

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Chile: Severe winter

DREF operation n° MDRCL007
GLIDE n° CW-2011-000094-CHL
26 July 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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.

120,035 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Chilean Red Cross (CRCh) in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,000 families. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

A cold weather front has impacted the Bio-bío and Araucanía regions, bringing snowstorms and low temperatures above yearly averages.

Approximately 25,000 persons have been affected, and thousands of Mapuches and Pehuenche indigenous families are completely isolated. Due to this isolation, additional snowstorms and delays in clearing secondary roads, the CRCh in its auxiliary role to the Chilean government will be distributing emergency relief items that include blankets, jerry cans and tools to 1,000 families.



Six National Intervention Team members and volunteers from the Temuco and Villarrica branches of the Chilean Red Cross have been deployed to start distribution of basic relief items. Source: Chilean Red Cross

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by October 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by January 2011).

[<Click here for the DREF budget and map of affected areas; here for contact details>](#)

The situation

On 13 July 2011, a cold front developed, bringing intense snowstorms to the mountainous region south of Bio Bío and the Araucanía, particularly affecting communities in the area of the Curacautín and the Villarrica National Park. By 19 July 2011, up to two metres of snow had fallen, blocking roads and mountain passes, interrupting the electricity and communication services, disrupting the provision of food, medicines and fuel,

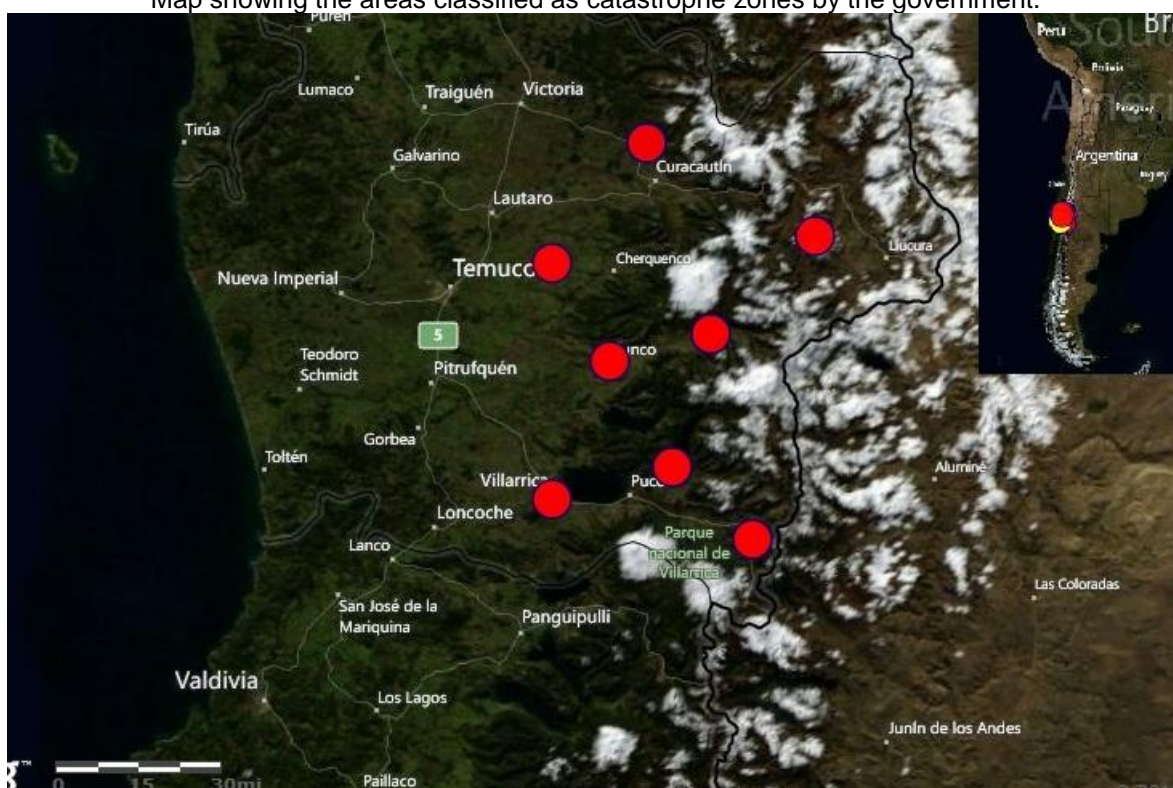
and provoking structural damages to some houses. In addition, with temperatures as low as $-22\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, water pipes have frozen, interrupting the water supply in many areas.

