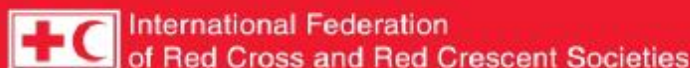


Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Peru: Cold Wave

Information bulletin n° 1
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This bulletin is being issued for information only.

Peru has been affected by a cold wave since the month of May 2009. Temperatures have been below zero degrees Celsius and hail and snow are worsening the situation. In the Peruvian mountain region, especially during the night, the temperature can reach up to 30 degrees Celsius below zero. So far, 131 provinces located in 21 departments have been affected by the cold wave.

Approximately 25,300 people have been affected: 10,381 children under the age of five are suffering from pneumonia and 113 children have died. The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) has been assisting the affected people with medicines, blankets and food items. Additionally, the PRC has launched a nationwide campaign to collect donations for the emergency response.

The Peruvian Red Cross has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this moment. Since this is a recurrent emergency and the National Society was prepared and included in its preventive measures the successful implementation of an awareness campaign, no DREF funds will be requested.

[<View map or click here for detailed contact information>](#)



Peruvian Red Cross volunteers distributing donated clothes. Source: Peruvian Red Cross

The Situation

Every year Peru experiences low temperatures, especially in the mountain range region during the months of May through September. This year, low temperatures, hail and snow are severely affecting the departments of Amazonas, Ancash, Apurimac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Huancavelica and Huanuco. The situation is negatively affecting the health of the population as well as the functioning of the public health services. Additionally, the agricultural sector has been severely hit by these extreme temperatures.

More than 25,000 people have been affected by the cold wave. Pneumonia is a major concern for health officials at the moment; a total of 10,381 children have been diagnosed with pneumonia and another 113 have died. On 5 June 2009, the government declared a state of emergency due to the crisis. Health authorities also reported 1,871,140 acute respiratory cases (non pneumonic). The table below shows the number of pneumonia cases and deaths by year reported by the country's General Office of Epidemiology:

Departments	Pneumonia cases				Deaths			
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
Amazonas	623	570	441	491	2	2	3	3
Ancash	846	724	876	726	17	21	16	7
Apurímac	779	693	649	622	1	4	5	6
Arequipa	1206	1154	1419	1498	9	10	9	10
Ayacucho	454	370	467	314	3	11	4	7
Cajamarca	1532	1429	1629	1515	29	24	18	12
Callao	652	564	827	763	0	1	0	0
Cusco	1332	1515	1197	1152	17	21	18	23
Huancavelica	593	565	616	618	21	24	17	19
Huánuco	1655	1254	1356	1087	16	16	14	32
Ica	504	370	480	273	2	1	0	0
Junín	1004	853	1011	829	19	17	19	21
La Libertad	1368	957	1002	725	4	2	4	4
Lambayeque	704	431	513	539	0	2	0	9
Lima	5960	5448	6001	4934	48	34	18	15
Loreto	2850	2477	1732	2927	22	4	13	21
Madre de Dios	111	204	130	168	2	0	0	0
Moquegua	118	87	61	144	5	0	0	0
Pasco	547	591	570	457	4	9	7	10
Piura	1894	1552	1557	1283	12	10	10	7
Puno	901	1035	733	1060	38	34	41	56
San Martín	645	739	681	645	1	7	0	1
Tacna	116	152	74	105	0	0	0	0
Tumbes	82	114	129	91	0	2	3	1
Ucayali	1310	976	1045	1296	3	4	0	10
Perú	27786	24824	25196	24262	275	260	219	274

Fuente: RENACE/Dirección General de Epidemiología - MINSA, 11/07/2009

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency the Peruvian Red Cross elaborated a plan of action and mobilized resources and personnel to assist the affected people. The plan of the PRC aims to diminish the effects of the cold wave on those most vulnerable living the Andean region of the country. The National Society has been providing humanitarian assistance by distributing clothes, food items and protection to the most affected families. Additionally, the PRC will provide medical assistance and support for the recovery of livelihoods lost due to the emergency.

