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DREF operation update

Chile: Severe winter

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCL007
GLIDE n° [CW-2011-000094-CHL](#)
Update n° 1
09 November 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 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.

Period covered by this update: 24
July to 24 August 2011.

Summary: 120,035 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 25 July 2011 to support the Chilean Red Cross (ChRC) in delivering assistance to 1,000 families.

During the first month of the operation the National Society has reached 1,000 families with blankets with the support of the DREF. The ChRC was also able, with the support of national donations, to distribute tarpaulins and hygiene kits to complement their assistance. At the moment, the ChRC is completing the second stage of the operation with the goal of providing affected families with a tool kit containing snow shovels and protective gear.



Some 1,000 families were supported with relief items such as blankets and hygiene kits. Source: Chilean Red Cross

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by October 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by January 2011).

The Canadian Red Cross contributed 8,245 Swiss francs, while the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO) contributed with 70,555 Swiss francs, and the Netherlands Red Cross and government contributed with 39,570 Swiss francs to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg

government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details of the contributions to the DREF can be found on www.ifrc.org/dref.

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The situation

From 13 to 19 July 2011 the Bio-bío and Araucanía regions¹ in Chile suffered a cold front that brought intense snowstorms that left behind up to two metres of snow. As consequence, roads and mountain passes were blocked, the electricity was interrupted, and some houses suffered structural damage. In addition, with temperatures as low as -22°C , water pipes have frozen, interrupting the water supply in many areas.

The Emergency National Office (Oficina Nacional de Emergencia – ONEMI) declared these areas as catastrophe zones on 20 July to hasten and facilitate relief efforts to the approximately 25,000 persons affected. On the next day, government authorities extended the declaration to include some territories in Alto Bio-bío which is inhabited by the Pehuenche indigenous group. Since then, the region has been affected by other snowstorms that, although not as severe, have maintained the need of assistance.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Society has worked in close partnership with the Chilean authorities since the start of the emergency, supporting each other in the gathering and analysis of information. The ChRC reached an agreement to integrate their relief activities with those being carried out by the different ministries and Armed Forces, and was able to use the transportation provided by the government, significantly decreasing the costs of distribution. This close partnership also ensured that efforts were not duplicated, while the government assisted with the distribution of food parcels and feed for livestock, the ChRC is supporting with non-food relief items.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Affected households have received basic non-food items and food to meet their immediate needs and enable them to return to everyday life as quickly as possible.

Output:

1,000 affected households are supported with basic non-food relief items (5 blankets, 2 jerry cans, and snow shovels and gloves per household).

Activities planned:

- Coordinate with regional and local authorities to select the most vulnerable people as beneficiaries.
- Rent a warehouse in the region of Araucanía to facilitate distribution.
- Distribution of blankets, jerry cans and tools.
- Replenishment of utilized stocks.

¹ Regions are the largest administrative divisions in Chile. The country is divided in 15 regions.

Progress:

The ChRC has divided their response to the emergency in two phases of distribution. During the first phase, completed during the period covered by this operation update, the National Society has reached 1,002 families with blankets, hygiene kits and tarpaulins as stated in the table below:

| Date | Municipality | Quantity | | | No. Families |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| | | Blankets | Hygiene kits | Tarpaulins | |
| 23-Jul 01-Aug | Curarrehue | 1310 | 262 | 264 | 262 |
| 23-24 July 01-Aug | Lonquimay | 2891 | 578 | 540 | 580 |
| 28-Jul | Pucón | 500 | 100 | 101 | 100 |
| 01-Aug | Villarrica | 300 | 60 | 61 | 60 |
| TOTAL | | 5,001 | 1,000 | 966 | 1,002 |

All these municipalities are located in the affected region of Araucanía.

Of the items distributed, the DREF covered the cost of the blankets for 1,000 families, while the rest were covered through national sources.

During the second stage, currently in progress, the ChRC will distribute the rest of the relief items, although with some changes from the original scheme. Currently, the National Society plans to distribute buckets with lids instead of jerry cans, and —in addition to the gloves and shovels— the tool kit will also include water-proof protective gear. The local procurement process of these items was carried out with the approval of the Governing Board of the ChRC and followed the standards established by the IFRC.

In addition to the second phase of distribution, volunteers will train some 219 families in the Curarrehue municipality on the use of water purification tablets in an effort to diminish the risk of waterborne diseases in areas where water sources may be contaminated by the snow melting over cow pastures.

Challenges: The National Society is trying to improve the efficiency of their tendering and procurement processes by creating more committees of local purchases to avoid dependency on the one in headquarters. The procurement of tool kits is being carried out by the regional branch of Araucanía.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 25 July 2011 for CHF 120,035 for three months to assist 1,000 beneficiaries.



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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.

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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.
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