

DREF operation n° MDRBR006 GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000002-BRA](#) 26 October 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 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.

Summary: 20,000 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 January 2011 to support the National Society in carrying out a damage and needs assessment following the floods in Rio de Janeiro state.

The IFRC's Regional Organizational Development Coordinator and a Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) Delegate were deployed to Brazil to support the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) response to floods. Approximately 45,000 persons were affected by the floods which resulted in significant damages to homes in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Brazilian Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC undertaking the damage and needs assessment. Source: Chiran Livera/IFRC

After the completion of damage and needs assessments, the Brazilian Red Cross drew up a plan of action to assist 2,500 families (approximately 12,500 people) with relief items. Several bilateral donors supported the plan of action through financial and material contributions which facilitated its implementation.

This report is final in terms of narrative and financials. The operation is now closed, with a final balance of 15,528 Swiss francs unspent and returned to the DREF.

The Canadian Red Cross Society contributed CHF 4,493 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Heavy rains have caused numerous landslides and overflowing of rivers in the state of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Approximately 300mm of rain fell over a 24-hour period beginning on 12 January 2011. The mountainous regions of Nova Frigurgo, Petropolis and Teresopolis and their surroundings are estimated to be the most affected areas. As the event occurred during the season of heavy rains in the Rio de Janeiro

state of Brazil, soil absorption capacity had reached its limit, exacerbated by the high accumulation of rainfall over a short period of time.

The rains caused all local rivers to overflow in the area resulting in numerous landslides and widespread damage, washing away houses alongside rivers and burying neighborhoods. 45,000 persons were affected with approximately 900 deaths and several hundred more people missing.

Isolated communities were initially unable to be contacted as forms of communication were disrupted due to infrastructure damage. Many roads were also washed away or damaged by landslides and continuous rainfall made air access by helicopter difficult. There was also damage to the agricultural sector around the affected areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Immediately following the floods and landslides, the president of the Brazilian Red Cross mobilized 16 branches of the National Society and began the coordination of relief efforts from the headquarters. An emergency committee was formed to manage the operation, guiding the actions of the branches and coordinating with the civil defence system, the local and national authorities, and other non-governmental organizations. The BRC branches, with a significant number of volunteers mobilized, collected and distributed donations of food and non-food items, provided first aid services, and transported injured persons to medical facilities.

To assist in the relief efforts, the IFRC and the ICRC deployed delegates to provide technical support to the Brazilian Red Cross in carrying out the needs assessments, developing the plan of action, and to support the restoration of family links of the affected population. Cooperation between the Brazilian Red Cross, the ICRC and the IFRC was excellent from the beginning of the operation and provided a coordinated response to the emergency.

Achievements against outcomes

Damage and needs assessments

Outcome: The Brazilian Red Cross has increased its capacity to perform damage and needs assessments and development of a plan of action through the technical support of the Federation in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by the floods.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Conduct a damage and needs assessment
- Develop a plan of action

Impact: Responding to the request from the National Society, the IFRC deployed to the country its Regional Organizational Development Coordinator and a PADRU Delegate to facilitate rapid assessments and to evaluate the situation. In addition, the ICRC deployed a regional delegate to support in restoring family links. The Brazilian Red Cross lead the undertaking of the damage and needs assessment in cooperation with the civil protection agency. After the completion of damage and needs assessment, a plan of action was drafted including the distribution of food and non-food relief items to the most affected person.

Assessment results showed that the Nova Friburgo, Teresopolis y Petrópolis municipalities were the worst affected areas. The authorities responded to the emergency quickly and requested the support of the Brazilian Red Cross in distributing additional food and clothing to affected persons and assistance with reunification of families that had been displaced. Therefore, the Brazilian Red Cross decided to focus its relief efforts in these municipalities targeting 2,500 families through its plan of action.

The plan of action was divided in two phases:

1. Emergency phase: from January to April 2011. During this phase the BRC would distribute hygiene, cleaning and tool kits, as well as mattresses to 2,500 families to support the immediate needs of affected families for 30 days. It also contemplated the procurement of 200 sets of safety and cleaning equipment for the volunteers supporting the clearance of debris.
2. Recovery and preparedness phase: from April to December 2011. The National Society planned to coordinate with the agricultural authorities of the affected municipalities to support small farmers and stockbreeders to recover their livelihoods. To better prepare for future emergencies, the BRC also included in their plan of action the completion of three training workshops: one for National

Intervention Teams (NIT), one on psychosocial support, and one in warehouse management. Additionally, during this phase the National Society proposed the implementation of a volunteer management system.

Due to generosity of the public, various branches of the Brazilian Red Cross received large amounts of donated food and clothing. It was decided amongst the Movement that no further assistance was required. The beneficiary targeting strategy was developed in agreement with local authorities and leaders and it included the following criteria:

- Affected families from the municipalities of Nova Friburgo, Teresopolis y Petrópolis who had not received assistance through other organizations.
- Single-parent families with children

During the needs assessment, field visits were undertaken by road and air, with the support of the civil protection agency. Local branches of the Brazilian Red Cross participated in the field assessments and this allowed them to gain an understanding of the assessment methodology and information sharing with the authorities.

Although the primary role of the IFRC was to support the Brazilian Red Cross in undertaking the damage and needs assessment and development of a plan of action, the team also worked on a quick analysis of Disaster Management capacities of the Brazilian Red Cross in order to give recommendations as to how to strengthen the system. Recommendations focused on effective management of public donations of food and clothing, and the development of a temporary disaster team at the headquarters to coordinate the communication and information flow from the branches.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Brazil:** Carmen Serra, Institutional Affairs Secretary of the Brazilian Red Cross; phone: + 55 21 2242 3720; email: carmen.serra@cvb.org.br
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Gustavo Ramirez, regional representative for the Southern Cone and Brazil; phone: +541 1495 17420; email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone:** Jorge Zequeira, Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) coordinator; phone: + 507 317 3050; fax: + 507 317 1304; and email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, operations quality assurance senior officer; phone: + 41 22 730 4381; fax: + 41 22 733 0395; and email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Zone:** Zuleyka Maynard, resource mobilization senior officer, email: zuleika.maynard@ifrc.org; phone: +507 66 732 026

**For Performance and Accountability
(planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)**

- **In IFRC Zone:** Jane Grimshaw, PMER manager; phone: +507 317 3050; email: jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org

DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 17 January 2011 for 20,000 Swiss francs for three months to support the National Society in carrying out a damage and needs assessment



Click here

1. Click [here](#) to return to view the financial statement

2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC'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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC'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.
-

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/9
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Appeal	MDRBR006
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	20,000					20,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
DREF Allocations	20,000					20,000
C4. Other Income	20,000					20,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	20,000					20,000
D. Total Funding = B + C	20,000					20,000
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	20,000					20,000
E. Expenditure	-4,472					-4,472
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	15,528					15,528

III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	20,000					20,000		
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,000						2,000	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	2,000						2,000	
Personnel								
International Staff	3,300						3,300	
National Society Staff	5,000						5,000	
Volunteers		74				74	-74	
Total Personnel	8,300	74				74	8,226	
General Expenditure								
Travel	7,479	3,616				3,616	3,863	
Office Costs		253				253	-253	
Communications		336				336	-336	
Financial Charges	1,000	-80				-80	1,080	
Total General Expenditure	8,479	4,125				4,125	4,354	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	1,221	273				273	948	
Total Indirect Costs	1,221	273				273	948	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	20,000	4,472				4,472	15,528	
VARIANCE (C - D)		15,528				15,528		