

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

Appeal No. MDRPE003
Operations Update no.1
GLIDE no.
EQ-2007-000133-PER
19 August 2007

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

Operations Update no. 01; Period covered: 17 August to 19 August, 2007; Preliminary Appeal target: CHF 1,616,000 (USD 1,341,859 or EUR 979,150); Appeal coverage to be confirmed in the coming hours;

Appeal history:

- **Launched on 17 August 2007 for CHF 1,616,000 (USD 1,341,859 or EUR 979,150) for 5 months to assist 4,000 families (20,000 people).**
- **Final Report is therefore due on 17 April 2008.**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 250,000 (USD 207,641 EURO 151,515)**

Operational Summary:

Within the first day of launching the Appeal, the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC), with support from the International Federation, has extended the team on the ground and is focusing activities on search and rescue of survivors, needs assessments and the distribution of relief items to affected families, particularly in Pisco. Despite the lack of information and coordination on the ground, the PRC and Federation teams have established clear mechanisms and the initial logistics to face the situation within three days. Assessments are still vital, especially in the other affected areas, and are being carried out by the PRC. Food and water and sanitation needs are being covered by the Government and other organizations, and have not been considered for our appeal.

Despite the deteriorating security situation, the distributions on the ground have started. The first plane with humanitarian relief arrived in Lima on 17 August, and was transported through several smaller flights to Pisco. Distributions have started of the relief items which include tents, blankets, jerrycans and plastic sheeting. This covers the needs of 2,000 families in Pisco. Further relief items will arrive on 19 August to meet the needs of all the families within the PRC Plan of Action. The Spanish Red Cross psychosocial support team is expected shortly. The hygiene situation is starting to deteriorate, three days after the earthquake, and if the announced measures from the Government do not take place, the risk of health problem could arise.

Coordination of the relief activities by authorities continues to be a problem due to the difficult and complicated situation in the affected area, but the arrival of the UNDAC team should help supporting proper coordination. The Federation is playing an important role together with the UN system to support the authorities in establishing proper coordination mechanisms. The UN system is evaluating the situation, launching a flash appeal and a CERF, and evaluating if other measures are needed.

Confirmed contributions from ECHO (515,000 €), the Italian Government (200,000 €), USAID Peru (100,000 \$), as well as announced contributions from the Chinese Red Cross via the Chinese Embassy in Lima (50,000 \$), the Belgian Government through the Belgian Red Cross (500,000 €), the Italian Red Cross (50,000 €), the Netherlands

Red Cross (40,000 €), the Chilean Red Cross (1,500 \$), the German Government to the German Red Cross (150,000 €) and the in-kind contribution of the Spanish Red Cross (236,000 €) and of the in-kind contribution of the Colombian / Netherlands Red Cross Societies indicate that the preliminary appeal has been covered in less than 36 hours. Interest has been shown by a large series of private companies, which we invite to further their interest and become partners of our operation.

The picture of the needs is getting clearer quickly despite the prevailing lack of coordination in the field and the insecure environment. In addition, the type of disaster suggests that an **early recovery** component should be identified soon, in order to deliver relief aid while planning for the early support to reconstruction of livelihoods, which is the right of the affected populations. For these reasons, it is foreseen that the appeal will be revised in a couple of days, to enhance the coverage of relief aid and psychosocial support to affected families, start planning a participatory needs assessment in terms of early recovery, and enhance significantly the capacities of the Peru Red Cross to drive these processes.

The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.**

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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>

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Background

An earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale (US Geological Survey) hit Peru on 15 August, devastating coastal areas. The epicentre was off the south west coast of Lima. Aftershocks continue to be felt in the affected areas. The Geophysics Institute of Peru measured the epicentre 33km below the earth's surface, and 60km west of Pisco.

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The earthquake affected the regions of Ica, Lima, Junin, Ayacucho, Huancavelica and La Libertad. The worst affected region is Ica. The following table shows the extent of the damage and numbers of people affected.

