

# ***PERU: FLOODS***

*23 May 1999*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 02***

### ***The Disaster***

On 19 March, 1999, the Federation sent out the first Information Bulletin on the floods in Peru. The Peruvian Red Cross has continued to monitor the situation which has become worse. At that time 46,000 persons were reported affected and now, according to Civil Defence and the Red Cross that number has risen to 240,000 persons. The rains have continued and the water level now is 118.55 Metres above sea level which is only 2 centimetres less than the all time record which occurred in 1986. The city of Iquitos, in the northeastern part of Peru is seriously flooded and the most affected provinces are Loreto and Ucayali. The flooding has occurred during the traditional dry season, destroying crops and livestock.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Head of the Federation's Regional Delegation in Buenos Aires was requested by the Peruvian Red Cross to assist in carrying out a survey last week. The local Red Cross volunteers continue to provide first aid and medical care. The Spanish Red Cross and the ICRC are also in the area together with the Peruvian Red Cross to present a plan of action which is expected in a few days. In the Punchana district a shelter for 1,500 of the most vulnerable has been opened for those families unable to find lodging with family, and friends. The Red Cross is providing limited assistance so far. Local authorities are requesting the Red Cross provide more help. Discussions have been held with local mayors, Civil Defence, the ECHO representative, and the British Embassy who have all expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Peruvian Red Cross in this action. The National Society has launched a National fund raising appeal.

### ***Needs***

Preliminary needs are to provide 22,100 persons with supplementary food, seeds, clean water and water containers, mosquito nets and medicines to combat cholera and dengue to include a public health education campaign. The number to be assisted corresponds to the capacity of the Peruvian Red Cross in the area.

## ***Conclusion:***

As soon as additional information is received this will be shared with National Societies and a decision will be made to launch or not an appeal in consultation with the ICRC and the Peruvian Red Cross

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