

# 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 والهلال الأحمر

## PERU: COLD WAVE

28 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 (02/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- In Lima, Peru: Pedro Maco, National Director of Relief, e-mail: [socorros@cruzroja.org.pe](mailto:socorros@cruzroja.org.pe), phone: 511-265-8783, fax: 511-470-0599
- In Lima, Peru: Magda Pinilla, DPP Delegate, Lima Regional Delegation, e-mail: [ifrcpe35@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcpe35@ifrc.org), phone: 511-221-8151, fax: 511-441-3607
- In Geneva: Olaug Bergseth, Federation Regional Officer, America Department, e-mail: [olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org](mailto:olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org), phone: 41-22-730-4535, fax: 41-22-733-0395

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### The Situation

Peru is currently experiencing severe weather conditions in 15 departments: 12 have been affected by droughts and 8 have been affected by a severe cold wave; 5 departments are being affected by both phenomena. All 15 departments are in the high Andean region, which is characterized by high levels of poverty and low human development indicators. Extreme cold waves are a recurrent problem in this area, which is regularly affected by these weather patterns during the southern hemisphere's winter season. The winter in southern Peru typically begins in June or July, but the coldest months of the year are usually August and September. Longer-term development projects are needed to reduce the impact of these seasonal disasters.

The National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (SENAMHI) declared several alerts as rains, strong winds and snow storms with temperatures of -20°C swept through the region. The Peruvian government declared an emergency in five of the most affected departments: Arequipa, Cusco, Huancavelica, Moquegua and Puno.

The cold wave is mainly affecting areas located 3,800 metres above sea level. The most recent figures indicate that 92 people have died as a result of this extreme weather, including 46 children under the age of five who have died from respiratory illnesses. This weather is also causing the loss of crops and other natural resources, which will have a long-term negative impact on the



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economic situation of the already poor communities in the area. In addition, the death toll for farm animals, which represent a large portion of the income of residents of the affected regions, is continuing to increase.

The following table illustrates the damages, to date, caused by the cold wave:

**Damages in numbers from 25 June to 22 July 2004:**

Persons affected	315,740
Houses affected	3,428
Crops affected (hectares)	347,563
Crops destroyed (hectares)	299,778
Farm animals affected	1'053,200
Farm animals dead	146,628
Kilometres of road affected	539

*Source: Civil Defense Institute*

On Friday 23 July, the government held an information and coordination meeting in order to address the response to the emergency and generate more funds for the relief effort. Several government ministries, as well as the main embassies and consulates located in Peru, participated in the meeting. The Peruvian Red Cross also participated in the meeting, accompanied by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. During this meeting, the government detailed its strategy of intervention, which consists of three phases:

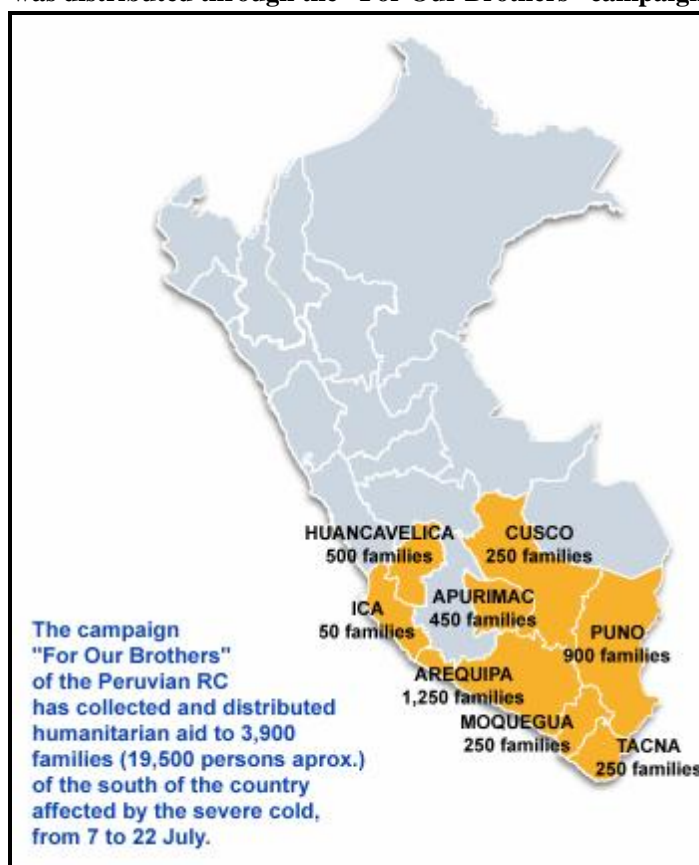
1. Emergency care: distribution of food, medicines and clothes.
2. Basic rehabilitation: generation of rural jobs until the agricultural sector recovers.
3. Basic preventative intervention: examining possibilities for medium and long-term development.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

A damage and needs assessment was carried out by the German Red Cross (GRC) between 8 and 11 July, in coordination with the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC). The results of this assessment indicated that Puno was one of the most affected departments. A final assessment is pending and is expected to be completed by the end of the week. An assessment report is also expected from the PRC branch in Puno by the weekend.