The Chilean Red Cross (CRCh) based on information from the Emergency National Office (Oficina Nacional de Emergencia – ONEMI), and other regional sources, estimates that approximately 25,000 persons have been affected. As shown in the table below, many of the affected families are completely isolated.

Region	Province	Communes ¹	Isolated persons	Total affected persons
Araucanía	Malleco	Lonquimay	6,500	6,500
Araucanía	Malleco	Curacautín	880	1,945
Araucanía	Malleco	Purén	350	1,348
Araucanía	Cautín	Cunco	244	340
Araucanía	Cautín	Pucón	350	600
Araucanía	Cautín	Curarrehue	4,000	7,200
Araucanía	Cautín	Melipeuco	300	1,500
Araucanía	Cautín	Carahue	0	1,200
Araucanía	Cautín	Vilcún	0	150
Araucanía	Cautín	Villarrica	0	4,200
Bio-bío	Bio-bío	Alto Bio-bío	492	492
TOTAL			13,116	25,475

On 18 July 2011, ONEMI declared a red alert for the communes of Lonquimay, Melipeuco, Curacautín and Currarrehue and a yellow alert for Pucón, Cunco, Vilcún and Villarrica (all in the Araucanía region). Two days later, on 20 July, the Chilean government declared these areas as catastrophe zones to hasten and facilitate relief efforts. As the effects of the cold front extended towards the Alto Bio-bío commune, which is inhabited by the Pehuenche indigenous group, the Chilean authorities added the commune in its list of catastrophe zone on 21 July.

Map showing the areas classified as catastrophe zones by the government.



¹ *Communes* (comuna in Spanish) in Chile correspond to the third-level administrative division of the country, similar to municipalities. The country is divided into 15 regions, 54 provinces and 346 *comunas*.

The area affected by the current cold wave –inhabited mostly by the Mapuche and Pehuenche indigenous populations– has the country’s highest poverty rates and lower access to services, which exacerbates the vulnerability of the isolated families.

The situation is continuously being monitored as the Meteorological Directorate of Chile (Dirección Meteorológica de Chile) forecasted a new cold front with potential precipitations on 27 July 2011, in which case the emergency situation could persist for an unforeseeable amount of time.

Coordination and partnerships

At present, the only response to the emergency situation is from the national and regional authorities of the Chilean government. Therefore, the Chilean Red Cross has initiated conversations with governmental authorities to integrate their relief activities with those being carried out by the different ministries and armed forces. The CRCh plans to reach an agreement to use the transportation available to the government (helicopters and snowmobiles) to access the most isolated sectors. While the government is responding to the emergency at different levels, authorities are concentrating efforts to clear main roads, distribute food parcels to the affected families and feed for livestock. Therefore, the Chilean Red Cross will support with the distribution of relief items such as blankets and jerry cans. As access to the affected areas is difficult, the CRCh is also working in close partnership with the local authorities to determine the current needs of the affected families.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has a strong presence in Chile as part of the Operation in response to the earthquake and tsunami on 23 February 2010, and its in-country staff is in constant communication with the Chilean Red Cross to support this new emergency. As part of the coordination efforts, information-exchange takes place between the CRCh, the regional representation of the Southern Cone and Brazil, and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to determine the most feasible plan of action for the current situation.



