

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

PERU: EARTHQUAKE

28 June 2001

Appeal No. 18/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 2,009,000

DREF Allocated: CHF 200,000

Operations Update No. 1 Period covered: 25-27 June 2001

Next Programme Update expected: 29 June 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 85.2%

Outstanding needs: CHF 297,325

Update: Having responded very rapidly in the first hours, the assessment and relief activities of the Red Cross are progressing at a similar pace. Coordinated air lifts facilitated distributions of food and non-food items to address the needs of survivors. Though casualty figures remained low, it is estimated that the high level of destruction will add to the tens of thousands of people left homeless and vulnerable to cold weather conditions.

Operational Developments:

The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) and the International Federation were in a position to respond instantaneously to the strong earthquake which occurred in the south of Peru on 23 June. Assessments are ongoing and relief distributions have started. The National Institute for Civil Defence now reports 102 dead, 1,374 injured, 46,470 affected, 53 missing and 12,405 houses destroyed in the departments of Arequipa, Moquegua, Tacna and Ayacucho. Numbers may rise to more than 100,000 homeless people in need of shelter and assistance as new information comes in from the Red Cross assessments. People in the affected areas which are more remote and cut off are waiting for assistance, suffering from the cold weather conditions and are sleeping in the streets or in tents.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

Teams consisting of Federation delegates and PRC staff are completing assessments which started within hours of the earthquake. These assessments are carried out in co-ordination with the civil defence, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and other agencies. The Red Cross teams evaluated the damages and needs in the departments of Arequipa, Tacna, and

Moquegua. The affected areas in Ayacucho have not yet been reached because of access difficulties. The PRC/Federation response teams and volunteers are continuing to provide emergency relief assistance. Additional Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members and participating national societies' delegates from a number of societies are on the ground and others are en route to the region to reinforce the teams which will implement the relief support, distributions and logistics management. A British Red Cross logistics team with communications equipment and a Japanese Red Cross health assessment team with Spanish speaking delegates has arrived to join the Federation's team. Delegates from the American, German, and Spanish Red Cross Societies are working in close co-operation with the PRC and the International Federation. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has made available a vehicle to the PRC and is also offering support in telecommunications. Volunteers from the Chilean Red Cross in the north of Chile offered to assist the PRC. The Chilean Red Cross has activated its agreement with the national air carrier LAN Chile, making available free air tickets in Peru. Many of the national societies of the Americas region opened accounts in favour of the earthquake victims.

National Society w

The president of the national society is personally heading the relief operation. The PRC has taken the initiative to convene coordination meetings internally for the Red Cross actors present as well as coordination meetings for other organizations. On 26 June the first coordination meetings took place in the national society's headquarters. At the branch level the PRC organized emergency brigades.

Health w

Since 26 June the three-member Japanese Red Cross health assessment team has been evaluating damage and needs in Arequipa. On 28 June a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) health delegate of the Federation is scheduled to arrive in Lima to reinforce this area. The Ecuadorian Red Cross has offered blood from its blood banks. According to PAHO and the Ministry of Health serious damage was reported in several health facilities in Arequipa. In Moquegua the damage seems to be less while Tacna was worst hit. Details of these assessments will be included in the Plan of Action and the final version of the Emergency Appeal.

Water and sanitation w

The Federation teams are co-ordinating water and sanitation assessments with OXFAM. Later on this week the water and sanitation delegate of the Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) will arrive in Peru with a RIT colleague to develop strategy for this sector. An Emergency Response Unit (ERU) team of the PRC, trained and resourced by the German Red Cross, is being mobilized.

Relief distributions w

On Wednesday, 27 June the first Red Cross relief flight, organized and prepared by the Regional Logistics Unit of PADRU and with administrative and logistics support of the Red Cross Society of Panama, left Panama and landed in Arequipa at 14:00 the same day. It carried 20 tons of relief supplies including shelter tarpaulins, tents, water storage bladders and medical supplies. The German Red Cross provided funds and a portion of these goods from its stocks held in the PADRU warehouse. This and future flights, as well as the first phase of relief supplies are funded through support from the British Red Cross/Department for International Development funds and the European Community Humanitarian Office.

In addition to this first relief flight, 10,000 blankets, 5,000 food parcels (according to *Sphere* standards) and 5,000 jerry cans are being purchased in Peru for 5,000 families (25,000 people). Another plane with goods given to the PRC left Lima for Arequipa today. An Iberia plane with seven tons of relief goods including water tanks, water purification tablets and food items from Spanish Red Cross/AECI also landed in Arequipa in the afternoon of 27 June. Procurement is ongoing for additional relief supplies including kitchen kits, hygiene kits, blankets and mattresses, water containers and sanitation supplies. Delivery will be by a combination of sea, land and air transport. At the time of this report an American Red Cross donation to the Appeal, a flight from Miami, was being prepared for departure in coordination with the Federation Secretariat's Logistics department to deliver relief supplies including tents, tarpaulins and blankets.

A first Federation distribution is planned to take place in Camaná on 28 June.

Logistics w

A logistics cell was set up consisting of five delegates who will be based in various locations throughout the earthquake-affected area.

Telecommunications w

A team of Télécoms sans Frontières representing the French Red Cross arrived in country with 12 satellite telephones and is working in close cooperation with the PRC and the Federation. They have set up several bases: the headquarters is situated in Arequipa and three other bases were established in Tacna, Moquegua and Ocoña. The Ericsson Telecom office in Peru offered office space and initial telecommunications support and pledged further assistance according to the results of the ongoing assessments.

Tracing w

A tracing delegate from Colombian Red Cross Society arrived in Lima on 27 June to coordinate the tracing service. PRC has volunteers in the branches trained in tracing by the ICRC. Support will be given in this area by the ICRC. The Chilean Red Cross' tracing agency together with the youth section has set up a special tracing service for those searching relatives in Peru.

Federation Delegation w

A Federation office was set up in the headquarters of the PRC in Lima. It is headed by the regional disaster preparedness delegate with the support of the Spanish Red Cross' regional delegate. The office also includes two officers from the regional delegation in Buenos Aires in charge of general coordination, information and media service as well as three locally hired staff. The operation in the field is headed by a delegate from PADRU with support from a relief coordinator. A logistics cell with one delegate from Canadian Red Cross, two delegates from British Red Cross and two delegates (Colombian and Costa Rica Red Cross Societies) from the RITs has been established. There are two more RIT delegates (from the Colombian and Ecuadorian Red Cross Societies) in charge of coordinating tracing and health activities. In total there are 12 delegates. The office will be scaled up to a full delegation during the coming month.

Coordination and Management

Co-ordination meetings are taking place both in Lima and in Arequipa at the initiative of the PRC. On 26 June a first co-ordination meeting took place in the headquarters of the PRC. Among others OXFAM, Caritas, CARE and Medicos Mundo participated. Initiatives are underway to link up assessment resources with PAHO. On 27 June a similar meeting was held in Arequipa with the participation of municipalities, OXFAM, Caritas and Care. The assessments are being carried out in cooperation with civil defence authorities. The Federation has been meeting in Arequipa and Lima with senior officials of ECHO and the British Government (DFID), both major donors to this operation, to ensure good coordination of response.

Outstanding needs

The preliminary appeal covering the immediate needs for shelter, food and water has received a very positive response. The most recently confirmed funding is noted in the attached list of contributions. A full and broader appeal covering all needs identified in the ongoing needs assessments and the agreed plan of action will be issued as soon as possible.

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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.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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