

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Argentina: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRAR003  
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000038-ARG  
27 March, 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 127,000 (USD 120,952 or EUR 79,375) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Argentine Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,200 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Since 9 March, constant rains causing the overflow of several rivers have affected several departments in Argentina. This DREF operation will be focused on providing emergency relief to those affected by the floods.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 24 June, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 24 September, 2008).

[<click here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

Since 9 March, 2008 constant rain and the subsequent overflowing of the Bermejo, Pilcomayo and Carapari rivers have been causing severe floods in the departments of Rivadavia, San Martin and Oran in the province of Salta, and Salta, the capital city of the province. Several bridges are severely damaged and main roads are obstructed; this has led to the isolation of various communities. Some 17,000 families have been affected by the floods and at least 11,600 persons are isolated due to the inaccessibility of their communities, especially in the areas of Rivadavia, Banda Norte, Sur and Santa Victoria Este located north of the province of Salta.

Some 127 families have been evacuated and placed in three shelters in the department of San Martin:

Shelter	Community	Children	Adults	Total	Total in families
Complejo Deportivo Municipal	Lote 75 Tierra Fiscal	230	140	370	75
Iglesia Presbiteriana Bethel	El Tráfico	80	60	140	31
Iglesia Asamblea de Dios	Lote 75 Tierra Fiscal	50	40	90	21

<b>Total</b>		<b>360</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>127</b>
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The people in these shelters expect to return to their homes in the near future.

The floods disrupted the daily activities of the affected families and have also led to unfavorable sanitation conditions, especially concerning water and sanitation and psychosocial needs: basic services like electricity and telephone have not been affected, but the water service has been shut down leaving 45,000 people in Aguaray and Salvador Mazza in the province of Salta without water. Children in the affected areas are not attending their schools and loss or damage to homes and livelihoods are another major impact of the floods, as well as the loss or damage to basic items: kitchen items, mattresses, etc.

The Medical Emergency and Catastrophe Assistance System (Sistema de Asistencia Medica en Emergencias y Catastrofes – SAMEC) has been supporting the people affected by the emergency by distributing 200 tons of relief aid (food parcels, mattresses, clothes, etc.) in all the affected areas. Provincial and national authorities (Ministry of Health and Social Development) have been providing relief in the emergency as well. The National government has assisted with cash contributions in order to expand and redefine various Water and Sanitation and Housing programs.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Argentine Red Cross (ARC) is in direct contact with the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation office for South America in Lima in order to coordinate immediate response or the possible deployment of a disaster management delegate.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency, the ARC has carried out various local activities, especially in the province of Salta, among which evaluation and assessments of affected areas, hygiene promotion and first aid care. A Crisis Committee was formed at the ARC's headquarters, which carries out the monitoring activities, identifies the local branches' needs, designs and implements a national communication campaign, personnel recruitment and mobilizes resources. To date, three ARC technicians (National Intervention Team – NIT) were deployed to the affected departments.

## The needs

The identified immediate needs are relief items, such as food parcels, drinking water, school, hygiene and kitchen kits, along with the replacement of lost livestock.

## The proposed operation

The ARC elaborated a preliminary Plan of Action (PoA) which aims to meet the needs of 300 affected families (2,200 beneficiaries). Some 70 families will receive livestock and 300 families will receive emergency relief assistance, such as school and cleaning kits. 230 of these families will also receive kitchen kits. The number of beneficiaries might change after assessments have been completed by the Argentine Red Cross.

## Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

### Objective 1: Humanitarian aid is distributed to families affected by the floods.

300 families will receive the following items:

<b>Cleaning kit For one family of seven to last up to one month</b>	
<b>Quantities</b>	<b>Items</b>
2	Brooms
2	Brushes
5	Litres of concentrated detergent

5	Litres of concentrated "Lavandina" water
2	10-12 litre buckets
6	Metal sponge
4	All purpose sponges
2	Kitchen towel
5	250 grams white soap
1	Metal shovel

<b>School kit (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) One for each student</b>	
<b>Quantities</b>	<b>Items</b>
1	Pencil case
2	Notebooks
3	Folders No.5
2	Lined paper No.5 x 96
1	Scissor
2	Colour pencils x 12
4	Black pencils
1	Set of markers
2	Coloured sets of pens (red, black, green and blue)
2	Ink corrector
2	Pencil erasers
2	Glue sticks
1	Geometry set
1	Pencil sharpener

<b>School kit (from 4<sup>th</sup> grade) One for each student</b>	
<b>Quantities</b>	<b>Items</b>
1	Pencil case
2	Notebooks
2	Notebooks A4 x 96 sheets
5	Folders No. 5
2	Sets of lined paper No. 5 x 96
2	Sets of squared folder paper No. 5 x 96
1	Scissor
2	Colour pencils x 12
4	Black pencils
1	Coloured marker
2	Coloured sets of pens (red, black, green and blue)
2	Ink corrector
2	Pencil erasers
2	Glue sticks
1	Geometry set
1	Pencil sharpener

230 families will receive the following items:

Kitchen kit For one family of 7 people	
Quantities	Items
7	Plastic cups
7	Plastic plates
7	Stainless steel spoons
7	Stainless steel forks
7	Stainless steel dented knives
1	Stainless steel kitchen knife
1	Aluminium ladle
1	Large wooden spoon
1	Aluminium slotted spoon
1	3 to 5 litre pot with handles and cover
1	5 to 10 litre pot with handles
1	Large stainless steel frying pan
2	Boxes of matches
1	Kettle
1	10 litre water plastic bucket

#### Activities planned:

- Purchase of kit products
- Preparation of the kits
- Identification and census of beneficiaries
- Distribution of the kits

In addition, 70 families receive livestock in order to replace the losses suffered by the floods.