As of 18 August, 15:00 local time, the Peruvian Civil Defence system (INDECI) reported the following figures from the affected areas:

Location	Families affected	Homes destroyed	Injured	Deaths
Ica Region	32,310	32,310	829	475
Province Chincha	16,010	16,010	240	75
Province Ica	300	300	487	65
Province Nazca	-	-	2	-
Province Pisco	16,000	16,000	100	335
Lima Region	1,075	1,076	195	18
Province Cañete	876	392	172	5
Province Huarochiri	1	1	-	1
Province Lima	47	47	1	5
Province Yuayos	151	151	7	1
Province Callao	-	1	15	6
Junin Region	4	4	-	-
Province Huancayo	4	4	-	-
Province Junin	-	-	-	-
Province Chupaca	-	-	-	-
Ayacucho Region	3	3	-	-
Province Huamanga	3	3	-	-
Huancavelica Region	283	283	18	3
Province Castrovirreyna	223	223	3	3
Province Huaytara	60	60	15	-
TOTAL	33,675	33,676	1,042	496

INDECI has reported that 13 shelters have been set up in Pisco, where people are staying, some holding up to 350 families.

In Pisco it is estimated 80% of the town collapsed, and electricity and water supplies have been cut off. Thousands of families have lost their homes in Pisco and are living outside on the streets, next to destroyed houses and human waste. Water and sanitation is increasingly needed here.

The province of Chincha has also been seriously affected. The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) reports that 70% of buildings have collapsed or suffer from structural problems. The PRC has branches in Chincha and Pisco.

Three days after the earthquake, the security situation has deteriorated with several incidents of looting reported in Pisco. There is a dramatic need for improved coordination and for comprehensive and reliable data on the extent of the effects of the earthquake on the various sectors. The main activities are being concentrated in Pisco, and evaluations still need to be carried out in other affected areas.

National and international aid is arriving in affected areas, and actions are concentrating on search and rescue, emergency shelter, medical attention to those injured, relief, clearing and identification of dead bodies, and early recovery. Flights with humanitarian aid are arriving in Pisco from Lima through an air-bridge and there are connections between Lima and Pisco. The road is being rehabilitated, and light 4x4 vehicles pass from Lima to the affected area.

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On 17 August the Government led coordination meetings with agencies, donors and NGOs present in the country. Needs of the affected were reported as follows (quantities yet to be specified):

- tents
- blankets
- jerry cans
- metal roofing
- bladder tanks
- water treatment plants
- water purification tablets
- medicines
- medical units (no staff is required)
- bedding
- prefabricated housing

Donors showed an exceptional interest and support to the Government's request. The Peruvian public has also responded overwhelmingly by donating clothes, food and blankets.

A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team was deployed to Peru today and one of the members has already been deployed to Pisco. To date, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has released \$200,000 in emergency funds, and will be distributing water-purification tablets, water containers, oral rehydration salts and water tanks with a 10,000-liter capacity. The World Food Programme has announced distribution of relief food amounting to \$500,000, which will be distributed through the National Food Assistance Programme. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have provided a cash grant of \$200,000. The United Nations also stands ready to contribute up to \$10 million from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF).

In addition, the European Commission Humanitarian Office ECHO has announced a primary emergency decision of 2 million € of which 515,000 € are for the operation of the Federation.

Operational developments

To date the PRC has deployed 60 volunteers to the field with the national relief coordinator. Needs assessments are still taking place in the affected areas. PRC's main actions are focusing on search and rescue, the distribution of relief items and ongoing needs assessments. Four vehicles and four ambulances are available in Pisco to support these activities and the CRP has set up a base camp in the military airport of Pisco, well protected against security problems.



Above: In Pisco needs assessments were carried out at the onset of the emergency by the PRC.

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Most PRC action is taking place in Pisco where the main needs have been identified so far. Other humanitarian organizations are working in Chinchipe which has also been badly affected. Further needs assessments in other affected areas are being carried out by PRC as information from Canete, Chinchipe and Ica remains limited. Limited phone and email communications and cut off electricity have been the main challenges in the operation so far. Telecommunications specialists and generators are still arriving in the field.

The Regional Representation of the International Federation in Lima is directly supporting the PRC, along with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama through: two Disaster Management delegates, one Disaster Management Officer (shelter specialist), two logistician Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members, one Telecommunications RIT, one Relief RIT, one Communication Officer, one driver. The Head of PADRU and a logistics coordinator from PADRU are expected in the next hours.

