

DREF 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

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PERU: COLD WAVE

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 18,000 (USD 14,634 or EUR 10,909) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 29 June 2007 to respond to the most urgent needs of the affected population.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 29 September 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 29 December 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the

[Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

In the high Andean regions of central and southern Peru, the winter season started in June with an abrupt change of temperature which has fallen to a low of -25°C. On 15 June 2007, the Peruvian government declared through the Supreme Decree N° 050-2007-PCM, a state of emergency for a period of 60 days in the following 13 departments in the country: Ayacucho, Apurímac, Arequipa, Cajamarca, Cusco, Junín, Huánuco, Huancavelica, Loreto, Moquegua, Pasco, Puno and Tacna, Arequipa, Cusco, Huancavelica, Moquegua and Puno.

Six days later, on 21 June 2007, through the Supreme Decree (S.D) N° 018-2007-PCM, urgent measures were established for the departments affected by extreme frosts and the anticipation of a harsh cold front in the coming days. The same day, through the S.D. N° 052-2007-PCM, the government declared an elevated State of Emergency as a result of low temperatures in the Departments of Puno, Tacna, Arequipa, Moquegua, Apurímac, Ayacucho, Cusco, Huancavelica, Junín and Pasco for a period of sixty (60) days with the request for immediate actions seeking the reduction and minimization of the existing risks, in line with that established in the former S.D N° 50-2007-PCM.

The Peruvian President, who is currently visiting the most affected areas due to the extremely low temperatures, has qualified the situation as "dramatic" and has predicted that in the coming weeks, more than two million Peruvians "are going to suffer from extreme temperatures lower than minus fifteen degrees Celsius".

Many children living in these poor regions of the country are malnourished and have been the main victims of the severe cold wave. Official reports state that 48 children under five years of age have died due to pneumonia caused by the cold wave, and more than 200.000 Peruvians are currently being affected by this emergency.

Schools in the departments of Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Junín and Arequipa have modified their schedules in an attempt to avoid exposing the children to the harsh weather during the coldest hours of the day. At the same time, the government is considering the temporary evacuation of the population living above 4,000 meters from sea level, with the purpose of protecting them from the climatic inclemency.



Children under the age of five have been the most affected

Donations of medicine for acute respiratory infections are being coordinated by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture is also preparing the donation of animal shelters and forage in order to protect the main livelihood of affected populations. In addition, more than 3,000 young health professionals are being sent to the most affected areas of the country.

The agricultural sector has been severely affected by these extreme temperatures as well since crops have been covered by snow. The latest assessments show agricultural losses of 54,248 hectares, leaving another 91,308 affected. In addition, the death toll of farm animals, which represent a large portion of the income of residents of the affected regions, continues to increase. To date however, no official consolidated figures exist, regarding the degree of damage.

The Government has approved the transfer of over USD 2 million to the different Ministries to assist families with clothes, blankets and food where farms and crops have been most affected; the National Ministers' Council has agreed to create a fund to compensate the farmers who have suffered losses of cattle.

Governmental and private campaigns have been launched to encourage the population to respond to this emergency. On June 12, the Head of the National Civil Defence (INDECI) announced the initiation of the "Well prepared for the cold" ("Ante el frío, mejor preparados") campaign, which consists of public service announcements and the distribution of posters on prevention measures. The announcement will be sent out in both Spanish and Quechua within the most high risk, affected zones.

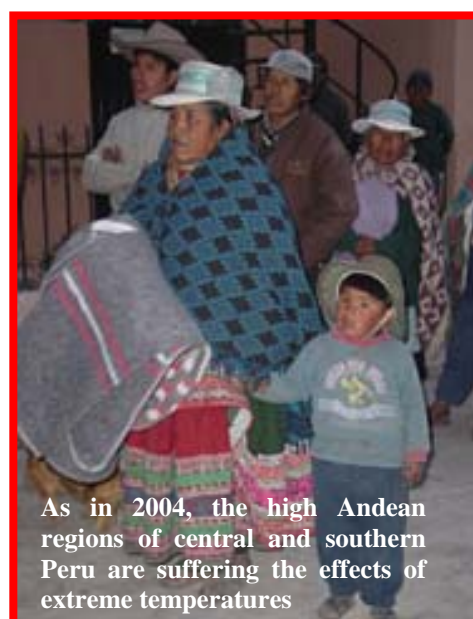
The following donations are being prioritized:

- Warm clothes: blankets, coats, jackets, mattress, polar clothes, gloves and scarves.
- Non perishable food items - packed and sealed - such as canned fish and stews, pasta, milk, and sugar.
- Medicines: Antibiotics, anti-inflammatory, anti-cough, among others.

