

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Chile: Earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRCL006
GLIDE EQ-2010-00034-CHL
28 February 2010

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 emergency response. 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.

300,000 Swiss Francs (279,350 US Dollars or 204,989 Euros) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Chilean Red Cross (CRC) to initiate response and deliver immediate relief items for 3,000 families. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 27 February 2010, at approximately 3:35 a.m. local time, an earthquake of magnitude 8.8 occurred in the moderately populated region of Bio-Bio in central Chile killing approximately 300 people. The earthquake struck 90 kilometres north-east of the city of Concepción, the capital of Bio-Bio, and there have been 90 aftershocks (between 5.5 and 6.0) causing extensive damages throughout the region.



Fishing boats washed up by a wave generated by the earthquake in Talcahuano Port outside the city of Concepcion. Source: Reuters.

This DREF allocation is intended to jump start the Chilean Red Cross's first response activities and to mobilize Federation personnel.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 27 May 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 27 August 2010).

Should there be a request for international assistance, the Federation will work together with the Chilean Red Cross to develop an Emergency Appeal to call for donor support.

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

The situation

On 27 February 2010, one of the most powerful earthquakes in decades struck Chile; the death toll stands at over 400 people (it is likely this figure will increase), and an estimated 500,000 homes have been affected. Tsunami warnings were triggered along the Pacific including the U.S. State of Hawaii, and in Japan and



Cars lie overturned in a destroyed highway in Santiago. Source: Reuters.

Russia. In Japan three metre waves reached the coastline. However, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center has now lifted the tsunami warning. There have been more than 90 aftershocks of a magnitude of between 5.0 and 6.9, including a tremor of a magnitude of 6.3 in the Salta region in Argentina. The Chilean President has declared a state of emergency in 6 regions and urged residents to evacuate from coastal areas of Chile given the tsunami warnings. To date, no formal request for international assistance has been issued, but once more detailed assessments are completed, assistance may be requested.

The earthquake hit near the town of Maule, approximately 350 kilometres southwest of Santiago, at a depth of 47.4 kilometres. The epicentre was just 90 kilometers from Concepcion, Chile's second-largest city, with around 670,000 inhabitants. A 15-storey building collapsed and telephone and power lines went down, making it difficult to assess the full extent of the damage and loss of life. Buildings have caught fire, major highway bridges collapsed and debris blocked main streets. Waves generated by the tsunami swept into the port town of Talcahuano in the region of Bio-Bio, causing serious damage to port facilities and lifting fishing boats out of the water. Shipping containers were strewn around and streets are flooded in the port city, one of the most important in southern Chile.

The capital city of Santiago, about 322 kilometres north of the epicentre, was also badly hit. On 28 February reports indicate that the international airport will be closed for at least the next 12 hours since the earthquake destroyed passenger walkways and shook glass out of doors and windows.

According to the Director of the National Office of Emergencies and Information (Oficina Nacional de Emergencias e Información-ONEMI) waves up to three metres high affected the Juan Fernandez Islands 643 kilometres off the coast of Chile, causing the death of six people. In addition, public buildings, schools and residential homes were damaged due to the tsunami. However, no exact figures on the number of people affected and damages can be obtained before 72 hours following the disaster due to the vast extension of the affected areas. The ONEMI has deployed response units to the most affected regions of Valparaiso, O'Higgins, Maule and Bio-Bio and has carried out aerial and land assessments with the assistance of the Army and police authorities in the coastal zone of Maule to evaluate areas that have not been accessed and may be seriously affected. Relief items have been dispatched to the island of Juan Fernandez to assist the people affected. At the same time, logistical support is being deployed to the regions of Maule, Bio-Bio, Valparaiso and O'Higgins.

The Chilean Ministry of Health (MoH) has activated an Emergency Committee to coordinate the response in the health sector. The MoH informs that hospitals have been severely damaged in the cities of Putaendo, (Valparaiso region), Curico, Licanten, Hualañé, Talca and Parral (Maule region). Patients in these facilities are being transferred to alternative public and private clinics. Other hospitals have sustained damages in Chillan, Los Angeles (Bio-Bio region), Angol and Temuco (Araucania region). However, all hospitals are still working and attending patients. The Chilean armed forces are assisting the health sector in transferring patients. The MoH urges the population to seek health care only when it is absolutely necessary and to stay home to avoid accidents.