National Societies present in Peru:

- Colombian Red Cross: 4 S&R, 1 logistician, 1 Team Leader, 1 health, 1 IT telecom is arriving
- Spanish Red Cross: 4 delegates (1 development, 1 architect, 1 logistics, 1 relief)
- German Red Cross: 3 delegates
- Swiss Red Cross: 1 delegate into the COSUDE team
- Netherlands Red Cross: 3 delegates supporting the Colombian Red Cross action
- Italian Red Cross: 1 delegate
- Canadian Red Cross: 1 delegate coming
- American Red Cross: 1 photographer
- Ecuadorian Red Cross: two teams of 12 working on search and rescue and assessments
- French Red Cross: 1 delegate

The Appeal will be revised in the coming days, following the next round of assessments.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief

Objective: 4,000 families (20,000 people) will be provided with basic relief non-food items.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Within the first day of the operation, efforts have focused on the arrival and distribution of relief items to the affected families in Pisco. The first plane sent by the Federation from Panama arrived in Lima at 12:30pm on 17 August, carrying tents, blankets, jerrycans, plastic sheeting, visibility materials, and radio telecommunications kits. The first shipment arrived late afternoon of the same day to Pisco, and four more flights followed enabling the rapid arrival of relief items to the affected areas. The supplies have been transported to Pisco from Lima by armed forces flights as the Pisco airport is not equipped to receive large shipments. The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) is receiving the goods as they arrive in Pisco; one ICRC logistician is in Pisco, made available by the ICRC Lima, to help with the reception of goods. One warehouse in Pisco and one warehouse in Lima are being used in this process.



A second plane will be sent from Panama on 19 August with the following relief items for 2,000 families: blankets, jerrycans, plastic sheeting, and hygiene kits. The flight will also have humanitarian aid from the Canadian Red Cross and the American Red Cross and will be accompanied by a professional photographer deployed by the American Red Cross in coordination with the International Federation.

Left: flight with relief items being loaded in Lima on its way to Pisco airport

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A flight with Colombian Red Cross (CRC) relief items was sent by the Colombian Government on 17 August, carrying humanitarian aid and an international response team to Peru. Together with the Netherlands Red Cross, the CRC will support the logistics and coordination in the operation. A second flight is being prepared for 19 August and the CRC will await information on further needs. Two more flights are available if needed.

The Spanish Government Cooperation Agency (Agencia Española de la Cooperación Internacional – AECI) has sent a plane with 100 tonnes of humanitarian aid, of which 31 tonnes of relief items were sent by the Spanish Red Cross including tents, blankets, and jerrycans. The plane arrived on 18 August to Lima.

Distributions of the relief items have started in particularly vulnerable areas, where the population lives in precarious living conditions. The PRC have carried out distributions in two locations in Pisco, to 250 families in El Molino and 350 families in El Molinillo, thanks to the use of light vehicles, as trucks are a target for looters. On 19 August distributions will be made to 300 families in Paracas. In Chincha PRC teams are distributing basic relief items.

Impact:

Despite the lack of coordination by local authorities and the growing insecurity situation, the distributions of relief items in Pisco and Chincha have begun and will continue in the following days.

Constraints:

The lack of information and coordination on the ground and the increasing insecurity are causing a serious delay to the planned schedule of distributions.

Health

Objective: Psychosocial support will be provided to at least 1,000 families affected by the earthquake by PRC volunteers.

With financial support through the primary emergency decision of ECHO, a Spanish Red Cross psychosocial support team is leaving Spain and will be deployed in a couple of days to the affected area in order to evaluate the needs of the population affected by the earthquake in terms of psychosocial support, provide quick field training for the volunteers of the Peruvian Red Cross, and facilitate the first support to the most affected population, especially children.

The Federation initiative in psycho-social support is the only one announced.

Strengthening National Society response capacities

Objective: The PRC is better prepared to respond to this and future emergencies, through the development of an efficient management and response structures.

Since the beginning of the operation all activities have been coordinated very closely with the recently appointed new Judicial Administrator, who has taken a firm lead of the PRC intervention. Since most of the PRC staff is newly appointed after the long internal conflict, the Federation team has been identifying counterparts for each PRC staff / volunteer in charge of the operation, and training them on the job. A press conference was held jointly by the PRC and the Federation in Lima to position the PRC and focus the attention on the humanitarian activities of the PRC. Next steps include strengthening internal structures, systems and procedures in the areas of human resources, finance and administration, as well as developing an efficient volunteer management system.

