected	708,956
Farm animals dead	105,217
Kilometers of road affected	41

Source: Civil Defense Institute

On 20 July a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced international funding for the relief operations. The United Nations OCHA has donated USD 25,000 and will donate an additional USD 100,000 for this emergency. The World Food Programme will provide USD 200,000 and the UNDP will provide USD 50,000. Furthermore, UNICEF is in the process of obtaining financing for another USD 370,000. The report also includes

information on the final steps in the negotiations for a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development that will total USD 16 million and will be used to develop agricultural programmes in the southern region of the country. In addition, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has signed an agreement with the regional government of Cusco to support them with medicines for cattle for an amount of USD 20,000.



The Peruvian government is providing PEN 50 million (approximately USD 15 million) to assist in the relief effort, which are being used by local governments in the affected areas. The National Food Support Programme (PRONAA) has already distributed 46 tonnes of food in 56 districts of the 24 affected provinces. In addition, the government has created a commission of Ministries to respond to the emergency. On 23 July the commission will hold a donors meeting, including all the embassies and consulates in Peru, in order to generate more funds. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will participate in the meeting, accompanying the Peruvian Red Cross.

More than 100 thousand farm animals have died due to the severe weather. These animals represent the main source of income for many subsistence farmers.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) branches have formed Emergency Committees to attend to the affected members of the population. These committees report to the PRC headquarters in Lima with information about their activities and the situation. The Peruvian Red Cross is working in coordination with governmental institutions, in particular the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Civil Defence and local governments, in order to provide assistance in regions that are inaccessible as a result of a lack of infrastructure.

PRC Branches Involved

Department	Branches
Puno	Huancane Juliaca San Antonio de Putina
Arequipa	Arequipa Castilla Caylloma Cotahuasi Acari
Cusco	Cusco
Moquegua	Moquegua
Huancavelica	Huancavelica
Apurimac	Chincheros

In addition to the branches already involved, the PRC is planning to send between 100 and 150 volunteers from Lima and 450 volunteers from other branches in the country to the affected areas to assist in the relief effort.

On 7 July the PRC launched a campaign that will run for one month to provide assistance to the affected communities in the Andean region. The slogan adopted by the PRC for the fundraising campaign is "For Our Brothers." The campaign seeks to collect 250 tonnes of humanitarian aid in order to ensure adequate living conditions for 25,000 vulnerable people affected by the cold wave. The Peruvian population is encouraged to donate warm clothes, blankets, boots, medicines, food, shovels and building materials. In addition to providing material support, the campaign will also demonstrate solidarity to the vulnerable members of the population. For the dissemination of the campaign, the National Society is working in close cooperation with one of Peru's major television networks, *Panamericana*.

Last year, when a similar situation affected southern Peru, the PRC was able to collect and distribute 50 tonnes of humanitarian aid through its campaign “Let’s keeps a brother from the south warm.” That campaign benefited a total of 5,560 families from the departments of Arequipa and Puno.

This year, the delivery of aid from the PRC campaign began on 8 July with the support of vehicles from the German Red Cross (GRC) regional delegation in Lima. The GRC has also donated 300 blankets from its main warehouse that will be distributed in the department of Cusco.

The GRC has been monitoring the situation in close collaboration with the PRC branches in Cusco, Arequipa, Moquegua and Puno. Between 8 and 11 July, the GRC carried out a damage and needs assessment in the affected areas, in coordination with the National Society, in order to determine how they can support the relief operation. Based on the GRC’s assessment missions, it was determined that Puno is one of the most affected departments, in particular the province of Lampa. The Lampa province is located 3,900 meters above sea level and has a frigid climate throughout most of the year. Some 80 percent of the territory of Lampa is covered by snow. According to the World Food Programme, chronic malnutrition affects between the 79 and 91 percent of children under five years of age in this province, and two-thirds of the populations lives in extreme poverty. A total of 6,200 families live in Lampa and are scattered in isolated communities that are difficult to access. Approximately 1,500 families (24 percent of the total population) have been severely affected by the cold wave and will be the beneficiaries of the GRC’s planned operation.

The GRC’s operation in Lampa will include:

- Two food distributions to 1,500 families (7,500 persons) in the communities of Ocuvirí, Palca, Paratia, Vila Vila and Santa Lucia.
- Distribution of five blankets per family.
- Distribution of plastic tarpaulins to protect damaged roofs.

Peruvian Red Cross Campaign 2004: “For Our Brothers”

Official Collection Points:

- PRC: Av. Arequipa 1285, Lima
- Panamericana Television: Av. Arequipa, cuadra 11, Lima

Official Bank Accounts to make donations:

Banco de Credito del Peru

- In local currency (PEN): 193-1002 1002 - 0 – 24
- In American dollars currency: 193-1001 1001 - 1 – 22

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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