#### Emergency health

**Objective: 127 evacuated families will receive psychosocial support and will be more aware of water borne diseases.**

#### Activities planned:

- recreational activities with children in the temporary shelters
- workshops
- distribution of informational material

#### How we work

*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.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

## Contact information

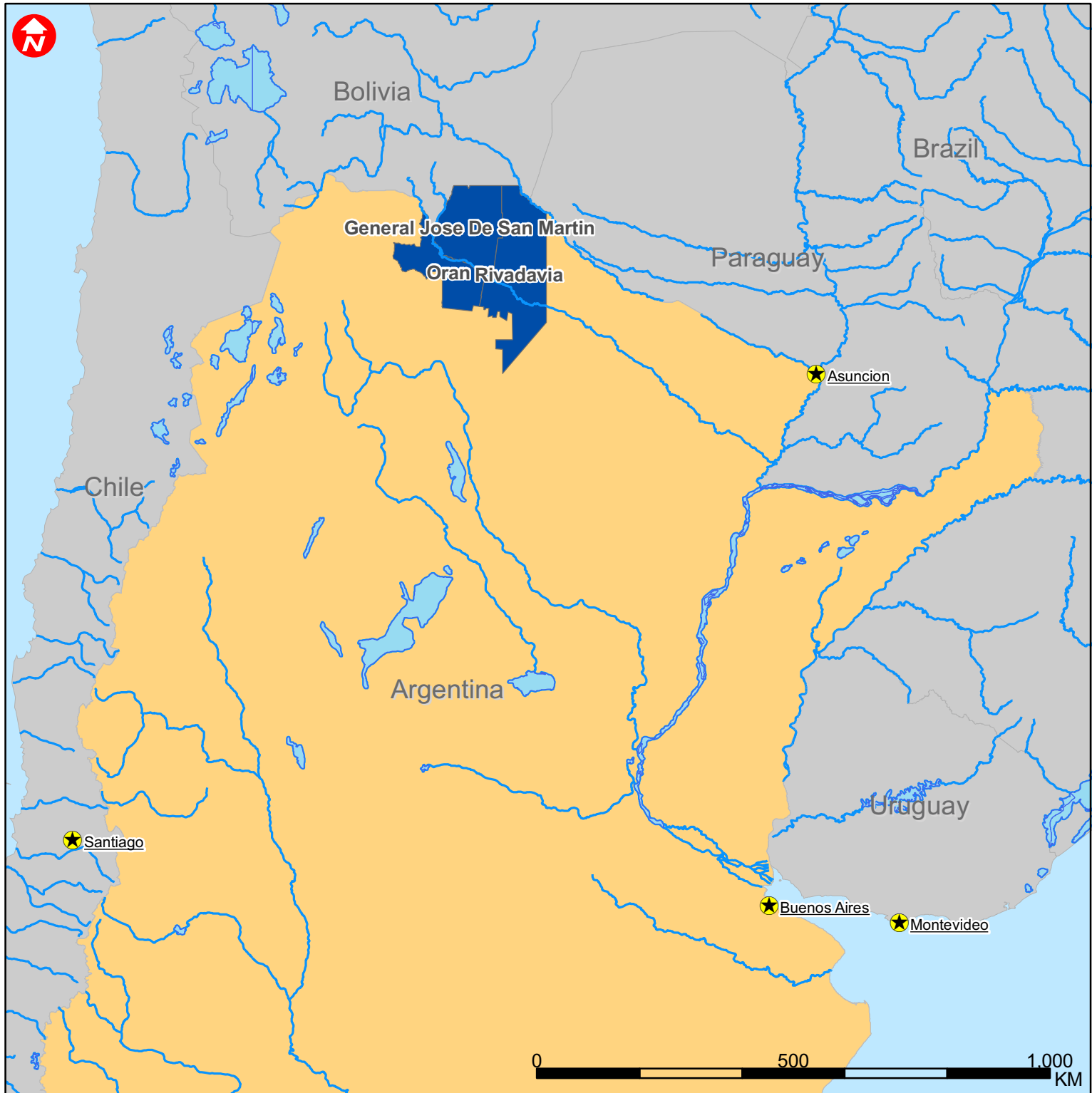
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[< Map below; click here to return to the title page >](#)



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 Flooded departments

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Some 17,000 families have been affected by the floods and at least 11,600 persons are isolated.