The beneficiary criteria for the community selection are:

- Communities and families living in areas located 3,000 meters above sea level.
- Rural and low income families.
- People at high risk (children, pregnant women, single mothers and the elderly).
- Areas with high prevalence of pneumonia cases.
- Isolated communities.

To date, the PRC has distributed 55.6 tonnes of relief items including clothes, footwear and blankets for the Andean communities of Puno and Cusco. The local PRC branches of Huancane and Cusco report that 8,100 families have benefited. The table below shows the number of families by province and district which have received assistance:

Department	Province	District	Families
Puno	Huancane	Rospata	600
		Huancane	1,000

Cusco	Anta	Ancahuasi	2,000
	Paruro	Huanuquique	4,500
Total			8,100

The PRC designed a nationwide solidarity campaign called "Together against the cold" (Todos Contra el Frío), which established eight donation collection centres in the local PRC branches in the Andean region of the country. In the capital city of Lima there are two collection centres, one in the Lima PRC branch and the second in a local television network. The private sector has been actively assisting in coordination with the Peruvian Red Cross.

More than 30 volunteers and personnel from the PRC along with 50 community collaborators in Lima have been supporting the process of receipt and packing of items from contributions that are being distributed by the PRC. The items donated go through a quality control process established in four phases: reception, selection, sorting and packing. Additionally, the National Society opened a bank account with the support of the German Red Cross to collect funds to assist the affected population.

In addition, the cold wave affected part of the population living in areas affected by the 2007 earthquake. Therefore, a distribution of blankets was included in the earthquake operation. From 10 to 16 July 2009, blanket sets were distributed to 890 families in two provinces of the department of Huancavelica by PRC volunteers with logistic support from the International Federation. In addition, ten blanket sets were distributed in the province of Pisco (department of Ica) prioritizing the elderly and handicapped beneficiaries. Each blanket set contains five blankets.

The identification of the beneficiaries was carried out by the International Federation in coordination with CARE Peru and Caritas. This relief assistance is complementary to the national campaign carried out by the Peruvian Red Cross.

The following table shows in detail the total number of blankets distributed in the provinces of Huaytara and Castrovirreyna located in the department of Huancavelica:

Province	District	Community	Total distributed	Total distributed by district
Huaytará (9 communities in 3 districts)	Pillpicha (4 communities)	Pillpichaca	60	131
		Huaracco	25	
		Chaupi	21	
		San Felipe	25	
	San Antonio Cusicacancha	Quiwarpampa	35	95
		Cusicacancha	30	



	(3)	Guayacundo Arma	30	
	Huaytará (3)	Acco	26	87
		Muchic	21	
		Huatas	40	
Castrovirreyna (19 communities in 6 districts)	Aurahua (5)	Percoya	19	157
		Central	16	
		Pampa Libre	19	
		Vista Blanca	39	
		Aurahua	64	
	Chupamarca (2)	Chancawasi	33	94
		Chupamarca	61	
	Tantar (2)	Santa Rosa	22	53
		Nueva Esperanza	31	
	Huamatambo (1)	Huamatambo	40	30
	Castrovirreyna (4)	Pacococha	25	106
		Esmeralda	35	
		Sinto	25	
		Castrovirreyna	21	
	San Juan (8)	Amaylla	22	137
		Cascani	12	
		Echocan	14	
		Lucuma	23	
		Paty	12	
		Pizar	19	
San Juan		6		
Yanapampa		29		

TOTAL	890
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Thanks to the generous contributions from the general public and the successful campaign launched by the National Society, no DREF funds will be requested.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

