

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Paraguay: Wind and Hail Storm

DREF operation n° MDRPY004
20 August 2008

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 response to emergencies. 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.

CHF 56,605 (USD 53,910 or EUR 34,620) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 106 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 7 August 2008, the northern part of Paraguay was deeply affected by a series of storms together with 40 km to 80 km gust winds in some areas and reaching up to 200 km in other areas. According to the National Meteorology Direction, the storms were accompanied by heavy hail weighing between 450 and 1,000 grams each. This DREF Bulletin is focused on providing food parcels, and seedlings to 106 affected families in the district of Concepción.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 19 November, 2008; a Final Report will be made available within three months after the end of the operation (by 19 February, 2008).

[<click here for here for contact details,
or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



Affected houses in Paraguay.
Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

The situation

On the night of the 7th of August, strong winds affected the northern part of Paraguay in the departments of San Pedro and Concepción, particularly in the municipalities of Horqueta, Belén and Concepción, the

provincial capital city. The winds, which reached peaks of up to 200 km/hour in some areas, were accompanied by hailstones, some of which weighted almost up to one kilogram, according to the country's meteorological institute.

A state of emergency was declared by the government for the two departments of San Pedro and Concepción. The hailstones and winds damaged infrastructure, agricultural crops (over 1,800 hectares) and interrupted the electricity service for 72 hours, affecting 600,000 people. Some of the destroyed crops are corn, tomatoes, beans, carrots and bananas.



Affected houses in Canindeyu, Paraguay.
Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

The National Emergency Secretary (Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional, SEN) estimates there are 5,664 affected families in the departments of Concepción and San Pedro. Other affected departments are Paraguari (subsistence crops), Amambay (commerce affected due to electricity black-out), Alto Paraguay, Boquerón, Canindeyu (affected livelihoods, crops, houses, and livestock), Caazapa and Presidente Hayes (12 houses destroyed). The government has provided emergency relief assistance to 2,767 families with the following items:

- 1,540 food parcels
- 27,340 roof panels
- 76 mattresses
- 628 plastic tarps
- 1,300 blankets

Coordination and partnerships

The Paraguayan Red Cross' (PRC) local branches are constantly coordinating their activities in the affected communities with local authorities (SEN), to avoid duplication. The National Society have 25 volunteers in the department of San Pedro and two National Intervention Team (NIT) members who are ready to support the emergency activities.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the South America Regional Representation are communicating with and providing support to the National Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) with support from the Local Emergency Committee has been arduously working in the field assessing the needs and damages of the affected areas of Concepción and has elaborated a Plan of Action (PoA) towards the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The PRC has been assisting rural farmers produce tomato, lettuce, beets, carrots, yucca, corn, beans, watermelon and melon through an agricultural producers' association. The harvests were affected by the storm; therefore the PRC will mostly focus the humanitarian assistance to this selected group of farmers.

The needs

Beneficiary selection:

The PRC has based its beneficiary selection on the following criteria:

- Families working with the PRC's farming project
- People in the areas that are most affected in the district of Concepcion
- Communities where their food source (crops) has been affected by the hail storm
- Communities with shortage of food reserves due to the hail storm

After preliminary assessments, PRC identified the following immediate needs:

- Seedling distribution to rural agricultural producers
- Food parcels
- Medications for respiratory illnesses
- Roof panels

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To assist 106 of the most vulnerable families in Concepción with humanitarian aid in order to compensate the loss of their livelihoods.

There are 106 families in Concepción that will receive seedlings in order to rehabilitate their livelihoods. An engineer specialized in agronomy will provide technical assistance for a period of three months. Additionally, each of the 106 families will receive a 47 kg food parcel containing 895 kilocalories (according to Sphere standards) for a period of two months until their crops have been reactivated.

The complementary food parcels will contain the following items:

Items
Rice
Flour
Noodles
Sugar
Beans
Salt
Tea
Cooking Oil

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Implement two month's distribution of food parcels.
- Monitor, report and evaluate the relief activities.
- Develop an exit strategy.