Federation Coordination

Since minutes after the earthquake, the Federation has been coordinating with other organizations who are working in the field to avoid duplication of efforts. The Federation has been coordinating very closely with INDECI through regular contact and meetings. It should be noted that the civil defense structures have responded quite well to the emergency, but the system (implying inter-sectorial coordination with Ministries and local governments, activation of local emergency committees, and strong and quick central coordination mechanisms) has so far failed to perform well and meet the needs that such a disaster requires.

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In the field it is quite difficult to coordinate, in the virtual absence of coordination bodies and in the multiplication of ad hoc decisions by different authorities. With the arrival of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team and OCHA personnel on 18 August, it is hoped that central and local coordination will be strengthened. A first central coordination mechanism has been discussed on August 18 between the UN system, INDECI, the Federation and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The Federation coordinator in the field has been invited to take part in the UNDAC team there, which has a first primary task to establish a local coordination body for the whole affected area.

A Flash Appeal will be launched by the UN system shortly and the UN is prepared to contribute up to \$10 million from their Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). Contacts are underway with both the UN Resident Representative and the main UN agencies in order to jointly evaluate the opportunity to suggest the activation of the cluster approach. Should this be the case, the Federation could be invited to lead the emergency shelter part.

The movement coordination has been quick and effective, but needs to be reinforced. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has immediately deployed two technicians (IT and logistics) to the field. So far 46 expatriates have arrived in Peru, of which 24 from neighboring Ecuador upon a request from their government, and 9 from Colombia. With the previously mentioned team of experts, that sums up to the Peru RC and Federation staff deployed, the needs for effective coordination is clear. We request that all NSs clearly state in the mission instructions for their delegates, that the reporting line is with our Federation for security, administrative and operational matters. The Federation will do its best both in Lima and in the field to facilitate their mission, and to accomplish their mandate.

The Federation strongly recommends not sending any additional human resources from abroad if not explicitly requested to by the Peruvian Red Cross through our appeal revision. We emphasize that the prevailing security situation in the field at this stage requires additional measures. A centralized database of Movement expatriate HRs has been established, and a security briefing for newcomers is being developed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The Federation is working with the PRC to assist the most vulnerable. In the planned operation, the activities to be carried out in relief provision, psychosocial support and National Society capacity building are based upon the principle of humanity.

The selection of people who will be supported by the Appeal is based on the level of vulnerability of those affected, respecting cultural diversity and ensuring gender sensitivity. Activities planned for this appeal are based on SPHERE project, humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response. All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

The Federation strongly supports the rights-based approach for people affected by disasters. People have a right to decide on their future recovery, and for this reason we plan the inclusion of a participatory needs assessment to define the contents of early recovery support measures. This will be included in the next appeal revision.

National Society Capacity Building

This item is built into the appeal; for additional information, please see Objective 3 of the Red Cross actions. More information will be made available in the next revised appeal.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for emergency operations. The communications activities outlined in this appeal are aimed at supporting the National Society to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are closely coordinated with the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

The emergency received huge media attention on an international scale. To respond to this, a number of press releases were published, announcing the action taken by the National Society and arrival of relief items to affected

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areas. At least 80 media channels – television, news agencies, radio and press – have requested interviews since the onset of the emergency. Interviews have taken place in English, French and Spanish. So far interviews have been given to media, such as BBC, CNN (English and Spanish), AFP, Radio Buenos Aires (Argentina), Radio Cadena Ser Spain, Radio France International, Belgian Radio, Notimundo Radio Ecuador, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Caracol Radio Colombia, Radio Monumental Costa Rica, National Television Canada, El Mundo newspaper Spain, Montreal Television, Fox News, Panamerican Television Peru, Univision, Al Jazeera in English, New Zealand Radio and a number of channels and radio stations in Peru including RPP and written Peruvian press such as El Comercio and Peru 21. Many of these have called for several interviews.

Reports are being published on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on a regular basis. A press conference was held by the Peruvian Red Cross in Lima on 17 August on: the arrival of the first flight with Red Cross humanitarian aid, the launch of the emergency appeal and the bank account opened for donations. The International Federation global website www.ifrc.org and the regional website www.cruzroja.org are being updated regularly.

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