The Peruvian Red Cross is currently focusing its efforts on distributing humanitarian aid in the field, although the National Society president has indicated that the focus should shift towards strengthening community preparedness. On 7 July, the PRC launched a month-long solidarity campaign called "For Our Brothers" that sought 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 was encouraged to donate warm clothes, blankets, boots, medicines, food, sunglasses, shovels and building materials. The campaign concluded on 27 July, but the president of the National Society has announced that volunteers will continue to collect donations until 7 August. The National Society worked in close cooperation with one of Peru's major television networks, *Panamericana*, to disseminate the campaign to the public and encourage donations. Thus far, the campaign has distributed relief items to a total of 3,900 beneficiary families in the departments of Arequipa, Apurimac, Cusco, Ica, Huancavelica, Moquegua, Puno and Tacna. Distributions are currently still being carried out and the final distribution figures will be provided in the next information bulletin.

Map showing the departments where humanitarian aid was distributed through the “For Our Brothers” campaign



Humanitarian aid distributed through the “For Our Brothers” campaign  
7 to 22 July 2004

Department	Beneficiary Families	Humanitarian Aid	Volunteers Involved	RC Branches Involved
Arequipa	1,250	2,000 blankets 19 tonnes clothes Medicines	155	Caraveli Castilla Arequipa Lima
Apurimac	450	1,500 blankets 5 tonnes clothes 1 tonne food Medicines Sunglasses	35	Chincheros Ica
Cusco	250	500 blankets 5 tonnes clothes Medicines	35	Cusco Lima
Ica	50	500 kg clothes	20	Nazca Lima
Huancavelica	500	1,000 blankets 10 tonnes clothes Medicines Sunglasses	35	Huancavelica Lima
Moquegua	250	500 blankets	40	Mariscal Nieto

		5 tonnes clothes Medicines		Lima
Puno	900	1,000 blankets 5 tonnes clothes 5 tonnes food	40	Trujillo Puno
Tacna	250	500 blankets 10 tonnes clothes Medicines Sunglasses	40	Tacna Lima
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>7,000 blankets</b> <b>54.5 tonnes clothes</b> <b>6 tonnes food</b> <b>Medicines</b> <b>Sun glasses</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>13</b>

The first information bulletin for this emergency reported that the German Red Cross (GRC) regional delegation in Lima intended to carry out a relief operation in the province of Lampa, in the department of Puno, to benefit 1,500 families. However, due to lack of funds and the fact that the situation in the region is slowly improving, this plan has been put on hold. The GRC is continuing to support the PRC with one truck, which is being used to deliver relief items collected through the “For Our Brothers” campaign, and is continuing to monitor the situation in close collaboration with the PRC branches.

The Spanish Red Cross (SRC) will carry out a rehabilitation project in Puno starting in August. This project will have a budget of USD 100,000, with funds from the community of Castilla-LaMancha. The project will run for 6 months to benefit 3,080 families from the communities of Coata, Capa Chica and Atuncoya.

The SRC project includes:

- Rehabilitation of 16 kilometres of coastal river defences
- Rebuilding of 23 kilometres of bridges
- Distribution of 250 food kits

At the time of this report’s publication, ECHO, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, was considering allocating funds for this emergency and is now in the process of collecting information and inviting its partners to present proposals. Proposals are to be submitted by Tuesday, 3 August.

The components that ECHO will prioritize to select the projects are:

- Distribution of feed for farm animals
- Veterinarian assistance (medicines and vitamins for farm animals)
- Building of sheds for cattle
- Disaster preparedness activities (awareness raising, and creation and strengthening of emergency committees)

The prioritized regions for ECHO are the departments of Apurimac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cusco, Huancavelica, Moquegua, Puno and Tacna.

Upon receiving information regarding ECHO’s decisions, the Federation’s Regional Delegation in Lima coordinated a meeting with the PRC and the Spanish and German Partner National Societies to assess the possibility of presenting a coherent proposal to ECHO. The outcome of the meeting has been that the PRC and the SRC will present a project proposal that they had already prepared during the last call for DIPECHO proposals and that fits the current ECHO requirements. The planned operation would be for San Antonio de Putina, a forgotten and isolated province in the department of Puno. The project includes the distribution of food for farm animals, building of sheds for alpacas, and local disaster preparedness initiatives. This could also be complemented with veterinarian assistance as the PRC has previous experience in working in this field. It is important to mention that, despite its remote location, the Red Cross branch in San Antonio de Putina has previously demonstrated that it has

the capacity to respond effectively to disasters; some months ago they assisted 13 communities that were affected by severe floods, together with the Canadian embassy.

The German Red Cross has indicated its interest in continuing to support the Peruvian Red Cross operation in terms of logistics needs and transport, as required by the foreseen activities.

The Federation will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves and to support the coordination of activities in light of the continuing emergency that combines the disastrous effects of drought and severe cold in southern Peru. The Lima Regional Delegation has been in contact with the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), which will send a disaster response delegate should the need arise.

*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.*

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

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