Coordination and partnerships

The Chilean Red Cross is participating in coordination meetings with ONEMI and other governmental authorities including the Ministry of Health. The Chilean Red Cross acts as an auxiliary in all public services responsible for intervention in the event of disasters in conjunction with bodies such as ONEMI, the fire department and health services. During emergencies, the National Society coordinates with ONEMI to provide assistance when required.

The International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has been in communication with the CRC. In addition, the IFRC Regional Representations in Buenos Aires and Lima have been in constant communication with the National Society and PADRU. The IFRC Regional Representative for the Southern Cone has reached Chile today to provide support to the CRC. Information alerts have been issued for FACT, ERU and RIT teams. In addition, PADRU has a team on alert and prepared to be deployed.



Rescue workers search for victims and survivors after an apartment complex collapsed during an earthquake in Concepcion some 100 km south of the epicentre. Source: Reuters.

In addition, several humanitarian agencies including Telecommunications without Borders (TSF), the European Union's European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department, (ECHO), the Swiss Cooperation (COSUDE) and OCHA have teams ready to be deployed to provide support to the national response and to partners in the country.

Several National Societies have also pledged support to assist in initial response activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency the Chilean Red Cross National Relief Department has activated response mechanisms to provide assistance to those people affected by the earthquake. The CRC National Intervention Team (NIT) and CRC volunteers have been alerted and are involved in response activities. Furthermore, the CRC relief director is coordinating with the National Office of Emergencies and Information (Oficina Nacional de Emergencias e Información-ONEMI), which is dedicated to prevention, organization, coordination in natural disaster situations as well as information provision. The affected region in Bio-Bio has 29 branches and there are 14 CRC branches in the region of Maule. The CRC informs PADRU that they are constantly monitoring the situation and that communication is very limited and it has not been possible to communicate with affected regional branches.

The needs

Based on the information available at the moment, the immediate needs identified are search and rescue activities, relief distributions, emergency health, provision of water, emergency shelter, logistics and telecommunications. Once initial official assessments are obtained, further needs will be identified.

The proposed operation

This DREF operation will allow the International Federation to support the Chilean Red Cross to initiate initial response and relief activities. In addition, the DREF funds will cover the National Society's initial operational costs and first response activities carried out to date.

Damage and need assessments

Objective: To carry out initial damage and needs assessments to evaluate the immediate needs of the affected population.

Activities planned:

- Mobilization of Chilean Red Cross National Intervention Team team and volunteers to the affected areas.
- Mobilization of International Federation personnel to support the Chilean Red Cross in its national response activities.
- Conduct rapid damage and need assessments in the most affected regions.
- Identification of the most vulnerable affected population and the most immediate needs.
- Leasing of vehicles to conduct assessments.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: 3,000 families (15,000 people) affected by the earthquake benefit from the distribution of non-food items in order to help them recover from the earthquakes.

Activities planned

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and a registration system to deliver the intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from the point of dispatch to the end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

The CRC will distribute hygiene kits, tarpaulins and jerry cans. These items are based on the estimated initial needs. Once detailed assessments are carried out, the type and number of items needed will be further defined.

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

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Chile:** Chilean Red Cross, Nelson Hernandez, Relief Director; phone: 56 9 84809242; email: socorro@cruzroja.cl.
- **In Buenos Aires:** Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone and Brazil; email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Mauricio Bustamante, Acting Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Ghotai Ghazialam, Disaster Management Delegate, Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: ghotai.ghazialam@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Ilir Caushaj, Regional Logistics Coordinator, Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (507) 380 0254; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41) 22 730 4300; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org.

[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY
Chile Earthquake 2010

Annex MDRCL006

BUDGET CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	51,802
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	12,950
Medical & First Aid	8,983
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	90,653
Total Relief Needs	164,388

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	8,634
Computers & Telecom Equipment	4,317
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	-
Distribution & Monitoring	8,634
Transport & Vehicles Costs	37,772
Service fee & Recovery	5,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	10,792
National Staff	
National Society Staff	5,396
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	-
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	17,267
Information & Public Relations	7,797
Office running costs	2,590
Communication Costs	2,914
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	5,000
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	19,500
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Total Operational Needs 135,612

DREF ALLOCATION 300,000



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