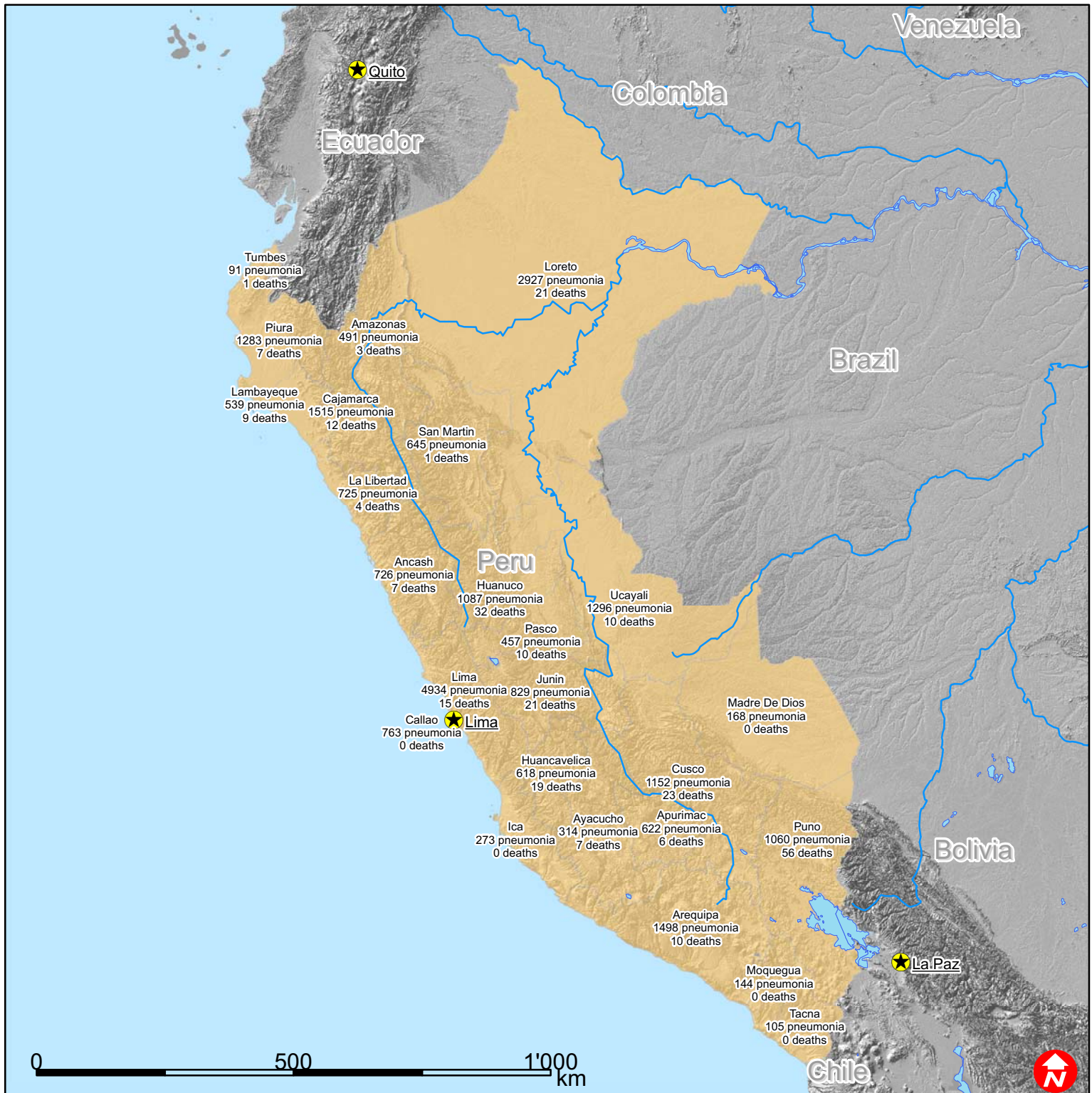
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41 79) 217 3376; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org.

[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



Peru: Cold wave



Peru has been affected by a cold wave since the month of May 2009. 131 provinces located in 21 departments have been impacted by the situation. Approximately 25,300 people have been affected, 10,381 children under the age of five are suffering from pneumonia and 113 children have died.

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, International Federation - IB030809.mxd