According to the latest reports, the National Civil Defence (INDECI) has distributed 53,748 blankets and 102,278 kg of clothes; 271,541 Peruvians have received humanitarian assistance since the start of the low temperatures.

The National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (SENAMHI) has announced that the cold front will continue until September and will be more severe than past years. The lowest temperatures are expected for July and the following recommendations have been made to the exposed population:

- To take the needed precautions for crops and to avoid keeping animals in the open air, in order to avoid losses caused by the frost.
- To ensure adequate hydration of the whole body, especially the face and the hands, since these are the most exposed body parts to low temperatures.
- To avoid sudden temperature changes and to cover the head, face and mouth in order to avoid the entry of cold air into the lungs.
- To use thermal and impermeable clothes to cover the whole body, including gloves and caps.
- To protect and to take care of elders and children so as to not expose them to the low temperatures.
- To protect the feet with warm socks and high impermeable footwear.
- To sleep with several blankets
- To consume fruits, fresh vegetables, sugar, sweets and fats to increase the capacity of resistance to the cold.
- To take warm drinks and vitamin C.
- To check and fit roofs, windows and doors.
- To remain inside the house and to go out only if necessary
- To avoid the use of the kitchen as a bedroom, mainly for children under the age of five, with the aim to diminish the exposure to the smoke.
- In case of emergency, go to the temporary shelters enabled by the authorities.



Red Cross action

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made an official request to Embassies and Consulates in Peru for international support, and has requested the Federation to support the Peruvian Civil Defence (INDECI) as a result of the current PRC judiciary intervention.

However, as a result of the lack of technical and consolidated information, the need for preliminary assessments on the ground in four of the most affected departments such as Cuzco, Apurimac, Puno and Ayacucho has been identified.

The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) is undertaking a plan to mobilize National Intervention Team members in order to support the assessments on the ground. Departmental and provincial branches have been mobilized to undertake preliminary assessments and specific coordination tasks with local communities.

This preliminary DREF request seeks to cover all the logistics costs associated to the assessments to be carried out by three teams for one week in the above mentioned departments.

After a week, a plan of action will be drawn and a Final DREF request will be submitted.

Coordination

The PRC is coordinating with the Regional Delegation for South America in Lima, as well as with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), who are jointly providing technical support for the design, organization and implementation of the assessment activities. A disaster Management delegate from PADRU will join the assessment mission. Pending on the assessment results, Regional Intervention Team members could be deployed in the coming days.

Since the onset of the emergency, the Federation has been closely monitoring the evolution of the situation and is keeping a permanent coordination with the National Civil Defence Institute (INDECI), Ministries, UN agencies and NGOs.

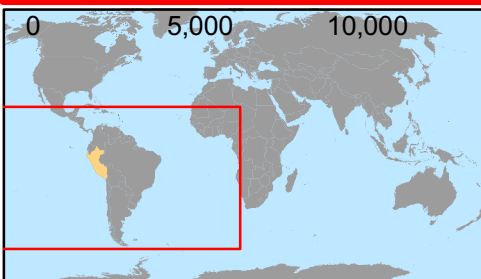
Communications

A situation report has been issued through the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on the global Federation website. Within the Plan of action, a communication plan will be developed to support the additional activities in response to the spread of the cold wave and will target five main audiences: the media, the Red Cross Movement, beneficiaries, local authorities and donors. The different channels of communication will include national media and the Federation regional and global websites while special sections will be created in the Federation's regional website – www.cruzroja.org. Within the final Plan of Action, the designs and dissemination of t-shirts and other items with the Red Cross logo is expected, for Red Cross volunteers to use/wear in order to increase visibility.

[Map of the affected areas below,](#)
[click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



Peru: Cold Wave



In the high Andean regions of central and southern Peru, the winter season started in June with an abrupt change of temperature which has fallen up to -25°C . The Peruvian government has declared a state of emergency for a period of 60 days in 13 departments in the country. The National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology has announced that the cold front will continue until September.

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources
 ESRI
 GIST
 Federation