

# MINOR EMERGENCY



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

## **BOLIVIA: FIRE**

**ME no. 05ME056**  
**7 November 2005**

*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 181 countries.*

### **In Brief**

**CHF 30,000 (USD 23,620 OR EUR 19,500) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION.**

**UN earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

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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 Organisations \(NGO's\) 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>*

### **The situation**

The Bolivian government declared a state of emergency in the departments of Beni and Pando as a result of a fire that destroyed over 160,000 hectares of tropical forest close to the border with Brazil in the Bolivian Amazon on 20 September. Although fire fighters were able to control the fire several days later, approximately 527 families, most of them farmers from Riberalta whose yucca, banana, rice and almond plantations were destroyed, were left with no food or shelter and, in many cases, suffering from respiratory infections.

This event occurred against the backdrop of an unstable social and political situation in Bolivia, which has some of the lowest human development indicators in the Americas and has left many segments of the population extremely vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters.

## Red Cross action taken so far

As the fire blazed, the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC), with about 22 volunteers from the Riberalta branch, worked to assist the community in close coordination with fire fighters, soldiers and first aid rescue workers who were working in conditions of approximately 50°C of heat. Volunteers also supported the team of some 300 people battling the fire by providing first aid to those affected by burns and bruises, as well as food and water.

After the fire, volunteers from the Riberalta branch of the BRC, with the support of personnel from the National Society headquarters, carried out assessment missions in order to identify the most urgent needs. The greatest needs identified were for food, as most of those affected were subsistence farmers whose crops had been destroyed.



Goods on their way to be distributed amongst those affected by the fire.



Red Cross volunteers in action, packing food before its distribution.

An allocation of CHF 30,000 was released to the Bolivian Red Cross from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the immediate relief needs of the most vulnerable members of the population. The target beneficiary population for the BRC relief operation is 300 families in 16 communities: La Esperanza, San Juan del Urucú, 26 de Octubre, Santa María, Santuario, Nazareth, Paraíso, Flor de Octubre, San Francisco, Warnes, 7 de Julio, Villa, Cotoca, San Juan Km. 27, Bolívar, San Antonio and Florida. The first relief distribution was carried out on 22 October. Each family received a food package, along with sheets and towels. Each food package contains the following items:

| Item   | Quantity |
|--------|----------|
| Rice   | 5 kg     |
| Sugar  | 5 kg     |
| Beans. | 5 kg     |
| Pasta  | 5 kg     |
| Salt   | 5 kg     |
| Oil    | 1 litre  |
| Flour  | 5 kg     |
| Coffee | 1 kg     |

A second relief distribution is planned for 26 November.

### Coordination

The BRC's activities are being carried out in close coordination with local authorities, the Civil Defence, community representatives, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the National Council for Risk Reduction and Disaster Response (CONARADE) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

**Budget outline**

| <b>Riberalta Fire</b>                         |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>FOOD (300 families in 2 distributions)</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>      |
| Item  |                   |
| Rice 5 kg.                                    | 36,900.00         |
| Sugar 5 kg.                                   | 22,800.00         |
| Beans 5 kg.                                   | 19,800.00         |
| Pasta 5 kg.                                   | 13,800.00         |
| Salt 5 kg.                                    | 1,080.00          |
| Oil 1lt.                                      | 10,200.00         |
| Flour 5 kg.                                   | 9,600.00          |
| Coffee 1 kg.                                  | 14,400.00         |
| <b>TOTAL Bs</b>                               | <b>128,580.00</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USD</b>                              | <b>15,913.37</b>  |
| Packing                                       | 4,890.00          |
| Visibility                                    | 1,000.00          |
| Transport and distribution                    | 30,000.00         |
| Operation expenses                            | 10,000.00         |
| <b>TOTAL Bs</b>                               | <b>45,890.00</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL USD</b>                              | <b>5,679.46</b>   |
| <b>Summary</b>                                |                   |
| <b>Food</b>                                   | <b>15,913.37</b>  |
| <b>Operational expenses</b>                   | <b>5,679.46</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL USD</b>                              | <b>21,592.83</b>  |

[\*Click here to return to the title page and contact information.\*](#)