

PERU: FLOODS

19 March 1999

Information Bulletin N° 01

The Disaster

Flooding has occurred in 13 provinces in Peru, affecting 50% of the country. The provinces are Piura, Ancash, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Lima, Ica, Arequipa, Puno, Huancavelica, Ayacucho, Loreto, Amazonas, and Cajamarca. According to initial information from Peruvian Red Cross branches, 46,000 persons are affected. The floods have left 60 dead, and 1,200 injured, 3,000 homes seriously damaged and have flooded 25,000 hectares of cropland. Hundreds of kilometres of roads are under water. Branches report a high incidence of malaria, cholera, bronchial illnesses and skin problems.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) has declared a general alert, calling on all branches to assist the authorities to the extent of their resources. Branch staff and volunteers are giving first aid and medical care to the injured. The PRC headquarters has sent basic first aid kits, clothing and medicines to the area from its central warehouse. The Red Cross emergency committee has been activated and the PRC headquarters maintains daily radio contacts with the affected branches.

The Spanish Red Cross has made available its bilateral delegate in the country to act as the Federation delegate and assist the Peruvian Red Cross in carrying out an evaluation of the situation.

Needs

Preliminary needs are to provide 8,000 families with food, kitchen sets, clothing, roofing materials and medicines. A further evaluation is now being done to determine if an appeal to the Federation is necessary. National Societies will be informed of the findings as soon as they become available.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Santiago Gil
Director
Americas Department

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