The Chilean Red Cross is working alongside the Emergency National Office (ONEMI) to reach affected families. Source: CRCh.

The Araucanía branch of the CRCh has launched a regional appeal to collect food for the affected families and a group of six National Intervention Team (NIT) members was deployed from the headquarters to support coordination with the municipal authorities, select beneficiaries and draw up a chronogram for relief activities.

On 24 July 2011, CRCh volunteers started distribution of emergency relief items that were pre-positioned at the National Society’s headquarters. Thus far, the CRCh has reached some 100 families. The current DREF will be partially used to support the replenishment of some of these items.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached:

At present, NIT members deployed to the Araucanía region are assessing the affected communities and working alongside regional and local authorities to determine which families are in greater need of support. More detailed information on the families that are being reached will be provided in the next update report.

The main needs that have been assessed thus far are food, winter tools and clothing, and water distribution:

- Food: As families are expected to be isolated for an undetermined amount of time, access to food for households and their farm animals is a main concern. The Chilean government, through ONEMI, is covering the current need.
- Winter tools and clothing: local authorities have reported that many of the affected families lack tools to clear safe paths around their homes needed to reach outer buildings such as latrines and barns. Many families also lack appropriate clothing to endure the lower than average temperatures.
- Water and sanitation: as regular water sources have frozen, some families are collecting their drinking water from small rivers that run through pastures and thus have contact with animal feces. There is a need to carry out simple water treatment promotion.
- Health: primary health services in the affected areas are prepared to provide any needed service. Thus far there has not been an increase in morbidity.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p>Outcome: Affected households have received basic non-food items and food to meet their immediate needs and enable them to return to everyday life as quickly as possible.</p>
<p>Output: 1,000 affected households are supported with basic non-food relief items (5 blankets, 2 jerry cans, and snow shovels and gloves per household).</p>
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with regional and local authorities to select the most vulnerable people as beneficiaries. • Rent a warehouse in the region of Araucanía to facilitate distribution. • Distribution of blankets, jerry cans and tools. • Replenishment of utilized stocks.

The goal of this DREF supported operation is to reach 1,000 families with 5 blankets, 2 jerry cans for drinking water storage, and snow shovels and gloves to clear the snow surrounding homes. To facilitate distribution in rural areas during this operation, a warehouse will be rented in the Araucanía region to temporarily store all relief items that are currently in the capital city of Santiago. Although the CRCh has pre-positioned stock of most of the relief items, the tools to be distributed will be procured locally. Finally, as part of this DREF-supported operation, volunteers will also carry out water treatment promotion at the time of distribution.

How we work

All IFRC 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 IFRC'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 IFRC'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:

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

DREF OPERATION

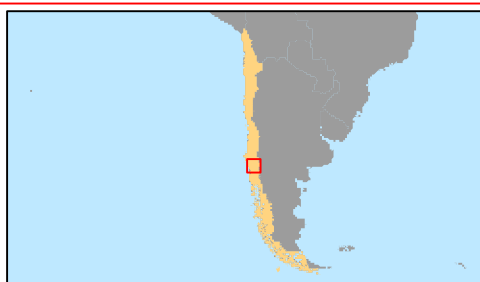
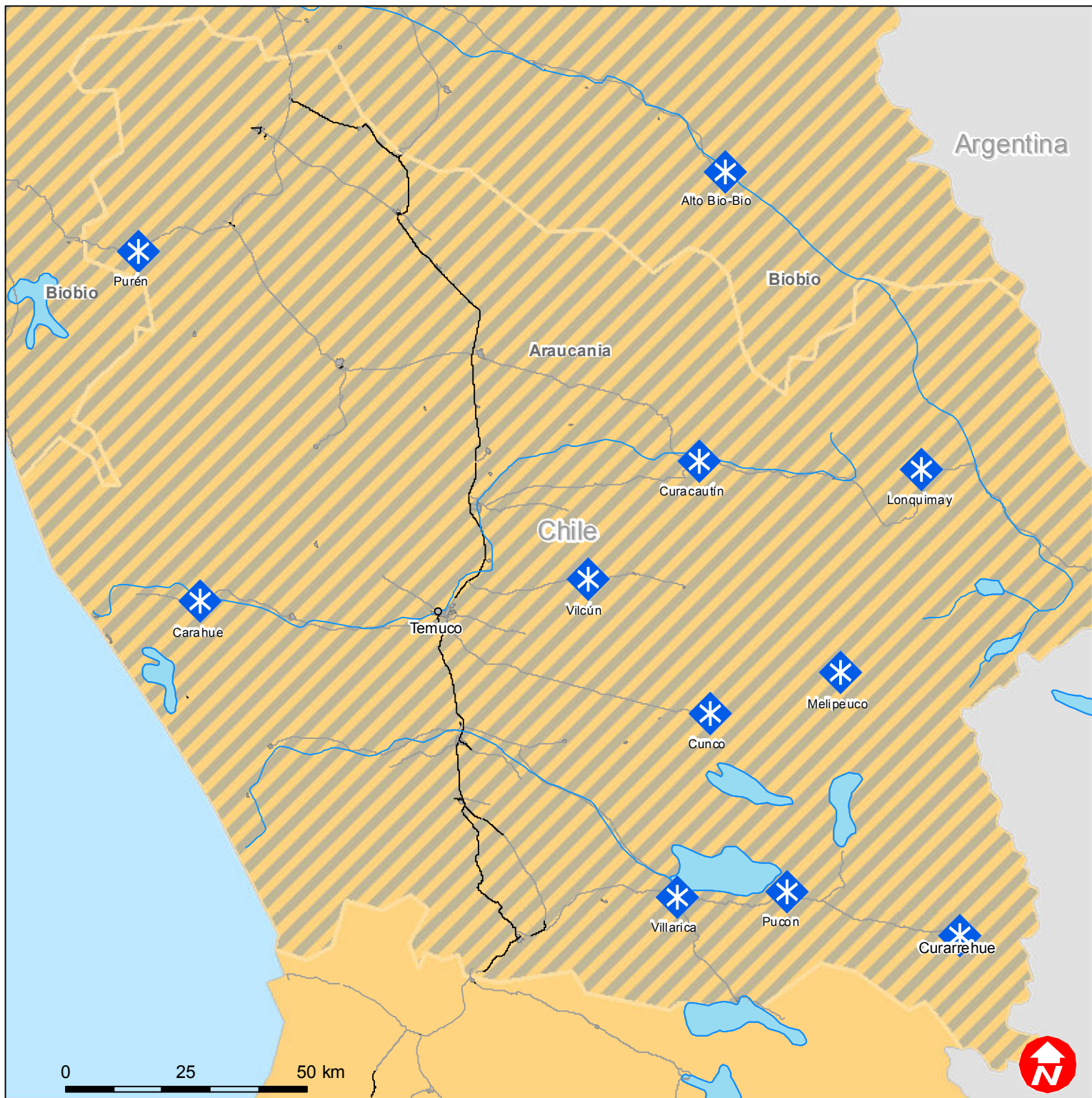
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MDRCL007 CHILE EXTREME TEMPERATURE

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	28,700
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	11,480
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	53,300
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	93,480
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	4,100
Distribution & Monitoring	2,460
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,280
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	9,840
International Staff	0
National Staff	
National Society Staff	2,460
Volunteers	2,870
Total PERSONNEL	5,330
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	2,460
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	164
Communications	410
Financial Charges	205
Other General Expenses	820
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	4,059
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	7,326
Total INDIRECT COSTS	7,326
TOTAL BUDGET	120,035



Chile: Extreme winter conditions



-  Affected districts
-  Affected places