

DREF operation



Brazil: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBR005
GLIDE FL-2010-000067-BRA
9 April 2010

The International Federation's 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.

20,000 Swiss francs (18,659 US dollars or 13,961 euro) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to deploy the IFRC Regional Organizational Development Coordinator and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to Brazil to perform initial damage and needs assessments and provide support to the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) to respond to the floods. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since 4 April, the city of Rio de Janeiro has been affected with heavy rains. The Brazilian media has reported that a record-breaking 11.3 inches (288 millimetres) of rain fell in Rio within 24 hours on Tuesday 6 April. On the following day, torrential rains continued non-stop for 48 hours resulting in the death of at least 153 people. Some 62 deaths have been reported in the metropolitan region alone, while another 91 people have been confirmed dead in other areas of the Rio de Janeiro state. Dozens of people have also been injured, including search and rescue workers. In addition, more than 3,200 people are now homeless in the capital and various nearby cities where search and rescue teams are working incessantly to pull residents out after mudslides buried homes mainly in the slums of the hill areas of the capital.



Water covers a street in the city of Rio de Janeiro due to heavy rains. Photo source: Brazilian Red Cross

This DREF operation will provide funds to deploy the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Regional Organizational Development Coordinator from the Southern Cone and Brazil and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to conduct assessments and provide support to the Brazilian Red Cross.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 9 July 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 9 September 2010).

[<Click here for the DREF budget and map, here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Since 4 April 2010 heavy rains have been severely affecting several areas in the state of Rio de Janeiro. A landslide swept away dozens of houses near the city of Rio de Janeiro on 7 April, worsening the disaster which is affecting Brazil's second-largest city.

The rains that started on Monday have triggered at least 180 mudslides that crushed shacks in hillside slums, causing most of the deaths, leaving 53 people missing and more than 3,200 homeless. Hundreds of residents and rescuers scrambled to find buried people late on Wednesday after a hill collapsed in Niteroi, which lies on the other side of the bay from Rio de Janeiro. Another mudslide in Rio's historic Santa Teresa area killed at least 18 people, most of whom were sleeping on Monday night when the hillside collapsed.

Rescue authorities have reported 153 casualties in the Rio de Janeiro state, while 135 people suffered injuries (see table below).

Casualties	People evacuated	Injured	Homeless	People living in high risk areas
153	15,000	135	3,200	13,000

According to Brazilian newspapers this is the worst flood to affect Brazil in 40 years. The State Governor declared three-days of mourning and a state of emergency, urging residents living in high-risk areas to evacuate their homes as more heavy rains are forecast which could trigger additional mudslides. Authorities report that at least 10,000 houses are still at risk of collapse and the national government has sent security forces to help with the evacuation of these people. Also, roads and bridges have been closed due to the floods which have affected the transport system in Rio de Janeiro. To date, assessments are still ongoing therefore the exact number of affected people is unavailable.

The National Meteorological Institute reported that the level of precipitation has been the highest since 1917 and the situation is rated as abnormal due to two factors: the accumulated heat in the atmosphere and a cold front that recently affected the country. Moreover, the Brazilian Red Cross reports that the level of the Ivinheima River has reached its highest level in 44 years.



7 Apr 2010 - At least 138 people killed, 53 missing and 3,200 homeless after a landslide caused by heavy rains. About 10,000 houses are still at risk.

Map Sources: Europa Technologies, FAO, UNCS.
Reference: Alertnet. *Rio hit by fresh landslide, death toll at 138*. 7 Apr 2010.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 8 Apr 2010 - www.reliefweb.int

The Governor of the State has instructed people to seek shelter in public places including gymnasiums and churches. A total of 1,200 municipal workers are cleaning debris in the streets while the Civil Defence has 60 workers supporting evacuations and providing assistance to the most affected. Additionally, the government has approximately 300 people coordinating the disaster response. The prompt response of the authorities has alleviated further damages in the state.

Coordination and partnerships

The Brazilian Civil Defence is working with the support of the Brazilian Red Cross to carry out evacuations, assessments and provide relief items to the affected population.

The IFRC, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Southern Cone and Brazil based in Buenos Aires, has been monitoring the situation and is in constant communication with the National Society

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency, Brazilian Red Cross volunteers and search and rescue teams have been deployed to the affected areas. Preliminary assessments are being carried out in coordination with government authorities. The Brazilian Red Cross is participating in coordination meetings with the government authorities and other actors to establish the response activities.

Additionally, the Brazilian Red Cross is currently distributing food items, water and clothing through its branch in Rio de Janeiro in coordination with the municipal Civil Defence.



Affected people in a community near the city of Rio de Janeiro try to salvage their belongings after the landslide. Photo source: Brazilian Red Cross

The needs

As assessments are ongoing, immediate needs have not yet been fully identified; hence the IFRC is deploying a RIT member to support the BRC assessment teams and identify the most immediate needs. In addition, this initial evaluation will determine which activities the Brazilian Red Cross is best placed to undertake in response to this emergency.

The proposed operation

Detailed Assessments: The IFRC's Regional Organizational Development Coordinator from the Southern Cone and Brazil and a RIT member, in coordination with the Brazilian Red Cross, will conduct rapid assessments to evaluate the situation. The evaluation will assess the following:

- Identification of immediate needs and type of assistance needed;
- Identification of number of people affected and most vulnerable groups;
- Drawing up of a plan of action (if required) to be carried out with a time frame and budget.