The following committees in the district of Concepcion will receive the above mentioned assistance:

Department	Committees	No. of families
CONCEPCION	Comité Central de Potrerito	19
	Santa Rosa	31
	Sagrada Familia	10
	Teko Pora (Culantrillo)	10
	San Juan Bosco (Culantrillo)	12
	Sagrado Corazón de Jesús	14

	Juancito de Leon	10
Total family beneficiaries		106

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

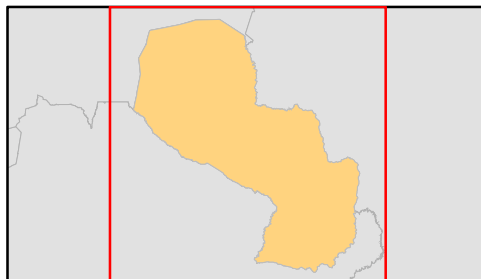
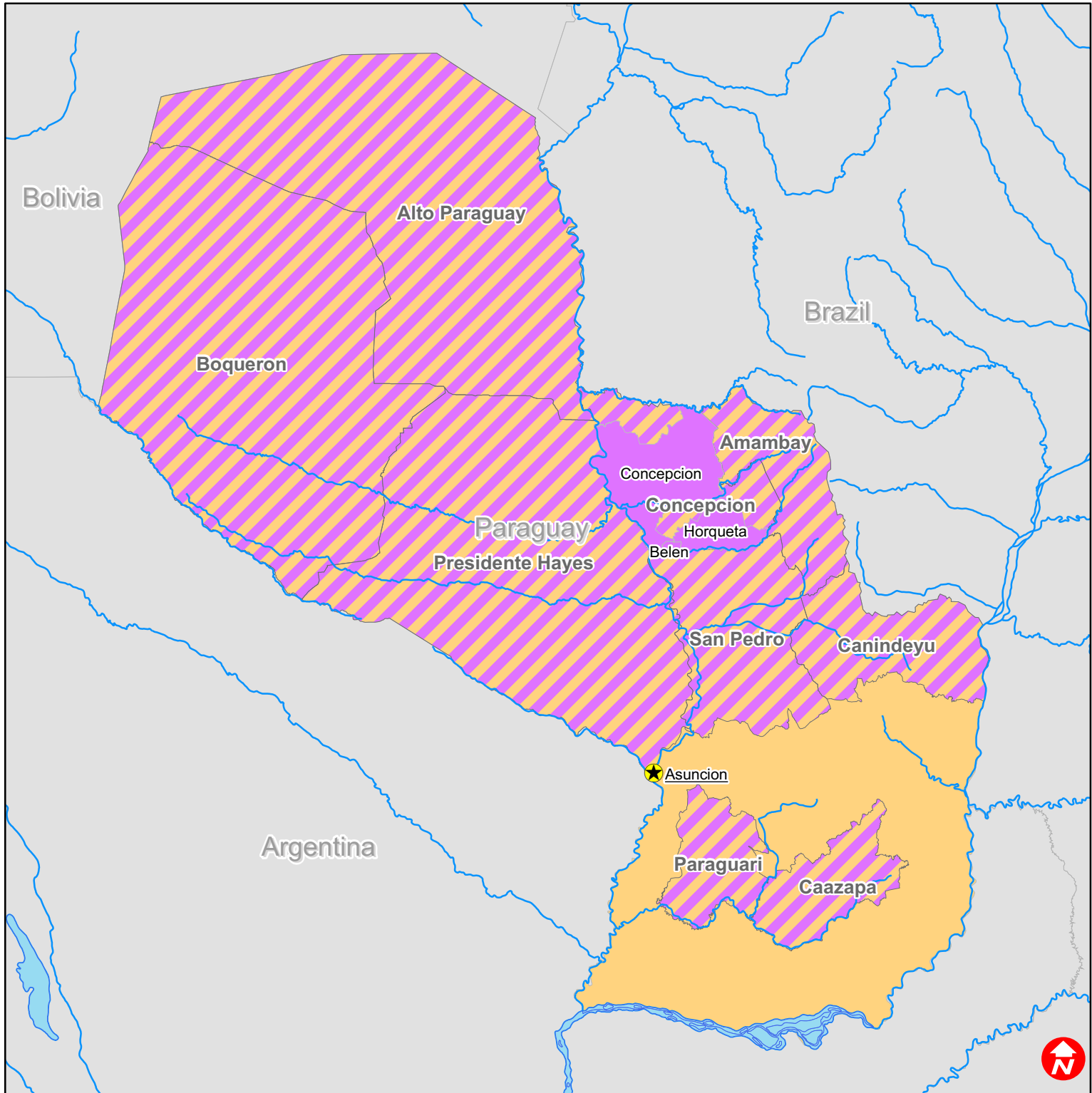
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact: **(note: one contact per level advised)**



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



Paraguay: Severe storm



-  Most affected municipalities
-  Affected departments