

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: COLD WAVE

4 August 2003

Information Bulletin N° 2

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 over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

This document is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

The strong cold front continues to affect the highlands of Peru. The National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (SENAMHI) has launched an alert, given the possibility that the cold wave will worsen during this week. It estimates that winds will reach 50 kilometres per hour, double normal speeds. The most vulnerable regions are the departments of Tacna, Moquegua, Arequipa, Puno, Cuzco, Apurímac and the southern part of Ayacucho, in which Andean communities located above 4,000 meters above sea level are suffering extreme cold and strong winds. In Tacna, besides the cold front, rainstorms have worsened the situation damaging the most precarious homes.

The cold wave is resulting in the death of children, the loss of farm animals and damage to infrastructure including schools, health centres and homes. Indigenous families risk losing their only source of income, should crops be destroyed. In the province of Caravelí in Apurímac alone, the authorities have warned that 20,000 farm animals are in danger and the population is requesting immediate assistance from the central government. According to the Civil Defence, in the province of Paúcar del Sara Sara in Ayacucho, at least 280 families have been affected by the relentless cold wave.

In the department of Arequipa there have been 62 fatalities due to respiratory diseases this year, particularly affecting children under 5 years of age. An additional 4,000 cases of severe respiratory infections have been reported.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) headquarters, located in Lima, has set up an emergency committee which has declared a state of emergency and is monitoring the situation through the Red Cross branch radio network. The PRC branches immediately began to provide relief in the emergency zones and volunteers were mobilized in the field to undertake damage and needs assessments.

Red Cross Branches in the Emergency Zone	
Branch	N° of volunteers
Puno (Puno)	50
Juliaca (Puno)	18
San Antonio de Putina (Puno)	30
Huancané (Puno)	25
Cusco (Cusco)	20
Arequipa	50
Castilla	20
Caylloma	15
8 Red Cross Branches	228

From the information resulting from the initial damage assessment, it has been determined that the prioritized geographic areas in which the PRC will concentrate its work, are as follows:

Zone	Department	Province	N° of families	Communities	Dates
First	Arequipa	Castilla	500	Arequipa Aplao Andagua Chachas Chicotana Huaraco Pallca Chua	1-3 August
Second	Arequipa	Caylloma	500	Arequipa Chivay Ichupampa Sibayo Condoroma Espinar Chichas	14-17 August
Third	Puno	Huancané and San Antonio de Putina	5000		14-17 August
Fourth	Arequipa	Espinar and annexes (to be determine)			21-24 August

The goal of the PRC is to reach 6,000-7,000 families with relief assistance under the fundraising campaign “Let’s keep a brother from the South warm”. This campaign encourages the population to donate warm clothes, blankets, boots, medicines, food, shovels to remove snow and building materials. For the dissemination of the campaign, the National Society enjoys the cooperation of two important Peruvian media: the newspaper Perú 21 (www.peru21.com) and the television network Frecuencia Latina.

In Lima, the Red Cross has set up seven points to store donated goods which will be centralized at the warehouse located in the district of Surco, from where the aid will be forwarded to Arequipa and Puno, and thereafter distributed among the communities in need. In addition, in the department of Arequipa, the PRC has organized the collection of more than two tonnes of clothing to be delivered this week.

On 25 July, the Arequipa Red Cross branch and the National Programme of Food (PRONAA) developed a two-day campaign in which they delivered relief kits to almost 200 families. The contents of the kits were: rice, beans,

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oil and warm clothes. The logistics of this operation were ensured through cooperation with the Chua Municipality. In the district of Chua, 11 affected communities were identified; it has been possible to assist three communities to date with four tonnes of food and clothes.

In the province of Huancané, 32 communities affected by the cold wave have been identified and the PRC has determined to send packages of blankets, food and medicines with the cooperation of the German Red Cross which has contributed two trucks. Transportation of relief goods is also being carried out with two PRC vans, two vans from the Arequipa branch and one van from the Puno branch. However, transportation continues to pose the main problem in this campaign, as there is a lack of vehicles and fuel to reach distant Andean communities. The Peruvian Red Cross has requested the government and the private sector for assistance in this area.

At national level, the Peruvian Red Cross is ensuring coordination with the Civil Defence Institute, the Ministry of Health and SENAMHI. At local level, the National Society is coordinating with the regional government and the municipalities.

Red Cross Campaign "Let's keep a brother from the South warm"

Official Storage Points in Lima:

- Peruvian Red Cross, Av. Arequipa 1285, Santa Beatriz
- Peruvian Red Cross, Av. Caminos del Inca, cuadra 21, Surco
- Perú 21, Jr. Miró Quesada 247, Lima
- Frecuencia Latina, Jesús María
- CC Mega Plaza, Los Olivos
- CC Jockey Plaza, Surco
- Perú 21's module in UPC, Surco

Official Bank Accounts to make donations:

Banco de Crédito del Perú

- In soles currency: 193-1001 1001-1-22
- In American dollars currency: 193-1002 1002-0-24

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