Damage and need assessments

Objective: The Brazilian Red Cross has increased capacity to perform damage and needs assessments through the deployment of an IFRC staff and a RIT member to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by the floods and mudslides.

Activities planned:

- Conduct emergency damage and needs assessments.
- Development a plan of action (if/as required)

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation'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 International Federation'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:

- **In Brazil:** Brazilian Red Cross, Fernando da Costa, Relief Director; phone: 55 2196114996; email: costarecue@yahoo.com.br.
- **In Buenos Aires:** Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone and Brazil; email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org.
- **In Panama:** Fernando Bendeck, Disaster Response delegate of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: fernando.bendeck@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 1001; mobile: (507) 6671 8834; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 79 2173376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395.

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

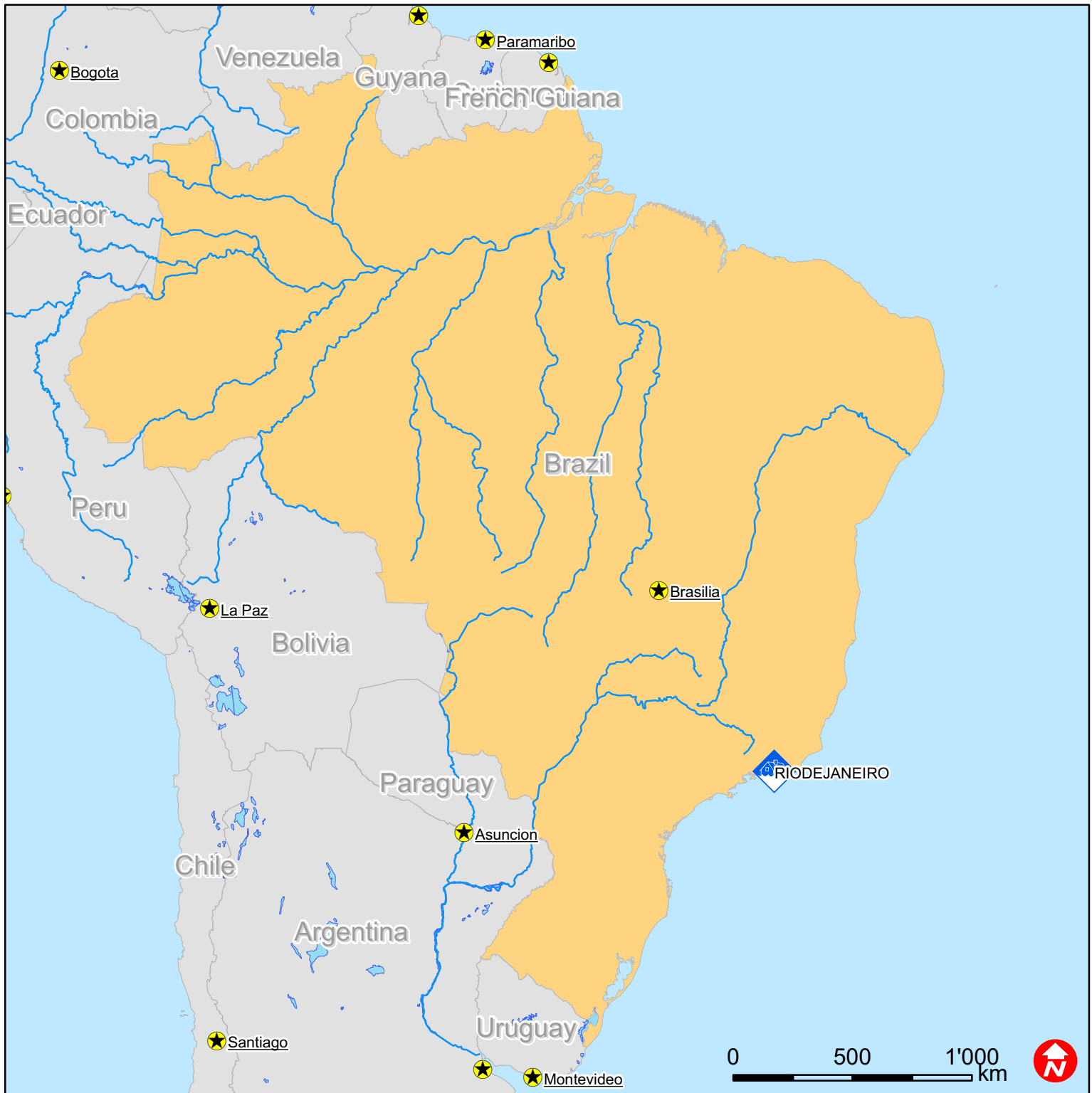
DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY
BRAZIL FLOODS

Annex I

	BUDGET CHF
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>	
Shelter	-
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	-
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	-
Total Relief Needs	-
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	-
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>	
Storage - Warehouse	-
Distribution & Monitoring	-
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,876
Service fee & Recovery	-
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,501
National Staff	
National Society Staff	-
Consultants	
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>	
Workshops & Training	-
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>	
Travel	7,716
Information & Public Relations	-
Office running costs	536
Communication Costs	536
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	536
Other General Expenses	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme Support - PSR	1,300
Total Operational Needs	20,000
DREF ALLOCATION	20,000



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- Affected city
- Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes